Abstract

Developing countries are disproportionately affected by climate-related disasters. These disasters often result in costly catastrophic levels of destruction, which derails a country's development objectives. Using Birkmann and von Teichman's [(2010). Integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (CCA): Key challenges – scales, knowledge, and norms. *Sustainability Science*, *5*(2), 171–184. doi:10.1007/s11625-010-0108-y] framing concepts of scale, norms, and knowledge, this article uses the Philippines as a case study to examine the barriers and opportunities of conjoined CCA and disaster management systems in developing countries. The case study demonstrated that current policy instruments were largely unsuccessful, as they focus on post-disaster impacts rather than mitigating the sources of vulnerability which amplify disaster risk. This is a major deterrent in the current integration of schemes due to the failure to incorporate the relevant actors, appropriate strategies, cost-effective financial structures, and suitable institutional arrangements. Without sustained funding, timely information, and community-level support, implementation on the ground will be difficult. Knowing this, there is a need to change the decision-making structure of the proposed integrated system to include three main aspects: (1) addressing underlying factors of vulnerability as a common, integrated policy objective, (2) recognizing a more meaningful inclusion of informal responses, and (3) taking into account future uncertain climate conditions and pending impacts.

Abstract: People who reside in informal settlements in the Global South are most vulnerable to extreme weather events and their consequences, such as flooding, landslides, and fires. Those located in coastal areas face severe challenges from seasonal and typhoon-induced flooding. Research shows that uncertain land rights exacerbate community vulnerability because residents are under constant threat of eviction by private sector actors or the state. Individual and community upgrading is rarely possible in such a situation. This article focuses on the efforts to secure tenure and upgrade their community by the residents of Sitio Libis, located in Canumay East, City of Valenzuela, Philippines. The study demonstrates that while community-based approaches require skills and capacities of community members, enabling conditions created by government and/or NGOs are required for transformational outcomes. While the people of Sitio Libis did not conceptualize their efforts in terms of climate change adaptation, their success suggests the possibility for smart partnerships among state-civil society/private sector actors to emerge in support of small-scale climate action.

Keywords: climate change; climate justice; community-based adaptation; informal settlements; just city; Manila; re-blocking; social equity