

**Sustained Assessment Special Report:
Proposal for Decision by NCADAC, 27 September 2012**

Under its Amended Charter, the NCADAC is 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. To that end, NCADAC is including a chapter in the 2013 NCA Report entitled “The NCA Long-Term Process – Vision and Future Development” (aka “Sustained Assessment”). The chapter describes motivations, goals, and components of a sustained assessment process.

In addition to the chapter in the 2013 NCA Report, there is an opportunity to produce a longer “special report” on the sustained assessment process. The special report would provide a more thorough description of the rationale for a sustained process, details on possible components of the process, advice to the government regarding priorities and methods for conducting a sustained assessment, and suggestions for near-term assessment activities. It would also describe in more detail the methods for and progress in creating and sustaining a national climate assessment process. The special report would be the first of its type to be completed under the sustained assessment, providing an opportunity to evaluate the process for developing such reports.

The sustained assessment special report would be released prior to the final 2013 NCA Report, so that the 2013 NCA Report can reference the sustained assessment product. The special report would be a NCADAC product, and would go through expert review and probably NRC review.

Sustained Assessment Special Report Draft Outline

- Executive Summary and key messages
- Introduction – Purpose and Scope of Document
- History of assessments, rationale for a sustained process and the ‘New Vision’
 - Includes impetus from NRC and assessment literature, ability to harvest USGCRP outcomes and meet GCRA requirements, more regular contributions to and engagement with international assessments, recognition of unmet science and engagement needs, concerns about cost and efficiency of rebuilding infrastructure to produce reports, need for ongoing relationships, and input from methodology workshops/listening sessions across the US
- Components of a sustained assessment
 - Foundational aspects
 - Includes indicators, scenarios, valuation, data collection and GCIS...
 - Special reports and process for decisions
 - Includes meeting goals of relevancy, timelines and decision support
- Organizing a sustained assessment process
 - Infrastructure and central capacity
- Implementing a sustained assessment approach
 - Roles and responsibilities of the federal government
 - Private, Academic, Foundation and NGO Partners,
 - Knowledge Networks
 - Criteria for prioritization of activities
 - Need for ongoing support
- Early successes and opportunities
- Gaps and Needs