

Resilience to climate change: Politics and Practice of Development

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The proposed paper seeks to explore a policy framework for mapping regional assessment indicators for studying the resilience of socio-economic and environmental systems, and evolve an understanding of the social and cultural institutions that obstruct transformations towards sustainability. Our theoretical framework will study resilience é as emergent from the field of systems ecology é as a framework of human-nature relations that implicates not simply the question of human adaptability to changing ecological prerequisites, but also questions and re-shapes the pathway from adaptive resilience to transformative resilience, by looking at context-specific social and cultural variables.

This marks a significant shift from the idea of resilience as simply the ability of a system to maintain persistence and stability or, additionally, adaptive capacities, in the face of change é the foregrounding idea being that resilience is not a uniform process across scales and is shaped by social and political systems of a local geography.

In the context of this framework understanding, the proposed paper will not only yield a policy framework for mapping indicators for assessing resilience at a local landscape, but also make substantive contributions to the theory of resilience as a social and political project which, if it empirically factors in the local societal variables, can substantively enhance an ecosystem's pathway to sustainable transformations.