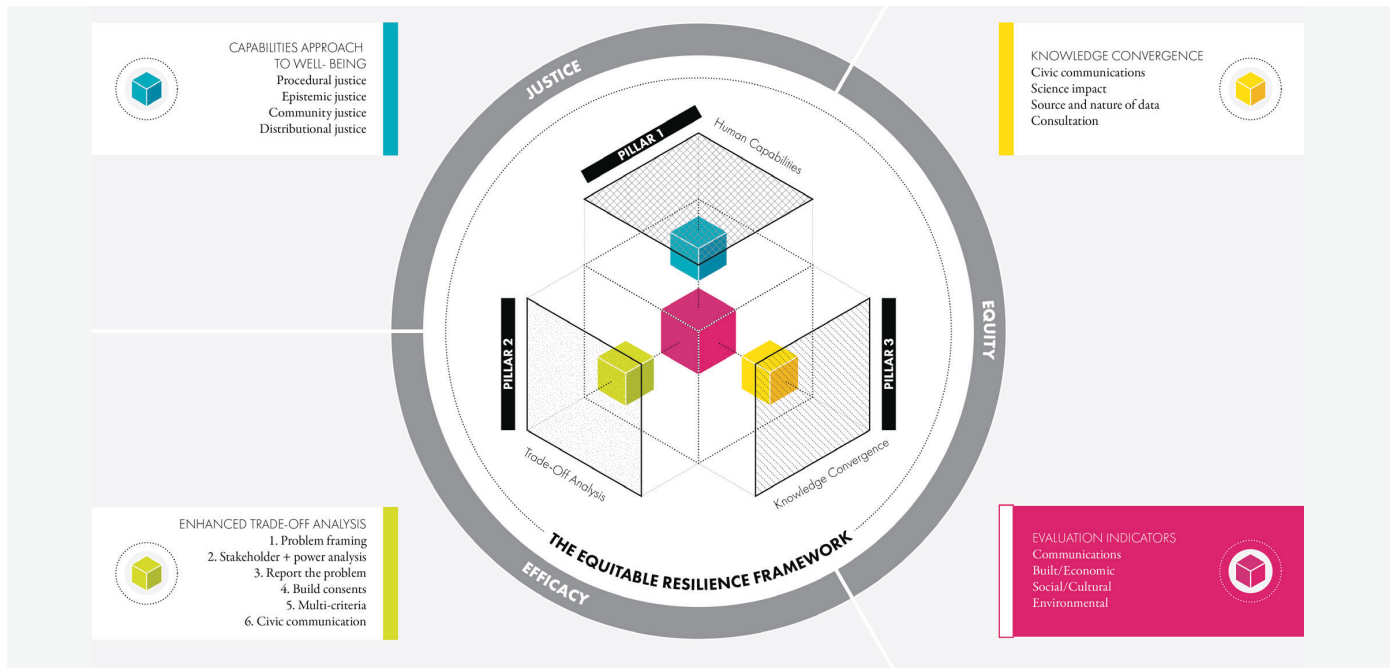# The Equitable Resilience Framework

Climate will disrupt the fundamental conditions that human societies depend on to thrive. Its impacts will also be profoundly unequal. While some individuals and communities will have the resources to adapt to or avoid the worst impacts of climate change, others will find their homes becoming uninhabitable, their livelihoods vanishing, and their health and security threatened by a changing climate. Indigenous peoples face an existential threat—their survival is dependent on a rapidly changing ecosystem. Underserved and low-income neighborhoods lack infrastructure to keep residents safe from hazards like excessive heat and floods.

Climate policy needs to change. The history of social engineering projects shows that top-down climate solutions fail vulnerable communities. **The Equitable Resilience Framework (ERF)** is a toolkit for policymakers for community-led planning, decision-making, and communication. The outcomes of the ERF are solutions that are fair and equitable, increase climate resilience and address basic human needs, and lead to long-term structural change.

ERF PILLARS

1. Capabilities Approach eschews simplistic economic measures—like income—in favor of a holistic understanding of human flourishing. The development of human capacities (e.g., life, health, mobility, education, etc.) are prioritized over economic growth. Local communities determine which capabilities to prioritize, and policy is designed with regard for the local infrastructure, culture, and values.

2. Modified Trade-Off Analysis integrates strategies for problem formulation, stakeholder and power analyses, consensus building, and multi-criteria analysis to arrive at transparent, equitable, and effective solutions.

3. Knowledge Convergence increases knowledge among local communities, governments, and scientists using transmedia communication, data visualizations, artistic interventions, and community science and data integration. Public communication about climate science uses multiple channels, and diverse sources of knowledge (e.g., Indigenous ecological knowledge) are recognized.

The Equitable Resilience Framework

OUR SOLUTION

The flexible and expansive Equitable Resilience Framework can advance individual projects and be a platform for further research and learning. The first two to three years of the five-year funded effort will primarily focus on research and development of actionable toolkits with community partners in the Boston Metropolitan area—translating theory and concepts to processes and protocols. Beginning in the second year we will work more intensively with partners to determine which communities and resilience planning efforts (projects, policies, etc.) would benefit most from our framework in preparation of a pilot project. Selection would be done in close consultation with potential communities to ensure engagement and full participation. In this project's second phase, we propose to work side by side with the city of Boston and other local supporting partners (as appropriate) to pilot the Equitable Resilience Framework. In parallel, portions of the ERF can be applied to higher level policy decision making or city-wide physical planning efforts.

Over the lifecycle of this grant, this project's research and administrative hub will be the Norman B. Leventhal Center for Advanced Urbanism (LCAU) at MIT, which is part of the School of Architecture and Planning. Ultimately, we envision this platform as a basis of a new climate center at MIT that will bring academic, policy, and civil society networks together to work on integrated climate mitigation and adaptation research, education, and policy practices. This innovative center will not be rooted in discipline-specific or technology-driven questions, but will respond directly to the needs of communities affected by climate change.

TEAM

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Learn more:
https://lcau.mit.edu/project/equitable-resilience-framework
https://vimeo.com/683472455