

# Nature Based Solutions and Equity

**Environmental Justice** 





# How do you define equity in the context of resilience?

## **Equity**

- Defining Equity vs Equality
- Inequities Borne from Inequalities
- Barriers to Equity as Systemic Issues

### Resilience

- Defining Resilience
- Resilience and Learning from the Past
- Nature is Resilient Too

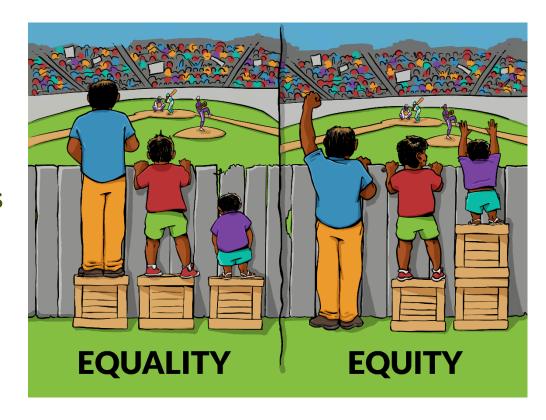
## **Equity Provides for Fair and Just Treatment**

### **Equity**

- Defining Equity vs Equality
  - Not All People are Equal
- Inequities Borne from Inequalities
- Barriers to Equity are Systemic Issues

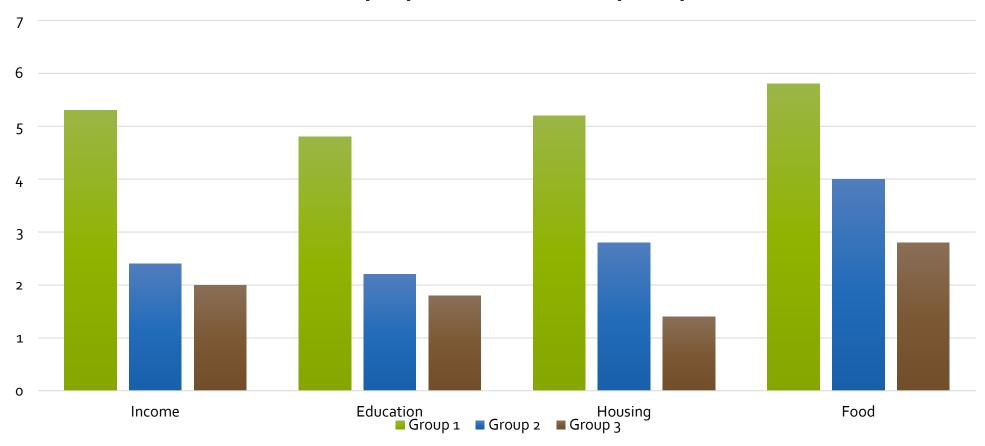
### **Equality**

- All People are Treated the Same
- Fails to Recognize Our Differences



### We All Do Not Start from the Same Place

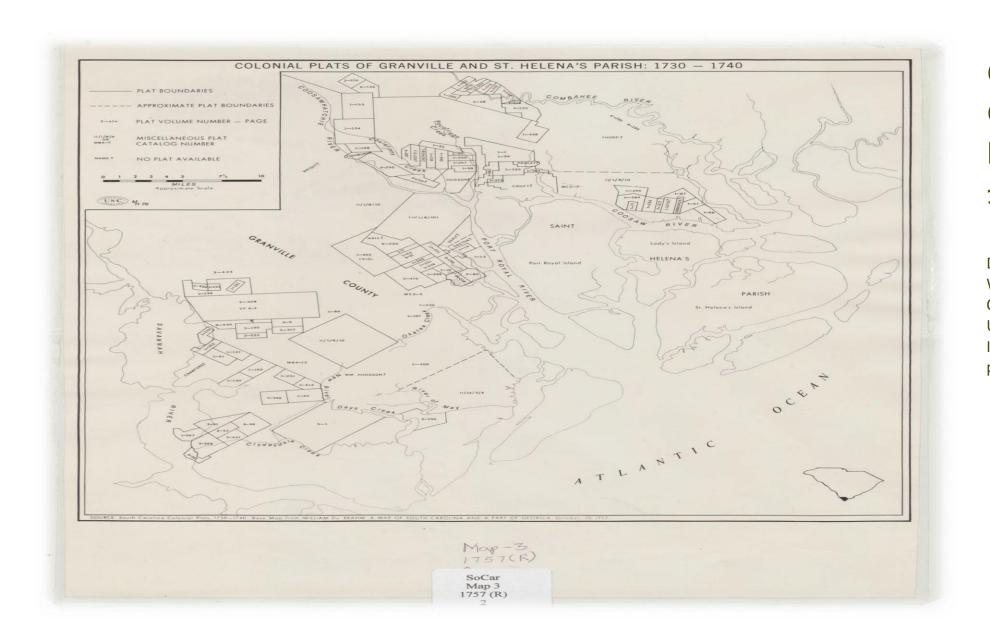
### **Inequity Borne from Inequality**





# Colonial Map of South Carolina, 1711

The rise of the Colonial Plantation System displaced many tribes and was the impetus for the extensive Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade as planters sought to become wealthy.



### Colonial Plats of Granville & St. Helena's Parish 1730-1740

De Vorsey, Louis. "De Brahm, William Gerard." South Carolina Encyclopedia. University of South Carolina Institute for Southern Studies, published May 17, 2016.



# Resilience

The ability to adapt in the face of adversity





## Resilience

- Defining Resilience
- Resilience and Learning from the Past
- Nature is Resilient Too

# Resilience is . . . In Spite of . . . (fill in the blanks)

#### **Human Response**

- Form coalitions of like-minded people community organizing
- Press for change activism
- Use hope and wisdom to persevere traditional cultural knowledge

#### Nature's Response

- Adapt or transform as a result of the event or occurrence
  - Phrase "Water off a duck's back"
- Build physical defenses to survive
- They learn from the world around them

Ask Nature-Biological Strategies

# A Circle By The River: Ricardo Levins Morales





How do you define nature-based solutions in the context of equity?



# What are Nature-Based Solutions? There are varied definitions:

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Bank Group, and the World Resources Institute (WRI) define nature-based solutions as "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.
- The Nature Conservancy states nature-based solutions are "project solutions that are motivated and supported by nature and that may also offer environmental, economic, and social benefits, while increasing resilience. Nature-based solutions include both green and natural infrastructure."

## Nature-Based Solutions (cont'd)

- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office for Coastal Management employs a similar term to nature-based solutions, Ecosystem-based Management, defined as "an integrated management approach that recognizes the full array of interactions within an ecosystem ... an approach that works across sectors to manage species and habitats, economic activities, conflicting uses, and the sustainability of resources."
- The US Army Corps of Engineers uses yet another similar term, Engineering with Nature, or "the intentional alignment of natural and engineering processes to efficiently and sustainably deliver economic, environmental, and social benefits through collaboration."

# Indigenous Nature-based Solutions Says

- Relationship is the Key
- Interconnectedness of systems
  - Land
  - Water
  - Air
  - Governance
  - Spirituality
  - Social Structures
  - Law and Policy

# So, what does a healthy relationship look like?

- Non-dominating
- Non-exploitive
- Respectful
- Grateful
- Balanced
- Responsible

"We need every person and every tool to address the twin challenges of the climate and biodiversity crises. And when we ensure that Indigenous people are at the table and part of the conversation, we all win," said **Secretary Haaland**. "If we are going to be successful in tackling climate change and addressing the biodiversity crisis, we have to empower the original stewards of the land."



<u>Interior Secretary Haaland</u> addresses TWS conference



QUESTIONS?

