

1.5.0

SERIES 1

Establishing Resilience Principles



Contents of Set

1.5.0: Guide

1.5.1: Activity 1

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POLICY REVIEW

As you begin to adapt and apply the Climate Resilience Framework to your research guide your research on your city's vulnerability and climate risks, and identifying your policy and intervention options, it is often useful to do a scoping exercise to review the current situation in your city. As part of this scoping exercise, you will conduct a review of the policies, laws, and rules that might either support or hinder your city's climate resilience efforts.

IN THIS SET YOU WILL:

- ✓ Review existing policies that could relate to your city's climate resilience efforts;
- ✓ Identify the interaction and communication mechanisms between agencies at various governmental levels—national, provincial/state, city, and district/community/local levels;

- ✓ Identify which agencies are in charge of implementing and enforcing those policies at each level;
- ✓ Identify conflicts between policies or between implementing and enforcing agencies at different scales;
- ✓ Identify who is currently benefiting or being harmed by those policies;
- ✓ Identify the metrics that are currently used to determine whether a particular policy is effective or not.

Overview

Laws, rules, and policies issued by the national government, provincial and regional governments, and your city's government will all affect the options and courses of action your city can take to build resilience. Institutions such as these—related to areas like land use, building codes, environmental protection, or disaster risk reduction and response, among others—are critical components impacting your city's current functioning. They will also guide or constrain your city's resilience options now and in the future. For instance, suppose the national building code requires that buildings within flood zones must have foundations elevation 0.15–0.35m above street level, but no higher. Yet in your city flooding regularly exceeds 0.5m and climate change is likely to increase flood depths. In this case, it does not make sense to follow the national building codes. Instead, your city might have to find some way of getting permission to enact building codes better adapted to local conditions.

This policy exercise is designed to help you start to identify existing policies, laws, and rules that influence the core functions and services of your city and the surrounding peri-urban areas. Such rules also affect the ability of your citizens to adapt and be resilient against multiple stressors, not just climate change. It is NOT a full policy review. It is only meant to help you start thinking about how you might undertake a

full policy review. In Series 2: Understanding Vulnerability & Risk, you learn more about incorporating the results of your policy review into your vulnerability assessment.