

Building adaptive capacity through partnerships and networks

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National Climate Assessment Research

- “Engaging Climate-Sensitive Sectors in the Carolinas”
 - Forestry, Government, Tourism, Water, Wildlife

- Questions
 - What networks currently exist within the study sectors?
 - How do they support climate-related decisions and activities?
 - How are existing and emerging networks being used to build adaptive capacity within and across sectors?

Advantages of networks

- Information sharing, knowledge exchange
- Provide access to resources
- Enable collective action
 - Conflict resolution
 - Consensus building
 - Distribution of risks

Building adaptive capacity

- “activities or processes undertaken to encourage or enable adaptation, such as:
 - investigation/research;
 - planning;
 - **participation in networks or discussion groups;**
 - training staff in climate change science;
 - increasing climate change management capacity, etc.”

Methods

- Web-based search for documents, key sector leaders engaged with climate-related activities
- Documents (n = 128)
- Coupled Questionnaires/Interviews (n=117)
- NVivo used to code and analyze interview transcripts



Coding and analysis

- Network purpose/type of interaction
 - Information-sharing, project-based, agency coordination, research, education-outreach, planning
- Key partners
 - Academic/research, government agencies, non-profits, private, clients
- “Bridging” networks and activities
 - Interagency, regional, cross-scale interactions and activities
 - conferences and workshops, mitigation/adaptation projects
- Facilitating factors

Climate networks in the Carolinas

- Few formal climate networks
 - Lack of political and public support for climate change adaptation (actions or planning)
 - Climate concerns and management of climate stressors incorporated into existing decision making and planning processes
- Sectoral differences
- Emerging networks
 - Primarily informal or “shadow” networks
 - Tied to other/related interests, e.g. sustainability, energy efficiency, environmental protection

Key sector networks

Water	Established professional network
<i>Focus/scope</i>	Providing technical expertise: provision of clean water
<i>Built through</i>	Professional associations, educational opportunities, conferences
Forestry	Strong professional network
<i>Focus/scope</i>	Sharing information and data: fire risks, long-term forest management
<i>Built through</i>	Shared training, long careers, decision support activities
Government	Networks and collaborations within the local community, with neighbors
<i>Focus/scope</i>	Planning /projects: sustainability, energy efficiency, environmental planning
<i>Built through</i>	Cross-government/regional activities facilitated by incentives/mandates, funding
Tourism	Fragmented, shaped by local -regional and sub-sector interests
<i>Hospitality</i>	Promoting tourism, initiatives related to sustainability and green business
<i>Outdoor recreation</i>	Regional/cross-agency collaborations focus on land conservation, environmental and resource protection
Wildlife	Multi-agency, multi-organizational partnerships
<i>Focus/scope</i>	Pooling resources and expertise for project development and implementation; research, monitoring, knowledge exchange
<i>Built through</i>	Initiatives to address common environmental concerns, restoration and conservation projects

Building capacity through networks and partnerships

- Information sharing
 - Conferences, workshops, colleagues

- Research collaborations
 - U.S. Forest Service Southern Research Station
 - NC Sea Level Rise Impact study
 - Biofuels/renewable energy
 - Center for Sustainable Tourism, East Carolina University

Project planning and implementation



- Forest and land management
- Electric Cooperatives of SC
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
- Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant
- Ecosystem restoration and conservation

Inter-agency collaborations: “bridging” activities

- Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge adaptation project
 - USFWS
 - TNC
 - Duke Energy
 - other federal, state, and local partners



Source: Debbie Crane/The Nature Conservancy
(<http://www.psmag.com/environment/alligator-river-refuge-rolls-back-from-rising-sea-36879/>)

Inter-agency collaborations: “bridging” activities

- NC Interagency Leadership Team
 - 6 state agencies, 5 federal agencies
 - March 2010: “Planning for NC’s Future: Ask the Climate Question”
 - DENR-led Climate Change Initiative



Education and outreach

- Networks are used to:
 - disseminate information and increase levels of awareness about potential impacts of climate change
 - build a broader range of organizations and stakeholders who are aware and interested in climate issues
 - increase public and political support for climate adaptation

Facilitating factors: more than \$

- Opportunities
 - Mandates
 - Incentives, funding
- Governance/management structures and processes that enable partnerships, collaborations, coordination
- Public/political support
- Leaders

Lessons and observations: how to expand adaptive capacity

- No centralized network
 - Varying degrees of reliance on existing networks
 - Value of decentralization, “tailored” collaborations

- No 1-way to build partnerships
 - Different motivations
 - Sectoral differences
 - Value of “top-down” direction or mandates

- Next steps for CISA

THANK YOU

For more information please visit our website:

www.cisa.sc.edu

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