



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Flood & Coastal Storm Damage Reduction R&D Program

Theoretical Underpinnings of the Other Social Effects Account

Description	Theoretical Underpinnings of the Other Social Effects Account is an exploration of the role social effects can and should play in solutions to water resources problems. Acknowledgement of the importance of social effects has long been part of Federal water resources guidance, however, since the early 1980's there has been a tendency to discount the importance of social factors in water resources planning. This work explores the multiple dimensions of social effects and the extensive literature and work on this topic.
Benefits	The Corps of Engineers has recently reemphasized the importance of considering a broad range of considerations in water resources planning. There is a need for a general reintroduction to social factors and effects and their link to and importance for water resource planning. This work fills that need by exploring the multi faceted concept of well being that is grounded in human needs that include distributive justice, social connectedness, equality, health and safety. It provides a contemporary framework for integrating social effects into the planning process as is being done by other Federal agencies, the World Bank and other countries.
Status	Initial paper is complete and available. Companion documents, <i>Other Social Effect Handbook</i> , has also been completed. It addresses application of the OSE account in Corps' work, with a focus on planning, and includes techniques and case studies. Available at http://www.iwr.usace.army.mil . A <i>Social Vulnerability Index Handbook</i> is also available from the POC. Ongoing work focuses on public safety and risk communication.
Distribution Source(s)	Contact Susan Durden (see POC) for information on related work.
Available Documentation	Dunning, C. M., and S. Durden. 2007. ERDC-CHL SR-07-1. <i>Theoretical underpinnings of the other social effects account</i> . ERDC-CHL SR-07-1. Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center. http://libweb.erd.c.usace.army.mil/
Available Training	Training module for use in PROSPECT course has been developed in support of the Planning Community of Practice. OSE Primer is in development.
Available Support	Contact POC concerning needs. CDM and other contractors have expertise in this topic.
Application	Information has been used by the National Research Council in their evaluation of the Corps' budget process. Several joint work efforts are underway with NOAA Coastal Services Center. Work has also been cited by in European Union work on flood hazards. Contact POC for more information.
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Partners	Planning Community of Practice; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Coastal Services Center; CDM (contractors); Flood Hazard Research Centre, Middlesex University, UK