

HOW CLIMATE-SAVVY IS THIS GRANT PROPOSAL?

ECOADAPT'S QUICK-AND-DIRTY GUIDE FOR THE EVALUATION OF GRANT PROPOSAL CLIMATE SAVVITUDE

1. Could the proposed activities be affected by climatic changes either directly or indirectly?

A. Are the proposed objectives, strategies, or activities influenced by climatic factors?

- Timing or amount of rain or snow
- Water supply
- Temperature: averages, extremes
- Seasonality
- The presence of particular resources in particular places or at particular times

B. How might human responses to climatic change and associated effects influence the project success?

- Changes in resource use
- Changes in policy to limit greenhouse gas emissions, support or quash emerging technologies and energy sources, etc.
- Changes in human settlement patterns or social structure due to changes in disease, food availability, employment options, etc.
- Increased pressure for shoreline hardening, beach nourishment, new dams and reservoirs, and other responses to effects of climate change

2. How robust is the proposal to climatic or other changes?

A. How reliant is the work, implicitly or explicitly, on historical trends?

- Water availability
- Shoreline location
- Human resource use and settlement patterns
- Species location
- Seasonality

B. Does the project plan allow for integration of emerging information?

- Unexpected changes in the pace or extent of climatic changes
- Unexpected ecological, sociological effects of climatic change
- Policy changes allowing or prohibiting relevant activities
- Unexpected outcomes of project activities

C. Does the project plan acknowledge key assumptions, information gaps, and uncertainties, and provide ways to test assumptions and reduce or manage information gaps and uncertainties?

3. Does the prospective grantee have the needed skills, knowledge, and connections to effectively anticipate and respond to climate-related concerns or challenges?

If the answers to these questions suggest the proposed work is significantly vulnerable to or would not be robust in the face of climatic changes, what should you do?

1. Weigh the potential value of the proposed work against the risks you've identified
2. If the potential value is high, work with grantees to reduce project vulnerability:
 - Host capacity-building workshops
 - Subsidize project-specific adaptation consultation
 - Provide resource materials
 - Connect grantees doing related work to share lessons learned around adapting to climate change
3. Enhance the value of the project as part of a larger effort to identify best practices for climate-savvy conservation:
 - Mandate public data-sharing by grantees, ideally specifying one or more data portals grantees can use
 - Within your own portfolio or in partnership with others, fund a range of projects that allow you to explicitly test assumptions about approaches to adaptation
 - Host annual workshops to evaluate and compare approaches to climate-savvy conservation
 - Adopt an explicit risk management strategy for climate-related risks (e.g. bet-hedging, core-and-satellite, robust, bet-the-farm)