

Coastal cities are at the forefront of the climate emergency. Rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and warming temperatures are amplifying the vulnerability of city residents, even as migration to coastal cities increases. Over the next decade, the global population is expected to increase to ten billion, with about 40 percent of the world's population living within 100 kilometers of the coast.

Climate-related risks intersect with existing social, economic, and political vulnerability to degrade economic, food, and environmental security. Recognizing the interrelated and cascading nature of physical changes, environmental degradation, and demographic shifts, governments, international institutions, and the private sector need tools that can help them quantify threats to sustainable development.

In response, the Stimson Center has developed the **Climate and Ocean Risk Vulnerability Index (CORVI)**, an innovative tool which compares a diverse range of risks to produce a **coastal city risk profile**. With this information decision makers can make smart investments to **build resilience** where it matters most.

## CORVI Beneficiaries

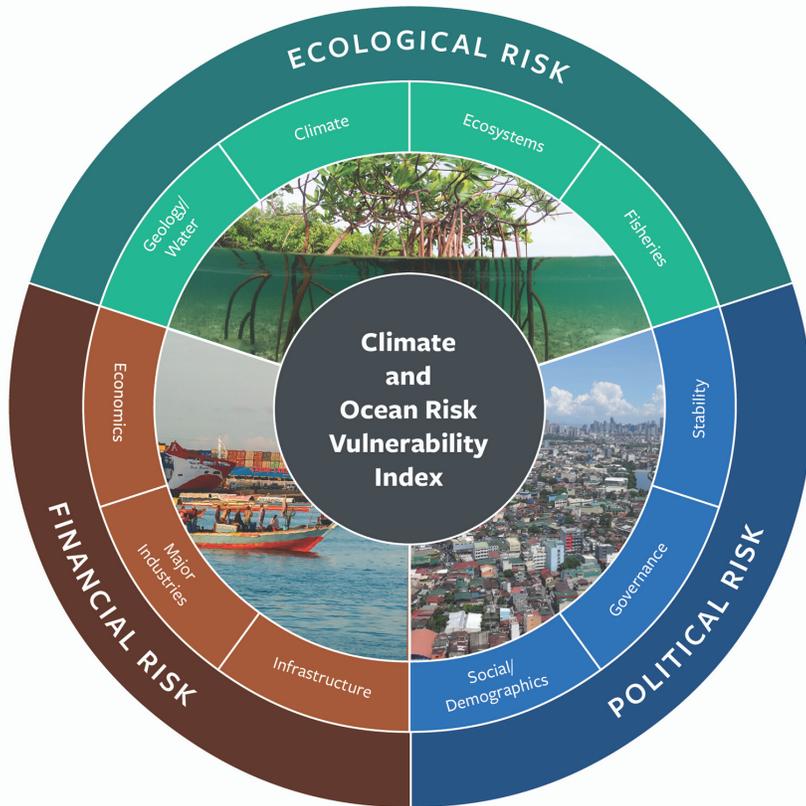
In this environment, leaders need to better understand the impacts of climate change and integrate the climate fragility risks into their decision making to help prioritize action.

- For **GOVERNMENTS**, CORVI is a tool to quantify the threat posed by climate change when integrated with social, economic, and political considerations, prioritize action, devise innovative policy solutions, and attract international funding to build resilience.
- For **PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTORS**, CORVI provides a detailed assessment of climate fragility risks designed to improve investment decisions that drive funding to targeted actions for effective resilience building in coastal cities.
- The **INSURANCE INDUSTRY** can use CORVI to improve asset pricing and risk transfer, and drive resilience by enabling investment in the most vulnerable areas.



# CORVI: A Decision Tool for the Future

While empirical data on the impacts of climate and ocean risks has greatly improved, data gaps exist. Accessing comparative city level data remains a challenge. Despite this, decision makers need information today that can help integrate resilience planning in an effective and timely manner. To overcome this challenge, CORVI uses structured expert judgement to quantify risk when existing empirical data is inadequate. By combining empirical and expert survey data, the CORVI assessment collects data in areas that would otherwise be unavailable to researchers. Through measuring ecological, financial, and political risk across 10 categories and close to 100 indicators, CORVI gives decision makers critical insights into the challenges their cities face.



After pilot projects in the Caribbean **CORVI is expanding fast**, with additional assessments underway across the globe.

## Assessments Completed

- Castries, Saint Lucia
- Kingston, Jamaica

## Assessments underway

- Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- Mombasa, Kenya
- Suva, Fiji

## Assessments Planned (cities in)

- Bangladesh
- Belize
- Philippines

In sum, CORVI is an index designed to support smart future investment in climate resilience across coastal cities. Climate and ocean risks are on the rise and against this backdrop, building resilience requires flexibility and enhanced capacity through social, economic, and environmental systems. CORVI is a valuable tool for decision makers to identify and categorize risk across sectors and aid in the design of integrated policy solutions to build climate resilient cities. If this is not done, the risk of instability will only grow, with devastating consequences for the security of city residents, states, and the international community.

The CORVI Project is grateful for the support of **AXA XL**, **BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES**, and the **OCEAN POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF THE SASAKAWA PEACE FOUNDATION**.

## About the Stimson Center

The Stimson Center is a nonpartisan policy research center working to protect people, preserve the planet, and promote security and prosperity. Please contact Sally Yozell for more details ([syozell@stimson.org](mailto:syozell@stimson.org)).