

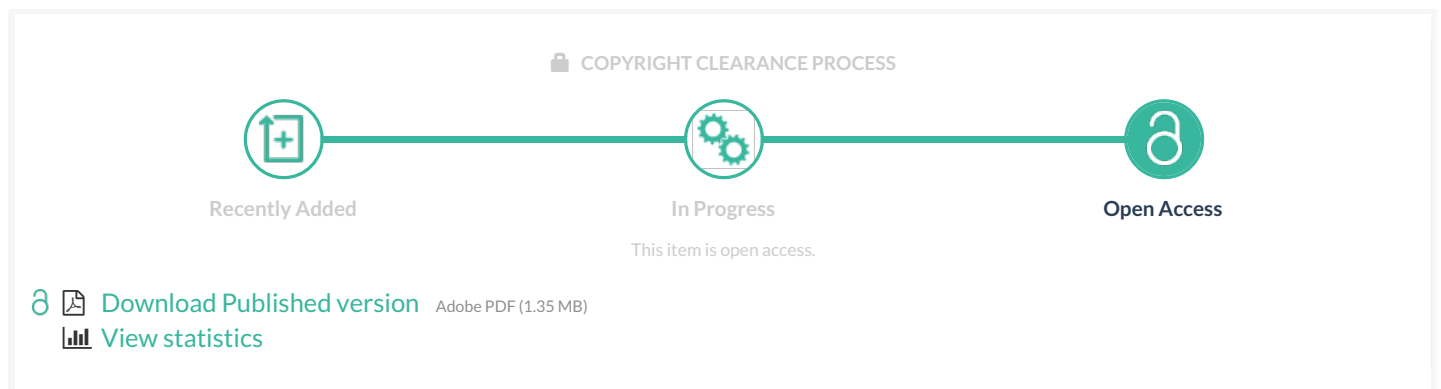
# An Adaptive Capacity Guide Book: assessing, building and evaluating the capacity of communities to adapt in a changing climate

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## ABSTRACT:

A capacity to adapt to change is essential for managing Australia's natural resources. The individuals, communities and organisations who manage our natural resources all have an innate capacity to adapt to change. Changes in climate, markets and technology have shaped the way we adapt the management of natural resources in urban, rural and coastal landscapes. Some of these changes are predictable and easy to manage. Others are expected, but their timing and magnitude are uncertain. Whatever the future holds, this guide can be used to build our capacity to meet future change with confidence.

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This article discusses why adaptive capacity assessment represents a critical tool supporting conservation planning and management. generate a list of prioritized factors for evaluating adaptive capacity to guide conservation NGOs in conducting assessments in tropical island communities; and. Ultimately, the effectiveness of conservation actions in an era of climate change depends on the ability of communities and local organizations to be innovative, learn through uncertainty or crisis, develop and maintain a collective memory of resource management approaches, link different knowledge systems to support learning and adaptation, and collaborate to maintain organizational and institutional diversity (Armitage & Plummer, 2010). From Vulnerability Assessment to Climate Change Adaptation: Lessons and Insights from the Philippine Component of the “Building Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change in Southeast Asia” Project. Maria Emilinda T. Mendoza Jaimie Kim B. Arias Vicente G. Ballaran, Jr. Bessie M. Burgos. Assessment of vulnerability given different context and conditions of communities and societal sectors is a necessary basis for informed decisions regarding climate change adaptations. Moreover, physical, financial and institutional constraints continue to hinder the effort to develop appropriate and effective location-specific adaptation strategies especially in areas that are most vulnerable to climate change. The adaptive capacity. inherent in a system represents the set of resources available for. adaptation, as well as the ability or capacity of that system to. use these resources effectively in the pursuit of adaptation. Such. to certain climate hazards, and thus to build the capacity of the. system to adapt to climate change, including variability. Many. tem’s capacity to adapt to climate change will be heavily influ-. enced by its ability to collect and interpret such information. Nonetheless, it must be recognised that adaptation will ulti Adaptive capacity is the second important property that refers to the responsiveness of agri-food systems when faced with extreme conditions. Human systems might, for example, have the capacity to switch to alternative land use within the agri-food systems. In these cases, people would be able to adapt to change since they have the capacity to shift their use of land and other resources. Adaptive capacity in the case of natural systems is exemplified by drought-tolerant crops (figure 11.1.5). Such crops may have more developed root systems or biological adaptations for conserving moisture. x. Both the sensitivity and adaptive capacity of a system will contribute to how vulnerable the system is to changes in climate. Vulnerability is the degree of susceptibility to, or inability to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Climate-ADAPT is dynamically managed, with a permanent updating of contents by the EEA, and some contracts going on to develop new tools or improve those existing, and facilitate its use by improving accessibility and dissemination. What is the role of ecosystems in building resilience to climate change?