Vulnerability, adaptive capacity and climate-smart management options for a forest-based social-ecological system in Bhutan

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Abstract

Forests and people operate in social-ecological systems that are likely to be affected by climatic and other changes impacting on ecological functions and community livelihoods. The integration of climate change into forest management is required to foster adaption of both ecosystems and communities. This study analysed the social-ecological system vulnerability in the Nikachu watershed in Bhutan. A “climate smart livelihood framework” is proposed for integrating climate change into institutions and forest management decisions to support adaption in ecosystems and communities.

Keywords

vulnerability; adaptive capacity; social-ecological system; climate-smart livelihood framework