

**National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee
Sustained Assessment Special Report Working Group
Terms of Reference**

Purpose: The Sustained Assessment Special Report Working Group (SASRWG) is established by the National Climate Assessment and Development Advisory Committee (NCADAC) to write a report for consideration by the full NCADAC. The purpose of the report is to fulfill the requirement of the charter of the NCADAC to provide advice and recommendations toward the development of an ongoing, sustainable national assessment of global change impacts and adaptation and mitigation strategies for the Nation.

A suggested outline for the report, developed by the NCADAC, will be provided to the SASRWG. In addition, materials previously produced by the Sustained Assessment Working Group and National Climate Assessment Sustained Assessment Chapter Author Team will be provided to the SASRWG. However, the SASRWG may make changes to the outline and to use other materials as it sees fit. The SASRWG members are encouraged to stay in close communication with the Chairs of the NCADAC as they deliberate regarding the contents of the report and may be asked to report periodically on their progress to the NCADAC.

Product: The SASRWG will produce a draft Special Report for the NCADAC that provides advice and recommendations through NOAA to USGCRP, towards the development of an ongoing, sustainable national assessment of global change impacts and adaptation and mitigation strategies for the Nation. It will not be a government document but a report from the NCADAC to the government.

Membership: The membership of the SASRWG will be comprised of nine individuals with expertise in the area of climate change. The members of the SASRWG were selected and confirmed by the NCADAC using standard procedure after nominations were evaluated by the Executive Committee. The members are - Jim Buizer, Kirsten Dow, Chris Field, Paul Fleming, David Gustafson, John Hall, Sharon Hays, Amy Luers, and Richard Moss. . If a member resigns, they may be replaced by a member with comparable expertise.

Liaison: John Hall, is designated as the liaison between the SASRWG and the Interagency National Climate Assessment (INCA) working group of USGCRP. He is an ex officio member of the NCADAC representing the Department of Defense and so is a non-voting member of the NCADAC for purposes of establishing a consensus on accepting the final document within the NCADAC.

Report's Authors: The report's authorship team will be as follows:

- Three Convening Lead Authors: Jim Buizer, Paul Fleming and Sharon Hays, and
- Five Lead Authors: Kirsten Dow, Chris Field, David Gustafson, Amy Luers, and Richard Moss.

All of the members of this author team are non-federal; five are members of the NCADAC and three are not. The CLAs can appoint a small number of contributing authors to add essential expertise. The contributing authors should not be federal employees

Timeline: The SASRWG was established in December 2012 and will provide a final draft version of its report to the NCADAC by the middle of September 2013. They will operate as a working group of the NCADAC until their report has been finalized. A draft timeline with suggested milestones has been drafted and will be provided to the SASRWG.

Staffing and other support: The NCA Coordination office will provide staff support. The NOAA National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) Technical Support Unit (TSU) will provide editing and layout for the document as required. Travel for at least one meeting in Washington DC will be provided by NOAA through the TSU. It is hoped that other business of the group can be conducted remotely or in the context of other NCADAC and ES meetings.

Relevant language from the NCADAC Charter:

- The committee's mission is to synthesize and summarize the science and information pertaining to current and future impacts of climate change upon the United States; and to provide advice and recommendations toward the development of an ongoing, sustainable national assessment of global change impacts and adaptation and mitigation strategies for the Nation. Within the scope of its mission, the committee's specific objective is to produce a National Climate Assessment that:
 - a. Integrates, evaluates, and interprets the findings of the U.S. Global Change Research Program ("USGCRP") and discusses the scientific uncertainties with such findings;
 - b. Analyzes the effects of current and projected climate change upon ecosystems, biological diversity, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, social systems, including a regional context;
 - c. Analyzes current trends in global change, both human-induced and natural, and projects major trends for the subsequent 25 to 100 years;
 - d. Is a continuing, inclusive National process that synthesizes relevant science and information about changes in the Earth system as they affect the Nation's climate, and about how such changes relate to and interact with changes in social, economic, ecological, and technological systems; and
 - e. Supports climate-related decisions by providing an information base in multiple formats, including Web-based and hard copy formats.