

Inclusion of International/Global Context in the 2013 National Climate Assessment



**RECOMMENDATIONS TO
NCADAC**

DAVID HALES

Objective



How can the NCADAC best incorporate the international/global context in the NCA Report?

- ✦ Consider importance of the inclusion of international/global context in the NCA Report and long-term assessment process
- ✦ Consider recommendations on the method for incorporating global/international components into the NCA

Importance



“...we live in a globalized society in which decisions, particularly those related to environment, are dependent upon and have repercussions beyond the borders of any one country...”

“Earth system processes and ecosystems operate on scales that reach far beyond the borders of any one country...”

“Many of the proposed topics...are directly influenced by negotiations and related decisions that take place in the international context...”

“Several of the regions considered by the assessment are inherently international...”

Guiding Principles



- **CONSISTENCY**

- Contributions should be consistent with ongoing domestic and international activities and provide information that complements and supports those efforts.

- **RELEVANCY**

- Contributions need to be fully integrated with the content of the report and directly relevant to the purpose of the report and the strategy we have adopted.
- Contributions should be relevant to the target audience: US Congress, the President, and Executive Branch agencies.

- **QUALITY CONTROL**

- Contributions must meet all of the quality control and data integrity standards which apply to the overall Report.

General Approach



1. Integrate priority topics where appropriate throughout the NCA
 - Use text boxes to include international/global priority topics in regional, sectoral and cross-cutting chapters
 - Apply pre-determined criteria and standards in the selection of international/global priority topics

2. Consider a dedicated international/global chapter
 - Contextualize global aspects included throughout the report
 - Highlight relevant US issues (e.g. national security, international financial commitments) that would not otherwise be addressed in the report

Recommendations



- Integrate global/international context material into the main chapters of the NCA, insuring that what we include is relevant and useful. To avoid redundancy, we suggest close cooperation with other work groups and especially with chapter authors. Accordingly, a matrix approach is recommended, with Work Group Chairs designating a single point of contact from those working directly on each chapter. The primary task of these contacts will be to identify to the I/G work group topics, issues, or questions where international or global context would add meaning to the assessment. The I/G work group will coordinate topics across chapters to avoid redundancy and ensure consistency, identify appropriate authors to prepare the material, and review the submission before submitting it to chapter authors for inclusion. Topics may be identified at any point in chapter development through March 2012.
- Based on the draft Criteria for Inclusion of a Subject in the Report, the I/G Work group will develop final criteria to provide guidance for chapter points of contact. The Work Group will develop these criteria by October for consideration by the NCADAC in November, 2011.

Recommendations



- The inclusion of a separate International overview chapter, as well as alternatives to a separate chapter, will be considered by the I/G Work Group, in close cooperation with INCA representatives from appropriate agencies. The chapter or alternative approaches will provide global context and highlight unique issues that are relevant to U.S. international priorities and interests (e.g., national security and foreign development interests, international financial commitments that may be affected by climate impacts, engagement with existing global initiatives) that would otherwise not be addressed within existing domestic-focused chapters.
- The I/G Work group will also review submissions from other working groups to identify and suggest international or global perspectives that may not have been suggested by chapter contacts, and work with other Work group chairs and chapter authors to consider inclusion of these topics.

Immediate Next Steps & Schedule



- Chairs of DAC Work groups will recommend to the Executive Secretariat single points of contact for each chapter of the NCA. These individuals will comprise the I/G Work Group
 - ✦ *By 15 September, 2011*
- Members of the I/G Work Group will be appointed
 - ✦ *By 25 September 2011*
- The I/G Work Group will seek comments on the attached Draft Criteria from the NCADAC, and prepare recommendations for consideration of the NCADAC at the November Meeting
 - ✦ *Request for comments by 22 August 2011*
 - ✦ *Recommended final criteria transmitted to NCADAC members by 10 October 2011*
 - ✦ *Consideration and adoption, November 2011*
- Initial I/G work group organizational meeting will be scheduled for the first week in October. The agenda for this meeting will include consideration of alternative approaches for inclusion of an overview of the international context in the 2013 NCA.

Example Criteria for Selection of Priority Topics



- Direct and predictable connection to the mandate as articulated in the GCRA of 1990
- Supportive and complementary to other ongoing assessment activities related to climate
- Focus on the implications. IPCC and other reports focus well on impacts of climate change, the global aspects contribution of the report should focus on the implications for the United States
- Particular topic is a current or emerging concern over the mandated period of consideration of the assessment- present, 25, 100 years
- Provides support for decision-making or prioritization of partnerships, and data collection
- Illustrates how international events, decisions, activities, and climate stresses elsewhere can contribute to vulnerabilities and opportunities in the United States
- Meets U.S. needs and interests that are not met by global assessments
- Informs U.S. climate-related overseas development assistance decisions (incl. where U.S. investments may be at risk due to climate stresses)
- Evaluation of whether the events / conditions might affect U.S. resources (Capital flows/financial markets, intellectual property, commodity prices and market opportunities, regional regimes (UNFCCC), opportunities for REDD and emissions trading)
- Evaluation of whether the issues require U.S. resources or leadership to deal with, e.g. development issues, global public health systems, international conflicts, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief implications