

## **Adaptation to climatic impacts: a local perspective**

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Whether it is in the face of extreme events in the short term or environmental changes developed over time, adaptation to climate variability and impact on Atlantic coasts is essential to human health. The ways in which a community responds to climatic events depends on a number of local factors, including physical geography, economics, history, and culture. One approach recently initiated is a citizen science focused project to encourage Newfoundland coastal communities to experience, observe, record and input data into a GeoWeb platform for analysis by researchers. The project provides individual communities with a coastal field excursion as an introduction into methods of observation and data collection. Participants will learn to identify types of coastline (soft, consolidated, rock type), geomorphology and processes (wave, storm, frost action) and about marine pollution as well as debris distributed along coastal areas.

The intention of the project is threefold: (1) to re-engage citizens to participate in nature from the experiential perspective of scientific observer, (2) to create data for a Geo Web site accessible to organizations, planners and decision makers to contribute to future risk management, monitoring, policy and additional educational initiatives, and (3) to provide communities with a deeper knowledge about the changes occurring in their local area that might lead to better response to short and long term climate impact within their region.