



## Coastal communities and climate change – addressing needs for capacity building and collaboration

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## Coastal communities and climate change – addressing needs for capacity building and collaboration

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Low-lying coastal communities face almost insurmountable challenges from climate change and sea level rise. As a natural consequence of their agglomeration of people and assets most research work focus on cities and mega-cities, whereas little attention is paid to the rather diverse range of local coastal communities and their tasks of climate change adaptation (CCA) and flood risk management (FRM). In Denmark, adaptation is mainly a local governance level responsibility however, and novel work forms need to be developed and utilized to compensate for a general lack of local expertise and knowledge. In order to mainstream climate change adaptation and risk reduction into management, planning and business and to reach sustainable and sound risk reduction measures, capacity building and collaboration across all levels of governance and sectors are necessary, respectively. A national level priority advocated for is a structured pathway to deal with CCA and FRM that e.g. builds on global frameworks like the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the SDG's (Jebens and Sørensen, 2018). Additionally, community level actions must build on shared end-user defined needs which acknowledge location-specific challenges and the local actors. For this, capacity building through the set-up of collaborative and transdisciplinary networks to advance common agendas in local level adaptation work is suggested (Sørensen et al., 2018).

This paper presents research engagement in municipality led adaptation work carried out over the past three years regarding a highly vulnerable coastal community on the Danish North Sea coast. From this, perspectives of transdisciplinary work approaches are presented and discussed in relation to the recently initiated and DTU led COHERENT project (Coastal Hazard Risk Reduction and Management, 2017-2020) which is co-funded by the Innovation Fund Denmark 'Grand Solutions' scheme (<https://innovationsfonden.dk/da/presse/alle-kraefter-saettes-ind-bedre-kystbeskyttelse>), and the Central Denmark Region led C2C CC project (Coast to Coast Climate Challenge, 2017-2022), which is co-funded by the EU Life program ([c2ccc.eu](http://c2ccc.eu)).

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