



CLIMATE, COASTS AND COMMUNITIES

Scaling Nature-based Climate Solutions for Resilient Coastal Communities and Ocean Ecosystems

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Coastal community-led nature-based solutions offer powerful opportunities to deliver win-win outcomes for climate, nature and people. Scaling and accelerating such locally-rooted approaches strengthens adaptive resilience, safeguards biodiversity, and ensures that tangible benefits reach those communities most at risk from the impacts of climate change.

Rising sea levels and extreme weather are driving increased flooding and coastal erosion, while warming water and ocean acidification are **disrupting marine ecosystems**. Amplified by poverty and unsustainable development, these impacts threaten the **food security, livelihoods and fundamental human rights** of the 680 million people living in low-lying coastal areas.

But when the ocean is protected and managed effectively, it can buffer these impacts and drive solutions that support a sustainable future. By preserving and restoring marine ecosystems like mangroves, coral reefs and seagrasses, and managing ocean resources sustainably, we can unlock its full potential.

Nature-based solutions are central to achieving this aim – particularly those driven by **local communities, Indigenous peoples and small-scale fishers**. These groups have long acted as custodians of the ecosystems on which they depend, yet they are increasingly marginalized within processes that determine their futures as the pace of climate change, unsustainable development, and poverty accelerates. By supporting **NbS that prioritize locally-led adaptation**, policymakers can safeguard the rights of coastal communities and deliver better outcomes for people and planet.

Launched in the run-up to COP30, the [‘Climate, Coasts and Communities’ report](#) drills down into three core areas: **policy, partnerships, and enablers**.

POLICY

The window to stay below Paris Agreement thresholds is closing fast, and **action on adaptation** has never been more urgent. Ahead of COP30, countries are beginning to

recognize the importance of **ocean-climate solutions** and the need to include them across global frameworks. But this needs to go much further and happen much faster, with **coastal communities empowered and embedded at the heart of the process**. As well as being among those most affected by climate change, they are often the first line of defence against its impacts – but in general they lack the **policy and financial support** they require to contribute fully to solutions. Along with the need for a dramatic increase in adaptation finance, barriers such as insufficient political will, lack of long-term commitment, misalignment between short-term plans and long-term goals, and inadequate policy and legal frameworks must all be overcome before locally-led NbS can realize their full potential.

PARTNERSHIPS

Scaling and accelerating coastal community-led adaptation requires **strong partnerships**. WWF and partners in this space, collaborate with governments, businesses, NGOs and local communities to combine resources, expertise and influence. Through the [Coastal Communities Initiative](#), WWF works with more than 300,000 coastal community members across 178 sites in 32 countries, linking locally-grounded NbS with global actors to expand impact, strengthen resilience, and help ensure that the leadership of coastal communities drives climate adaptation **from the ground up**.

The report showcases a range of case studies and impact stories including from Rare and the WWF-IFRC global partnership, which illustrate how when coastal communities are supported with the right partnerships, resources and influence, they can lead **transformative climate solutions**.

ENABLERS

An **enabling environment** is critical for coastal communities to be able to advance locally-led NbS. Mobilizing **tailored finance**, advancing **accessible technologies** and investing in **systemic capacity-building** can help scale and accelerate locally-led initiatives, moving away from centralized, top-down approaches. The report explores these areas in detail, using case studies to illustrate the benefits of

financial innovations such as impact bonds and parametric insurance for small-scale fisheries, as well as technical solutions such as early warning systems that alert coastal communities to impending climate hazards or dangerous sea conditions. When communities can **anticipate** risks, **absorb** shocks, **adapt** to evolving conditions and be **empowered** to transform, they can **achieve lasting change**.

To achieve the progress needed across policy, partnerships and enablers, and accelerate and scale coastal community-led NbS, the report sets out seven key recommendations:

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 01 INTEGRATE OCEAN-BASED AND COMMUNITY-LED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS OF POLICY.**
- 02 ENSURE THE GLOBAL GOAL ON ADAPTATION AND THE UAE FRAMEWORK FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE FULLY REFLECT THE CRITICAL ROLE OF COASTAL COMMUNITIES AND ECOSYSTEMS.**
- 03 EMBED EQUITY, JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACROSS ADAPTATION FRAMEWORKS.**
- 04 STRENGTHEN POLICY COHERENCE BETWEEN CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS.**
- 05 ADVANCE JUST, INCLUSIVE AND TRANSPARENT CLIMATE AND BLUE FINANCE SYSTEMS.**
- 06 ENABLE EQUITABLE AND LOCALLY-EMPOWERED GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS.**
- 07 SECURE TENURE RIGHTS AND STRENGTHEN CLIMATE LITERACY.**



SCAN THE CODE OR CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE REPORT AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS IN FULL.



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