"Update on Building a Sustained National Climate Assessment: Vision vs. Reality"

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To create actionable information about climate and climate change, those who produce the information must understand the needs of those who will use it and make decisions based on it. To that end, the U.S. Global Change Research Program is building a sustained National Climate Assessment process that engages users through an inclusive, broad-based, and ongoing process. The process provides opportunities for scientific experts and decision makers to share knowledge about climate-related issues, impacts, and potential response actions, and includes a substantial emphasis on providing traceable evidence for climate science. Of course, implementing new approaches brings new challenges as well as opportunities and continued innovation is needed to fully achieve the vision of a sustained NCA process. This presentation will describe progress toward this vision, the challenges encountered, and paths forward to best meet the needs of agencies, information producers, and decision makers.

Dr. Glynis Lough is Chief of Staff for the National Climate Assessment, a position in which she coordinates work by the authors, the Federal Advisory Committee, and the members of a 13-agency working group who contribute to development of the quadrennial NCA and the sustained assessment process.

Prior to joining USGCRP in June 2012, Dr. Lough was a research scientist with Battelle specializing in climate change, air quality, and environmental policy. From 2005–2007, she was an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the EPA Office of Air & Radiation. Dr. Lough held postdoctoral appointments at the University of Wisconsin and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She received a Ph.D. in environmental chemistry and technology from the University of Wisconsin, and B.S. in chemical engineering from Case Western Reserve University.

