



State of the LCC

A Review of Progress and Next Steps

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

North Atlantic LCC Steering Committee Meeting
Saratoga Springs, New York

April 10, 2013

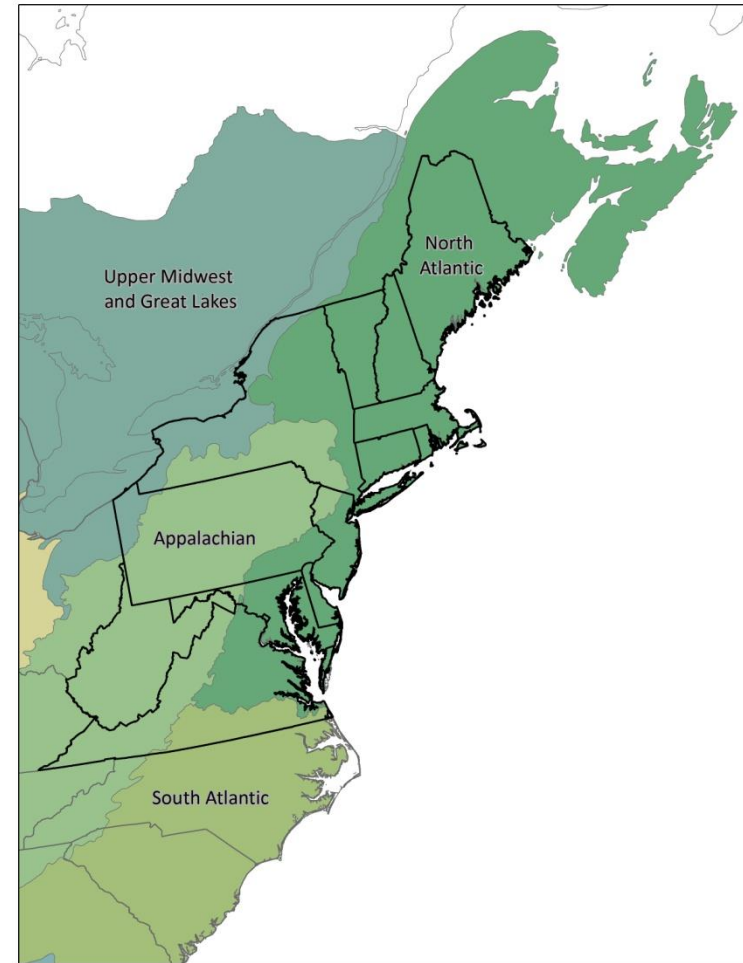


North Atlantic  Landscape Conservation Cooperative



The North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

- Mission, Components, Framework
- Partnership Development & Operational Capacity
- Science Needs & Projects
- Science Delivery
- Working Across Landscapes
- Communications & Information Management
- Next Steps



North Atlantic LCC - Mission

The North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative provides a partnership in which the conservation community works together to **address increasing land use pressures and widespread resource threats and uncertainties amplified by a rapidly changing climate.**

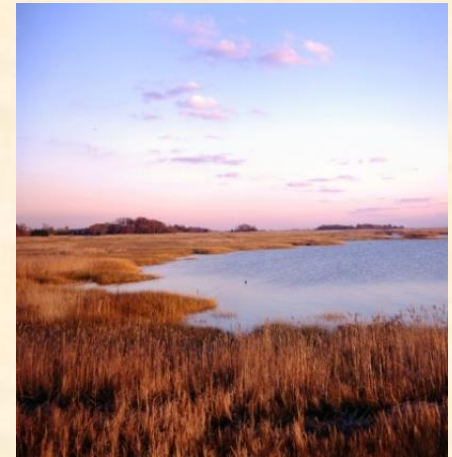
The partners and partnerships in the cooperative address these regional threats and uncertainties by agreeing on common goals and jointly developing the **scientific information and tools needed to prioritize and guide more effective conservation actions** by partners toward those goals.



North Atlantic LCC

Components of Mission

- Ecological Planning
- Conservation Design
- Conservation Adoption and Delivery
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Research
- Information Management
- Communication and Outreach
- Coordination and Organization



Northeast Conservation Framework

GOAL-SETTING
*Which species/habitats to conserve?
At what levels?
Who decides?*

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
*What do we know about the
status of priority wildlife?*

CONSERVATION DESIGN
*What should landscapes look like
to conserve species at goal levels*

**INFORMATION
MANAGEMENT**
*How will we manage the
demand for and creation
of data?*

SCIENCE TRANSLATION
*How do we make science
solutions useful?*

CONSERVATION ADOPTION
*How do we get communities and
landowners engaged in
conservation?*

CONSERVATION DELIVERY
*How will we most efficiently put
conservation on the ground?*

**MONITORING, EVALUATION AND
RESEARCH**
*What new information will we
gather to support
conservation?*

PRIORITIES
*Which species and
issues demand
immediate attention?*

North Atlantic  Landscape Conservation Cooperative

LCC Partnership



North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative

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- North Atlantic  Landscape Conservation Cooperative**

Partnership Development & Operational Capacity



- Technical Committee
 - 43 members (7 State, 24 Fed., 1 Can., 8 NGO, 3 LCC)
 - subteams - aquatic (12), terrestrial/wetland (16) and coastal/marine (15)
- Demonstration Projects Team – 8 members (2 state, 1 fed., 1 tribe, 4 NGO)
- Conservation Design SWAP Synthesis Team with states, LCC and FWS
- Conservation Targets Team – 12 members (2 state, 2 fed., 1 NGO, 1 univ., 2 regional partnerships, 4 LCC)
- Local Planning and Technical Assistance Team



Partnership Development & Operational Capacity

Staff Dedicated to LCC

Position	Agency	Person
Coordinator	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Andrew Milliken
Science Coordinator	Contract to North Atlantic LCC	Scott Schwenk
Conservation Design Specialist	Contract to North Atlantic LCC (part-time)	Steve Fuller
GIS Analyst	Contract to North Atlantic LCC	Lori Pelech
Biological Technician	North Atlantic LCC (part-time)	Lora Mathers (hire new)

Partnership Development & Operational Capacity

Staff Providing Partial Support to LCC

Position	Agency	Person
Communications Coordinator	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Megan Nagel/David Eisenhauer
GIS Coordinator	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	B.J. Richardson
Administrative Assistant	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Heather Zackaricz
Assistant Regional Director	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Ken Elowe
Regional Scientist	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Rick Bennett
Liaison to Northeast LCCs	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	Tai-ming Chang
Coastal Landscape Adaptation Coordinator	National Park Service	Amanda Babson
GIS Analyst	The Nature Conservancy	Alex Jospe

+ details...

Partnership Development & Operational Capacity

- Project administration with WMI
- Provided partnership support
 - Support for meetings, workshops and partner travel
 - LCC Meetings as needed
 - SDM workshop at NCTC
 - Baltimore - Regional SWAP meeting
 - Hadley - Stream Temperature Workshop
 - Amherst - Environmental Contaminants
- Annual process, admin. & meetings aligned with NEAFWA to facilitate participation & collaboration

Science Needs & Projects



Criteria for prioritizing needs

- Foundational needs for organizing landscape conservation (consistent mapping, decision frameworks)
- Needs that address major threats and uncertainties to sustaining natural or cultural resources in the North Atlantic LCC (land use change, climate impacts, energy)
- Needs that address threats and uncertainties to multiple species or habitats.
- Needs that will inform applied conservation decisions and actions
- Needs that are priorities for existing partnerships in the North Atlantic LCC (NEAFWA, JVs, FHPs, NEPARC etc.)

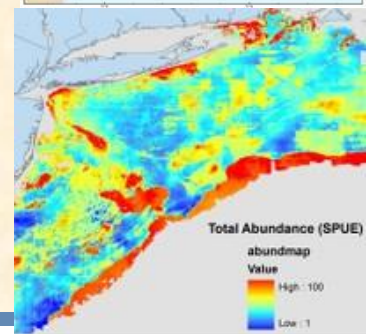
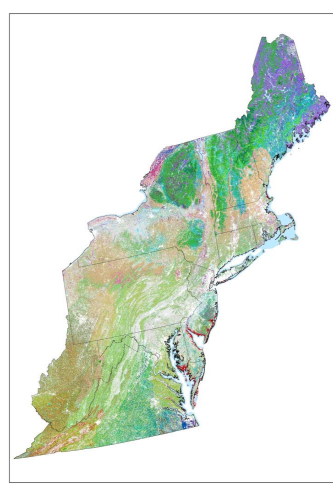
2010 Science Projects

- Regional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments – Habitats (RCN +)
- Landscape Change & Decision Support Tools
 - Coastal
 - Sea level rise, beaches and piping plovers
 - Aquatic
 - Stream flow, temperature, and brook trout
 - Terrestrial /wetland
 - Designing Sustainable Landscapes
 - Species/habitat
 - Ecological integrity



2011 Science Projects

- Foundational Mapping
 - Completing Terrestrial Habitat Map
 - Application of the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification System
- Species-Habitat Mapping and Modeling
 - Representative Species-Habitat Modeling
 - Mapping the Distribution, Abundance & Risk Assessment of Marine Birds



2011 Science Projects (continued)

- Vulnerability Assessments
 - Regional Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments – Species
 - Assessing Priority Amphibian & Reptile Conservation Areas & Vulnerability to Climate Change
- Assessments of Landscape Connectivity
 - Permeable Landscapes for SGCN and Rep. Spp. (RCN)
- Information Management
 - Information Management Needs Assessment
- Compilation and Synthesis of Information
 - Northeast Landscape Conservation Design

2012 Projects

- Foundational Mapping
 - extend Northeast Wildlife Habitat map into Canada
 - refine Northeast aquatic habitat classification
 - consistent regional intertidal habitat mapping (NWI updates)
- Assessments/Decision Support tools
 - Phase II of Designing Sustainable Landscapes for terrestrial and wetland habitats and species
 - Decision support tools to assess aquatic habitats and threats in North Atlantic watersheds and coastal zone
 - understanding vulnerability of coastal ecosystems and guiding conservation decisions in the face of sea level rise and storms (LCC SDM workshop, CSC funding)

2012 Projects (continued)

Demonstration Projects

- White Mountains to Moosehead Lake Initiative—
Parcel Level Planning, Progress Tracking and
Stakeholder Engagement to Advance Resilient
Landscape Conservation
- Integrating Science into Policy: Local Adaptation for
Marsh Migration
- Utilizing Climate Adaptation Science to Prioritize and
Amplify Landscape Scale Conservation Efforts in the
Appalachian Forests of the North Atlantic Landscape
Conservation Cooperative Geography

Project Management

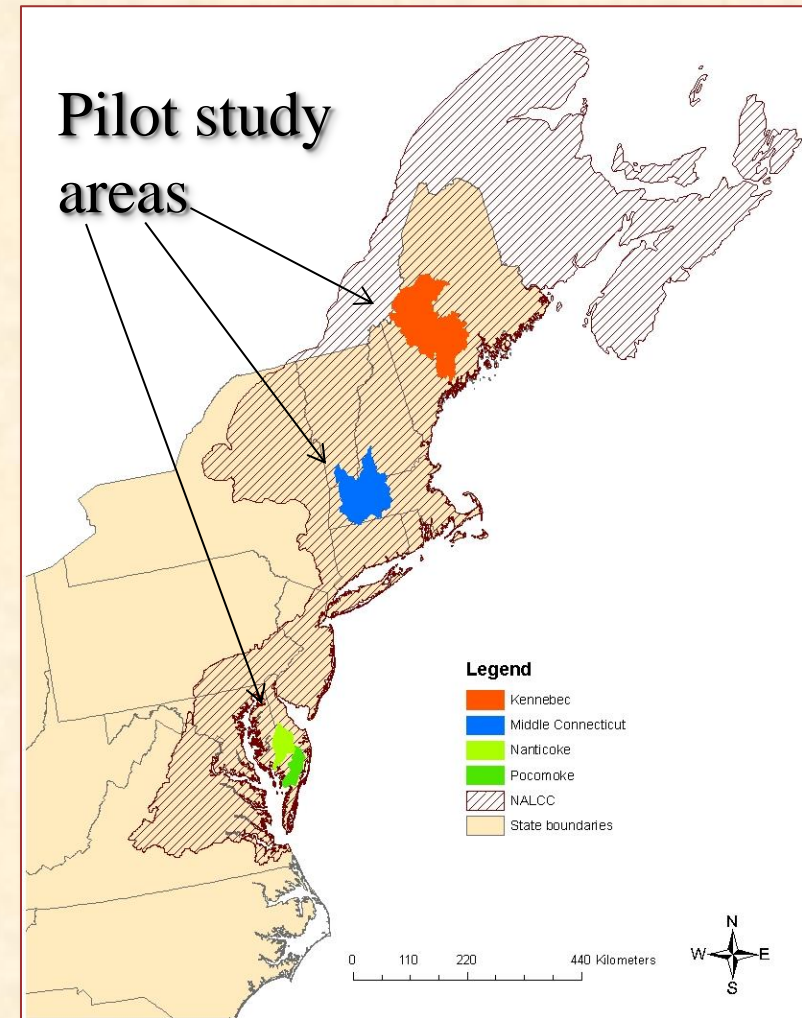


- All projects posted on website
<http://www.northatlanticlcc.org/projects>
 - Summaries, quarterly reports and products
- Spatial data products compiled and synthesized
- All projects get quarterly review and approval by WMI and LCC staff
- Projects include technical and decision-maker input
 - Designing Sustainable Landscapes workshops
- LCC emerging role in bringing together project P.I.s to increase coordination and reduce redundancy
 - Aquatic P.I. example

Science Delivery: Engaging Managers in Designing DSTs

Three workshops, October, 2012
with > 100 partners attending:

- Increase understanding among conservation decision makers
- Actively involve potential users to make decision support tools relevant and useful
- Begin a long-term collaboration on shared conservation issues across a broad landscape



Science Delivery: Northeast Landscape Conservation Design and Synthesis

- Organization, synthesis, science translation and adoption for completed, ongoing and future projects including:
 - organization of existing data to make information more available;
 - synthesis of existing data to develop/compile landscape designs that will allow partners to map and prioritize focus areas for conservation;
 - translation of maps and other tools to make landscape design data useful at various scales and in various formats; and
 - assistance to ensure that science and tools are understood and consistently adopted and implemented in support of on-the-ground conservation.
- GIS Analysts in the LCC and TNC are now working with LCC staff, state and other partners. Initial focus on synthesizing information for the State Wildlife Action Plan Updates.

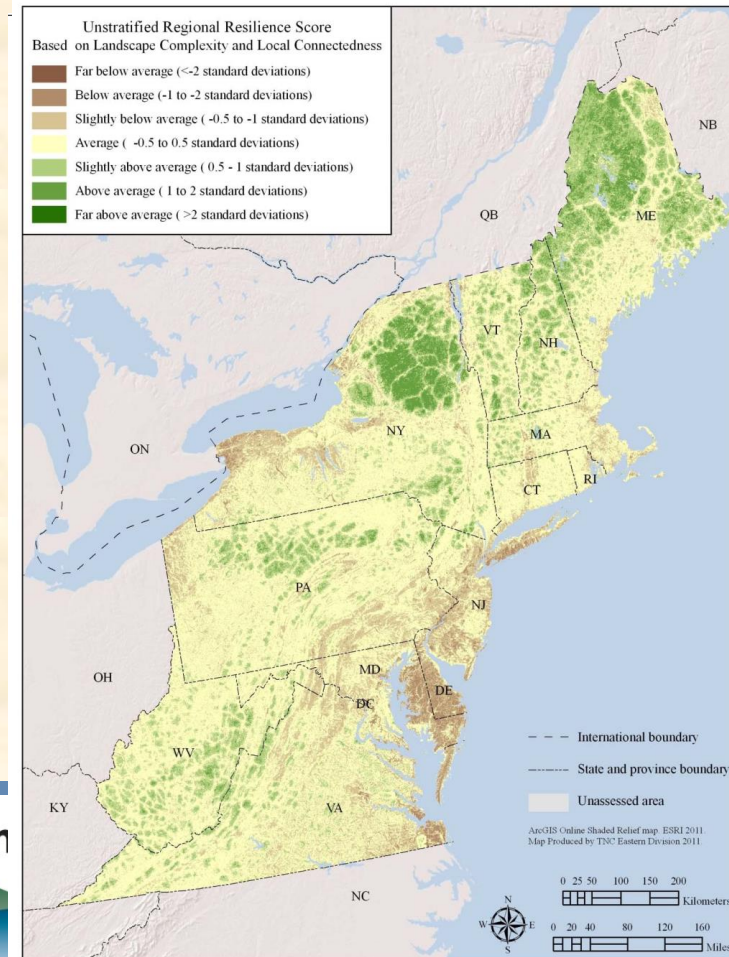
Science Delivery Integrating

Landscape Conservation Designs

Models and maps (conservation blueprints) that prioritize conservation actions and guide conservation decisions towards common goals based on current and predicted future conditions e.g.

- Habitat maps and condition
- Projections of climate impacts
- Integrity of ecological systems
- Habitat suitability for wildlife
- Resiliency and connectivity

North Atlantic Landscape Conservation



Science Delivery: Northeast Regional Synthesis, Putting it Together for SWAPs

- **Regional context and highlights**-what is leveraged through a regional approach
 - Responsibility of each state toward regional goals
 - Regional support and partnerships
- **Organization follows SWAP 8 required elements**
- **Needs**
 - Organization of existing information
 - Synthesis to develop/compile landscape designs
 - Translation to make data useful at various scales and formats
 - Assistance with conservation adoption
- **Intended audience/use**
 - SWAP coordinators
 - States and conservation partners implementing SWAPs

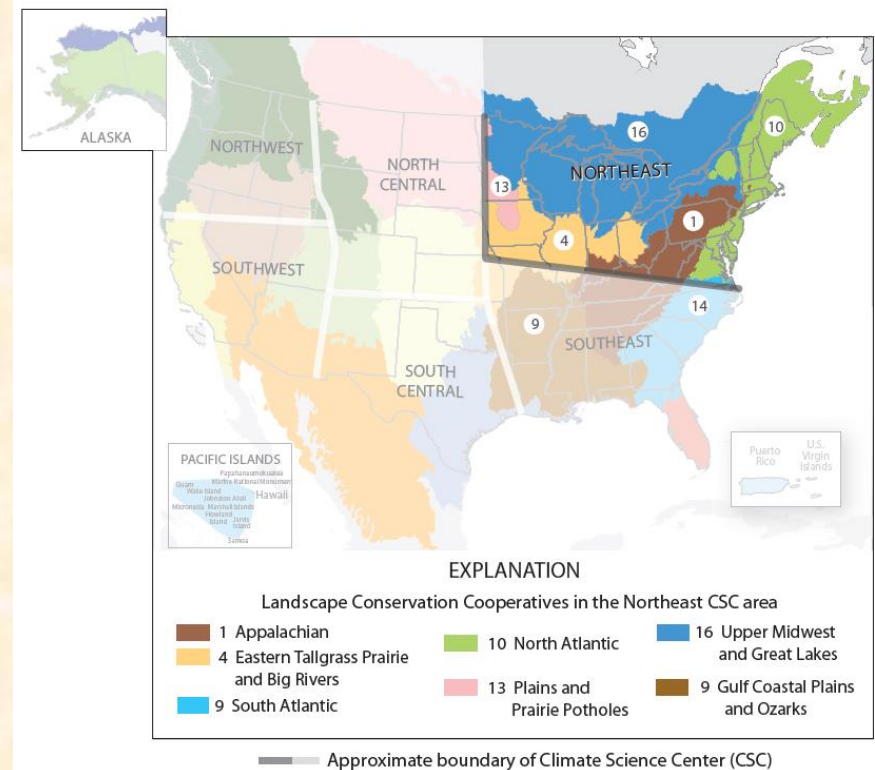


Working Across Landscapes

Northeast Climate Science Center

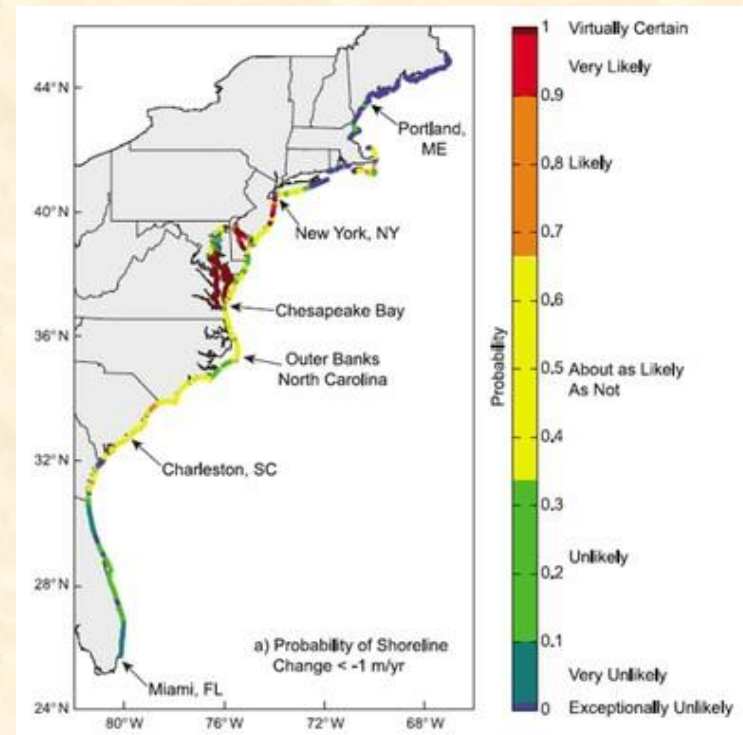


- Critical new USGS and University consortium for providing fundamental science
- Significant LCC staff time to help lead collaboration of CSC with LCCs and prioritization of science needs across LCCs



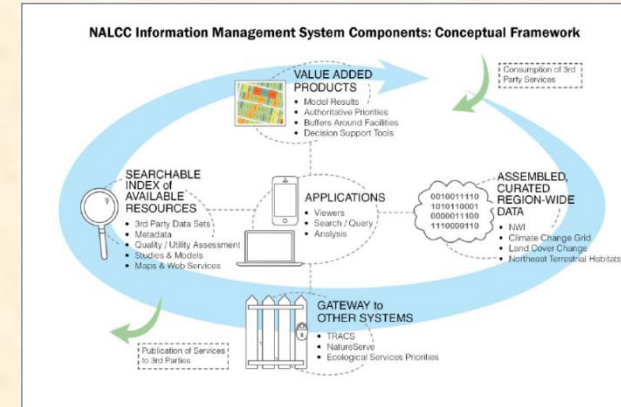
Working Across Landscapes: Sea Level Rise Structured Decision Making

- LCC sponsored and led
- Brought together coastal scientists and managers
- Where to invest resources to sustain coastal habitats, species and ecosystem services
- USGS CSC using results for SLR decision model



Communications & Information Management: Information Management System

- LCC Team and contractor conducted Information Management Needs Assessment
- Recommendation for system to meet the priority LCC IM needs
- Consistent with adjacent/national LCCs
- Integrated with LCC website



Communications: North Atlantic LCC Website

- Dynamic Content Management Website
- Web community - all staff and partners can post and share documents
- Currently supporting 12 groups, considering partner websites e.g. Atlantic Salmon partnership
- Announcements, meetings, webinars
- Project information, tracking, online RFPs
- Data portal linking to Information Management System



Communications: Outreach with Tribes



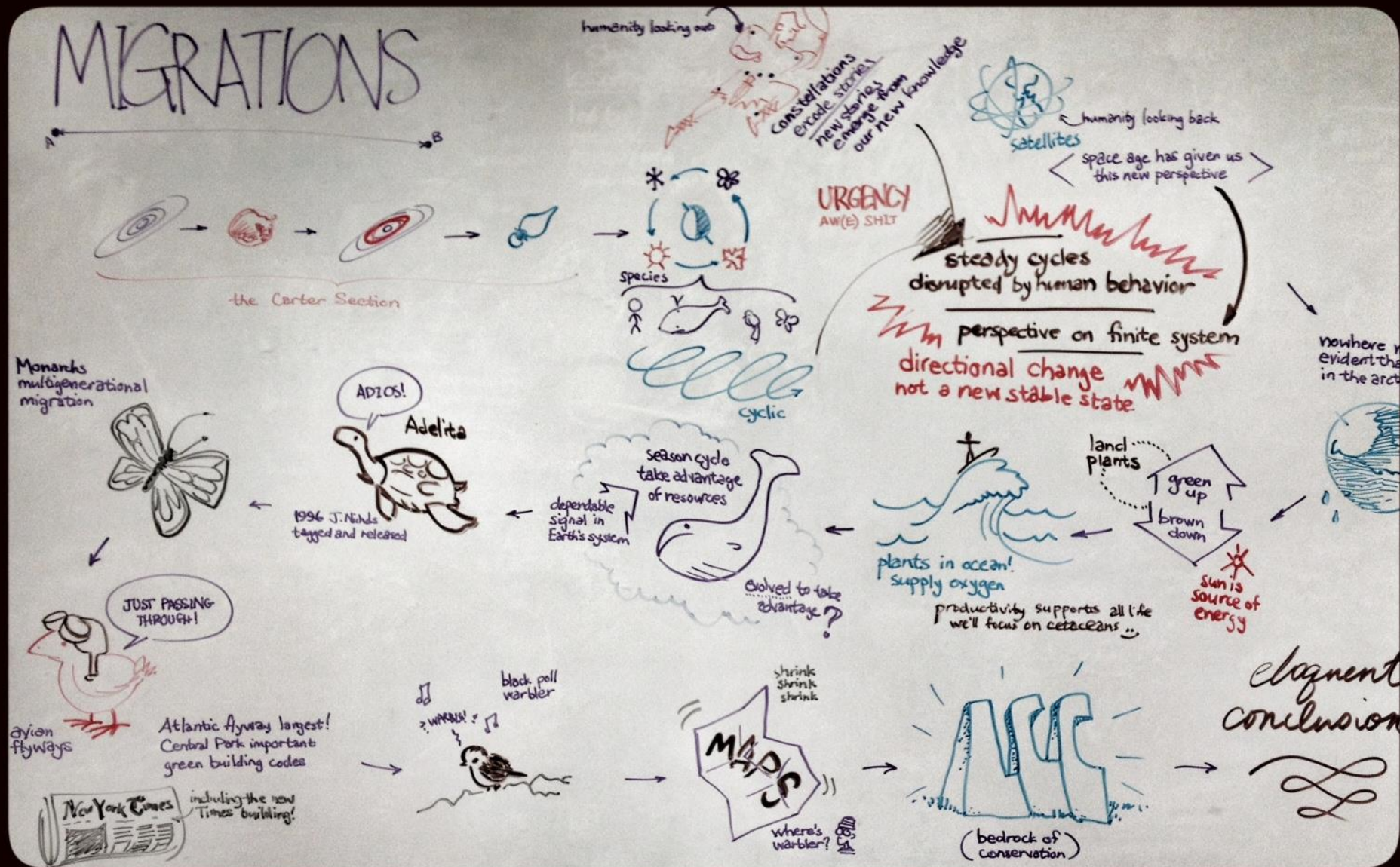
- 12 federally-recognized tribes in LCC
- Represented by United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) natural resources committee
- USET passed a resolution supporting LCCs but challenging for them to participate
- North Atlantic LCC brought together LCCs and CSCs for joint participation at USET meetings
- Planning tribal forums starting in Maine this summer
- Also potential interest by tribes in science delivery demonstration projects

Communications:

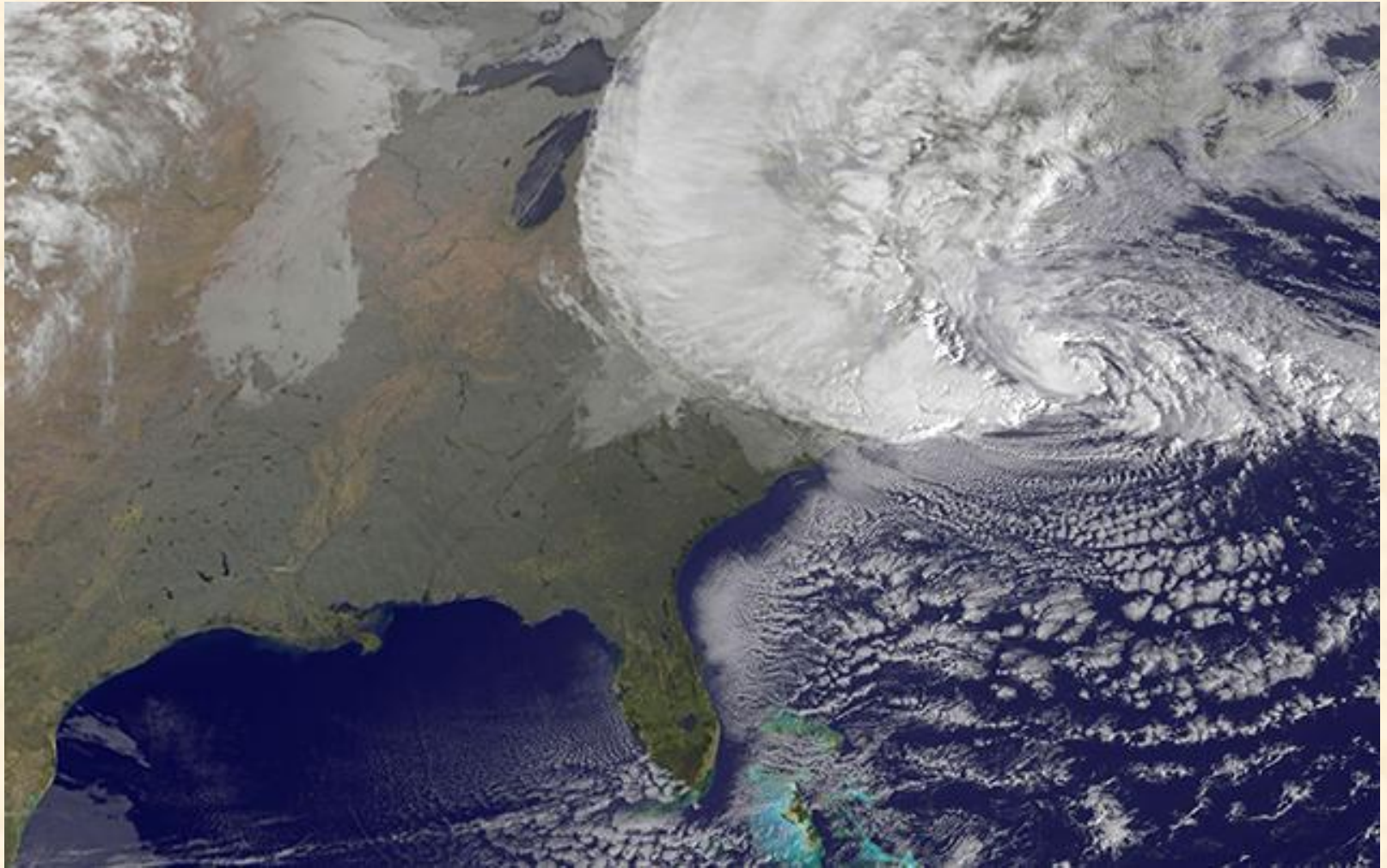
Outreach with local planners

- Planned and participated in Regional Plan Association Doris Duke Northeast Landscape Conference
 - Attended by regional and local planners and land trusts
 - Land trusts great link to local planning
- Planned and participated in a session at the American Planning Association Northern New England Chapter with Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Manomet
 - Attended by local planners
 - Good feedback on tools presented
 - Need for further simplification and translation
 - Need for town by town training
 - Capacity in each state?

Communications - Worldviews Network



Hurricane Sandy



2013 – Next Steps



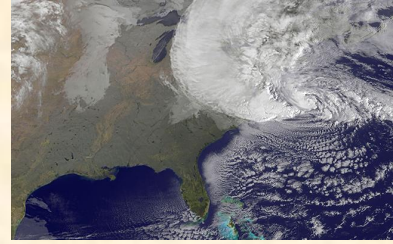
- Partnership Development and Operations
 - Canadian Provinces & NGOs
 - Tribes – continue USET, add tribal forums around region
 - Local planners and land trusts – state capacity?
 - Delivery partners (e.g. NRCS) as part of science delivery
 - Maintain or increase operational capacity for conservation design, translation and adoption
- Science Needs and Projects
 - Technical committee involvement throughout year
 - Consider broader call for science needs in 2013
 - Coordination with neighboring LCCs & Network
 - Coordination with Climate Science Center
 - Select initial indicators and conservation targets
- Develop cultural resource science needs

2013 – Next Steps



- Science Project Implementation & Tracking
 - Oversight committees
 - Science seminars and feedback
 - Manager/User groups for additional projects
 - RFPs online
- Conservation Design, Translation, Adoption
 - Implementation of Landscape Conservation Design & regional synthesis of information for SWAPS
 - Develop science delivery team
 - Testing and delivery of science by partners in subregions (Gulf of Maine, Connecticut River etc.)

2013 – Next Steps



- Hurricane Sandy Science Coordination
 - Link between DOI resiliency science and LCC partners
 - Web portal linking information to decision makers
 - Addressing major science needs to make conservation decisions with an understanding of the impacts of sea level rise and storms on beaches, marshes, other coastal habitats and species
 - Develop conservation designs and decision support tools for coastal ecosystems
 - Working with communities on options to help sustain natural coastal systems in the face of sea level rise and storms

2013 – Next Steps



- Communications and Information Management
 - Complete full website and web portal
 - Implement Information Management System
 - Congressional outreach
 - Outreach to broader audiences
 - Worldviews network
 - Communicators Community of practice
- What else?
- Questions?
- Ideas?