

Durable Freshwater Protection

Conservation must be “durable.” That means that conservation actions must be enacted and financed to last. Durability involves having a high probability of providing dedicated, secure, and enforceable protection into the future considering a timeline of at least 25 years. Recognizing the fluid nature of fresh water, we need solutions that deliver enduring protections for rivers through an array of approaches – a variety of policy, regulatory and economic approaches.

The Durable Freshwater Protection (DFP) Framework¹ provides a conceptual model that freshwater conservation practitioners from different disciplines can use to stimulate more effective protection strategy development. The Framework articulates the following component questions as part of the planning for effective approaches to Durable Freshwater Conservation: “What is the value that you wish to protect? What ecological processes sustain that value? What are the threats to those processes? What mechanisms are available to address those threats? What mechanisms are potentially appropriate given the threats and the socioeconomic contexts for protection? How durable are the protection mechanisms? And how should protection be adaptively managed over time given successes or failures of applied mechanisms and/or changes in context?”

¹ The article that outlines the DFP Framework published in the MDPI journal, Sustainability: <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/13/4/1950>