

## Job Aid: Decision Criteria Structured Decision-Making

The following is the result of a brainstorm of factors that could matter to stakeholders in adaptation decision-making:

- Economic factors
  - ◊ Cost
  - ◊ Cost savings
  - ◊ Cost effectiveness
  - ◊ Return on investment
- Avoided damages/increase in safety
  - ◊ Lives saved
  - ◊ Injuries avoided
  - ◊ Ease of implementation (technical, administrative, operational, legal and statutory feasibility)
- Similarity to existing management approaches (familiarity, expectation)
- Ease of modification/scalability/flexibility
- Acceptability of risk levels
- Proportionality (risk-response)
- Necessity of action
- Meeting/exceeding (legally required) performance standards
- Generation of environmental, social co-benefits
- Avoiding maladaptation
  - ◊ Increase of GHG emissions
  - ◊ Disproportionate burden on the most vulnerable
  - ◊ High opportunity costs
  - ◊ Reduction of incentives to adapt
  - ◊ Setting in place path dependencies
- Cultural consistency
  - ◊ Local, native, outdoor culture
  - ◊ Diverse cultural heritage
- Social equity
  - ◊ Distributional – fair distribution of benefits and burdens across all segments of a community, prioritizing those with the highest need
  - ◊ Structural – accountability is institutionalized; decisions recognize historical, cultural, and institutional dynamics and structures that have routinely advantaged some groups over others
  - ◊ Transgenerational – decisions consider generational impacts and don't result in unfair burdens on future generations
  - ◊ Procedural – inclusive, accessible, authentic engagement and representation in processes to develop or implement programs and policies
  - ◊ Interspecies – not only humans count in decision-making

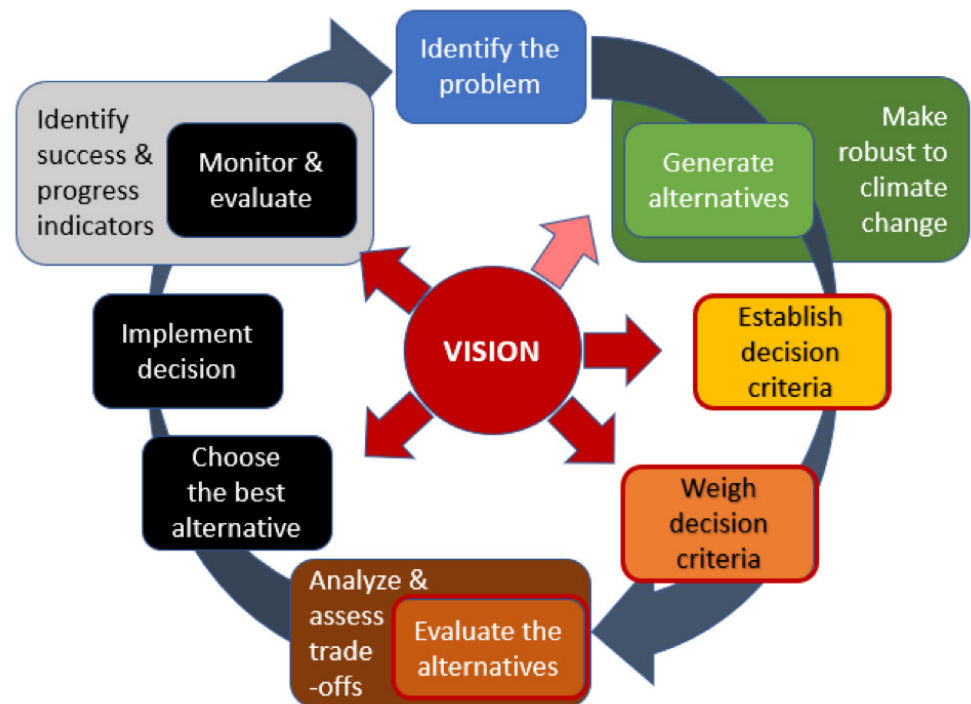
Stakeholders may determine that some of these factors constitute primary decision criteria (most important, fundamental) or secondary decision criteria (supportive, additional to improve decision quality or come into play in tough trade-off decisions).



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](http://www.ResilienceMetrics.org). This website was developed in partnership with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System with funding from NOAA.

## Structured Decision Making

Structured decision-making is a formalized iterative process that follows common steps in all planning and decision-making. The figure below shows such an adapted decision-making cycle for an ideal-type adaptation process.



## Ways to Achieve a Group Decision

- **Consultations** with group, but single decision-maker – i.e., a larger group is consulted, but one makes the final decision
- **Group averaging** – i.e., decision is derived from some form of averaging of independent individual choices
- **Voting** – i.e., decision is based on achieving an agreed portion of votes from the group (simple majority, super majority, two-thirds, winner-takes-all)
- **Consensus** – i.e., decision is based on the selection of the option(s) that the majority agrees to without objection
- **Unanimity** – i.e., decision occurs when all agree