



Appendices

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Peer Review Process for This Publication

The Gulf Coast region climate change impact assessment findings were compiled based on the regional assessment research, outreach, and education results. Prior to the publishing, a three level technical peer review and stakeholder review was conducted.

First level:

We conducted a technical peer review by scientists/peers/technical experts and stakeholders for scientific and technical accuracy and validity. For this publication, there were minimum of two reviewers for each chapter of each part corresponding to the expertise required to review each chapter. All reviewers were from outside of the assessment team and Southern University. The review process were coordinated by the Assessment Team Leader/Project Director Dr. Zhu H. Ning, who provided a central distribution and receiving point for written reviews and oral review comments. The team members were responsible for documenting the responses to written review comments of the respective chapter.

Second level:

We identified the stakeholder groups and individuals for their review, including all of the groups that participated the regional first stakeholder workshop in 1998. We also sent the manuscripts to many stakeholder groups we have contacted, met with, and/or presented information to since the inception of the assessment. We provided adequate time for a general comment period by the stakeholders.

Third level:

After the first two levels of review were accomplished and all comments and responses were documented, we conducted an overall peer review for the technical and editorial responsiveness. For the overall peer review, we had a batch of reviewers who have broad expertise and reviewed all of the chapters and any summaries, conclusions and connections that were made in this publication that cut across the parts and chapters. All documentations of response to reviewers' comments are available and can be obtained by contacting Dr. Zhu Hua Ning at zning@subr.edu or (225) 771-2262 ext. 267 (phone) or (225) 771-3286 (fax).

Brief Biographic Sketches of the Assessment Team Member

Dr. Zhu Hua Ning is a Professor and the Director of the Gulf Coast Regional Climate Change Assessment Program at Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, LA. She is also the Project Director of many research projects funded by the US Department of Agriculture, US Environment Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Department of Energy, and the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. Her research projects focus on CO₂ sequestration, climate change assessment, O₃, NO_x, particle pollution, effects of soil flooding, forested wetlands, and bioremediation. She has published 6 books, a book chapter, and more than 50 research articles. She received The Faculty Award for Excellence for Outstanding Research Performance at Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences in 1996-1998 and 2000-2003. She has initiated and established collaboration between Southern University and the US Global Change Research Program, The USGS National Wetland Research Center, National Center for Atmospheric Research, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences. A significant portion of her research is concentrated on climate change assessment and ways to mitigate environmental problems. This led to her recognition in 1998 by the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policies, Governor of Louisiana, and Permanent Parliamentary Secretary for Environment, Ottawa Canada. Dr. Ning is the Chair-elect of the Society of American Foresters Urban and Community Forestry Working Group, and Board member of the 7th American Forest Congress Communities Committee.

Dr. R. Eugene Turner is the Distinguished Professor in Louisiana Environmental Studies, Coastal Ecology Institute, Louisiana State University. He is sometimes an oceanographer and at other times a wetland ecologist. He serves as Chair of the International Association for Ecologists (INTECOL) Wetlands Working Group, and as Treasurer of INTECOL. He was the recipient of the 1998 National Wetland Award, and along with Nancy Rabalais, of the 1999 Blasker Award for Science and Engineering for their work on the low oxygen zone off the Mississippi River (the DEAD ZONE).

Dr. Thomas W. Doyle is a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey National Wetlands Research Center in Lafayette, Louisiana. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. in systems ecology and environmental science from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He has more than 20 years of field and modeling experience in temperate and tropical forest ecosystems of southeastern U.S. and the Caribbean. His research disciplines focus on wetland ecosystem analysis and modeling, forest stand and landscape simulation, tree-ring analysis, plant competition and growth modeling, and disturbance ecology. His tree-ring studies of southeastern coastal plain forests have produced growth chronologies of tree and species responses to climate, flood, fire, wastewater application, atmospheric CO₂, hurricanes, and land-use change. Growth models by species groups have been used in individual-based forest models to predict historic and future effects of climate change, altered freshwater flow, sea-level rise, hurricanes, and water quality issues. Landscape simulation models have been developed and integrated with stand-level models for various parks and refuges across the Southeast to forecast potential threats of habitat loss or conversion by natural and man-induced disturbances and climate change in mangrove, pine flatwood, and bottomland hardwood ecosystems.

Dr. Kamran K. Abdollahi is a Professor of Urban Forestry, Division of Agricultural Sciences, College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences at Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dr. Abdollahi was instrumental in establishing the first Urban Forestry B.S. degree granting program in the nation. His research expertise is in tree physiology, forest ecophysiology, phyto-remediation, and global change. Currently he directs 8 research projects emphasizing on quantification of tree species in removing pollutants from urban atmosphere and GIS-based ecosystem analysis. Dr. Abdollahi is the Co-Director of the Gulf Coast Regional Climate Change Assessment Program and the co-author of five books on climate change assessment. He was selected by the US Secretary of Agriculture to serve on National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. He served as the Chair of the Society of American Foresters Urban and Community Forestry Working Group, and the State Director and Regional Board member for the International Society of Arboriculture. He serves on the executive board of the National Associations of State Colleges and Universities (NASULGC), Ecology Section. Dr. Abdollahi is the recipient of the Faculty Award for Excellence for Outstanding Teaching Performance at Southern University College of Agricultural, Family and Consumer Sciences in 1998-2000, 1999 and 2003 University Research Grantsmanship Award, 1998 Louisiana Arborists Association Award, and 1994 Honors College Exemplary Faculty Award.

Dr. Enrique Reyes is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of New Orleans in New Orleans, LA. His research focuses on development of ecosystem models, landscape ecology, approaches to coastal resource management using systems ecology, and analysis of ecosystem dynamics and processes in wetlands and tropical watersheds. His academic experience lies on “big picture” approaches to ecosystem analysis. Using simulation modeling as a research tool, his interests have been to understand how coastal areas respond to diverse impacts, natural and man made. Dr. Reyes has been active in several modeling efforts that span from plant productivity, fish migration, mesocosm experiments, to landscape simulation. Current project sites include the coast of Louisiana, the Everglades in Florida, and several coastal lagoons in the Mexican Caribbean.

Dr. Dubravko Justić is an Associate Professor at the Coastal Ecology Institute and in the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Sciences, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. Over the past fifteen years Dr. Justić has worked extensively on problems dealing with eutrophication, hypoxia, and impacts of climate change on coastal ecosystems.

Mr. Erick M. Swenson is a Research Associate in the Coastal Ecology Institute, a research unit within the School of the Coast and Environment at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. His research has focused on the investigation of human impacts on the hydrologic regime of coastal marsh systems. His research interests include measurement and analysis of velocity, sea level and salinity measurements in shallow-water, coastal, and estuarine systems. Mr. Swenson has worked on the analysis of long term historical data sets (water level, salinity, and climate) from Louisiana coastal ecological systems with emphasis on wetland restoration and management. Mr. Swenson serves as an Academic Advisor to the Environmental Working Group for the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA).

Dr. Wael M. Khairy is an Assistant Professor in the Center for Hydrology, Soil Climatology, and Remote Sensing, Alabama A&M University, Normal, AL. His research areas and specialties are watershed modeling for environmental applications, remote sensing and GIS applications using large-scale hydrologic modeling tools, climate change consequences on environmental quality, modeling of water quality in rivers and lakes, stochastic hydrology, environmental geostatistics, non-point source load pollution estimation, total maximum daily loads assessment, studying the impacts of drought conditions on water resource availability, and analyzing alternative water management scenarios to compensate water shortage.

Dr. Kam-biu Liu is the James J. Parsons Professor of Geography at Louisiana State University. He is widely recognized as a pioneer and leader in a new field of science called paleotempestology, which studies past hurricane activity by means of geological proxy techniques and historical documentary evidence. Since 1989, Liu has conducted extensive research on the sedimentary records of lakes and marshes along the Gulf of Mexico coast and Atlantic coast of the U.S. to study the chronological and spatial patterns of catastrophic hurricane strikes during the last 5,000 years. His broader research interests include the use of pollen and ice cores to reconstruct the history of climatic and vegetational changes in the Amazon Basin, Tibetan Plateau, Yangtze River valley, and the Canadian boreal forest. His research has been featured in national and international mass media such as the New York Times, Science Magazine, The New Scientists, Science News, Fortune Magazine, The Economist, CNN, BBC, and the Discovery Channel.

Dr. Alma Thornton is the Director of the Center for Social Research and Professor of Sociology at Southern University and A & M College. Her research has focused on psychosocial factors in health and nutrition disparity in the lower Mississippi Delta region. Other research interests include community development and revitalization that is comprehensive, locally based, centered on citizen participation, and involving public-private partnerships, and collaborations. She specialized in comprehensive planning and assessment, community building, capacity building, program evaluation, logic-based modeling, theory based models of change, and measurement and analysis. In addition, she works closely with non-profit, and faith-based organizations as community developer assisting in building and implementing programs.