

Scanning the Adaptation Field: Past, Present and Emerging Needs



ARCCA

Alliance of Regional Collaboratives
for Climate Adaptation

Learning Session Webinar

Tuesday, July 23, 2019 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Webinar Agenda

- Webinar Logistics
- Brief overview of ARCCA
- Past, Present, and Emerging Needs in the Adaptation Field
- Q&A Panel Discussion
- Closing Remarks

Webinar Logistics

Questions:

At any point during the webinar, you can submit a question through the Zoom control panel. All questions will be read aloud and answered during Q&A as long as time permits.

You can also use the 'hand raising' feature to be unmuted and ask a question during Q&A.



About ARCCA

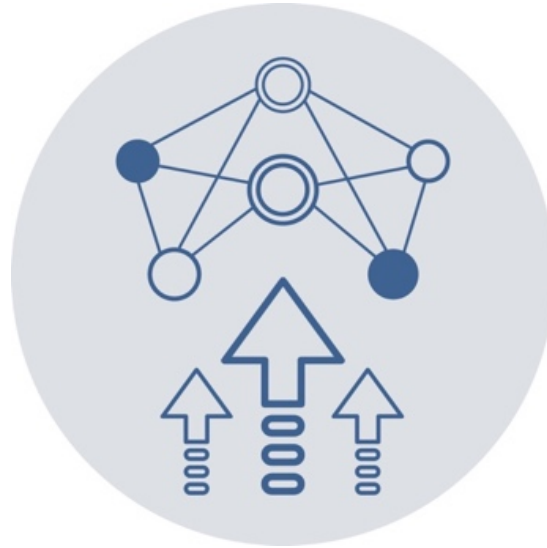
A network of leading regional collaboratives from across California that work together to advance adaptation statewide and increase local capacity to build community resilience.



Knowledge Exchange

About ARCCA

A network of leading regional collaboratives from across California that work together to advance adaptation statewide and increase local capacity to build community resilience.



Emerging Collaboratives

About ARCCA

A network of leading regional collaboratives from across California that work together to advance adaptation statewide and increase local capacity to build community resilience.



State Engagement

ARCCA Members



Coordinator



Local Government Commission
Leaders for Livable Communities

State Liaison



Affiliates



Harris & Associates



Four Twenty Seven
Climate Solutions



Featured Presenters



Susanne C. Moser
Susanne Moser Research
and Consulting



Kristen Goodrich
NOAA Tijuana River National
Estuarine Research Reserve



Scanning the Adaptation Field

Past, Present and Emerging Needs

Susi Moser, Ph.D.



Antioch University New England

Kristen Goodrich



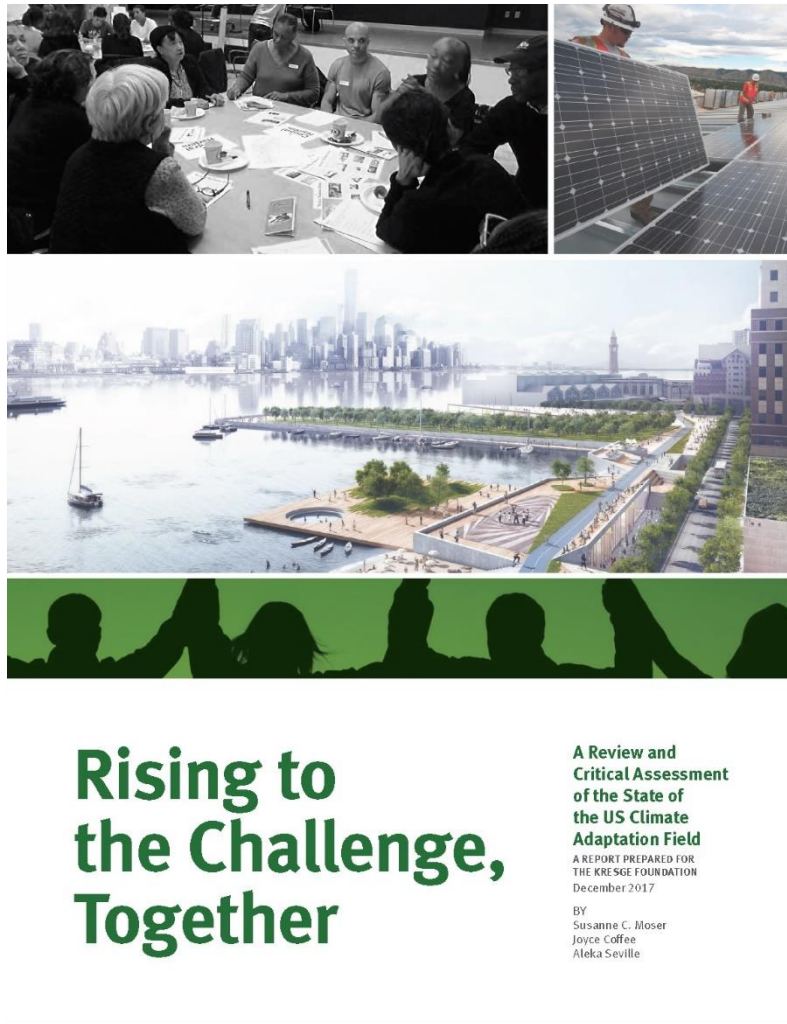
University of California-Irvine

Overview

- Scanning the Adaptation Field
 - Audience Engagement
- Demands and Pressures on Adaptation Professionals
 - Audience Engagement
- Adaptive Mind Project
 - Audience Engagement
- Q&A, Discussion, Closing



The State of the US Adaptation Field



The full story.....

See: <https://kresge.org/content/rising-challenge-together>



**The short
story.....**



**And how people can be
part of the story.....**

Motivation

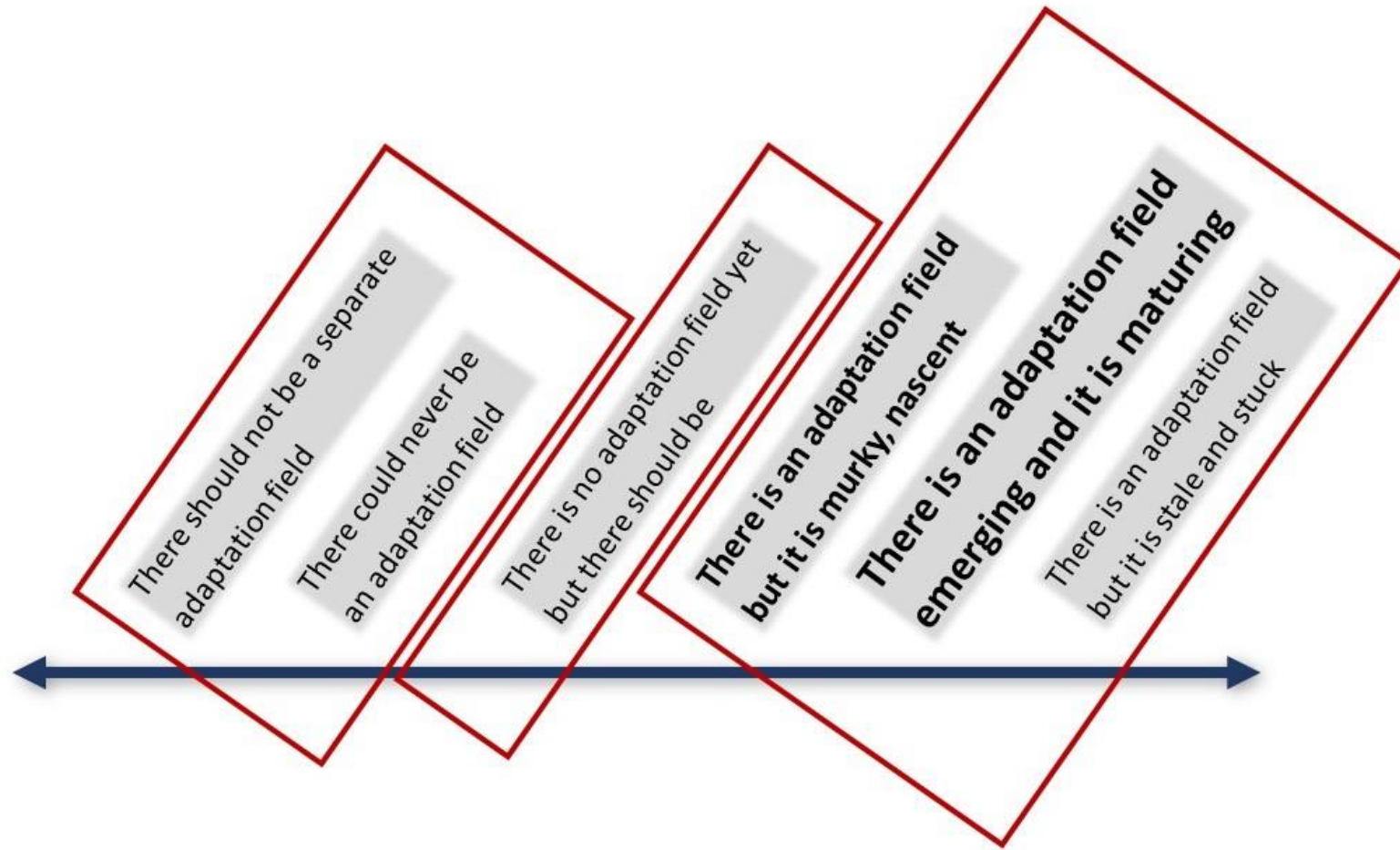


Portfolio Evaluation
(2009-2017)



Field-building Needs in Face of
Incoming Administration
and Growing Challenges

Is there a field? Should there be a field?



Why bother building a field?

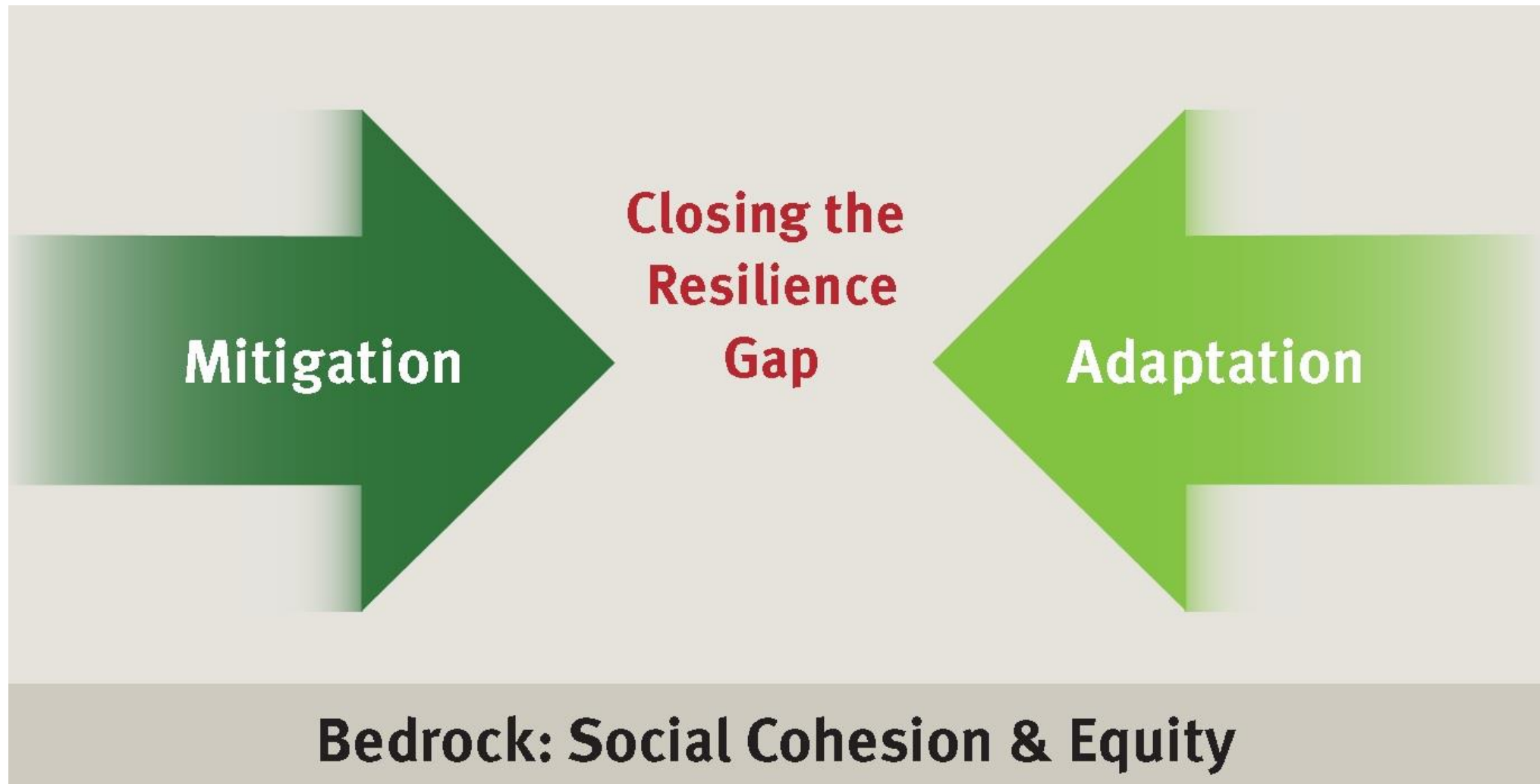
Benefits of a strong “field”

- Necessary expertise & skilled workforce
- Clarity on good/best practice, established as “common” practice
- Advancing shared goals and values
- Professionals networks
- Adequate training
- Political and public support
- Problems solved effectively, efficiently, and in an integrated manner
- Reduced societal burdens and maximized opportunities

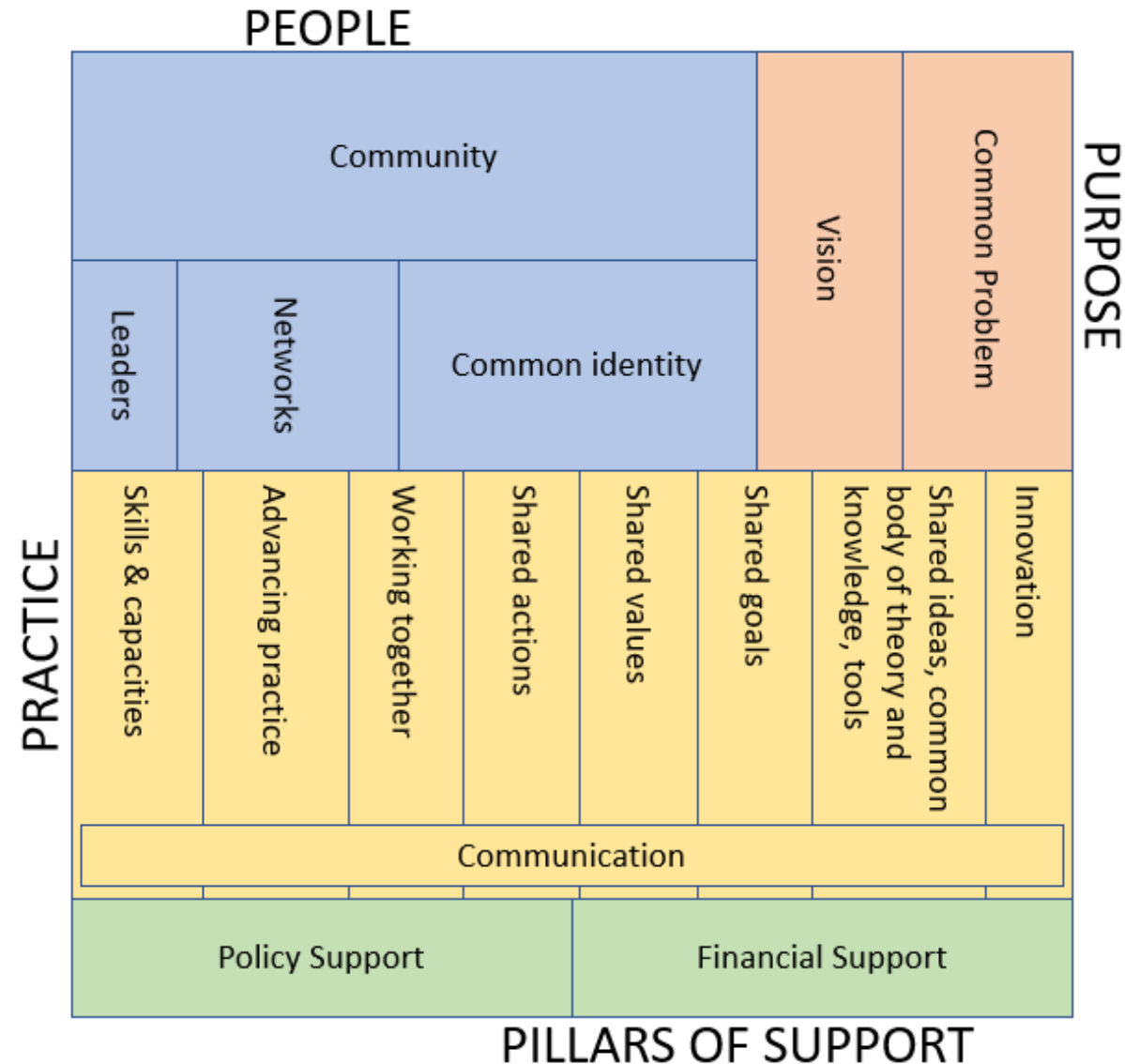


Photo: Sylvia Bal Somerville

Vision of a Strong Adaptation Field



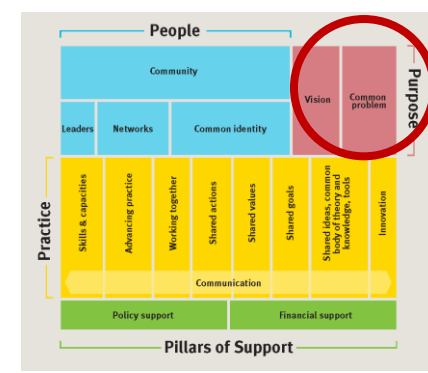
The 4P Field-Building Framework



The 4 Ps of (Adaptation) Field Development:

- Purpose
- People
- Practice
- Pillars of Support

The 4-P Field Framework: PURPOSE

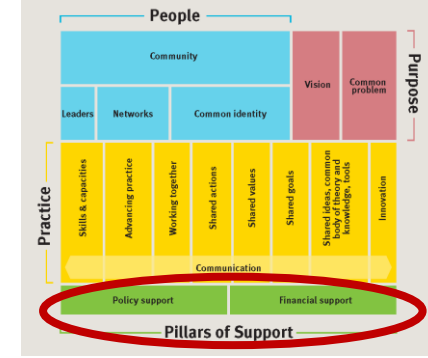


- No common problem definition
- Reactive stance
- No unifying vision
- No agreement on social equity and cohesion
- No agreement on priorities
- Widespread lack of urgency



Source: CMI

The 4-P Field Framework: PILLARS OF SUPPORT

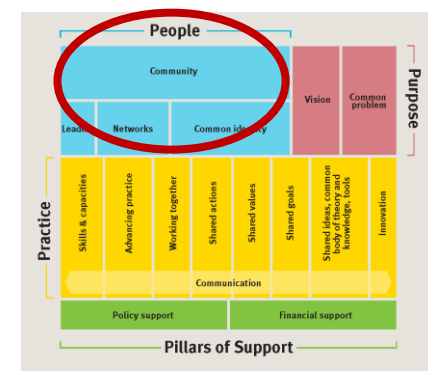


- Crisis-driven funding important but not enough
- Pervasive lack of institutionalized, coordinated, or sustained funding streams
- Federal assets are diminishing
- (Near) loss of federal pillar of support
- Weak signal to the public/policymakers to take preparedness seriously
- Lagging field pillars slow down development of other field components

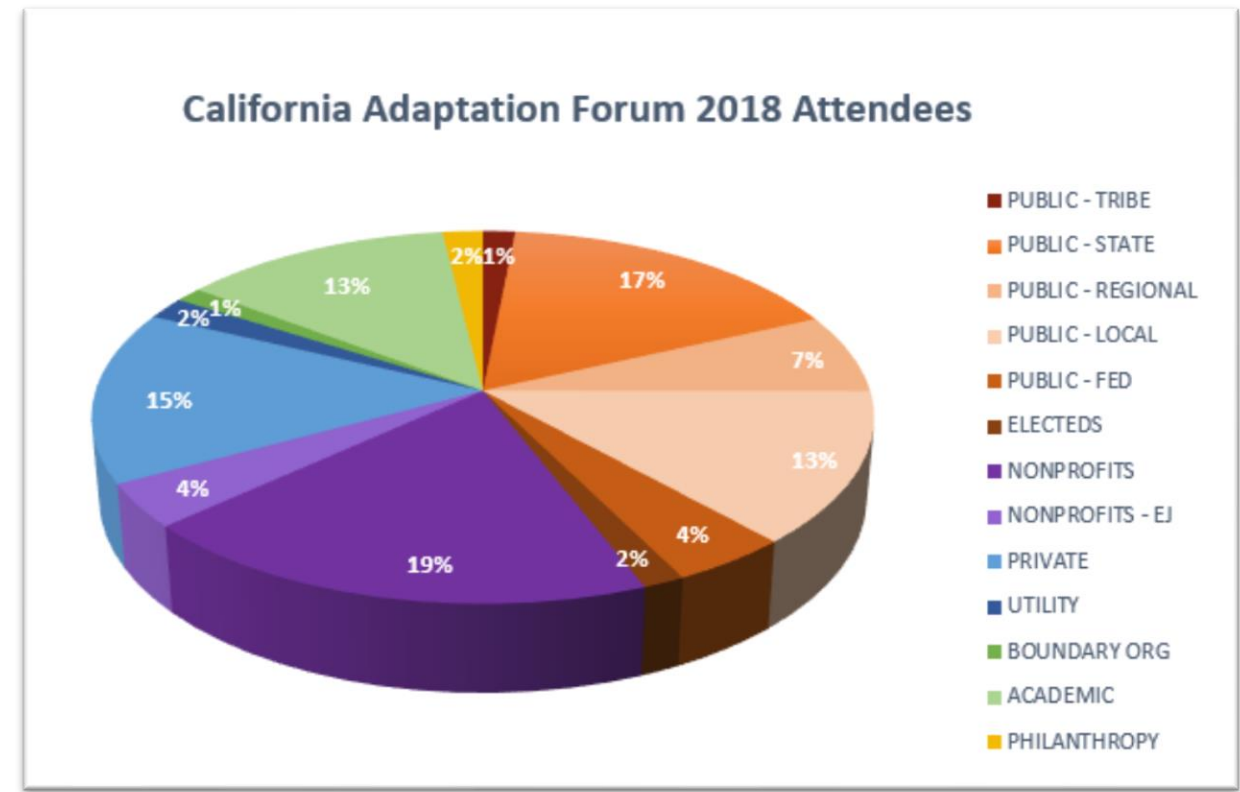


Sources (t>b): [dailydot.com](https://www.dailydot.com); [flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com)

The 4-P Field Framework: PEOPLE

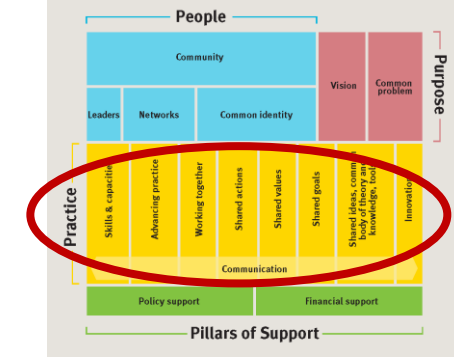


- Strong growth in numbers, but key gaps
- Networking is good for some but insufficient for others, across/beyond field
- Tension between diversity in and usefulness of focused networks
- Smaller cities and rural areas, tribes left behind
- Loss of federal leadership, lack of well-established resilience leaders
- Climate justice movement important influence, but movement concerns not yet integrated well



Data Source: LGC registration for CAF3

The 4-P Field Framework: PRACTICE

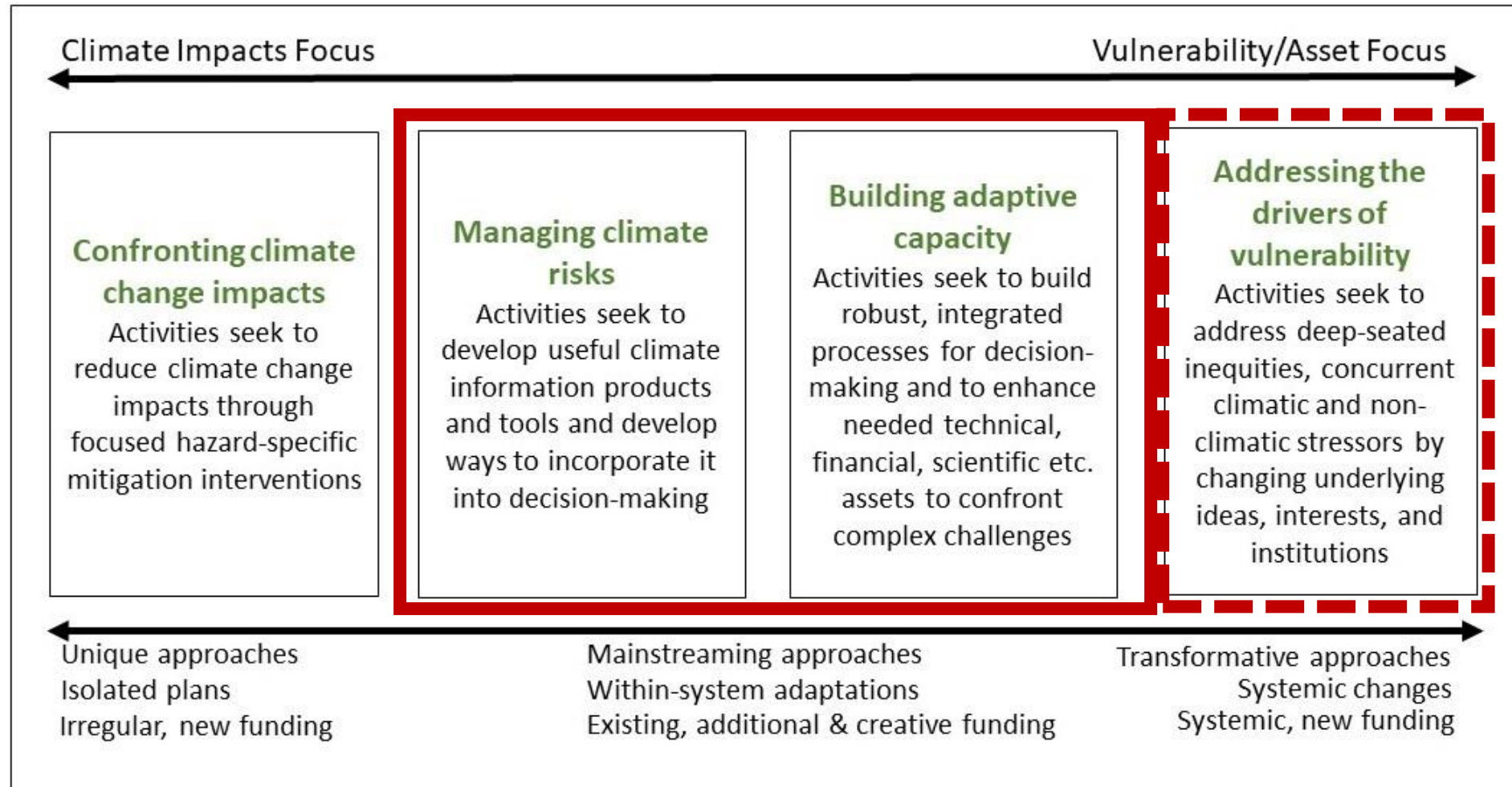


- Mostly still stuck in planning; implementing small, low-regret actions; some policy changes
- Lack of evidence what constitutes “best practice”
- Incremental progress is no match for accelerating climate change
- Inadequate adaptation communication
- Strong preference for “mainstreaming” but not addressing deeper causes
- Acceptance of need for transformative change is extremely limited



Source: greatlakesresilience.org

Mainstreaming vs. Transformation

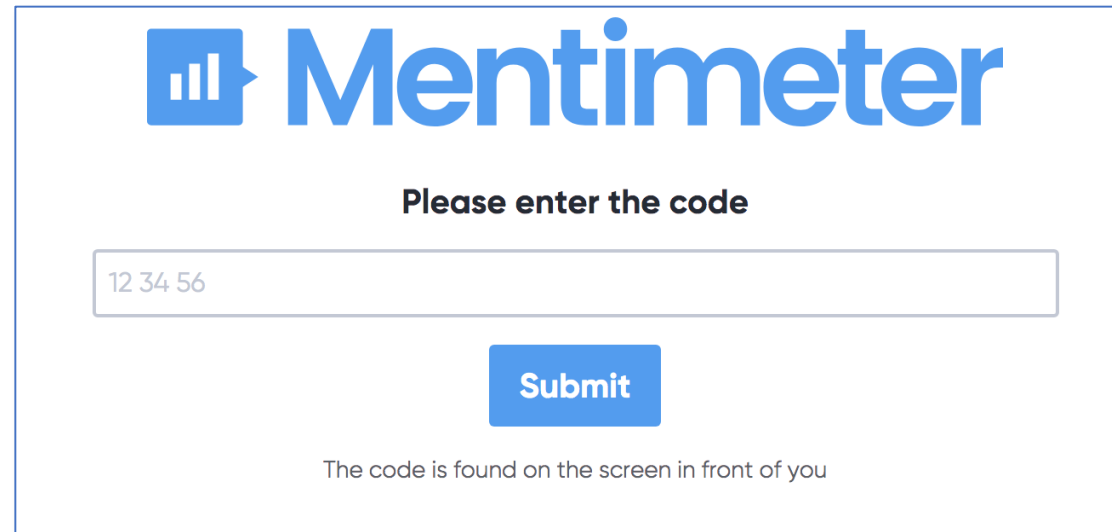


What Do You Think? The Status Today?

Instructions for voting through Mentimeter

- Get your cell phones, laptops, tablets ready
- Bring up the website www.menti.com
- When prompted by a polling slide, type in the number provided on the polling slide
- Vote!
- Your vote will be counted instantly

THIS IS WHAT YOU WILL SEE ON YOUR CELL PHONE/SCREEN:

A screenshot of the Mentimeter voting interface. At the top is the Mentimeter logo, which consists of a blue square icon with a white bar chart and the word "Mentimeter" in blue. Below the logo, the text "Please enter the code" is displayed. Underneath this text is a white input field with a thin blue border, containing the numbers "12 34 56". Below the input field is a blue rectangular button with the word "Submit" in white. At the bottom of the interface, the text "The code is found on the screen in front of you" is displayed in a smaller font.

Mentimeter

Please enter the code

12 34 56

Submit

The code is found on the screen in front of you

Adaptation: Emergent, Growing in Sophistication, but Incommensurate with Challenge

What IS happening

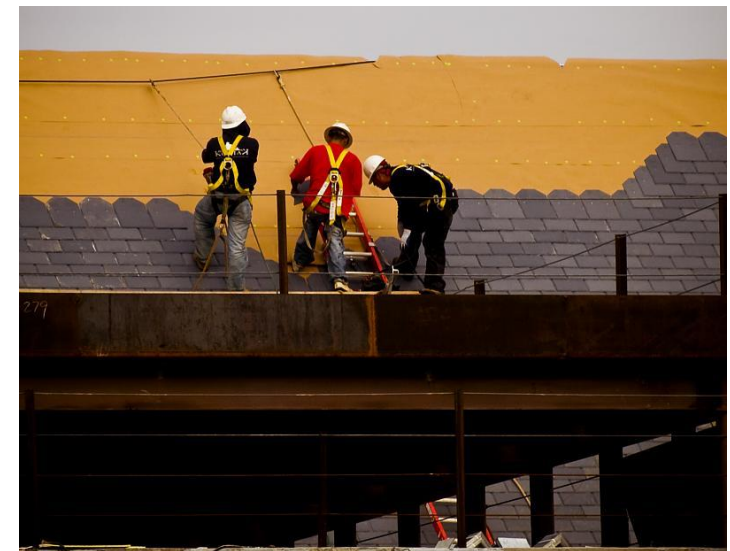
- Capacity and skill building
- Some action in all sectors
- More people in field
- Focus on mainstreaming
- A few efforts: adaptation + mitigation + social cohesion

What is NOT YET (sufficiently) happening

- Integration across
 - Sectors
 - Geographies
 - Scales
 - Segments of society
- Efficient social learning
- Widespread education, professional certification
- Standard-setting
- Thinking and actions commensurate with scope and speed
- Embrace of transformation

Meanwhile...

- Speed of climate change
- Politicization/polarization/political stalemate
- Lack of federal leadership
- Vastly inadequate funding
- Pre-dominance of scientific, technical, narrow framing
- Workforce challenges and culture of overwork



Source (t->b): flickr; Brickell, Patrick Gibblin,



California 2017, 2018....



Harvey



Idai



Sandy

11/28/2013



Florence



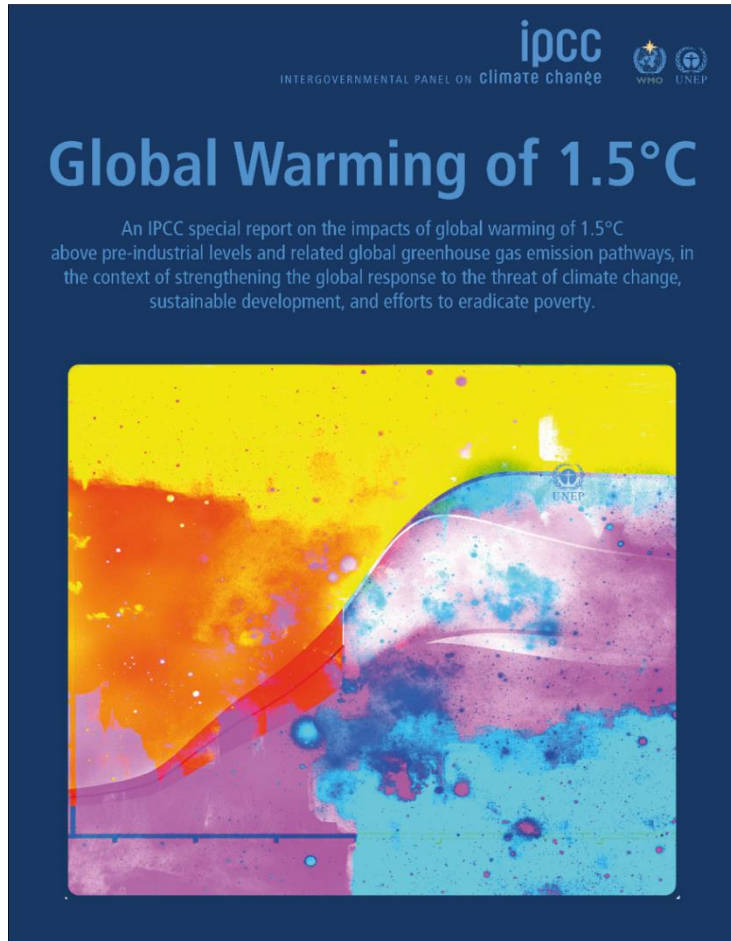
Maria



Floods across US in 2019



It's Going to Get a lot Harder Yet!



- “Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with no or limited overshoot would **require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure** (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems (*high confidence*). These systems transitions are **unprecedented in terms of scale...**”
- “Increasing investment in physical and **social infrastructure** is a key enabling condition to enhance the resilience and the adaptive capacities of societies. ... (*high confidence*)”

Fourth National Climate Assessment (2018)



“Without substantial and sustained global mitigation and regional adaptation efforts, climate change is **expected to cause growing losses** to American infrastructure and property and impede the rate of economic growth over this century.

While **mitigation and adaptation efforts have expanded** substantially in the last four years, they do **not yet approach the scale considered necessary** to avoid substantial damages to the economy, environment, and human health over the coming decades.”

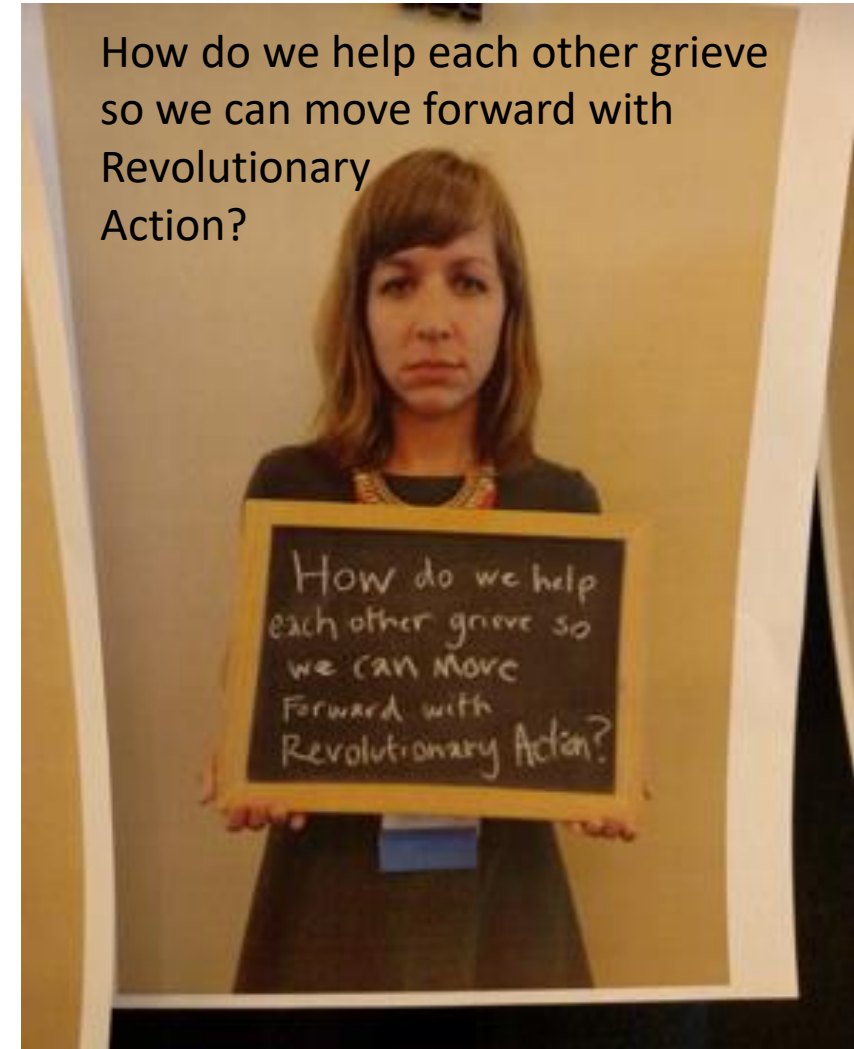
Persistent, Pressing & Emerging Needs

- Climate and uncertainty literacy
- Engagement and communication
- Cultural competence
- Climate adaptation finance
- Guidelines, codes, standards
- Psychological resilience

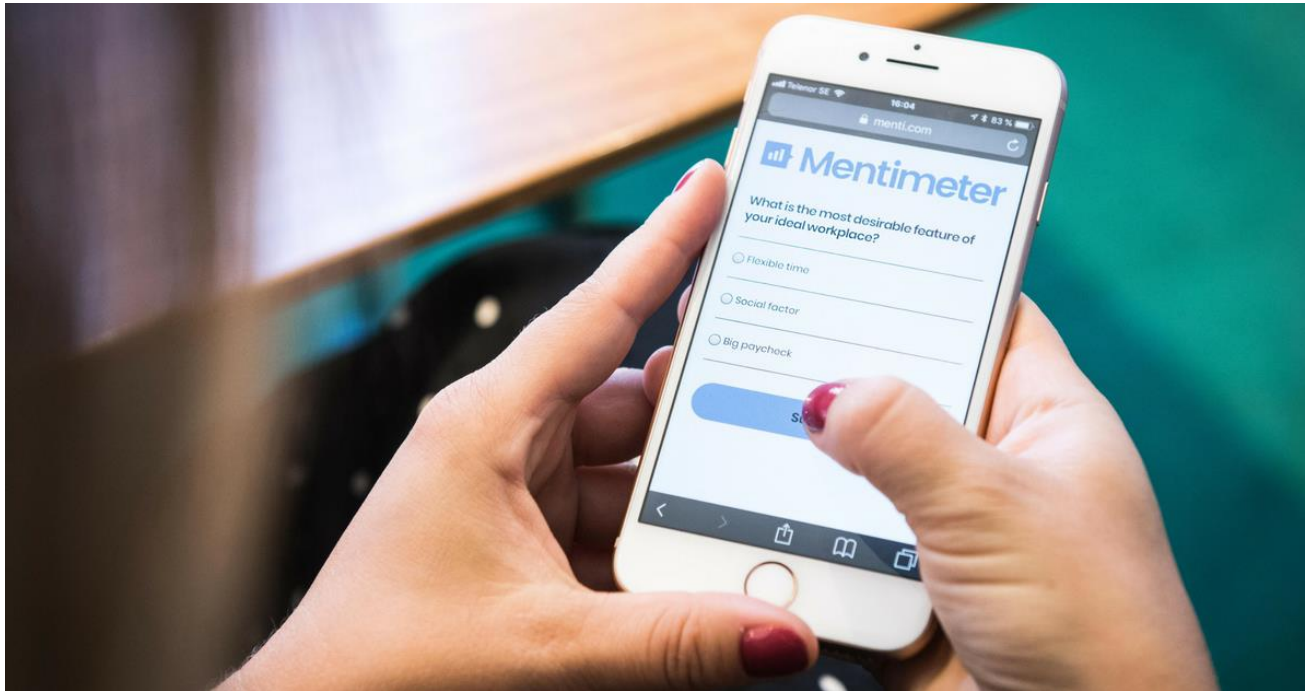


Sources (clockwise from top left):
401kcalculator.org; USACE; Liber;
CA DWR

Photo Project at NAF 2019



Your Thoughts



Go back to your browser window:
menti.com/

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if required

The Adaptive Mind Project



Our Vision

Climate adaptation professionals, resilience planners and community leaders everywhere working on the frontlines of climate change have the psychological skills, capacities, and peer and institutional support to effectively and compassionately face the challenges of a rapidly, continually, sometimes traumatically and profoundly changing world.



The Challenge

A world with...

- *Rapid and constant change*, great uncertainty, surprises
- More frequent *traumatic disruptions*
- Increasingly requiring and imposing *transformative change*



USA Today

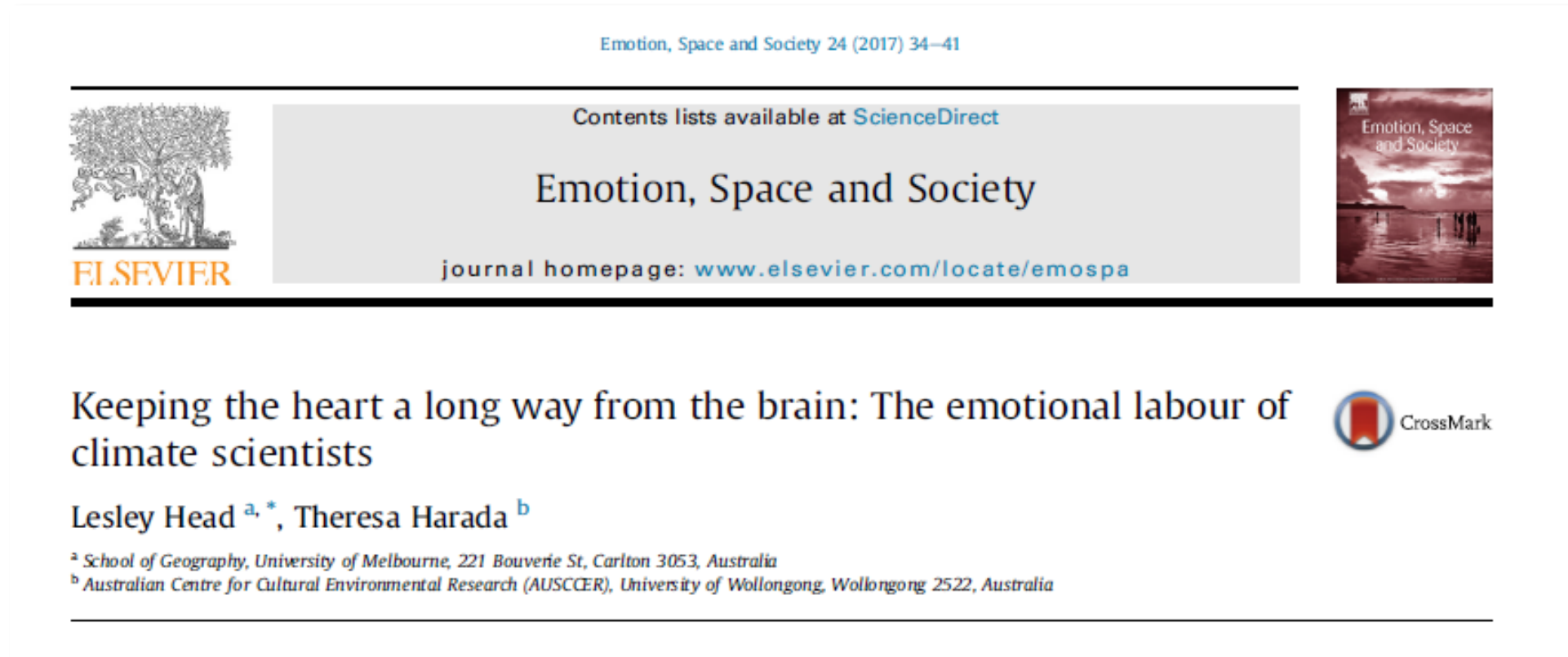
A Growing Concern

- Daily exposure to information about how climate change is altering what we love and depend on
 - Landscapes, places
 - People
 - Economies
 - Other species
- Overwhelming grief and anxiety
- Growing stress experienced by practitioners; acknowledged for first responders, activists
- Research on occupational health risks limited, but growing



Photo: flickr

Dealing with Climate Change & Community Responses Entails Intense Emotional Labor



See: *Emotion, Space & Society* (2017), Vol. 24 (August): 34-41

doi: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1755458617301251?via%3Dihub>

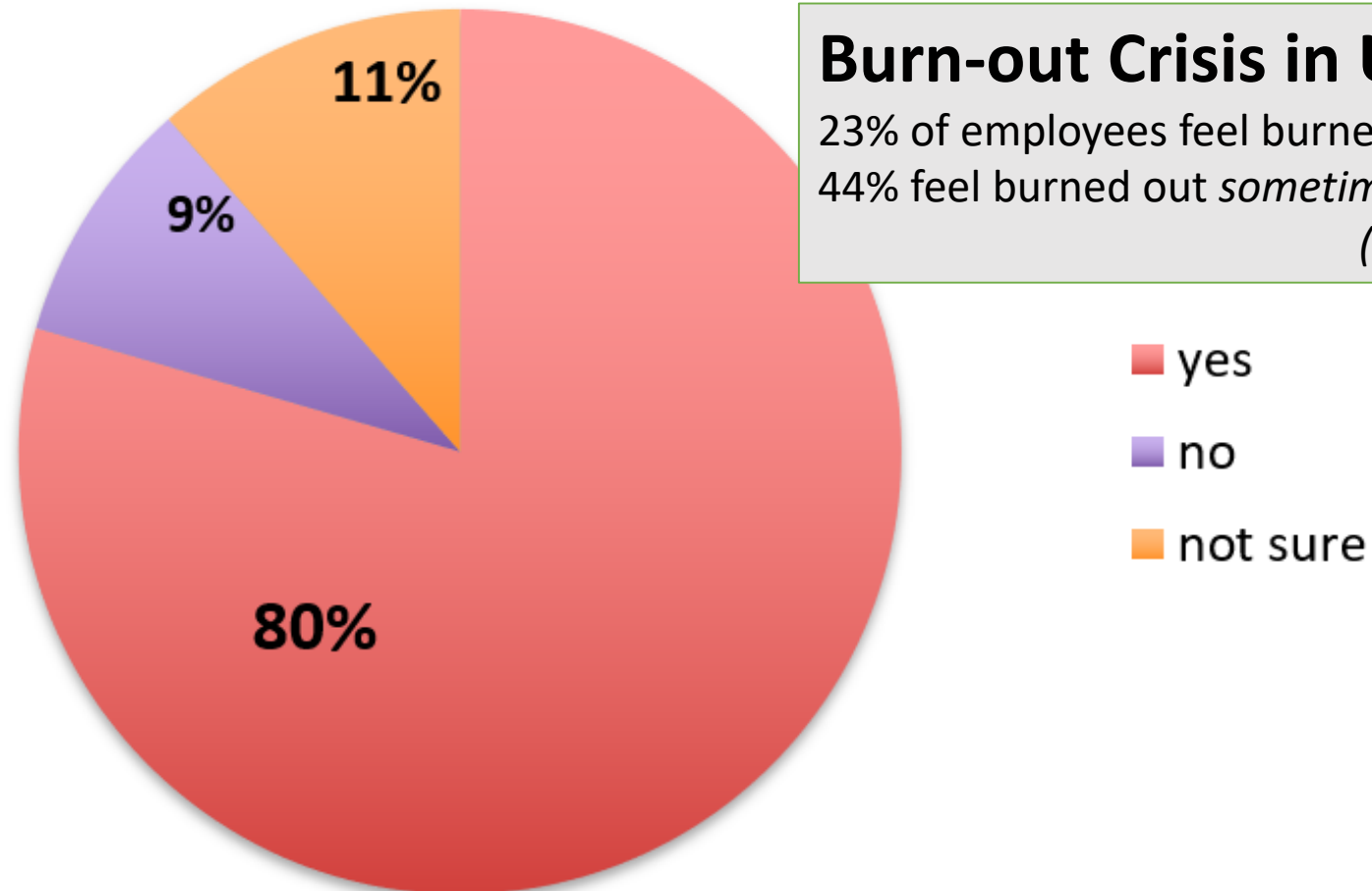


carolinegourlay.files.wordpress.com

No one (in our field) has been trained to deal with this!

In Our Study of Adaptation Professionals

Q: Have you ever experienced burnout in your work?



Burn-out Crisis in US

23% of employees feel burned out *very often* or *always*

44% feel burned out *sometimes*

(Gallup Poll 2019, n=7,500)

In Our Study of Adaptation Professionals (cont.)

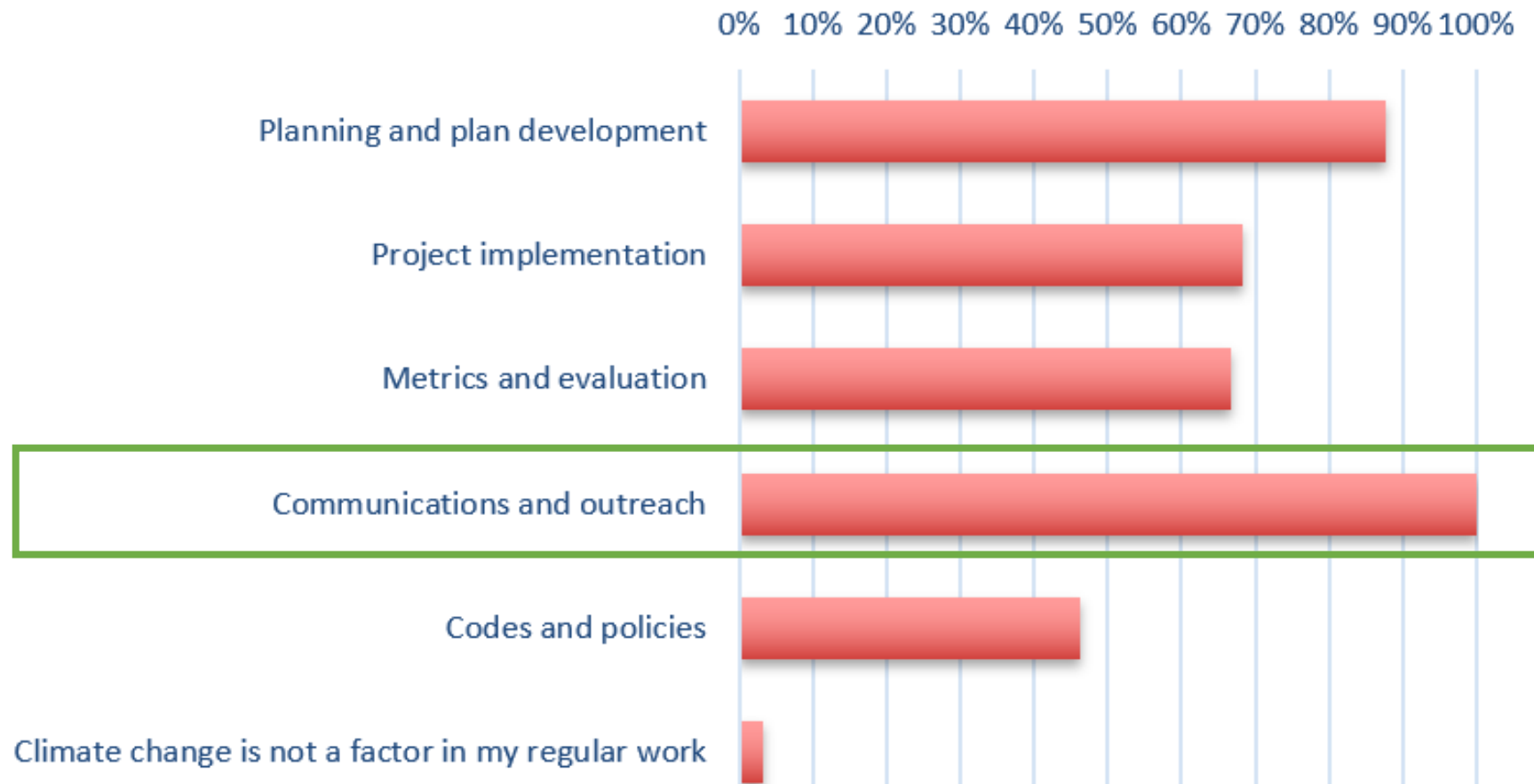
Please describe what, if any, stresses you experience in your work for any reason.

1) Urgency of the climate crisis. Regularly feeling that we are not doing enough, fast enough. That climate change is not a priority in peoples' daily lives, it is intangible, and not a large enough priority in leaders' policy or budget decisions. 2) Racialized stresses as a white person working primarily with people of color and just learning to navigate my role in the most humble way possible. 3) Dealing with the barriers of bureaucracy (inflexibility) that make work so much more challenging, especially when trying to alter systems for the benefit of climate and Black, Indigenous and People of Color.

Preliminary study results, please do not cite or share without authors' permission

In Our Study of Adaptation Professionals

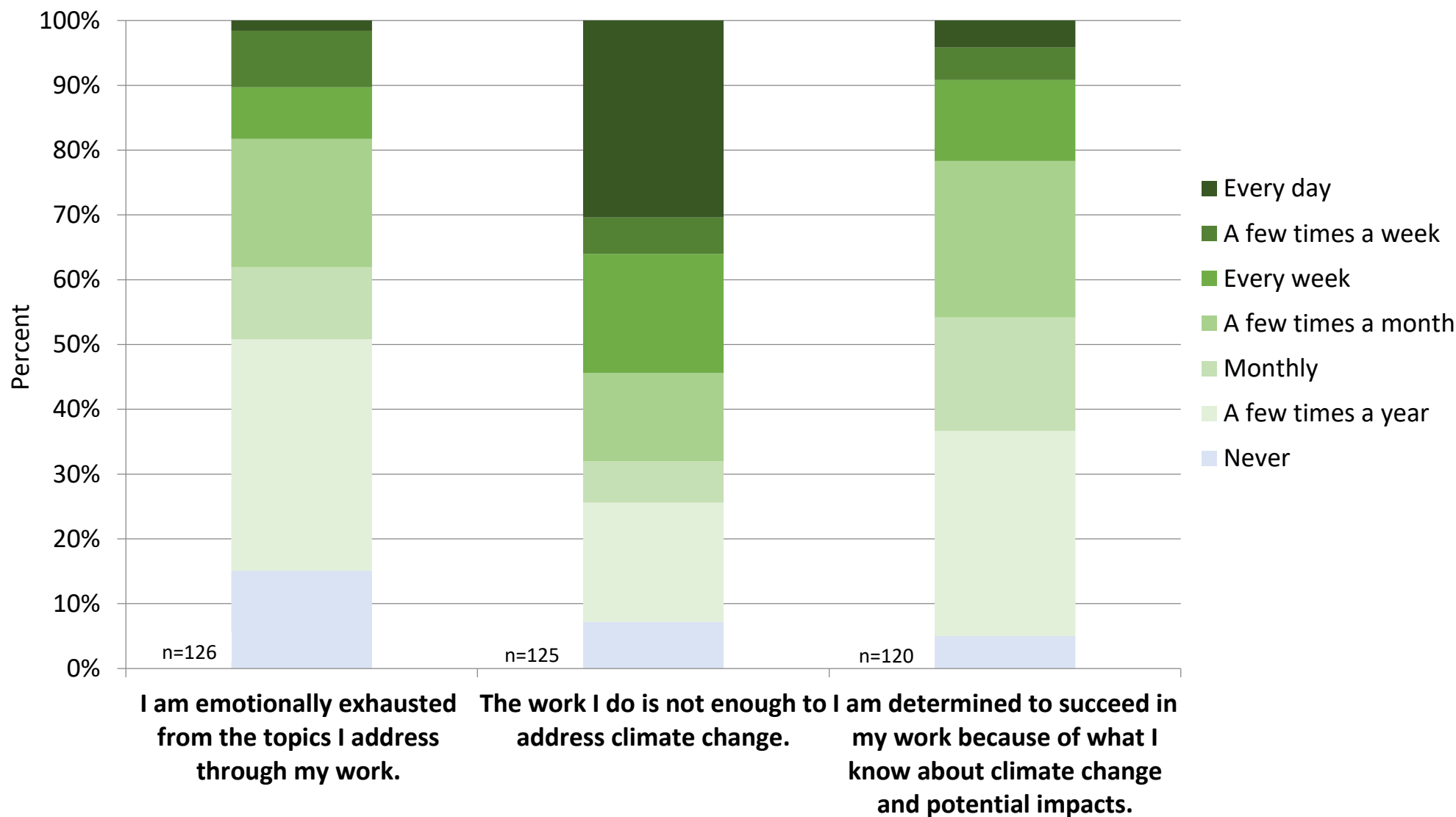
Q: How Do Climate Change and Extreme Events Enter into Your Regular Work?



Preliminary study results, please do not cite or share without authors' permission

n=123

The Emotional Experience of Working on Climate Change Among Adaptation Professionals



How about for you?



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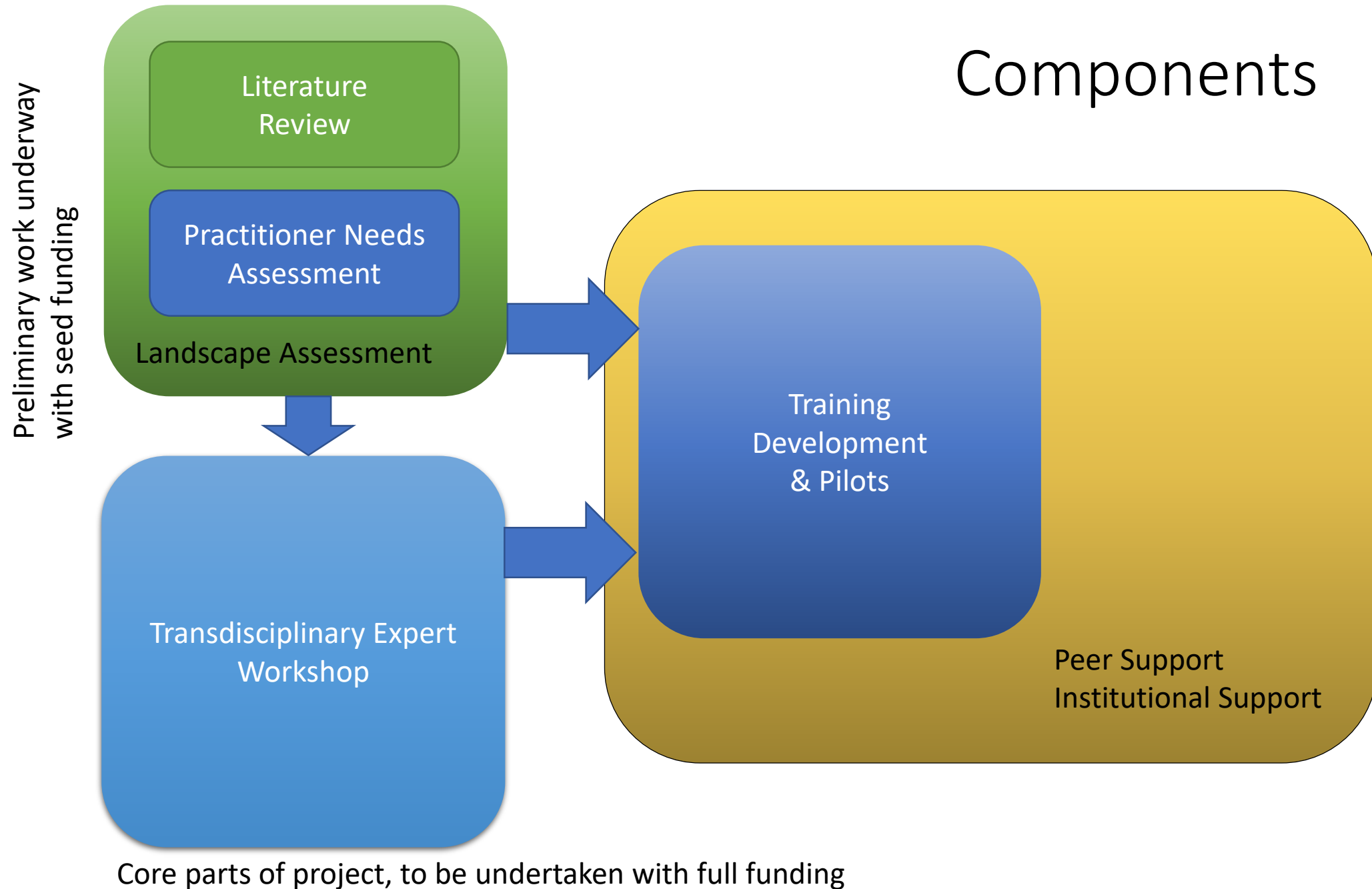
The Adaptive Mind Project

Developing Resources to Support Adaptation Professionals



Sculpture by Celeste Auberge, Pintrest

Components



Immediate Audiences = Closest Partners



Coasts + Cities + Frontline Communities
= where there is an immediate need



Core team



Susi Moser, Ph.D. (PI)
SMRC & AUNE



James Arnott (co-PI)
AGCI & Univ. of Mich.



Kristen Goodrich (co-PI)
TRNERR & UC-Irvine



Carol Berzonsky, Ph.D.
Antioch University NE



Margaret Krebs
Stanford, LLP



Theopia Jackson, Ph.D.
Saybrook University



Elizabeth Rohring
NOAA Sea Grant



Kristin Baja
USDN



Steve Adams
Inst. f. Sust. Communities



Victoria Benson (TBC)
Movement Strategy Center

Centering Social Equity, Justice, Inclusion

Part of the Transformative Work...



Photo: Shutterstock

- What resources, practices, approaches are most helpful?
- How do we account for and do this in a way that respects painful legacies, culture, history, and diversity?

Outputs

White
Paper

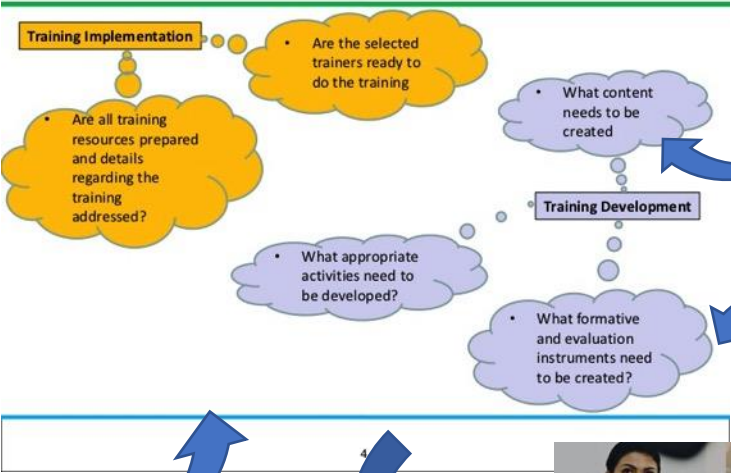
Peer-
reviewed
Journal
Articles

Video



Training materials, practices

Designing a Training Module



Transdisciplinary Workshop

Pilot
trainings



Peer &
institutional
support

In response to
demand outpacing
project funding:

Some Initial Resources

Please contact us with any funding ideas!

Reconnecting with Nature

- Spend time outside! (it's free)
- Animas Valley Institute (www.animas.org) – Wilderness-based workshops to reconnect with self, soul, Earth & your highest purpose
- We Are Wildness - <https://wearewildness.com/>
- Lucy Keniger et al. (2013): What are the benefits of interacting with nature? (<http://bit.ly/2VogQQ5>)
- And if you can't go outside, bring nature inside: https://www.ted.com/playlists/398/reconnect_with_nature

Nourishing our Body-Mind-Souls

- Walk, run, garden, eat well, do yoga, meditate...
- The poetry of David Whyte, Mary Oliver, Wallace Stevens, Robinson Jeffers, Naomi Shihab Nye, Rumi, Rainer Maria Rilke, Wendell Berry, Joy Harjo, Marge Piercy, Nayyirah Waheed, and so many more
- On Being (Krista Tippett) – weekly podcasts, poetry, readings to renew inner life, outer life and life together (<https://onbeing.org/>)
- Emergence Magazine: emergencemagazine.org/
- Orion Magazine: orionmagazine.org/

Personal Resilience and the Adaptive Mind

*Selected Resources**

* Compiled by Suzzi Moser (suzzmoser@gmail.com) and the 2018-19 ASAP Personal Resilience Affinity Group (<http://bit.ly/2VQYD9s>)

Learning About Stress, Mental Health, Resilience, Transformation

- CDC resources for coping with stress: <http://bit.ly/2UYIMtk>
- American Psychological Association (2017): *Mental Health and Our Changing Climate* (<http://bit.ly/2XSd7pw>)
- Bessel van der Kolk (2015): *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind and Body in the Healing of Trauma* (<https://amzn.to/2PwWU6a>)
- Trauma-informed care in the work place – Example Alameda County (<http://bit.ly/2ILWdVS>) Example Oregon (<http://bit.ly/2GMVHEN>)
- Leslie Davenport (2017): *Emotional Resiliency in the Age of Climate Change* (<http://bit.ly/2DAdtJC>)
- Soul-focused mentoring (Jade Sherer) - <https://www.itsournature.net/soul-focused-mentoring>
- Glenn R. Schiraldi (2017): *The Resilience Workbook: Essential Skills to Recover from Stress, Trauma and Adversity* (<http://bit.ly/2GRoEst>)
- Rick Hanson (2018): *Resilient: How to Grow an Unshakable Core of Calm, Strength and Happiness* (<https://amzn.to/2UZL79g>)
- Rebecca Solnit (2016): *Hope in the Dark* (<https://amzn.to/2UJKsRp>)
- Jonathan Lear (2008): *Radical Hope: Ethics in a Time of Cultural Devastation* (<http://bit.ly/2ZFc8dH>)
- Monica Sharma (2017): *Radical Transformational Leadership* (<https://amzn.to/2WalAmf>)

Being with Our Emotions

- The Work that Reconnects (Joanna Macy) – <https://workthatreconnects.org/> (see also <https://www.activehope.info/work-that-reconnects.html> and <https://www.joannamacy.net/>)
- Grief work (Francis Weller) <https://www.francisweller.net/> and <http://www.wisdombridge.net/>
- Good Grief Network – 10-step program, also resources for talking about climate change <https://www.goodgriefgroup.org/>
- Climate Psychology Alliance: Facing Difficult Truths - <https://www.climatepsychologyalliance.org/>
- Climate Psychiatry Alliance - <https://www.climatepsychiatry.org/>
- Psychology for a Safe Climate - <https://www.psychologyforasafeclimate.org/>

Communicating with Others about What's Happening on Earth

- Council on the Uncertain Human Future - <https://councilontheuncertainhumanfuture.org/>
- Climate Disobedience Center's Praxis Groups - <http://www.climatedisobedience.org/praxis>
- Climate Access – www.climateaccess.org
- Gregory Ellison (2017): *Fearless Dialogues: A New Movement for Justice* (<https://amzn.to/2UKVQwr>)
- Writings on climate communication by Susi Moser: www.susannemoser.com/publications/communications.php

Q&A • Discussion • Thank you!



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Kristen Goodrich, Ph.D. cand.
kgoodrich@trnerr.org

Thank you!



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ARCCACalifornia.org