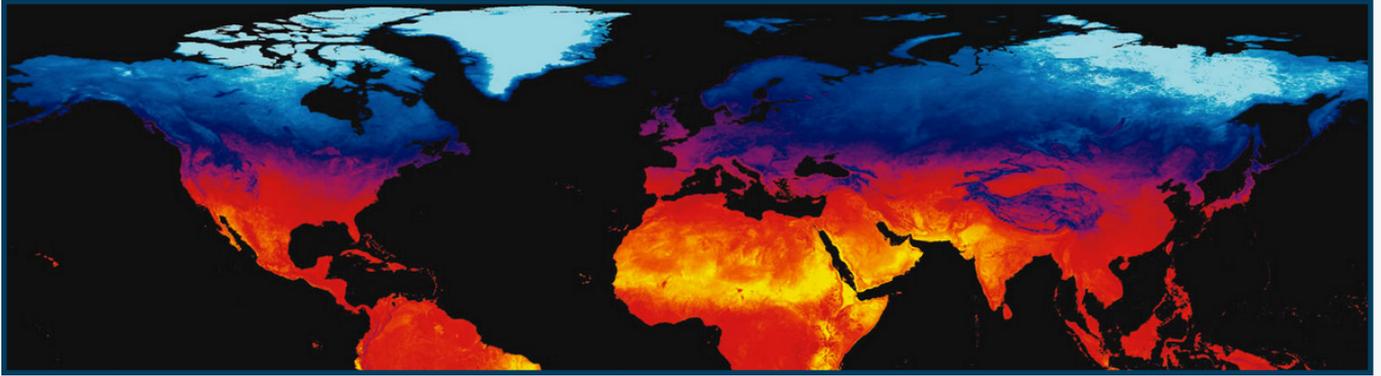


Update on NCA Progress



The draft of the 2013 report is now in its third round of edits – with all chapters except the introduction available for review by the NCA federal advisory committee (the NCADAC) and the author teams. The staff have been working with the three chairs of the committee, the editors and the Report Integration Team (a working group assigned to review consistency across the document) to synthesize all of the information that has been provided by the 240 authors into a more cohesive document.

A series of four webinars held at the beginning of September focused on the 13 sectoral chapters and the climate science chapter; at the beginning of October four more webinars for the NCADAC members will focus on the eight regions and the adaptation, mitigation, decision support, sustained assessment and research agenda chapters. In each of these webinars, members of the NCADAC are asked to identify any issues that they consider “showstoppers,” meaning if they aren’t addressed properly that the member would not support releasing the document for public review. Although a number of topics have been suggested for that category, both in the webinars and in written comments from individuals and agencies, it is the view of the staff and leadership of the NCA that the topics that have been raised so far can be addressed in the time available before the December 1 release date.

Graphics development for the 2013 report is under way and is a major effort for staff and the NOAA Technical Support Unit in Asheville, North Carolina.

NCA News

- NCA Indicators Update
- Coming This Winter: Learn About the Draft Findings in the 2013 NCA Report!
- Technical Input Reports, Sustained Assessment, and NCAnet at the Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

USGCRP News

- Expert Reviewer Pre-Registration Opens For the Working Group I Second Order Draft Contribution to IPCC Fifth Assessment Report
- Carbon Cycle Science Steering Group meeting
- US Carbon Cycle Science Program Town Hall at American Geophysical Union



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News from the National Climate Assessment

Federal Advisory Committee Meeting September 27, 2012

The NCADAC held a two hour phone meeting on September 27, resulting in three important decisions. The decisions related to the timeframe for release of the 2013 draft, the engagement strategy for the public comment and expert review period from December 1 to March 1, and the a decision to have the first “Special Report” be focused on advice on the “Sustained Assessment” process. Each of these topics is described below.

Timeframe for Release of the 2013 Report and Public Comment Period

It is the intent of the NCA staff and the NCADAC to stay on schedule (we have met every deadline so far!) to release the document for comment and review on December 1, 2012, with the comment period extending to March 1, 2013. However, the NCADAC and NOAA/OSTP leadership have agreed that it is prudent to have a back-up plan in case the NCADAC decides the draft is not quite ready for public release on December 1. Two alternative scenarios have been developed, one that would involve release in mid-December and one in early January. Pursuant to the decision of the full membership, the chairs of the NCADAC (Jerry Melillo, chair; T.C. Richmond and Gary Yohe, vice-chairs), will decide if a delay is required, after consulting with the 12-member Executive Secretariat.

Engagement Strategy for the Public Comment Period

The NCADAC made a decision to share the findings of the draft 2013 report and to discuss the sustained assessment process at a series of professional society meetings and regional town halls held during the comment period (see below). Members of the NCADAC and NCA authors who participate in these meetings will be provided with some standardized materials that they can use and also be given guidance from the Engagement and Communications Workgroup of the NCADAC about how to handle discussion questions. Interested parties can talk to Emily Therese Cloyd, the Assessment Engagement Coordinator, with ideas and questions about these events (ecloyd@usgcrp.gov).

Special Report on Sustained Assessment

At the September 27 meeting, the NCADAC decided that the first “special report” of the ongoing assessment process will be advice to the federal government on how to conduct the sustained assessment process. This advice is required under the NOAA charter that established the NCADAC, but is considered to be more appropriate in a committee report than in the 2013 NCA Report itself. The Sustained Assessment chapter that does appear in the report will include the vision and rationale for having an ongoing assessment process and the proposed components of a sustained assessment (e.g., indicators, modeling updates and scenario development, the on-line information system (Global Change Information System, etc.), and will cite the special report. The special report will be produced next spring, and authors are now being selected for that effort.

NCA Indicators Update



The NCA has initiated the development of the first national indicator system to evaluate rates of change and assess the ability of decision-makers in the U.S. to respond with adaptation and mitigation programs. The system will include physical, ecological, and societal indicators, based on key information about the physical climate, climate impacts, vulnerabilities, and preparedness. As a part of the sustained assessment process, the indicators will be tracked, reviewed, and updated to reflect changes in understanding and in climate conditions. Teams of scientists and decision-makers are currently developing the indicator system. After it is externally reviewed, it will be launched in 2015.

The goals for the NCA indicators are to:

- Provide meaningful, authoritative climate-relevant measures about the status, rates, and trends of key physical, ecological, and societal variables and values;
- Inform decisions on management, research, and education at regional to national scales;
- Identify climate-related conditions and impacts to help develop effective mitigation and adaptation measures;
- Provide analytical tools by which user communities can derive their own indicators for particular purposes.

Melissa Kenney, formerly a AAAS fellow at NOAA who has been assisting the NCA in a variety of ways, has been hired to lead the indicators effort and will convene workshops and other meetings to develop the indicator system and research agenda. At these sessions, scientists, decision-makers, and members of the public will be invited to discuss and comment on the overarching vision for indicators and on needs for specific indicators, and to provide descriptions and supporting information on indicators for consideration in the NCA indicator system.

Coming This Winter: Learn About the Draft Findings in the 2013 NCA Report!



The 8 NCA Regions

As mentioned above, the draft of the 2013 NCA report is expected to be released for public comment and expert review this coming winter. While everyone is welcome to read the draft and submit comments online, we are also planning several events during the draft review period that will allow participants to learn more about the National Climate Assessment, the draft report findings, and the sustained assessment process. These events will both engage people and communities that have already been involved in producing technical inputs and connect new individuals and groups to the process.

We are planning to hold half-day to day-long public meetings in each of the eight geographical regions of the country (see map). At these interactive sessions, the NCA process will be discussed, chapter authors will present draft findings from the NCA report and participants will have the opportunity to exchange ideas about how they can be active participants

in the sustained assessment process. The exact dates and locations of these meetings are still being worked out, but as soon as we have a list of the meetings, we'll post it at <http://assessment.globalchange.gov>.

The NCA is also planning a number of sessions and presentations at professional society meetings around the country. The events range from a single talk to a half-day long session, and offer an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and engage in conversation with chapter authors, NCADAC members, and/or NCA staff about the 2013 draft report and the sustained assessment process. If you are attending one of these meetings, we hope to see you there:

- **American Geophysical Union** – December 3-7, 2012 – San Francisco, CA
 - *Poster Session:* Monday, December 3, 8:00 am - 12:20 pm
 - *Oral Session:* Monday, December 3, 1:40-3:40 pm
- **American Meteorological Society** – January 6-10, 2013 – Austin, TX
 - *Oral Session:* Wednesday, January 9, 8:30 am - 12:00 pm



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- *Town Hall*: Wednesday, January 9, 12:15-1:15 pm
- **Building Innovation 2013 – January 7-11, 2013 – Washington, DC**
 - *Invited Presentation*: **Wednesday, January 9, 3:30 pm**
- **Earth Science Information Partnership – January 8-10, 2013 – Washington, DC**
 - *Invited Presentation*: Date and Time TBA
- **National Council for Science and the Environment National Conference – January 15-17, 2013 – Washington, DC**
 - *Symposium Session*: Tuesday, January 15, 2:00-3:30 pm
- **Society for Range Management – February 3-7, 2013 – Oklahoma City, OK**
 - *Oral Session*: Monday, February 4, Time TBA
- **American Association for the Advancement of Science – February 14-18, 2013 Boston, MA**
 - *Symposium Session*: Monday, February 18, 9:45 am - 12:45 pm

Technical input reports, sustained assessment, and NCAnet at the Ecological Society of America Annual Meeting

Over 200 people attended the National Climate Assessment symposium at this year's Ecological Society of America (ESA) Annual Meeting in Portland (OR), organized by NCA staff Emily Therese Cloyd and Nancy Grimm. Several technical input teams presented results from their reports, while other speakers discussed the sustained assessment process:

- Impacts of climate change on biodiversity, ecosystems, and ecosystem services: Technical input to the 2013 National Climate Assessment (Nancy Grimm, Amanda Staudt) – report available from <http://downloads.usgcrp.gov/NCA/Activities/Biodiversity-Ecosystems-and-Ecosystem-Services-Technical-Input.pdf>
- The role of nitrogen in climate change and the impacts of nitrogen-climate interactions on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, agriculture and human health in the United States: a technical report submitted to the US National Climate Assessment (Eric Davidson) report available from http://nitrogennorthamerica.org/pdf/NxCC_NCA_report_2012.pdf
- Effects of climatic variability and change on forest ecosystems (David Peterson) – report available from http://downloads.usgcrp.gov/NCA/Activities/nca_forest_sector_report_final_draft.pdf
- Climate change and agriculture in the United States: an assessment of effects and potential for adaptation (Charles Walthall) – report available from http://downloads.usgcrp.gov/NCA/Activities/ag_assessment_synthesis_draft_tech_input_final_-_02-29-12.pdf
- Establishing a sustained assessment process (John Hall)
- Developing a system of National Climate Assessment indicators to track climate change impacts, vulnerabilities, and preparedness (Tony Janetos) – background document available from <http://downloads.usgcrp.gov/NCA/Activities/NCA-Indicators-Technical-Input-Report-FINAL--3-1-12.pdf>

In the discussion period, audience members highlighted the importance of providing NCA reports that relate the impacts of climate change to broader ecological and social issues and that demonstrate the importance of science



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findings for various resource management and society decisions.

Just prior to the ESA meeting, Emily Cloyd and Chris Baglin (Association of Climate Change Officers) presented a poster on NCAnet at the Conference on Public Participation and Scientific Research (<http://www.citizenscience.org/community/conference2012/>), also co-authored by Amanda Staudt (National Wildlife Federation). A PDF of the poster is available from the NCAnet website (<https://docs.google.com/a/usgcrp.gov/>).

News from the U.S. Global Change Research Program

Expert Reviewer Pre-Registration opens for the Working Group I second order draft contribution to IPCC Fifth Assessment Report

Working Group I (WGI) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is pleased to announce that the Second Order Draft of the WGI contribution to the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis, will be available for Expert and Government Review from October 5 – November 30, 2012. Read more about the purpose and process of the expert reviewer registration here (<http://www.globalchange.gov/whats-new/international-announcements/719-ar5-wgi-govt-sod-review>). For additional information, please see the Introduction to the Expert Review of IPCC Working Group I AR5 Draft Reports (https://sod.ipcc.unibe.ch/registration/WGIAR5_ExpertReview_Intro.pdf).

Carbon Cycle Science Steering Group meeting

The Carbon Cycle Scientific Steering Group (CCSSG) met at National Science Foundation headquarters in Arlington, VA on September 20-21, 2012. Nineteen members of the CCSSG discussed carbon cycle science research in the context of current US global change research priorities and community needs with the Carbon Cycle Interagency Working Group (CCIWG), US Carbon Cycle Science Program staff, and invited speakers and guests.

Topics of discussion included CCIWG member agencies' recent and new carbon activities, the National Climate Assessment, US Climate Variability and Predictability Research Program (CLIVAR) carbon initiatives, US carbon sequestration initiatives, and the Global Change Information System (GCIS). As a part of the meeting, the CCSSG brainstormed near-term plans and opportunities to further coordination with the CCIWG in the context of the 2011 Carbon Cycle Science Plan, the current US Global Change Research Program strategic goals and priorities, the National Climate Assessment, and international carbon cycle science directions.

US Carbon Cycle Science Program Town Hall at American Geophysical Union

The US Carbon Cycle Science Program will be hosting a town hall meeting at the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting on Monday, December 3, 2012. During this town hall, the lead authors of A U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Plan will address the research priorities identified within this community document and federal program managers from USGCRP's Carbon Cycle Interagency Working Group (CCIWG) will discuss potential actions & opportunities that support the Plan. A U.S. Carbon Cycle Science Plan (2011), written by 25 researchers from the carbon cycle science community, identifies key research priorities for carbon cycle science in the next decade.