Planning Together: An Action Research Approach for Local Adaptation Planning for Climate Change

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In 2011, the Guano Tolomato Matanzas Research Reserve, in partnership with the University of Florida, applied for and was awarded a grant by NOAA to study the impact of sea level rise on the reserve and the surrounding communities. A leader in public outreach, the research partners solicited participation by a local steering committee to guide the development of this project. Over the course of three years, these partners worked together, utilizing a social action research framework, to understand the science and politics of sea level rise on a local scale. The partners shared in the development of a series of public workshops to: “test the temperature” of locals related to this topic; to impact downscaled science in a manner comprehensible by the local population; and to gather public input about local values and preferences for adaptation strategies. While the first two workshops were led by UF researchers, the final presentation was delivered by the steering committee and GTM personnel. In this way, a true transfer of knowledge and project ownership resulted. This presentation chronicles the use of social action research methodologies as a tool for research and community engagement, offering a framework for the local study of adaptation to climate change.

Sarkeys Energy Center (SEC) A235
September 26 at 3:30 pm

All seminars will begin with coffee & socializing at 3:15

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