CHALLENGES IN COLLECTING STATISTICS FOR ASSESSING VULNERABILITY OF CITIES DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

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ABSTRACT

At a time when the world community is striving to identify the impacts of the climate change on the planet’s life support system including urban areas, it is critical to provide policy makers scientifically credible assessment of vulnerability of cities due to climate-change impacts and assist them in enhancing their resilience. Early warning systems for various extreme events including sea level rise, droughts, floods, tropical cyclones, and wildfires in and around vulnerable cities of the world should be established and appropriate preparedness programs should be deployed. However, much of the statistics needed for such scientifically credible vulnerability assessment are not available. Also information and many data sets currently available in the public domain are not being packaged and made available in a user friendly format to cities planners. The paper outlines challenges of statistical and geographical information to be collected and provided to communities and cities managers to adapt and prepare for larger fluctuations as impact of the climate change becomes more evident.

Keywords: Early warning systems, vulnerability assessment, climate change