



Climate resilience is the capacity of social, economic and ecosystems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganising in ways that maintain their essential function, identity and structure as well as biodiversity in case of ecosystems while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning and transformation.

Resilience is a positive attribute when it maintains such a capacity for adaptation, learning, and/or transformation.

Why is urban climate resilience important?



Climate change, through hazards, exposure and vulnerability generates impacts and risks that can surpass the limits to adaptation and result in losses and damages.



Cities worldwide are increasingly suffering the effects of climate-related and other challenges and hazards such as floods, droughts, sea level rise, heat waves, landslides, and storms.



Cities account for about **75 percent** of the world's energy consumption and are responsible for over **70 percent** of global greenhouse gas emissions. Every year, **3.8 million** people, most of them women and children, are killed by air pollution.



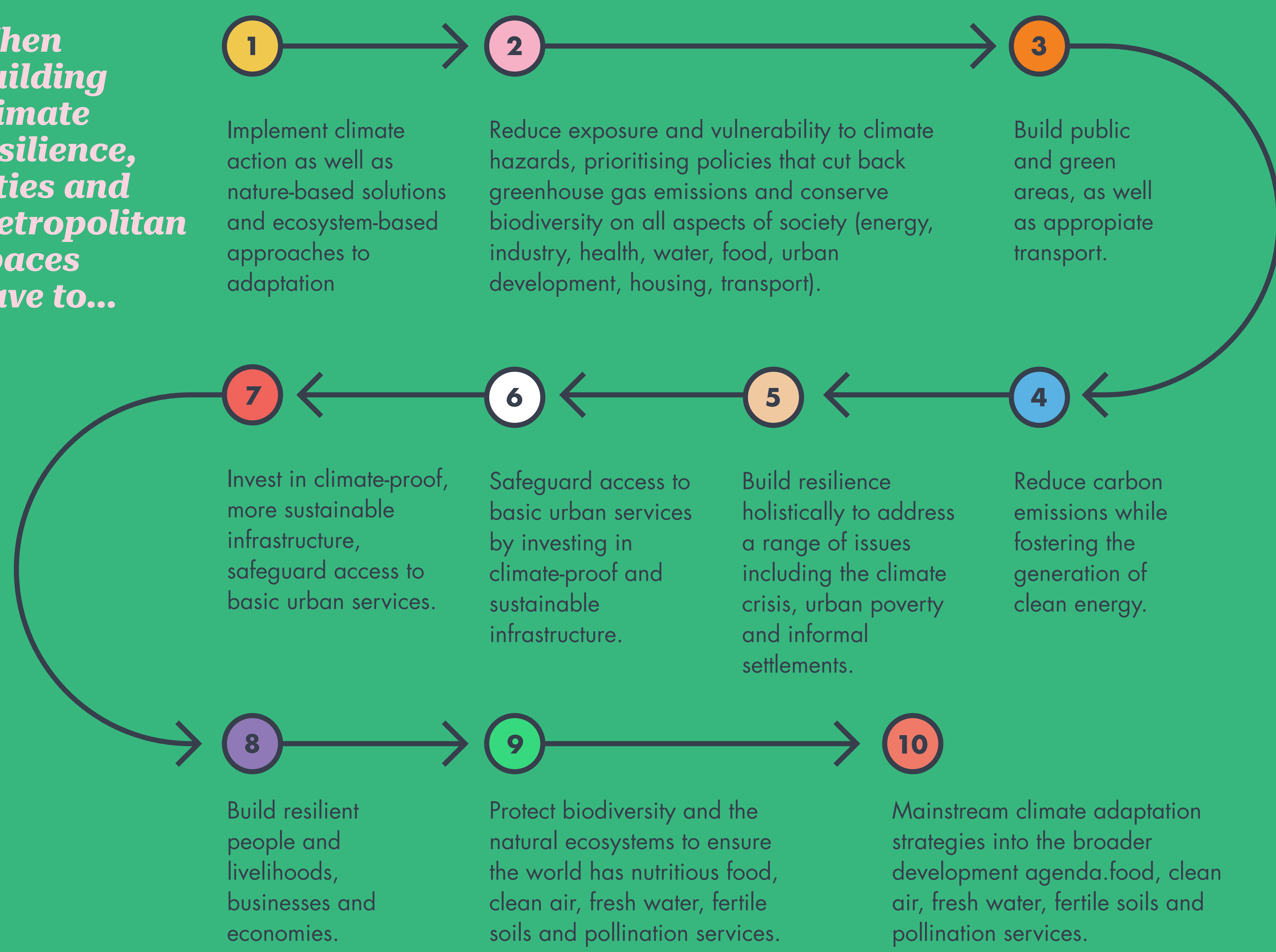
The way cities are planned, built and managed, is key to reducing carbon emissions and keeping global warming within the limits set by the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change.



Cities and metropolitan spaces face different shocks, stresses and challenges. When one of these threats impacts the urban system, it damages the environment and destroys the critical infrastructure services that sustain the lives and livelihoods of all societies.

Well-designed policies and actions to adapt toward **climate resilience** contribute to helping cities and inhabitants prepare for, mitigate, and respond to risks posed by both predictable and unpredictable shocks and stresses, while generating significant additional economic, social, and environmental benefits.

When building climate resilience, cities and metropolitan spaces have to...



Contextualised data and diverse forms of knowledge (scientific, indigenous, local) in understanding and evaluating climate adaptation processes and actions to reduce risks from human-induced climate change is crucial.

The assessment of climate change impacts and risks as well as adaptation must be set against concurrently unfolding non-climatic global trends (biodiversity loss, unsustainable consumption of natural resources, rapid urbanisation, human demographic shifts, inequalities, etc.)

Reducing vulnerability and exposure to climate-related risks is a continuous process which requires the engagement of all stakeholders (governments, communities and businesses).

National and local governments play a key role in putting in place ambitious and credible plans and setting out the guidelines for transformative change, increasing the capacity to anticipate climate risks and hazards, absorb shocks and stresses, and transform development pathways in the longer term.