



A rapid vulnerability assessment method for designing national strategies and plans of adaptation to climate change and climate variability

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Indonesia is a large tropical archipelagic country, of which its economy largely depends on natural resources such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries that made the country very prone to climate change and other climate related hazards. Climate change will affect not only those development sectors, but will affect many others such as energy, health, drinking water, tourism, etc. A national plan of adaptation strategies needs to be prepared and incorporated into Indonesia's sustainable development strategy, which requires a mainstreamed concept through a synergized collaboration among those sectors. Potential impacts of climate change in many development sectors are known but adaptation strategies are lacking. Some reasons are lack of common understanding in the concept of vulnerability and no common standing points to approach the vulnerability. A rapid vulnerability assessment method, which is easy to use for collecting information from related sectors and capable of picturing country's vulnerability and adaptive capacity in general, is proposed for constructing national adaptation strategies and plans. The outputs are designed to be readily incorporated into the national development plan. The vulnerability and strategies are assessed from national stand point based on a clear national development vision and national needs, rather than collective bottom-up approach strategies. The method involves identification of ecosystem services impacted by climate change and climate variability, identification of impacted sectors with respect to the national development goals, and identification of adaptation strategies based on a concept on how to reduce or avoid exposures, reduce sensitivity or dependency on the environmental services, and increase adaptive capacity through implementing eco-friendly regulations, increasing efficiency and technology advancement. A better synergy and multi-level linkage of central government, local governments and various societies can be approached through thorough assessments from various stand points.

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