

2019

Integration and Application Network REPORT CARD

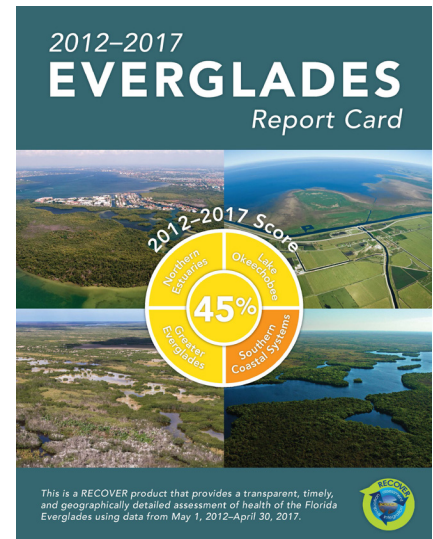


*An annual reflection on social impacts,
ecological outcomes, and partner engagement.*

Highlights from 2019

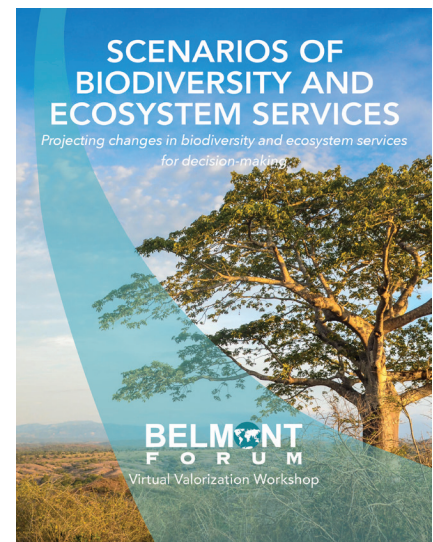
Assessing the ecosystem status of the Florida Everglades with RECOVER

The Everglades Report Card and 2019 System Status Report, released in 2019, were the culmination of two years of work and participation by dozens of stakeholders. The report was produced by RECOVER (REstoration COordination and VERrification), an interagency team that oversees the program of ecosystem research and monitoring that is needed to implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The System Status Report and Report Card analyzed and synthesized data from 2012–2017. This information will be incorporated into the Everglades 2020 Report to Congress. For more information, visit evergladesecohealth.org.



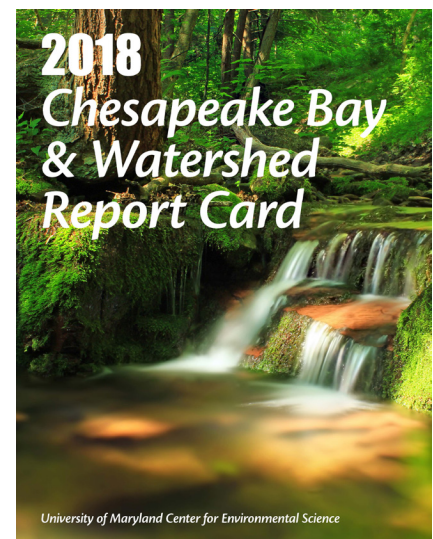
Transdisciplinary research synthesis in partnership with the Belmont Forum

The Belmont Tripartite Valorization workshop and Biodiversity I Collaborative Research Action (CRA) virtual synthesis workshop were convened by the Belmont Forum and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. The workshops served as the end-term meetings for the Food Security and Land Use Change CRA and Biodiversity I CRA, and the mid-term meetings for the Arctic Observing and Science for Sustainability and Mountains as Sentinels of Changes CRAs. The workshop reports, *Understanding Responses to Global Change and Scenarios of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*, provided a brief overview of each project, identified common themes that emerged, and provided recommendations for future Belmont Forum Projects.



The Chesapeake Bay Report Card adds watershed indicators for a more holistic view of health

IAN has produced the annual Chesapeake Bay Report Card since 2006. It is the definitive source for ecosystem health status in the Bay and tidal tributaries. In 2019, data for several watershed indicators were assessed for the 64,000 square-mile watershed. The indicators examined were stream benthic community, total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and turbidity. While the 2019 IAN Report card includes the 2018 Chesapeake Bay Report Card score in the Ecological Outcomes category, IAN is excited for the new partnerships and social impacts created during workshops, webinars, and other stakeholder engagement opportunities throughout 2019. Moving forward, we plan to expand these indicators to include economy and diversity in the 2020 report card.

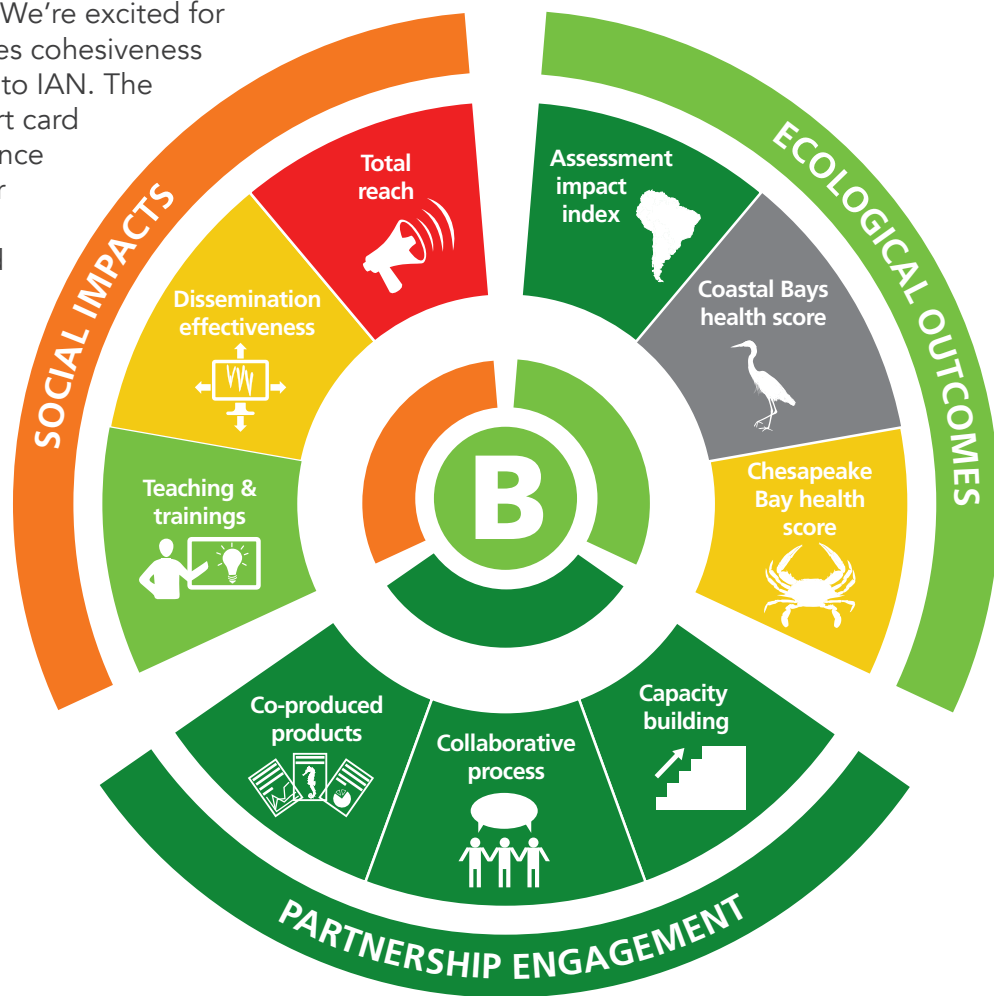


2019 Report Card results

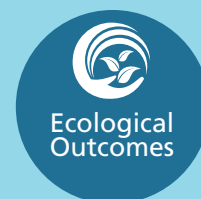
Overall, the IAN Report Card scored a B (84%) for 2019. This is down from a B (86%) in 2018. The scores for Ecological Outcomes (87%) remained steady with a 1% increase in score from 2018. Partner engagement remained an A+, and increased to a 99%, up from 95% in 2018. This was due to an increase in capacity building with partner organizations, which assessed how comfortable IAN partners were with asking questions, and if partners thought a project built capacity and encouraged teamwork in their organization. The Social Impacts category significantly decreased from 78% in 2018 to 66% in 2019, most likely due to the new IAN website migration. In 2019, IAN transitioned to a new website housed within the UMCES website. We're excited for this new platform because it provides cohesiveness with UMCES and back-end support to IAN. The Chesapeake and Coastal Bays report card scores are carried over from 2018 since these report cards are released after the completion of the IAN Report Card. The Coastal Bays Report Card received a score of Incomplete for 2018 due to issues with data availability. Therefore, the 2019 Ecological Outcomes score was only based on the Assessment impact index and Chesapeake Bay Report Card scores.

IAN scoring

- A** very good (90-100%)
- B** good (80-90%)
- C** moderate (70-80%)
- D** poor (60-70%)
- F** very poor (<60%)
- ID** Insufficient Data



PARTNER ENGAGEMENT 99% **SOCIAL IMPACTS 66%** **ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES 87%**



IAN Theory of Change. The ultimate motivation for IAN is to create positive environmental outcomes. In order to achieve these outcomes, we recognize that we need to have an impact on society, largely through effective engagement with key people and organizations. To achieve this societal impact, we need to work with key partners who can help spread our messages and provide resources and expertise.

IAN is improving science communication & r

In 2019, IAN partnered with organizations throughout the world to develop science communication products, ecosystem health report cards, and build capacity for both through in-person and virtual teachings and trainings.

SAV Watchers

Together with the Chesapeake Bay Program, IAN developed a system for citizen sciences to monitor submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) in the Chesapeake Bay. Using the new system, volunteers can collect consistent and useful SAV data.

NOAA Coral Reef Status Reports

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Coral Reef Conservation Program partnered with IAN in 2014 to synthesize monitoring data throughout the U.S. Pacific, Atlantic, and Caribbean coral reef areas. In late 2018, IAN released the first set of status reports for the U.S. Pacific jurisdictions, including American Samoa, the Hawaiian Archipelago, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and Pacific Remote Islands.

Texas Coast Report Card

IAN and Harte Research Institute scientists produced the 2019 Texas Coast Ecosystem Health Report Card. The coastline scored a B-, indicating moderately good ecosystem health. This project is the first step in a larger effort to develop a Gulf of Mexico Report Card.

Re-envisioning coastal sustainability through Future Earth Coasts

Future Earth Coasts (FEC) met in Bremen, Germany to complete a restructuring of the organization. FEC is a group of scientists and practitioners, focused on helping coastal communities transition to sustainable practices. IAN's role involves supporting potential demonstration projects and communications planning for social media, blogs, newsletters, and web content.

IAN by the numbers

120
people trained
in science
communication



13

New
symbols
uploaded

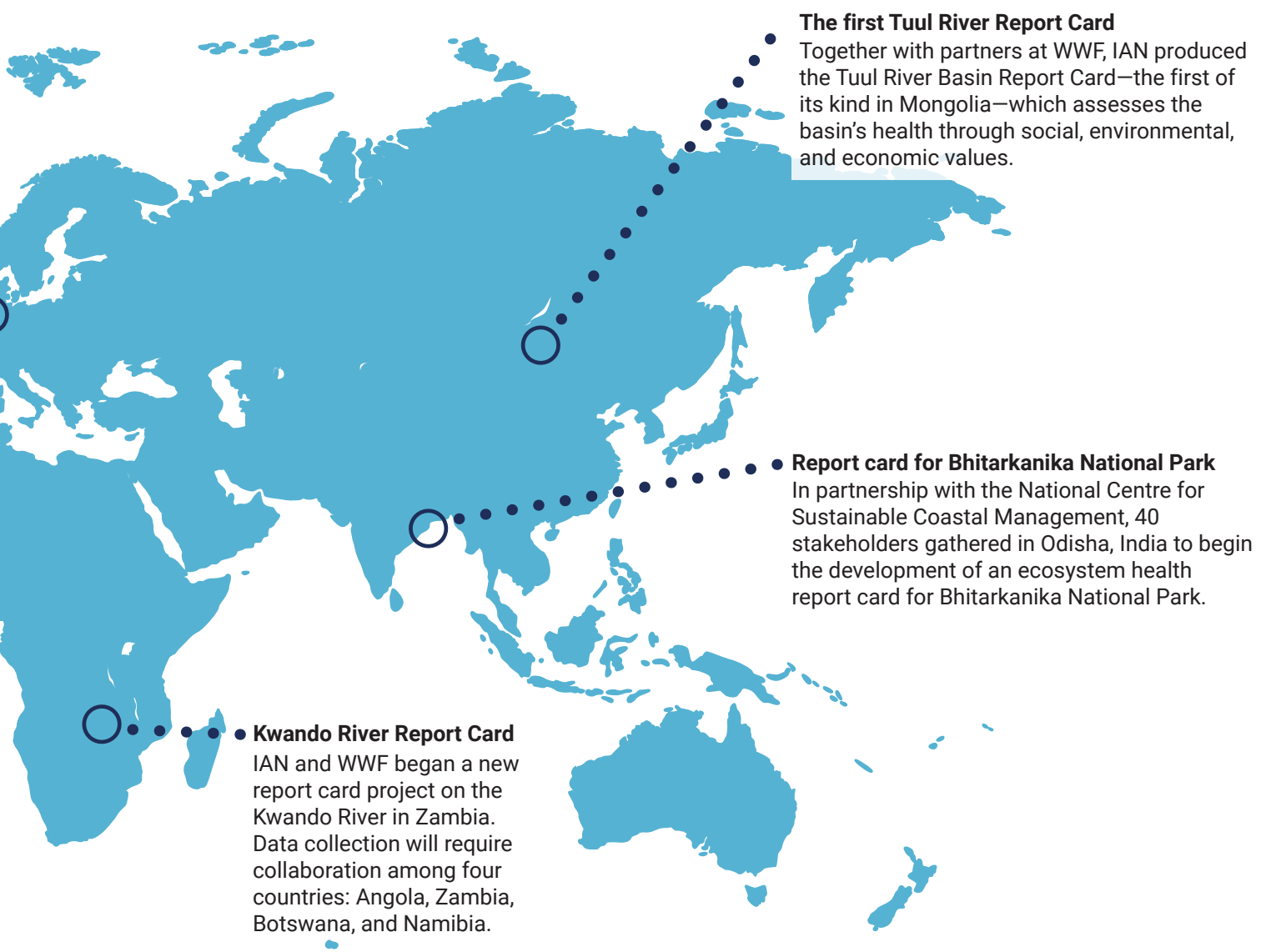


3,862,394

symbols & images downloaded from IAN's
free libraries

43
IAN staff

making science accessible around the world



1,192 
project partners

6  ecosystem health assessments completed

35,729,395
people reached by media from 2018 Chesapeake Bay Report Card

201 
partner organizations

 **13** out of **13** partners reported being very satisfied or satisfied with their IAN partnership

35 
projects

3 
full semester graduate level courses

Virtual collaborations and learning

Flipping the classroom on science communication education

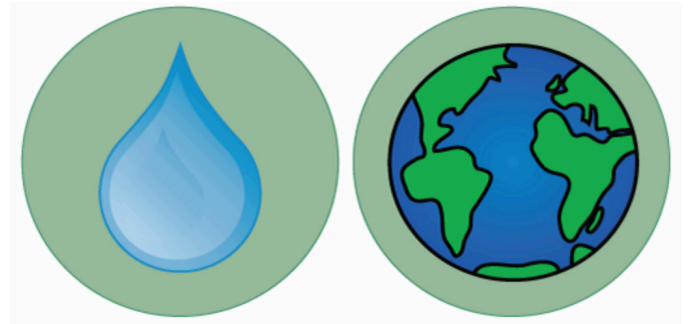
In 2017, IAN transitioned from a three-day, in-person science communication course to a semester-long, graduate level course taught completely virtually, through a mix of synchronous and asynchronous instruction. Since then, IAN has taught 17 courses on data visualization, environmental management, and report card development to a global audience. In 2019, IAN offered courses on Applied Environmental Science, Environment and Society, and Developing Ecosystem Health Report Cards.



Students in the 2019 Environment and Society Class.

Bill's 500th blog post completed

For Bill Dennison's 500th blog post, he reflected on how he uses blogs and identified several benefits to blogging. The rigor of writing blogs helps consolidate thoughts. Blogs can document important milestones. They include photos, maps and other visual elements, which help us recall the places and people we encountered. Blogs are used as building blocks for various themes, like environmental literacy, science communication or environmental report cards. They can also capture fun things like silly songs, poems, or limericks generated at workshops.



An image from Bill's 500th blog post.

WE WOULD LOVE TO WORK WITH YOU

Since 2002, IAN has been working to improve science communication around the globe. Over the years, IAN staff members have partnered with organizations to help scientists, managers, and non-profits on a variety of projects. Whether you're looking to train scientists to improve their science communication skills, complete an ecosystem health report card, build an app for your followers, or improve the readability of your publications, IAN can help. If you're ready to create an impactful document, analyze your data in new ways, or have a greater impact on management decisions in your region, contact IAN today to discuss how we can work together to accomplish your goals.

Contact us today to get started

email ian@umces.edu or visit umces.edu/ian

