

Perceptions of vulnerability, tenure security and resettlement issues of urban informal communities in Papua New Guinea



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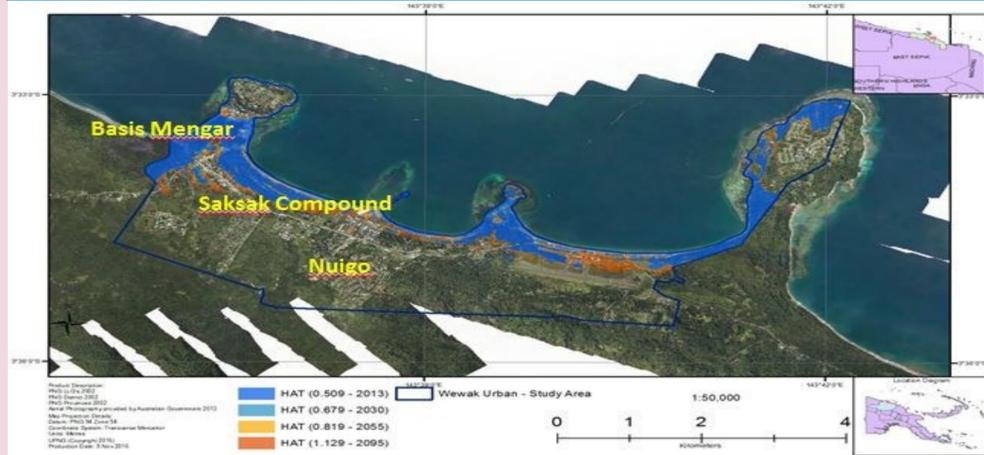
Background

This study is based on research conducted among three urban informal settlements in Wewak, northern Papua New Guinea (PNG). Wewak with a population of almost 30,000 is the fifth largest urban center in PNG and is the administrative and commercial centre for East Sepik Province. The case study settlements in Wewak were Basis Mengar, Nuigo and Saksak Compound. The questions were designed to gauge respondents' perceptions of:

- Climate risks, vulnerability and adaptive capacity
- Security of tenure
- Resettlement as an adaptation option

These communities have different land tenure arrangements and varying climate related risks.

Sea Level Rise – Inundation Modelling for Wewak, ESP, PNG

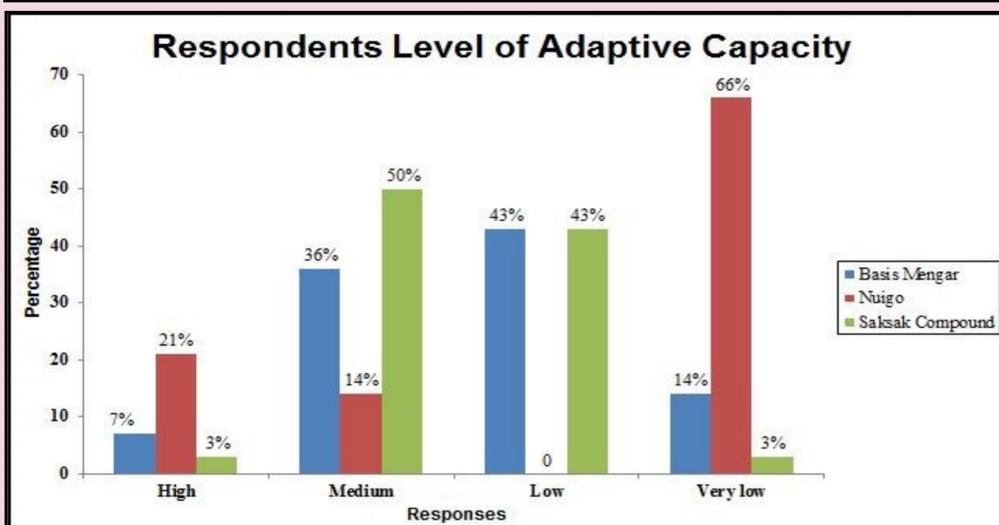
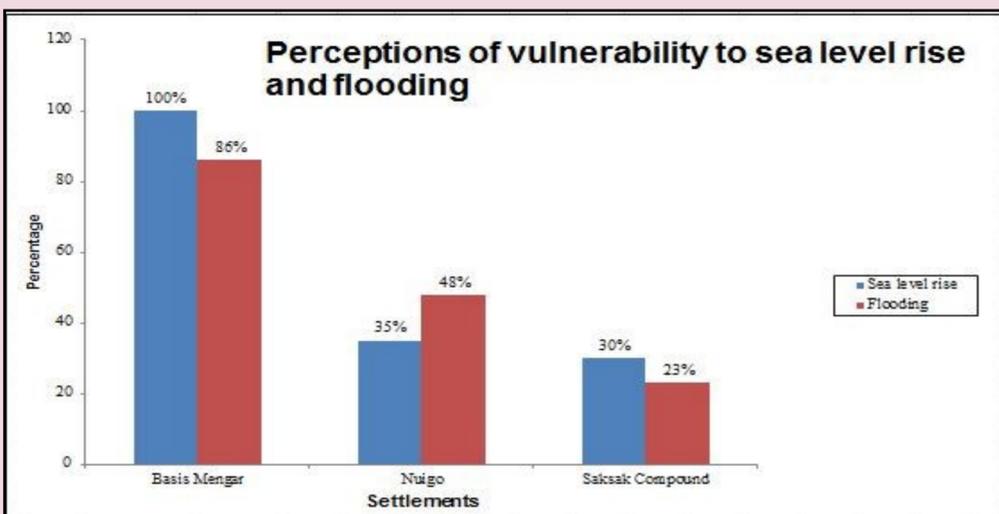


Perceptions of Climate Risk, Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity

The respondents' perceptions of risk posed by climate change, beliefs on vulnerability and level of adaptive capacity vary between communities though within the same locality.

Major climate risk perceived by respondents in each Settlement

Climate Risk	Basis Mengar	Nuigo	Saksak Compound
Storm surge and sea level rise	25%	24%	0
Coastal erosion	75%	21%	0
Flooding	0	0	3%
Strong winds	0	0	0
Drought	0	55%	97%



Each settlement's perception of climate risk, vulnerability and adaptive capacity differ though within the same locality. Factors influencing their perceptions:

- Direct locations to perceived risk
- Tenure security
- Coping strategies
- Livelihood options
- Connections to place of origin

Perceptions of Security of Tenure

A key factor in their perceptions of tenure security was whether they thought the government would protect their rights to land.

Responses on Land Tenure Security

	Basis Mengar (Customary Land)	Nuigo (State Land)	Saksak Compound Freehold Land
How long have you been living in this settlement?	More than 20 years 86%	More than 20 years 90%	More than 20 years 53%
How did you gain access to this land?	Customary arrangements 82%	Informal arrangements 83%	Informal Arrangements 100%
How secure is your tenure?	Less secure 79%	Very secure 96%	Less secure 100%
Are you vulnerable to eviction or land grabbing?	Yes 75%	No 90%	Yes 67%
Are your property rights recognised by others?	Yes 61%	No 55%	No 63%
Does the government protect your access to land?	No 92%	Yes 66%	No 100%

Resettlement Priorities

The question of resettlement was asked as an adaptation option.

Resettlement as an Adaptation Option

	Basis Mengar	Nuigo	Saksak Compound
Should your household be resettled?	No 61%	No 63%	Yes 77%
Would resettlement affect your tenure and livelihoods?	Yes 58%	Yes 52%	Yes 70%
Do you have land in other areas where you could be resettled to?	Yes 64%	Yes 66%	Yes 77%



- Resettlement would affect their tenure and livelihoods
- Determining factor in resettlement is tenure security than climate change risk

Recommendations

- More emphasis on case by case study of climate risk, vulnerability, adaptive capacity, tenure security and resettlement options
- More research on the perception of host communities to resettlement
- Explore past adaptation strategies in indigenous communities
- More research on rural urban linkages
- More collaboration between government and land owning groups
- Case by case study on community's adaptation strategies
- More collaboration between academia, research and policy