

Guidelines for Working Group Chairs

Insights and Tools for Adaptation: Learning from Climate Variability

Thank you for agreeing to chair a working group session. The four sets of concurrent working group sessions are the heart of the workshop proceedings. They are designed to stimulate creative thinking and maximize the time available for discussion. The overall objectives of the working groups are to:

- Draw out and synthesize lessons learned (both successes and failures) across case studies on climate variability;
- Identify constraints in current research projects and capacity building, as well as limits of knowledge;
- Identify where lessons from variability can and cannot be applied to adaptation to longer-term change;
- Identify opportunities for the future, including key gaps in research, programs and capacity building.

Your Responsibilities as a Working Group Chair:

- Your primary responsibility is to lead the discussion. We encourage you to draw upon the strong group of background papers and the rich experience of session participants as fodder for discussion. Please encourage creative thinking and lively exchange, while keeping the group focused on synthesizing key lessons and identifying important opportunities and challenges. As in any successful working group, please be sure that all members have an opportunity to participate.
- Introduce the speakers in your session. They will make brief presentations (8 minutes each) that provide an overview of the working group topic and snapshots from several perspectives. (You may also wish to give the participants an opportunity to introduce themselves to one another.)
- Present the working group findings in the plenary session or select another participant to present in the plenary on behalf of the group; each group will have 5-7 minutes to report back.

Your Helpers: OGP Facilitator and Rapporteur(s)

Facilitator: An OGP facilitator will be assigned to each working group. Their primary responsibility is to support you as the chair, so please do not hesitate to ask your facilitator for any assistance that you require. The facilitator will also be responsible for reading the relevant background papers and making sure that they are included in the discussion. After the invited presentations, the facilitator will briefly (in 4-5 minutes) lay out the common themes and hot topics covered in related background papers.

Rapporteur(s): One or two rapporteurs will be assigned to each session. If you have only been assigned one rapporteur, you should feel free to ask one of the session participants to act as a rapporteur as well. We expect to have some rich

discussions in the working groups and we hope to capture the flavor of discussions in the workshop report.

There will be a short meeting of session chairs on Monday night at 6:00 PM in the Marriott hotel bar. If you arrive in time, please join us. And if you have any questions in the meantime, don't hesitate to contact your facilitator or Macol Stewart Cerda (macol.stewart@noaa.gov).

Specific questions for each session and the names of session facilitators are provided below.

Lessons from Variability

**Concurrent Sessions: Fresh Water Supply and Management, Sustainable Food Supply, Public Health, and Risk Management and Disaster Preparedness
Tuesday, November 18, 1:45 - 3:45 PM**

Lessons from Variability: Fresh Water Supply and Management

Chair, Greg Carbonne

Facilitator: Kelly Sponberg

Raps. Harvey Hill Natasha Vasey

Lessons from Variability: Food Supply

Chair: Walter Baethgen

Facilitator: Kabineh Konneh

Rap. Juniper Neil

Lessons from Variability: Public Health

Chair: Shiv Someshwar

Facilitator: Caitlin Simpson

Rap. Juli Trtanj

Lessons from Variability: Risk Management and Disaster Preparedness

Chair: Amy Snover

Facilitator: Nancy Beller-Simms

Rap. Lisa Farrow Vaughan

What coping strategies have been effective (and ineffective) in the face of current climate variability (e.g., droughts and floods and their impacts on water management, agriculture, livelihoods, health and safety, forest management, urban planning) and how well would these hold up in the face of long-term change? Where do they not hold up in cases of longer-term change?

How can we take all that has been learned about the importance of scale (temporal, spatial, societal) and build it in productively to (1) an on-going dialogue with

stakeholders and (2) the development of the research agenda and its products?

Capacity Building (Institutions, Infrastructure, and Education)
Concurrent Sessions: Domestic Perspectives, International Perspectives
Wednesday, November 19, 9:00 – 10:45 AM

Domestic Perspectives:

Chair: Bill Easterling
Facilitator: Juniper Neil
Rap. Claudia Nierenberg

International Perspectives:

Chair: Victor Simango
Facilitator: Lisa Farrow Vaughan
Rap. Nancy Beller-Simms

What institutional structures facilitate or impede adaptation? How do we build flexible systems and adaptive institutions?

What do we know about how people make decisions under uncertainty and what roles do social, political, and economic factors play in how individuals and societies cope with climate variability? How do we improve capacity to support decision-making under uncertainty?

What factors influence the ability (and willingness) of societies, institutions, and individuals to adapt to climate variability? What are the implications for building capacity to adapt to climate change?

Communication, Dissemination, and Evaluation
Concurrent Sessions: Domestic Perspectives, International Perspectives
Wednesday, November 19, 11:00 AM – 12:45 PM

Domestic Perspectives:

Chair: Lara Whitely-Binder
Facilitator: Aurelia Micko
Rap. Caitlin Simpson

International Perspectives:

Chair: Patrick Luganda
Facilitator: Candyce Clark
Rap. Kabineh Konneh and Macol Stewart Cerda

What dissemination channels, information formats, and communication methods have been effective in communicating climate information for decision-making? What criteria and methods have you used to evaluate communication? What role has communication played in helping societies and economies adapt to the present climate? Are the same approaches likely to be efficient and effective for communicating the information needed to adapt to climate change? Why or why not?

What are the best practices developed on interannual timescales for improving interactions between stakeholders and the research community, and supporting public discussion of and participation in planning, adaptive management, and policymaking? How might these approaches apply to climate change adaptation, and what are the limits of their applicability?

Tools and Products

Wednesday, November 19, 2:15 – 3:45 PM

Chair: Corinne Valdivia

Facilitator: Harvey Hill

Rap. Kelly Sponberg

Where have we been successful in transferring research beyond individual insights and into operational change? Which of the tools and products designed to help societies adapt to climate variability might also be helpful in adapting to climate change? How are they likely to hold up under climate change?

Where can we offer insights/recommendations back to the climate observation/modeling/research/forecasting community in terms of the production of climate information (e.g., downscaling, articulating the effects of climate change on the skill of seasonal predictions; importance of changes in dominant patterns of variability in the context of longer-term changes)?

Performance Measures and Program Evaluation

Wednesday, November 19, 2:15 – 3:45 PM

Chair: Mike Harrison

Facilitator: Juli Trtanj

Rap. Candyce Clark and Aurelia Micko

What performance measures are effective for documenting and measuring changes in policy, management, and decision-making based on climate information? How do you measure the success or failure of adaptive strategies?