



# United States Global Change Research Program



October, 2010

Dear Stakeholder,

Enclosed in this package are a series of Synthesis and Assessment Product (SAP) Reports produced by the United States Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), formerly the Climate Change Science Program (CCSP). Based upon the mission and/or activities of your organization, we believe these reports may be of interest to you, and we would like to take this opportunity to share them.

The USGCRP coordinates and integrates federal research on changes in the global environment and their implications for society. The USGCRP began as a presidential initiative in 1989 and was mandated by Congress in the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (P.L. 101-606), which called for "a comprehensive and integrated United States research program which will assist the Nation and the world to understand, assess, predict, and respond to human-induced and natural processes of global change." Thirteen departments and agencies participate in the USGCRP, which is steered by the Subcommittee on Global Change Research under the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, overseen by the Executive Office of the President.

During the past two decades, the United States, through the USGCRP, has made the world's largest scientific investment in the areas of climate change and global change research. Since its inception, the USGCRP has supported research and observational activities in collaboration with several other national and international science programs. These activities led to major advances in several key areas of climate science, which have been documented in numerous assessments commissioned by the program and have played prominent roles in international assessments such as those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

In addition to sharing our reports, we would like to inform you of some new directions for the program overall. USGCRP is currently in the process of a strategic reorientation to better address societal needs for climate change information. The program is evolving to support a redefined mission "to build a knowledge base that informs human responses to climate and global change through coordinated and integrated federal programs of research, education, communication, and decision support." In addition, a new approach to the National Climate Assessment (NCA) is underway. The NCA is focused on developing climate-related information that is useful to support adaptation and mitigation decisions, as well as providing a platform for climate services and highlighting significant gaps in our current state of knowledge. The NCA will also provide integrated analyses of impacts and vulnerability, and help evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation activities. NCA staff are currently developing regional and sectoral networks of scientists, practitioners, policy-makers, and other stakeholders who will serve as the backbone for not only the 2013 NCA report, but for the expanded vision of an ongoing and sustained Assessment process.

In support of these efforts, the USGCRP is reaching out to potential stakeholder groups such as yours. We would like to identify stakeholders who might be interested in continuing to receive updates on the progress of the strategic planning process and the NCA, as well as future activities of the program. If you are interested in receiving such updates, we encourage you to get connected either by sharing comments with us through our website at [www.globalchange.gov](http://www.globalchange.gov), or by emailing [engagement@usgcrp.gov](mailto:engagement@usgcrp.gov) and requesting that you are added to the mailing list for the new National Climate Assessment newsletter.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Thomas Karl  
Chair, Subcommittee on Global Change Research