



Resilient Cities 2012

Third Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation

Session D1: Mitigating and adapting from the bottom up: community-based solutions

Community-Based Adaptation in Urban Areas: Potential and Limits

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With support and insights from:

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Community-Based Adaptation in Urban Areas

Soltesova K, Brown A, Dayal A, Dodman D (2012).

‘Community Participation in Urban Adaptation to Climate Change: potential and limits for CBA Approaches’ in Ayers J, Huq S, Reid H, Rahman A, Schipper L (eds) *Community-based adaptation: scaling it up* (London, Earthscan – in press)

Dodman D, Mitlin D (2011). **‘Challenges for Community-Based Adaptation: discovering the potential for transformation’** *Journal of International Development* [early view: online edition]

Sixth International Conference on Community Based Adaptation (Hanoi, Vietnam) – April 2012 [and previous conferences]

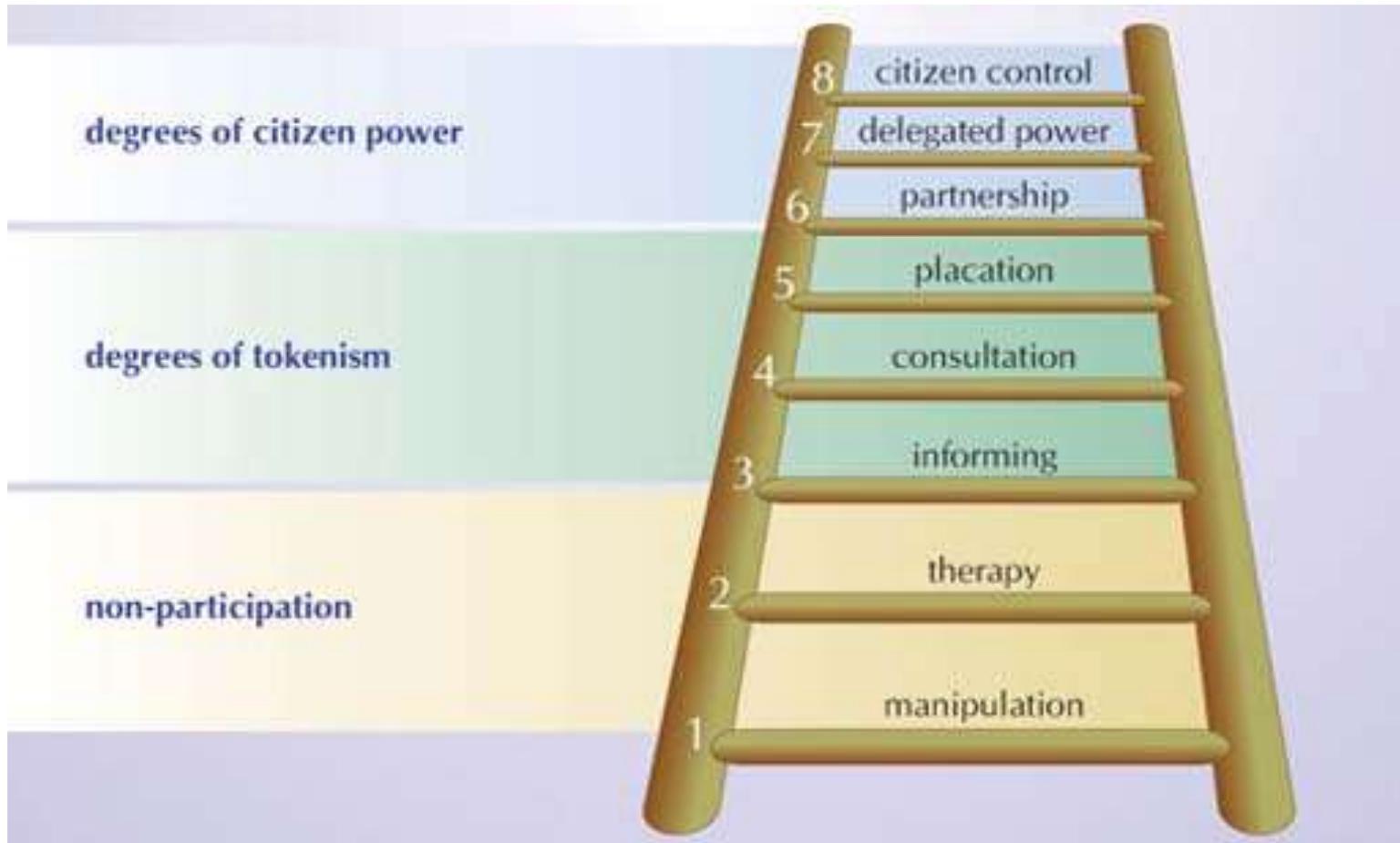


Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change

- based on premise that local communities have skills, experience, knowledge and networks to undertake locally appropriate activities to increase resilience
 - recognizes limits to / failure of planned, 'top down', approaches to adaptation
 - generates adaptation strategies through participatory processes involving local stakeholders – recognizes the need to include vulnerable people in decisions
 - builds on existing cultural norms and addresses local development issues that underlie vulnerability
- [see Ayers and Forsyth (2009)]

Towards meaningful participation

(c.f. Arnstein's Ladder (1969))





Limits to CBA... as previously practised

- **partial in nature:** urban vulnerability shaped by a wide range of climate and non-climate factors
- **local in focus:** urban vulnerability shaped by physical and political factors operating at larger scales
- **limits to community:** urban (and rural) communities are heterogeneous (differences around wealth, age, gender)
- **limited conceptualisation of risk and uncertainty:** risk of maladaptation
- **political shortcomings:** ignores structural issues; adapting urban communities requires shaping urban systems

[see Dodman and Mitlin (2011)]



Potential for CBA in urban areas

- building adaptive capacity
(particularly for low-income groups)
- development of collective solutions to reduce exposure
(shaping 'collective consumption' goods)
- basis for technical and financial engagement:
participatory decision-making processes
- basis for political change: mobilisation around rights
(including land, shelter, services)
- monitoring adaptation outcomes



Involving urban communities in adaptation I

Ward Level Planning in Gorakhpur (India)

- priorities identified through Shared Learning Dialogue process
- community-level drainage projects: maintenance and construction
- joint actions between communities, civil society and municipal authority



[work undertaken by Shiraz Wajih and Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network]



Involving urban communities in adaptation II

Partnerships for Resilience in Urban Vietnam

- community-based hazard and vulnerability assessments
- specific engagement of young people (e.g. 'Youth Initiatives Programme' to fund activities)
- outcomes: communities better equipped



[work undertaken by NISTPASS, ISET, Challenge to Change and Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network]



Involving urban communities in adaptation III

Networking Communities in Korail, Dhaka

- challenges around waterlogging, extreme temperatures, hazards from fires – and responses to these
- collective learning and increased trust improve management of environmental risk
- challenge to bridge gaps between CBOs and policy / professional bodies



[research by Katarina Soltesova;
activities by NDBUS, USK and UPPR]



Urban CBA: Prospects for Upscaling

- inter-dependency of urban (and rural-urban) systems: CBA needs to address these linkages
- low-income households have demonstrated ‘coping capacity’: CBA needs to influence institutional factors than support autonomous adaptation
- approaches are being developed to ensure meaningful engagement in urban adaptation and to link CBA to city wide responses (e.g. Shared Learning Dialogues)

International Conferences on Community Based Adaptation (IIED + partners)

*Is CBA relevant in cities?
Do CBA principles need to be
modified in an urban setting?
How might CBA help cities
become more resilient?*

*CBA is relevant in urban contexts
Urban communities have distinct
characteristics that shape CBA
CBA cannot function in isolation from
governance and planning*

*Improved understanding of
community dynamics in urban areas
Different strategies for engaging with
institutions: civil society and state
Innovative approaches to networking,
partnerships and mainstreaming*

CBA3 (2009)



CBA4 (2010)



CBA5 (2011)
Scaling-Up CBA



CBA6 (2012)
Communicating CBA



CBA7 (2013)
*Mainstreaming CBA in National
and Local Planning*



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