EXPLORING LINKS AMONG ECOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL RESILIENCE

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Duke University | BASS CONNECTIONS

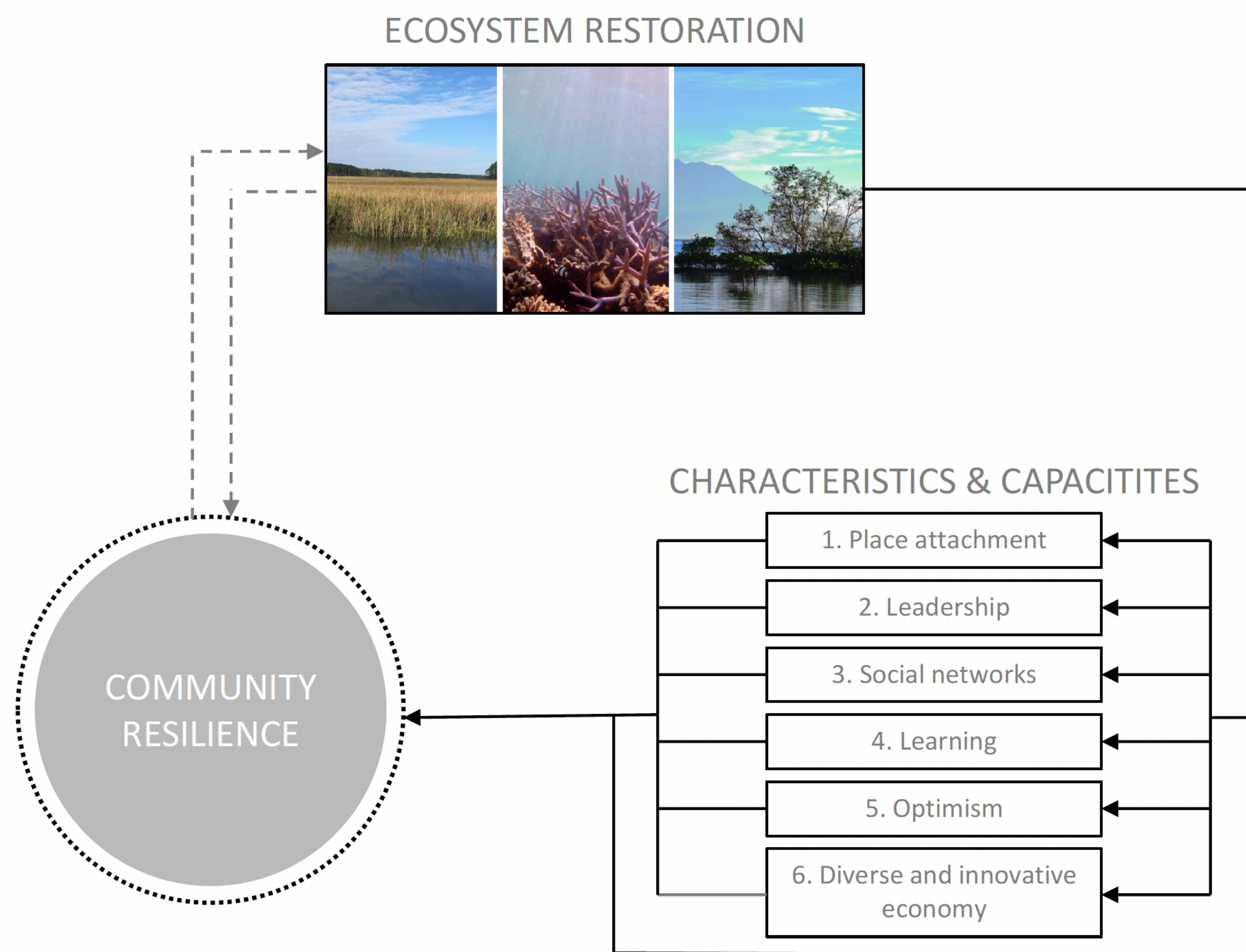**Duke — NICHOLAS SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

IMPORTANCE

- Climate change is affecting ecosystems that can buffer against environmental disturbances

- Restoration of ecosystems is seen as a tool that can help buffer communities from climate change (UN decade of restoration)

- "Resilience" is a term that is being increasingly used as a goal for communities and ecosystems without a clear definition

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

CHARACTERISTICS & CAPACITIES

1. Place attachment
2. Leadership
3. Social networks
4. Learning
5. Optimism
6. Diverse and innovative economy

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

OBJECTIVES

- *Develop an interdisciplinary and multi-level learner environment*

- *Synthesize the topic of resilience across social, ecological, and educational disciplines*

- *Create a template for community-based restoration projects to increase community resilience*

SIX KEY CHARACTERISTICS AND CAPACITIES OF COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Our definition of community resilience: the ability of a community, or individuals within a community to bounce back from or adjust flexinly to a variety of shocks and stressors
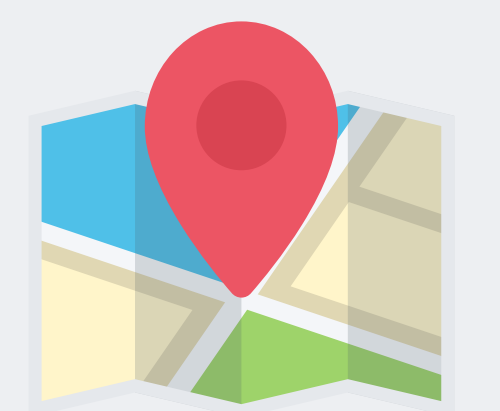
ADAPTIVE LEARNING

Refers to acquisition and integration of knowledge and skills to cope with and successfully respond to challenges and disruptions and to produce new knowledge to inform future action.

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

Emphasizes the empowerment of diverse individuals in the community in problem-solving through building trust, providing guidance, forming a unifying purpose, and envisioning the future together.

PLACE IDENTITY

Encompasses the emotions, feelings, memories, and beliefs associated with a certain location and context. Place identity fosters an interconnectedness and belonging that gives agency to both the place and the self.

OPTIMISM

Involves anticipating positive outcomes through perseverance and effort and focuses on increasing the positives under our collective control, including our response to certain scenarios.

SOCIAL NETWORK

Involves the connections and relationships that leverage the social capital and resources within the community to facilitate trust and empowerment to work toward shared goals.

DIVERSE & INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

Emphasizes an economy with both local economic self-sufficiency and interconnectedness across varying scales and geographies.
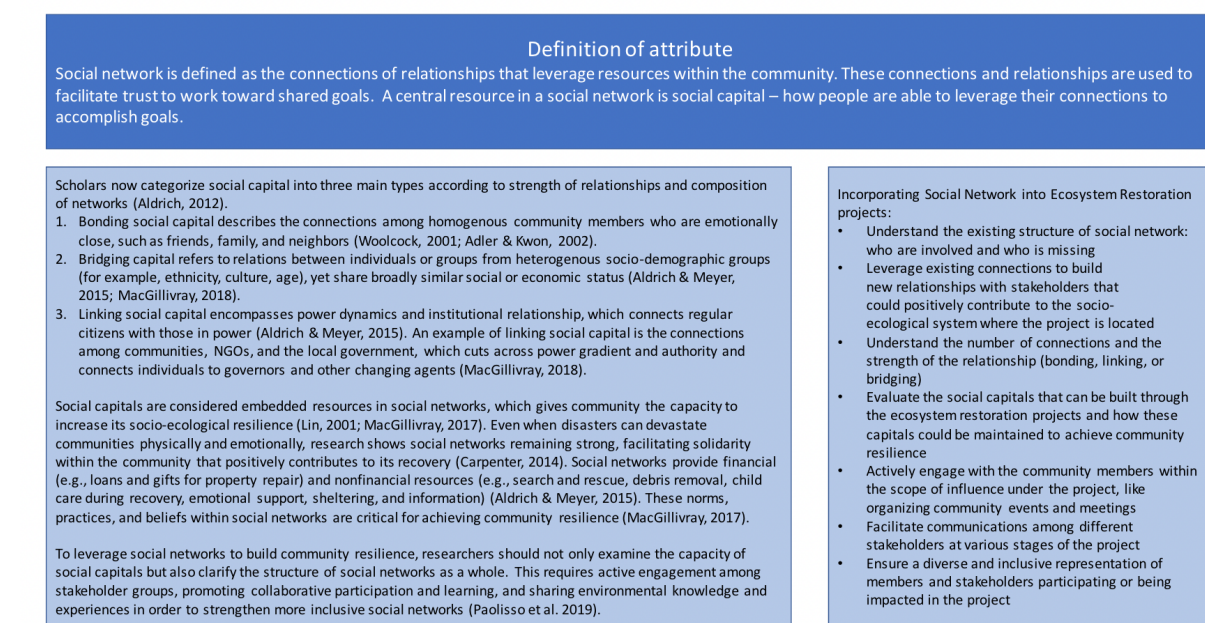
TOOLKIT

Goal: to stimulate discussion about the process of ecological restoration and connecting ecosystem restoration directly to community outcomes

Target audience: anyone interested in using ecological restoration to enhance community resilience

Toolkit description: the toolkit has a two page description for each characteristic that includes the following sections:

First Page:
- Definition of Attribute
- Description of Attribute
- How to Incorporate into Restoration

Second Page:
- Case Study Example
- Questions for Practitioners
- References

NEXT STEPS

Finalizing the toolkit and working on a draft of a peer-reviewed publication

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS