Mobilizing communities to take responsibility for their own climate and disaster risks

what can a development bank do?

ADB

RETA 6420 Promoting Climate Change Adaptation in Asia Pacific
Funded by UK DFID and Government of Japan


Rakahanga
Penrhyn
Pukapuka
Manihiki
Nassau
Suwarrow
South Pacific Ocean
Palmerston
Aitutaki
Manuae
Mitiaro
Takutea
Mauke
Cook Islands
Rarotonga
Atiu
150 miles
Avarua
150 kms
Mangaia

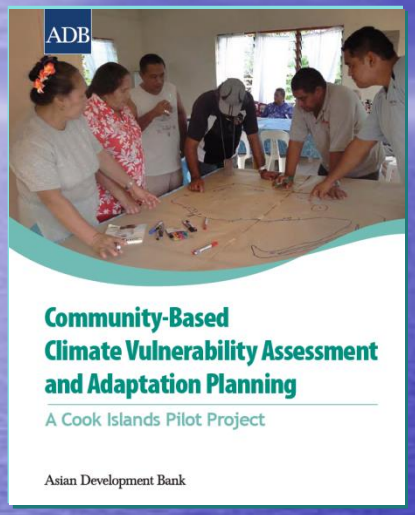
The Starting Point

Communities often think that climate change is something that government is responsible for

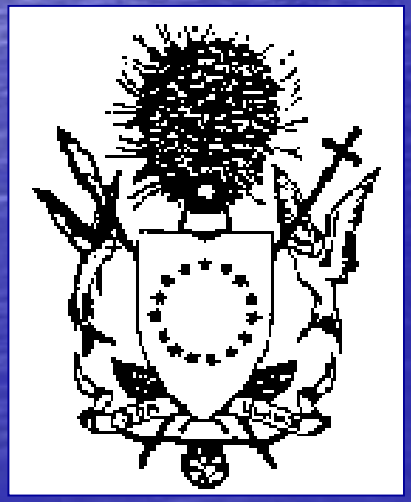
Outside of government circles comparatively little is being done to mobilize society to address climate risks.

Communities on remote Pacific islands are traditionally self-sufficient and often have little day-to-day interaction with Government.

Results were…



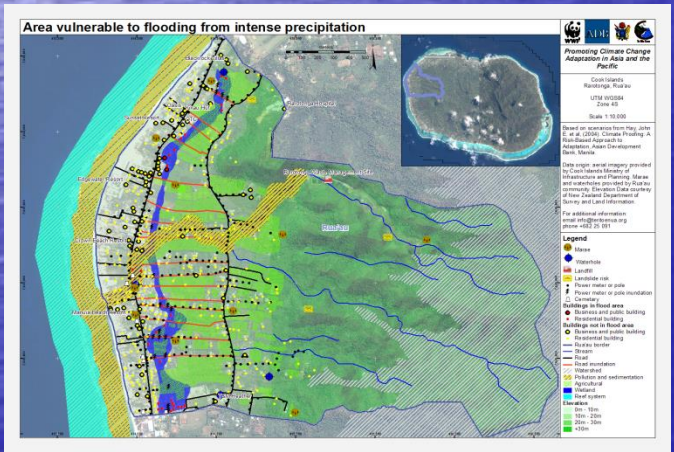
Published on ADB and several NGO websites, discussed at numerous climate change events.



Provided empirical experience, methods, and tools for community planning sections of the *Cook Islands Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation Policy*

Results were…

Area and Sector at Risk	Priority Action
Sea Level Rise…	Discourage building in vulnerable areas



Used to develop Priority Action Plans by Participating Communities

Submitted to the GIS office of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning, where they are used to inform government planning and decision-making

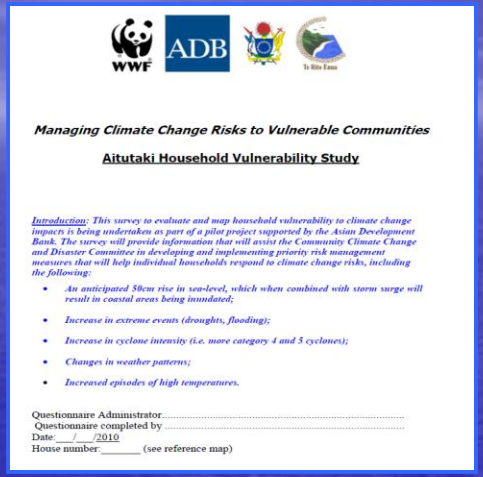
So, what was the Project About?
Two Areas of Support

Risk Reduction
Adaptation, Prevention, and Mitigation

Risk Management
Preparedness, Response, Relief and Recovery

Community vulnerability mapping and adaptation planning involved:

- Household survey in vulnerable communities to identify specific risks and determine adaptive capacity and needs at the household level;



Managing Climate Change Risks to Vulnerable Communities

Aitutaki Household Vulnerability Study

Introduction: This survey to evaluate and map household vulnerability to climate change impacts is being undertaken as part of a pilot project supported by the Asian Development Bank. The survey will provide information that will assist the Community Climate Change and Disaster Committee in developing and implementing priority risk management measures that will help individual households respond to climate change risks, including the following:

- *An anticipated 50cm rise in sea-level, which when combined with storm surge will result in coastal areas being inundated;*
- *Increase in extreme events (droughts, flooding);*
- *Increase in cyclone intensity (i.e. more category 4 and 5 cyclones);*
- *Changes in weather patterns;*
- *Increased episodes of high temperatures.*

Questionnaire Administrator.....
Questionnaire completed by .....
Date:___/___/2010
House number:_____ (see reference map)

- Participatory identification and mapping of key community "assets" that have important cultural, economic or ecological values;

Community-led adaptation planning and risk management in collaboration with key government agencies.

Community vulnerability mapping and adaptation planning process

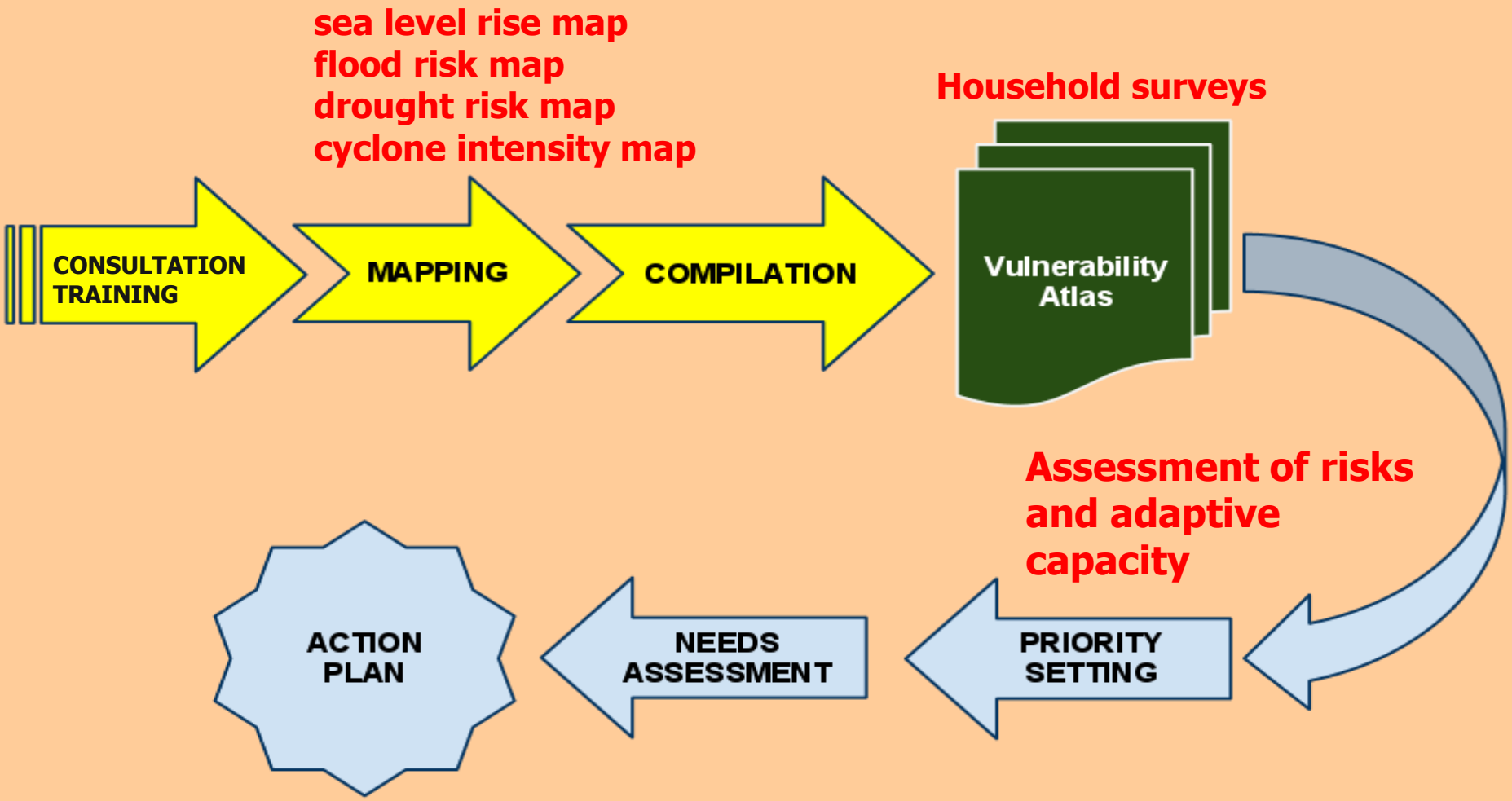


Table 2. Identification of Priority Climate Change Risks for Matavera

Key to Risk Levels: 1=High, 2=medium/high, 3=medium, 4=low, 5=minimal
Key to Threat Ranking: F1 - likely to occur annually, F2 - likely to occur several times/decade, F10, likely to occur at least once within decade
Key to Severity Levels: a 1-5 scale (1 is highest) based on economic, social, cultural and environmental impacts

Event Risk	Outcome Risk	Risk Level	Severity	Frequency
Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge	Damage to cyclone shelter	1	1	F10
	Damage to homes and properties	1	1	F10
	Loss of income – outmigration	2	1	F10
	Displaced families	1	2	F10
	Pollution of lagoon and marine life	1	1	FS
Increased Incidents of Flooding	Damage to homes and properties	3	3	F10
	Damage to crops and agricultural land - staple food shortage	3	2	FS
	Loss of income - outmigration	3	3	FS
	Pollution of water ways and lagoon	1	1	FS
	Displaced families	3	4	F10
Increased Incidents of Drought	Water shortage	1	1	FS
	Low yield of agricultural crops	2	3	FS
	Loss of income - outmigration	4	3	FS
	Increased spread of invasive plants	1	1	FS
	Biodiversity loss	1	1	FS
Increase in Cyclone Intensity	Damage to homes and properties	1	2	FS
	Damage to infrastructure	1	2	FS
	Damage to staple food crops	1	2	FS
	Damage to commercial properties	1	2	FS
	Loss of income – outmigration	3	3	FS
	Displaced families	1	3	FS
	Pollution of waterways and marine life	1	1	FS
	Water and food shortage	2	2	F10

Community Vulnerability Map

What I learned: about why this isn't done already

Its not so complicated.

And it's a good idea.

So why is it so hard to do?

$

What I learned: about the worst thing that can happen.

You could start something you can't help finish

What I learned: community versus partner interests

We all have special interests

Be prepared to accommodate a broad range of issues, even if your program is narrow

What I learned: about knowledge

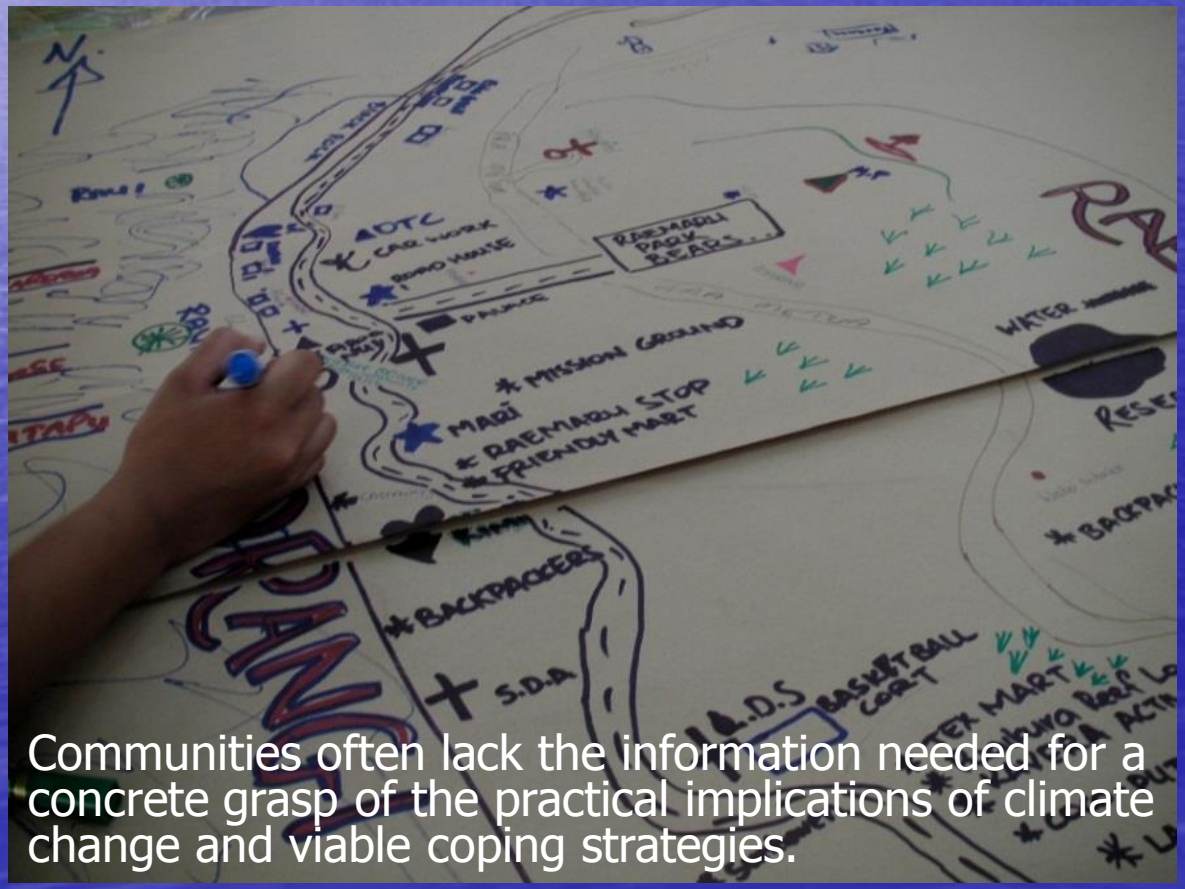
Local people know a lot, but they don't know everything.

You have to bring the climate science to them in a form that is meaningful and understandable.

We don't need the best science and technology to do the best job.

What I learned: information management

Information is power



Communities often lack the information needed for a concrete grasp of the practical implications of climate change and viable coping strategies.

What I learned: Results

We can expect more for less

But we need more time and the right partnerships

Thank You

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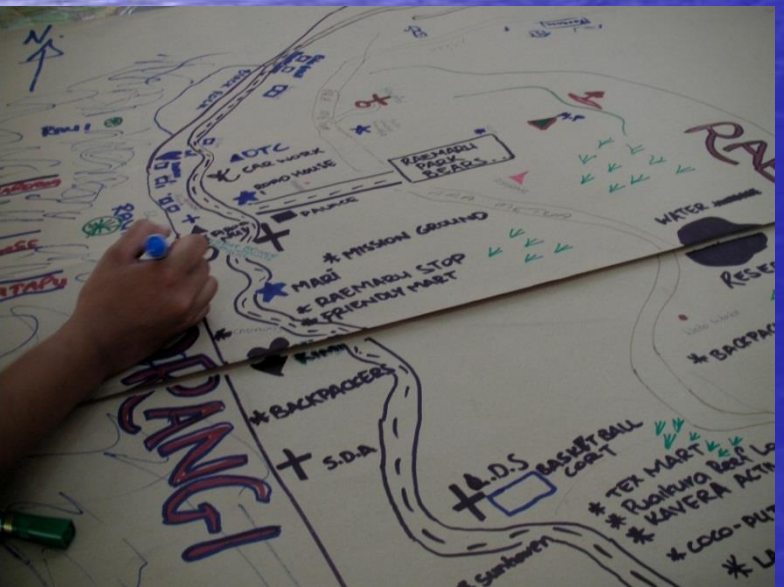
http://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/climate-change-assessment-coo.pdf

This Pilot Project Demonstrated…

The feasibility and benefits of a participatory approach to a climate change and disaster management at the community level; and



The utility of household survey and a map-based approach to participatory planning in linking local knowledge/capacity to identify and manage site-specific risks from climate change and natural disasters.

Participatory approach

- generated local knowledge unavailable to high-level planners, and increased the skills and partnerships needed to develop more resilient communities