Panel Discussion: Ecosystem Impacts, Feedbacks, & Human Adaptation

Combining Terrestrial and Ocean Impacts and Feedbacks

Purposes of the Panel

- Building a bridge between the carbon cycle science community and a larger national constituency.
- Responding to increasing public concernation about where we are headed.
- Compose, if only in outline form, something equivalent to a "Summary for Policymakers" in the IPCC style.
- Provide a basis for stories to be used inside & outside the scientific community.

Panel Focus: Four Questions

- What are the implications for setting emissions targets and concentration pathways of the greater than predicted growth in emissions since 2000, combined with the slowing down of the uptake of CO₂ in both the terrestrial and ocean sinks?
- Given the global warming commitment and acidification effects of this accumulated loading of greenhouse gases, how do we manage adaptation for both terrestrial and oceanic ecosystems and human social systems to reverse or halt movement toward thresholds of change?
- How much time do we have to act and what is to be done, when?
- What additional and/or revised approaches to carbon cycle measurement are implied in the questions posed above?