# Coastal Inundation Community of Practice

Climate Vulnerability Assessments Webinar May 28, 2024







# Agenda

- Welcome
- Introduction to Climate Vulnerability Assessments
- Case Studies
- Discussion & Wrap-up



# What is a <u>climate vulnerability assessment?</u>

- Communities looking to address coastal flooding and severe weather can identify the people and places in harm's way
- Exposure + Sensitivity + Adaptive Capacity



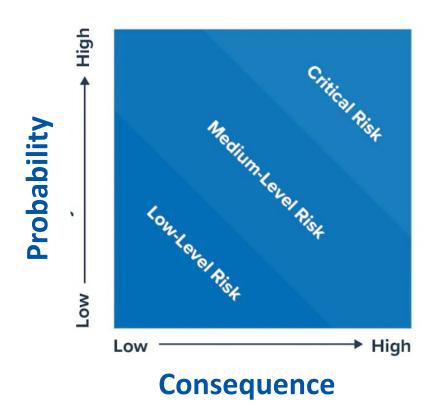
# **Terminology**

Exposure	People, assets, and ecosystems in places where they could be adversely affected by hazards	
Sensitivity	Degree to which a system, population, or resource is or might be affected by hazards	
Adaptive Capacity	Ability to adjust to a hazard, take advantage of new opportunities, or cope with change	

U.S. Federal Government, 2014: U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit. [Online] <a href="http://toolkit.climate.gov">http://toolkit.climate.gov</a>.



# Risk



Graphic from mindtools.com



# **Regional Case Studies**



Jessica Brunacini
Coastal Community Resilience
Extension Associate
Main Sea Grant



Ruby Pap
Coastal Land Use Extension Specialist
Hawai'i Sea Grant



Program Manager, Chief Resilience Officer,
City of San Diego



# **Case Study 1: Southern Maine**



Coastal Resilience Specialist
Maine Sea Grant



Climate Ready Coast - Southern Maine

A Regional Coastal Resilience Plan for Southern Maine

November 2023 July 18, 2023



# Assessing Vulnerability to Coastal Hazards in Southern Maine







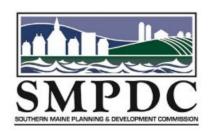


Coastal Inundation Community of Practice

Jessica Brunacini, PhD

Coastal Resilience Specialist

# **Climate Ready Coast Southern Maine: Project Team**







Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve

> Jake Aman, Chris Feurt, & Annie Cox







Jessica Brunacini & Kristen Grant Dani Boudreau & Gwen Shaughnassey





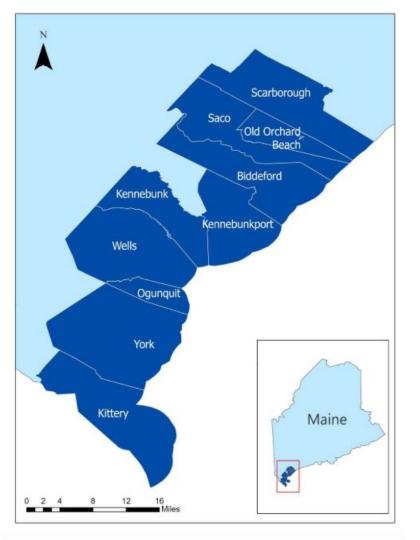
# roject Objectives rroject

# What?

2-year project to develop a regional coastal resilience plan for 10 Southern Maine coastal communities

# Why?

- Fill local and regional capacity gaps
- Continue and advance partnerships
- Coordinate on common priorities
- Leverage existing data, resources, and tools
- Enhance understanding of multi-hazard impacts and vulnerabilities
- Develop strategic priority projects and opportunities for advancing coastal community resilience



# Features of the project region:

- 10 municipalities
- 381 miles of coastline
- 38,259 acres of conserved land
- 6 state ecological focus areas
- Critical habitat including sand dunes, salt marshes, wetlands, open space, and forested areas.



## Assess Coastal Hazard Impacts & Vulnerabilities

- Draft vulnerability assessment mapping tool
- WG & AC review & provide input on draft
- Finalize mapping tool



# Identify & Visualize Adaptation Strategies

- Matrix of locally relevant adaptation strategies, focus on nature-based solutions (NBS)
- Visual renderings of example adaptation strategies for 15 priority sites



# Assess Regional Resilience Planning Needs, Challenges, & Barriers

- · Stakeholder survey
- Stakeholder interviews
- Establish Working Group (WG) & Advisory Committee (AC)



# Identify Key Vulnerable Areas

- Project team uses tool to identify 'hot spots' of vulnerability
- Sub-regional WG workshops to refine list of 'hot spots'
- Workshop for WG & AC to identify priority vulnerable areas



### Regional Coastal Resilience Plan

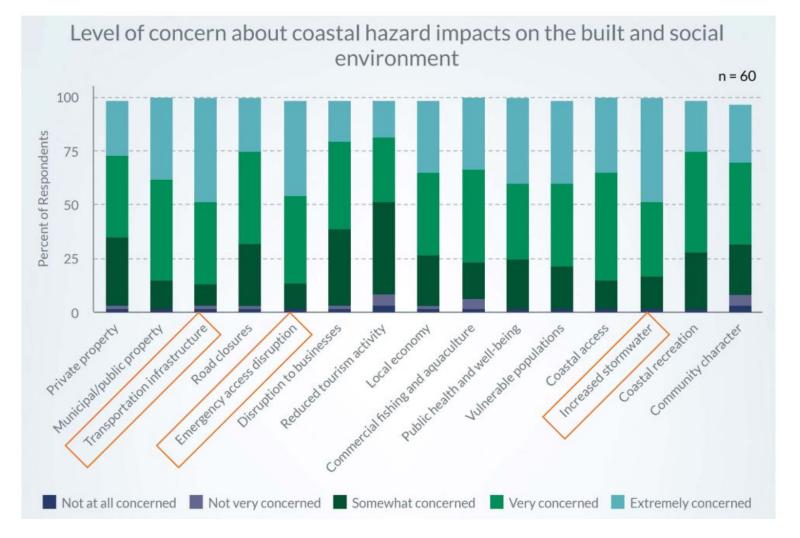
- Outlines local and regional resilience needs
- Identifies priority vulnerable areas for resilience action
- Presents coastal adaptation strategies, focus on NBS
- Foundation for continued regional coordination &

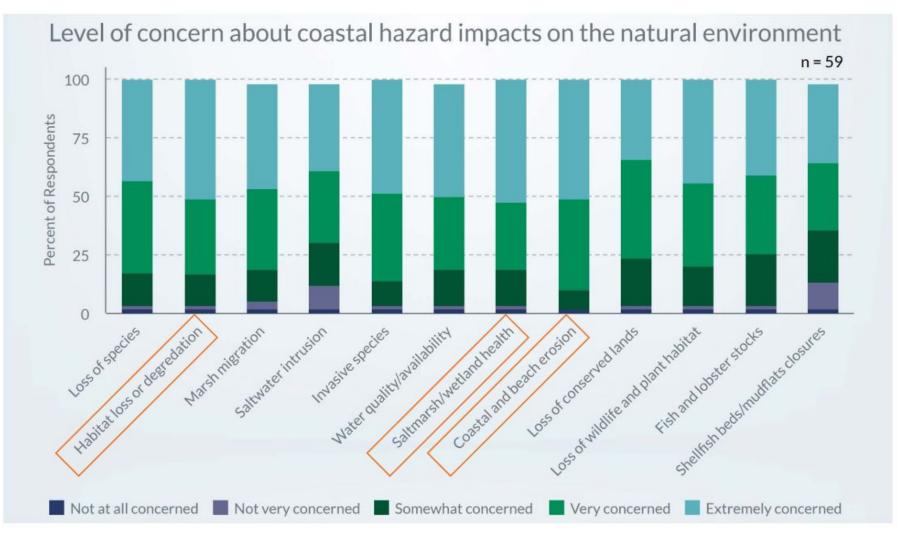
# Working Group & Advisory Committee

- Municipal staff, including town manager, planners, and public works officials
- Volunteer municipal committee members (e.g., energy, sustainability)
- · Local and regional land trusts
- Natural resource management agencies
- Emergency management agencies
- · Social services programs
- · Scientists and researchers

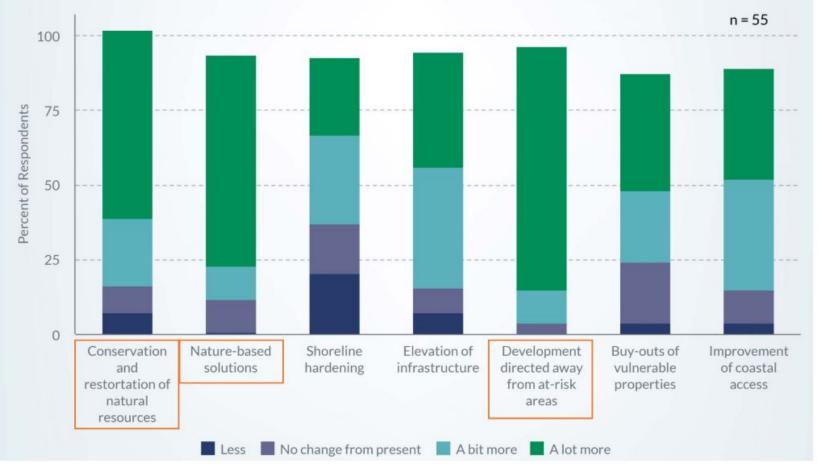


**Identifying Planning Concerns, Priorities, & Needs** 









**Assessing Coastal Hazard Vulnerability** 

# What ECOLOGICAL information would you like to see included in the vulnerability assessment?

Examples: Begining with Habitat wildlife data, marsh migration, conserved lands

An assessment of the land status of areas of salt marsh habitat and likely marsh migration lands. Who owns these lands and what condition are they in? Maybe classify in broad categories such as excellent, good, poor, very degraded?

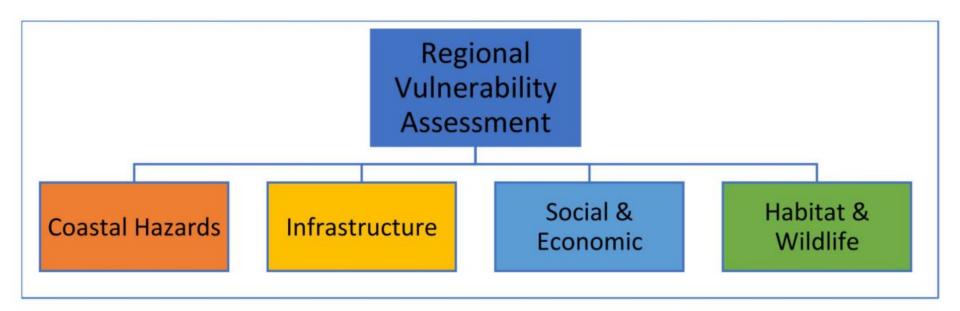
data on Inland land parcels that are vulnerable to flooding due to climate change.

It would be great if the economic analysis part included the value of ecosystem services to coastal economies, even if in a general way Any municipal survey or research data on intertidal species, including shellfish and their habitat. For example, harvesters in certain areas have said that most soft-shell clams are shifting from the lower intertidal to

The occurrence of threatened and endangered species as well as at risk wildlife species in the assessment area. This likely should include the piping plover, least tern, saltmarsh sparrow, roseate tern and red knot.

Locations of focus areas for rare species as well as identifying areas high in invasive species that could be restored Approximate the monetary value of these ecological resources.

# **Regional Vulnerability Assessment Categories**

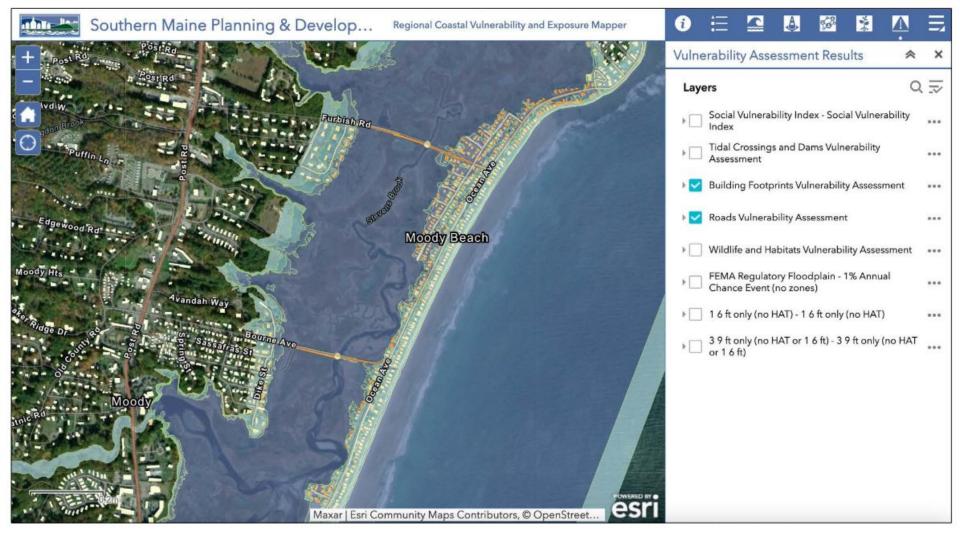


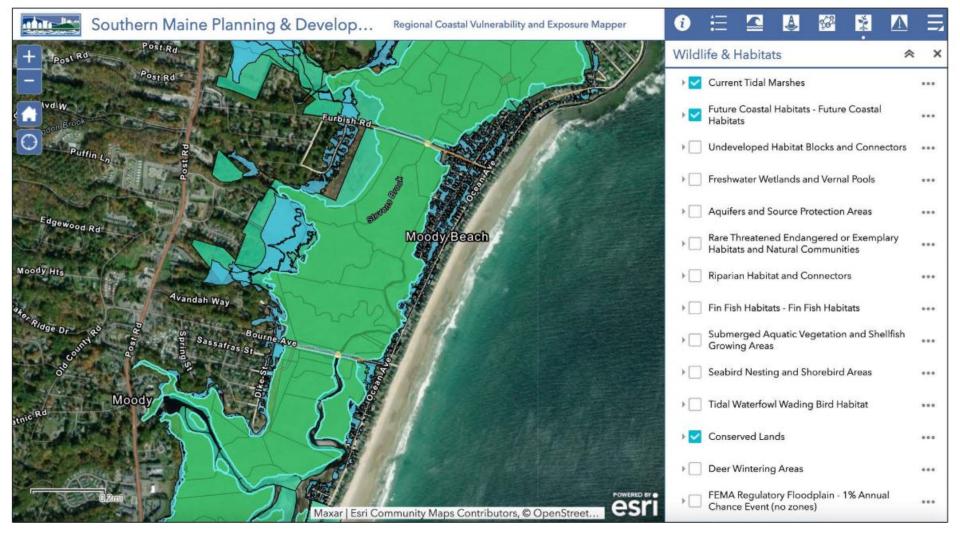
Coastal Hazards			
Topic	Source	Link	
Sea level rise (ME Climate Council 'commit to manage' scenarios: 1.5 ft and 3.9 ft))	ME Geological Survey (MGS)*	Sea level rise/storm surge viewer	
Regulatory floodplain (FIRM) (final data not yet available for OOB)	FEMA	FEMA Map Service Center	
Storm surge (supplement FIRM data)	NOAA data – different recurrence interval storms		
Coastal bluff maps	MGS*	Coastal Bluffs	
Coastal sand dune maps	MGS*	Sand Dune Boundaries	
Areas of existing vulnerability based on local knowledge (new layer needed)	Climate Ready Coast project* (Google map of survey responses)	Stakeholder survey summary	
Water Quality	ME DEP	EGAD Database (Environmental and Geographic Analysis Database)	

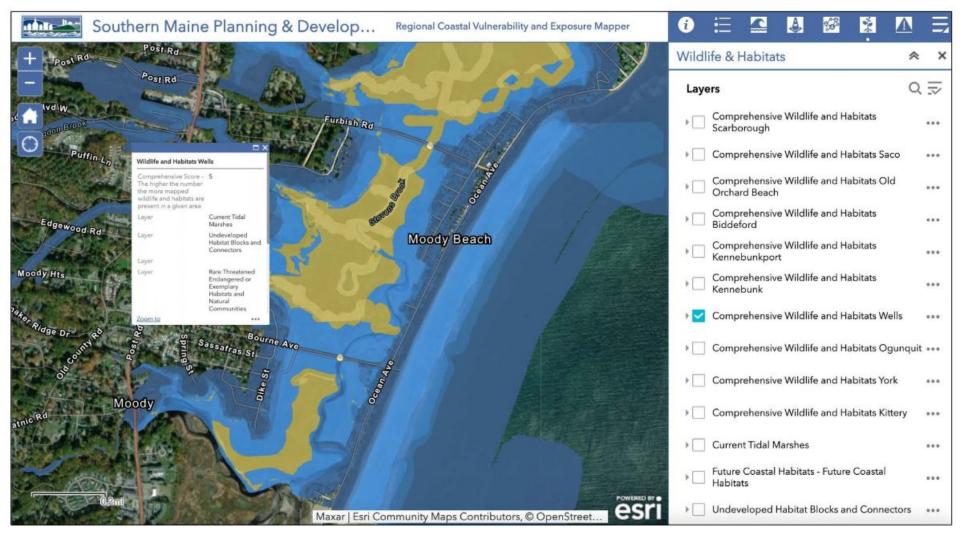
Infrastructure		
Topic	Source	Link
Roads (designated based on classification &/or usage?)	ME DOT, municipalities?	ME DOT Public Map Viewer
Evacuation routes	ME Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)	
Tidal road crossings, existing and future	Maine Coastal Program*	<u>Tidal Restriction Atlas</u>
Overtopping potential of coastal engineering structures from 100-year storm BFE	MGS	Coastal Structure and Dune Crest Overtopping Potential Viewer
Critical facilities (hospitals/healthcare facilities, water & wastewater treatment plants, power stations, schools, senior centers, nursing homes)	Maine GeoLibrary, municipalities, York Co. Community Action (YCCAC), County EMA	GeoLibrary Catalog
Emergency centers	Maine GeoLibrary, municipalities	GeoLibrary Catalog
Marine infrastructure (commercial and recreational boating)	DMR (properties with easements); LMF (properties it has funded); other?	DACF Boating Facilities
Utilities (buried and above-ground)	Municipalities	

Topic	Source	Link
Demographic data regarding social vulnerability	SMPDC (via Army Corps'	SMPDC developing date
(SPR) (TVC) SPC) (LIP SP)	Social Vulnerability Index)*	
Coastal Risk Explorer (overlap with infrastructure and coastal	The Nature Conservancy	Coastal Resilience Tool
hazard)	(TNC)*	
Public boating facilities (related to marine infrastructure in	ME Bureau of Parks and	ME Boating Facilities
Infrastructure section)	Lands (incomplete dataset,	
	some manual data entry	
	likely required)	
Historic structures & sites	ME Historic Preservation	
	Commission	
Transit routes and stops (overlap with infrastructure section)	YCCAC, SMPDC, Portland	
	Area Comprehensive	
	Transp. System (PACTS)	
Social service locations (overlap with critical facilities item of	YCCAC, The Opportunity	
Infrastructure section)	Alliance (TOA –	
	Portland-area Community	
	Action Program)	
Housing - serving vulnerable populations & housing stock	YCCAC, ME Housing	
condition (Businesses -potential disclosure/privacy issues -		
instead of GIS layer, maybe have working group apply local		
knowledge about this.		
Land use at parcel level (based on municipal data)	Municipalities	
Municipal growth areas	Municipalities	
Impervious cover (buildings, roads) 5-meter pixel	ME IF&W or Microsoft	Microsoft building
		footprint layer
Parcels with development potential (based on GEI build-out analysis)	Municipalities / GEI	

Habitat & Wildlife		
Topic	Source	Link
Current tidal marshes	ME Natural Areas Program	Current ME tidal marshes
	(MNAP)*	
Marsh migration 2.0	MNAP*	Potential marsh migration
Significant wildlife habitat & physical natural resources	ME Dept. of Inland	Beginning with Habitat
	Fisheries & Wildlife	
Diadromous fish habitat	DMR* and USFWS	DMR
		Nature's Network
Terrestrial and wetland core-connector network	USFWS Nature's Network	Nature's Network
Submerged aquatic vegetation	DEP	DEP Eelgrass
Conserved lands, priority lands	MNAP*; Land Trusts; ME	ME conserved lands
**   Land 1985   1985	Coast Heritage Trust	
	(MCHT)*	
Resilience areas (overlap with hazards, infrastructure, and	NFWF CREST tool	CREST
social/economic data; uses national scale info)		AAE annotation developed
Undeveloped habitat blocks & connectors and unfragmented forest	MNAP*	ME coastal undeveloped habitat blocks
Biological resources, sensitive shorelines, and human-use	NOAA Environmental	ESI
resources (e.g., public beaches and parks (MGS 'overtopping'	Sensitivity Index (ESI)*	April 1980
layer IDs some engineering structures better)		
Future coastal habitat (overlap with marsh migration data)	TNC*	Future Habitat viewer
Shellfish and commercial aquaculture sites	ME DMR	DMR
Urban impaired watersheds	DEP	ME DEP







# Regional Coastal Vulnerability Assessment Presentation – Feedback from WG & AC

	Suggestion	Request Venue	Feasible? / Appropri ate?	Change Made?	Notes
1	Make symbology of all layers colorblind- friendly. Red/green color ramps used for comprehensive maps are not colorblind friendly and need to be changed. (Yellow-to-blue or single color ramps tend to be more accessible) Change needed to following layers:  • Comprehensive coastal hazard • Future tidal road crossings and future other crossings layers • Comp. crossings and dams • Comp. building footprints • Comp. roads • All wildlife and habitat comp. layers	6/28 webinar	Yes / Yes	Yes	
2	*New layer: Include municipal infrastructure, like water and wastewater infrastructure, in map (include in Infrastructure category)	6/28 webinar	Somew hat / Yes	*Yes	*Municipal infrastructure layers have been made available via SMPDC's online Esri account (the web mapping tool platform) for individual map users to temporarily add the layers to the map. Layers included in map are those provided by municipalities from original data request
3	Include water quality data in map	Email	Yes / No	No	These data won't necessarily support objectives of the project and might increase complexity of tool. Interested users can add this data to their individual 'map session' using map widget.

**Identifying Key Vulnerable Areas** 

# **Working Group member quote**

"When moving toward prioritizing projects / action, it would be important to move beyond maps / coarse social indicators to incorporate data that examine priorities relative to values, emotional, cultural, psychological aspects and other factors that shape sense of community, etc. that are not well characterized through economic data. This would mean expanding what might "count" as data, not only quantitative but also qualitative, visual, co-produced data, etc."

# **Process of ID'ing Priority Vulnerable Areas**

Project Team Uses VA Mapping Tool to ID Vulnerability Hot Spots (~50)

Sub-regional Working Group Sessions: 1st Pass of Vulnerability Hot Spots

Project Team refines Profile Sheets, develops & applies Tier 1 criteria to ID short list of Priority Vulnerable Areas

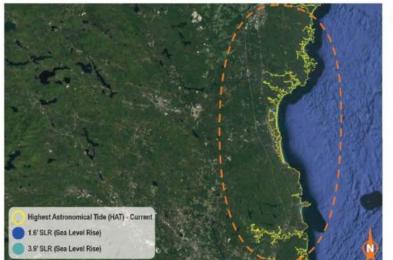
Workshop: Working Group provides input, engages in dialogue, applies Tier 2 criteria & local knowledge to refine list

Working Group votes on 15 Priority Vulnerable Areas

**Visualizing Resilience Strategies** 







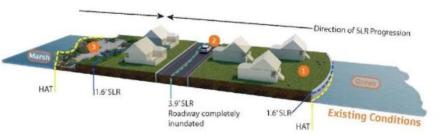
Salt Marsh Restoration

· Protects against erosion and flooding Improves water quality Provides wildlife habitat

### Visualization: Potential Adaptation Strategies for a Climate Ready Coast

### Coastal Areas (Southern Maine)

Note: These conceptual visualizations are illustrative examples of possible coastal adaptation strategies; they are not engineered designs and are not conveying strategies that should be used at the site. Strategies shown are only a potential set of possible adaptation measures, other strategies from the Coastal Adaptation Strategy Matrix could be applicable and may be included in visualizations of other priority sites. Please reference the Matrix and other priority site visualizations for further information. Please note that the sea level rise conditions depicted in these visualizations reflect changes that will happen over time.



# Managed Retreat

- . Relocation of high-risk development to upland areas
- · Prevents repeated property damage and loss
- Mitigates risk to people, property, and the local tax base
- Saves money
- Removal of impervious areas
- Increases wildlife habitat
- Improves water quality
- Lessens effects of sea level rise and storm surge Creates new public coastal access and recreation

1.6'SLR

3.9'SLR

### **Dune Restoration**

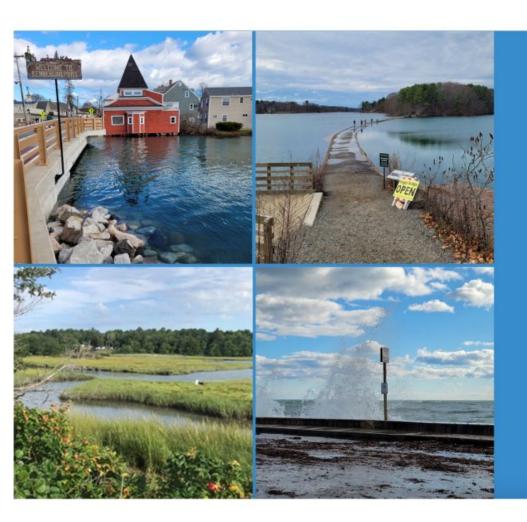
· Prevents erosion and reduces flooding

**Potential Conditions** 

- · Acts as buffer for storm surge
- · Provides wildlife habitat



**Regional Coastal Resilience Plan** 



### **Climate Ready Coast - Southern Maine**

A Regional Coastal Resilience Plan for Southern Maine

November 2023 July 18, 2023

### Thank you!

Questions? Thoughts?
Please feel free to get in touch!

Jessica Brunacini, PhD

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### Case Study 2: San Diego, CA

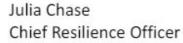


Julia Chase
Chief Resilience Officer,
City of San Diego





### City of San Diego Vulnerability Assessments

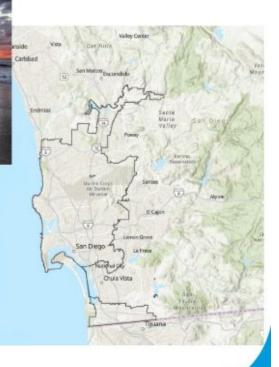




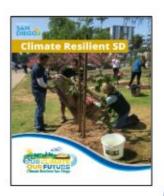


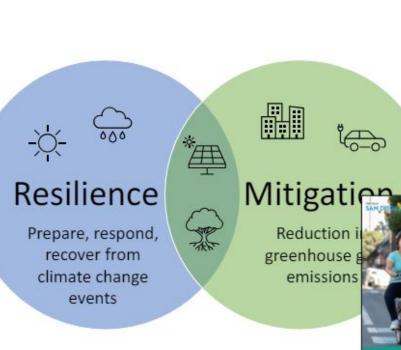
### City of San Diego

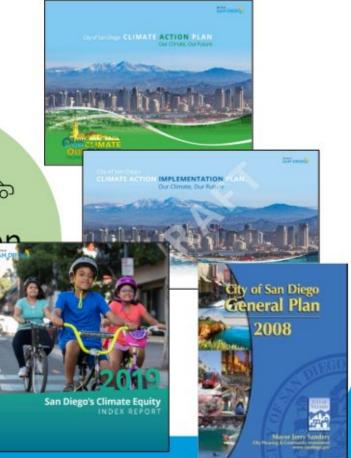












### **Building towards Climate Resilient SD**



Completed: October 2019

Completed: February 2020

Adopted: December 2021



### Vulnerability Assessment: project set up

- Review historical impact data and other relevant reports
- Identify any gaps in data or technical studies
- 3. Identify key climate change hazards
- Analyze relevant climate projections, select future scenarios
- Determine critical assets, identify project team



### Criteria for critical assets

- If the asset type/resource (or its function) is necessary for continuity of important City operations;
- If the asset type/resource (or its function) is a key driver in the City's economy;
- If loss of the asset type/resource would present equity concerns;
- If the asset type/resource is critical to safeguarding biological diversity and other environmental priorities.

### Vulnerability Assessment: scope

Sector	City Department(s)	Critical Asset Types	
Public Safety	Fire-Rescue, Police	Fire stations, police stations, lifeguard stations, police patrol and specialty vehicles, maintenance facilities, other public safety assets	
Water Infrastructure	Public Utilities	Dams, water pipes, wastewater pipes, water pump stations, wastewater pump stations, distribution reservoirs, water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants	
Transportation	Transportation and Storm Water; Real Estate Assets	Major arterials, Brown Field Municipal Airport, Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport, bridges	
Storm Water	Transportation and Storm Water	Drain pump stations, outfalls, levees	
Open Space/ Environment	Parks and Recreation, Environmental Services; Public Utilities	Conservation areas/open space/source water, community parks, Miramar Landfill, beaches	
Additional	Real Estate Assets; Parking Organization; Commission for Arts and Culture	Recreation centers, libraries, City buildings, historical, tribal cultural, and archaeological resources	





# Vulnera

Exposure: The presence of people, infrastructure, natural systems, and economic, cultural, and social resources in areas that are subject to harm

**Sensitivity**: The degree to which a system is affected by climate-related stimuli

Adaptive Capacity: The degree to which a population or system has the ability to make adjustments to respond to actual or expected climate impacts

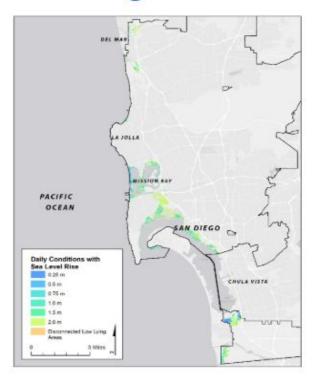
Risk

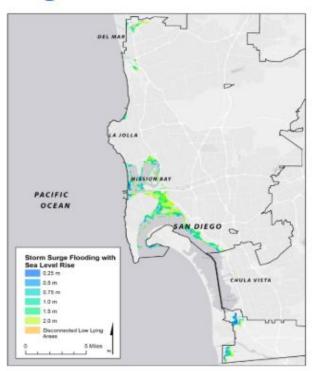
**Likelihood**: The probability that a population or asset/system will be vulnerable to climate impacts

Consequence: The effect of climate change exposure on community structures, functions, and populations and on the asset owner or service providers' ability to maintain a standard condition or level of service



### Daily and Storm Surge Coastal Flooding







### Consequences Screening

- Aimed to understand the types of potential outcomes that could occur due to damage, disruption, or failure of assets
- Focused on outcomes that would interfere with City objectives
- Consequences assessed through discussions with City departments



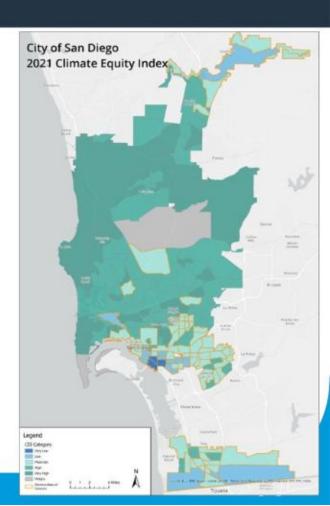
### Vulnerability Assessment Findings





### Climate Equity

prioritizing our City's Communities of Concerns to ensure that investments and resources are prioritized for those with the greatest needs and vulnerabilities





### Climate Equity

- Identify vulnerability populations
- Screen for disproportionate impacts
- Inform strategy development and prioritization



### Stakeholder & Community Engagement

- Internal City coordination
- Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Community events
- Brochure & postcard





### Stakeholder Advisory Group

- Provided feedback and input key points in the vulnerability assessment
- Members included:
  - · Internal City departments
  - · State and federal agencies
  - Local nonprofit and environmental organizations
  - · Community-based organizations
  - Transportation agencies
  - Energy utilities
  - Academic institutions





### **Funding Overview**

#### VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENTS

- State Lands SLR
   Vulnerability Assessment
- · SLR Vulnerability Assessment
- Citywide Climate Change
   Vulnerability Assessment
- CCC LCP Grant
- Caltrans SB1

CLIMATE RESILIENT SAN DIEGO COASTAL RESILIENCE MASTER PLAN

- NFWF
- State Coastal Conservancy



### **Additional Considerations**

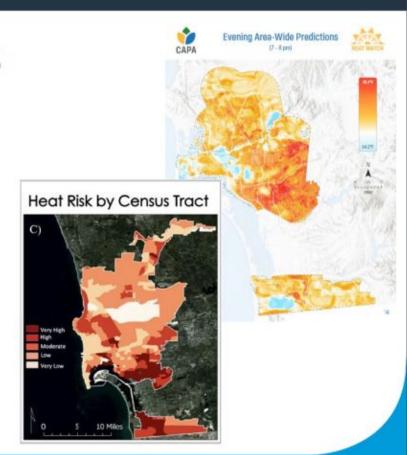
- Legislative requirements
  - AB691
  - SB379
  - SB1035
- State Guidance
  - Ocean Protection Council and California Coastal Commission SLR Policy Guidance





### **Additional Considerations**

- · Living document as science is updated
- · Importance of downscaled data





### Thank you!

Julia Chase

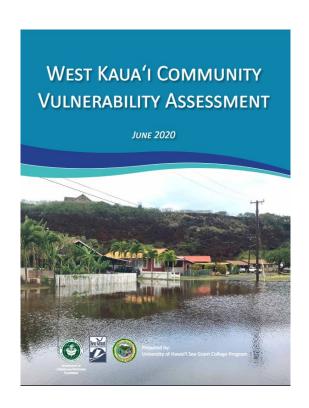
ChaseJ@sandiego.gov



### Case Study 3: Hawai'i



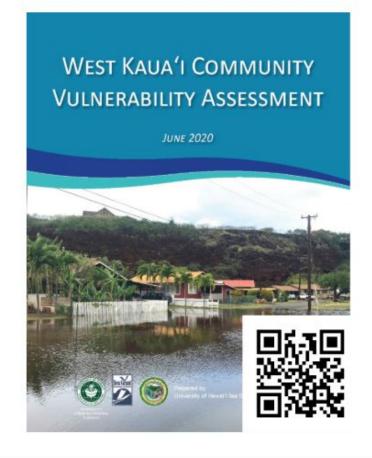
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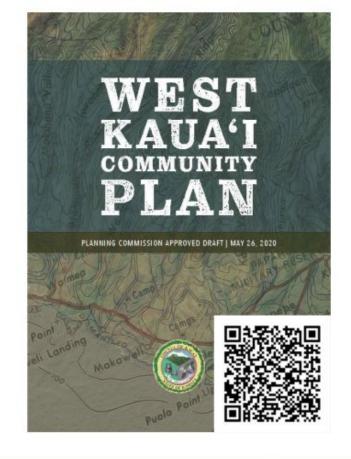




## Integrating Climate Science with Local Knowledge through Community Vulnerability Assessment in W. Kaua'i

















Where on the westside do you live or work? (please circle or fill in the blank)					
Hanapepe-Eleele	Waimea	Kekaha	Other: _		
		identified by community			

The West Kaua'i Community Vulnerability Assessment invites the West Kaua'i Community to:

#### Circle YES or NO if you agree with the management concern

hazards and sea level rise (please follow the directions below)

information below!

Management Concern(s):

Name:

- Rank the management concerns 1-6 by filling in a number next to each management concer each number once)
- If there are any management concerns you believe have been left out, please fill let us know b

or NO YES o
I Infrastructure (water Transports stewater, electrical) Evacuation
하게 하면 하면 하면서 그가 하면 하면 하면 하면 하다.

Phase 1 (Feb-July 2018) - Identifying management concerns 30 Interviews, background research, data collection

Email:

### TACKLE SEA LEVEL RISE TOGETHER

- · A special screening of the award-winning movie, 'Miss South Pacific' from Kaua'i Producer, Teresa Tico, will be shown!
- Learn about local sea level rise and share your mana'o about vulnerable places in West Kaua'l.

Share ideas about how to adapt to sea level rise and coastal hazards. nate experts will be on hand to answer your questions.

to start planning!

















Transportation & evacuation



Drainage & levees



Other critical infrastructure



**Cultural resources** 

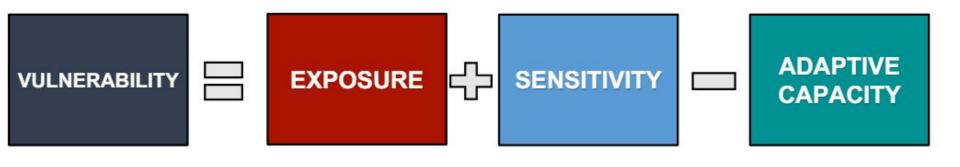


Coastal properties and beaches



Agriculture

### Understanding the Problem

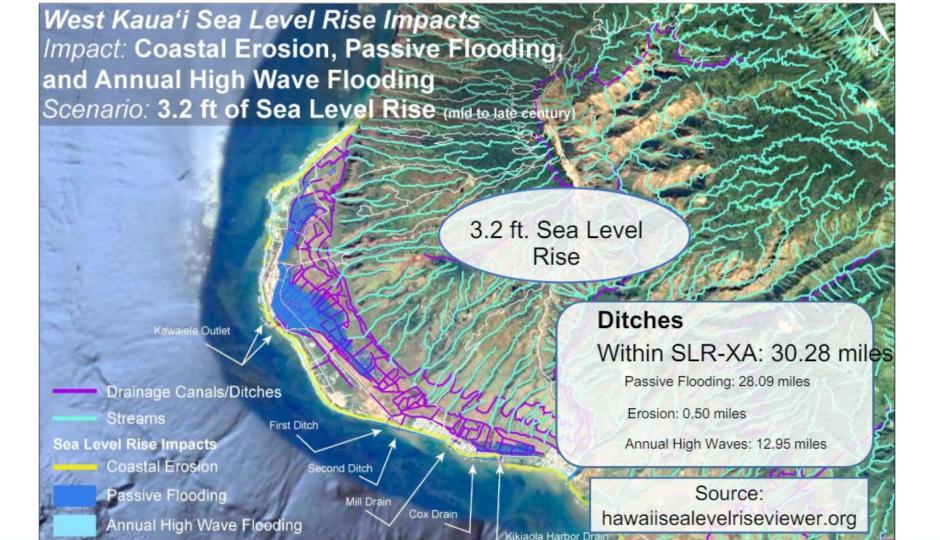












### Vulnerability and Consequences Adaptation Planning Scenarios Process







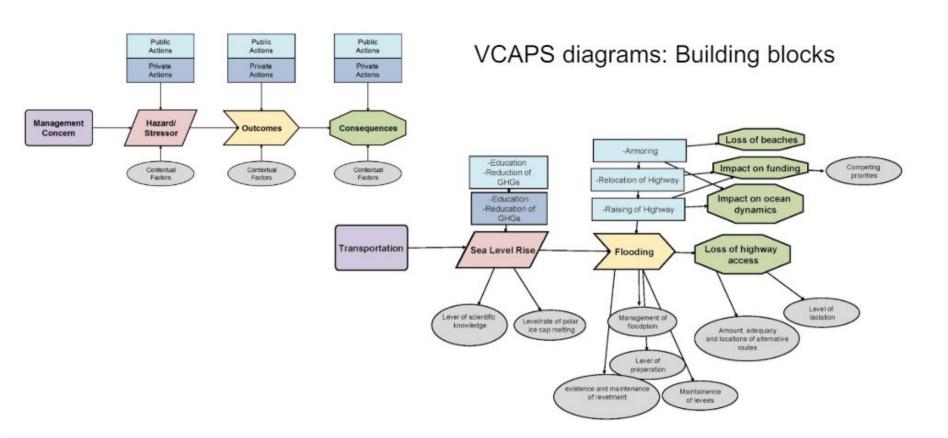


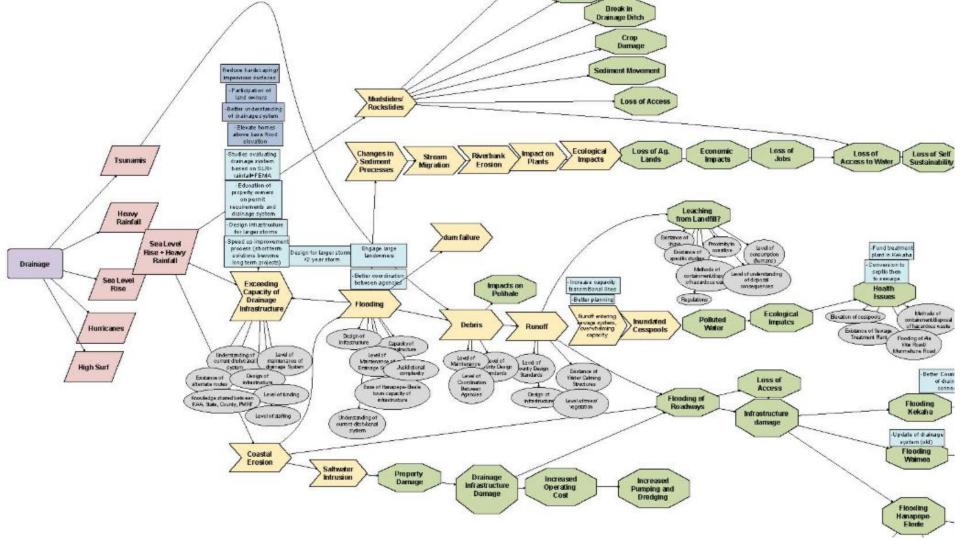






### Scenarios are represented as causal / influence diagrams







Transportation & evacuation



Drainage & levees



Other critical infrastructure



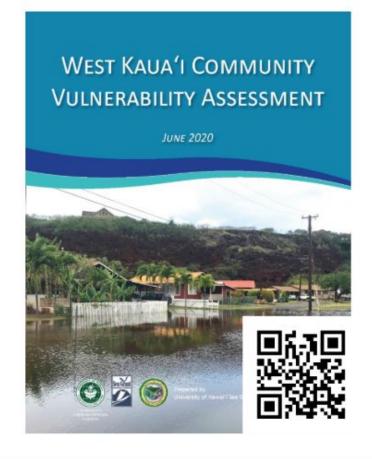
Cultural resources

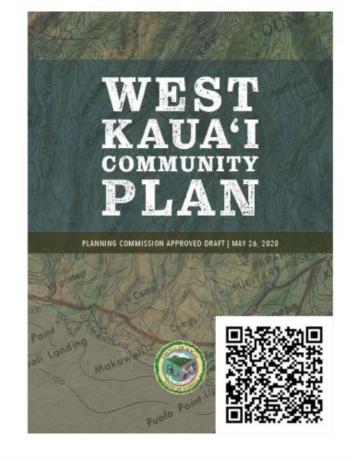


Coastal properties and beaches



Agriculture













# An Evaluation of a Community-Based Participatory Process: a case study in West Kaua'i, Hawai'i

A Master's Thesis by Alisha Summers, UH Mānoa



**Key Question:** What were the workshop participant's attitude toward the overall process?



Overall, participants were satisfied with workshop process



Collaborative nature of workshop was 'most-liked' but process was insufficient in being inclusive



Limited in engaging cultural science and ancestral Hawaiian knowledge









Key Question: What was it that was gained and/or what was it that was lost from the utilization of the VCAPS modelling tool?



VCAPS garnered detailed knowledge of climate risks and potential adaptation actions



VCAPS promoted transparency



The VCAPs
modelling
process can feel
intimidating or
overwhelming,
which may have
limited
participation

Key Question: How do the workshop participants perceive the usability and replicability of this community-based participatory process for other climate vulnerability assessments in Hawai'i?



Vulnerability
assessments must
meaningfully
engage the
community



Shortening the length of time of the overall process can make this process more usable



It is preferred that a third party leads the assessment and works in collaboration with a government dept.

Key Question: How did the West Kaua'i Community Vulnerability Assessment inform community planning in West Kaua'i



The WKCVA informed the West Kaua'i Community Plan



The WKCVA informed decision-making by some of the agencies who participated in the process



The WKCVA is informing ongoing west side community planning projects and future climate planning efforts











#### The 5-W'S





Start with the end use in mind



Tool to identify impacts

Start with the end use in mind



Tool to identify impacts

Tool to inform future actions

Start with the end use in mind



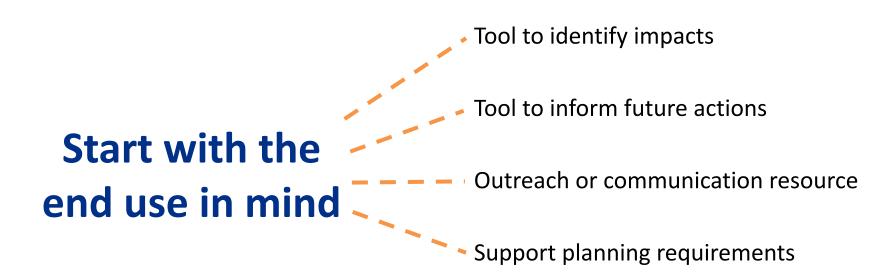
Tool to identify impacts

Tool to inform future actions

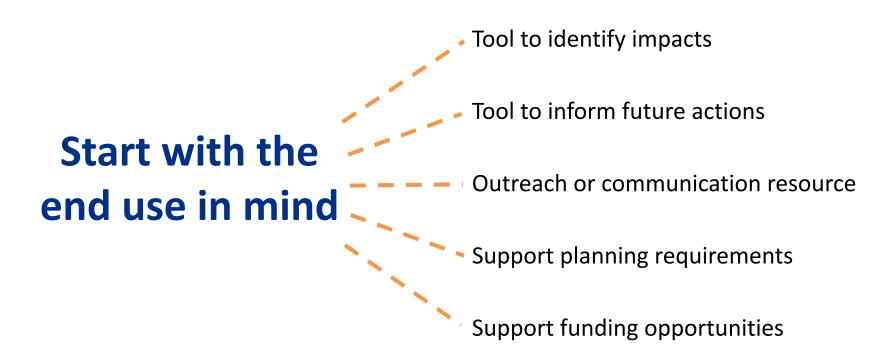
Start with the end use in mind

Outreach or communication resource











**Constraints and Tradeoffs** 

What data are needed? What is available?



- What data are needed? What is available?
- What budget is available?



- What data are needed? What is available?
- What budget is available?
- What technical expertise is available?



- What data are needed? What is available?
- What budget is available?
- What technical expertise is available?
- When are the findings needed?



- What data are needed? What is available?
- What budget is available?
- What technical expertise is available?
- When are the findings needed?
- What types of outputs are needed?



#### **Discussion**

Are there any other key questions you have considered or you think should be considered when approaching a Vulnerability Assessment?



### Wrap-up



- Vulnerability assessments resource document
- Form for additional input
- Evaluation

#### **Stay Engaged**

- Listserv
- Webinars
- Tools working group
- Newsletter



#### **Questions?**

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