



BUILDING SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

WWF Recommendations for Building Resilience with Nature

Nature can help us adapt to climate change, but we must help nature too. Communities, governments, and companies are beginning to build resilience to the unavoidable changes in climate and their impacts on livelihoods, infrastructure, property, food, water and health. And there are choices. Focusing exclusively on economic and social priorities can result in the unintentional degradation of natural systems and thus undermine long-term resilience of people and their livelihoods. To avoid this, WWF advocates actions that build “social-ecological” resilience to climate change.

To build resilience for both people and nature, WWF encourages policy- and decision-makers to follow 3 guiding principles when developing, supporting, and implementing climate change adaptation and resilience-building strategies.



Avoid harming nature



Use nature to help people



Help nature adapt

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To support its 3 guiding principals to build social-ecological resilience, WWF has developed a set of 9 recommendations and encourages policy- and decision-makers to adopt them during the development adaptation and resilience-building strategies.



Adaptation and resilience-building should carefully manage trade-offs and minimize actions that might provide social and economic gains in the short-term but undermine valuable ecosystem services that support resilience to climate change in the longer term.



Planners should promote nature-based solutions to help vulnerable people adapt to climate change and reduce disaster risk (i.e. ecosystem-based adaptation and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction).



Resilience-building strategies must explicitly include the role of biodiversity and address the need to help nature adapt to climate change through climate-informed, innovative, and flexible solutions.



Strategies and actions should be informed by ongoing analysis highlighting specific climate risks for both people and biodiversity and should be informed by the best available climate science.



Resilience-building must take an integrated, multi-sectoral approach to maximize synergies and ensure that goals, objectives, and actions for a single sector do not undermine those of other sectors, particularly biodiversity conservation.



Adaptation and resilience-building should have sound, ongoing monitoring and evaluation components that collect information for adaptive management.



Efforts to build social-ecological resilience activities should have clear budgets and sufficient finance to support implementation plans.



Building social-ecological resilience should be an inclusive process with full public engagement to ensure transparency, buy-in from stakeholders, and adherence to environmental and social safeguards.



Resilience planning should be aligned with and support other policy plans, including economic development and biodiversity conservation.