

A multi-method approach was used to create a robust understanding of the state of the adaptation field in the US. (c) The Kresge Foundation, Figure from Moser et al. 2017



The adaptation field must close the resilience gap through significantly accelerated mitigation and adaptation efforts while building social cohesion and equity. (c) The Kresge Foundation, Figure from Moser et al. 2017

Purpose	People		Pillars		Practice	
	Location	Role	Policy Support	Financial Support		
Partners needed to close the Resilience Gap	Current field insiders	Field Builders & Supporters	Policymakers at higher levels	Government funders	Program managers and staff	
				Philanthropic funders		
				Private investors		
		Field Actors & Implementors	Local elected officials, chric leaders, organizational leaders, business leaders	Private entities (e.g. utilities)	Practitioners in public and private sector (planners, resource managers, engineers, etc.)	
				Finance and procurement officers, financial staff and experts	Adaptation service providers (NGO, gov, academic, consultancies)	
					Network conveners	
					Community-based orgs / grassroots advocates	
					Academics and other researchers	
					Communicators	
					Adaptation-specific professional societies	
	Current field outsiders	Potential Field Actors & Implementors	Other potential leaders	Additional potential funders	Other professional societies	
					Media	
					Other practitioners	
					Other	

The key audiences for Rising to the Challenge, Together – thought leaders, field builders, field actors, and external partners – are required to close the resilience gap.



The 4Ps of a Field: A field is made up of four basic components—purpose, people, practice, and pillars.

There shouldnot be aThere couldseparatenever be anadaptationadaptationfieldfield	There is no adaptation field yet but there should be	There is an adaptation field but it is murky, nascent	There is an adaptation field emerging and it is maturing	There is an adaptation field but it is stale and stuck
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Study participants voiced a spectrum of opinions on the existence and current status of the US adaptation field. The size of the font indicates the proportion of interviewees expressing a certain opinion. (c) The Kresge Foundation, Figure from Moser et al. 2017

Perceived Status of Various Aspects of the Current US Adaptation Field (n=53)



Survey respondents were asked to rate the status of selected sub-components of the adaptation field.

Trends Over the Past Few Years That Have Influenced the Current State of the Adaptation/Resilience Field

(Up to 5 per respondent, n=53)

More extreme events raised awareness Political leadership has mainstreamed conversation Emerging impacts create urgency Growing expertise in practitioner community Climate change science has become more solid Large, sustained philanthropic investment Growing climate movement built political momentum Extreme events caused far-reaching impacts More models of adaptation solutions available Disasters unleashed large public funding Media is paying attention to adaptation now Big disasters have woken people up Shifts in focus within adaptation field International/domestic political failures Failures of US/global mitigation policy Recession revealed inequities, deeper causes Other 40% 50% 60% 70% 0% 10% 20% 30% 80% 90% 100% Percent

Perceived trends that have influenced the current state of the US adaptation field.

Climate Impacts Focus

Confronting Climate Change Impacts Activities seek to reduce climate change impacts through focused hazard-specific mitigation interventions	Managing Climate Risks Activities seek to develop useful climate information products and tools and develop ways to incorporate them into decision making	Building Adaptive Capacity Activities seek to build robust, integrated processes for decision making and to enhance needed technical, scientific, etc. assets to confront complex challenges	Addressing the Drivers of Vulnerability Activities seek to address deep-seated inequities, concurrent climatic and non-climatic stressors by changing underlying ideas, interests, and institutions
Unique approaches	Mainstream	Transformative approaches	
Isolated plans	Within-system	Systemic changes	
Irregular, new funding	Existing, additiona	Systemic, new funding	

The spectrum of adaptation approaches. Adaptation approaches can range from stand-alone planning efforts enabled by post disaster funding to mainstream approaches that address climate risks largely within existing structures, processes, and funding mechanisms to transformational approaches that aim to address the deep drivers of vulnerability through systemic changes. Source: Inspired by Klein (2008), drawing on McGray, Hammil and Bradley (2007, p.35).



Critical needs identified by Rising to the Challenge study participants. A unifying vision is central to all four components of a field Pillars, People, Purpose and Practice.

US Sectors Perceived to Have the Greatest Need for Investment in Adaptation/Resilience

(Top three, n=53)



Study participants see the water sector, urban areas, coastal zones, and human health as the highest priorities for future adaptation investment.

Urgency is that sense that something important must be attended to immediately and cannot wait. It moves us out of the comfort of the status quo to gain the cooperation of others to plan and execute change efforts, and to keep going in the face of obstacles, deep-seated inertia, the ever-present temptation of complacency, or even the necessary small, early wins on the path to deeper transformation.



Efficacy gives us the sense that we can affect change (self-efficacy), that we are doing so successfully together with others (collective efficacy), and that the actions we are taking actually make a difference in the ultimate outcome (response efficacy).

Mobilizing people to close the resilience gap requires that we balance the urgency of climate change with a sense that we can enact effective solutions.



Seven cross-cutting strategies to rapidly increase the impact of field-building activities. Source: Susanne C. Moser, used with permission.



This rose diagram offers a way to visualize progress toward adaptation, organized by the four components of a field. (c) The Kresge Foundation, Figure from Moser et al. 2017