

Comparison of wellbeing and vulnerability approaches for informing adaptation decisions

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The need for strengthening adaptation

- Recognition of the limitation of incremental adaptation responses (Kates et al. 2012, IPCC 2012)
- A need for transformation change by addressing underlying differential vulnerabilities (Kates et al. 2012, Dow et al. 2013, Pelling 2011)
- Many climate change adaptation studies focus on assessing vulnerabilities but not aspirations (Wise et al. 2014, Eakin & Luers 2006)
- Wellbeing approach help identify aspirations and values that are needed towards transformation



Aim

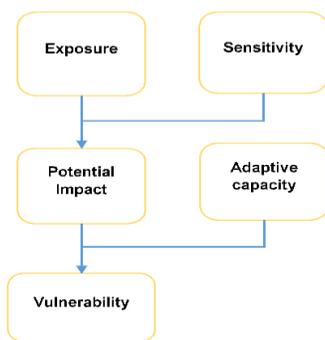
To compare the approach of wellbeing versus the approach of vulnerability for informing adaptation decisions in the context of droughts and floods in Onesi Constituency, Omusati Region, Namibia

Objectives

- i) Explore the outcome from the wellbeing and vulnerability approach in terms of capturing the impacts of drought and floods on the livelihoods
- ii) Assess and compare adaptation responses identified through the approaches and how the two approach can inform adaptation



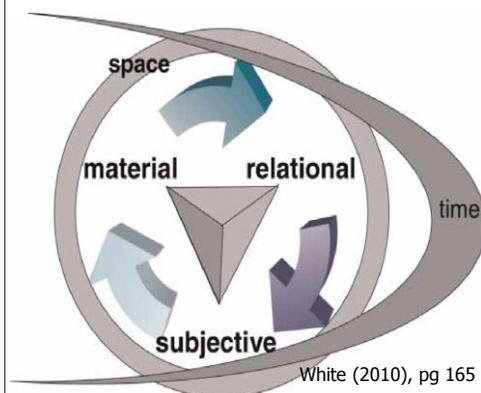
VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT



IPCC (2007)

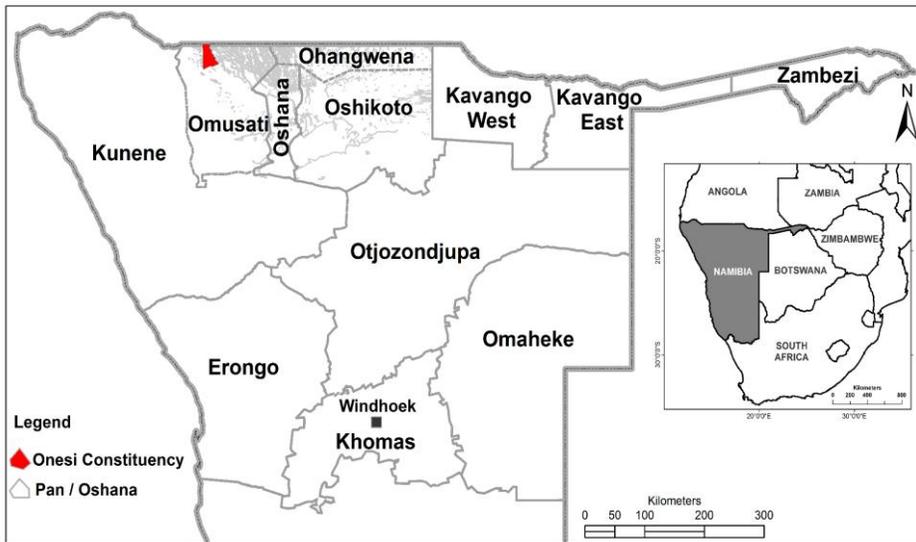
- Mainly material and institutional vulnerabilities
- Focus on assets and access to resources

WELLBEING ASSESSMENT



White (2010), pg 165

- What people have?
- What they can do with what they have?
- How they think and feel about what they can have and do?



Onesi Constituency, Omusati Region, Namibia





Methodology

Vulnerability approach

- 4 focus group discussions
- 20 semi-structured interviews at household level

Key questions:

- To what extent are livelihoods affected by drought/floods? How do people cope?
- Possible adaptation strategies that can be adopted?

Wellbeing approach

- 4 focus group discussions
- 20 semi-structured interviews at household level

Key questions:

- What resources do people HAVE and how does it link to quality of life?
- What things do they need to HAVE, need to be ABLE TO DO, or ABLE TO BE" to have a good life?

Key insights: Vulnerability Approach

- Hardship faced by community to produce sufficient crops
 - Crop production affected particularly by drought and seasonal variability, crop fields infertile, scarcity of seeds, lack of farming implements
- Farmers do not know what to do – sense of hopelessness
- Easier to identify coping strategies that the farmers are implementing
 - For e.g. one meal a day, food for work and selling of livestock

Key insights: Wellbeing Approach

- Broader socio-economic factors affecting the community
 - Poverty, poor rainfall and drought, unemployment and shortage of food
- Importance of social networks and cultural identity in sustaining livelihoods
- Relationships that influence what they do
 - For e.g. family, neighbours, friends (around assisting each other)
- Aspirations – related to achieving food security and improving general wellbeing
 - For e.g. employment, reducing poverty, improving crop and livestock production



Reflections

Vulnerability approach

- target a specific hazard for e.g. drought

Wellbeing approach

- provided insights on current circumstance of community
- better understanding on what really matters to the community
- broader contexts which consider multiple goals and perspectives



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