

Community Forests and their Adaptive Capacity

In brief



Adaptive capacity

“The ability or potential of a system to respond to change.”

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Why are community forests important in adaptation?

- Top down processes don't necessarily work
- Participation does
- Wide variability in the adaptability of communities

What factors enable adaptive capacity?

- Access to economic and physical resources,
- Natural resources
- Human capital
- Social capital
- Values and attitudes

Approach of the research

- How much of each of these factors do community forests in BC have?
- Which of these factors is most important?
- Telephone survey
- 38 organisations – all the ‘active’ community forests

What did the research find out?

Adaptive capacity

17 (45%) of the community forests have carried out **research** into climate change.

12 (32%) of the community forests have begun **integrating climate change adaptation** into their work.

Overall

- Natural resources
- Human capital
- Economic capital
- Physical resources
- Social capital
- Values
- Observations of climate change

What enables adaptation?

Values and attitudes

*“Climate change is too **uncertain**; it’s based on opinions, not knowledge.”* (Organisation 30)

*“Climate change **all boils down to what side you're on**.”* (Organisation 26)

*“We’re trying to be more resilient, we’ve been to workshops on climate change, **it's part of daily thinking and activities**.”* (Organisation 29)

Trust

- *“The community forest has created community interaction and **friendship between us and white community**”.*
(Organisation 8)
- *“[The community forest has developed] a **really good relationship with local First Nations**.”* (Organisation 13)

Money and time

- *Talk is cheap, we talk, but if it costs money we don't do it.* (Organisation 8)

What to do?

“A lack of cold snaps has increased the spread of the mountain pine beetle - 70% of our pine is dead. We’re thinking about climate change, but we have a lack of understanding about what to do about it.” (Organisation 8)

Conclusions

4 main enablers:

- Values and attitude to climate change
- Trust in and from the community
- The time and money to do things
- Knowing what to do and how to start

Thank you for your time & participation

Where you can read more:
BCCFA.org or in the paper report.

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