



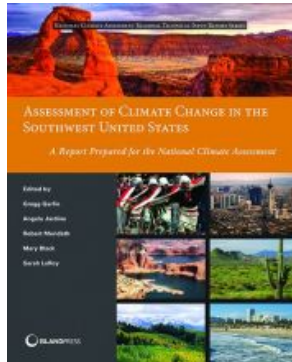
In this newsletter we report on the outcomes of the public comment period and the regional Town Halls associated with the National Climate Assessment. There is major news about US Global Change Research Program International activities, and we hope you will visit the [fresh update of the USGCRP website](#).

News from the National Climate Assessment

- **Updates from the NCA**
- **Draft NCA Report Receives 4,000+ Comments**
- **Regional Town Halls: Lessons Learned for the Sustained Assessment**
- **Sustaining Assessments of Oceans and Coasts**
- **NCAnet Partners Host Town Halls and Webinars**

UPDATES FROM THE NCA

The public comment period on the draft National Climate Assessment report closed on Friday, April 12. We received over 4,000 comments by this deadline, including comments from federal agencies and the National Research Council. We are grateful for the time and effort that went into all of the comments we received on the report. The [National Research Council's review of the draft](#) contains a number of important overarching recommendations about how to improve the NCA report, as well as specific suggestions within particular chapters.



Regional technical input reports are [posted online](#)

Last week, the chairs of the federal advisory committee and members of the “report integration team” were in DC for a meeting to agree on how to handle the most complex comments received, and they will discuss their suggested responses with the NCADAC at their upcoming meetings on [May 13](#) (conference call) and July 9-10 (in person, in DC).

Finally, Island Press has been working with the authors of the regional technical input reports to publish revised versions of their reports; three of these reports are already [available online](#) and others will be posted soon. In addition, numerous other technical input documents have been published as government reports and in special issues of journals ([see the growing list](#) on the NCA website).

DRAFT NCA REPORT RECEIVES 4,000+ COMMENTS

The NOAA Technical Support Unit in Asheville created and hosted a new and user-friendly comment system for the draft Third NCA Report (<http://review.globalchange.gov>). The site allowed individuals, agencies, and organizations to create an account, login, and submit comments through an online user interface, or to work offline using a provided Excel template which could be uploaded into the system. We received 4,161 comments from 644 participating users. Users were given the option to select an affiliation type when creating an account. Based on those selections, 22.7% chose Government, 19.1%

Private Citizen, 15.4% Educator, 12.3% Non-Profit, 11.8% Student, 3.6% Commercial, and 15.2% did not make a selection.

The comments are relatively well distributed across the chapters and very high quality. The staff is now supporting the convening lead authors on each of the 30 chapters as they sort through the comments and start to develop and document their responses. Responses to comments are due in the first week of June. After that, the review editors for each chapter will have a month to evaluate the comments and the adequacy of the responses.

Overall, the new site has been well received and, due to its flexibility and functionality, is now being used to host document reviews for the US government's review of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change materials.

REGIONAL TOWN HALLS: LESSONS LEARNED FOR THE SUSTAINED ASSESSMENT

The National Climate Assessment recently held eight regional town halls to encourage people to comment on the draft Third NCA report and to provide input on options for NCA's sustained assessment process. Emily Cloyd (NCA Engagement Coordinator), worked with USGCRP agencies, NCADAC members, report authors, local universities and NGOs, and other NCA staff to organize the town halls.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Hawaii & US Affiliated Pacific Islands	Honolulu, HI	Dec 11, 2012
Southwest	La Jolla, CA	Jan 18, 2013
Northeast	Syracuse, NY	Jan 23, 2013
Great Plains	Lincoln, NE	Feb 4, 2013
Alaska & the Arctic	Anchorage, AK	Feb 5, 2013
Midwest	Ann Arbor, MI	Feb 12, 2013
Southeast	Tampa, FL	Feb 19, 2013
Northwest	Portland, OR	March 12, 2013

While some town halls were partial-day and/or incorporated into other events, most were full day events that included morning discussions on the NCA's background, goals and sustained assessment process and a panel on the draft report findings. The afternoon panels focused on building sustained assessment capacity in each region, with panelists including representatives from NGOs, local

governments, and the private sector. Participants spent the bulk of the afternoon in small groups, identifying what assessment users hope to get from the NCA, what they can contribute to assessment efforts, what capacities already exist, and how to develop needed additional capacities. Town halls each included between 70-140 participants, and several also had real-time webcasts available for people who were not able to attend in person. Presentations and archive video (when available) from the town halls are posted online, and summary reports will be added soon. More information is available on the [NCA Opportunities for Engagement](#) page.

Many of the messages that emerged focused on communication: for example, storytelling and real world examples are powerful tools for learning and communication, for which the NCA can provide a forum to catalog and discuss case studies and best practices; the need for a comprehensive and sustainable way to gather information from Native Peoples; ways the NCA can acknowledge and document the cultural/values context within which decisions are made; options for the use of social media to build and maintain networks and keep the messages simple and direct; and suggestions to engage the education system in sharing NCA findings with communities.

Some other messages focused on multiple interacting drivers of changes in regions and sectors and the need to understand how the global economic structure drives emissions; also, ways to better describe links between climate, energy, and other environmental issues. Participants said that while national indicators are important, they need to be tuned in to local needs and contexts and that citizen science projects can provide important local information, aggregate trends used for indicators, and capture local human experiences. To reach decision-makers, some key ideas included showcasing tools that allow people to use report information in decision-making and that the NCA should try to collect, present, and preserve data in a way that anticipates and optimizes their potential for practical use and users. Participants also suggested that the NCA should discuss the co-benefits and opportunities associated with decisions to adapt or mitigate and that to implement a sustained assessment process, there needs to be regular follow-up on synthesis reports and a clearly defined path for the future.



Lynne Carter presents on the draft Adaptation chapter during the Southeast Regional Town Hall

Participants expressed that the NCA should continue to have similar opportunities for discussion, as the small group conversations provided the opportunity for people to better understand the assessment and voice how to shape the assessment moving forward.

SUSTAINING ASSESSMENTS OF OCEANS AND COASTS

A workshop on “Sustaining National Climate Assessments of Oceans and Coasts” was held from April 22-23, 2013, in Washington, D.C. Sixty scientists and practitioners from around the country gathered to brainstorm pathways forward for this topic and to begin building a community of practice in support of this effort. Participants represented a diverse group that included Federal, state, and tribal governments and organizations, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations. Through the plenary session, framing presentations, and small-group discussions, the participants discussed key information/ science needs necessary for advancing and sustaining climate assessments of oceans and coasts, relevant needs of decision-makers and managers that could be informed and supported by the NCA, and creative mechanisms for building capacity to conduct coastal and ocean assessments. Emphasis was placed on the importance of connecting to “networks of networks” in order to ensure the relevance of the NCA and its products to a diversity of audiences and information users at local-to-national scales.



The findings of the workshop will be summarized in a report, and the NCA will incorporate these findings as it moves forward in the sustained assessment process. The workshop was organized by Liz Fly, a 2013 Knauss Marine Policy Fellow who works jointly with the NOAA Climate Program Office and the NCA, and Laura Petes (NOAA Climate Program Office). The workshop could not have happened without the participation and help of several NCA and USGCRP staff, including Kathy Jacobs, Fred Lipschultz, Emily Cloyd, and Megan McVey, as well as Kim Penn (Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management) and

Roger Griffis (National Marine Fisheries Service) from NOAA. Information about the workshop, including presentations, is [available online](#).

NCANET PARTNERS HOST TOWN HALLS AND WEBINARS

[NCAnet partners](#) were also busy during the public comment period, engaging their members and stakeholders around the NCA and the topic of climate change. Several partners hosted webinars focusing on particular regions or sectors that featured report authors, while others focused on the sustained assessment process. For the full list of activities and links to some of the archived materials, visit the [NCAnet website](#).

Some NCAnet partners hosted town halls and stakeholder forums that provided a place to discuss the draft report and the sustained assessment process. One such forum, sponsored by the University of Southern California's Schwarzenegger Institute and the Center for Sustainable Cities, included [introductory remarks](#) by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, [presentations](#) by scientists involved with the NCA and/or whose research contributed to the report, and discussants representing local leaders in the scientific, academic, NGO, and private sector communities. [Another forum](#), hosted by the Center for Integrated Solutions to Climate Challenges at Arizona State University, followed a format similar to the regional town halls described above, with report authors discussing their chapters and participants engaging in discussion about the sustained assessment process in small groups focused on particular sectors.

[News from the US Global Change Research Program](#)

- **Updated US Global Change Research Program Website Launched!**
- **Invitation to a North American Consultation for *Future Earth*: May 2, 2013**
- **Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research Inter-Governmental and Scientific Planning Group Meeting**

UPDATED US GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM WEBSITE LAUNCHED!

We are happy to announce the launch of USGCRP's refreshed website at www.globalchange.gov, providing information about what is new in global change science across the Federal government and why it matters. The site is designed to highlight agency achievements, more clearly explain programmatic activities, and better direct viewers to relevant information in each of the agencies. Dynamically generated content will be easily accessible through the site's new blog, and users will have the ability to share content through a variety of social media networks.



The new look for globalchange.gov

If you have questions about the site, please contact the webmistress, Megan McVey (mmcvey@usgcrp.gov). And while you are online, be sure to check out the USGCRP [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter stream](#) for more updates about agency and programmatic news items.

INVITATION TO A NORTH AMERICAN CONSULTATION FOR *FUTURE EARTH*: MAY 2, 2013

The Global Change Research Act of 1990 requires the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) support and foster international global change research organizations. USGCRP has provided significant, stable funding to a number of international organizations that share as a common sponsor,

the International Council for Science (ICSU). The funds have leveraged significant additional funding of projects and activities that have enabled the participation and leadership of hundreds of investigators across the nation which has arguably advanced and improved our understanding of global environmental change and the human role in it.



After many years of work to improve our understanding of the Earth system and human impacts on it, international cooperation on global change is entering a dynamic new phase. All regions of the

world are moving to collaborate on initiatives that will advance understanding of the Earth system in the context of societal needs and a sustainable global future. The global change research programs (IGBP, IHDP, and DIVERSITAS¹) under the aegis of the International Council for Science (ICSU) will be merging under the *Future Earth* Initiative. The evolution of this new phase should be of interest to North American global change researchers, and several global change-related entities in the U.S. and Canada² would like to offer an opportunity for North American scientists to be better informed about this evolution.

USGCRP invites interested scientists to participate in the first of a series of webinars designed specifically for North American scientists to become familiar with Future Earth and its potential implications for Earth System Science research. The consultation is being undertaken on behalf of ICSU, and its partners in the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability³. This one-hour event on May 2 will provide information on planning to date and allow input in the North American context. The second webinar in the series will take place on May 30.

The objectives of the webinar are to:

- Introduce the *Future Earth* programme to partners and stakeholders
- Discuss the implications for the transition to Future Earth on the current and future global change research community in North America

Jack Kaye (NASA) will chair the webinar. Speakers include:

- James Syvitski, University of Colorado
- Diana Liverman, University of Arizona
- Peter Liss, University of East Anglia

The consultation will pave the way for the transition to North American participation in *Future Earth* and is intended to provide inputs to the governing bodies of *Future Earth* (including the Science Committee, Interim Secretariat, and Interim Director) as they begin to implement the Initiative.

¹ [International Geosphere-Biosphere Program](#), [International Human Dimensions Program](#), [DIVERSITAS](#). *Future Earth* will be the successor to the [Earth System Science Partnership](#) with active engagement of the climate science community through the [World Climate Research Program](#).

² The [organizing committee](#) included representatives of the following organizations: Canadian Climate Forum (Canada), Climate Institute (United States), International Council for Science, National Academy of Sciences (United States), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (United States), National Science Foundation (United States), Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (Canada), U.S. Global Change Research Program (United States), and Western University (Canada).

³ International Social Science Council, The Belmont Forum, United Nations University, United Nations Environment Program, United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organization, and the World Meteorological Organization as an observer.

Details of the webinar follow:

- **Date:** Thursday, May 2, 2013
- **Time:** 1:00 pm (Eastern Daylight Time)
- **Registration is required** – Please [register online](#)

For additional background information on the initiative, on its goals and evolution, please visit the [ICSU page on Future Earth](#). For more information about the North American Consultation for Future Earth, including an archive of the webinar, visit the [North American Consultation for Future Earth](#) page. Please contact David Allen with any questions (dallen@usgcrp.gov).

ASIA-PACIFIC NETWORK FOR GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AND SCIENTIFIC PLANNING GROUP MEETING



Participants in the 18th Inter-Governmental and Scientific Planning Group Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research

Dr. Louie Tupas of US Department of Agriculture and Dr. Maria Uhle of National Science Foundation represented the US Global Change Research Program at the annual 18th Inter-Governmental and Scientific Planning Group (IGM/SPG) Meeting of the [Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research](#) (APN). The US delegation also included distinguished invited experts Mr. Louis Brown of the Climate Institute and Dr. Roland Fuchs of the East/West Center and Mr. David Allen of the USGCRP National Coordination Office. The Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN) is a network of 22 Member Country governments that promotes global change research in the region, increases

developing country involvement in that research, and strengthens interactions between the science community and policy makers. The Network is implemented through the Scientific Capacity Building/Enhancement for Sustainable Development in Developing Countries (CAPaBLE) and Annual Research Call for Proposals (ARCP) as well as a number of other activities. It has a secretariat that is hosted by the government of Japan and the Hyogo prefecture in Kobe, Japan. Two main bodies govern the APN's direction and activities, the Steering Committee and the Scientific Planning Group.

Financial support for the APN is provided by the National Science Foundation in behalf of USGCRP as a result of decisions made at the 1990 White House Conference on Science and Economics Research Related to Global Change. The [Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research](#) (IAI) was also founded as a result of this meeting.

The [U.S. Global Change Research Program \(USGCRP\)](#) coordinates and integrates federal research on changes in the global environment and their implications for society. The USGCRP began as a presidential initiative in 1989 and was mandated by Congress in the Global Change Research Act of 1990(P.L. 101-606), which called for "*a comprehensive and integrated United States research program which will assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change.*"

The [National Climate Assessment](#) is being conducted under the auspices of the Global Change Research Act of 1990, which requires a report to the President and the Congress that evaluates, integrates and interprets the findings of the USGCRP every four years. The NCA aims to incorporate advances in the understanding of climate science into larger social, ecological, and policy systems, and with this provide integrated analyses of impacts and vulnerability, helping the federal government prioritize climate science investments, and helping to provide the science that can be used by communities around our Nation try to create a more sustainable and environmentally-sound plan for our future.