



**Project Title:** Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy

**Headline Title:** Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy

**Brief Summary:** The [Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy](#) (SECAS) is a shared, long-term vision for lands and waters that sustain fish and wildlife populations and improve human quality of life across the southeastern United States and Caribbean. SECAS provides regional focus on shared and proactive goals to guide investments across organizations, disciplines, and partnerships. The unique role of SECAS is to identify and support the steps necessary to regionally plan, implement, and evaluate actions that sustain habitat, mitigate threats, and adapt to desired conditions. As a result, SECAS unifies the delivery of conservation activities and supports innovation that can be applied across the region.

**Project Location:** Southeastern U.S. states, including the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**Partners:** The Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA), the Southeast Natural Resources Leadership Group (SENRLG) including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, six southeastern Landscape Conservation Cooperatives or LCCs (South Atlantic, Gulf Coastal Plains & Ozarks, Gulf Coast Prairie, Caribbean, Appalachian, and Peninsular Florida), and southern partnerships such as the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership and Joint Ventures are launching an effort to develop a coordinated Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy. The South Central and Southeast Climate Science Centers (CSCs) are an integral part of this process. For example, the Southeast CSC has built their FY15 RFP around SECAS goals.

**Background:** The ecological systems upon which fish and wildlife depend are changing, subject to a lengthening list of pressures such as sea level rise, warming temperatures, urbanization, habitat fragmentation and exotic species. Government agencies with static or declining budgets hold public lands and associated fish and wildlife species in trust for the benefit of current and future generations. Along with natural change, technical advancements in conservation theory, decision theory and the digital revolution are creating opportunities for transformative change in the way conservation is done. For these reasons, state and federal partners have initiated the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy.

**Project Goals:** SECAS is a collaboration to define the 2060 conservation landscape needed to support fish, wildlife and other natural and cultural resources in the Southeastern US and Caribbean.

**Strategy Goals Implemented:** Goal 1: Conserve habitat to support healthy fish, wildlife, and plant populations and ecosystem functions in a changing climate.

**Climate Impacts Addressed:** Impacts on species and habitats



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*  
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

**Status of Project Implementation:** This project is ongoing. A process for initiating a Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) was initiated in 2011 at the request of the Directors of the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA). In 2013, a total of 27 designated representatives from state and federal agencies, LCCs and CSCs worked together to establish a purpose, responsibilities and key goals. Currently, 6 workgroups are working on the following objectives with the goal of completing a first draft SECAS “blueprint” or roadmap in 2016:

- Coordination and Organizational Relationships, working smarter and more collaboratively
- Shaping A Southeast Leadership Summit, to bring leaders together and consolidate support for implementing a SECAS plan
- SE Institutional Setting and Governance Structures
- Catalyzing A SE Collaborative Monitoring Network
- Building A SE Habitat Network, aiming for sustainability in the year 2060
- Communicating SECAS, developing an engagement strategy

**Project Outcomes:** Outcomes from SECAS will be a shared plan, collaboratively implemented, for conserving and managing key sites and ecological processes that are sufficient to support human and wildlife populations in the year 2060.

**Funding Sources:** In-kind support from state members of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA), agency members of the Southeast Natural Resources Leadership Group (SENRLG), six southeastern LCCs and both the Southeast and South Central CSCs.

**Photos/Attachments:**

<http://eoimages.gsfc.nasa.gov/images/imagerecords/62000/62843/SoutheastUS2.A2002311.1615-1930.2km.jpg>

**Photo/Figure Credits:** Jacques Desclotres, MODIS Rapid Response Team, NASA/GSFC

**Suggested Photo Caption:** A clear view of the Southeastern United States