



Social Dimensions of Climate Change Adaptation in Coastal Regions

Findings from Transdisciplinary Research

Publication

[Book](#)

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A changing climate is not only a phenomenon addressing the natural world. Social aspects are also a cause of and are affected by climate change, for which reason social dynamics must be considered in climate change adaptation. Being key factors in creating and solving the challenges of climate change, end users, decision makers and local residents need to be addressed and appreciated by those seeking acceptance for adaptation measures and taking action.

In their book "Social Dimensions of Climate Change Adaptation in Coastal Regions", Grit Martinez (Ecologic Institute), Peter Fröhle and Hans-Joachim Meier address such often overlooked but key societal aspects which influence stakeholders to or not to engage in adapting to a changing climate. Hence the sociocultural and environmental dimensions of adaptation to climate change in coastal regions and beyond take centre stage in this edited volume which authors come from a wide range of disciplines embracing humanities, social and natural sciences, engineering and practitioners working in coastal regions. Bound by the German Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung ([BMBF](#))) five year initiative [KLIMZUG](#) ("Regions adapt to climate change"), the contributions are unanimous that humans in their capacity as end-users, decision makers and local residents are key factors in creating and solving the challenges of climate change and hence are the ones who need to be addressed and appreciated when seeking acceptance and taking action.

The volume is available for 29,95 Euros at [oekom](#).

For a wide range of climate researchers and policymakers, the argument that climate change affects societal behaviour and that societal behaviour mediates adaptation to climate change impacts is widely accepted. Nevertheless, any approach to designing and implementing adaptation measures raises several issues as local stakeholders are embedded in framework programs such as state strategies for coastal defense or flood risks and hence their options for influencing local measures are closely dependent upon questions of process design, power and the role of key personalities. In other words an understanding and acknowledgment of these social dimensions are important if engagements of stakeholders are envisaged.

Natural and social scientists from an interdisciplinary background address questions of how to cope with the challenge of climate change in different contexts. The book highlights aspects of coastal adaptation, response strategies, and factors of success in coastal adaptation at regional and local levels. It starts with an introduction to the knowledge of the state of the art of climate change in the Baltic Sea region. This sets the scene for the following contributions in which authors deal with the diverse regional and local responses to the challenge of climate change in the region. For comparative reasons one contribution also reports from related findings in an international context namely the East Coast of the U.S. A final conclusion contours societal adaptation as a global challenge from an eco-philosophical perspective.

While this volume is meant to capture the outcomes by scientist and practitioners within the initiative of KLIMZUG it aims to spur further support on practical oriented research of interpreting human perceptions and experiences, social engagement, cultural analysis and public debate as wells as further communicating those results to and with policy makers and end-users.

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Table of contents

Grit Martinez, Peter Fröhle, Hans-Joachim Meier: The sociocultural dimension: Why does it matter? Editors' Foreword

Current challenges in coastal adaptation at regional and local levels: Perspectives from multiple scientific disciplines

Marcus Reckermann, Anders Omstedt, Janet F. Pawlak, Hans von Storch: Climate change in the Baltic Sea region. What do we know?

Hans-Joachim Meier: Public environmental administration and local integration Tasks and perspectives

Doris Knoblauch, Nico Stelljes: Regional perspectives concerning climate change and coastal adaptation. A comparison between Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Schleswig-Holstein

Jana Herrmann, Kristin Stechemesser, Edeltraud Guenther: Barriers to organizational adaptation processes

Grit Martinez, Mike Orbach, Fanny Frick, Alexandra Donargo, Kelsey Ducklow, Nathalie Morison: The cultural context of climate change adaptation. Cases from the U.S. East Coast and the German Baltic Sea coast

Regional and local response strategies

Sandra Enderwitz, Inga Haller, Horst Sterr: Regional networking towards an unknown future - the example of the Kiel Bay Climate Alliance. Adaptation to climate change in coastal tourism

Heide Stephani-Pessel, Anna Bugey, Uta Steinhardt: Tapping the full scope of action Experiences from a case study on stormwater management

Rieke Müncheberg, Fritz Gosselck, Timothy Coppack, Alexander Weidauer: Climate change adaptation in the Baltic region. Solving conflicts between nature conservation and coastal protection strategies

Success factors for coastal adaptation to climate change at regional and local levels

Nana Karlstetter, Hedda Schattke, Karsten Hurrelmann: Methods and success factors in organisational adaptation to climate change. Toward a resilient food system in northwestern Germany

Thomas Zimmermann, Christian Albert, Jörg Knieling, Christina von Haaren: Social learning in climate change adaptation Evaluating participatory planning

Uta von Winterfeld: Participation is not sufficient. Climate change and a democratic culture

Jana Koerth, Jochen Hinkel, Alexander Bisaro, Athanasios T. Vafeidis, Horst Sterr: Taking on the challenge of household-level adaptation. A question of reliance on institutional capacity?

Grit Martinez, Fanny Frick, Kira Gee: Socioeconomic and cultural issues in the planning, implementation and transfer of adaptation measures to climate change The example of two communities on the German Baltic Sea coast

Conclusion

Philipp P. Thapa, Rafael Ziegler: Social dynamics of climate change adaptation in the KLIMZUG projects. Summary and outlook from the perspective of environmental philosophers

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