

Stanford

Environment Assessment Facility

assessment

noun | as-sess-ment | \ə-ˈses-mənt\

an organized process for evaluating the state of knowledge about an important issue for society

For decades, assessment has played a key role in informing decisions about complex and contested environmental issues, such as climate change, ozone depletion, and biodiversity loss. The process, participants, and timing of assessments can shape their influence, supporting critical choices about the future. Building from past experiences, the Stanford Environment Assessment Facility (SEAF) is investigating how to make the assessment process more effective.

Mission

SEAF aims to improve understanding and communication of environmental risks and options. For climate, energy, and biodiversity, SEAF is building dialogue and momentum to protect people and the planet.

The heart of the initiative is innovating and evaluating methods for (1) integrating evidence, (2) exploring possible futures, and (3) facilitating interactions between experts and decision-makers. SEAF is bringing experts together with policymakers, business leaders, and community groups to consider the state of knowledge on pressing questions. Through its approaches and findings, SEAF supports foundations for smart choices and solutions.

WE ARE

Interdisciplinary experts bridging natural and social sciences, humanities, engineering, and law and focusing on risk assessment, decision support, and communication.

WE REACH

We support governments, communities, and corporations making decisions related to the environment. For researchers, assessment can point to opportunities for basic scientific discovery. For environmental assessment bodies, SEAF is helping shed light on approaches that work. In its projects, SEAF engages decision-makers from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.



University of Exeter

IISD/ENB (enb.iisd.org/climate/ipcc40/30oct.html)

IPCC

Assessment Projects

The Stanford Environment Assessment Facility's first projects are focused on climate change risks and responses.

Climate Change Risks



Climate change increases risks for people and nature. Impacts are already widespread and consequential, but future outcomes will continue to be uncertain in important ways. For complex risks such as violent conflict, SEAF is testing new approaches

for evaluating and integrating all relevant lines of evidence. These approaches combine the judgments of individual experts with group deliberations, evaluating the state of knowledge towards pressing questions for decision-making.

Climate Change Responses

Climate change solutions reduce our emissions of heat-trapping gases and help us prepare for impacts that can't be avoided. Supporting integrated climate change responses, SEAF aims to determine the current state of understanding—the extent to which different options reduce risks and how they can be implemented and improved through time—by applying new approaches that take into account the decision-making priorities and persistent

uncertainties affecting associated choices. Areas of focus range from deep-decarbonization pathways to the resilience of infrastructure in a changing climate.



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