

# Science, Innovation, and Partnerships for Sustainability Solutions

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# Opportunities and Needs

- Managing the interface between science and policy
- Decentralization and Aggregation
- Contributions of the National Climate Assessment

# Managing the Interface between Science and Policy Opportunities

- Role of intermediaries
  - Fostering a culture of change
  - Better outcomes from what we already know
  - Asking the right questions
  - Managing expectations
  - Policy relevance vs. “pure” social science
  - Importance of context – requires informed understanding of the arsenal of tools that work at different scales
  - Avoiding stakeholder fatigue; token efforts to engage stakeholders can have negative effects on future engagement efforts

# Managing the Interface between Science and Policy Challenges

- Science communication  $\neq$  yelling louder
- Importance of building the capacity of stakeholders to actually engage in the discussion; empowerment of participants who are vulnerable but not at the table
- Managing transitions in real time
- Avoiding taking on the label of “boundary organization” without the capacity to truly deliver; is there a moral obligation to ongoing engagement?

# Opportunities:

## Decentralization vs Aggregation

- The importance of place and process: taking advantage of existing communities of interest
  - Efficiencies
  - It is not all about data
- Linking networks: the importance of the convening function and how to support that function
- Governance of knowledge systems to maximize scaling up and minimize redundancy
- Role of coordination of government assets and capacity at the regional level

# Contributions of the USGCRP/ National Climate Assessment

- Integration of federal science and real world knowledge and data in a decision support context
- Sustained assessment process allows for a much more nimble capacity to assess the state of knowledge
- The NCA network: finding the incentive for mutual engagement by managing expectations and relationships (happy to have new members!)
- A risk-based/systems approach to impacts and vulnerability assessments as well as adaptation and mitigation capacity across sectors, regions, scales and time
- A forum for exchange of experience and information
- Indicators of change and capacity to respond
- Places to hide the admirals