Embracing Change: 4 Ways to Adapt Conservation to a Changing Climate

National Adaptation Forum 2019
Today’s Presentation

1. WCS Climate Adaptation Fund Background

2. 2 Steps

3. 4 Ways

4. Examples
Climate change is impacting wildlife and ecosystems right now. The climate is changing, so must our conservation strategies.
$16.9 million invested in 91 adaptation projects from 40 states and territories
Climate change poses problems. We fund solutions.

The WCS Climate Adaptation Fund provides grant awards to conservation non-profits across the United States to catalyze innovative, science-driven projects responding to the impacts of climate change on wildlife and people.
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4. Examples
Dr. Molly Cross
Director of Climate Adaptation, Americas Program, WCS
Director of Science, WCS Climate Adaptation Fund

www.nwf.org/ClimateSmartGuide: Stein, B.A., P. Glick, N. Edelson, and A. Staudt (eds)

Adaptationworkbook.org NIACS

www.WCSClimateAdaptationFund.org
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Utilize the best-available science

Strong Sources of Science =

- Modeling data
- Empirical data
- Expert opinion & TEK
- Vulnerability analyses
- Local climate studies

www.WCSClimateAdaptationFund.org
4 Ways to Adapt Conservation to Climate Change

WHAT
- Planting List 1919
- Planting List 2019
- Adjust Practices

WHERE
- Current Site
- New Climate Refugia Site
- Strategic Sites

WHEN
- Shifts In Timing

WHY
- Revise Goals

Visit www.WCSClimateAdaptationFund.org for more information.
Adapting Conservation to Climate Change

Climate-Smart Conservation: A Planning Approach

- Define Goals
- Consult Climate Science
- Revise Goals
- Select Adaptation Actions
- Implement Adaptation Actions
- Monitor and Evaluate

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WHAT: Adjust Practices

- Super-size stream restoration actions to accommodate bigger floods
- Alter planting mixes to support species expected to thrive
- Implement new techniques when wildlife behavior changes

Credits: Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, K. Lemeshev
WHERE: Strategic Sites

- Move conservation work upslope from protected areas
- Work in areas projected to be suitable in the future
- Prioritize restoration in stream basins likely to sustain late season flows

Credits: J. Jeffery, Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance, R. Levine, N. Korb
WHEN: Shifts in Timing

1. Act quickly to prevent rapid ecosystem loss as sea level rises.
2. Increase drought tolerance in advance of extreme drought events.
3. Provide pollinator habitat at different times of year.

Credits: Audubon, C. Bladow, wingedwolf, istock
WHY: Revise Goals

Expand goals to include offsetting snowpack decline

Broaden goals to reduce watershed-wide impacts of flooding

Manage for future conditions, not just past conditions

Credits: American Rivers, C. Dalbec
Climate Adaptation Fund Reports

14 Solutions to Problems Climate Change Poses for Conservation
Examples from the WCS Climate Adaptation Fund

Embracing Change
Adapting Conservation Approaches to Address a Changing Climate

Managing Risks to Conservation Investments Through Climate Adaptation
A Practical Guide for Funders
Molly Cross · John Nordgren · Darren Long

Download at www.WCSClimateAdaptationFund.org/resources
Thank you! Questions?

Program Staff Contacts

Liz Tully
Associate Director
etully@wcs.org

Katie Jung
Program Manager
kjung@wcs.org

Molly Cross
Director of Science for the Fund
mcross@wcs.org

Lauren Oakes
Science Advisor for the Fund
loakes@wcs.org

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