



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Project Title: Assessing Climate-Sensitive Ecosystems in the Southeastern U.S.

Headline Title (2-5 words): Assessing Climate-Sensitive Southeast Ecosystems

Brief Summary (Abstract): This project aims to assess climate change effects on and adaptive capacity of ecosystems in the Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean.

Project Location: Southeastern U.S. and the Caribbean

Partners: Researchers are from U.S. Geological Survey, North Carolina Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, USGS Tennessee Water Science Center, North Carolina State University, NatureServe, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Background: The southeastern U.S. contains a unique diversity of ecosystems that provide important benefits, including habitats for wildlife and plants, good water quality, and various recreation opportunities. While information on climate change implications exists for some of these ecosystems, a synthesis of this information for the entire Southeast is needed to enable regional decision-makers to prioritize current efforts and plan future research and monitoring programs to ensure protection of these ecosystems.

Project Goals: This project will combine existing information for climate-vulnerable parts of the Southeast U.S. and the Caribbean related to current threats, climate change impacts, and the capacity of ecosystems to adapt to climate change. Data from ecological and geographic databases, scientific literature, technical reports, and expert knowledge will be used to assess climate affects. The result of this research will be a list of key conservation strategies that will help ecosystems adapt to climate change.

Strategy Goals Implemented: Goal 5, Strategy 5.2, Action 5.2.1.: Produce regional to subregional projections of future climate change impacts on physical, chemical, and biological conditions for U.S. ecosystems.