

Box 18: Context-Specific Prioritization of Adaptation Field-Building Actions

Our proposed approach accounts for the fact that field builders/supporters and actors/implementers find themselves in very different contexts with divergent needs. To identify the highest priority field-building interventions from our list of recommended actions, we offer the following step-wise determination process:

1. Locate yourself in the field-building picture. Identify your role with respect to the adaptation field (as a thought leader, field builder/supporter, field actor/implementer, or potential contributor to resilience currently outside the field. (See Figure 5, page 21. Recommendations are offered in the respective sub-sections of Section 5.3).

2. Diagnose and focus. Determine, within your area of influence, which of the 4Ps needs the most attention by asking these diagnostic questions:

- *Purpose* – Within your sector, region, organization, or area of influence, do people recognize the scope of the problem? How do they define the problem? Is there a vision around which people can come together? Are they galvanized to work on it with urgency? Is the lack of a shared Purpose holding you back?
- *People* – Who are the actors already working on this problem? Who is missing? (Think especially about often under-represented groups.) Are they actively networked? Are there recognizable leaders? Do actors hold a shared identity? Is the lack of engaged People holding you back?
- *Practice* – What are the shared ideas, goals, vision, and values? How strong is your knowledge base? Is there a shared purpose and shared action agenda that people work on collaboratively? What is the level of skill and available capacity? Is innovation being supported? Is the level of Practice holding you back?
- *Pillars* – What is the funding and policy support for advancing the field? What support is available for advancing the practice? How is the lack of supporting Pillars holding you back?

Choose the most critical of these to focus on—for now. If all seem equally lacking, start with the Purpose, which will help you identify the right People to engage.

3. Partner. Seek out relevant partners with whom the greatest progress in systemic change can be achieved. Particularly seek out partners in the climate justice community. Going it alone is likely to create fewer, slower, or only temporary and partial outcomes.

4. Go for impact. Together, identify the highest possible leverage point to create the greatest impact you can collectively have on your identified field component (one or more of the 4Ps). Then, check your intended field-building activity against the seven strategies for increasing and accelerating impact described in Box 20, and explore ways to strengthen it.

5. *Sequence implementation.* Take up the suggested recommendations from Section 5.3 and related appendices (recommendations per actor group and field component) that emerge from your prioritization exercise and

- Decide what recommendation(s) you can do this year.
- Decide on the next three recommendations to take on over the next two years.
- Decide on the next set of recommendations to take on after that.

6. *Reassess.* Demand or conduct a state-of-the-field assessment after five years, and update recommendations as needed.