

# South Florida-Caribbean CESU Action Plan

Updated: September 2021

## General Information

The SFC CESU was formed in November 2000 and has been renewed in January 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. The original Action Plan was created in October 2003 and has been updated in July 2004, December 2009, October 2016, and May 2021. The Action Plan is a living document and is continually updated to reflect recent developments within the SFC CESU.

## Website

The SFC CESU website was established in February 2001 and is continually updated from any internet access site. During 2016, the old web site was transitioned from a [customized platform](#) to a [WordPress platform](#). Much of the efforts during 2016 focused on facilitating the transition between these websites. The new website functioned as a platform for annual meeting abstract submissions, RFP postings, and for posting information about funded projects. In addition to these functionalities the web site included a “Home” page, a “News” page, and an “Operations” page. The “Operations” page included instructions for adding new SFC CESU members, for posting agreements, and for posting minutes of SFC CESU Board meetings. The website included the Action Plan (this document) and Strategic Plan, both of which were updated in 2016.

In 2021, the SFC CESU website was again updated within the WordPress platform. The “Home” page was updated to highlight the most recent funding opportunity and provide recent SFC CESU highlights like upcoming conferences. An “About” page was created to explain what a CESU is, the history and geographic coverage of the SFC CESU, the goal and mission of SFC CESU, and to provide links to all Cooperative Agreements, their Amendments, the Action Plan, and Strategic Plan. A “Become a Member” was created to include instructions for adding new SFC CESU members and a “Contact Us” page was created to include SFC CESU Management Committee contact information. The “News” and “Proposal Requests” pages were combined into a new “Funding Opportunities” page for posting RFPs. Lists of partners and their administrative and executive contacts were incorporated into the update website as “Federal Partners” and “Non-Federal Partners” pages. Information about past and currently CESU funded projects within the SFC CESU was posted in the “Projects” page. A “Job and Internships” page was added to the website to highlight opportunities available to SFC CESU members. A “Meetings” page was created to highlight upcoming SFC CESU member presentations at conferences and the minutes from CESU Board meetings, SFC CESU Executive Committee and

Management Committee meetings. Lastly, a “Spotlight” webpage was created for future posts that provide details of ongoing CESU funded research within the SFC region to increase SFC CESU awareness of research being conducted at different Non-Federal Partner Institutions and Organizations.

### **Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Plan was formulated at a meeting of all the academic partners of the SFC CESU in March 2001. The Strategic plan has been updated to reflect the joining of Florida Atlantic University (FAU), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Florida International University (FIU), Institute for Regional Conservation (IRC), University of South Florida (USF), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Updates to the plan were discussed at the October 2003 meeting of the Management Committee and at the meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004. Additional updates of the strategic plan were posted on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, and October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

### **CESU National Meeting**

The Biannual CESU National Meeting was attended by Peter Swart and Carol Daniels in 2003, 2005, and 2007. Helena Solo-Gabriele and Carol Daniels attended the 2016 and 2018 National Meetings held in Sheperdstown, WV. The 2020 National Meeting was held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and Helena Solo-Gabriele, Carol Daniels, Evelyn Gaiser, Joel Trexler, and Robert Gutierrez attended the meeting. The next National Meeting will occur from June 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### **Establishment of NPS Employee at RSMAS**

Dr. Carol Daniels, a National Park Service (NPS) employee was stationed at the University of Miami from 2001 through 2019 for the purposes of increasing interaction between NPS and the SFC CESU. The SFC CESU Host University switched from UM to FIU in 2020 and Dr. Carol Daniels station was switched to FIU’s Institute of Environment located at FIU’s Biscayne Bay Campus.

### **Addition of SFC CESU Partners**

Additional partners are continually being considered throughout the year. Dr. Swart and Dr. Daniels were primarily responsible for the joining of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the National and Local level. Table 1 documents the addition of Federal and Non-Federal Partners to the SFC CESU since it was first established in November 2000.

**Table 1:** The chronological history of Federal and Non-Federal Partner additions to the SFC CESU. A “\*” denotes the 5-year renewal of the SFC CESU.

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Federal</b>  | <b>Non-Federal</b>   |
|-------------|---|--|
| 2000*       | Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, National Parks Service | University of Miami, Barry University, Nova Southeastern University, University of Florida, University of North Carolina-Wilmington, University of Puerto Rico, University of the Virgin Islands, Audubon of Florida |
| 2001        |   |  |
| 2002        |   | Florida Atlantic University  |
| 2003        | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  |  |
| 2004        | Natural Resources Conservation Service                                    |  |
| 2005*       |   | Florida International University   |
| 2006        |   |  |
| 2007        | Institute for Regional Conservation                                       | Florida Institute of Technology  |
| 2008        | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  |  |
| 2009        |   | University of South Florida, Everglades Foundation   |
| 2010*       |   |  |
| 2011        |   | Ocean Research and Conservation Association  |
| 2012        |   | Florida Gulf Coast University, Cetacean Logic Foundation Inc.  |
| 2013        | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, Department of Defense       |  |
| 2014        |   | Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden  |
| 2015*       |   | Flagler College  |
| 2016        | Bureau of Indian Affairs  |  |

|       |  |   |
|-------|--|---|
| 2017  |  | Florida A&M University, Avian Research and Conservation Institute |
| 2018  |  |   |
| 2019  |  |   |
| 2020* |  |   |
| 2021  |  |   |

### **SFC CESU Executive Committee**

The SFC CESU Executive Committee was formed during the initial stages of the SFC CESU. It consists of the Technical Representative contacts from all federal agencies and the Executive Committee meets at least annually. The minutes from these meetings are published on the “Meetings” page of the SFC CESU website.

### **SFC CESU Management Committee**

The SFC CESU Management Committee was formed in August 2003 and the first committee meeting was held on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2003. The members of this committee include: the Host University Director, Dr. Evelyn Gaiser, the FIU Administrative Representative, Robert Gutierrez, the NPS Federal Partner Lead, Dr. Carol Daniels, and the Assistant to the Host University Director, Paige Kleindl. The members of the committee are listed on the “Contact Us” page of the SFC CESU website. Management Committee meeting are held quarterly and the minutes from these meetings are published on the “Meetings” page of the SFC CESU website.

### **SFC CESU Committees**

In 2016, regular meetings of all Federal and non-Federal Partners were held, and ad hoc committees were formed on an as need basis. For example, a program committee was established based upon volunteers representing both Federal and Non-Federal Partners.

### **Scientific Meetings**

Early on in the SFC CESU’s formation, semi-annual scientific meetings have been held at various locations. The last of these was a joint meeting with the Gulf Coast and Piedmont CESUs in Orlando. The SFC CESU provided financial support for this meeting. A scientific meeting sponsored by the SFC CESU ‘Predicting the Climate of Coming Decades’ was held in Miami, Florida from January 11-14<sup>th</sup>, 2010. A meeting was held at Biscayne National Park located in

Homestead, Florida on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, for details click [here](#). A virtual meeting was held on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, for more information click [here](#).

The SFC CESU scientific conference was not held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic but will tentatively occur at the beginning of 2022. SFC CESU scientific conferences will be organized by Dr. Evelyn Gaiser and Paige Kleindl and advertised with abstract submission on the “Meetings” page of the SFC CESU website.