



Vulnerability Estimation in Sri Lanka

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The following paper presents an overview of major results of a study regarding the identification, measurement and assessment of vulnerability and coping capacity of coastal communities in Sri Lanka after the devastating tsunami event December 2004. It gives an insight into different methodologies and data sources that were used to identify and measure various characteristics of vulnerability. The paper shows the abilities and limitations of selected methodologies and also addresses the potential synergies from using different techniques of vulnerability assessment. Moreover, the author also underlines how vulnerability assessment can be used as an important information source for a more sustainable reconstruction and recovery process. Particular emphasis is given to the assessment of vulnerability of different social groups and their un-usual difficulties in recovering from the negative impact of the tsunami. The research was conducted in two cities in Sri Lanka: Galle and Batticaloa. Due to the political situation the major research had to be carried out in Galle. In this context the paper summarizes findings of a joint research project of UNU-EHS, the University of Colombo, University of Ruhuna, Eastern University, the German Space Agency (DLR) and the Center for Development Research (ZEF), which was financially supported by UNU-EHS and UN-ISDR/PPEW.