

Resources for Evaluating and Monitoring Climate Change Adaptation Actions in Coastal Regions: An Annotated Bibliography

Adaptation Science Interagency Working Group

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Federal agencies in the United States are planning for climate change in many ways, including through the design of climate change adaptation actions. Like any iterative planning process, climate adaptation planning includes monitoring and evaluation components so plans and actions can be measured for their overall effectiveness. It is important for program and project managers responsible for designing and implementing climate adaptation actions to be able to monitor and evaluate the success (or at times the failure) of their efforts. Learning from monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of adaptation actions can help the Federal government adjust their actions and responses accordingly to strengthen the resilience of communities around the Nation. To better support Federal agencies in their coastal climate adaptation planning efforts, the U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)'s Adaptation Science Interagency Working Group (ASIWG) conducted a search of numerous databases to identify examples of programs and products related to evaluations of coastal climate adaptation actions. The number of evaluations of climate adaptation actions was small, however, and those that had been done focused largely on the early stages of programs and projects. This is not surprising, as most organizations and governments are only beginning to implement climate adaptation planning and actions. To enlarge the set of evaluations for review, the focus was widened to include evaluations of other actions related to climate adaptation (e.g., those related to natural resource management, disaster risk reduction, etc.) and their evaluation resources. This review also explored the literature related to continued monitoring specifically for adaptation planning and actions, since observations and measurements are crucial for successful evaluations. This annotated bibliography presents the results of that review of the relevant peer-reviewed literature and reports from Federal, state, and local governments. It includes journal articles and publicly available reports in addition to a number of guides, websites, tools, and other resources developed for program and project managers interested in planning and conducting evaluations. A glossary of common monitoring and evaluation terms is provided at the end of this document. The ASIWG hopes that this bibliography will be a useful resource for program and project managers looking to inform their decisions on climate change adaptation planning and the evaluation programs that will help ensure their success.

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