Understanding and Adapting to Climate Change in Taiwan

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Abstract

Climate change and its subsequent regional impacts bring about the needs of interdisciplinary approaches and integrated framework in mitigation and adaptation. As an island country sensitive to climate change and vulnerable to sea level rise and land subsidence, Taiwan faces pressing needs to timely develop a national policy framework for climate change adaptation.

Growing from a pilot research project on the development and application of climate change adaptation technologies (CCAT), this paper attempts to explore cause-and-effect relationships and adopts a DPSIR (Driver, Pressure, State, Impact, and Response) analytical framework for setting up research priorities. On research design, six climate sensitive regions are carefully selected (urban, rural, mountain, coastal, river basin and outer islands) to identify region-specific adaptation issues. This paper further discusses major initiatives to conduct environmental system analysis and vulnerability assessments, and calls for an integrated policy framework on adaptive governance for Taiwan.