

USING MOBILE PHONES TO IMPROVE CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECT MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN THE PACIFIC: SCALES AND SPACES OF INNOVATION

SESSION 4: INNOVATIVE TOOLS FOR ADAPTATION ACTIONS AND MITIGATION MECHANISMS

Abstract

This paper explores how climate change and development organizations may use the increasing popularity of using information communication technologies (ICTs), such as mobile phones, to source data from people on the ground (so-called 'crowdsourcing'). Through case studies in the Pacific (Fiji and Samoa) the paper details the governance and technical barriers and opportunities for the use of ICTs to improve the monitoring and evaluation of climate change projects in the Pacific. Drawing on the ICT for development (ICT4D) literature, including emerging work on climate change ICTs and innovation, the paper applies geographic debates on the multi-scalar, multilevel and multi-actor governance of climate change and development, to the scales and spaces of innovation associated with using ICTs to improve transparency and effectiveness of climate change projects. The paper highlights the barriers and opportunities for ICTs to improve local-global connections for the accountability and transparency of climate change project effectiveness. It highlights that for improved effectiveness, various spaces and scales of innovation need to be coordinated and better understood. Moreover, the paper illustrates that it is the multi-scalar nature of climate change impacts, projects and future climate finance investments that means innovation to improve communication of impacts needs to occur at multiple scales and involve multiple actors. The paper concludes with implications for the use of ICTs for improving climate change investment effectiveness and future priority setting through a better understanding of multiple actor and scalar connections that exist for ICTs, climate and development.

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