



Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Research Programme

Flood and coastal erosion risk management research and development framework: working with communities

Project summary FRS19209/S

This project developed a framework to determine the priorities for future research on how to work with communities to manage the risks associated with flooding and coastal erosion. This work will be used to prioritise further research which will support those involved in flood and coastal erosion risk management.

Background

The England and Wales Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) strategies published in autumn 2020 identified the important role communities play in helping deliver FCERM.

This has led to a demand for further research to understand how best to work with communities to:

- manage flood risk assets (structures)
- prepare for, respond to and recover from incidents
- take part in decisions, designs and funding for schemes
- manage land to achieve flood risk benefits
- prepare and adapt homes to reduce the impact of flooding
- take part in conversations about long-term adaptation

For these 6 activities we wanted to understand what past research had been undertaken and any future research needed. A detailed literature review was conducted, identifying research gaps and setting out 12 priority areas for future research.

Outputs

The main outputs of the Communities R&D framework are:

- literature review report which looks in detail at the 6 activities
- one-page summaries for each activity which summarises the literature review findings
- research framework report
- science summary

The report identified the following 12 projects as priority areas for future research in FCERM:

- community and volunteer participation
- sustaining effective participation
- improving the flood recovery process
- landowner and land manager participation in natural flood management
- emotional and social processes of participation
- community attachment to places affected by climate change
- improving participation in decision making
- the role of community flood knowledge
- characteristics of risk management authorities which influence participation
- assessing the costs and benefits of participating
- effective community leadership

- enabling community maintenance for local flood risk management

Next steps

We will use the outputs from the framework to shape existing and future research projects and to prioritise our research funding.

This summary relates to information from project FRS19209, reported in detail in the following output(s):

Report: FRS19209

Title: Communities and flood and coastal erosion risk management research and development framework

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This project was commissioned by the Environment Agency's FCRM Directorate, as part of the joint Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Research and Development Programme.

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