

## **Proposal for Town Hall at ACES Conference**

**Town Hall Title:** Leveraging Partnerships to Enhance Preparedness and Resilience for Climate Change and Ecosystem Services

### **Brief Description:**

Creating partnerships can enhance climate change preparedness and resilience. Many partnerships that address ecosystem services are well-positioned to include a stronger climate link. Given resource constraints, it is important to leverage these existing partnerships, create links between existing efforts, and identify any gaps where new capabilities are needed to inform decisions and actions on-the-ground. This town hall will provide a forum to discuss these challenges and opportunities.

Five speakers will give 5-minute introductions to partnerships at different scales -- international, national, regional, local, and tribal. Each speaker will address how and when the partnership was formed, the types or organizations involved, successes and challenges, and one thing they would like to do differently in the partnership.

International: The first speaker will describe the ongoing development of Future Earth, a new 10-year international research initiative that will develop the knowledge for responding effectively to the risks and opportunities of global environmental change and for supporting transformation towards global sustainability in the coming decades.

National: The second speaker will introduce the Adaptation and Mitigation Nexus (AMNex) Affinity Group. AMNex is an affinity group of NCAnet, a network of organizations working with the United States National Climate Assessment to engage producers and users of assessment information. AMNex partners conduct research on, provide guidance for, and encourage implementation of integrative adaptation and mitigation (A+M) practices.

Regional: The third speaker will describe the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) Program of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. The 11 RISA teams help expand and build the nation's capacity to prepare for and adapt to climate variability and change. Central to the RISA approach are commitments to process, partnership, and trust building with public and private user communities.

Local: The fourth speaker will talk about the pilot initiative, Building a Climate Resilient National Capital Region. This is a partnership of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG) and five Federal agencies. The pilot will leverage the combined capabilities of participating agencies to evaluate risks and vulnerabilities on agency operations and devise a plan to manage climate impacts.

Tribal: The fifth speaker will address tribal partnerships. The speaker will either be from the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Tribal Lands Conservation Program or the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP). The NWF Tribal Lands Conservation Program partners with sovereign tribal nations to protect wildlife, advance land stewardship, safeguard water resources, provide environmental education, and confront and adapt to climate change.

ITEP's mission is to serve tribes through outstanding, culturally-relevant education and training that increase environmental capacity and strengthen sovereignty.

### Plenary Discussion

Plenary discussion will explore questions about partnerships and how participants use them in the context of climate change and ecosystem services. The focus of the plenary discussion will be on engaging with the participants and drawing out lessons learned or best practices from the participants and plenary speakers. Several questions to the plenary participants will include:

Questions about partnerships:

- Are you aware of partnerships at these levels?
- What makes these partnerships successful, and what challenges do they face?
- What helps you be involved or limits your involvement in partnerships?
- How do we create additional support for partnerships?
- How do we build connections within and between scales?

Questions about how partnerships support decisions and actions:

- How have partnerships helped you convene a conversation about climate change and ecosystem services?
- How have partnerships helped you facilitate decision-making about climate change and ecosystem services?
- How have partnerships helped facilitate your taking action regarding climate change and ecosystem services?

### **Proposed Session Agenda:**

5- minute introduction by moderator (Emily Cloyd)

Five 5- minute talks by speakers

30-60 minutes plenary and audience discussion (moderator: Emily Cloyd)

**Audience:** The target audience is all who are interested in partnerships for ecosystem services and climate change, from the local to international scales. The session is intended to provide value to scientists and practitioners in diverse sectors. The benefit of bringing this topic before a town hall is to promote exchange, learning, and new connections among participants who have experiences with partnerships at different levels and on different aspects of ecosystem services and climate change.

**Conference Themes:** The proposed session covers the conference themes of:

- Adaptation and Climate Change
- Public Policy, Science, and Practice
- Sustainability, and Resilience
- Using Ecosystem Services for Energy and Water Resource Planning
- Institutions, Markets, Incentives, and Legal Frameworks
- Adaptive Decision Making in the face of Uncertainty
- Public-Private Partnerships and Inter-Agency Coordination
- Scaling, Networking, Consistency and Standardization after a Decade of Demonstration Projects
- Urban Ecosystems and Services
- Tribal Goals and Resources

- Cultural Values and Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- International Perspectives
- Spatial Analysis Tools for Decision Makers

**Contact Information for Invited Speakers:**

Speaker 1:

Dennis Ojima (confirmed)  
 Professor  
 Ecosystem Science and Sustainability Department  
 NESB B231  
 Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory  
 Campus Mail 1499  
 Colorado State University  
 Fort Collins , CO 80523-1499  
 (970) 491-1976  
 dennis.ojima@colostate.edu

Speaker 2:

Emily Seyller (confirmed)  
 Inform Decisions and Adaptation Science Program lead  
 United States Global Change Research Program  
 Co-lead, Adaptation and Mitigation Nexus (AMNex) NCAnet Affinity Group  
 eseyller@usgcrp.gov

Speaker 3:

Adam Parris (confirmed)  
 Program Manager  
 Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISAs), National Oceanographic and  
 Atmospheric Administration  
 (301) 734-1243  
 adam.parris@noaa.gov

Speaker 4:

Amanda Campbell (confirmed)  
 Environmental Planner  
 Department of Environmental Programs  
 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG)  
 202-962-3324  
 acampbell@mwkog.org

Speaker 5:

Garrit Voggesser (invited)  
 National Director  
 Tribal Partnerships  
 National Wildlife Federation  
 Rocky Mountain Regional Center  
 2995 Baseline Rd #300

Boulder, CO  
303-441-5161  
voggesser@nwf.org

OR

Sue Wotkyns (invited)  
Climate Change Program Manager  
Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals  
Northern Arizona University  
Susan.Wotkyns@nau.edu

### **Session Organizers**

#### Qualifications of session organizers:

Emily Cloyd is the National Climate Assessment Public Participation and Engagement Coordinator. Since the launch of the Third National Climate Assessment in 2010, she has led the development and implementation of the NCA stakeholder engagement and communication strategies.

Ilya Fischhoff has been a Program Coordinator for the National Climate Assessment since 2013. He coordinated several chapters of the NCA3 and contributes to evaluation and NCA stakeholder engagement. Fischhoff has a PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He was previously a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow with the U.S. Agency for International Development and the House of the Representatives Natural Resources Committee.

Emily Seyller has an extensive background working with a variety of private, non-profit, and government organizations focusing on domestic and international climate change science, policy, and strategy in the climate change, environmental, and sustainability fields. She is currently the Inform Decisions and Adaptation Science Program lead at the U.S. Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP). In her role at the USGCRP, Mrs. Seyller manages the Inform Decisions portfolio to improve the coordination, integration, and translation of climate change science and impacts across the Federal government. Prior to joining the USGCRP, Mrs. Seyller was the Deputy Program Manager for Booz Allen Hamilton's Climate Change Center of Excellence. Mrs. Seyller received an M.A. in Environmental and Natural Resources Policy from The George Washington University.

#### Organizer contact information

Ilya Fischhoff (primary contact)  
Program Coordinator, National Climate Assessment  
U.S. Global Change Research Program  
Suite 250  
1717 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
[ifischhoff@usgcrp.gov](mailto:ifischhoff@usgcrp.gov)  
Tel: (202) 419-3478  
Cell: (412) 965-7228

Emily Cloyd  
Public Participation and Engagement Coordinator, National Climate Assessment  
U.S. Global Change Research Program  
Suite 250  
1717 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
[ecloyd@usgcrp.gov](mailto:ecloyd@usgcrp.gov)  
Tel: (202) 419-3492  
Cell: (202) 271-2073

Emily Seyller  
Inform Decisions and Adaptation Science Program Lead  
U.S. Global Change Research Program  
Suite 250  
1717 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20006  
[eseyller@usgcrp.gov](mailto:eseyller@usgcrp.gov)  
Tel: (202) 419-3492  
Cell: (202) 271-2073