Resilience to climate vulnerability and environmental risk (RECOVER) with a focus on small islands

RECOVER Overview

RECOVER is a research initiative advancing climate resilience in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by addressing the systemic risks that limit their ability to adapt to climate change.

- Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are among the most climate-vulnerable regions globally, facing systemic challenges that require transformational adaptation, as emphasized in the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report.
- The RECOVER project addresses these challenges through the lens of socio-metabolic risk—a framework that examines how disruptions in the flow of critical resources (like energy, water, and materials) undermine a society's ability to adapt and respond.
- By partnering with local stakeholders in Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Fiji, RECOVER co-develops scalable solutions that target the root causes of vulnerability and support long-term, system-wide climate resilience.

Main Outputs till date

- Number of engagements and outreach events: 10
- Number of capacity strengthening activities: 15
- Number of RECOVER interns: 5
- Number of research publications: 8
- Number of thesis being written: 9
- Upgrade of the Metabolism of Islands (https://metabolismofislands.org/) database to meet current needs
- Number of stakeholder groups engaged under RWLs: 10
- Maldives team successfully cleared stage 1 of the CS Hub Responsive Fund, a collaboration between RECOVER and BASIN.
- Seychelles joins the RECOVER team, and is indicative of the growing potential of project's ability to make an impact
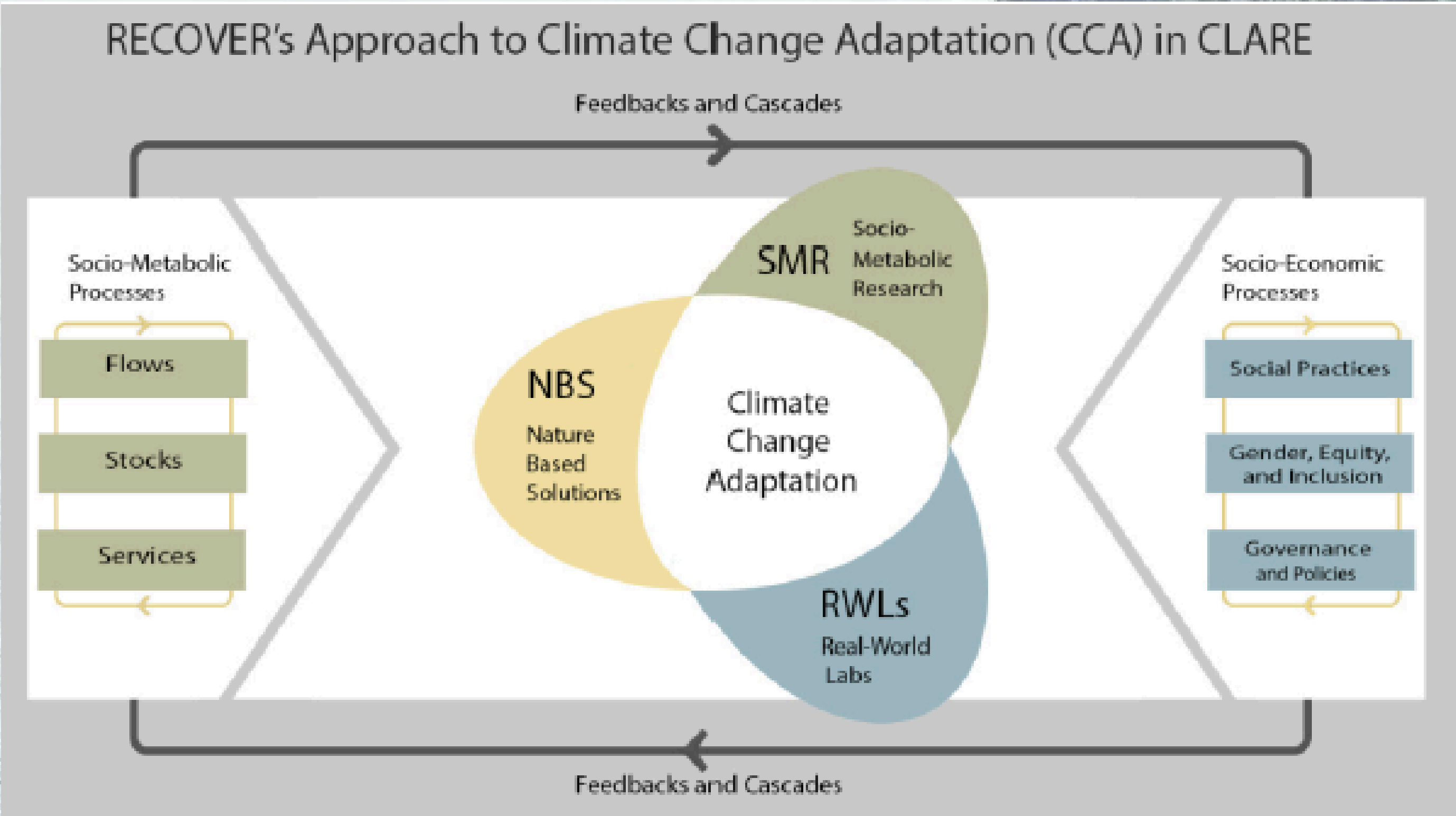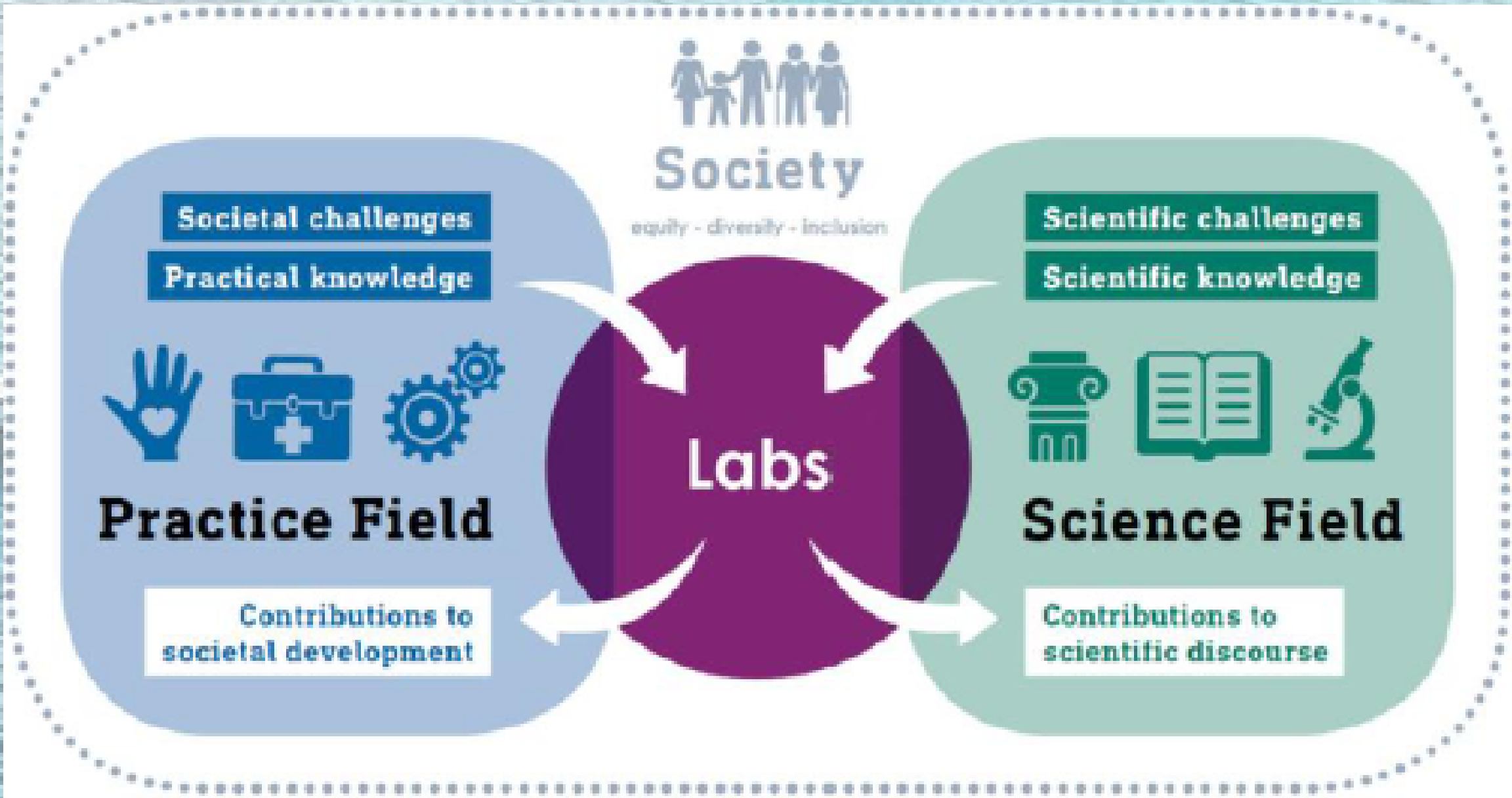

Figure: RECOVER's Approach to CCA

Figure: Real-World Labs

Real-World Labs (RWLs)

RWLs will support knowledge co-creation and co-design of climate adaptation pathways by engaging stakeholders and equity-seeking groups as active research participants, often as "citizen scientists". RWLs, and citizen engagement more broadly, will be woven throughout Objectives 1-4 activities.

RWLs will vary somewhat across activity countries to recognize their unique climate risk challenges and institutional capacities, however all will be based on a four-step process consisting of:

- exploring alternate understandings of problems and opportunities to create conditions for collaboration.
- engaging case study communities in data gathering processes, curation and geolocation of local knowledge, narratives, and histories.
- developing a shared understanding of key local issues and potential elements of alternative solutions.
- evaluating proposed solutions.

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RECOVER Webpage