

CLIMATE SCIENCE ALLIANCE

Annual Report 2015

WHO WE ARE

The Climate Science Alliance- South Coast (Alliance) is a partnership of organizations and agencies focused on sharing ecosystem-based resiliency approaches to safeguard our communities and natural resources from climate change risks. Partners come together to share scientific information and other resources to achieve on the ground results to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing climate.



COMING TOGETHER TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE REGIONAL ACTIONS

There are a number of scientists and natural resource entities working to address significant climate impacts to the natural resources in the South Coast Eco-region; however, this science does not always reach decision-makers¹ and research is often not coordinated or integrated into existing landscape scale conservation actions. The Alliance was formed to support, promote, and connect climate adaptation activities with existing and planned natural resource and local government planning and projects to leverage costs and opportunities, forge new and expanded climate adaptation partnerships, and be a catalyst for the kind of innovative and large scale actions necessary to build long-term resilience to climate change.

¹Any person and/ or organization that is responsible for developing and/ or implementing local or regional policies, plans, and/ or projects that require consideration of climate change risks in relationship to natural resource management and/ or local communities. Decision-makers range from elected officials to policy-makers to land-use and natural resource managers, depending on the situation.



photo credit: Kim Roeland

VISION, MISSION, AND GOALS

Vision: To safeguard the natural and human communities of the South Coast Eco-region in the face of a changing climate.

Mission: Through working together and demonstrating innovative thought, action, and leadership we will enhance regional collaboration, coordination and engagement between climate research, natural resource management, on the ground adaptation and mitigation efforts, and public engagement.

GOALS

Science Focused Partnership

A robust science-focused network that supports, promotes, and networks local action.

Climate Smart Conservation

Strengthen regional resilience through capacity building activities and climate smart training

Innovative Community Engagement

Engage citizens, youth, and leaders in unique and creative ways and inspire the kind of engagement and actions that will ensure future resilience.



RANGE OF INFLUENCE

The San Diego region serves as the hub of the Alliance's network, but partners and projects encompass the entire south coast eco-region of southern California from Santa Barbara through Baja California, Mexico. Across the south coast eco-region we are working with government entities (tribal, federal, state, and local), conservation organizations, businesses, researchers, artists, educators, and community groups to promote climate resilience at a regional scale.

The Climate Science Alliance- South Coast (Alliance) is a partnership of organizations and agencies focused on sharing ecosystem-based resiliency approaches to safeguard our communities and natural resources from climate change risks.

Organizational History

VISION TEAM



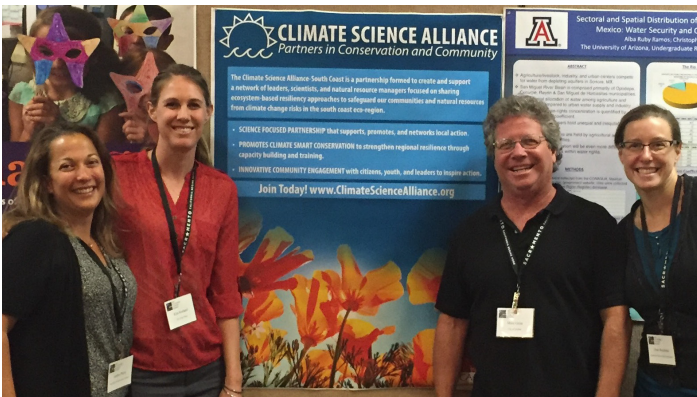
The Vision Team was first convened in April 2015 to provide input and ideas to establish the foundation and direction for the Alliance over the course of the development of the organization in its first year. Collectively, the Team was tasked with helping to build a regional vision to promote and implement ecosystem-based resiliency approaches to safeguard our communities and natural resources from climate change. The Vision Team was diverse in its composition representing expertise and responsibilities for natural resource conservation and management, scientific research, human health, agriculture, water resources, military operations, and local government. They were chosen for their expertise and reputations for being collaborative and constructive in their suggestions as well as their willingness to help build a vision for the region that protects our resources and our communities. The Vision Team was intended to function for a limited duration and has been replaced by a permanent Advisory Team.

Organizational Structure and Composition

The Alliance is governed by a group of strategic leaders who represent the broad expertise and communities of the Alliance partners. Below is a description of how these strategic leaders and partners constitute and govern the Alliance.

2016-2017 ADVISORY TEAM

The Advisory Team consists of 6 members, who represent Federal, State, Tribal and local agencies, organizations and NGOs working to advance nature-based climate adaptation planning and implementation in the South Coast region. The Advisory Team provides guidance on the operations of the Alliance and its strategic direction.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

CLIMATE SCIENCE ALLIANCE MANAGEMENT

Goal

Promote the activities and accomplishments of the Alliance and Alliance partners, build capacity for expanding Alliance activities, welcoming new partners to the Alliance. Manage administrative and organizational tasks that keep the Alliance network running.

Objective A. Promote the activities and accomplishments of the Alliance and Alliance partners and facilitate representation of Alliance concerns or needs to state and national level.

Objective B. Build the capacity of the Alliance to serve additional partners and expand the area of influence of Alliance activities

SCIENCE FOCUSED PARTNERSHIPS

Goal 1

Facilitate and enhance science-focused partnerships that connect, translate, and disseminate best available ecosystem and climate science. These partnerships would inform decision-making and implementation of actions that safeguard our human and natural communities from a rapidly changing climate.

Objective A. Provide a forum to connect regionally specific science through consistent engagement among scientists, planners, and policy and decision-makers.

Objective B. Identify and compile state-of-the-art scientific knowledge around climate change impacts, vulnerability, mitigation, and adaptation. Work to translate that regional-specific science into decisions that support tools to help make it accessible and easily understandable to communities, including planners, and decision-makers.

Objective C. Serve as a unified and informed voice to disseminate climate science for the region and provide guidance on how to develop and institutionalize climate smart considerations into policies and projects through skill building activities.

Goal 2

Encourage cooperative development of climate-oriented research that is regionally relevant and directly linked to key management strategies and actions.

Objective A. Create pathways for encouraging co-production of science that is relevant and regionally specific. Cooperatively prioritize regional climate issues and identify science-based approaches to addressing those issues. Cultivate connections and partnerships that ensure scientists are aware of knowledge gaps and management needs that to address climate variability and change with scientifically-sound approaches.

Objective B. Support land acquisition and management goals of Alliance partners by directly linking key management strategies and activities to conservation action on the ground.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CLIMATE SMART CONSERVATION

Goal

Provide tools, guidance, and resources to advance the integration of climate smart conservation objectives into regional and local policies, plans, and projects.

Objective A. Act as a networking hub to lend expertise to the incorporation of institutionalization of climate smart strategies into local and regional management.

Objective B. Promote nature-based solutions to climate-related challenges and raise awareness of the relationship between the human and natural environment that should be considered in the development of climate smart conservation objectives.

Objective C. Provide a forum to share and highlight partner activities toward climate smart conservation to facilitate networking, capacity building, leveraging of partnerships, and development of best practices.

Objective D. Promote the incorporation of climate smart conservation on working lands (collaboration beyond natural resources – working lands and public health).

INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Goal

Create and enhance innovative and unique pathways for inspiring communities to take individual and collective actions that foster regional climate resilience.

Objective A. Develop regional understanding and awareness within our communities and with the public more broadly through educational programming and interdisciplinary outreach with a focus on the role that individual actions can contribute to building regional resilience.



CLIMATE SCIENCE ALLIANCE

www.ClimateScienceAlliance.org



Accomplishments in 2015

- **80 organizations** join the Climate Science Alliance Network.
- Hired four **new staff** to expand programming and launched an internship program for early career professionals.
- Solidified significant new **funding** for Climate Science Alliance projects that secures operations and staffing in to the future.
- Held **10+ workshops**—training-forums to advance climate smart conservation with a focus on nature based responses.
- Specific workshops held for land **managers** and local **government; Tribes, educators,** and training in Spanish for **Baja** partners.
- Working with museums, libraries, artists, and youth to promote **community engagement** on climate change.
- Convened local **artists** in St. Louis for a climate change art show and discussion at the National Adaptation Forum.
- Launched **Climate Kids** projects in San Diego, St. Louis, and Mexico.
- Climate Kids program reaches more than **1500 students** in 2015 including 600 elementary and high schools students in **Mexico**.
- Solidified partnerships to pursue Climate Kids for **Tribes** in 2016.





FUNDING PARTNERS

Thank you to the following organization that provided foundational support to create the Alliance.

