

International viewpoint and news

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New strategic science framework of the British Antarctic Survey

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The new strategic science framework, *Polar Science for Planet Earth*, was launched on April 1, 2009 by the British Antarctic Survey (BAS). Its six science programmes have been developed by BAS in order to better support and react on the strategy of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), which recognises that Polar Regions are central components of the Earth system and that tools and knowledge are now needed to mitigate problems and adapt to environmental change.

Polar Science for Planet Earth will focus on key questions in the Antarctic and the Arctic that are of fundamental importance, and at its core six integrated programmes will examine themes dealing with: (1) climate, (2) chemistry and past climate, (3) ecosystems, (4) environmental change and evolution, (5) ice sheets, and (6) oceans. Each programme will be financed by an array of NERC core funding and external research funding.

Further information on the work of the new science framework can be found at the BAS website, which also

British Antarctic Survey (BAS) is an environmental research centre employing over 400 staff, which is part of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) in Cambridge, UK. For more than 60 years it has undertaken the larger part of Britain's scientific research on and around the Antarctic continent, where it now supports three research stations.

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Response to implications of climate change by DOI and Forest Service in the US

With the launch of the US Department of the Interior's Climate Change Task Force in 2007, three subcommittees were formed not only to identify potential issues and challenges facing the DOI as a consequence of climate change and to suggest possible options for addressing them, but also to identify the science and information needed to assist the DOI in addressing the consequences of climate change and to suggest possible options for getting the needed science. These three subcommittees, the Land and Water Management Subcommittee, Law and Policy Subcommittee, and Science Subcommittee have published reports in December 2008 that highlight a series of questions and issues that may become increasingly important as a result of climate change. These draft reports can be downloaded at http://www.usgs.gov/global_change/doi_taskforce.asp.

In November 2008, the US Forest Service also announced its completion of *Forest Service Strategic Framework for Responding to Climate Change*. This 21-page Pdf document outlines their general road-map to help forests adapt to the conditions resulting from climate change and concludes with a list of climate change strategy goals and recommendations. It can be downloaded at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/>.