Moving From Awareness to Actions
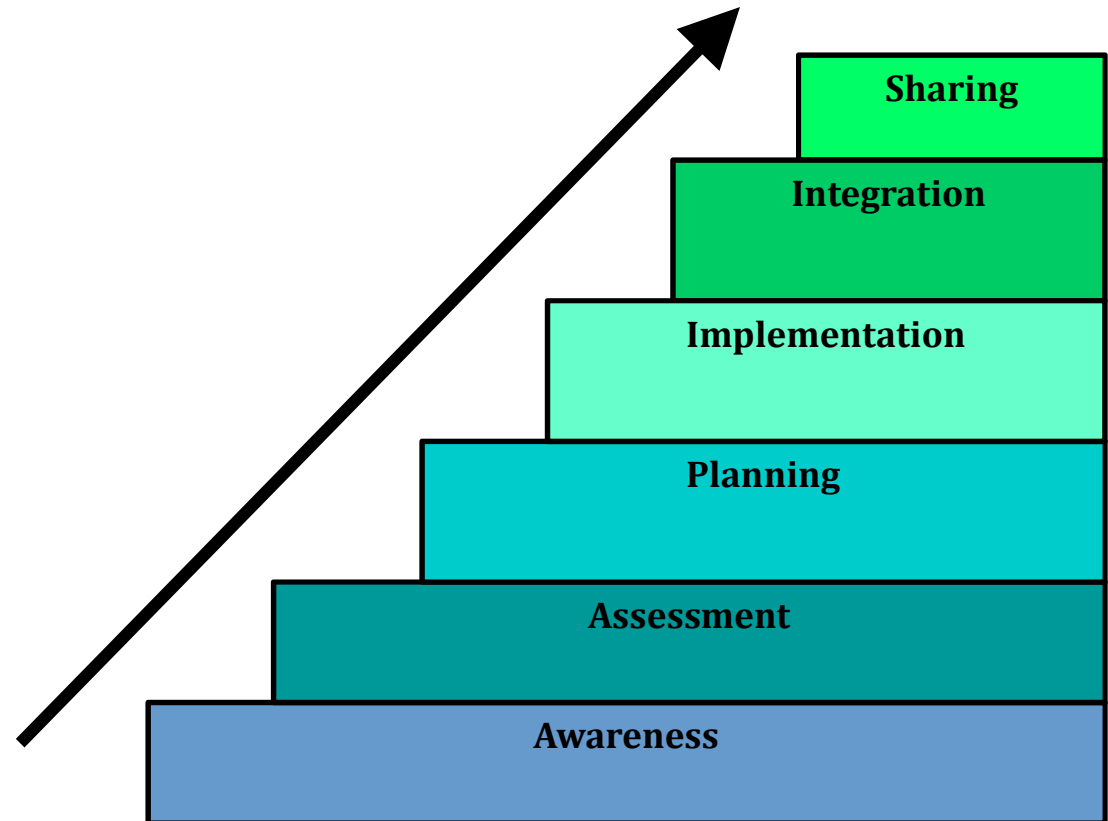
Using the National Adaptation Forum to help you get from Awareness to Action

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EcoAdapt™
Meeting the challenges of climate change

Sharing

Integration

Implementation

Planning

Assessment

Awareness

Adaptation Ladder of Engagement

6. Sharing
5. Integration
4. Implementation
3. Planning
2. Assessment
1. Awareness

Sharing: Internal capacity and resilience building are great, but for long-term success increases when we share and learn with others—supporting adaptation as part of our own workflow.

Integration: Adapting is not a one-time action. It is a process of integrating climate-savvy thinking into how work, so you can assess, anticipate, or respond to change as it happens.

Implementation: It is not enough to have a plan—you have to put it into action. This may mean implementing new laws or processes, or adjusting existing activities.

Planning: Knowing your vulnerability should not result in paralysis. Rather it should inspire you to develop a strategy! Move from assessing the problem to identifying solutions.

Assessment (or Taking Stock of the Situation): Systematically assess how climate change might affect your work or other investments of time, effort and money.

Awareness: Realizing that climate change affects your ability to meet your goals, either by altering the effectiveness of the tools you use to achieve your goal or by undermining your goal itself.

CASE STUDY 1:

Rein in the Runoff: MI Spring Lake

1. Increase the residents' knowledge and engagement in issues related to water resources and quality
2. Identify inconsistencies between state and local regulations designed to improve stormwater management and control; and
3. Develop a series of BMPs to help Spring Lake reduce stormwater management issues.

Increased flow, Droughts, Flooding

Solutions!

- Develop an integrated assessment of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce local stormwater impacts.

Rein in the Runoff: Michigan's Spring Lake Stormwater Management Project

6. Sharing

5. Integration

4. Implementation

**3. Planning**

2. Assessment

1. Awareness

- Project drew to a conclusion in 2009
- Message: population growth and development have changed the region's hydrology causing an increase in urban runoff and increased pollutant loads into Spring Lake.
- A combination of structural and nonstructural climate smart stormwater BMPs could help to improve water quality
- The research team identified their priority BMPs but also recognized that the solutions need to be agreed upon and initiated by the community to be successful.

PROJECT results are intended to inform decision makers to improve stormwater management.

CASE STUDY 2:

Climate Adaptation in the City of Ann Arbor, MI
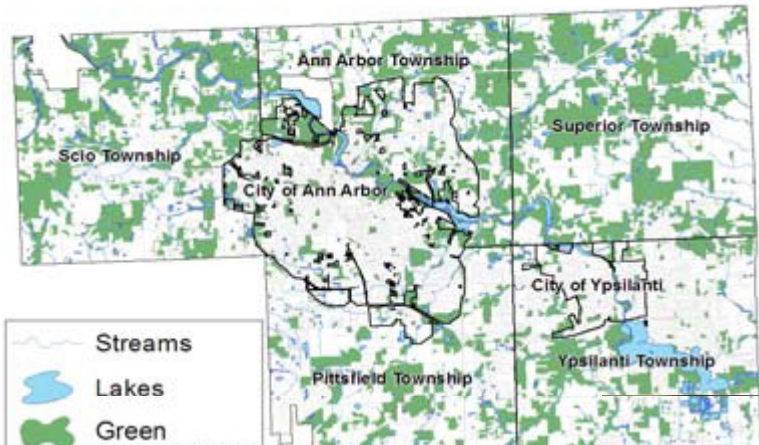
↑ Temperatures, Severe Storms, Human Health

Solutions!

- •Urban forestry plan

- •Credit for green infrastructure!

- •Integration of climate information into policies

- •Building staff capacity

Case Study 2: Climate Adaptation in the City of Ann Arbor, MI

6. Sharing

5. Integration

4. Implementation

3. Planning

2. Assessment

1. Awareness

- Use of climate projections to guide the urban forestry plan update
- Adding climate change projections to the city's sustainability plans
- Started analysis of different climate planning scenarios
- Updating climate action plan- to include adaptation along with mitigation strategies

CASE STUDY 3:

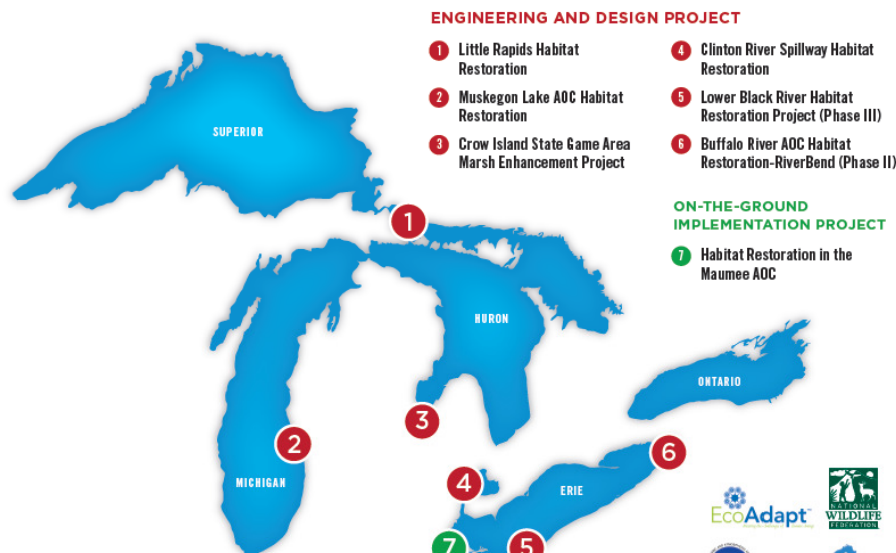## Incorporate climate-smart guidelines into restoration

GREAT LAKES CLIMATE-SMART RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

ENGINEERING AND DESIGN PROJECT

1. Little Rapids Habitat Restoration
2. Muskegon Lake AOC Habitat Restoration
3. Crow Island State Game Area Marsh Enhancement Project
4. Clinton River Spillway Habitat Restoration
5. Lower Black River Habitat Restoration Project (Phase III)
6. Buffalo River AOC Habitat Restoration-RiverBend (Phase II)

ON-THE-GROUND IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

7. Habitat Restoration in the Maumee AOC

SUPERIOR
HURON
ONTARIO
MICHIGAN
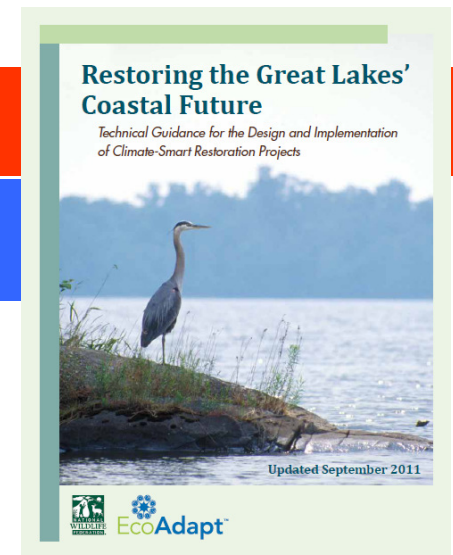ERIE

EcoAdapt
NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

1. Identify restoration-specific goals and targets
2. Identify possible approaches to restoration projects
3. Conduct a vulnerability assessment of both goals and targets and project approaches
4. Develop climate-smart management options
5. Prioritize and implement specific management options
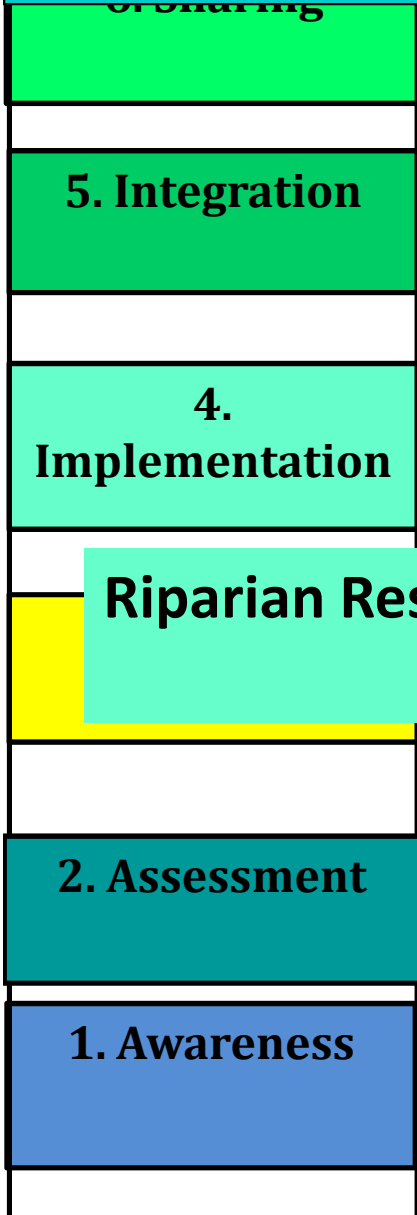6. Monitor, evaluate, and revise restoration approaches

Heavier Rainfall, Severe Drought

Solutions!

- Guidance/decision support
- Incorporating future conditions into restoration for regional projects

Restoring the Great Lakes' Coastal Future

Technical Guidance for the Design and Implementation of Climate-Smart Restoration Projects

Updated September 2011

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of Sharing

5. Integration

4. Implementation

2. Assessment

1. Awareness

Supported 7 Pilot Projects

1. Little Rapids Habitat Restoration (MI)
2. Muskegon Lake Restoration Project (MI)
3. Crow Island State Game Area Marsh Enhancement Project (MI)
4. Clinton River Spillway Habitat Restoration Planning & Design Macomb County (MI)
5. Lower Black River Habitat Restoration (OH)

Riparian Restoration in the Buffalo River Area of Concern (NY)

7. Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Restoration in Maumee Bay Area of Concern (OH)

Case Study 3 :Incorporate climate-smart guidelines into restoration

6. Sharing
5. Integration
4. Implementation
3. Planning
2. Assessment
1. Awareness

Pilot Project: Riparian Restoration in the Buffalo River Area of Concern (NY)

1. Up to 25 riparian restoration projects along the Niagara River and its tributaries with easements and/or long term maintenance agreements for each site;

2. A landowner stewardship training program including power points and a user-friendly Riparian Landowner Stewardship Guide;

3. A comprehensive website targeting the urban and suburban landowners that compliments the training program;

4. Five site assessment tours that educate landowners on potential enhancements to their property and to demonstrate to other landowners best practices;

5. Development of up to five grant proposals to leverage funding with other habitat restoration funding programs; and

6. Up to 250 volunteers engaged in restoration of the Niagara River's buffers.

CASE STUDY 4:

Project Clean Lake

- Reduce combined sewer overflow by 98% by 203
- Upsize gray infrastructure- pipes, overflow sites, treatment plants
- Use of green infrastructure to capture and reduce stormwater flow

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