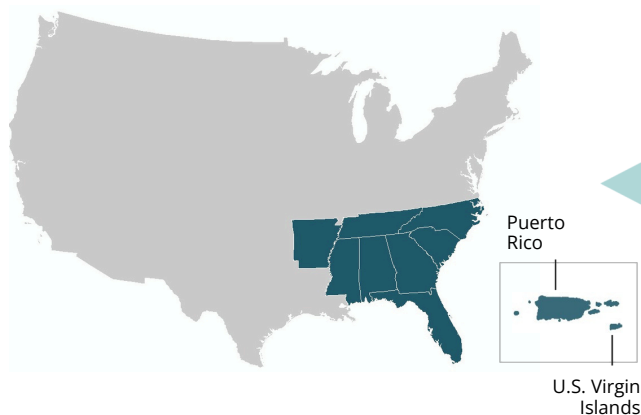




SOUTHEAST
Climate Adaptation Science Center

ARKANSAS



Southeast CASC Consortium Institutions

Host: North Carolina State University

Consortium:

Auburn University	University of South Carolina
Duke University	University of Puerto Rico
Savannah State University	University of Tennessee
United South & Eastern Tribes	University of Virgin Islands
University of Arkansas	

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Cave Conservation Management Toolbox

The Southeast CASC is working with scientists and managers from Federal, State, and NGOs across nine southeastern states, including Arkansas, to perform underground surveys of cave climates and cave-dwelling species.

WHAT:

Cave-dwelling species have evolved to live in relatively stable climates, so they may be especially sensitive to climate change. However, it is unclear how surface climate change will affect cave climates and the species that rely on them, because caves are remote environments that have long been difficult to study.

RESULTS:

The team will create a toolbox of possible management actions for conserving cave ecosystems and cave-dwelling species threatened by climate change.

IMPACT:

An adaptation strategy identified in Arkansas' State Wildlife Action Plan is to provide additional refuge areas for species to improve their chances for survival. The toolbox can be used by managers when making decisions about how to conserve caves for future generations.



Incorporating Climate Change in State Wildlife Action Plans

State wildlife agencies and their partners use State Wildlife Action Plans to coordinate management activities aimed at protecting species. To do so, they must find out what puts species and their habitats at risk.

WHAT:

The Southeast CASC compared two methods used by researchers and natural resource managers involved in wildlife action plans to understand threatened species' vulnerability to climate change.

RESULTS:

We examined where these two methods agree, evaluated what may cause any disagreements, and recommended how the two models can be used to come to a consensus about species vulnerability.

IMPACT:

We continue to provide data resources to state wildlife agency staff across the region in a format and at a time that can support the upcoming 2025 revision of wildlife action plans.

