

CAROLINAS INTEGRATED SCIENCES & ASSESSMENTS

TEAM MEMBERS

University of South Carolina

Greg Carbone
Kirstin Dow
Amanda Farris
Peng Gao
Kerry Guiseppe
Kirsten Lackstrom

UNC Chapel Hill SE Regional Climate Center

Chip Konrad
Ashley Ward

SC Sea Grant Consortium

Sarah Watson

RESEARCH AND PROJECT PARTNERS

- » East Carolina University
- » National Integrated Drought Information System
- » NC Sea Grant
- » NC State University
- » NC Water Resources Research Institute
- » NOAA Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team
- » SC Sea Grant Consortium
- » SC State Climatology Office
- » SC Water Resources Center
- » State Climate Office of North Carolina
- » USGS South Atlantic Water Science Center

CONTACT US

CISA
University of South Carolina
Department of Geography
709 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29208
cisa@sc.edu
(803) 777-6875
www.cisa.sc.edu
[@CarolinasRISA](https://www.facebook.com/usccisa)



Established in 2003, CISA is 1 of 11 NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) teams. These interdisciplinary research teams expand and build the nation's capacity to prepare for and adapt to climate impacts by addressing science questions faced by decision makers.

Integrating Climate Science with Decision Making

CISA's portfolio of research and engagement increases climate resilience in the Carolinas by:

- » **Advancing understanding of climate and its impacts in the Carolinas** – CISA conducts applied research to answer stakeholders' questions about climate variability and extremes, projections of future climate, and climate-related impacts on the Carolinas' resources and communities.
- » **Providing decision support services** – CISA collaborates with local and regional stakeholders to produce tailored information, tools, and resources to support climate-related decision making.
- » **Fostering adaptation and its implementation in the region** – CISA works directly with communities to assess climate vulnerabilities and identify potential adaptation strategies and avenues for implementation in order to foster more resilient communities and ecosystems.
- » **Supporting climate information networks** – CISA seeks to be a trusted source of climate information and provides a variety of opportunities for dialogue around climate issues.

Working Collaboratively to Support Climate Resilience

CISA has established long-term partnerships and collaborations with both federal and state partners. Working together enables us to leverage expertise from other agencies and organizations and build robust and coordinated efforts around climate research and decision support activities.

Our interdisciplinary, multi-state team integrates social and natural sciences to characterize the risks, vulnerabilities, and potential impacts of climate variability and change. From the insights we gain, we develop decision-relevant tools and analyses that meet our stakeholders' specific needs and help build regional capacity to address climate concerns. By emphasizing processes that facilitate learning, we help to foster information exchange among decision makers, researchers, and climate service providers.

CONNECT WITH CISA

CISA publishes a quarterly newsletter, the *Carolinas Climate Connection*, and manages the *Carolinas Climate Listserv* in order to share up-to-date information about climate research, upcoming events, funding opportunities, or other relevant news. Visit our website to subscribe: www.cisa.sc.edu.

CISA RESOURCES

Carolinas Precipitation Patterns & Probabilities Atlas: www.cisa.sc.edu/atlas

Citizen Science Condition Monitoring Web Map: www.cocorahs.org/Maps/conditionmonitoring

Convergence of Climate, Health, and Vulnerabilities website: convergence.unc.edu

supporting climate resilience in the carolinas

CAROLINAS INTEGRATED SCIENCES & ASSESSMENTS

ADVANCING UNDERSTANDING OF CLIMATE PROCESSES AND IMPACTS

Connections between Climate and Water

CISA uses and integrates historical climate and hydrological data, watershed models, and global and downscaled climate models to answer questions about climate impacts at the local level. Research seeks to provide information that can inform planning and preparedness for extreme rainfall events and drought. For example, the team is using different methods of climate model downscaling to develop future climate scenarios for the Georgetown, SC and Charleston, SC regions to support projects looking at long-term planning for climate change.

Connections between Climate and Human Health

CISA and the Southeast Regional Climate Center (SERCC) collaborate to investigate linkages between climate and human health. Based on heat-health research findings, SERCC developed the NC Heat Health Vulnerability Tool in partnership with the NC State Climate Office. This tool has the capacity to predict heat-related emergency department (ED) visits at the county level based on National Weather Service daily forecasts. The tool is accessible through the Convergence of Climate, Health, and Vulnerabilities website, which houses a wealth of resources about public health impacts of various extremes in the Carolinas.



DECISION SUPPORT SERVICES

Coastal Carolinas Climate Outreach Initiative

In partnership with the SC Sea Grant Consortium, CISA supports a coastal climate extension specialist to unite CISA research with the outreach expertise of regional Sea Grant extension programs. This partnership allows CISA to cultivate relationships with stakeholder groups, including coastal zone management, local municipalities, and local NGOs in order to bridge the gap between coastal climate science and decision making. Examples include partnerships such as the Charleston Resilience Network.

National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

CISA collaborates with NIDIS and other regional partners to develop a drought early warning system for the Carolinas, focused on the coastal areas of the two states. Efforts center on developing information and tools that will support drought monitoring, communications, and planning in the coastal Carolinas. Specific projects include the development of a coastal salinity index to monitor drought conditions on the coast, a network of citizen science observers to report the effects of drought on local communities and resources, and an online atlas to provide information about drought and heavy precipitation risks and impacts.

FOSTERING CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION IN THE REGION

Assessing Vulnerabilities and Identifying Adaptation Solutions in Local Communities

The Vulnerability, Consequences, and Adaptation Planning Scenarios (VCAPS) process was developed to allow decision makers in small municipalities to explore the potential outcomes and consequences of climate change in their towns, along with pathways to help plan and prepare. The process has been used in over 15 U.S. communities, including 8 in the Carolinas. For example, the City of Folly Beach, SC incorporated adaptation strategies generated during a VCAPS workshop into their Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report.

SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE INFORMATION NETWORKS

In addition to stakeholder engagement conducted as part of individual research and projects, CISA conducts a wide range of outreach and engagement activities in order to foster climate information networks in the Carolinas. CISA circulates Carolinas-specific information through a quarterly newsletter and the Carolinas Climate Listserv. The Carolinas Climate Resilience Conference is held bi-annually to provide an in-person opportunity for information exchange and networking. CISA also supports a broader network of climate adaptation practitioners in the Southeast through leadership roles with the Southeast & Caribbean Climate Community of Practice.



CISA works with stakeholders in the Carolinas from the mountains to the coast.