

Board on Environmental Change and Society



DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

Major transitions are on the horizon at the intersection of human activity and the global environment. Human societies themselves are being transformed, and these changes are interacting with and even accelerating environmental change. There is much debate about how to achieve long-term environmental sustainability and cope with unavoidable environmental impacts and dislocations.



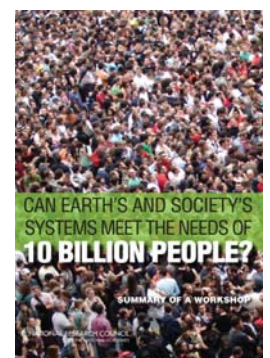
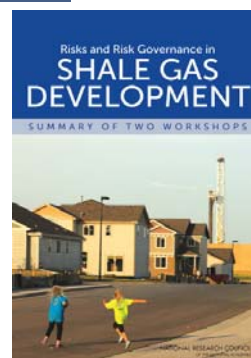
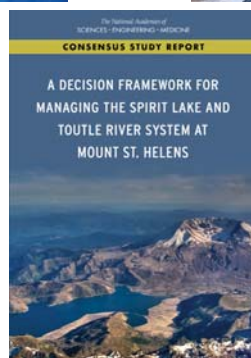
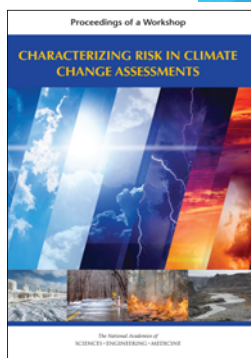
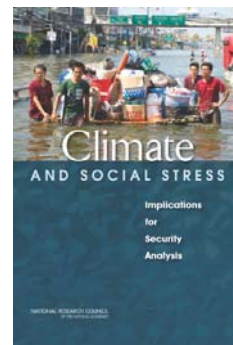
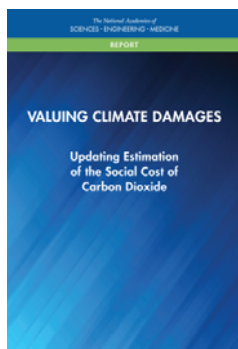
The Board on Environmental Change and Society (BECS) fosters and evaluates research on coupled human-environment systems to help meet the challenges of adapting to environmental change, limiting degradation of the environment, and working toward a sustainable future. By using behavioral, social, economic, and decision sciences research to inform environmental policy and by integrating social and environmental research, BECS seeks to anticipate vulnerabilities and damaging exposures, to inform efforts to maintain human well-being in the face of environmental change, as well as to enlighten transitions with an understanding of their likely intended and unintended consequences for sustainability.

HISTORY

BECS evolved from the Committee on Human Dimensions of Global Change (CHDGC), which since 1989 has helped to guide research on the interactions between human activities and the environment. It provided a forum for linking the social and natural sciences in research, planning, and decisionmaking. BECS continues in this tradition, while expanding on the types of issues that it may consider, to address emerging scientific and governmental concerns.

REPORTS

BECS has issued a broad array of consensus reports and workshop proceedings that bring science to bear on problems and questions faced by researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in a range of domains. The most recent BECS publications are shown below. For a complete list of BECS publications please visit: www.nationalacademies.org/BECS.



BECS COMPRISES EXPERTISE IN

- Decision sciences, including both analysis and decision support;
- Socio-ecological interactions, including resilience of communities;
- Economic policy and analysis, including economic drivers, impacts and responses, and valuation of environmental outcomes;
- Climate, biophysical and biogeochemical processes, and ecology;
- Energy and natural resource management;
- Public and environmental health policy;
- Environmental governance, including risk analysis and governance; and
- National and international sustainable development.

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