

SOCCR: Stakeholder Assessment

November 2004

Presented by the Consensus Building
Institute



<http://www.isse.ucar.edu/soccr/>

Why a Stakeholder Assessment?

- Stakeholder involvement is a priority activity for the SOCCR Coordinating Team
- Stakeholder involvement is essential for transparency (open access to info), feedback (review & comment; ensure usefulness), and buy-in (scientific validity & independence)

Stakeholder Assessment Purpose

- To identify and clarify information needs of managers and decision-makers
- More Specifically, for stakeholders to give feedback on:
 - Their most important carbon cycle issues
 - Additional carbon cycle information they would like
 - SOCCR process
 - Draft SOCCR outline
 - Candidate authors
 - Additional stakeholders to be contacted

Methodology

- Interviews with 30 stakeholders, chosen from previous involvement
- From the following stakeholder groups:
 - Scientists (governmental and non-governmental)
 - Policy Makers (federal, state and local)
 - Climate Policy Advocates (environmental interests, business interests)
 - Carbon Related Industries (transportation, energy, agriculture, and forestry)
- Interviews lasted approx 45 minutes
- Comments compiled, sent out as draft, revised, and finalized

Carbon Cycle Key Issues

- Science
 - What is known, what is not?
 - Especially about carbon sequestration
 - Can the North American carbon sinks and sources be more accurately quantified?
 - What are the sources of carbon fluctuations?
- Policy
 - How do energy systems alter the carbon cycle?
 - What CO₂ mitigation strategies have the greatest potential?

Additional Information Needs

- What land management strategies affect the carbon cycle?
- How, when, and where does carbon sequestration work most effectively?
- How do oceans and aquatic systems interact with the carbon cycle?
- What are the costs and benefits of different carbon mitigation strategies?
- Where is the “lost” carbon sink?
- Can conflicting information on climate change be reconciled?
- Desire for more (better) measurement and maps

Draft Outline Comments

- Science must be objective
- SOCCR should be written so as to be easily understood by the intended audience
- Many liked the well-rounded outline
- Range of opinions on the relevance and importance of Section IV (Human Dimensions)
 - A few people felt that this should be omitted
 - Many more felt this was the most crucial portion of SOCCR, especially for policy makers

Draft Outline Comments (2)

- Substantial questions about the choice of North America as the study area:
 - Why only North America (scientifically)?
 - Unclear geographical boundaries
 - Why include Canada and Mexico if the intended audience is U.S. policy makers?
- Recommended section additions:
 - Economics of Carbon
 - Urban Ecosystems
 - Soil Carbon
 - Product Sequestration
 - Arctic Ecosystems
 - Political & Sociological Aspects of the Carbon Cycle

Draft Outline Comments (3)

- Many diverse, detailed suggestions for each chapter author team to consider
- Interviewees provided names of many potential stakeholders and authors
- Politics of SOCCR:
 - How does it fit with Kyoto Protocol?
 - How does it fit with the IPCC?

Candidate Author Feedback

- Much positive feedback for those listed
- Goal: select authors who can present the range of scientific information rather than just one perspective
- Add authors concerned with: energy, smartgrowth, climate change nay-sayers, and economists

Process Feedback

- Liked process and the plan to include wide range of stakeholders
- Want clear process for peer/outside chapter review
- Tight timeline
- Conduct assessment of process when further along
- Danger of SOCCR becoming highly politicized

Next Steps

- Shape SOCCR process & report
- Revise draft SOCCR outline
- Select additional authors
- Structure 1st stakeholder workshop
- Resource document to chapter authors
- Posted on SOCCR website