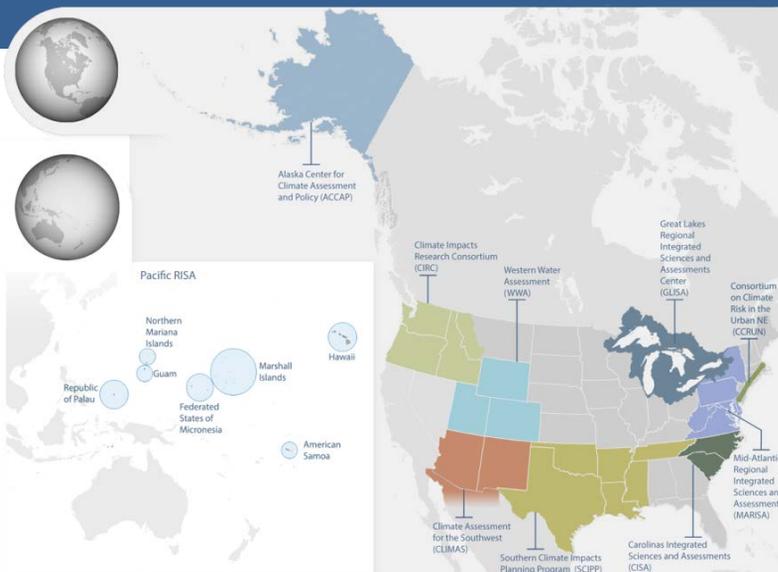


# REGIONAL INTEGRATED SCIENCES & ASSESSMENTS (RISA)

Helping regions and communities better prepare and plan for hazards and extreme events for more than 20 years.

In 2016 alone, the United States experienced 15 billion-dollar weather and climate disasters, which resulted in 138 fatalities and cost \$46 billion.

For more than 20 years, the NOAA **Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA)** Program has been producing actionable climate research, helping to reduce economic damages that Americans face every year due to droughts, floods, forest fires, vector-borne diseases, and a host of other climate and extreme weather impacts. The **network of ten RISA teams across the country** work hand-in-hand with stakeholders and decision makers in regions across the United States to ensure that research and information is responsive to their needs.



The sustained regional presence of RISA enables teams to effectively support responses to extreme events. In 2012, CCRUN's expertise in coastal inundation informed New York City planning efforts after Hurricane Sandy, WWA researchers aided Colorado after 2013's record flooding, and RISA teams in the Western United States have supported the region during its recent intense drought.



Photo Courtesy: WWA

Research produced by the RISA program has educated, informed, and closely interacted with thousands of decision makers across the nation, helping them build the expertise to better plan and prepare for climate variability and extreme weather events. RISA products are making a difference today, helping communities and individuals improve resilience, enhance growth, and reduce costs in a variety of sectors. RISA is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Program Office.



Photo Courtesy: Pacific RISA

Updated: April 2017

Learn more: [CPO.NOAA.gov/RISA](http://CPO.NOAA.gov/RISA)



# HOW IS RISA HELPING COMMUNITIES NEAR ME?

Bound by the Lakes that shape both their cultural and natural resources, Great Lakes communities have faced dramatic changes in the past five decades—including deep economic downturn, population shifts, and negative environmental impacts. While climate change impacts are projected to exacerbate some of these challenges, leaders in the region are increasingly committed to a sustainable future by leveraging opportunities to mitigate climate impacts and adaptively respond to them. The **Great Lakes Integrated Sciences & Assessments (GLISA)** program supports the Great Lakes region across the U.S. and Canada, building the capacity to manage risks from climate change and vulnerability.

## GREAT LAKES INTEGRATED SCIENCES & ASSESSMENTS CENTER (GLISA)



[glisa.umich.edu](http://glisa.umich.edu)

## PROTECTING SENSITIVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN INDIANA

More frequent and intense weather around the Great Lakes region left municipalities looking for a way to identify and secure valuable, vulnerable infrastructure, such as water and wastewater treatment plants and electricity transformers.



GLISA worked with the city of Gary, IN and a number of partners on the pilot program for the Climate-Ready Infrastructure and Strategic Sites Protocol (CRISSP). CRISSP is an adaptation tool that evaluates the vulnerability of a municipality's critical infrastructure sites to climate change and extreme weather. The tool was developed to provide small- and medium-sized municipalities with an affordable, simplified approach to evaluating vulnerability and resiliency to climate extremes. The pilot project focuses on more than just identifying risks, but also providing guidance on securing this vulnerable infrastructure in both the short- and long-term. Thanks to this project, Gary's annual capital investment planning now includes infrastructure improvements based on its climate vulnerability.

A program partner, the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, plans to expand the CRISSP methodology beyond Gary, Indiana to its more than 110 member cities in an effort to scale up adaptation options in the region