

Regional Integration Proposal

“Fostering Public-Private Partnerships in the Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean to Advance Resilience and Disaster Recovery”

Partners

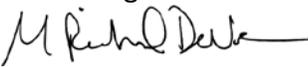
Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership (SDRP)
Southeast and Caribbean Sea Grant Programs (SESGP)
Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART)

With the assistance of

Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice (CCoP)
Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments (CISA) Program

Submitted by:

(on behalf of representatives of the organizations listed above)

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Brief Overview

The proposed effort represents a collective attempt at bringing together and leveraging expertise and resources to address pressing needs related to planning for, preparing and adequately responding to chronic and episodic hazard events. Project partners recognize that one of the biggest challenges to enhancing community resilience is planning in advance for post-disaster recovery. For a community to be disaster-resilient, public-private partnerships working hand-in-hand to develop comprehensive approaches to disaster recovery are necessary. It will also require the active engagement of leaders representing the many business interests that make up the private sector.

The SDRP Project is engaged in an on-going effort to build public-private partnerships to enhance post-disaster recovery for businesses. Its efforts offer a unique opportunity for the SESGP, SECART, CCoP, and CISA to add value to an existing NOAA-funded project by coalescing available talent and expertise on specific applications of the SDRP that would be unmet under the terms of that award. Sea Grant and SECART propose to work with the SDRP with support of the CCoP and CISA program to develop a process that can be used to enhance coastal disaster resilience and recovery, particularly in the private sector, through public-private partnerships.

Partners

SECART, Sea Grant, CISA, and the Climate Community of Practice

Coastal decision makers in the Southeast and Caribbean region have a critical need to understand local risks and vulnerabilities from climate variability and change and incorporate those into existing and future planning practices. This cannot be done without climate science which has been translated into a meaningful form for decision making processes, requiring partnerships and collaborations among climate scientists, outreach and extension professionals, and local communities. Initiated by NOAA's Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team (SECART) and the Southeast region Sea Grant Programs (SESGP), and enhanced by the Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments (CISA) Program, the Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice (CCoP) was created in 2010 as a response to this growing need for climate extension professionals who bridge the gaps between science and decision making to come together to foster information exchange and technical assistance. SECART, SESGP, CISA, and the CCoP recognize the value in leveraging the diverse set of assets in the region, which includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The CCoP has served as a significant regional information exchange mechanism which has brought together SECART, SESGP, climate programs (e.g., RISAs), and community partners from local, state and federal government, academia, non-profit and private organizations, for sharing lessons learned and best practices related to climate communication and adaptation. The CCoP also works to provide education and networking opportunities to members and their stakeholders that increase knowledge and awareness of climate science. CISA and the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium have provided leadership for these types of CCoP activities for the past several years, organizing two in-person meetings, hosting three webinars, and distributing relevant information via newsletters and social media to CCoP members. This information sharing and knowledge building is a key component of adaptive capacity, or the ability to integrate adaptation strategies into existing systems. Building this capacity is crucial for effective selection and implementation of adaptation options that increase a community's resilience to the impacts of climate change, including anticipated increases in the frequency or intensity of extreme hazard events.

Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership

The Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership (SDRP) is a related "resilience" program which aims to advance the capacity of Southeastern communities to plan for long-term disaster. The SDRP – established through a NOAA Regional Coastal Resilience Grant under the auspices of the Governors' South Atlantic Alliance where significant progress has been made – is now managed through the Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA). SDRP's vision is a more sustainable and resilient region, capable of bouncing back from the next hurricane or other disaster. The work plan has three major components. First, government agencies in each of the four states of the Southeast (NC, SC, GA, and FL) are implementing initiatives to build local capacity for disaster recovery, including development of Post-Disaster Recovery and Redevelopment Plans, drawing lessons from Hurricane Matthew, and building capacity to share

lessons learned. The second component, more fully described below, is building capacity of the public and private sectors to engage businesses in long-term recovery efforts and promote economic recovery. The third component is building relationships among partnership members and beyond to build a stronger community of practice for long-term disaster recovery.

One of the early objectives of the Partnership was to improve private sector engagement in discussions of post-disaster recovery. In order to achieve this aim, the Partnership has established a Resilient Business Network comprised of business leaders interested in advancing resilience and disaster recovery. This Network is advising Partnership staff on the development of two deliverables: a report on strategies for long-term business and economic recovery after disasters and engaging the private sector in recovery planning, and a white paper on public-private partnerships for disaster recovery.

Foundation for Proposed Effort

One of the ongoing tasks of the SDRP is the development of a white paper titled “Public-Private Partnerships for Disaster Recovery.” The white paper will:

1. Provide an overview, recommendations, and case studies of public-private partnerships in disaster recovery in the southeastern U.S. region
2. Include different areas in which public private partnerships can operate in disaster recovery (housing, business recovery, infrastructure, planning, ecological restoration, etc.)
3. Provide case examples of partnerships in action, from within the Southeast and beyond

It will also provide an overview of best practices for collaboration across the public and private sectors. The Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program has also indicated a willingness to translate the resulting document into Spanish to broaden its reach.

Project Goals and Objectives

There is a pressing need to provide an opportunity for representatives of the private and public sectors throughout the southeastern and Caribbean region to share information on climate-related tools, resources, activities, expertise, and adaptation success stories related to business recovery. Additionally, the CCoP and the SDRP have identified a critical need to expand the private sector component of our respective work, and have agreed to collaborate on an information exchange and network building event.

While the SDRP brings representatives of mainstream (e.g. downtown) businesses and state emergency management organizations to the table, the region’s NOAA project partners will be able to augment that representation with those from the broader maritime sector, including fisheries and aquaculture; coastal recreation, tourism, and retirement; marinas and community docks; services (restaurants, tackle shops, etc.); and waterfront trades. Such collaboration will result in an expansion of the network of private sector interests engaged in community-level post-disaster recovery planning, a desire of all project partner organizations.

We will perform the following tasks in order to achieve our desired outcomes:

1. Develop a detailed plan of work
2. Convene a joint forum among the southeastern Sea Grant College Programs and SECART together with representatives of the CCoP and the SDRP to review, evaluate, and prioritize effective public-private sector strategies for disaster recovery
3. Conduct pilot project efforts in NC, SC, GA, FL and PR at the community level to field test and evaluate such strategies through engagement of public and private sector entities
4. Prepare a Summary Report (“Brief”) that concisely documents the results of the regional and pilot project efforts, and outlines a prospectus for the future.

1. Develop Plan of Work

Project PIs (see below) will convene via conference call to develop a detailed plan of work for the activities described below. Included in this planning will be the creation of milestones and deliverables, and identification of responsible parties. We anticipate completion by August 31, 2018.

2. Convene and Host Joint Forum

Project PIs will plan and convene a regional Forum at a to-be-determined location; we anticipate the Forum will be held in conjunction with an already scheduled meeting to enhance participation and reduce travel costs. We expect that the Forum will be scheduled as a one-day event, and will be limited to no more than 100 participants. Project PIs, with the assistance of a graduate student intern, will identify and invite Forum participants from a variety of business and community interests, including those identified above, along with emergency managers (state and local), disaster recovery specialists, and resilience research, extension and outreach professionals.

The specific objectives of the forum will be to:

- a. Expand disaster recovery literacy and establish common awareness and language among participants
- b. Provide a venue to review and discuss the white paper titled “Public-Private Partnerships for Disaster Recovery”
- c. Share lessons learned and identify a suite of best management practices for implementing disaster recovery planning for businesses through public-private partnerships
- d. Provide a networking opportunity for a diverse representation of local, state and regional public and coastal/marine private sector interests within and throughout the Southeastern U.S. and Caribbean
- e. Document results for use in five pilot projects

3. Implement Pilot Projects

Project PIs will identify a coastal community within each of the four states and territory where a pilot project activity will be conducted. Each pilot project will be convened to engage a selected audience (determined by each of the state/territory leads) to present, discuss, and

assess results and outcomes of the forum for their utility and effectiveness in fostering public-private partnerships and effective disaster recovery at the local level.

Specifically, each pilot project will:

- a. Convene a focus group meeting of local government officials, emergency managers, representatives of a diverse group of small business, and others to review the strategies identified at the Forum
- b. Conduct focus group meeting engagement activities to assess the potential for and efficacy of those strategies in enhancing a public-private partnership approach to fostering disaster recovery planning among members of the coastal/maritime business community
- c. Document the means by which and measures used to assess and measure disaster recovery preparedness
- d. Identify and “flesh out” those strategies highly rated by the meeting participants that would benefit from additional testing and implementation in coastal communities throughout the Southeast and Caribbean
- e. Document results from the five pilot projects for use by other communities

4. Prepare the “Brief”

Project PIs, again with the assistance of a graduate student intern, will prepare a concise document that summarizes the outcomes of the forum and the pilot project efforts, and identifies remaining needs for information, training, education, public awareness, partnership development and effective planning for post-disaster recovery. This document will serve as a template for use by the project partners and others to steer and leverage their programs and activities in the future.

Expected Benefits

For Sea Grant

Such a collaborative, joint regional project meets a number of Sea Grant and SECART goals, and furthers the reach of both the CCoP and the SDRP. For example, working with community-based businesses to increase their adaptive capacity meets several of the Sea Grant goals within the *Resilient Coastal Economies* focus area, including development of vibrant and resilient coastal economies (Goal 1), communities use comprehensive planning to make informed strategic decisions (Goal 2), and resilient coastal communities adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change (Goal 4). In addition, the CCoP supports Sea Grant’s *Environmental Literacy and Workforce Development* focus area by working to support an environmentally literate public supported and informed by a continuum of lifelong formal and informal engagement opportunities (Goal 1).

For SECART

SECART has a priority theme to “Improve Resilience of Communities to Extreme Events and Climate Change.” This project will address all three goals within this theme:

1. Facilitate the development of emerging science and technology solutions to enable regional stakeholders to better plan for and respond to the risks posed by hazards and climate change
2. Facilitate the application of products, services, and knowledge to enhance the capacity of communities to understand, plan for, and respond to risks posed by extreme events and climate change
3. Enhance organizational awareness and coordination within the region to improve response to a natural or man-made disaster

The Climate Community of Practice has been a priority activity within this theme for SECART, dating back to 2010. The SECART Coordinator serves on the steering committee for the CCoP.

For SDRP

This proposed project leverages investments made by NOAA in the Southeast Disaster Recovery Partnership by enhancing the reach and application of materials developed under its grant funding. It also contributes to the high-level goals of the Partnership, which are three-fold: (1) Support Southeastern states in providing information, training and resources to coastal communities to implement disaster recovery planning; (2) Build the capacity of the private sector to engage in implementation of economic recovery; and (3) Build regional disaster recovery capacity by ensuring knowledge is exchanged across federal, state, and local governments and with non-governmental partners such as the private sector. The proposed effort particularly supports and extends our work to achieve goals 2 and 3. While SDRP includes outreach in its scope of work for the public-private partnerships white paper, this proposed project far exceeds the outreach SDRP would do on its own by both bringing together experts in one location for information and idea exchange, as well as by catalyzing implementation efforts across the region.

For CCoP

The primary function of the CCoP is to engage a network of climate adaptation practitioners in the Southeast and Caribbean region including individuals from local, state, and federal governments, academia, non-profit organizations, and the private sector. With a focus on increasing coastal climate resilience, the efforts of the CCoP are intended to 1) facilitate exchange and collaboration between science and policy communities, 2) provide a forum through which successes can serve as models for other members, and 3) make expertise in climate service groups accessible to developing projects. With respect to NOAA goals and objectives, the work of the CCoP supports resilient coastal communities that can adapt to the impacts of hazards and climate change and Weather Ready Nation objectives to reduce loss of life, property, and disruption from high impact events. The proposed project provides an opportunity for CCoP members to support each of these goals and objectives.

For CISA

The overall goal of the CISA program is to support and foster the capacity in the Carolinas to respond to and prepare for climate variability and change and associated impacts on the region's resources and communities. CISA seeks to achieve this goal by advancing

understanding of climate processes and impacts, providing innovative decision support services, supporting the implementation of climate adaptation strategies, and fostering climate information networks. In collaboration with the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, CISA supports a Coastal Climate and Resilience Specialist dedicated to working directly with decision makers to establish trusted relationships key to the success to this work. Through support of the CCoP, CISA is able to extend efforts to increase adaptive capacity to the broader Southeast and Caribbean region. The proposed project engages all of these components of the CISA program and directly supports the overall program goal.

Project Plan

The Plan of Work will be prepared under Objective 1.

Outcomes

This project will bring SECART, Sea Grant, and SDRP professionals together with members and representatives of coastal business and industry to share expertise, tools, resources, and lessons learned and assess the effectiveness and practicality of selected approaches to private sector post-disaster recovery planning in our region. We will utilize the draft white paper being prepared by the SRDP titled “Public-Private Partnerships for Disaster Recovery” as the template for which the forum agenda will be shaped and the pilot projects will be informed. Through face-to-face interaction and engagement, both regionally and locally, this project will provide one means by which we can identify concrete steps to enhance public-private partnerships and ideas and adaptation strategies which will be crucial for increasing resilience throughout our region. By utilizing the existing framework of the regional Sea Grant and SECART (in partnership with the CCoP) and SDRP networks, we will be strengthening the cumulative capacity of our region to respond to the growing threats of a rapidly changing environment and developing strategies which can be transferable to other communities throughout our region and possibly elsewhere in the country.

Project Team

The proposed project will be carried out by a collaborative team consisting of the following organizations and their representatives:

- Amanda Martin – Southeast Disaster Recovery Program, UNC-CH
- Eugene Olmi, Ph.D. – NOAA Southeast and Caribbean Regional Team
- M. Richard DeVoe – S.C. Sea Grant Consortium
- Susan White, Ph.D. – North Carolina Sea Grant College Program, NCSU
- Mark Risse, Ph.D. – Georgia Sea Grant College Program, UGA
- Martin Main, Ph.D. – Florida Sea Grant College Program, UF
- Ruperto Chaparro Serrano, Ph.D. – Puerto Rico Sea Grant College Program, UPR
- Amanda Farris – Southeast and Caribbean Climate Community of Practice (CCoP) and Carolinas Integrated Science and Assessments (CISA) Program