

| Term | Definition | Source |
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| Adaptation | The reaction to climate change that seeks to reduce vulnerability to climate change effects. This can apply to natural or human communities. | US Global Change Research Program |
| Adaptive Management | "A systematic approach for improving resource management by learning from management outcomes... Adaptive management focuses on learning and adapting, through partnerships of managers, scientists, and other stakeholders who learn together how to create and maintain sustainable resource systems." | US DOI Technical Guide |
| Blue Carbon | Carbon that is stored in aquatic and marine systems. Blue carbon is stored in coastal wetlands. | Blue Carbon Initiative |
| Carbon Sink | A place that absorbs more carbon than it produces. | National Geographic |
| Climate | The long-term average of the atmospheric and weather conditions in a given area. | US Global Change Research Program |
| Climate Change | A significant and persistent change in the mean state of the climate or its variability. climate change occurs in response to changes in some aspect of Earth's environment: these include regular changes in Earth's orbit about the sun, re-arrangement of continents through plate tectonic motions, or anthropogenic modification of the atmosphere. | UCAR Center for Science Education |
| Climate Literacy | "Climate Science Literacy is an understanding of your influence on climate and climate's influence on you and society." | NOAA |
| Climate Variability | "Natural changes in climate that fall within the normal range of extremes for a particular region, as measured by temperature, precipitation, and frequency of events. drivers of climate variability include the El Niño Southern Oscillation and other phenomena." | US Global Change Research Program |
| Coastal Resilience | The ability of a coastal area to adapt to changing conditions and react to emergencies that lead to disruptions or issues. | NOAA |
| Community-Based Restoration | A restoration strategy that promotes community involvement and leadership in order to increase local engagement and stewardship. | Barry Nerhus |
| Community Resilience | "Community resilience is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations." This is applicable but not limited to climate change resilience. | RAND |
| Conservation | "A mission-oriented science that focuses on how to protect and restore biodiversity, or the diversity of life on Earth." | Society for Conservation Biology |
| Ecosystem Services | A benefit provided by a given ecosystem or the wildlife that inhabit it. | NWF |
| Environmental Justice | A term used to describe the movement against the inequitable burden placed on poor and predominantly non white communities in relation to environmental issues. | NRDC |

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| Eutrophication | "Excessive plant and algal growth due to the increased availability of one or more limiting growth factors needed for photosynthesis (Schindler 2006), such as sunlight, carbon dioxide, and nutrient fertilizers." | Nature |
| Fragmentation | "A mission-oriented science that focuses on how to protect and restore biodiversity, or the diversity of life on Earth." | ScienceDirect |
| Federally-recognized Tribal Land | "An American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entity that is recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States, with the responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations attached to that designation, and is eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs." | US Department of the Interior |
| Global Warming | One type of climate change. This term commonly refers to the recorded warming of the Earth's surface and atmosphere as a result of increased greenhouse gas emissions from human activities. | US Global Change Research Program |
| Greenhouse Gases | The term greenhouse gas refers to the gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere. | EPA |
| Habitat Degradation | A decrease in the quality of a habitat caused by "pollution, invasive species, and disruption of ecosystem processes," among other factors. Habitat degradation leads to a decreased ability to support native species. | NWF |
| Habitat Destruction | Outright destruction of a natural habitat through physical means. Examples include filling a wetland or cutting down trees in a forest. | NWF |
| Hydric Soil | "A soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part." | USDA |
| Hypoxia | Depleted oxygen in a body of water, often due to the presence and abundance of certain algae species. Hypoxia can lead to the presence of dead zones, in which aquatic wildlife cannot survive. | NOAA |
| Indigenous Knowledge | "Local and indigenous knowledge refers to the understandings, skills and philosophies developed by societies with long histories of interaction with their natural surroundings." | UNESCO |
| Industrial Canal | "The Industrial Canal is a 5.5 mile (9 km) waterway in New Orleans, Louisiana, United States. The waterway's proper name, as used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and on NOAA nautical charts, is Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC)." | Wikipedia |
| Invasive Species | "Any kind of living organism—an amphibian (like the cane toad), plant, insect, fish, fungus, bacteria, or even an organism's seeds or eggs—that is not native to an ecosystem and causes harm. They can harm the environment, the economy, or even human health. Species that grow and reproduce quickly, and spread aggressively, with potential to cause harm, are given the label 'invasive.'" | NWF |

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| Living Shoreline | "A living shoreline is a protected, stabilized coastal edge made of natural materials such as plants, sand, or rock. Unlike a concrete seawall or other hard structure, which impede the growth of plants and animals, living shorelines grow over time." | NOAA Fisheries |
| Locally Unwanted Land Use | "Land use that creates externality costs on those living within close proximity. These costs include potential health hazards, poor aesthetics, or reduction in home values. LULUs often gravitate to disadvantaged areas such as slums, industrial neighborhoods and poor, minority, unincorporated or politically underrepresented places that cannot fight them off." | Wikipedia |
| Mangrove | "A mangrove is a woody tree or shrub that lives along sheltered coastlines within the tropical or subtropic latitudes. In fact, the various species of mangroves aren't necessarily closely related to one another, but they do share the unique capability of growing within reach of the tides in salty soil." | Smithsonian Ocean |
| Marsh | "A marsh is a type of wetland, an area of land where water covers ground for long periods of time. Unlike swamps, which are dominated by trees, marshes are usually treeless and dominated by grasses and other herbaceous plants." | National Geographic |
| Mitigation | The human reactions to climate change that seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or enhance the ability of "sinks" to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. | US Global Change Research Program |
| Ocean Acidification | Ocean acidification occurs when carbon dioxide from the atmosphere is dissolved into the ocean. This leads to a chemical reaction between water and carbon dioxide to produce carbonic acid. This acid dissociates, releasing hydrogen ions and causing the ocean to become more acidic over time. This has dangerous implications for the wildlife in the ocean. | NOAA |
| Quadrat Sampling | A sampling technique in which a series of squares of a set size are placed in a habitat and the species found within the squares are recorded. | Census of Marine Life |
| Saltwater intrusion | The encroachment of seawater into freshwater ecosystems. | USGS |
| Social Vulnerability | A measure of the economic and social factors that limit an individual's ability to respond to and recover from climate hazards such as flooding events. | CPRA |
| Stakeholders | "An individual, group or organization that is impacted by the outcome of a project. They have an interest in the success of the project, and can be within or outside the organization that is sponsoring the project." | Project Manager |
| Urbanization | "The process through which cities grow, and higher and higher percentages of the population comes to live in the city." | National Geographic |
| Urban Wetlands | A wetland habitat found within or in close proximity to an urban area. | Ramsar Convention on Wetlands |
| Vlei | "A vlei is a shallow minor lake, mostly of a seasonal or intertidal nature." | Wikipedia |

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| Watershed | "A land area that channels rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, and rivers, and eventually to outflow points such as reservoirs, bays, and the ocean." | <u>NOAA</u> |
| Wetland | "Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil, or is present either at or near the surface of the soil all year or for varying periods of time during the year, including during the growing season." | <u>EPA</u> |