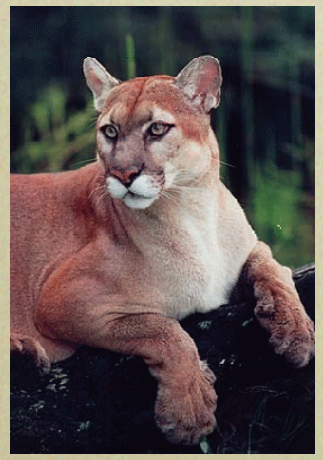
Oz and Florida:

Climate Change Adaptation Planning down under



Doug Parsons
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
National Leadership Forum
NCTC, November 3rd 2010

Australia

- Population: 22 million
- Size comparable to continental U.S.
- Coastal Communities
- Parliamentary system of government

National Biodiversity and Climate Change Action Plan 2004–2007

- Identify priority areas for research and monitoring, and improve understanding of potential climate change impacts on biodiversity to a point where specific strategies can be developed
- Use existing knowledge about the impacts of climate change and draw from ecological principles to review and amend current biodiversity conservation policies and strategies.
- Improve communication about the impacts of climate change on biodiversity between researchers, resources managers and decision makers
- Raise community awareness of the potentially significant and specific impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

National Climate Change Adaptation Framework

Council of Australian Governments

Two Priority Areas:

1. ***Building understanding and adaptive capacity.*** This comprises significant new actions to identify and fill knowledge gaps to enable effective adaptation action at the national and regional levels, including:
– the proposed 'Australian centre for climate change adaptation';
– improved regional climate change information and tools for decision makers; and
– integrated vulnerability assessments of climate change impacts.

2. ***Reducing vulnerability in key sectors and regions***, in particular, water resources, biodiversity, coastal regions, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, health, tourism, and settlements. This will include:
– addressing critical knowledge gaps, much of which would be coordinated through the 'centre for adaptation';
– building sector relevant tools and information; and
– developing and implementing climate change action plans for vulnerable sectors.

National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility

Research Network

- Terrestrial Biodiversity, James Cook University
- Primary Industries, University of Melbourne
- Water Resources & Freshwater Biodiversity, Griffith University
- Marine Biodiversity & Resources, University of Tasmania
- Human Health, Australian National University
- Settlements & Infrastructure, University of New South Wales
- Emergency Management, RMIT University
- Social, Economic & Institutional Dimensions, University of Melbourne

Key Points:

The good…

- Comprehensive planning processes
- Cross sector focus
- Widespread public support
- International cooperation

The bad…

- Not tied to emission targets.
- Reputation for good planning, uneven implementation.

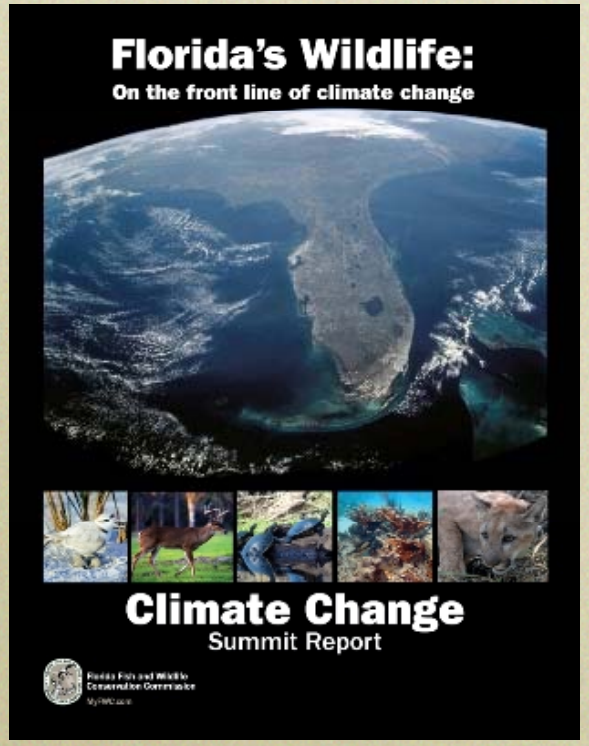
Florida's Unique Vulnerability to Climate change

Commission Resolution, September 2007

FWC Climate Change Summit
October 1-3rd 2008

Breakout session Topics

- Marine, Coastal, and Estuarine Ecosystems
- Inland Aquatic and Semi-aquatic Ecosystems
- Hunting and Fishing
- Native Terrestrial Species, Communities, and Ecosystems
- Invasive Species
- Natural Resource Management and Land-use Planning



FWC Climate Structure

Climate Change Steering Committee
October 2008

→ Sponsor
Executive Director

↓ Workgroup Leads
February 2009

→ Research & Monitoring Workgroup

→ Adaptation Workgroup

→ Communication & Outreach Workgroup

→ Policy & Opportunity Workgroup

→ Operations Workgroup

Structured Decision Making

The Manager's Model

Desired Future Condition

↓

Fundamental Objective

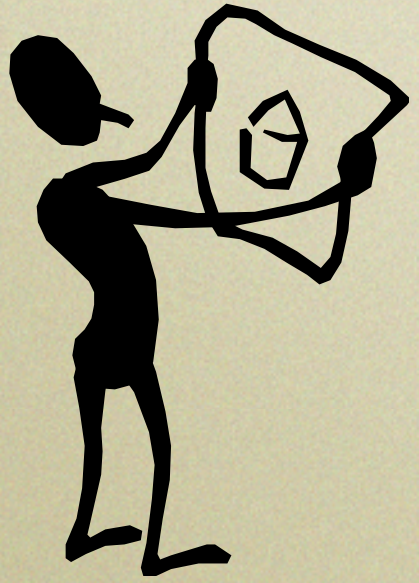
↓

Enabling Objective

↓

Management Action:

Example: Develop an effective approach to incorporate climate change adaptation recommendations into revisions of the state Wildlife Action Plan.



The SWAP Strategy

- Becoming default planning program: State Wildlife *Adaptation* Plan)
- AFWA developing integration tool
- SWAP Revision:
  - Defenders of Wildlife and M.I.T.
  - Vulnerability Assessment
- Climate Teams role in revision
- Sea Level Rise Coordinator

FWC Climate Change Internal Communication

- Survey sent out to all employees
- 350+/- responded (2200+ employees)
- Two key questions on climate change
- Comment section
- Climate Literacy training
- Creating an identity:
  - Branding Climate Change

FWC adapts

Thank you.