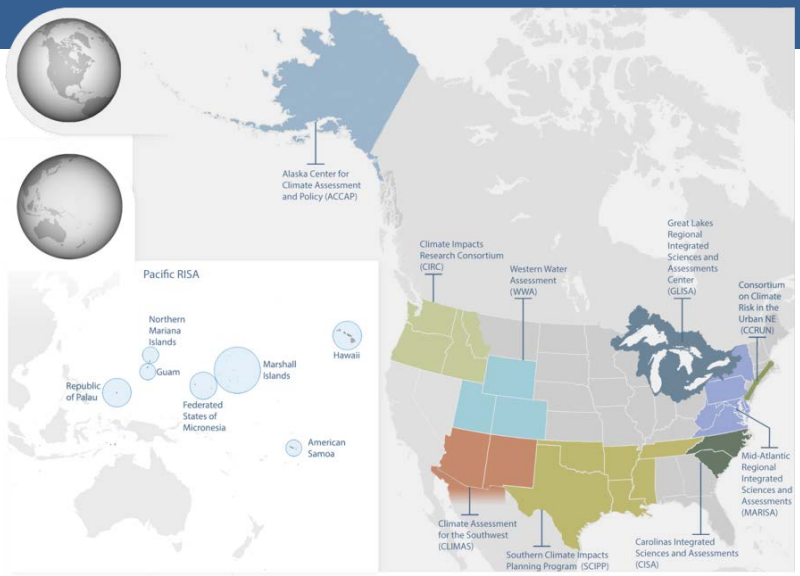
REGIONAL INTEGRATED SCIENCES & ASSESSMENTS (RISA)

Helping regions and communities better prepare and plan for hazards and extreme events for more than 20 years.



In 2016 alone, the United States experienced 15 billion-dollar weather and climate disasters, which resulted in 138 fatalities and cost $46 billion.

For more than 20 years, the NOAA **Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA)** Program has been producing actionable climate research, helping to reduce economic damages that Americans face every year due to droughts, floods, forest fires, vector-borne diseases, and a host of other climate and extreme weather impacts. The **network of ten RISA teams across the country** work hand-in-hand with stakeholders and decision makers in regions across the United States to ensure that research and information is responsive to their needs.

Photo Courtesy: Pacific RISA

The sustained regional presence of RISA enables teams to effectively support responses to extreme events. In 2012, CCRUN's expertise in coastal inundation informed New York City planning efforts after Hurricane Sandy, WWA researchers aided Colorado after 2013's record flooding, and RISA teams in the Western United States have supported the region during its recent intense drought.

Photo Courtesy: WWA

Research produced by the RISA program has educated, informed, and closely interacted with thousands of decision makers across the nation, helping them build the expertise to better plan and prepare for climate variability and extreme weather events. RISA products are making a difference today, helping communities and individuals improve resilience, enhance growth, and reduce costs in a variety of sectors. RISA is supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Program Office.

Updated: April 2017

Learn more: **CPO.NOAA.gov/RISA**

HOW IS RISA HELPING COMMUNITIES NEAR ME?

The **Pacific RISA** serves Hawai'i and the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands—a region with more than 2,000 islands and some of the most climate-vulnerable populations in the RISA network due to their location, small size, and isolation.

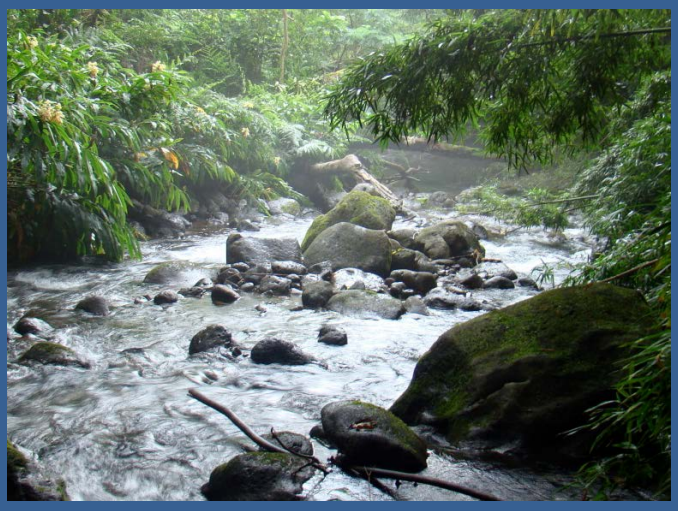
Using the best possible research and by working with resource managers, policymakers, and communities throughout the Pacific, the **Pacific RISA supports the development of climate-resilient and sustainable Pacific communities.**

PACIFIC RISA

www.pacificrisa.org

FACTORING CLIMATE INTO THE HAWAI'I STATE WATER PLAN

Hawai'i is home to 1.4 million people and has a GDP of more than $80 billion a year. The Aloha State is already feeling the effects of changing climate conditions, including declining rainfall, reduced streamflow, increasing temperature, and rising sea level.



In 2014, when Hawai'i's Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) began the process of updating the state's primary water planning policy tool, they looked to Pacific RISA for input and guidance. The Commission worked with the RISA team to update drought planning with climate information from Pacific RISA's work on the Pacific Island Regional Climate Assessment (PIRCA). CWRM also updated its stakeholder engagement process to include a focus on climate change and adaptation.

By ensuring that policymakers understand the climate risks to Hawai'i's water resources, and helping update policies and procedures, the researchers at Pacific RISA are helping the state become more resilient.