

# Chapter 5

## How Can Resilience Initiatives Be Sustained Over the Long Term?

The purpose of CCR is to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities to the multitude of risks to which they are exposed. The long-term nature of this undertaking requires planning for sustainability of the interventions. It requires building constituencies among communities and their governments so that CCR is internalized within their planning and budgeting and within their overall way of transacting business at the community and local government level.

Sustaining interest and support to address risks from natural hazards is a significant challenge in the effort to enhance CCR. Using the results of CCR assessments to develop local actions or enhance local and national plans is one way to sustain support for CCR. Effective practices should be documented, evaluated, and shared with other communities.

### Develop Action Plans to Enhance Resilience and Address Gaps

Resilient coastal communities plan for and take deliberate action to reduce risks from coastal hazards, accelerate recovery from disaster events, and adapt to changing conditions. The results of a CCR assessment will highlight many opportunities to enhance resilience. These opportunities may be addressed at national, subnational, and local levels.

Develop action plans to address resilience weaknesses and gaps. The most immediate use of the assessment results is to develop an action plan with strategies to fill gaps, address weaknesses, and sustain or replicate effective practices. The CCR assessment can serve as a focal point to engage the community and government and nongovernmental



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Community members and local authorities must work together to plan for disaster prevention, mitigation and recovery

entities to develop a plan to address a range of capacity-building needs. Needs may include technical and financial assistance, training, and other priority actions. Key steps in development of an action plan are summarized in Table 5-1.

**Table 5-1. Action Planning Steps**

Steps	Activities	Outputs
Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate formal planning with leaders and stakeholders to develop action plans</li> </ul>	Core planning group established
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop core working group (multisectoral) to develop action plan</li> </ul>	Memorandum of understanding between stakeholders
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review CCR assessment results and recommendations</li> </ul>	
Prioritization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify priorities and gaps based on CCR assessment recommendations</li> </ul>	Priorities identified
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify resources and opportunities for implementation</li> </ul>	Financial and technical resources identified
Plan Development and Adoption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop actions (short-, medium-, and long-term) based on priorities and resources</li> </ul>	Phased action plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop buy-in from leadership</li> </ul>	Financial and technical resources allocated for implementation

## Adapt Plans and Programs to Enhance Resilience

The assessment results will identify opportunities to improve the enabling conditions for CCR. These enabling conditions may include the need for legal and policy reforms, institutional capacity building, multisectoral collaborative mechanisms, and adaptation of plans and programs at national, subnational, and local levels.

CCR must be integrated into the annual, medium-term, and long-term plans and programs of government, to provide the enabling conditions for resilience and to build the capacity for community preparedness and self-reliance. Local development plans must be informed by risks from coastal hazards. Improved coordination between coastal managers and disaster managers is needed to develop contingency plans and implement preparedness and mitigation activities for different types of coastal hazards. Integration of plans that addresses basic needs, environmental management, economic alternatives, and disaster preparedness will automatically sustain resilience efforts.

Regular collaboration between government (national, subnational, and local government agencies) and nongovernmental entities responsible for hazard evaluation and early warning systems, coastal management, disaster management, and socioeconomic development is needed to address both chronic and episodic

hazards faced by coastal communities. Information and data sharing among national government agencies is essential for planning and monitoring risks from coastal hazards. Interagency and multisectoral resilience reviews provide opportunities to adapt national plans and programs for enhanced resilience. Coordinated education and outreach programs provide consistent information to the public.

Another key to sustaining resilience efforts is to secure funding for programs at all levels of government and through the nongovernment sector. A key means of obtaining funding is to design well planned local programs that can attract funding for implementation. Donors are attracted to local projects that are designed and implemented by local entities.

Legislation and policy support are ultimately needed to sustain resilience planning and implementation in the long term. Once governments incorporate the need for resilience into basic laws, then support will flow more easily to the level required for effective community resilience.

## **Conduct Public Education Outreach to Improve Awareness**

The CCR assessment results can be used to develop a public outreach program to help educate different audiences on what they can do to improve and maintain their resilience to natural hazards. There are six steps to develop and implement a CCR outreach program, with each step building on the previous ones:

- Step 1: Define the goals and objectives of your CCR outreach program
- Step 2: Identify your target audiences
- Step 3: Create messages to get your audiences to respond
- Step 4: Package your message into various formats
- Step 5: Distribute your message to the audiences
- Step 6: Evaluate the progress of your efforts

An effective CCR outreach campaign is essential to help gain the support and compliance of stakeholders to ensure the success of the CCR program. Outreach will also help integrate the CCR program into other community activities to enhance its sustainability over the long term.

## **Document, Evaluate, and Share Resilience Good Practices**

Effective practices in CCR need to be documented, evaluated, and shared. These practices may be based on traditional knowledge, technological advancements, scientific study, or on direct experience in addressing coastal hazards. The context and use of these good practices need to be documented and monitored to determine the effectiveness of the practices and to reinforce the benefits derived

from their adoption. Good practices may need to be adapted or refined based on the environmental, socioeconomic, and historical context in which they are used. The documentation and evaluation of good practices will provide opportunities to adapt and improve these practices over time and facilitate their replication by other communities.

The successful adoption and implementation of good practices to build resilience by communities and their governments is a long term and iterative process. It may take years since this type of change must be accepted by communities and blended into local culture, traditions and governance systems. Small changes can lead to bigger changes and lasting resilience.