

## MAKING SENSE OF RISK AND RESILIENCE PLANNING IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL CHANGE

*James Arnott, Aspen Global Change Institute/University of Michigan Agency*

*Susanne Moser, Susanne Moser Research & Consulting*

In the face of pervasive climate change and sea-level rise uncertainty, there is growing recognition of the shortcomings of conventional risk management approaches for coastal management and planning. Challenges include projecting future risks in the face of hard-to-quantify probabilities, and conceiving and implementing management approaches that not just return back to the pre-disaster; but advance preparedness for future climate change, remain flexible, and take a holistic perspective of community needs. To overcome these challenges, a promising lens capturing the imagination of scholars and practitioners is resilience planning, which like risk management is concerned with understanding, preparing for, weathering, and recovering from impacts of adverse events, but can incorporate a more dynamic and comprehensive approach. Resilience at its best integrates social, environmental, and physical concerns. However, what exactly a resilience strategy should entail is much debated and practical steps forward toward greater resilience are unclear. Coastal communities have readily embraced the resiliency language, but struggle to combine strategies that help protect against known threats, and rebuild and restore coastal communities after disaster in a better adapted and more adaptive way. To make progress in better understanding tangible approaches that support, clarify, and accelerate the implementation of strategies that build resilience, the session conveners build upon lessons developed at a weeklong science-practice dialogue at the Aspen Global Change Institute. Participants at the workshop included leading researchers and practitioners in their fields, including risk and resilience, engineering, urban sustainability, economics, social justice, ecology, and others. Participants wrestled with the practical dimensions of resilience that incorporate traditional elements of risk management but also more expansively consider the risks that do not easily lend themselves to quantification, as well as concerns for equity, fairness, and a sense of community. Insights from this experience inform the design and lessons offered throughout this skill development session. Coastal practitioners will leave with a better understanding of and insights into pragmatic steps they can take toward building greater resilience.

This session will provide participants with practical knowledge about how to make the abstract concept of resilience more tangible, while including the multiple critical dimensions that true community resilience entails. Specifically, the session will help participants

- Demystifying terminology surrounding risk management and resilience with regard to climate change
- Developing a vision for resilience that is grounded both in identifiable risks as well as the broader needs of community (i.e. “the people side” of coastal management)
- Identifying pragmatic steps to make progress toward greater resilience; and
- Communicating about resilience visions and strategies to diverse stakeholders.