Name:	**12. AGRICULTURE IN THE LOWER FLINT RIVER BASIN, GEORGIA, USA**		
Region	North America	**Country**	USA
Ecosystem	Agriculture		
Nature of approach	Improvement in capacity, design and policy measures (identifying and/or developing adaptation approach, capacity building, raising awareness); Implementation of EBA measures (changing management practices)		
Description of approach	**Objective/Expected outcomes** The Lower Flint River Basin is an area of intense agricultural productivity, responsible for producing more peanuts and pecans than anywhere else in the United States, along with similarly high levels of cotton and sweet corn. The impact on the economy is $2 billion in farm–based revenue annually. Historic droughts, coupled with intense water use, have resulted in low flows in the lower Flint River system, threatening the future of the local agricultural economy. The impacts of climate change in North America are expected to include increased climate variability, including more severe periods of drought coupled with wetter periods, which could further threaten the agricultural sector. In order to ensure the future of the local agricultural economy, the project worked to reduce the vulnerability of the agricultural ecosystem to drought and other extreme precipitation events. **Actions** Innovative water conservation practices were developed in partnership with local farmers, university researchers and conservation agencies. This included a range of engineered and technical solutions to complement ecosystem based approaches, including management of crops types and planting cycles. For example, rotating crops and adding specific plants to the rotation improved the soil over time, whilst leaving plant residue in the field helped to improve root structure and the ability of the soil to retain water. **Results achieved** The changes to crop planting have resulted in increased productivity, and decreased water requirement. More than 1000 farmers have been involved in implementing measures to improve water conservation across 250,000 acres of irrigated land. In a dry year, all of the practices collectively conserve up to 15 billion gallons of water, and help to build capacity amongst the community for dealing with future drought events. **Lessons learned** Integrating ecosystem-based approaches into a broader strategy can help to ensure successful adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change.		
Type of organisation	NGO	**Name of organisation:**	The Nature Conservancy
Further information and contact details	http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/georgia/howwework/creative-conservation-on-the-flint-river.xml		