



LIVING ON EARTH

Living on Earth, the NSF EPSCoR Social-Ecological Systems (SES) Workshop, to be held in May 2009 in Anchorage, Alaska, is a key step toward integrating SES studies across the country. NSF EPSCoR jurisdictions nationwide stretch across a wide range of social and ecological systems, and EPSCoR scientists have the capacity and knowledge to address the inherent challenges in SES study. Despite the existence of funded resilience and adaptation research in a number of EPSCoR jurisdictions, there are few extant cross-jurisdictional collaborations in the field.

The conference will be a rare opportunity for integration across regions, but also for integration at other levels. SES study is contingent on interdisciplinary work, and the workshop will offer brainstorming sessions to find ways to foster this integration, as well as plentiful opportunities for contacts and networking between researchers, managers and policymakers from different fields. Our specific goals for the workshop are:

1. To enable information-sharing across EPSCoR jurisdictions about SES issues, including both policy and research matters;
2. To facilitate cross-jurisdictional conversations about SES methods and the environment to which they are applied;
3. To identify areas for cross-jurisdictional SES research projects which will improve funding competitiveness; and
4. To consider collaboration and outreach strategies among researchers, policy-makers and managers.

Workshop speakers will discuss emerging scientific innovations in social-ecological systems, highlighting the new research tools available in the area. As SES is still an emergent field, the workshop will potentially have a transformative effect on SES study. Immersion activities will expose scientists to Alaska's social-ecological systems and foster a deeper understanding of the field for all involved. The workshop is specifically designed to build collaborations among NSF EPSCoR researchers, thereby strengthening the nation's research capacity.