



# BUILDING SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

## WWF Recommendations for National Adaptation Plans

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process presents both opportunities and challenges to shaping a viable future for people and nature. 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 NAP's that build "social-ecological" resilience to climate change. National Adaptation Plans that adopt this framing can help their governments deliver on commitments to the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and the Convention on Biodiversity.

To build resilience for both people and nature, WWF encourages countries and donor institutions to follow 3 guiding principles when developing, supporting, and implementing National Adaptation Plans.



**Avoid harming  
nature**



**Use nature to  
help people**



**Help nature  
adapt**

For further information contact:

**Sandeep Chamling Rai**

Senior Advisor, Global Climate Adaptation Policy

WWF Climate and Energy Practice

[scrai@wwf.sg](mailto:scrai@wwf.sg)



To support its 3 guiding principals to build social-ecological resilience, WWF has developed a set of 9 recommendations and encourages policy makers and donor institutions to adopt them during the development and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAP's).



NAP's 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.



NAP's 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).



NAP's must explicitly include biodiversity and address the need to help nature adapt to climate change (i.e. climate-informed or climate-smart conservation).



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.



NAP's should 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.



NAP's should have sound, ongoing monitoring and evaluation components that collect information for adaptive management.



NAP's should have clear budgets and sufficient finance to support implementation plans.



NAP's should be an inclusive process with full public engagement to ensure transparency, buy-in from multiple stakeholders, and adherence to environmental and social safeguards.



NAP's should aligned with and support other policy plans, including economic development and biodiversity conservation.