

## **2024 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

Since its inception in 2016, the Southeast and Caribbean Disaster Resilience Partnership (SCDRP or Partnership) has grown into the largest cross-sectoral, multi-disciplinary, regional network for resilience professionals from Federal, state, territory, and local government, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, business, and industry. SCDRP is the only regional collaboration network for professionals in emergency management, climate adaptation, resilience, and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery specifically focused on the U.S. Southeast and Caribbean region, consisting of the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida and the U.S. Caribbean territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### **PHILOSOPHY:**

SCDRP partners recognize that the scale of both episodic and chronic disasters and climate-related stressors faced throughout this region requires public and private entities to reach beyond their individual mandates and vested interests to work together to inform, protect, and transform vulnerable communities. The Partnership reflects a deep commitment to collaboration among multiple sectors to share experiences, enhance learning, and foster the use of best practices to strengthen the region's ability to address common issues resulting from disasters and climate impacts. Each year, SCDRP engages hundreds of professionals in relationship-building to deepen communities' resilience capacity through knowledge-sharing, interdisciplinary collaboration, and regional convenings.

### **CORE VALUES:**

The Partnership is guided by a set of foundational core values. These core values are ideals and principles which guide and inform the way SCDRP operates day-to-day, and provide the foundational beliefs that drive future directions and priorities of the Partnership. As such, we believe in:

1. **Collaboration:** Facilitate innovative partnerships that cross boundaries and disciplines.
2. **Learning:** Build capacity through knowledge-sharing, peer-learning, and convening.
3. **Equity:** Encourage diverse and inclusive participation in all activities across languages, cultures, and political boundaries.
4. **Support:** Facilitate access to and pragmatic application of science and actionable information in support of our Vision.

### **VISION:**

Communities across the U.S. Southeast and Caribbean will be significantly more resilient to episodic and chronic impacts due to climate change, natural hazards, and disasters.

### **MISSION:**

Serve as a trusted regional network to build professional skills, facilitate knowledge-exchange, advance

equitable climate adaptation approaches, promote strategies for accelerating natural disaster recovery, and facilitate strong and diverse partnerships across professional sectors.

**OBJECTIVE 1: SERVE THE PARTNERS**

Provide opportunities for partners to engage, share knowledge, and collaborate on natural hazard resilience, equitable adaptation, and disaster preparedness, response, and recovery strategies.

**KEY STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVE 1:**

1. Provide knowledge-sharing opportunities, highlight new resources, and promote innovative approaches to better connect and inform the partners.
2. Continue and enhance regional convening offerings, maintaining quality and building on virtual monthly partnership meetings and in-person annual meetings.
3. Encourage collaboration and peer-learning across sectors and geographies to leverage resources, expertise, and innovation in disaster resilience initiatives.
4. Engage representatives from local community-based organizations to facilitate the involvement and engagement of underserved communities in developing whole community resilience and equitable climate adaptation and disaster recovery and response strategies.
5. Foster public-private partnerships and build connections among related organizations to enhance the effectiveness of resilience efforts throughout the region.

**OBJECTIVE 2: SERVE THE BODY OF KNOWLEDGE**

Support open access to, understanding, and pragmatic application of science-based and actionable information and resources in support of our vision.

**KEY STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVE 2:**

1. Engage resilience experts who represent successful and innovative projects and programs to share information and advance understanding and capabilities among the SCDRP partners.
2. Identify and promote training and educational opportunities for partners that advance policies, promote equity, and highlight programs designed to increase resilience.
3. Lead and coordinate collaborative projects and activities that bring together partners from multiple sectors and/or regions, actively engage marginalized communities and vulnerable populations, identify and bridge knowledge-gaps, and tangibly reduce natural hazard risk to communities.
4. Help partners and practitioners access and understand funding opportunities and serve as a link to organizations that can help with technical assistance.
5. Serve as a source of guidance and information for resilience, adaptation, and recovery, especially those relevant to our region.
6. Develop and maintain a searchable, online repository that hosts or links to recent natural disaster and climate-related resilience resources and efforts occurring in our region.

**OBJECTIVE 3: SERVE THE PARTNERSHIP**

Advance organizational capabilities of the Partnership to implement our mission and tangibly work toward our vision.

### **KEY STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVE 3:**

1. Promote a diverse and inclusive membership and continue Partnership growth across geographies and sectors.
2. Identify opportunities and compete for funding to maintain and build the operational capacity and programmatic elements of the Partnership.
3. Continue efforts to diversify leadership on the Advisory Board and Committees to reflect the cultures, backgrounds, and priorities of the region.
4. Broaden membership by exploring partnerships and shared interests with community-based organizations, universities, research consortia, professional associations, environmental programs, and private-sector organizations.
5. Recruit, hire, and maintain a professional SCDRP staff to ensure a stable and healthy organization and to sustain and enhance its ability to address the needs of its partners and communities in the Region.
6. Explore options to support workforce development needs of resilience professional pathways.
7. Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the progress of the Partnership's activities, enabling continuous improvement and evidence-based decision-making.

### **CONCLUSION:**

During the last seven years of dedicated regional collaboration and coordination, the SCDRP has grown tremendously in terms of partner engagement and geographic reach. Between 2022 and 2023, the number of active, dues-paying members tripled and continues to grow steadily each month. Similarly, the number of participants subscribing to our newsletters and attending our Monthly Partnership Meetings has grown exponentially to over 550. During the SCDRP 2023 Annual Meeting, the Partnership made special efforts to engage with the international Caribbean speakers, panelists, and attendees. By April 2023, Caribbean partners represented 11% of the Partnership and represented a diversity of territories and nations including Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Barbados, Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Belize, and Jamaica.

As the Partnership continues to grow, SCDRP is adapting and evolving into a more structured and formal organization. In 2021, a nine-member advisory board authorized the first three-year Strategic Plan. In 2022, the SCDRP Advisory Board wrote and promulgated its first set of formal policies and procedures outlining the composition, duties, and protocols of the advisory board. In 2023, SCDRP rescoped the board composition with the goal of adding diversity of perspectives and backgrounds. The Partnership held its first advisory board election and added six members resulting in a larger, more diverse fifteen-member advisory board that better reflects the expanding sectors, perspectives, and geographies of the region. SCDRP continues to formalize committees to deepen its work and expand the reach of the Partnership. Committees are working to expand and diversify SCDRP's membership, offering more resources and educational opportunities to our Partners and communities, formalizing new policies and procedures, and securing grant funding to advance solutions that address regional resilience issues. With time, SCDRP aims to become an autonomous, durable, and membership-supported organization to better serve all of our partners - resilience professionals, dues-paying members, and affiliates, and through them, our communities and the people who live, work, and play in the Southeast and Caribbean region.