Climate Change Perception and Response: Case Studies of Fishers from Antigua and Efate

Abstract
Fish is an important component in the diets of people who live on small islands providing most of their protein. The food security of these people are being impacted by the negative impacts of climate variability and change which include higher sea surface temperatures. The purpose of this paper is to assess the responses of fishers to the impacts of climate variability and change in two small islands. Little is known of how persons are adapting to climate change within the Caribbean and the South Pacific, two of the most affected regions in the world. The research broadly sets out to answer the following questions: (1) what is the level of perception of climate change and its impacts among key stakeholders who rely on the coastal environment for their livelihoods? (2) what climate change adaptation plans and options have been implemented within these livelihoods? This study uses a survey questionnaire to elicit data on perception, adaptation measures, demographic and other factors from eighty fishermen on two islands, Antigua and Efate. We found that the fishers' perceptions did not always match the meteorological data. Nevertheless all fishers had implemented various adaptation strategies, some of which were considered to be routine practices. This study points to the need for greater support and investment by public and private sector agencies to enable fishers to better respond to climate variability and change.

Keywords climate change: perception: adaptation: Antigua; Efate; fishers
Taxonomy Climate Change Adaptation, Perception, Climate Change Impact
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