

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY CHARTER

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## Adaptation for Climate-Sensitive Ecosystems and Resources Advisory Committee

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**1. Committee's Official Designation (Title):**

Adaptation for Climate-Sensitive Ecosystems and Resources Advisory Committee.

**2. Authority:**

This charter establishes the Adaptation for Climate-Sensitive Ecosystems and Resources Advisory Committee (ACSERAC) in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2 § 9 (c). The ACSERAC supports the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in its participation in the Interagency U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP), specifically in implementation of Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan for the CCSP, and in completing its goal of conducting periodic assessments of climate change and variability under the Global Change Research Act of 1990. The ACSERAC is in the public interest and supports EPA in performing its duties and responsibilities.

**3. Objectives and Scope of Activities:**

The ACSERAC supports CCSP Goal 4, "Understanding the sensitivity and adaptability of different natural and managed ecosystems and human systems to climate and related global changes."

The primary responsibility of this Committee is to conduct an expert peer review of the first external review draft report entitled: "Preliminary Review of Adaptation Options for Climate-Sensitive Ecosystems and Resources." The ACSERAC will provide advice to the EPA Administrator on the conduct of this study, and within the context of the basic study plan, ACSERAC will advise on:

- a. The specific issues to be addressed,
- b. Appropriate technical approaches,
- c. The usefulness of information to the decision makers,
- d. The quality and accurateness of the content of the final report,
- e. Compliance with the Information Quality Act, and
- f. Other matters important to the successful achievement of the objectives of the study.

The Committee also will review Agency responses to the public and CCSP's peer review panel comments on the first draft. Specific and detailed review charges will be developed and provided to the Committee to guide their review process.

**4. Description of Committee's Duties:**

The duties of the ACSERAC are solely advisory in nature.

**5. Official(s) to Whom the Committee Reports:**

The ACSERAC will submit its report on advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator through the Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development.

**6. Agency Responsible for Providing the Necessary Support:**

EPA will be responsible for financial and administrative support. Within EPA, this support will be provided by the Office of Research and Development, The National Center for Environmental Assessment (Global Change Research Program).

**7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Person-Years:**

The estimated annual operating cost of the ACSERAC is \$336,960 which includes 1.5 person-years of support.

**8. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings:**

The ACSERAC expects to meet approximately two (2) times a year, or as needed and approved by the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). EPA may pay travel and per diem expenses and salary when determined necessary and appropriate. A full-time or permanent part-time employee of EPA will be appointed as the DFO. The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved in advance by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

As required by FACA, the ACSERAC will hold open meetings unless the EPA Administrator determines that a meeting or a portion of a meeting may be closed to the public in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552b (c). Interested persons may attend meetings, appear before the Committee as time permits, and file comments with the ACSERAC.

**9. Duration and Termination:**

The ACSERAC will be examined annually and will exist until the EPA determines that the Committee is no longer needed. This charter will be in effect for two years from the date it is filed with Congress. After the initial two-year period, the charter may be renewed as authorized in accordance with Section 14 of FACA (5 U.S.C. App. 2 § 14).

**10. Member Composition:**

The ACSERAC will be composed of approximately twelve (12) members. Members will serve as Regular Government Employees (RGE), or as Special Government Employees (SGE). In selecting members, EPA will consider candidates with expertise in relevant scientific or technical disciplines such as ecological/ecosystem science, wildlife ecology, landscape ecology, systems ecology, biogeography, environmental sciences, social sciences, forestry, land and water management, watershed science, and marine ecology.

**11. Subgroups:**

EPA, or the ACSERAC with EPA's approval, may form subcommittees or workgroups for any purpose consistent with this charter. Such subcommittees or workgroups may not work independently of the chartered Committee and must report their recommendations and advice to the chartered Committee for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or workgroups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered committee nor can they report directly to the EPA.

April 27, 2007

Agency Approval Date

May 1, 2007

GSA Consultation Date

May 29, 2007

Date Filed with Congress