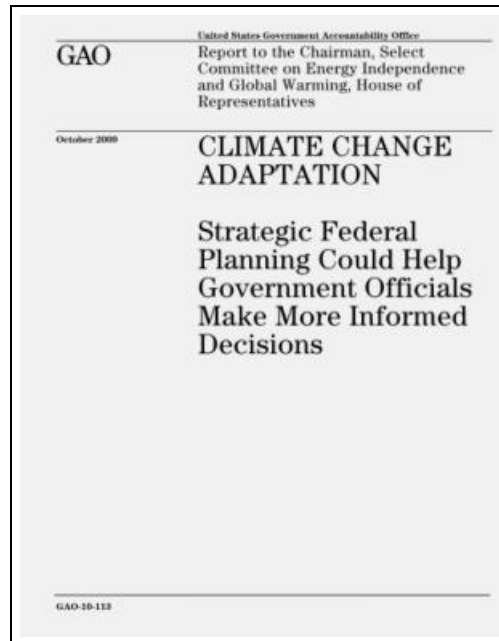


## Climate Change Adaptation: Strategic Federal Planning Could Help Government Officials Make More Informed Decisions



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Createspace. Paperback. Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. 88 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.2in.Changes in the climate attributable to increased concentrations of greenhouse gases may have significant impacts in the United States and the world. For example, climate change could threaten coastal areas with rising sea levels. Greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere will continue altering the climate system into the future, regardless of emissions control efforts. Therefore, adaptation--defined as adjustments to natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climate change--is an important part of the response to climate change. GAO was asked to examine (1) what actions federal, state, local, and international authorities are taking to adapt to a changing climate; (2) the challenges that federal, state, and local officials face in their efforts to adapt; and (3) actions that Congress and federal agencies could take to help address these challenges. We also discuss our prior work on similarly complex, interdisciplinary issues. This report is based on analysis of studies, site visits to areas pursuing adaptation efforts, and responses to a Web-based questionnaire sent to federal, state, and local officials. While available information indicates that many governments have not yet begun to adapt to climate change, some federal, state, local, and international authorities have started to act. The challenges faced by federal, state, and local officials in their efforts to adapt fell into three categories, based on GAOs analysis of questionnaire results, site visits, and available studies. First, competing priorities make it difficult to pursue adaptation efforts when there may be more immediate needs for attention and resources. For example, about 71 percent (128 of 180) of the officials who responded to our questionnaire rated non-adaptation activities as higher priorities as very or extremely challenging. Second, a lack of site-specific data, such...

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