

HOW LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ENGAGE COMMUNITIES IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

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Drawing on a manuscript co-authored with: Chayanis
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Rationale

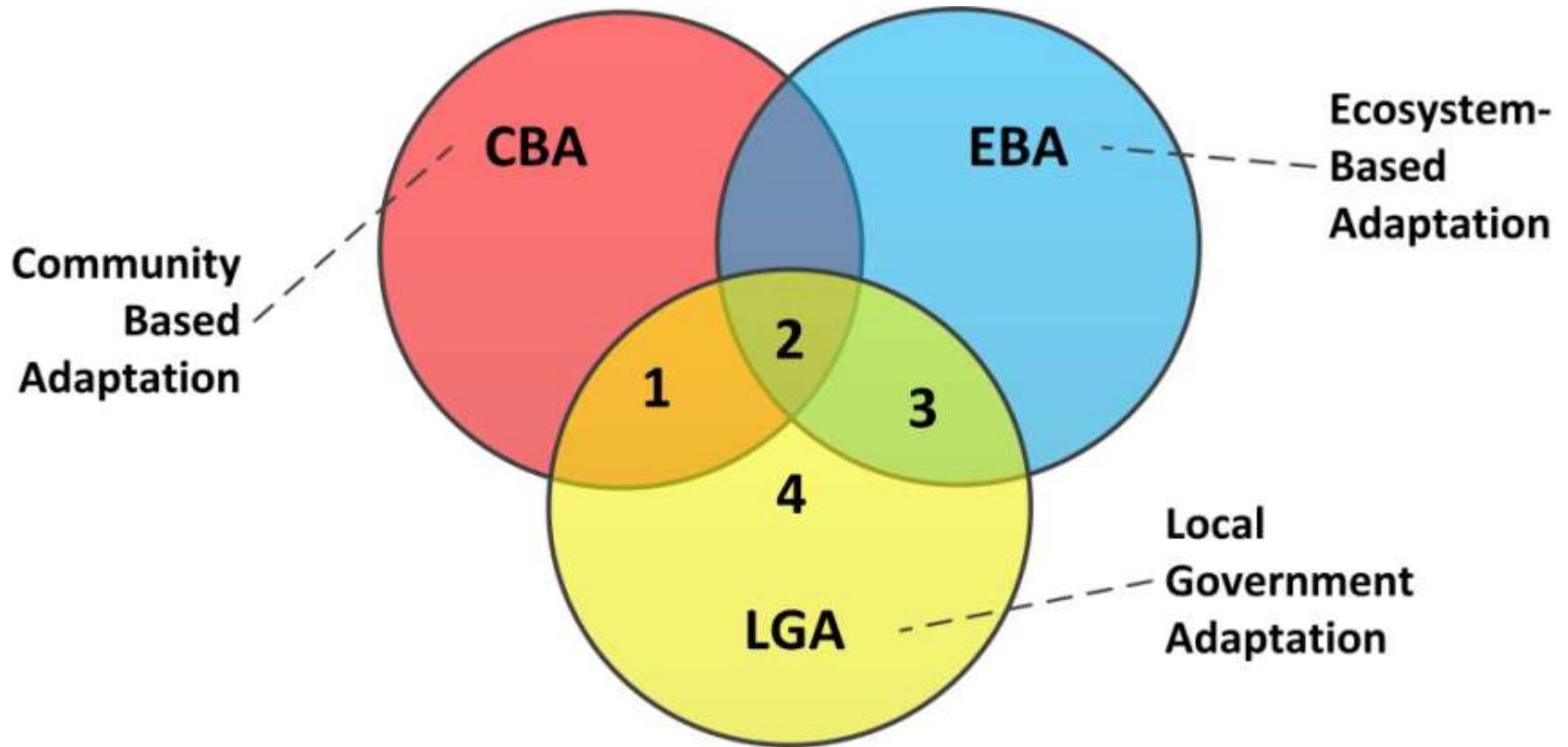
- Local governments carry out a diverse range of adaptation actions that reduce vulnerabilities or help manage risk
- Guides for adaptation at the local level tend to emphasize a community or a government perspective, but few pay close attention to how local governments and communities are supposed to interact with each other
- Collaboration between local governments and communities is potentially of great importance to the effectiveness and sustainability of local adaptation

Questions

- How do local governments engage communities in adaptation?
- How do local governments take into account ecosystems in adaptation?

Local adaptation : decision-making processes and actions undertaken to address recent, or maintain capacities to deal with future, change or disturbances to a local social-ecological system arising from climate variability or change

Adaptation with local governments

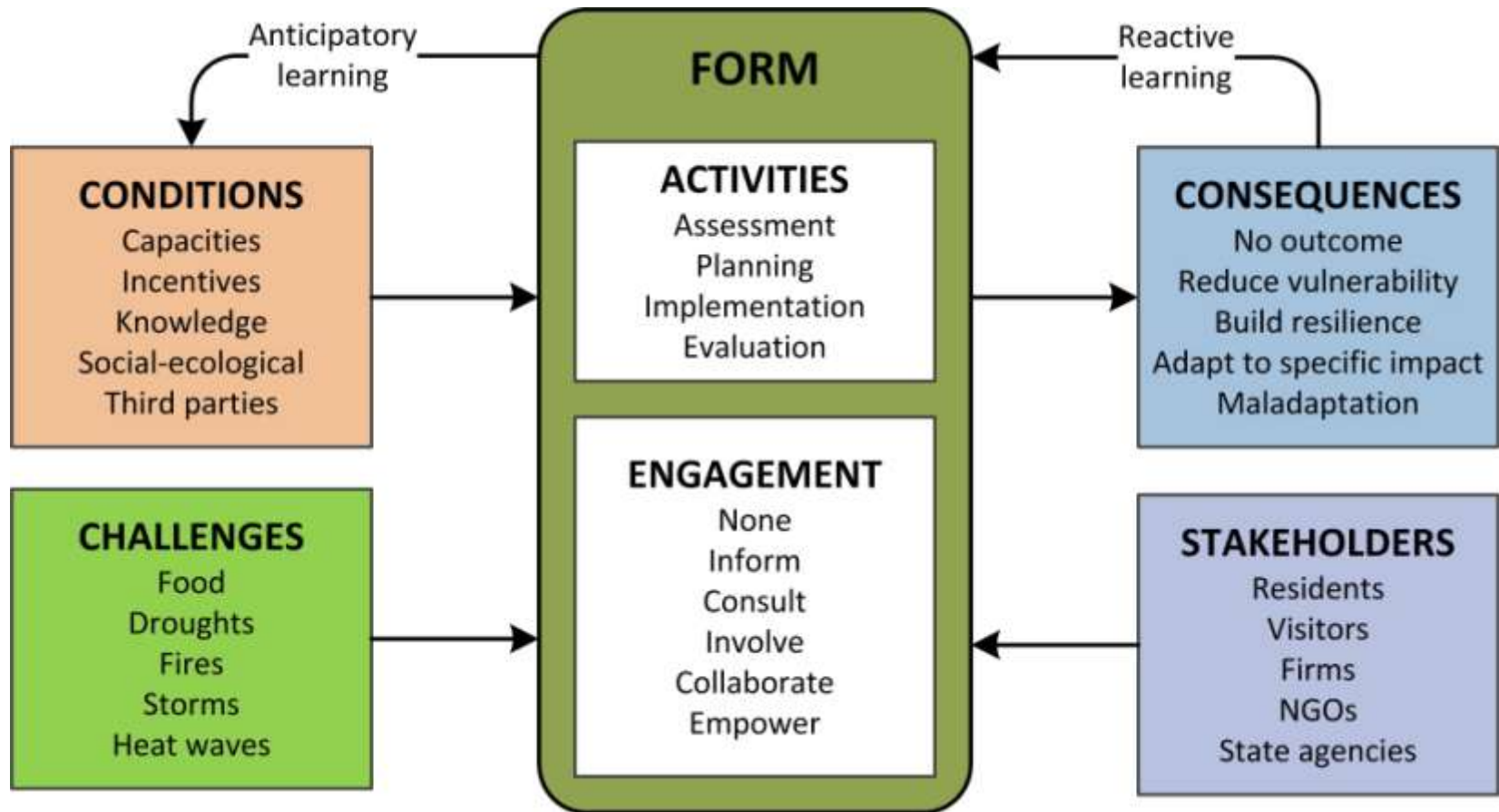


Method

- initially inspired by contributions to previous APAN forums
- Today based on a systematic review of 54 case studies from the Asia Pacific region
- Focus on cases in which local governments were significantly involved in a local adaptation activity
- Content analysis of text: qualitative and semi-quantitative
- Coding still preliminary and incomplete

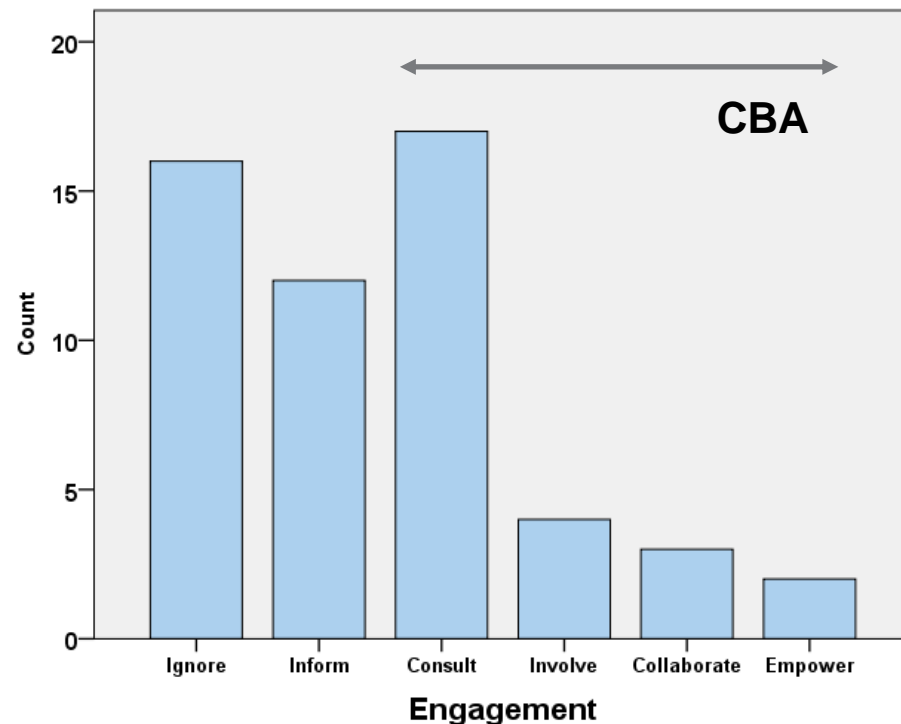


Analytical framework



Community-based cases

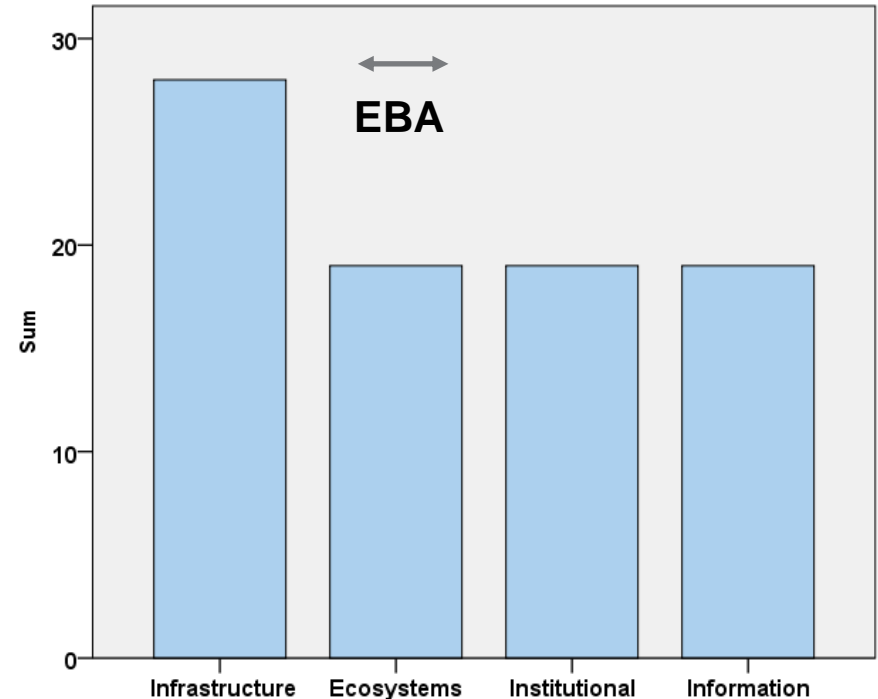
- Engagement varied widely in inclusiveness and purpose
 - Low and modest levels were common, high levels rare
 - Case was considered CBA if evidence of engagement level was “consult” or higher



Mutually exclusive

Ecosystem-based cases

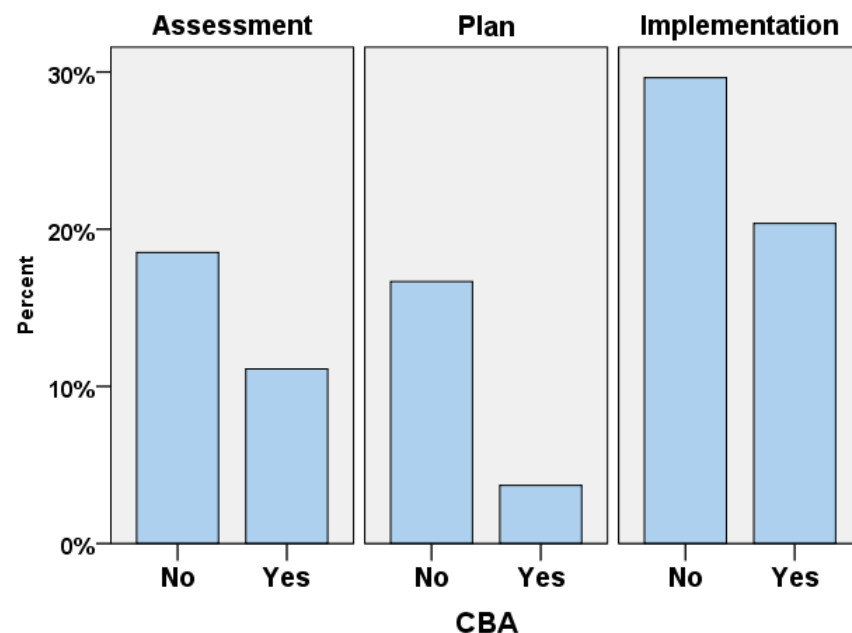
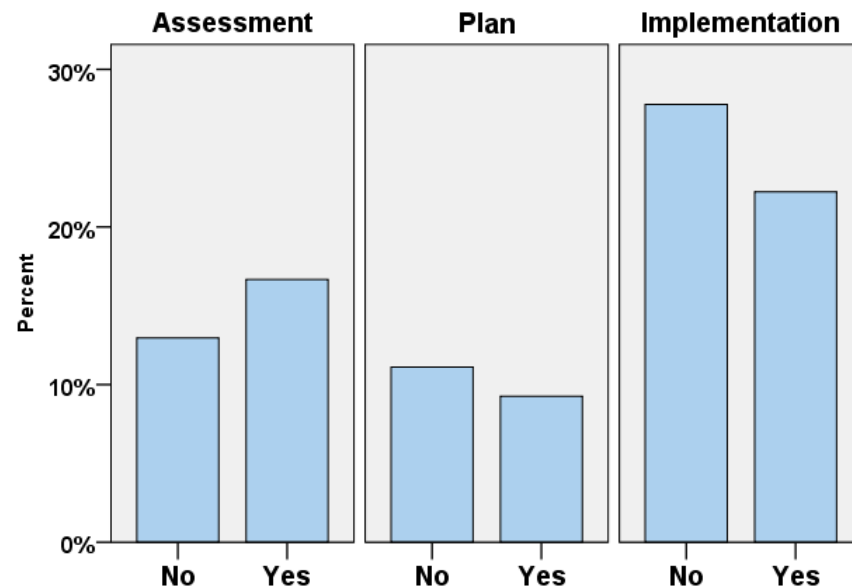
- Most common adaptation form was infrastructure
 - But ecosystem-based elements in n=19 cases
 - Case was considered EBA if activities aimed at maintaining or restoring ecosystem service



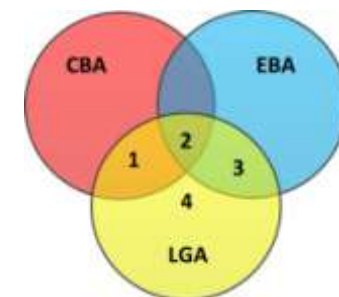
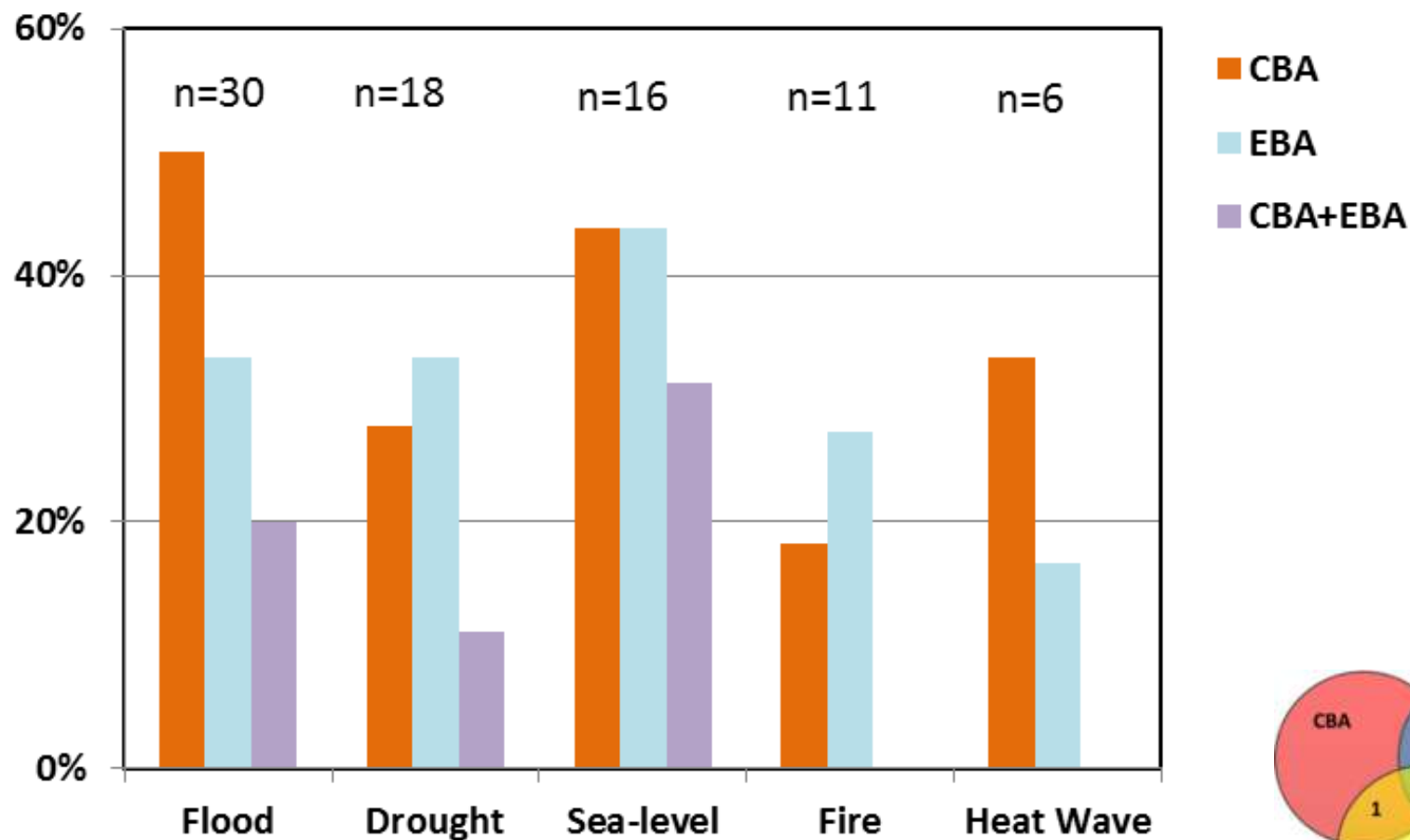
More than 1 response possible

Activities

- When local governments are involved in adaptation...
 - CBA tends to be more likely in early than in later stages of project cycle
 - EBA shows no simple pattern – may be lower in planning cases

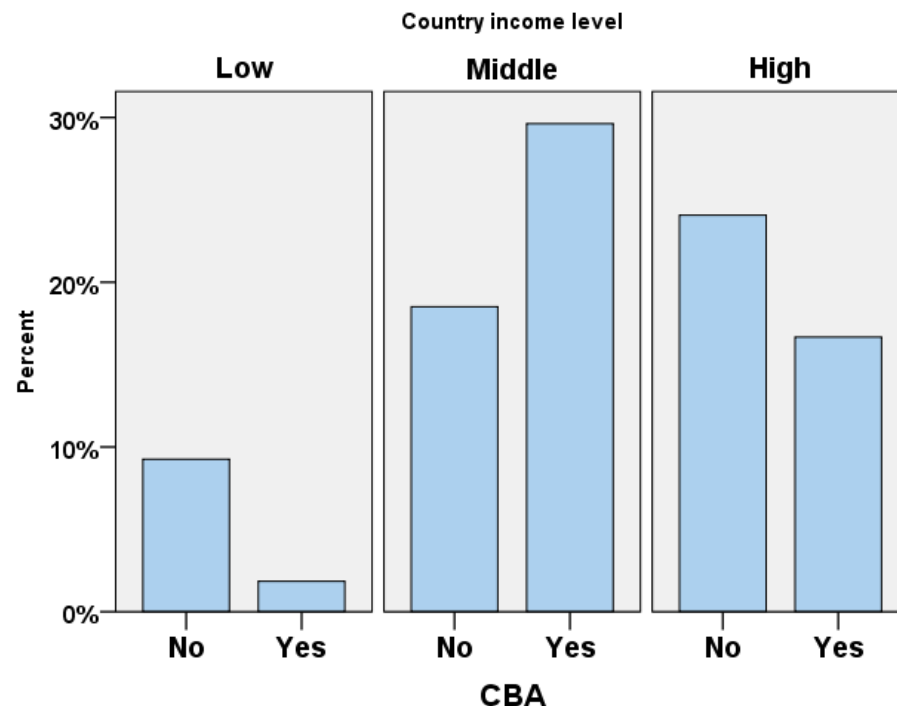


Climate-related challenge



Conditions

- Capacities of local government matter
 - But no simple trend with income as 'indicator'
- But so do other factors
 - National policies
 - political and financial incentives
 - level of public awareness
 - influence of third parties



Consequences

- No quantitative analysis yet as coding 'effectiveness' has been difficult, but...
- Greater local public participation, implying CBA-like approaches, is important when
 - Interventions create winners & losers
 - Large uncertainties about outcomes and trust is paramount
- Greater attention to ecosystem-based measures is important when
 - are still functional ecosystems left to maintain or restore
 - ecosystem services are a low-cost/flexible alternative to infrastructure

Conclusions

- For adaptation projects involving local government...
- Engagement with communities is usually modest with many activities still done on 'behalf of' even in higher income countries
- Infrastructure is the most common response focus with ecosystems, information and institutions at similar level
- Attention to both ecosystems and communities is not that common, but found most frequently in cases with sea-level rise and flood climate-related challenges