

Social Ecological Resilience to River Floods and Coastal Disasters

Blumenau/Brazil - 16th-20th July 2018

THE POINT OF FAILURE OR WAY FORWARD TO RESILIENCE: WHERE DO WE STAND?

ANTECEDENT IMPACTS OF THE PAST

- Societal and individual choices
- Spatial scale
- Temporal Dimension
- Socio-economic Complexities
- Direct and indirect losses

The overall impact of a natural disaster such as a flood event can be seen as an outcome of the changes in vulnerability society has undergone over decades. Patterns of repeated shocks can adversely influence the communities affected in the long term. With potentially escalating losses, and more population and assets exposed to risk, it is evident that difficult choices need to be made by affected individuals or communities regarding the necessary adjustments in social, economic, cultural and environmental contexts. These choices are framed within the vulnerability of socioecological systems constituted by both the human and natural environment. Typically there is a need for a shift towards a more 'proactive' stance rather than the usual 'reactive' way disaster management policies and actions have been formed.

ENVIRONMENTAL MEMORY

SOCIAL MEMORY

Changes in physical system

Rural /Urban Setting

Experience

Demography

Values and Practices

Adaptive capacity

Changes in weather pattern
(wet and dry season)

External Support

Local Knowledge

Scale of Loss/Injury

Institutional Support

Govt. Policies and priorities

SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL SYSTEM MEMORY
Calibrated knowledge from past events

Informal Knowledge Platform

ECONOMIC MEMORY

BUILDING RESILIENCE

LIMITATIONS

- Validation of memory
- Decay of memory over time
- Impact of external sources like media and lack of individual judgement
- Inability to pro respond to social cohesion and environmental feedback
- Generalization of memory and distortion
- Lack of institutional initiative (local, regional or national)

ANTICIPATORY LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE

- Adaptive strategies
- Support and knowledge sharing
- Hazard adjustment decision making
- Building strength and resilience within the system
- Research and policy cohesion

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RESEARCHER LINKS

