

Working Group Proposal

“Urban Adaptation in a Changing Climate: Enhancing the Usefulness of Adaptation Science/Policy Linkage for Practice and Planning”

Sustainable Futures in a Changing Climate

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Abstract

The intersection of climate change adaptation and sustainable development has been recognised as an essential prerequisite for securing sustainable, just and equal outcomes for current and future generations. This realisation has led to a proliferation of associated policies, frameworks, tools and assessments that are hoped to guide decision- and policy-making processes in a manner that results in robust and effective outcomes. In this process, knowledge sharing and cooperation between different actors and scales have been recognised as crucial mechanisms that enable a closer science/policy linkage and can guide vigorous evidence-based policy even under uncertain conditions and futures.

However, while such closer linkages and collaborations are emerging, evidence is emerging that significant gaps still persist between adaptation science, policy and practitioner communities. These gaps have a heavy impact in determining the usefulness of adaptation science for the practical implementation of climate adaptation. This working group will explore the range of mechanisms and experiences among both science and policy communities in identifying a set of factors, which increase the robustness of adaptation science/policy linkage in the context of urban planning and policy.

The working group targets scientists, practitioners and policymakers working in the field of climate change adaptation and critically examines the current experiences on science/policy linkages. It will identify mechanisms and strategies that could make such linkages more robust and effective in creating alternative futures for urban settlements. Key questions asked include but are not limited to “What kind of climate adaptation science is most useful for urban policy and planning”, “Which assessments and frameworks are most robust in enhancing the implementation of climate change adaptation for urban policy, planning and practice?” and “Which factors contribute to a successful science/policy linkage?”