

Committee to Advise the USGCRP Fall 2022 Meeting

Agenda: Open Sessions

OPTIONAL IMAGE
AREA

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 [All times Eastern]

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN
ZOOMGOV](#)

Meeting ID
160 778 9454
Passcode
260225

Phone Only
+1 669 254 5252
+1 646 828 7666
+1 669 216 1590

833 568 8864
(Toll free)

[Other numbers](#)

Open Session 2: National Nature Assessment

Context

On Earth Day in April 2022, President Biden issued an executive order calling for a new National Nature Assessment (NNA).

The NNA will assess the status, observed trends, and future projections of America's lands, waters, wildlife, biodiversity and ecosystems and the benefits they provide, including connections to the economy, public health, equity, climate mitigation and adaptation, and national security. The NNA considers nature in US states, marine areas (exclusive economic zone), territories, Native or Indigenous lands and waters, and other affiliated areas (as appropriate), as well as its significant interactions with global changes.

The effort is being led by a Federal Steering Committee, which is responsible for ensuring that the NNA development process is robust, scientifically sound, and adheres to the following principles:

- Authoritative, credible, timely, and concise
- Fully compliant with relevant laws and policies
- Policy relevant but not policy prescriptive
- Transparent, accurate and reproducible with well-documented methods
- Inclusive
- Use-inspired
- Accessible to the widest possible audience

During the inaugural meeting of the FSC, Dr. Lubchenco, Deputy Director of Climate and Environment in the Office of Science and Technology Policy, set forth three challenges for the team that will be designing and carrying out this new assessment:

- Use flexibility to invent something different – and shine a bright light on the importance of nature
- Create a beacon of use-inspired knowledge by connecting to decisions that matter in every American's life
- Think ahead and set a durable precedent that will meet the Nation's needs today and last the test of time

1:00 PM

Welcome

Kristie Ebi, Vice Chair, USGCRP AC

1:05 PM

Introduction to the National Nature Assessment (NNA)

Heather Tallis, USGCRP

1:15 PM

NNA: Definition of 'Nature'

Are there existing definitions of nature that should be considered, or is a new one needed? Does nature include managed systems, natural resources and green infrastructure? The scope for the NNA includes connections between nature and the economy, public health, national security, equity and climate change—how does that scope inform how we should define nature?

Panel discussion—panelists (confirmed):

- Anne Guerry, Stanford University: National Capital Project
- Eduardo Brondizino, Indiana University
- Rosita Worl, SEALASKA Heritage
- Osvaldo Sala, Arizona State University

Open discussion with Committee members, USGCRP

2:45 PM

Break

3:15 PM

Evolving what it means to do assessments: learning from past assessments and exploring novel approaches Philip Mote, Oregon State University, Moderator

Panelists are invited to share lessons learned from past assessments, and to reflect on how to design the NNA to be responsive to Dr. Lubchenco's challenge. What elements from past assessments should be retained? Are there opportunities to build upon past assessments to develop a longitudinal view of the state of nature? Are there opportunities to innovate to meet needs today and in the future? How can this assessment incorporate different ways of knowing, encompass different perspectives on nature, and address the needs of many different potential users? How can the assessment reflect the dynamic nature of information on nature and its connections to society?

Panel discussion—panelists (confirmed):

- Bill Clark, Harvard University: State of the Nation's Ecosystems I
- David Obura, CORDIO East Africa
- Pam McElwee, Rutgers University: IPBES

Open discussion with Committee members, USGCRP

4:45 PM

Closing thoughts

Jerry Melillo, Chair, USGCRP AC

5:00 PM

Adjourn

Panelists

Panel 1: Defining Nature

Anne Guerry

Dr. Anne Guerry is the Chief Strategy Officer and Lead Scientist of Stanford's Natural Capital Project and Senior Research Associate at the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment. She spearheads the Natural Capital Project's Sustainable Livable Cities program, leads the team's marine and coastal work, and charts strategic directions for the global partnership. She and her team work to advance scientific understanding of nature's benefits, create practical tools and approaches to use that understanding to inform decisions, and partner with leaders around the world to improve outcomes for people and nature. Dr. Guerry has published over 60 peer-reviewed articles and other publications. Formerly, she served as a National Research Council fellow at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. She is a Science Advisor for the US National Ocean Protection Commission and a Strategy Group member for the NAS Response and Resilient Recovery Strategic Science Initiative on Ecosystem Services in the Built Environment. She received her PhD in Zoology from Oregon State University, her MS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Maine, and her BA in English and Environmental Studies from Yale University.

Eduardo Brondizio

Eduardo S. Brondizio is Distinguished Professor of Anthropology in the Department of Anthropology, director the Center for the Analysis of Social-Ecological Landscapes and a Senior Research Fellow of the Ostrom Workshop on Political Theory and Policy Analysis at Indiana University Bloomington. For over three decades Brondizio's work has focused on understanding and responding to the transformation and governance challenges of the Amazon. Most recently, Brondizio served as co-chair of the Global Assessment Report of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), leading the assessment's strategy to include, systematically across chapters, the contributions of Indigenous and local knowledge and issues concerning Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Brondizio experience with environmental assessment dates back to 1990 as coordinator of the first assessment of the Atlantic forest remnants in Brazil, and among several others served as Coordinating Lead Authors for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity, and as co-chair of the review committee of the Japanese National Satoyama and Satoumi Assessment. Brondizio is co-Editor-in-Chief of Global Environmental Change: Human and Policy Dimensions. He is a foreign member of the French Academy of Agriculture and elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences.

Rosita Worl, Ph. D.

Rosita Worl, whose Tlingit names are Yeidiklasókw and Kaaháni, is Tlingit, Ch'áak' (Eagle) moiety of the Shangukeidí- (Thunderbird) clan from the Kawdliyaayi Hít (House Lowered From the Sun) in Klukwan. Kaaháni serves as the president of Sealaska Heritage Institute. She is an anthropologist and for many years served as assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Alaska Southeast. Kaaháni has a Ph.D. and a M.S. in anthropology from Harvard University and a B.A. from Alaska Methodist University. She also holds an honorary doctor of sciences degree from the University of Alaska Anchorage. Dr. Worl has received many honors including the American Anthropological Association Solon T. Kimball Award for Public and Applied Anthropology.

Osvaldo Sala

Osvaldo Sala is the Julie A. Wrigley, Regents' and Foundation Professor, at Arizona State University. He is also the Founding Director of the Global Drylands Center. He came to ASU in 2010 from Brown University where he was the founding Director of the Environmental Change Initiative and the Sloan Lindemann Professor of Biology. Osvaldo has been trained as an ecologist working from the local to the global levels. He is known for his large-scale field manipulative experiments simulating climate change around the world. At the global scale, he participated in several assessments from the Global Biodiversity Assessment and the IPCC to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. He has developed highly-cited (>10,000 citations) scenarios of biodiversity change for the year 2100. He has had a prolific scientific production with more than 57,000 citations and H=100. His work has been truly interdisciplinary, collaborating with geologists, social scientists, mathematicians and humanists. Osvaldo Sala received PhD (1982) and MSc from Colorado State University and BSc from University of Buenos Aires. Osvaldo has received several recognitions to his academic work including being an elected Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Academy of Sciences of Argentina, Fellow of the American Geophysical Union, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Ecological Society of America.

Panel 2: Lessons from Past Assessments

William Clark

[William C. Clark](#) is the Harvey Brooks Research Professor of International Science, Public Policy and Human Development at Harvard University's [John F. Kennedy School of Government](#). His research focuses on sustainability science: understanding the interactions of human and environmental systems with a view toward advancing the goals of sustainable development. He is particularly interested in how institutional arrangements affect the linkage between knowledge and action. Clark is a member of the [National Academy of Sciences](#), a Fellow of the [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#), a recipient of the [MacArthur Prize](#), the [Humboldt Prize](#), the Kennedy School's [Carballo Award](#) for excellence in teaching, and the Harvard College [Phi Beta Kappa Prize for Excellence in Teaching](#).

His work on assessments includes a running a comparative study of the determinants of effectiveness in [Global environmental assessments](#) (MIT Press, 2006), an evaluation of the [US National Assessment of Climate Change](#) (ES&T, 2001), and chairing the Heinz Center's decade long effort to report on [The State of the Nation's Ecosystems](#) (Cambridge Univ. Press 2002; Island Press 2008).

In other work, he is co-author of [Sustainability science: A guide for researchers](#) (Harvard, 2022), [Pursuing sustainability: A guide to the science and practice](#) (Princeton, 2016), [Adaptive environmental assessment and management](#) (Wiley, 1978), and [Redesigning rural development](#) (Hopkins, 1982); editor of the [Carbon dioxide review](#) (Oxford, 1982); coeditor of [Sustainable development of the biosphere](#) (Cambridge, 1986), [The earth transformed by human action](#) (Cambridge, 1990), and [Learning to manage global environmental risks](#) (MIT, 2001).

David Obura

David Obura is a Founding Director of CORDIO East Africa, a knowledge organization supporting sustainability of coral reef and marine systems in the Western Indian Ocean. CORDIO takes research to management and policy, builds capacity, and works with stakeholders, managers and policy makers. David's primary research is on coral reef resilience, in particular to climate change, and the biogeography of the Indian Ocean.

At the boundary between science and action, David works to integrate conservation and development through inclusive blue economy principles and links provided by global sustainability goals and targets. He works from the local scale, through fostering innovative action to promote sustainability, through regional scale alignment and integration, to global scales, bringing knowledge and local-regional practice into decision-making contexts. David serves on the Earth Commission (2019-2022), contributing to describing a 'safe and just corridor' into the future, for people and planet.

Pam McElwee

Pamela McElwee is Professor of Human Ecology at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences at Rutgers University. Her research focuses on strategies for climate mitigation, ecosystem services valuation, and biodiversity conservation, with a focus on terrestrial ecosystems and Indigenous and local communities in Southeast Asia. She has served as a lead author for both the IPCC and IPBES, and is co-chairing the upcoming IPBES "nexus" assessment with David Obura and Paula Harrison. She is also currently Chapter Lead for ecosystems, biodiversity, and ecosystem services for the Fifth US National Climate Assessment. McElwee has an on-going NSF-funded research collaboration in Vietnam, Indonesia, and Myanmar focused on the design of policy interventions for multifunctional landscapes and ecosystem services supply. Her first book, *Forests are Gold: Trees, People and Environmental Rule in Vietnam* won the EUROSEAS prize for best social science book on Southeast Asia, and she was awarded a 2019 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship to work on a future book about the environmental legacies of the Vietnam War. She is trained as an interdisciplinary environmental scientist, with a joint Ph.D. in anthropology and forestry from Yale. She began her career as an environmental advisor to Senator Al Gore and later worked in the Clinton-Gore White House Office on Environmental Policy.