



RISK AND DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

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ABSTRACT: The focus of Work Package 4 (Risk and Damage Assessment) was the search for appropriate damage functions to be used by other work packages in the project. A damage function can be described as a quantitative expression of cause and effect relationships between environmental factors and material change. Such quantitative relations can be used in the production of risk maps, as criteria for decision-making and to provide scenarios for economic impact studies.

Four main approaches were used:

- Looking at the literature and talking to researchers.
- Measuring changes in situ at historic sites.
- Investigating the present state of objects.
- Laboratory tests on token objects.

Although the original research carried out using the last three methods has yielded some interesting findings, the greater number of useful functions came from adaptation of research results obtained outside the project. This presentation will discuss the criteria used to select the functions used. Factors to be considered include the balance between specificity and universality, sources of uncertainty, and subjective considerations of value and risk.