

## **Title of Traditional Paper Presentation**

*Re-envisioning community spaces: Local resilience-building through participatory processes and multi-benefit solutions*

(Sentence case, maximum 118/200 characters, including spaces)

(Abstract: Maximum 499/500 words, excluding references)

### **Introduction**

Globally, many communities must adapt to a new multi climate-hazard reality, while balancing competing demands for finite time, resources, and funding. Future-proofing against climate hazards requires not only innovative and transformative climate change adaptation (CCA) solutions, but also strategic systems-level planning. There is an urgent need for decision-support tools that integrate CCA with other co-benefits—such as social cohesion, health, equity and justice, habitat restoration, housing affordability, infrastructure upgrades, and sustainable land-use—for streamlined planning across institutions, sectors, and policy systems. Aligning CCA with local priorities (i.e., values) can help enable place-based actions, bridge governance silos, and support efficient resource allocation. Moreover, aligning climate action with broader resiliency goals can enhance community buy-in and enable creative new possibilities.

### **Objectives**

This research explores how local actors leverage participatory planning to develop collective visions of resilience, expand opportunities for multi-benefit solutions, and engage in proactive CCA planning. This study seeks to identify the following: (1) best practices for participatory community planning related to (re)imagining resilient futures, eliciting values, and co-creating actionable strategies; and (2) common community values that help to enhance buy-in and integrate co-benefits into local climate action. Understanding the enabling conditions for successful, collaborative multi-problem solving can support local leaders in tailoring engagements and maximizing the impact of CCA interventions.

### **Methodology**

This research is part of a larger multi-phase qualitative research project on participatory, values-based proactive flood adaptation planning. A rapid literature review was conducted to synthesize key themes, identify knowledge gaps, and to refine search criteria for a later systematic review of academic and grey literature. This study applied grounded theory rooted in place-based, values-based, and collaborative approaches to community planning and resource management to the context of locally-driven climate adaptation solutions. Central to this research is the linkage to participatory modes of community planning, engagement, and future visioning as a means by which local knowledge, values, and experiences can be meaningfully incorporated into adaptation strategies. Literature inclusion criteria was as follows: (a) involved a flood or coastal adaptation aspect, (b) integrated multi-solving approaches and/or a diversity of values, and (c) was moderately to highly participatory according to the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation (i.e., involve, collaborate, empower) [1]. This phase of the research explores how community values and preferences can be effectively elicited, communicated, and represented in the planning process. Subsequent research will

continue to bridge the gaps between (1) values-based planning approaches, (2) the enabling conditions of successful flood adaptation initiatives, programs, and processes, and (3) the values and co-benefits that are most commonly attributed to enhancing buy-in for adaptation strategies at the local level.

### **Findings**

A diverse range of strategies for engaging community members in adaptation/resiliency planning processes have been identified. Insights and recommendations for fostering meaningful engagement and bridging silos through values-based, multi-solving approaches will be presented. This research underscores the need for participatory, holistic visions of resilience that are iteratively guided by residents, stakeholders, and Rightsholders to enhance buy-in, strengthen social cohesion, facilitate collaborative partnerships, promote social learning, advance equity goals, and prioritize co-benefits.

### **Significance of the work for policy and practice**

This research supports the development of integrated multi-hazard, multi-benefit approaches that meet local equity and resiliency goals. This research will support subsequent research phases, including the development of (a) a decision-support framework for equitable, participatory, and values-based adaptation to be tested through semi-structured interviews and focus group workshops with local governments, non-profits, and practitioners, and (b) locally-specific recommendations through cross-case analysis and co-development with partner communities.

### **Hybrid Platform requirements**

Please note that AF2025 has made every effort in budget constraints to encourage hybrid participation. There will be nine hybrid rooms with fixed cameras and technical support. Allocation of hybrid rooms will be made by the Science Committee. Please indicate if you are requesting a hybrid format:

- I do not intend to present online**

### **Reference:**

[1] International Association for Public Participation. (2024). *IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation*. Retrieved from <https://www.iap2.org/page/pillars>