GLISA
A NOAA RISA TEAM

2018 Great Lakes Adaptation Forum

Overview

- **Purpose:** To bring Great Lakes scholars and practitioners from different disciplines together to share, learn, innovate, and focus on the importance of equity and inclusion in climate adaptation.
- **Partner:** American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP)
- **People:** 163 practitioners, scholars, and students from United States and Canadian universities, tribal governments, nonprofits, private industries, and government agencies
- **Impact:** Co-hosted the 2018 Great Lakes Adaptation Forum, which bridged sectors and facilitated knowledge-sharing among experts in different fields. Dr. Dan Wildcat of the Haskell Indian Nations University gave the keynote address, and the Forum received wide media coverage and positive testimonials from attendees.

The Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA) and the American Society of Adaptation Professionals (ASAP) co-hosted the 2018 Great Lakes Adaptation Forum at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor September 24th - 26th, 2018. GLISA hosted the previous two such Forums in 2014 and 2016, and ASAP's expertise in communications, program development, and coordinating regional forums across the country made them a valuable co-host. 163 practitioners, scholars, and students from United States and Canadian universities, tribal governments, nonprofits, private industries, and government agencies came together to discuss the latest in adaptation funding, technology, equity, and leadership.

The format of the Forum was designed around four tracks, developed by the Forum's Advisory Board and implemented to bridge sectors and facilitate knowledge-sharing among experts in different fields. The four tracks were: 1) beyond borders; 2) funding and finance; 3) innovation and technology; and 4) leadership at all levels. Highlighting the Forum's specific focus on issues of equity and inclusion, Dr. Dan Wildcat of the Haskell Indian Nations University gave the keynote address, speaking specifically to the importance of including traditional ecological knowledge in adaptation strategies to climate change: "Before any of us in this room thought in boxes, before any of us worked in silos, before any of us did research that was prescribed, and detailed in our disciplines and methodologies of choice we employ, our ancestors learned, worked, thought, researched out of doors," Dr. Wildcat told the attendees during the opening plenary.

Hosting the Forum provided the unique opportunity to showcase GLISA's role as a trusted convener in the region, to feature its latest work, to maintain existing relationships, and to meet new partners. During the Forum, GLISA provided space for several special interest group meetings for attendees to convene, including its first-ever student symposium, planned by and for

Dr. Dan Wildcat of Haskell Indian Nations University gives the keynote address at the 2018 Great Lakes Adaptation Forum.

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students considering careers in climate adaptation. The Forum received wide media coverage, including an Associated Press event announcement picked up by multiple outlets (e.g., Niagara Gazette) and a radio story on a New York NPR affiliate. Planning and executing the event entailed significant support from the GLISA team, including recruiting and coordinating an Advisory Board and Program Committee, obtaining sponsors, soliciting and reviewing session proposals, setting the agenda, running a competition for and reimbursing travel scholarships, managing registration and the budget, staffing the Forum, and distributing and analyzing a follow-up survey.

GLISA presented at a session at the 2019 National Adaptation Forum to bring together other regional Forum organizers and supported the drafting and release of the first-ever 'Reflections on the 2018 Regional Adaptation Fora' report. Feedback on the Forum's follow-up survey indicated that the vast majority of attendees considered their experience at the Forum to be excellent, with respondents particularly valuing the strong representation of tribal and indigenous perspectives, city-scale adaptation strategies, and the interconnection of multi-scalar/sector work on climate change.

2018 Forum attendees participate in breakout sessions.

"The Forum was very well organized, interactive and ran smoothly each day. I liked the engagement from so many different organizations and institutions. I appreciated the involvement of students and researchers (as well as support given to tribal community members who had to travel for the forum). I was very excited for GLAF 2018, and it exceeded my expectations. I took away a lot of new knowledge and connections."

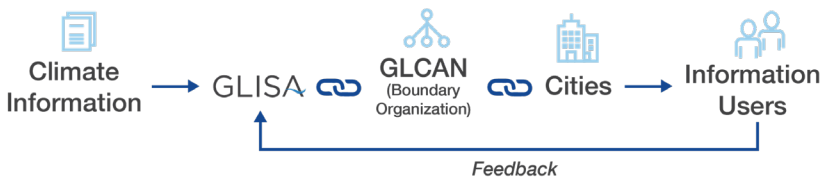
– Anonymous 2018 Great Lakes Adaptation Forum attendee

About GLISA

Advancing Climate Knowledge for Adaptation and Resilience with Great Lakes Communities

Established in 2010, GLISA is a collaboration between the University of Michigan and Michigan State University, supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). As one of 11 NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) teams, GLISA works at the boundary between climate science and decision-makers, striving to enhance Great Lakes communities' capacity to understand, plan for, and respond to climate impacts now and in the future. Our team of social and physical scientists collaborates to:

- Develop usable climate information tailored to stakeholder needs;
- Develop, implement, and evaluate resources and tools to apply climate information to decision-making;
- Facilitate collaborative activities, education, and training and support stakeholder networks; and,
- Investigate emerging climate issues and synthesize findings for practitioners.



Example of GLISA's boundary chain model of stakeholder engagement for the Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Network (GLCAN). Climate information is tailored and moves through different boundary organizations (links in the chain) to connect science to users. Adapted from Lemos et al. 2014.

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