



Collaborative Partnerships to Support Public Trust Resource Stewardship and Science: The Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network

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Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network

Adapting to Climate Change in the Mid-Atlantic, March 2010



What is the CESU Network?

- The Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network is a nationwide consortium of federal agencies, universities, conservation organizations, and other partners working together to support agency missions and informed public trust resource stewardship.
- The CESU Network was established pursuant to the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (16 USC 5933).



What is the CESU Network?

- CESUs bring together scientists, resource managers, and other conservation professionals from across the biological, physical, social, cultural, and engineering fields (from anthropology to zoology) to conduct coordinated, collaborative applied projects that address natural and cultural heritage resource issues at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context.
- The 17 CESUs were established through five rounds of competitions, beginning in 1999.



National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998

P.L. 105-391 (16 USC 5933)

Section 201. Purposes

Section 202. Research Mandate

Section 203. Cooperative Agreements

Section 204. Inventory and Monitoring Program

Section 205. Availability for Scientific Study

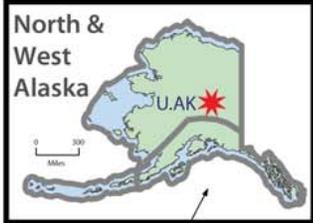
Section 206. Integration of Study Results into
Management Decisions

Section 207. Confidentiality of Information

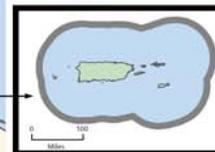
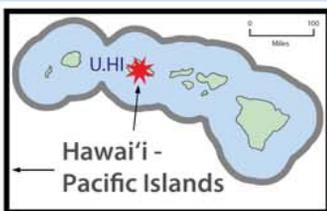


Agencies Have Similar Goals

- High-quality multidisciplinary science
- “Usable knowledge” to support informed resource management decision-making
- Cost-effective research programs
- Responsive technical assistance
- Continuing education and capacity building
- Development and recruitment of the next generation of scientists, managers, and environmental leaders



CESU Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network



Chesapeake Watershed CESU



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- CESU National Network
- Experts
- Projects
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Chesapeake Watershed CESU

Twelve university/research institutions and six federal agencies comprise the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CW CESU). These partners provide leadership in watershed science and stewardship with special emphasis on the watershed of the Chesapeake Bay.

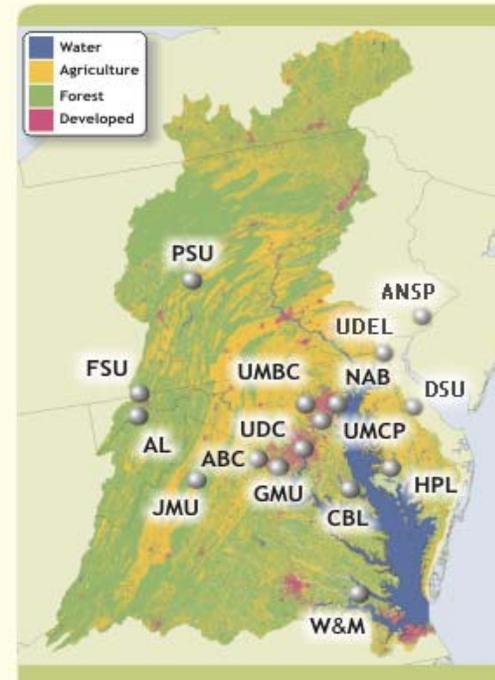
The Chesapeake Watershed is home to more than 3,600 species and over 15 million people all competing for resources and space within this 64,000 square mile region. The CW CESU promotes stewardship and integrated ecosystem management of natural and cultural resources within the Chesapeake Watershed through collaborative research, technical assistance and education.

[April 2, 2009 CW CESU Meeting Registration](#)

[CW CESU Informative Brochure](#)

[Click here for information on joining the CW CESU](#)

[Click here to be considered for inclusion in the CW CESU expert database](#)



▶Click on the institution name to access their homepage.

[Contact Us](#)



Key Elements of Each CESU

- Host university with admin. support staff
- Multiple federal agencies
- Partner institutions
(at least 1 minority institution)
- Federal managers committee
- Role and mission statement
- Strategic plan and annual work plans
- Website
- Annual partners meeting
- Many operational model variations



CESU Council representing 13 Federal Agencies

**Federal Agency
Regional / State Offices**

(program oversight)

(supervision)

**Federal Managers
Committee**

(strategic plan)

(advice and guidance)

(leads 5-yr renewal process)

(annual work plan)

CESU

**Partner
Institution
(tribes)**

**Partner
Institution
(agency)**

**Agency Scientists/
Science Coordinators
(optional)**

**Partner
Institution
(NGO)**

**Partner
Institution
(academia)**

Host University

**Land management
units in
geographic area**



Cost Savings – Negotiated Flat Overhead Rate

Average overhead rates for the top 100 institutions, selected years

Public

1991:		48.2%
1997:		48.3%
2005:		49.1%

Private

1991:		60.7%
1997:		59.5%
2005:		56.7%

All

1991:		52.0%
1997:		51.6%
2005:		51.8%



Source: Chronicle of Higher Education

Current CESU Network Partners

■ Federal Agency Partners	13
■ Academic Partners	202
+ Minority Serving Institutions	(47)
■ Tribal, State, and Local Governments	6
■ Nongovernmental Organizations	44
■ Total	265

Current Federal Partners



Bureau of Land Management



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



U.S. Geological Survey



National Park Service



Bureau of Reclamation



Minerals Management Service



Natural Resources Conservation Service



U.S. Forest Service



Agricultural Research Service



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



National Aeronautics and Space Administration



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



Department of Defense (Installations & Environment)

Federal Partners by CESU (March 2010)

CALI CW CP DSW GB GLNF GP GR GC HPI NAC NWA PNW PSAC RM SAM SFC

	CALI	CW	CP	DSW	GB	GLNF	GP	GR	GC	HPI	NAC	NWA	PNW	PSAC	RM	SAM	SFC
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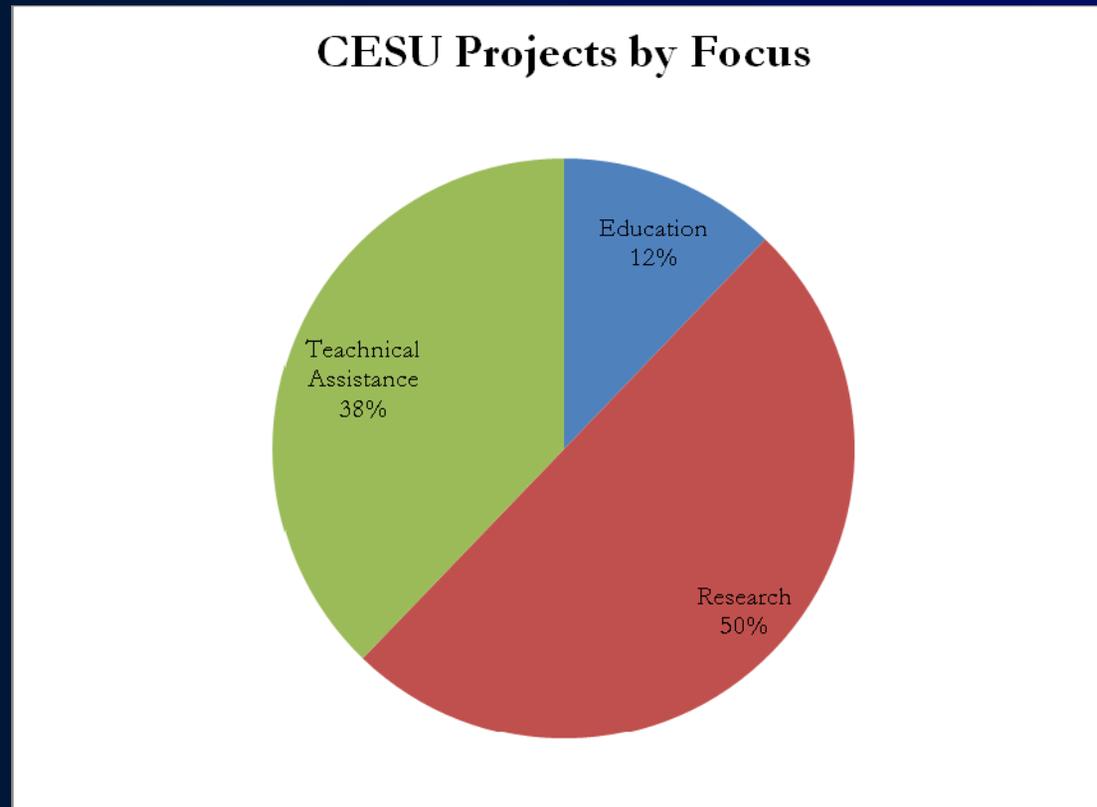
Key Initiatives

- 10-year Program Evaluation and Project Inventory
- Administrative History
- Administrative Handbook
- CESU Network National Office Fellowship
- Climate Change Workshop Series
- 2010 DOI Environment Conference
- 2010 CESU Network National Meeting (June)



Key Initiatives – 10-year Assessment

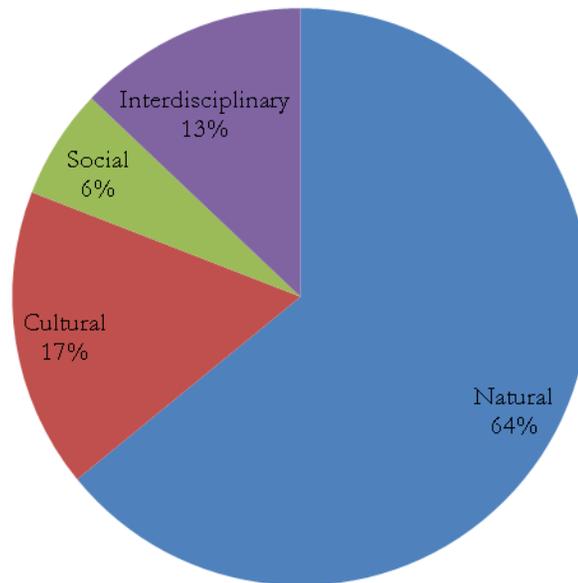
- Preliminary Statistics



Key Initiatives – 10-year Assessment

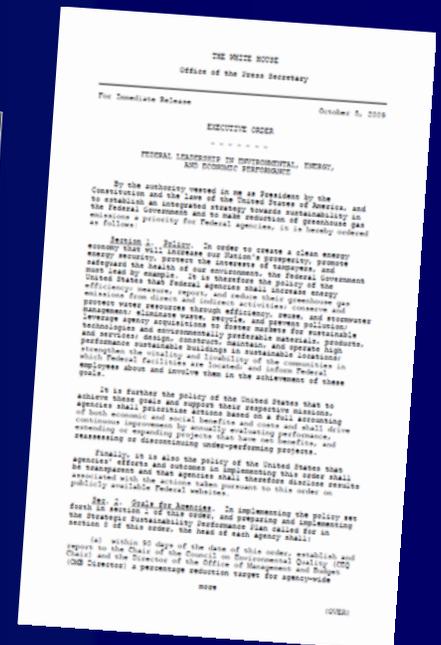
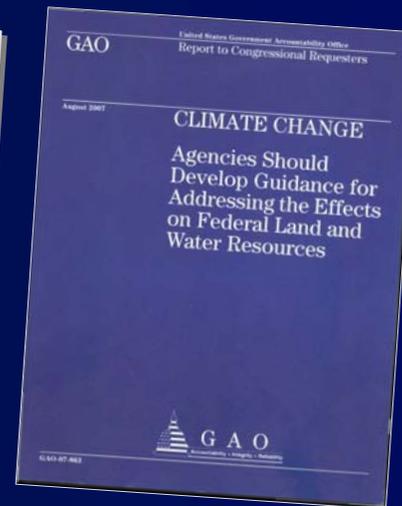
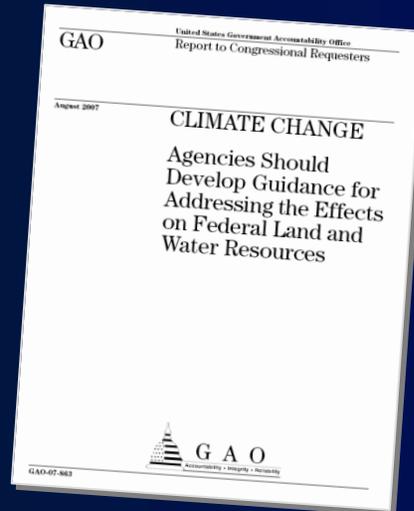
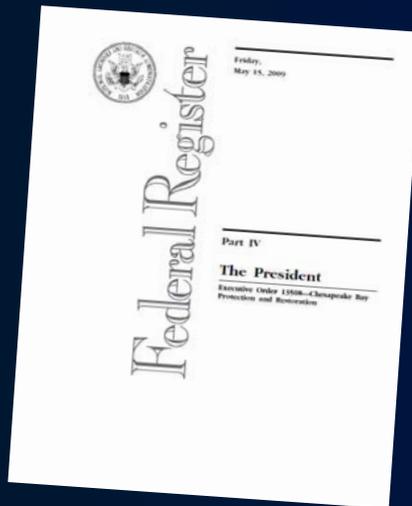
- Preliminary Statistics

**CESU Projects by Discipline
(Nat, Cul, Soc, Int)**



Expanding Opportunities

- GAO Report on Climate Change (GAO-07-863)
- Executive Order on Federal Sustainability
- Executive Order on Chesapeake Bay Protection and Restoration
- DOI Secretarial Order on Climate Change

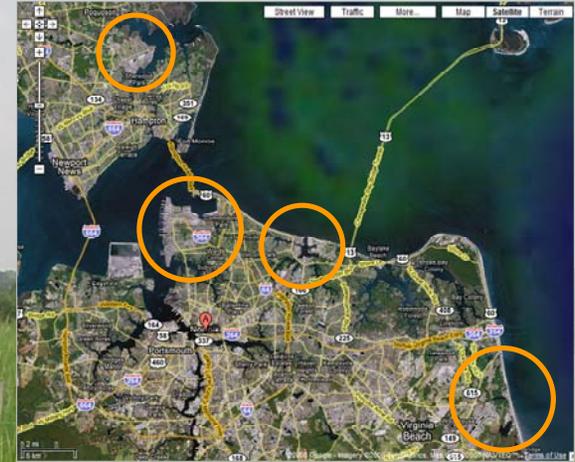


Example Projects

- **Interagency Climate Change Workshop Series**
- To build capacity and improve coordination of climate change management, mitigation, and adaptation efforts among management agencies and partners
- Share expertise and science related to climate change and its impacts in specific ecosystems
- Identify key challenges and considerations for coordinating multi-agency collaboration
- Provide a multidisciplinary, systems-based lens for understanding and action regarding climate change impacts on the landscape
- Set the stage for continued collaboration

Example Projects

- Regional DoD Chesapeake Bay Program initiatives
- Wetland, dune, and sea grass restoration
- * National Aquarium
- * DOD, ODUSD (Installations & Environment)

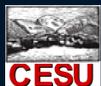


Photos: National Aquarium

Example Multi-Partner Projects



- SERPPAS works to prevent encroachment around military lands, encourage compatible resource-use decisions, and improve coordination among regions, states, communities, and military services.





Questions?

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cesu.org