

Green Development and Climate Adaptation for Urban and Rural Areas:

Climate adaptation in a changing world

We focused on

- providing insights into the requirements for creating a resilient society, equipped to handle **extreme weather events** and a changing climate,
- establishing a five-step **framework to examine urban capabilities** for climate adaptation and providing a priority list of climate-resilience measures, and
- combining empirical research and case studies to identify climate adaptation gaps and addressing these gaps with policy recommendations. Cases include the Yangtze River Delta, Pearl River Delta, Chengdu-Chongqing area, and Rhine-Meuse-Scheldt Delta.

We found

- Climate change is already here—**accelerating climate adaptation is critical and urgent.**
- Climate adaptation has multiple benefits: it not only reduces the disaster risk of climate change, but also represents an important opportunity to **promote green development.**
- New insights into the requirements for creating a climate-resilient society can be gained through studying the revision of adaptation policies and practices triggered by extreme events.

Assessment Framework for Climate Resilience: Five capacities

1. **Threshold capacity:** the ability to raise thresholds to avoid problems.
2. **Coping capacity:** the ability to better cope with problems.
3. **Recovery capacity:** the ability to recover after a disaster.
4. **Adaptive capacity:** the ability to adapt to future conditions.
5. **Transformative capacity:** the ability to steer developments toward a new course.

We recommend



elevate the governance priority for climate adaptation and urgently integrate climate adaptation in all policy domains,



support regional and local authorities and communities with the implementation of climate adaptation interventions,



establish and commit to future adaptation goals and targets across all policy domains,



accelerate and improve climate adaptation by:



pay attention to social equity and gender issues in climate adaptation and accelerate the adaptation capacity of less developed regions and vulnerable groups.

- acknowledging the increasing intensity and frequency of weather extremes,
- supporting exploration, stress tests, and the development of action plans at local, regional and national levels,
- integrating stakeholder participation in climate-resilient future planning and design,
- developing supporting laws, regulations and long-term adaptation funds.