



# Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change

Scaling it up

Edited by  
E. Lisa F. Schipper, Jessica Ayers,  
Hannah Reid, Saleemul Huq  
and Atiq Rahman

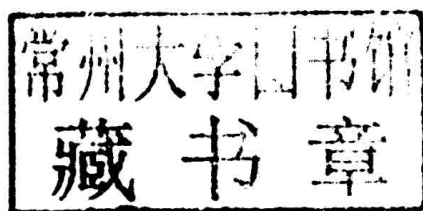
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# Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change

As climate change adaptation rises up the international policy agenda, matched by increasing funds and frameworks for action, there are mounting questions over how to ensure the needs of vulnerable people on the ground are met. Community-based adaptation (CBA) is one growing approach that argues for tailored support at the local level to enable vulnerable people to identify and implement appropriate community-based responses to climate change themselves.

*Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change: Scaling it up* explores the challenges for meeting the scale of the adaptation challenge through CBA. It asks the fundamental questions: How can we draw replicable lessons to move from place-based projects towards more programmatic adaptation planning? How does CBA fit with larger scale adaptation policy and programmes? How are CBA interventions situated within the institutions that enable or undermine adaptive capacity?

Combining the research and experience of prominent adaptation and development theorists and practitioners, this book presents cutting-edge knowledge that moves the debate on CBA forward towards effective, appropriate and ‘scaled-up’ adaptive action.

**E. Lisa F. Schipper** is an Associate at the Stockholm Environment Institute in Stockholm, Sweden.

**Jessica Ayers** is a Researcher with the Climate Change Group at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK.

**Hannah Reid** is a Consulting Researcher for the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK.

**Saleemul Huq** is a Senior Fellow with the Climate Change Group at the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK.

**Atiq Rahman** is Executive Director of the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Bangladesh.

This book provides impressive analysis of community-led processes, based on local priorities, needs, knowledge and capacities, that empowers people to cope with and plan for climate change impacts. It explains why the use of genuine participatory processes is key if adaptation plans are to sit within community priorities. The case studies provide an excellent account of approaches to increasing the resilience of the poor and the most vulnerable communities to the impacts of climate change.

*Pa Ousman Jarju, Special Climate Change Envoy of the Gambia, Former Chair of the Least Developed Countries Group to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Gambia*

As brought out clearly by the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the IPCC and the recently completed Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation, the impacts of climate change will require adaptation as a response to the challenge. This book highlights the importance of community-based adaptation measures and provides a wealth of knowledge, such that society across the globe can deal with the impacts of climate change to the extent possible through appropriate adaptation measures rooted in the capacity and strengths of local communities.

*R.K. Pachauri, Director-General, Energy and Resources Institute, Chair, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, India*

# Contributors

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**Diane Archer** is a Researcher in the Human Settlements Group at the IIED in London. Her work focuses on urban climate change resilience, with a particular focus on Asian cities. She also has experience of working with community groups in Asian cities on community-driven housing and infrastructure upgrading processes and financial mechanisms.

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**Stephan Baas** has worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations since 1994. His expertise is climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction from an agricultural sector perspective. At the centre of his interests are institutional issues related to CCA and DRR at international, national and local levels, including CBDRR and CBA. He has been leading numerous DRR and CCA field projects in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. In 2011 he coordinated the development of FAO's Framework Program on Adaptation, called FAO Adapt.

**Rachel Berger**, following earlier careers as an economist, town and country planner, landscape architect and environmental consultant, completed a Masters in Development in 2000. From 2001 until 2012 she worked for Practical Action, a development NGO, on rural livelihoods programmes, before becoming Climate Change Policy Advisor, focusing on support to enable the

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**Tim Forsyth** teaches at the Department of International Development, London School of Economics and Political Science. He has conducted research on the politics of environmental risk and livelihoods in Southeast Asia, and especially Thailand, since the 1990s. He is interested in community-based adaptation as a growing arena where local development concerns can be integrated with diverse forms of risk assessment.

**Jessica Frank** is the Climate Change Project Manager at Twin, a UK-based NGO working with smallholder farming cooperatives in developing countries to redress unequal relations through fairer trade. Twin works with farmer cooperatives to support community-based adaptation, with a specific focus on developing best practice in climate-smart production systems. Jessica holds an MSc in Environmental Science from Imperial College London and a BSc in Physics from the University of Bristol.

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**Pascal Girot** currently holds a position as Regional Climate Change Advisor for Latin America and Caribbean in CARE International, as part of the Poverty, Environment and Climate Change Network (PECCN). Over the past 25 years, Pascal has worked as an international consultant for UNDP, UNEP, IADB, FAO and IUCN. In particular, his work in Central America and the Caribbean has focused on environmental policy, land use planning and protected areas, disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change.

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