

# ADAPT NOW

Tangible  
stories on  
corporate  
resilience



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**MARCH 2025**



## #1 WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM SINGAPORE – OR HOW TO LEVERAGE THE OPPORTUNITY IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION

While the risks of climate change are undeniable, a growing number of businesses and cities are turning adaptation into an opportunity for growth and innovation. These early movers aren't just responding to climate impacts—they're positioning themselves as leaders in resilience, securing competitive advantages and creating new value. In our first edition we will feature our idea for this blog, showcasing Singapore's adaptation initiative, a city-state that has embraced urban cooling solutions to combat rising temperatures. By integrating vertical gardens, reflective materials, and innovative district cooling systems, Singapore has reduced urban heat and attracted investments in sustainable development. This proactive approach highlights the benefits of acting early: enhanced liveability, economic growth, and global recognition as a leader in climate adaptation.

"The earlier businesses act, the more opportunities they uncover to turn risks into competitive advantages," says Daniel.

"Climate risks are no longer distant threats; they're here, they're costly, and they're growing," says Lena. "We're seeing firsthand how unpreparedness amplifies these impacts."



Source: Unsplash (unsplash.com)



This lack of preparation poses both a challenge and an opportunity. As professionals engaged in resilience and climate adaptation, we are launching this blog series to help businesses move from reactive to proactive strategies. Our mission is simple yet ambitious: to inspire action by sharing practical tools, innovative solutions, and lessons learned from those on the front lines of adaptation.



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## WHY THIS BLOG SERIES NOW?

Adaptation is no longer optional. The frequency of billion-dollar weather events has increased fivefold since the 1980s. As insurers, consultants, and strategists, we see the same patterns repeatedly: companies underestimate risks, delay action until disaster strikes, and miss opportunities to innovate. Take a large automotive manufacturing company in 2024,

who had to announce billions less revenue due to a missing part produced by a flooded supplier.

Adaptation isn't just about surviving today's risks; it's about thriving in tomorrow's economy. Companies that act now will gain a competitive edge.

## EVERY MONTH, WE WILL:

- Highlight real-world examples of climate adaptation success stories.
- Share insights from interviews with industry leaders, including representatives from leading companies
- Spotlights on innovative climate adaptation technologies and solutions.

"Many businesses lack the tools to connect climate risks to tangible business impacts," Daniel notes. "That's where a structured approach becomes critical."

## CASE STUDY: URBAN COOLING SOLUTIONS IN SINGAPORE

Singapore's innovative approach to urban cooling offers a prime example of how technology serves as an enabler for climate adaptation. By leveraging district cooling systems, the city has demonstrated the potential of cutting-edge tools to address rising temperatures efficiently. Moreover, corporate adaptation has acted as a door opener, fostering collaborations between government agencies, technology providers, and urban planners. This cultural shift towards resilience has created new economic opportunities, positioning Singapore as a leader in sustainable urban development. The measures implemented – such as vertical gardens and reflective materials – also highlight the importance of avoiding maladaptation. Each intervention was carefully designed to align with long-term environmental goals, ensuring that short term fixes didn't create unintended consequences. Finally, Singapore's success illustrates how industry-specific checklists can guide stakeholders in adopting tailored solutions. From architects to city planners, the collaborative efforts were underpinned by clear frameworks that drove practical, measurable outcomes. Singapore, often referred to as the "City in a Garden," provides an inspiring example of how climate adaptation can create both environmental economic opportunities.

Faced with rising urban temperatures, Singapore Urban Redevelopment Authority developed a multi-faceted approach to cooling the city while enhancing its liveability.

Key measures include: Vertical gardens and green roofs to combat the heat island effect. Reflective building materials to reduce heat absorption. District cooling systems that centralize cooling production, lowering energy consumption across multiple buildings. These initiatives have not only mitigated the impact of rising temperatures but have also attracted global investments in green technologies and urban planning, positioning Singapore as a global leader in sustainable development. This success story demonstrates how proactive adaptation strategies can yield far reaching benefits beyond mere risk mitigation. "Singapore's cooling strategies exemplify how adaptation can enhance resilience while unlocking economic and sustainability opportunities," Lena explains. Green roofs and vertical gardens not only reduce temperature, enable stormwater reuse, and add recreational values, they also have numerous biodiversity benefits. Despite these benefits however, there are also risks associated with such solutions, such as mould, water leakage or increased fire spread. Proper construction and regular maintenance of such solutions is critical to ensure risks are minimised and benefits maximised.

### KEY COOLING METHODS IN SINGAPORE



Vertical gardens and green roofs



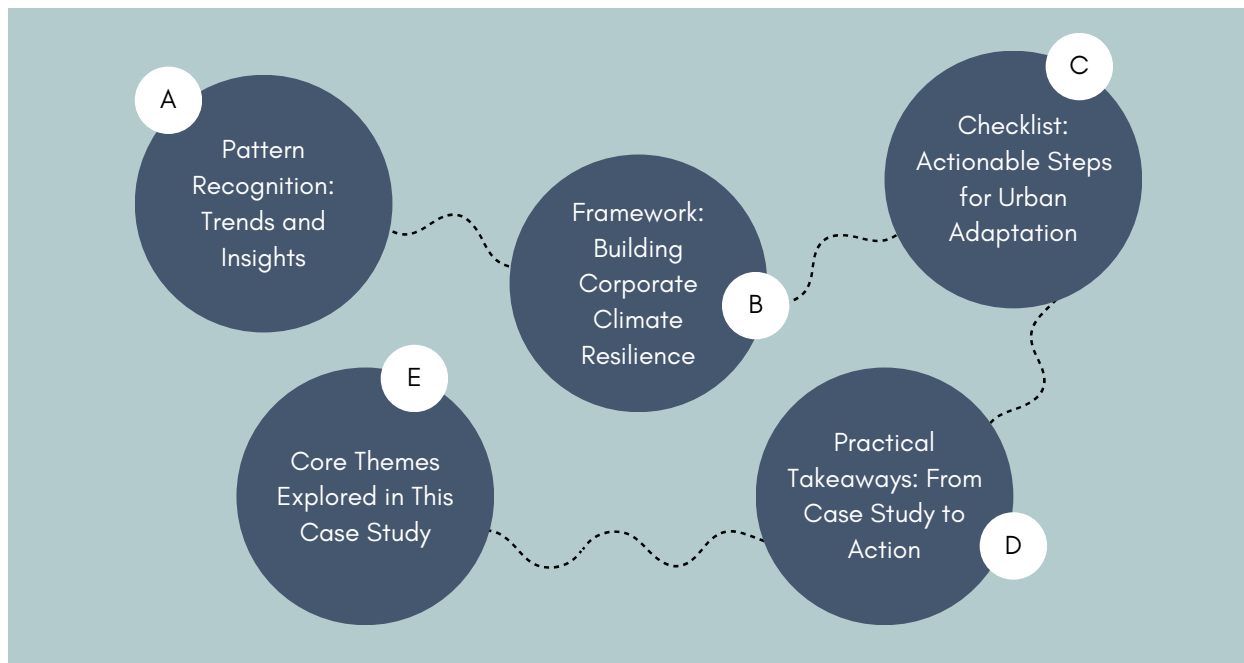
District cooling systems

Reflective building materials



## DID YOU KNOW?

Proper maintenance of vegetation as well as regularly checks of drainage pipes is critical to reduce potential risks, whether from fire spread, mould or overburden from the retained water in the planters.



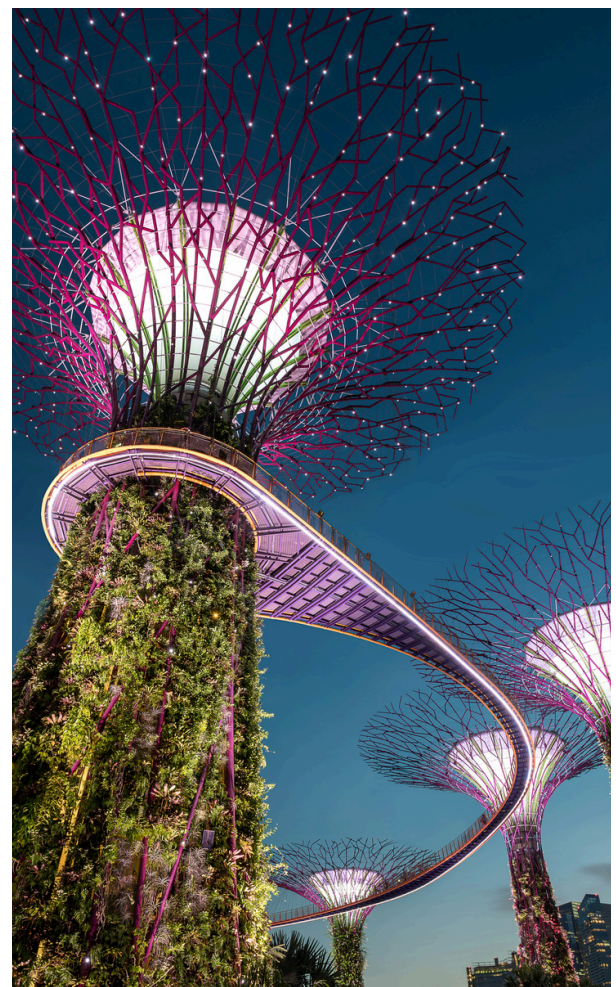
AdaptNow - Our Structure (Source: DSR & Partners)

### A. PATTERN RECOGNITION: TRENDS AND INSIGHTS

Singapore's success reflects broader trends in climate adaptation:

- **Urban Resilience as a Priority:** Cities are increasingly adopting nature-based solutions, such as green infrastructure, to manage climate risks while enhancing quality of life.
- **Technology as a Catalyst:** The use of advanced materials and centralized systems demonstrates how technology can amplify the impact of adaptation measures.
- **Economic Opportunities in Adaptation:** Organizations and cities that proactively adapt are better positioned to attract investments and establish themselves as leaders in their fields.

Early movers are redefining resilience, not as a cost but as an investment in long-term competitiveness, Daniel adds.



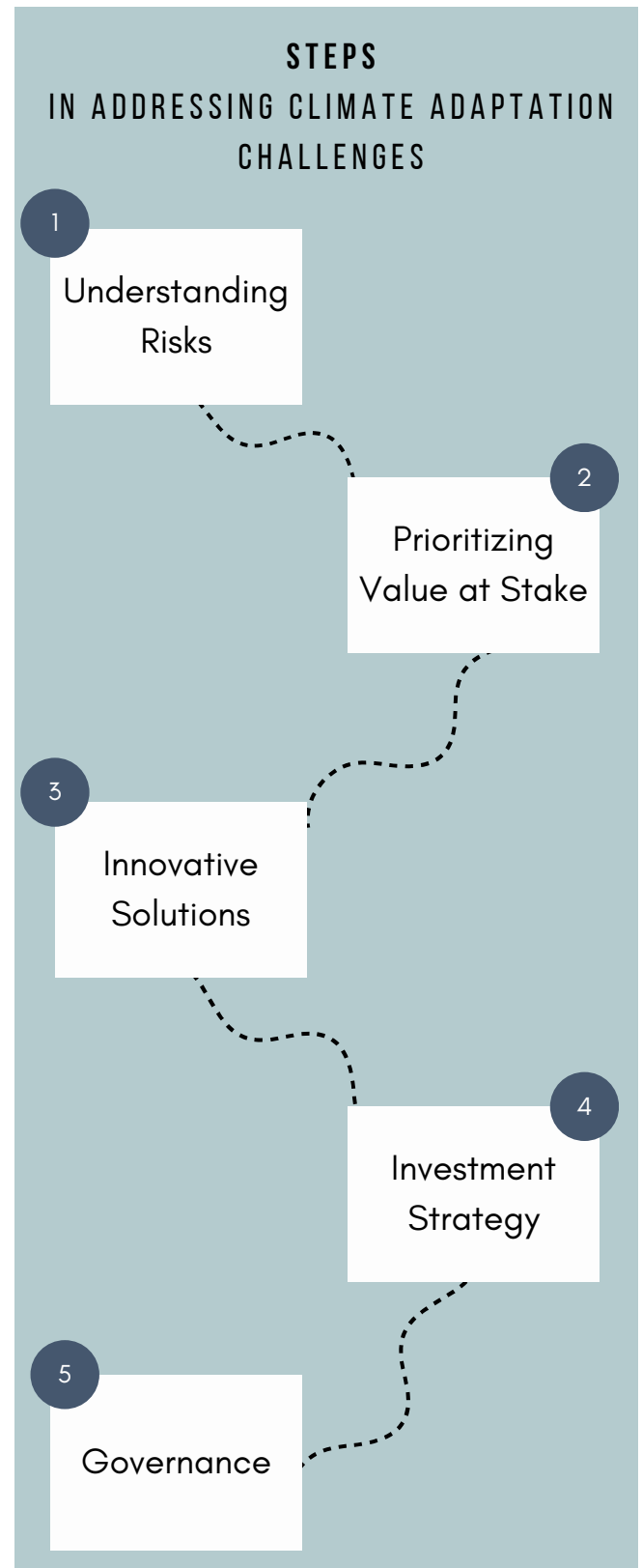
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## B. FRAMEWORK: BUILDING CORPORATE CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Some relevant steps to guide organizations in addressing climate adaptation challenges:

1. **Understanding Risks:** Begin with a comprehensive risk assessment to identify the type of climate risks as well as the vulnerabilities across your operations, supply chains, and client markets (demand). This involves mapping out climate risk impacts and identifying potential disruptions.
2. **Prioritizing Value at Stake:** Translate risks into financial terms to highlight the cost of inaction. Quantifying “value at stake” is essential for securing internal buy-in.
3. **Innovative Solutions:** Implement tailored adaptation measures to mitigate risks, leveraging technology and nature-based approaches. For instance, logistics companies might use AI-driven route optimization tools to counteract disruptions.
4. **Investment Strategy:** Develop a roadmap that prioritizes high-impact, cost-effective adaptation measures aligned with long term business objectives, whilst performing proper risk assessments on these measures to reduce maladaptation
5. **Governance:** Establish clear governance structures to ensure accountability and consistency in adaptation efforts. This includes defining roles, setting KPIs, and integrating adaptation into strategic decision-making.



Adaptation Framework (Source: DSR & Partners)



Singapore - the dawn of climate adaptation (Source: Unsplash)

## C. CHECKLIST: ACTIONABLE STEPS FOR URBAN ADAPTATION

Let's derive some learnings seeking to enhance urban resilience:

### **For Urban Planners:**

Identify climate risks specific to urban areas (e.g., heat islands, flooding). Explore physical and nature-based solutions such as green roofs, urban forests, and permeable pavements. Engage local communities in the planning and implementation phases to ensure buy in.

### **For Real Estate Developers:**

Incorporate reflective materials and energy-efficient systems into building designs. Partner with technology providers for smart climate control solutions. Plan for modular and adaptive designs that can evolve with and are adaptable to future climate scenarios.

### **For Corporate Leaders:**

Conduct workshops to raise awareness of climate risks and adaptation strategies among employees. Allocate resources to pilot projects that demonstrate the value of adaptation and identify potential risks early to maximise benefits whilst reducing potential negative consequences. Regularly review and update adaptation plans to reflect emerging risks and opportunities.

"These actionable steps empower stakeholders to move from awareness to implementation, driving meaningful change," Lena notes.



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## D. PRACTICAL TAKEAWAYS: FROM CASE STUDY TO ACTION

Singapore's story illustrates that climate adaptation is not just about mitigating risks but also about creating opportunities for growth and leadership. By acting early and strategically, organizations can: Enhance resilience across operations and supply chains. Attract investments and build a reputation as industry leaders in sustainability. Foster a culture of innovation and long-term thinking within their organizations. "Adaptation is about more than survival; it's about thriving in a rapidly changing world," Daniel concludes. "Start small, but start now."

## E. CORE THEMES EXPLORED IN THIS CASE STUDY

1. Technology as an Enabler: How cutting-edge tools facilitate corporate adaptation.
2. Corporate Adaptation as a Door-Opener: Driving cultural transformation through resilience.
3. Avoiding Maladaptation: Identifying and mitigating unintended consequences of adaptation efforts.

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