RESILIENCE HUB

CLIMATE WEEK NYC
CLIMATE GROUP

CONFRONTING THE RESILIENCE ELEPHANT:
From Science to Solutions



Insights from the Resilience Hub at Climate Week NYC 2025

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RACE TO RESILIENCE



Insights from NYC

Building on the momentum from the IMF–World Bank Spring Meetings and **London Climate Action Week**, the Resilience Hub headed to Climate Week NYC 2025 with a clear mission: to move the resilience agenda from science to systems change and to put people at the centre of that transformation.

In alignment with the Race to Resilience campaign's ambition to strengthen the resilience of 4 billion people by 2030, the full-day event advanced the conversation from knowledge to implementation. Participants explored how targeted, patient, and community-driven investment can reshape financial and governance systems to deliver measurable, people-centred outcomes. The discussions interrogated the political and financial systems shaping resilience efforts and explored how the Road to Action can help translate evidence into meaningful, equitable outcomes.

The Road to Action is the next phase of the **Resilience Science Must** Knows initiative. While the Must-Knows distill the most critical resilience science into actionable principles, the Road to Action focuses on operationalising resilience science within financial, planning, and policy systems. It aims to turn knowledge into implementation pathways that influence investment, regulation, and institutional design. Co-designed with real economy leaders, the Road to Action provides concrete guidance for integrating the Must Knows into policy, finance, and planning systems from fostering inclusive investments to enabling adaptive, cross-sector collaboration. The Resilience Science Must Knows: Road to Action for Decision-Makers will be officially launched at COP30, marking a pivotal step in bringing global science to local action for a more resilient future.

CWNY REACH AT A GLANCE

189
in-person participants for Resilience Day

37
climate experts shared insights across the sessions

12
organisations represented across the sessions

250+
virtual participants for Resilience Day

12,000+
newsletter subscribers connected with the Resilience Hub



This report highlights ten key insights from a full day of rich discussions. Together, they highlight both persistent barriers and actionable pathways for building resilience, with an emphasis on inclusive governance, innovative finance, and cross-sector partnerships. Collectively, these lessons outline a roadmap for accelerating action on the road to COP30 and beyond.

1. Resilience is not a linear framework. For true resilience, interventions must address the structural barriers and inequities that trap people in cycles of vulnerability. Resilience is inherently political and context-specific, shaped by diverse governance models and defined by who has power to decide, whose risks are prioritised, and whose knowledge shapes decisions. Failures in one system cascade into others; success in one can multiply benefits across all.

2. Resilience begins by governing trade-offs transparently and fairly. Resilience should move beyond the idea of simply bouncing back. Rather, it must prioritise mediating competing priorities—between short-term efficiency and long-term equity, national mandates and local autonomy—through transparent, inclusive governance. Every choice has distributional consequences: whether to prioritise adaptation over development, urban expansion over displacement, or fiscal efficiency over social protection.

Effective governance, therefore, requires mechanisms that make these trade-offs visible, negotiated, and just. Policies must strengthen local leadership and safeguards that prevent dispossession in the name of progress, ensuring that adaptation enhances, rather than erodes, rights and agency.



The trade-offs between scaling resilience and empowering local agency are real. Communities generate solutions rooted in their own contexts, but scaling them often shifts decisions upward and risks eroding agency. The challenge is to scale without imposing — to ensure that community-driven innovation shapes systemic change rather than being sidelined by it.

Prof. Timon McPhearson
Urban Systems Lab, New York University

3. Scaling resilience demands a shift from isolated projects to coordinated, people-centred systems. Pilot initiatives demonstrate valuable proof of concept, but only programmatic, aligned investment pipelines can reach the billions still vulnerable. Large, coordinated pipelines can attract institutional investment and deliver resilience at scale. Embedding resilience into infrastructural systems, financing mechanisms, and governance ensures that impact endures beyond individual projects, moving beyond one-off success stories toward resilience that is measurable, investable, and ultimately self-sustaining.

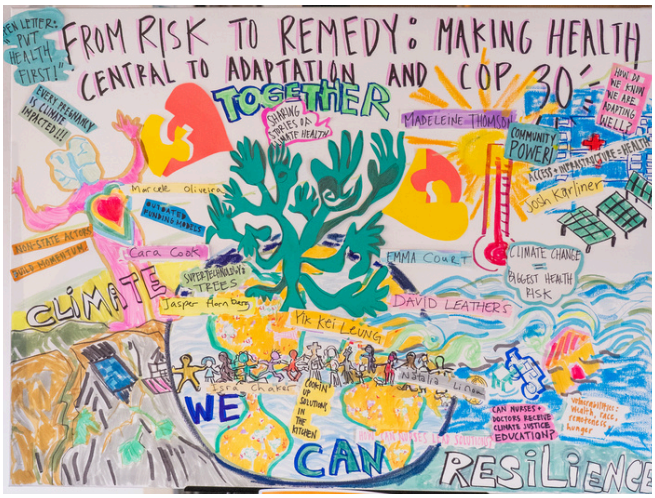


> *When we fall sick, everything shuts down — we burn out. If we want to save the planet, we must care not only for personal health but also for the health of our systems: our environment, our education, even our institutions like the UN. Health is not just about standing up in the morning; it is about the well-being of the whole planet.*

Marcele Oliveira,
Presidency Youth Climate Champion COP30

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4. Climate solutions must centre health. The Race to Resilience highlights wellbeing as a universal indicator of adaptive success, linking physical and mental health to productive economies and social stability. Framing climate change as a health and livelihoods challenge makes action tangible and politically unifying, driving investments in resilient healthcare systems, clean energy for clinics, and community preparedness.



> *Adaptation is not an end game — we are never 'adapted.' Storytelling helps us understand how climate is impacting people in their own contexts and why solutions must be flexible and locally rooted.*



Madeleine Thomson,
Head of Climate Impacts and Adaptation, Wellcome Trust

5. Storytelling is a powerful driver of climate action, yet still significantly underused. Storytelling bridges science and experience, translating invisible risks into human realities. By amplifying local and diverse voices—especially women, youth, Indigenous leaders, and health workers—stories make resilience relatable and actionable. Beyond documenting crises, storytelling should showcase what works. By giving voice to those most affected, storytelling shifts power and broadens decision-making beyond expert-only spaces. Art, film, theatre, and digital media can carry these stories beyond policy rooms, mobilising empathy and action at scale.





6. Justice is inseparable from resilience. Power asymmetries in finance, data, and governance must be confronted through locally-led, inclusive decision-making. These processes must be guided by transparent metrics that reveal who benefits and who bears the cost. The health sector offers a cautionary example. True resilience links short- and long-term action—training the next generation through climate-health education, workforce development, and care systems that make safe pregnancy and delivery core indicators of resilience. Above all, accountability matters. Adaptation requires clear benchmarks, locally relevant data, and robust evaluation frameworks to direct resources where they have greatest impact. Without these, action risks remaining fragmented and invisible; with them, climate and health resilience stay anchored in the realities of those most affected.

7. Effective resilience begins with understanding and valuing risk. Without clear risk analytics, even well-intentioned measures falter. Finance must capture not only losses avoided but lives improved, mobilising capital toward resilience outcomes rather than reactive spending. Innovative instruments such as guarantee funds, blended finance, and adaptation bonds can translate social resilience into investable value.

8. There is a need to reimagine climate financing through catalytic funding, community-driven mobilisation, and approaches rooted in local contexts. R including cultural practices such as Ramadan-giving campaigns. Progress is visible, from the COP26 Health Programme ATACH to solar-powered clinics in Zimbabwe and the Healthy Planet Now campaign. However, financing remains insufficient, and shifting political priorities in some countries threaten to undermine momentum. Subnational governments and civil society largely drive climate-health action, but outdated aid-dependent models continue to leave health systems underfunded. Above all, lasting impact depends on empowering local actors to design, implement, and scale solutions that make resilience real.

> *Communities are not waiting for experts to rescue them. They are innovating every day, building, adapting, and creating practical solutions for survival.*
> *What they need is recognition, resources, and partnerships with engineers who will listen and learn alongside them. Resilience will only be real when the people most affected are treated as co-creators, not as passive beneficiaries.*



Sheela Patel
Founder & Director of the Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC)





> *Insurance shouldn't just be a pricing mechanism. We need to shift toward insurability — shared accountability for risk and risk reduction across the value chain, so that finance supports resilience outcomes instead of simply passing on costs.*

Francis Bouchard
Managing Director, Climate,
Marsh McLennan

9. Nature and technology are twin engines of resilience. Natural systems already deliver immense protective and regenerative value—mangroves alone provide more than $885 billion in annual flood protection—while also inspiring how we design adaptive infrastructure. The most effective solutions combine nature's wisdom with responsible innovation. Hybrid green-grey systems can restore ecosystems while reinforcing community security. Emerging technologies such as AI and cloud analytics can model risks and guide decisions, but they must be used ethically, ensuring transparency, data ownership, and equitable access. IBM's Impact Accelerator demonstrates how such tools can be applied in practice. Democratising digital tools and knowledge empowers local institutions and communities to lead in designing, monitoring, and scaling the climate solutions that work for them.

10. Resilience requires more than symbolic participation: it demands a shift in power to those most affected by climate risks. Communities must move from token inclusion to real influence over the policies and investments that shape their lives. Indigenous peoples and local communities hold deep knowledge of ecosystems, vulnerabilities, and cultural practices that should guide adaptation strategies. Building on these existing capacities—from savings collectives to youth networks and circular economies—creates resilience that lasts. Scaling such impact requires targeted investment in people: training technicians and entrepreneurs, supporting peer-to-peer learning, and ensuring local data informs decision-making. When done impactfully, education and technical training can also prepare future engineers and planners to design for vulnerable settlements, not only for those already secure.



> *Participation without power is meaningless. True bottom-up decision-making requires giving communities real agency — through capacity building and by equipping them to lead as health ambassadors, climate entrepreneurs, or solar technicians.*

Dr Rajvi Joshipura
Senior Coordinator, SEWA



Spotlight on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)



National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are emerging as key vehicles for turning national adaptation strategies into investment-ready action. At Climate Week NYC, the Resilience Hub had a dedicated session to explore how their effective design can attract investments.

In a "Shark Tank" session, representatives from the governments of Peru and Scotland presented their NAPs to private sector "sharks," who assessed their potential and offered feedback on how to make them more attractive to investors. The exercise generated key insights on integrating finance, risk management, and private sector engagement, reflected in the case studies and the recommendations. There were seven clear recommendations from the private sector experts to make NAPs investible.



Scotland's NAP

Scotland has already halved CO_2 emissions but faces climate impacts that are locked in. Framing adaptation as a smart financial decision, Scotland's NAP 3.0 includes over 200 commitments spanning communities, businesses, and public infrastructure, supported by a strong measurement framework. This clarity on responsibilities and timelines boosts investor confidence, while positioning adaptation as both a risk and an opportunity for private actors. Scotland also integrates nature-based solutions, with a natural capital market framework for biodiversity credits and blended finance models directing investment into critical ecosystems such as peatlands. Through clear policy guidance and innovation, Scotland presents adaptation not only as protection, but as a profitable, collaborative investment journey.

Peru's NAP

Peru is moving beyond reliance on international funding and pilot projects to develop investment-ready strategies at scale. Its NAP is being translated into concrete projects with clear indicators, investor-focused design, and multi-stakeholder participation. Built on three pillars—sectoral prioritisation, financial innovation, and inclusive governance—the plan targets sectors such as water, agriculture, health, fisheries, and ecosystems, underpinned by robust climate data. Innovative finance, from guarantee funds to adaptation bonds, is being deployed to de-risk private engagement, while inclusive governance ensures Indigenous peoples, civil society, and businesses help shape bankable projects. Peru's vision is to show that resilience—whether through mountain ecosystem restoration or resilient infrastructure—is both socially necessary and financially viable.



7 recommendations to make NAPs investible

1. **Position NAPs as investment cases.** NAPs should make clear the returns on investment. Countries need clear, measurable returns on adaptation, backed by robust data on sectoral outcomes and risk reduction. They should provide clarity on government responsibilities, timelines, and entry points for private sector engagement.

2. **Integrate innovative finance and de-risking tools.** Blended finance, climate guarantee funds, parametric insurance, adaptation bonds, and national development banks can leverage larger flows of private capital for high-risk or long-term projects. Public funds should de-risk and leverage larger private capital, especially for high-risk or long-term projects.

3. **Build credible bankable project pipelines.** Governments should identify inventories of bankable projects with strong risk analytics, technical assistance, and past success stories to inspire investor confidence. These adaptation strategies can clarify specific, fundable interventions with measurable impacts streamlined for the private sector.

4. **Mainstream climate risk in planning.** All infrastructure and public investment decisions must embed climate risk criteria. Place nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration, and natural capital markets at the centre, with frameworks to track impact and returns. Governments should also highlight opportunities where adaptation aligns with business continuity, supply chain security, or market expansion.

5. **Prioritise inclusion and local benefits.** Governments must direct finance and technical assistance to vulnerable groups, smallholders, and local communities to strengthen legitimacy while demonstrating how adaptation generates value for both communities and private investors.

6. **Promote private sector co-design and innovation.** Companies should be engaged from the outset to contribute technology, supply chain resilience, and innovation. Multilateral platforms such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) can provide risk modelling, structuring expertise, and global alignment.

7. **Prove that adaptation is profitable and investable.** Adaptation should be modelled as socially inclusive, environmentally sound, and financially attractive to give investors the confidence needed to scale finance.



The call heading into **COP30** is clear: turn evidence into action, ambition into delivery, and commitments into lasting systems. A sincere thanks to everyone who joined and supported our Climate Week NYC programme. Our journey continues with our final event of the year in Belém, Brazil, to drive climate action in a sustainable, just, and equitable way.

WITH THANKS TO OUR SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

Resilience Science Must-Knows: Tough Questions, Real Answers:

Jesper Hornberg - CEO, Global Resilience Partnership
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Frank Radosevich - Strategic Communications Lead, Future Earth
Cibele Queiroz - Knowledge Director, Global Resilience Partnership & Theme Leader, Stockholm Resilience Centre
John Matthews - Executive Director, Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA)
Francis Bouchard - Managing Director, Climate Marsh McLennan
Dr Rajvi Joshipura - Senior Coordinator, SEWA
Timon McPhearson - Urban Systems Lab, New York University
Fatima Denton - Director of the United Nations University Institute for Natural Resources in Africa, Ghana

Engineering Nature-Positive Futures: Solutions for People & Planet:

Savina Carluccio - Executive Director, International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (ICSI)
Michelle Meaclem - MBTA, Harvard Kennedy School
Dr Ruth Boumphrey - Chief Executive, Lloyds Register Foundation
Rod Braun - Global Director, Conservation International
Jonah Smith - Vice President | Global Head of Responsible Business, IBM
Sheela Patel - Founder and Director, Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC)
Alexander Mirescu - Head of Extreme Weather for Zurich US

Rewriting the Script: Shark Tank for Investible NAPs:

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Jorge Gastelemundi - Senior Director, Atlantic Council Climate Resilience Center
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Gillian Martin - Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy, Government of Scotland
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Dan Ioschpe - COP 30 Climate High-Level Champion, Brazil

From Risk to Remedy: Making Health Central to Adaptation and COP30

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Natalia Linou - Deputy Director and Advisor on Determinants of Health, UN Development Programme
Isra Chaker - CEO, Every Pregnancy
Marcele Oliveira - COP30 Youth Climate Champion
Jesper Hornberg - CEO, Global Resilience Partnership
Marcia Toledo - Director of Adaptation and Resilience, Climate Champions

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