Critical Perspectives on ‘Knowledge for Adaptation’: The LKCCAP Project in the Kilimanjaro Region, Tanzania

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Abstract

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The potential role of different kinds of ‘knowledge for adaptation’ – including local knowledge and expert climate knowledge - continues to attract the attention of scholars and development practitioners. Yet questions abound about the nature and epistemology of local knowledge systems, the possibilities for and obstacles to its integration with projections generated by climate models, and their potential role in community-based and planned adaptation. This session pursues these questions by drawing on research from the Local Knowledge and Climate Change Adaptation Project (LKCCAP), an interdisciplinary collaboration among US and Tanzania scientists to that examines the interactions between local knowledge systems and geographically uneven adaptive capacity to climate change along four altitudinal gradients in the Kilimanjaro Region of Tanzania. The contributions to this session address the interplay between local and external knowledge systems in the context of differentiated perceptions of and adaptive responses to climate change in rural Tanzania. It further addresses the potential and challenges for integrating climate modeling projections and local knowledge to inform adaptation strategies at multiple scales.

Keywords: Climate knowledge, epistemology, local knowledge, adaptive capacity, gender, Tanzania

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