Systemic Integrated Resilience and Adaptation Planning: Institutional and Organizational Dimensions

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Abstract

Resilience and adaptation of social, political-economic and ecological systems to climate change is a long-term process. In climate change policy and plans, climate impacts are generally viewed several decades in the future and actions are accordingly recommended to limit or adapt to the impacts of these future challenges. Yet the majority of the organizations involved are set-up to deal with the challenges of today. Today’s challenges are of course important. But a key design question is how to create organizational structures and implementation strategies that not only focus in the present but also maintain inertia to deal with future challenges. Added to this is the multi-scalar nature of climate change. From farmers on ground to local governments, NGOs, private sector and national agencies, these multiple actors must come together and develop a shared understanding of the challenges to promote resilience and adaptation to climate change. Drawing on fieldwork experiences in Nepal and Ghana carried out under the Systemic Integrated Adaptation (SIA) project, insights will be shared on the mapping of interconnectivity and interdependence of actors to formulate strategies for adaptation and resilience planning and implementation. The results show that there are numerous gaps in translating national policy action into tangible action plans on ground. Similarly, clear channels do not exist to capture on-ground challenges to inform policy plans. There are also an over representation of planning and policy organizations and an under representation of implementation agencies resulting in skewed focus on planning and strategy design process and weak and delayed implementation action. These topics, along with considerations of power and influence dynamics between actors that help shape these results, will be discussed in this panel segment. This paper is part of the panel session entitled Systemic Integrated Resilience and Adaptation Planning.

Keywords: Adaptation to climate change, Decision Making, Institutions, Innovation, Governance, Networks, Policy

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