



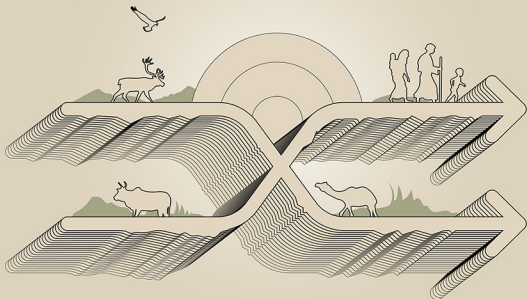
**CONFERENCIA  
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**MARK STAFFORD SMITH**

CSIRO LAND & WATER, CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

# ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR DRYLANDS

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## MARK STAFFORD SMITH

Dr Mark Stafford Smith is based in Canberra, Australia, and helps to coordinate Adaptation Research across CSIRO, Australia's national research organisation; he oversees a highly interdisciplinary program of research on many aspects of adapting to climate change, as well as regularly interacting with national and international policy issues. He has over 30 years' experience in drylands systems ecology, management and policy, including senior roles such as CEO of the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre in Alice Springs. His significant international roles include being past vice-chair of the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme's Scientific Committee. In 2012 he was co-chair of the Planet Under Pressure: New Knowledge Towards Solutions conference on global environmental change in the lead up to Rio+20. Since 2013 he has been Chair of the inaugural Science Committee for Future Earth, which helps to coordinate research towards global sustainability worldwide. He continues to publish actively, adding to over 160 peer-reviewed contributions to science, as well as many presentations and publications for less-specialized audiences.

## CONFERENCE RESUME

Over the past decade, adaptation research has moved from defining impacts to asking how climate risks information can be brought into day-to-day decision making, whilst recognising that change will be on-going and in some cases requires responses of transformative magnitude. This has led to much deeper attention to value and institutions in tackling the variety of long-term changes that we face. In Australia we have articulated this as '3rd generation' adaptation thinking, and its tools and approaches integrate climate adaptation more closely to other aspects of responding to global environmental change and the challenge of the Sustainable Development Goals. Mark will outline these developments with case studies from Australia, and then link them to their implications for drylands in particular, where people are often relatively distant from governance centres, and where biophysical and social uncertainty adds further dimensions to adaptive responses. How can the Dryland Development Paradigm assist with this understanding?

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