

Driving System Shifts for Climate Resilience: Case Studies of Transformative Adaptation in Bhutan, Ethiopia, and Costa Rica



Providing Institution(s)

World Resources Institute (WRI)



Topic(s)

Adaptation



Geographical reach

Global, Global



Target level of capacity building

Institutional



Resource Type

Case study



Resource Language(s)

English (EN)



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RESOURCE LINK



[Access](#)

DESCRIPTION



As intensifying climate change pushes natural and human systems into new states that can no longer maintain the fundamental characteristics on which their inhabitants depend, should leaders and communities try to maintain current systems or initiate the ambitious changes needed for transformative adaptation toward greater long-term sustainability?

This paper looks at three local-level case studies where experts and community members were able to identify key drivers of transformative adaptation and the barriers to their transformative pathways.

It examines autonomous agricultural production shifts (Costa Rica), large-scale landscape restoration (Ethiopia), and systemic water management (Bhutan).

It aims to understand better what is needed to support transformative pathways in these systems.

Additionally, the paper offers conclusions for what may be necessary for other systems facing severe climate impacts and related next steps for transformative adaptation research.