

## NCCARF Highlights: Promoting excellence in adaptation



# Climate Adaptation Futures: The 2010 international Climate Change Adaptation Conference

### About the conference

One of the first international meetings focusing solely on climate impacts and adaptation, the Climate Adaptation Futures – Preparing for the unavoidable impacts of climate change conference brought together over 1000 scientists and decision makers from developed and developing countries. The conference, co-hosted by the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF) and the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship, showcased leading impacts and adaptation research from around the world.

The meeting provided unique opportunities for an emerging area of science and policy making. It explored a way forward in a world where climate change impacts are increasingly observable and adaptation actions increasingly required. Importantly it opened the dialogue between research, policy and on-ground practitioners on how robust adaptation decision making can proceed in the face of uncertainty.

This meeting was so successful it has launched a series of international meetings with the 2nd Adaptation Futures conference planned in Arizona, USA, in 2012 see [www.adaptation.arizona.edu/adaptation2012](http://www.adaptation.arizona.edu/adaptation2012).

### Exposure

The conference attracted a staggering 1022 participants. While three quarters of these delegates were from Australia, a total of 50 countries were represented at the meeting (Figure 1). While just over half of the participants were from research institutions, there was a strong representation of industry, private consultants, non-government organisations and other community and international agencies. Climate change adaptation

is multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral in nature and the diversity of delegates demonstrates this clearly. It also demonstrates the successful engagement by the organisers of a wide audience of both research providers and research users.

The conference organisers used a combination of plenary sessions, parallel and panel sessions to provide a range of fora for discussion and delivery of ideas. Six threads defined the parallel sessions:

- Understanding and communicating adaptation
- Adaptation by sectors
- Adapting at the grass roots
- Frameworks for adaptation
- Adaptation at the edge
- Human welfare and adaptation

### Communication beyond the meeting

NCCARF established a dedicated, open access website to provide extensive access to conference activities and materials. Presentations and videos were uploaded as they became available throughout the conference.



“Such a cross section of backgrounds allowed insight into the real issues and how climate change affects everyone. The variety of presentations allowed me to think differently about how adaptation and mitigation might be achieved in my area...”

Conference delegate



