

Vulnerability mapping – does it make sense?



Climate change: A Regional Assessment of Vulnerability and Adaptive capacity for the Nordic countries

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What is the purpose of vulnerability mapping?

- Display of information
- Planning tool
- Risk and hazards: Prevention and crisis management
- Decision-support
- Comparisons and context
- Point of departure to evoke discussions and dialouge
- Means of understanding patterns, connectivity and processes

CARAVAN vulnerability mapping

- Aims to further develop the methodology of vulnerability mapping (building on the double-exposure method) for research and practice
- Uses the Nordic arena as a larger region but departs from municipal units
- Top-down approach but consistently includes results from in-depth studies and stakeholders' comments

- Maps today (2008) and mid-century (2040)
- Uses common themes (agriculture and elderly)
- Hot-spots?
- Patterns?

- Identifies emerging issues that need to be attended to on long- and short-term and point out on what level the problems may be managed (regional, national or local level)

- Climate change research data and monitoring needs? What data is available and to whom?

Maps as symbols of power

- Maps and GIS approaches may offer a potential compromise in that policy and decision-makers may find the output more credible and convincing than, say, the detailed depth of material from qualitative or participatory research methods alone or the apparent crudeness of sketch maps drawn as part of a local Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercise.
 - Needs to be used with caution as not to legitimize bad data or comparing “apples with pears”.
 - Important not to over-simplify just in order to be able to create a map
 - Stakeholder involvement is essential in all stages of the mapping exercise (selecting items and data input, design, interpretation, recommended use and limitations and “reality-check”)

Does it make sense?

How is the Nordic region vulnerable and how could it best adapt to climate change ?

- Who is it for?
- What can it be used for?
- Does it serve a useful purpose?
- What and who are we missing?