



Job Aid: Good Adaptation Actions

Good Adaptation Actions

In light of irreducible uncertainties, continuous and accelerating change and the possibility of surprises as climate change advances, experts recommend making adaptation decisions now that:

- Buy time;
- Build buffers and reserves so that they are available if and when needed;
- Build innovation and adaptive capacity in the system of interest to be able to capably respond to stresses and shocks;
- Foster relationship- and trust-building to support and shape collaborative decision-making processes;
- Retain as much flexibility as possible into the future;
- Avoid lock-in and irreversible decisions; and
- Support monitoring and learning to enable rapid responsiveness.

In general, breaking big, complex adaptation efforts down into manageable steps and making steady progress, and tracking and communicating that progress has been shown to lead to greater advances than stalling to with overwhelmingly big task.

Establishing institutional mechanisms to review and revisit prior steps and decisions is part of a solid, ongoing adaptation process aimed at delivering resilience and preparedness over time.



This job aid was created to serve as a reference for individuals interested in indicators and metrics to help communities define and track progress on their climate adaptation goals. Additional background and resources are available on the website: www.ResilienceMetrics.org. This website was developed in partnership with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System with funding from NOAA.