

A CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK FOR PARKS AND PROTECTED AREAS

An Initiative of the Canadian Parks Council Climate Change Working Group

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines adaptation as “adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts”. Recognizing the need for adaptation action across parks and protected areas in Canada, the Parks Canada Climate Change Team and the Canadian Parks Council Climate Change Working Group undertook a detailed literature review, comparing and contrasting the available climate change adaptation tools and frameworks relevant to protected areas.

The **Climate Change Adaptation Framework for Parks and Protected Areas** was developed through this collaborative process, building upon the adaptation cycle presented in “Adapting to Climate Change” from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), integrating additional elements and considerations inspired by our conversations and the wealth of resources already available on the subject.

The 5-step Framework is scalable and adaptable and can be applied to various resources (natural, cultural, facilities, etc.) or a combination, and can be as detailed or conceptual as desired.

Instead of presenting the Framework as a cycle, suggesting a process that is completed and then repeated, the Framework was developed as five distinct steps, with key questions that need to be answered before initiating the following step.

Given that adaptation is an iterative process, practitioners are encouraged to return to any prior step of the framework as the answers for these key questions may evolve over time.



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