

# Central Hardwoods Climate Change Response Framework

The Central Hardwoods region of Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri covers over 42 million acres and is one of the largest forested areas in the country. This region supports a diversity of forest ecosystems, including upland oak-hickory and oak-pine forests, and bottomland hardwood forests. The benefits provided by these forests may be at risk as a changing climate exacerbates existing stressors and allows new stressors to emerge. Potential threats and opportunities alike can be most effectively addressed through assessment, planning, and partnership.



**The Central Hardwoods Climate Change Response Framework project supports climate-informed conservation across the Central Hardwoods region.**

**There are four main components to the Framework:**

## Partnerships



- Fosters dialogue between scientists, land managers, regional landowners, and the public.
- Over 15 committed partners, including the US Forest Service, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, The Nature Conservancy; the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Conservation, The Missouri Botanical Garden, and the Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks Landscape Conservation Cooperative.

## Vulnerability Assessment



- Document that assesses vulnerability of Central Hardwoods ecosystems to climate change and other stressors and implications for management and use.
- Includes new and published forest impact model projections from US Forest Service Northern Research Station scientists and university partners.
- Draft available, publication anticipated in fall 2013.

## Forest Adaptation Resources



- Document that includes a “menu” of climate adaptation strategies and approaches and a process for managers to identify management actions to adapt forests to climate change.
- Adaptation strategies and approaches will be tailored to the specific needs of land managers across the Midwest and Northeast.
- Currently in development.

## Demonstration Projects



- On-the-ground management activities (from stand level to landscape-scale) that incorporate information from the Vulnerability Assessment and Forest Adaptation Resources documents.
- Projects will be initiated to promote conservation on a landscape scale, involving partners from federal, state, non-governmental, and private land management organizations.

For more information on this project, visit:  
[forestadaptation.org/central-hardwoods](http://forestadaptation.org/central-hardwoods)

Link to our website  
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