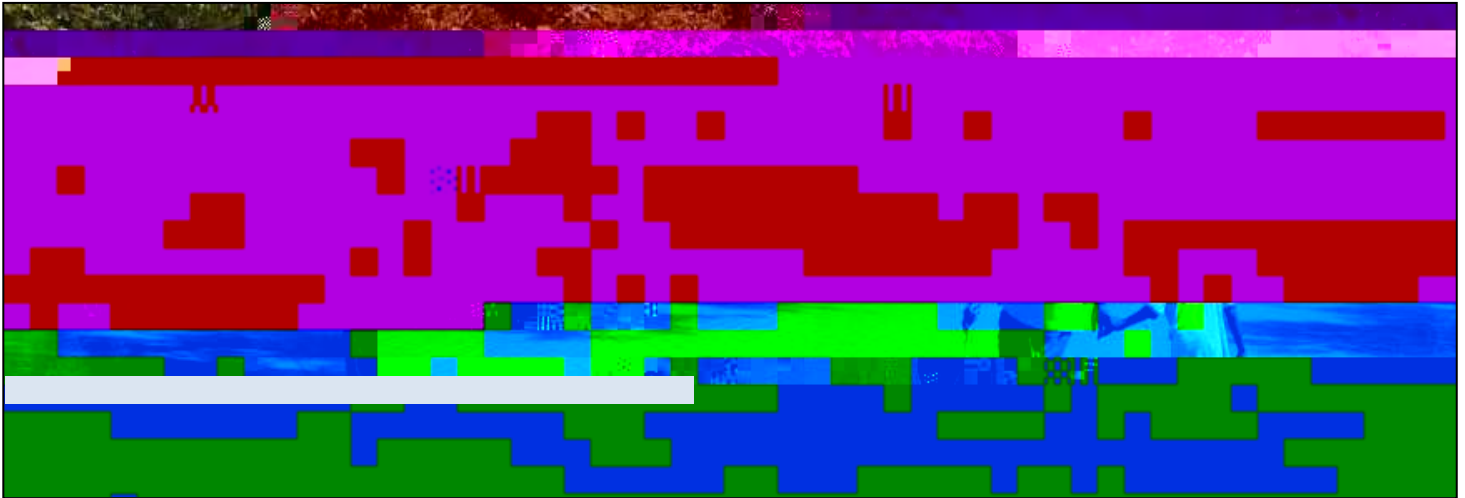




Water and Climate Change Adaptation

Using water management, ecosystems and empowerment
to build climate change resilience



Drought, floods, storms, melting glaciers and sea-level rise all feature in headlines and increase fears about the severity of climate change impacts. All these impacts concern water. Living with climate change will mean coping with impacts on water.

Adaptation to climate change – taking steps to reduce vulnerability and to build resilience to climate change impacts - is essential. Because expected impacts on water are so widespread, water is at the centre of climate change

Key Messages

To make adaptation more effective, more coherent and to reinforce development, an adaptation framework is needed that will:

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Building Climate Resilience in Practice

Adaptation will have to build *climate resilience* to safeguard the Millennium Development Goals. This means that adaptation must be implemented within strategies that make societies better at withstanding shocks and coping with unknown and unexpected futures.

Climate resilience is strengthened by ecosystem services provided by well-functioning river basins. More broadly, resilient systems are characterized by diversity and by self-organisation and learning. The challenge is to build climate resilience in practice.

IUCN's global experience of integrating environment and development in the *IUCN Water and Nature Initiative* has shown that four components combine

