

Subnational Just Resilience

We define Subnational Just Resilience as a conceptual and operational framework that enables the development of climate and ecosystem adaptation and transformation strategies in the face of environmental and climate shocks in an equitable and inclusive manner. Based on the principles of environmental justice, community participation and multi-level governance, just resilience seeks to ensure that climate and biodiversity responses not only integrate the needs and capacities of the most vulnerable communities, but also address the root causes of vulnerability, such as poverty, discrimination and lack of access to resources, by creating just, inclusive and sustainable solutions.

Checklist of Just Resilience Principles and Criteria

This checklist is intended as a guiding tool to assess and promote the principles of Just Resilience. It is not required that every criterion be fulfilled for a project to contribute meaningfully to Just Resilience. The relevance and applicability of each principle and criterion will depend on the nature of the project, its objectives, and the specific geographical, social and cultural context in which it is implemented. Projects may demonstrate strong alignment with Just Resilience through different combinations of principles, and flexibility should be maintained to adapt this tool to diverse realities. Just Resilience is not a static goal but a continuous process.

This checklist should encourage learning, reflection, and adaptation over time, as social, environmental, and institutional conditions evolve. Likewise, this is a living checklist—one that will grow, diversify, and incorporate new elements as experiences in implementing Just Resilience actions and projects advance across regions. These evolving insights will serve to guide additional subnational governments in reaching their own goals.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE



Identify the relevant principles based on your project's scope, context, and objectives.



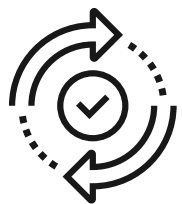
Use the design criteria to guide planning and development. These questions can inform project proposals, policy creation, or community consultation processes.



Use the evaluation criteria to assess progress, impact, and areas for improvement during and after implementation.



Document your reflections, noting which criteria were addressed, partially addressed, or not relevant—along with a justification. This will strengthen transparency and accountability.



Adapt and revisit the checklist as conditions change, to foster ongoing alignment with Just Resilience principles.



Do you have a new and important criterion? Do not be afraid to add it on this checklist and share with others.

1. Equity and Inclusion

Prioritise historically marginalised and vulnerable populations.



1.1. Design Criteria

- ☐ 1.1.1. Identifies the target community or vulnerable group, based on a context-specific analysis that considers social, economic, environmental, and cultural factors, recognizing that vulnerability and resilience needs vary across different segments of society.
- ☐ 1.1.2. Integrates prior vulnerability assessments of the socio-economic and environmental conditions of the target communities to ensure that the intervention responds to their specific needs.
- ☐ 1.1.3. Defines clear mechanisms to prioritise historically marginalised groups, such as indigenous peoples, local communities, Afro-descendants, women, migrants, the elderly, youth, children, people with disabilities or other vulnerable groups.
- ☐ 1.1.4. Incorporates gender, ethnicity, disability, socio-economic or other vulnerability-related analyses from the inception, and during the formulation of projects, policies or initiatives.
- ☐ 1.1.5. Identifies mechanisms for ongoing feedback and complaint resolution from vulnerable groups throughout project implementation.

1. Equity and Inclusion

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1.2. Evaluation Criteria

- ☐ 1.2.1 Measures how many people from historically marginalised groups participate in and benefit from the policy or initiative. Considers means of closing the gap in catering to the needs of marginalized groups.
- ☐ 1.2.2. Assesses beneficiary communities' perception of their level of inclusion and participation in decision-making. This can preferably be done at the level of impact assessment.
- ☐ 1.2.3. Monitors the effectiveness of feedback mechanisms and the level of trust from vulnerable groups in raising concerns or contributing suggestions.

2. Participatory Governance

Involving local communities, indigenous groups and civil society in decision-making.



2.1. Design Criteria

- ☐ 2.1.1. Ensures that decision-making processes involve a diverse range of stakeholders, including experts, the private sector, civil society, citizens, and local communities.
- ☐ 2.1.2. Goes further to guarantee meaningful consultation and decision-making power for Indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, community organizations, and other groups who are often underrepresented or at greater risk.
- ☐ 2.1.3. Ensures that project information is accessible and understandable to all stakeholders, in multiple formats and local languages where necessary.
- ☐ 2.1.4. Includes local communities' and/or indigenous peoples' governance and decision-making systems, considering customary law.
- ☐ 2.1.5. Establishes co-design or co-management structures where local and indigenous actors share leadership roles in decision-making.

2. Participatory Governance

Involving local communities, indigenous groups and civil society in decision-making.



2.2. Evaluation Criteria

- ☐ 2.2.1. Quantifies the number and evaluates the diversity of community representatives involved in the design, implementation and/or monitoring & evaluation of the policy or project.
- ☐ 2.2.2. Evaluates the level, quality, and sustainability of stakeholder participation, recognizing that participation can range from one-way information sharing, to involved consultation, to continuous collaboration.
- ☐ 2.2.3. Utilizes both internal and external channels of communication and messaging, with the widest possible reach.
- ☐ 2.2.4. Measures respect for the rights of indigenous peoples in decision-making over their territory. Full compliance with related legal and supplementary frameworks.
- ☐ 2.2.5. Tracks and reports on the responsiveness of decision-making processes to community input, including how feedback was addressed.

3. Fair distribution of resources

Ensure that investments in resilience do not disproportionately benefit privileged groups.



3.1. Design Criteria

- ☐ 3.1.1. Ensures that the distribution of resources favours the most vulnerable communities.
- ☐ 3.1.2. Develops mechanisms to enable marginalised communities to access credit, productive capital, climate/biodiversity/restoration funds and/or other sources of funding or financing.
- ☐ 3.1.3. Identifies administrative, technical or financial barriers to equitable participation in the project.
- ☐ 3.1.4. Includes provisions to monitor the redistribution of benefits over time, ensuring sustained access for vulnerable populations.

3. Fair distribution of resources

Ensure that investments in resilience do not disproportionately benefit privileged groups.



3.2. Evaluation Criteria

- ☐ 3.2.1. Monitors and analyses the project's budget distribution and its impact on different social groups, both in terms of investment expenditure, activities and goals.
- ☐ 3.2.2. Contemplates indicators on the impact of the project or policy on the reduction of social and economic inequalities, as well as (general) access if considered.
- ☐ 3.2.3. Measures increased access to economic and productive opportunities in vulnerable communities to different types of funds and capital.
- ☐ 3.2.4. Assesses the percentage of resources allocated to grassroots organisations and collectives, not only to large entities, formal civil society organisations and consultancies.
- ☐ 3.2.5. Evaluates the accessibility and user-friendliness of funding application procedures for community-based organizations.
- ☐ 3.2.6. Monitors the redistribution of benefits overtime, ensuring the distribution of impacts and resource favours the most vulnerable communities for a sustained access in the long term.

4. Intergenerational Justice

Balancing current adaptation needs with long-term sustainability.



4.1. Design Criteria

- ☐ 4.1.1. Integrates strategies that guarantee the environmental and social sustainability of the project beyond its duration.
- ☐ 4.1.2. Designs solutions that do not generate new environmental or social risks for future generations.
- ☐ 4.1.3. Includes training programmes for youth and future generations on climate resilience, sustainable management of natural resources (biodiversity) and restoration.
- ☐ 4.1.4. Incorporates climate or biodiversity scenarios (short/medium/long term) in project design to assess future risk exposure.

4. Intergenerational Justice

Balancing current adaptation needs with long-term sustainability.



4.2. Evaluation Criteria

- ☐ 4.2.1. Assesses the impact of the project on the improvement of long-term conditions and its exit strategy.
- ☐ 4.2.2. Identifies best practices that can be scaled up or replicated in other regions with similar conditions and challenges.
- ☐ 4.2.3. Measures youth and children's participation in project planning and implementation. Considers all voices so that no one is left behind.
- ☐ 4.2.4. Evaluates whether the project includes intergenerational dialogue mechanisms, especially between elders and youth.

5. Ecological, Economic and Social Balance

Integrating environmental protection with social and economic welfare.



5.1. Design Criteria

- ☐ 5.1.1. Incorporates strategies that restore ecosystems and generate social and economic benefits.
- ☐ 5.1.2. Designs solutions that do not generate new environmental or social risks for future generations and lead to maladaptation.
- ☐ 5.1.3. Combines environmental conservation with access to basic services, employment and food security.
- ☐ 5.1.4. Identifies trade-offs between ecological, economic and social goals and includes strategies to mitigate them.

5. Ecological, Economic and Social Balance

Integrating environmental protection with social and economic welfare.



5.2. Evaluation Criteria

- ☐ 5.2.1. Measures the effect of the project on the integrity of degraded ecosystems and their ecosystem services.
- ☐ 5.2.2 Assesses the impact of the project on the well-being of the community (health, education, income, access to water and food, etc.).
- ☐ 5.2.3. Analyses the degree of conservation of traditional territories and sacred sites of indigenous and local communities.
- ☐ 5.2.4. Monitors changes in community perceptions regarding environmental quality and livelihood security over time.

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