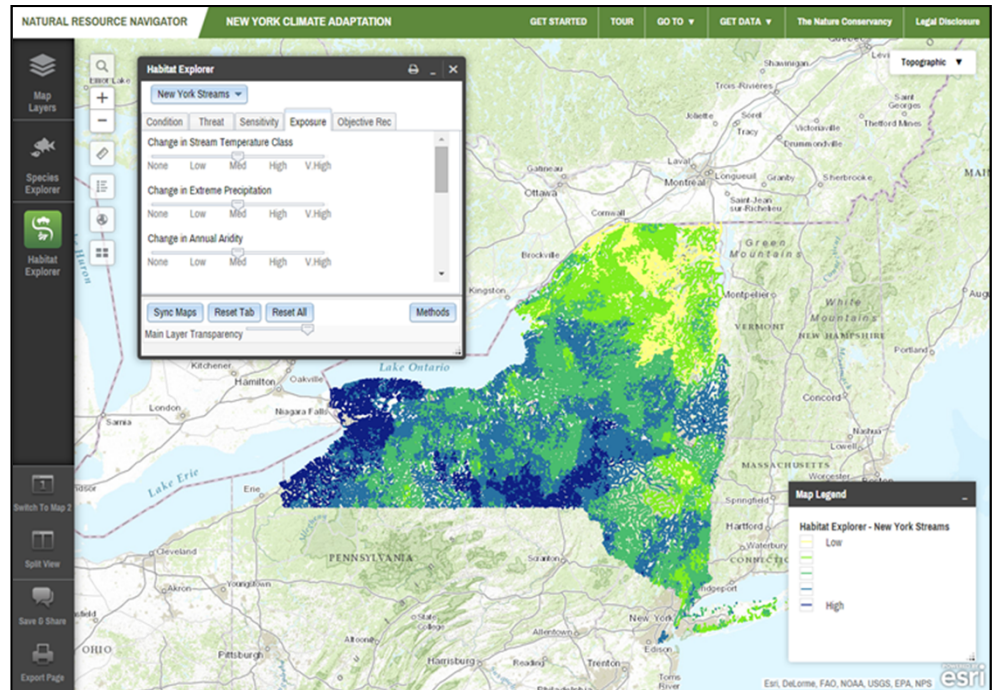


Our changing climate has wide ranging impacts in New York: increased risk of floods and drought, rising sea levels, and storm surge are just a few. Communities and decision makers at every level of government need explicit, concrete recommendations for where and under what circumstances to use particular adaptation strategies. Although an array of guidance documents and relevant datasets already exist to support climate adaptation, decision makers lack easy access to this information and need more explicit concrete recommendations, tied to places on the ground, to prepare and respond to the impacts of climate change.

### What The Nature Conservancy is Doing

The Nature Conservancy in New York is producing an on-line, spatial, interactive decision support tool to address this challenge and help natural resource managers make climate smart decisions to sustain natural resources.

The Natural Resource Navigator, with adaptation decision support “apps”, is designed to facilitate the development of actionable site-specific strategies. By synthesizing spatial data on resource conditions, non-climate threats, climate change exposure and sensitivity, the tool provides a structured process for managers to select the most appropriate climate adaptation options for their particular area or target.



The Natural Resource Navigator is an on-line, spatial, interactive decision support tool .

### Who Can Use the Navigator?

Free and available online, the tool will be useful for natural resource decision-making by state and federal agencies, municipal planners, floodplain and forest managers, land trusts, watershed groups, and other not-for-profit organizations. It is designed to support decisions from individual site scales to statewide prioritizations, and can serve users looking for help deciding what to do in a particular place; where to invest resources in a given strategy, like connectivity; identifying species and habitats to work on; or evaluating whether a current project is climate smart.

Although the Natural Resource Navigator is being developed using New York spatial data, many of the datasets are also available for the northeast, and the types of data used are applicable across the U.S. Accompanying decision support workbooks, and implementation guidance documents can be used by anyone in conjunction with data they have for other places.

## The Natural Resource Navigator

By informing decision makers with concrete recommendations for where and under what circumstances particular adaptation strategies should be used, this online decision tool will:

- **Enable users to view, interact with, and export a comprehensive database of the latest terrestrial and freshwater spatial data and analyses through interactive maps and graphics.** This will be useful for guiding climate change adaptation as well as for managing natural resources in response to other dynamic trends like population change and development, invasive species, and new industries.



©Erika Edgley/TNC

Nearly 1000 datasets, including at least 25 novel product suites, will be incorporated into the online interactive webmapper, and most will be available for download as well. Some example novel products: a statewide projected future land use layer, developed by SUNY ESF; a spatially explicit climate change vulnerability index for 50 species and assessment of migration corridors to facilitate range shifts within New York for a subset of those species, developed by New York Natural Heritage; and select modeled current and future ecosystem services.

- **Guide users through an interactive decision support tool that will help them use the spatial data to determine where to work and what to do** ---identify places to protect or restore to facilitate adaptation to climate change, decide where to focus on connecting habitats and/or eliminate threats, like nutrient pollution or invasive species, that reduce systems' resilience to climate change.
- **Deliver resources for implementing natural resource adaptation** (links to other sites, downloadable documents, tips) tailored to the output of the decision support tool.
- **Provide high quality graphic maps and graphs as well as documentation of the decision process and results for internal planning and outreach communications by a variety of users.**

## When will the Navigator be Available?

The first full version of the Natural Resource Navigator and Adaptation Decision Support will launch on-line in early 2016. Through 2016, we plan to gather feedback from this initial launch and further develop the decision support applications in conjunction with the web map for a seamless on-line tool.

For more information or to receive email updates on the Natural Resource Navigator, contact Becky Shirer (rshirer@tnc.org or 518.690.7848) or Kristin France (kfrance@tnc.org or 845.554.3404).

Made possible by a generous grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, as well as support from private donors.