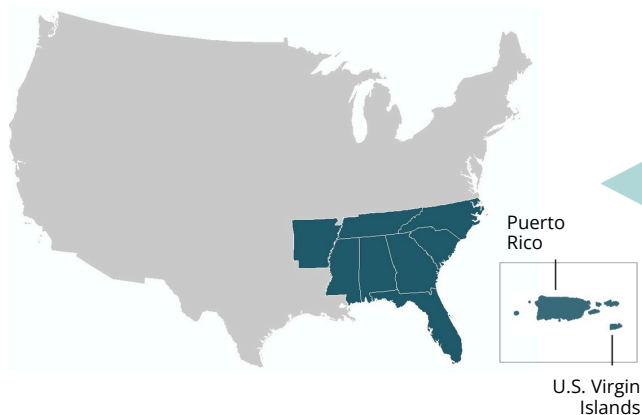




SOUTHEAST
Climate Adaptation Science Center

GEORGIA



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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Supporting Effective Gopher Tortoise Conservation Decisions

The gopher tortoise is a familiar turtle species across the southeastern Coastal Plain, but its population has declined rapidly. Much of its primary habitat has been replaced by development or agriculture, or has become degraded through the suppression of low-intensity, forage-producing ground fires.

WHAT:

The Southeast CASC is collaborating with Federal, State, and other partners, to better understand life history patterns and habitat suitability of the gopher tortoise and evaluate possibilities of creating networks of conservation reserves.

RESULTS:

Researchers created a tailored system of information and monitoring designs for a decision support system. This system helps when selecting conservation actions under varying levels of uncertainty and for acquiring information to reduce uncertainty.

IMPACT:

These systems were used by Georgia DNR to inform their monitoring effort and land acquisition. Products will continue to support the design of landscapes within and beyond Georgia that promote the tortoise and associated species.



Climate Vulnerability of Wild Turkeys Across the Southeastern U.S.

Wild turkey (Meleagris gallopavo) is a culturally and economically important game species that has shown dramatic declines in abundance through most portions of the southeastern U.S.

WHAT:

The Southeast CASC combined 10+ years of reproduction data from six states and future climate scenarios to understand the effects of climate and hunter harvest on wild turkeys.

RESULTS:

The study found that turkey nesting is initiated around the same time each year with only slight shifts in timing, regardless of weather conditions. This lack of adaptability of turkey nest timing may affect their reproductive success in the future and harvestability.

IMPACT:

The results contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the current and future threats to wild turkey population sustainability, helping managers adjust the timing of hunter harvest and bag limits if needed.

