



NEWSLETTER



OF THE
U.S. GLOBAL CHANGE RESEARCH PROGRAM



The past few months have been eventful for global change research and policy. In September, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released the first installment of its [Fifth Assessment Report](#), which covers the physical science basis for climate change, followed by a [Summary for Policymakers](#). In November, President Obama issued an [Executive Order](#) to “prepare the Nation for the impacts of climate change.” The Order established a Task Force of state, local, and tribal leaders to advise the Federal Government on the needs of communities nationwide, and laid out steps Federal agencies will take to help communities prepare for and strengthen their resilience to extreme weather and other climate change impacts.

Momentum is also strong among the constituents of USGCRP. The National Climate Assessment is rolling towards its April 2014 release, with the latest draft report now undergoing government review, and an NCA-themed session coming up at the National Council for Science and the Environment’s January 2014 conference. This issue also covers highlights from the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program—including the release of a new Global Carbon Budget and Atlas—and the Inform Decisions Program, including a new annotated bibliography for coastal adaptation planners and the upcoming Interagency Forum on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations, among other news items.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT

Draft of Third NCA Report Submitted for Government Review

The National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee (NCADAC) met on November 18 to review the NCA timeline and provide the NCADAC Executive Secretariat with the authority to deliver the draft Third National Climate Assessment for government review. On November 22, the draft was submitted. Over the next few months, reviewers will confirm that the document meets the standards set by the Information Quality Act and the requirements of the Global Change Research Act. Any requests to change the content of the document will be returned to the NCADAC and report authors and—if necessary—new language will be negotiated. The report is on track to be released in April 2014; it will be available both as a PDF and as an interactive website via the Global Change Information System (GCIS).

Special Issue on Climate Change and Indigenous Communities

The impacts of climate change on natural and cultural tribal resources are the focus of a newly released special issue of the journal *Climatic Change* (Vol. 20, Issue 3). Released online on September 15, this is the first time a peer-reviewed scientific journal has devoted an entire edition to the impacts of climate change on indigenous communities across the U.S. The special issue was a collaborative effort by over 50 authors representing tribal communities, academia, government agencies, and NGOs. The research presented in the issue supplements the “Impacts of Climate Change on Tribal, Indigenous, and Native Lands and Resources” chapter of the Third National Climate Assessment. For more information, please click [here](#) or contact [Julie Maldonado](#).

NCAnet Launches New Affinity Group: Adaptation and Mitigation Nexus (AMNex)

There are two principal strategies for managing climate change risks: mitigation and adaptation. Until recently, mitigation and adaptation have been considered separately in both science and policy. This conceptual divide could hinder progress in overcoming the fundamental sustainable development challenges presented by climate change. Can an integrated approach of adaptation and mitigation solutions create a more resilient nation? [NCAnet](#) launched AMNex, a new affinity group on the nexus of adaptation and mitigation, to bring organizations together to explore the co-benefits of and interface

between the two measures. To join AMNex, please contact [Emily Seyller](#). For more information about NCAnet, please contact [Emily Cloyd](#).

14th National Conference and Global Forum on Science, Policy and the Environment

January 28–30, Washington, DC

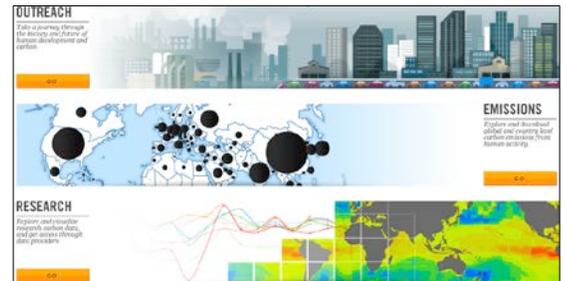
The National Council for Science and the Environment's 14th National Conference will feature two symposium sessions and a workshop on [The National Climate Assessment: Innovations in Science and Engagement](#). The symposium sessions will focus on lessons learned in developing the Third NCA and innovations in integrated assessment; the workshop will focus on resolving issues critical to building a sustained assessment process. In addition, NCSE will present a [Lifetime Achievement Award](#) to several individuals who led the creation of USGCRP, recognizing these founders on behalf of all of those who helped bring USGCRP into existence. For more information, please click [here](#).



NEWS FROM THE U.S. CARBON CYCLE SCIENCE PROGRAM

New Global Carbon Budget and Atlas Released

On November 21, the Global Carbon Project (of which the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program Office is an affiliate) released the [Global Carbon Budget 2013](#) and the new [Global Carbon Atlas](#), an online interactive platform with distinctive tools to deliver carbon information to i) educators and the broader public, ii) policy makers, NGOs, and the corporate community involved in climate change discussions, and iii) the research community. Gyami Shrestha of the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program Office serves on the Atlas's Editorial Board.



Workshop on Human-Carbon Interactions in Urban Systems

The U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program and CCIWG held a workshop to begin building an interdisciplinary research community of social and natural scientists working on human-carbon interactions in urban systems (October 16–18, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado). Twenty-two scientists delved into the gaps, problems, solutions, and opportunities associated with establishing a truly integrated program or research solicitation covering this subject. Tentative products of the workshop include a white paper, syntheses, and/or policy briefs to be published by April 2014 for consideration by U.S. and international research funding entities. For more details, please click [here](#).

19th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-19)

The USDA and the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program/CCIWG organized a joint U.S. Center side event at the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP-19) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Scientists from NOAA and USDA presented some of the U.S. Government's most recent achievements in global carbon data collection, observational networks, and collaborations. Nancy Cavallaro (USDA-NIFA, CCIWG Co-Chair) and Gyami Shrestha (U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program Office) discussed international partnerships and priorities. For more information, please click [here](#).

Outcomes of 2nd Ocean Acidification PI Meeting

The slides and a summary of the major outcomes of the 2nd Ocean Acidification Principal Investigators' Meeting are now available [here](#). This event was held in September by the Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry (OCB) Program, a component of the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program. Scientists, science program managers, other government representatives, and members of the non-profit sector convened to assess the state of ocean acidification science, identify major gaps, and discuss the way forward. Presentations and discussions also focused on ways to maximize collaboration, minimize duplication of efforts, and promote effective data management and sharing.

Carbon Cycle Town Hall at AGU

December 9, 6:15 pm, San Francisco

The Carbon Cycle Interagency Working Group (CCIWG) and the U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Program Office are organizing a town hall at the AGU Fall Meeting, entitled "Evolving prioritization of carbon cycle science by the U.S. Government." During this event, Program Managers from the CCIWG and Program Office will incorporate aspects of the 2011 U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Plan, the 2012–2022 USGCRP Strategic Plan, President Obama's Climate Action Plan,

and other U.S. Government-wide documents and processes that shape current and evolving foci in federally funded carbon cycle research. For more information, please click [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE INFORM DECISIONS PROGRAM

New Adaptation Science Interagency Working Group Co-Chair

The Adaptation Science Interagency Working Group (ASIWG) welcomes Tom Cuddy as their new co-chair. Tom works in the Airport Planning and Environmental Division (APP-400) of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which is responsible for national aviation policy and planning for airports. Tom develops program guidance and policy recommendations related to aviation and the environment, with special technical expertise in climate and greenhouse gas issues, cultural resource management, and tribal interactions. He regularly serves on project panels for the Airport Cooperative Research Program of the National Academy of Sciences. Internationally, Tom serves on a working group of the Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection, which is part of the International Civil Aviation Organization, a United Nations specialized agency. Prior to joining the FAA, he worked for ICF International, URS Corporation, and the University of Maryland. He holds a PhD in Anthropology from Columbia University.



ASIWG Releases Annotated Bibliography on Monitoring and Evaluating Coastal Adaptation

The ASIWG released an *Annotated Bibliography on Resources for Evaluating and Monitoring Climate Change Adaptation Actions in Coastal Regions*. To better support Federal agencies in their coastal climate adaptation planning efforts, the ASIWG searched numerous databases to identify programs, products, and resources for evaluating and monitoring coastal climate adaptation actions. To download the bibliography, please click [here](#).

Seminar on National Adaptation Strategy for Fish, Wildlife, and Plants

December 9, Washington, DC

The Department of the Interior's Office of Policy Analysis will hold their monthly speaker series, featuring a discussion on the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Fish, Wildlife, and Plants. The National Climate Change Policy Advisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will describe how this new strategy is being implemented by Federal, state, and tribal governments to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on natural resources, economies, and communities that depend on plants, animals, and ecosystems. The presentation will be held in the Rachel Carson Room, located in the basement cafeteria of the Main Interior Building (1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC). Livestream is available [here](#). For more information, please click [here](#).

Interagency Forum on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations

January 9, Washington, DC

NASA, USGCRP's Inform Decisions Program, and the Department of Interior's National Park Service co-host a periodic informal forum on climate change impacts and adaptations. This forum, which is attended by numerous public and private organizations, provides a venue for presentations and discussions on issues that are common across agencies, including the impacts of climate change on agency resources and operations, and adaptations of agency activities, facilities, and lands to respond to these impacts. Meetings are held in the Washington, DC area, and interested parties can join forum sessions in person or by telephone. The next meeting will be held on January 9. For more information, please click [here](#) or contact ccforum@fedcenter.gov.

The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) coordinates and integrates Federal research on changes in the global environment and their implications for society. 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 (NCA) is conducted under the auspices of the Global Change Research Act of 1990, which requires a report to the President and Congress every four years that evaluates, integrates, and interprets USGCRP findings. The NCA aims to incorporate advances in the understanding of climate science into larger social, ecological, and policy systems, thereby providing integrated analyses of impacts and vulnerability, helping the Federal Government to prioritize climate science investments, and delivering science that can be used by communities throughout our Nation to plan for a more sustainable and environmentally sound future.