Forest Climate Change Initiative (FCCI)

The University of Maine's **Center for Research on Sustainable Forests** has initiated an effort to better coordinate regional research and scientists working on the potential effects of climate change on forests. The University of Maine has significant expertise on climate and forest resources, which exists across academics units, centers, and institutes. The FCCI web portal is intended to serve as a point of access to these resources and encourage networking among university expertise as well as external stakeholders.

crsf.umaine.edu/forest-climate-change-initiative/

FCCI Scientist Profile

Sandra De Urioste-Stone

Assistant Professor of Nature-based Tourism

Institutional Affiliations: School of Forest Resources, Center for Research on Sustainable Forests

Research Focus: Climate change and sustainable rural livelihoods, risk perceptions, community resilience and vitality, community engagement, collaborative natural resource management

Sandra De Urioste-Stone is an Assistant Professor of Nature-based Tourism in the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine. As an applied social scientist, her interests are in developing collaborative and interdisciplinary research to address what makes some societies and communities more resilient to global and local changes, including climate change. She has a Bachelor of Arts from Universidad del Valle de Guatemala and a Master of Science in Recreation and Tourism, as well as a Doctorate in Philosophy in Natural Reources from the University of Idaho. She has been a faculty member since 2013 after working at Universidad del Valle de Guatemala and Ecotourism Program Manager for a conservation nonprofit organization in Guatemala working with rural communities.

Forest Climate Change Research Focus

Forest Industry Risk Perception and Resilience to Climate Change

- Vulnerability and adaptive capacity of nature-based tourism destinations in Maine to the effects and opportunities resulting from a changing climate.
- Maine visitor outdoor recreationist risk of exposure to ticks and tick-borne disease.
- Impacts of winter tick parasitism in moose, and the effects on cultural identity, recreation behavior, economic vitality, and rural livelihoods in Maine.
- Climate change resilience of natural resource dependent communities in Maine.
- Participatory research to include communities and stake-holders in generating effective responses to climate change.

Survey interview team at Acadia National Park.