

**Scanning the Conservation Horizon**  
A Guide to Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment

**Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Training Course**

Overview of Vulnerability Assessment

USGS

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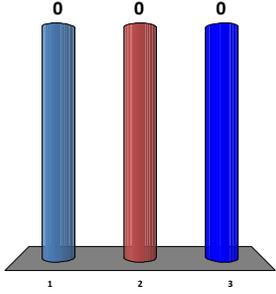
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What is your experience with climate adaptation planning?

1. I've never done it
2. I'm currently doing it
3. I eat, sleep, and breath climate adaptation



Experience Level	Count
1. I've never done it	0
2. I'm currently doing it	0
3. I eat, sleep, and breath climate adaptation	0

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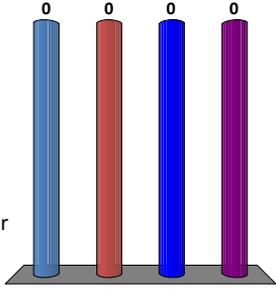
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What's your experience with vulnerability, risk, or hazard assessments (not necessarily climate-related)?

1. I haven't assessed anything in my life
2. I don't do them, but I've read lots
3. I've been part of a few
4. I've been part of so many I can't remember them all



Experience Level	Count
1. I haven't assessed anything in my life	0
2. I don't do them, but I've read lots	0
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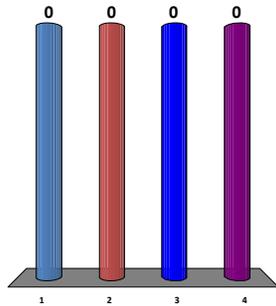
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You move into a new apartment and notice that the front doorknob is loose. Do you:

1. Fix it yourself
2. Call the landlord to fix it
3. Ask a friend to fix it
4. Live with it



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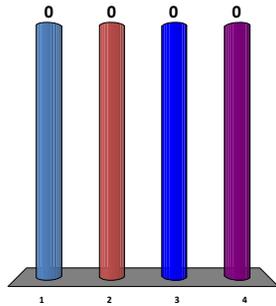
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You get a flat tire driving home from a meeting 15 miles from your house. Do you

1. Use fix-a-flat and drive to a garage
2. Change your tire yourself
3. Call a tow truck or friend to help
4. Drive home on the flat tire



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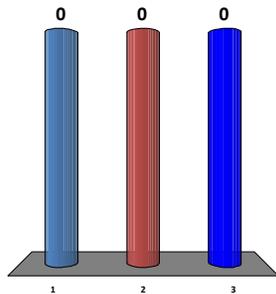
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Are you:

1. An optimist
2. A pessimist
3. A pragmatist



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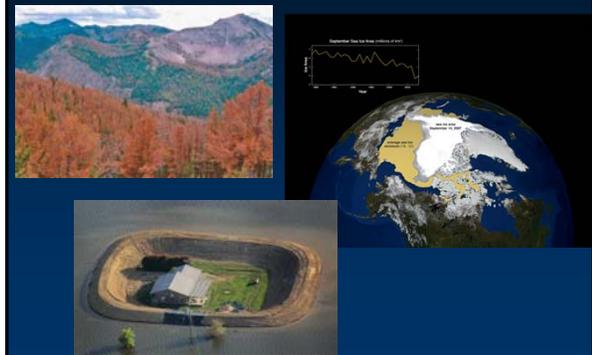
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### The Future is Now



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### Adaptation Defined

Initiatives and measures designed to *reduce the vulnerability* of natural and human systems against actual or expected climate changes



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Adaptation



Adaptive Management

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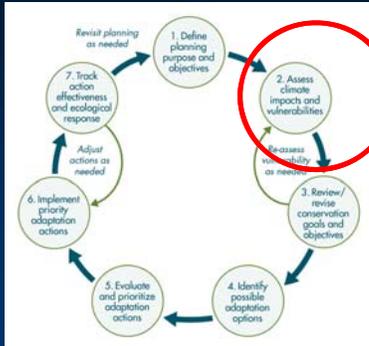
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## Climate-Smart Conservation Cycle



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## Defining Vulnerability

The extent to which something is susceptible to harm from climate change impacts

- **What** things are most or least vulnerable
- **Why** they are vulnerable



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## Why Assess Vulnerability?

VAs can help build or inform:

- Management plans and priorities
- Adaptation strategies and actions
- Allocation of scarce resources
- Staff capacity for climate smart thinking

What VAs *don't* do:

- Make decisions for you



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### Key Course Objectives

- Understand VA in context of adaptation planning
- Evaluate factors influencing vulnerability and how they affect an assessment
- Understand strengths and limitations of approaches
- Ability to design a VA applicable to your needs
- Ability to interpret and disseminate results

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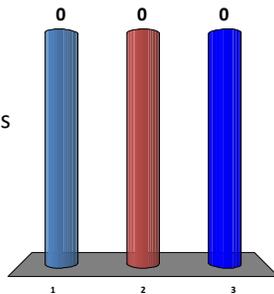
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Which is most important for effective decision-making?

1. Quality of data and analysis
2. Quality of the process used
3. Contextual variables




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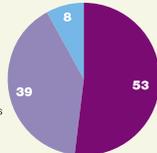
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### The importance of process

Share of performance explained by given element  
(based on multivariate regression analysis), %

#### CONTEXT

**Industry/company variables**—eg, number of investment opportunities, capital availability, predictability of consumer tastes, availability of resources to implement decision



#### SCIENCE

**Quantity and detail of analysis performed**—eg, detailed financial modeling, sensitivity analysis, analysis of financial reaction of markets

**Quality of process to exploit analysis and reach decision**—eg, explicit exploration of major uncertainties, inclusion of perspectives that contradict senior leader's point of view, allowing participation in discussion by skill and experience rather than by rank

#### PROCESS

Lovallo and Sibony 2010

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