

## Appendix C15: Specific Recommendations for Academics and Other Researchers

Below, we provide specific recommendations for academics and other researchers. Recommendations are organized by the 4Ps of the field, presented in order of priority suggested for this group. They are consistent with, but in some cases more detailed than, the synthesis of recommendations offered in the main report.

### People

- First and foremost, approach adaptation not as a scientific/technical problem, but as a matter of building relationships across disciplines, organizations, silos, sectors, and all manner of difference so that it can be addressed systemically and holistically, meeting the needs, and building on the skills, knowledge, and resources of all involved.
- Seek out connections and collaborators in relevant practice arenas to link more actively to the adaptation-practice field.
- Invite adaptation professionals to classes to introduce students to potential careers in the adaptation field.
- Join regional and national conferences of adaptation practitioners and invite professionals to adaptation- and transformation-focused scientific conferences to actively foster academic–practice interactions.
- Increase diversity of all kinds within academia to include and empower often-excluded voices, to enrich the education of all students, and to enhance the professional preparation of a resilience-conscious work force.

### Practice

- Place stronger focus on solutions-oriented research.
- Become familiar with and embark on the life-long career path of transdisciplinary and transformational science.
- Synthesize (and periodically update) and make widely accessible what is considered best available and most robust scientific understanding of adaptation and transformation science and practice.
- Collaborate with practitioners to distill core principles, skills, and best practices from existing practice, and share widely through peer-learning networks and professional societies.
- Develop practice-oriented curricula throughout the educational ladder.
- Work closely with practitioners, particularly in graduate-level and professional training.
- Share insights from social equity- and justice-

focused research more effectively with adaptation practitioners, professionals, the media, and policymakers.

- Reach out to under-resourced, low-capacity communities to inquire how students and researchers can assist them with recording their stories, assessing and sharing best practices, and telling stories of what comprehensive resilience building looks like.

### Purpose

- Rapidly advance understanding of societal transformation processes.
- Communicate the need for transformational change to address the root causes of long-standing societal problems and their impacts on the environment and climate.
- Seek out training in how to more effectively communicate the urgency of climate change as well as the efficacy of solutions (mitigation, adaptation, and social cohesion) to close the resilience gap.

### Pillars

- Explore innovative financing models and conduct studies that help make the economic case for proactive adaptation; then synthesize and share them widely within and beyond academic outlets.
- Work with practitioners to field-test and refine findings from financial/economic studies.
- Collaborate with practitioners, investors, and others to establish measures of adaptation success and progress that are linked to shared goals (and/or locally adapted versions of shared goals).
- Advocate for investment in transformational science with government and philanthropic funders.
- Translate scientific findings into policy briefs and share them strategically with policymakers and their staff at relevant levels to help inform effective or innovative adaptation policies.
- Work with standard-setting organizations to develop professional, building, material, and other standards to foster resilience in all sectors and areas of society.