

Balakrishnan Balachandran

Candidate Name: Balakrishnan Balachandran

Candidate Affiliation: Sustainable Solutions Lab, University of Massachusetts Boston

Candidate Title: Executive Director

What Board position are you running for?: Member-at-Large

Why would you be a great candidate for this specific ASAP Board position? (250 words):

As a Member-at-Large on the ASAP Board, I would bring a unique blend of academic expertise, professional experience, and leadership in climate adaptation and resilience. My current role as Executive Director of the Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston has honed my skills in overseeing complex research projects and developing strategic plans focused on climate change impacts on vulnerable communities.

My extensive background in post-disaster recovery planning, sustainable urban development, and risk management across multiple countries provides a global perspective that would benefit ASAP's diverse membership. My research on risk tradeoffs in disaster-induced relocation directly aligns with ASAP's mission to support just and effective climate adaptation.

As a certified urban planner with over 30 years of experience, I have a proven track record of bridging research and practice. My work with organizations like the World Bank, UNDP, and various government agencies demonstrates my ability to translate complex concepts into actionable policies and plans.

My leadership roles in founding and directing multiple organizations focused on sustainability and resilience showcase my capacity to build partnerships, manage teams, and drive organizational growth. These skills would be invaluable in helping ASAP expand its reach and impact.

Lastly, my commitment to equity and community-led adaptation, as evidenced by my current research and past projects, aligns perfectly with ASAP's values. As a Member-at-Large, I would work tirelessly to ensure that ASAP continues to be at the forefront of just and effective climate adaptation strategies.

As a Board member, how would you contribute to advancing ASAP's vision and mission, and that of the field? How does your work advance climate adaptation solutions? (250 words):

As a Board member, I would leverage my extensive experience in climate adaptation research, policy, and practice to advance ASAP's vision and mission. My role as Executive Director of the Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston has equipped me with valuable insights into the

challenges and opportunities in climate adaptation, particularly for vulnerable communities. I would use this knowledge to help ASAP develop innovative strategies for supporting its members and advancing the field.

My work directly contributes to climate adaptation solutions through transdisciplinary research and action. I lead projects that bridge academic research with practical implementation, such as enhancing the resilience of critical infrastructure and examining risk tradeoffs in disaster-induced relocation. These efforts provide crucial insights for developing effective adaptation strategies.

I would bring a global perspective to ASAP, drawing on my international experience in post-disaster recovery and sustainable urban development. This broad view would help ASAP address diverse adaptation challenges and foster cross-cultural learning among its members.

My expertise in risk management and policy formulation would be instrumental in shaping ASAP's advocacy efforts and educational programs. I would work to ensure that ASAP remains at the forefront of promoting just and effective climate adaptation practices.

Furthermore, my leadership experience in founding and directing organizations focused on sustainability and resilience would be valuable in guiding ASAP's organizational growth and strategic partnerships. I am committed to fostering collaboration between researchers, practitioners, and communities to develop holistic, equitable adaptation solutions.

What sets you apart from other candidates? What unique experiences or qualities do you have? What special contributions have you made to ASAP? (500 words)

As a seasoned professional with over three decades of experience in urban planning, disaster recovery, and climate adaptation, I bring a unique blend of academic rigor and practical expertise to the ASAP Board. My career trajectory, spanning multiple continents and diverse contexts, has equipped me with a global perspective on climate adaptation challenges and solutions.

My role as Executive Director of the Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston has honed my ability to bridge research and practice, a skill crucial for advancing ASAP's mission. I oversee complex research projects and develop strategic plans focused on climate change impacts on vulnerable communities, aligning perfectly with ASAP's commitment to just and effective adaptation.

My extensive background in post-disaster recovery planning and sustainable urban development across various countries provides me with insights into diverse adaptation strategies and their real-world applications. This international experience allows me to contribute a broad, nuanced understanding of adaptation challenges to ASAP's work.

As a certified urban planner and researcher, I have a proven track record of translating complex concepts into actionable policies and plans. My work with organizations like the World Bank, UNDP,

and various government agencies demonstrates my ability to operate effectively at the intersection of policy, practice, and research – a valuable asset for ASAP's multifaceted approach to adaptation.

My leadership roles in founding and directing multiple organizations focused on sustainability and resilience showcase my capacity to build partnerships, manage teams, and drive organizational growth. These skills would be invaluable in helping ASAP expand its reach and impact.

My commitment to equity and community-led adaptation, as evidenced by my current research and past projects, aligns perfectly with ASAP's values. I have consistently prioritized the needs of vulnerable communities in my work, ensuring that adaptation strategies are not only effective but also just and inclusive.

My active participation in ASAP over the past three years demonstrates my dedication to the organization and its mission. Co-leading the "Professional Opportunities in Adaptation" Member-Led Interest Group allowed me to contribute directly to ASAP's goal of supporting adaptation professionals. My involvement in the Leading with Equity in Adaptation Practice (LEAP) Program underscores my commitment to integrating equity considerations into adaptation work.

Co-organizing the Special Session on "Intergenerational Collaboration and Leadership in Climate Adaptation" at the National Adaptation Forum showcases my ability to bring together diverse perspectives and foster important conversations within the adaptation community. This experience also highlights my commitment to nurturing the next generation of adaptation professionals, ensuring the field's continued growth and evolution.

My unique combination of academic expertise, professional experience, and active involvement in ASAP positions me to make significant contributions to the organization's strategic direction and growth. I am committed to leveraging my skills, experience, and networks to advance ASAP's vision of a society that is adapting to climate change in ways that prioritize equity, foster resilience, and enhance quality of life for all.

For this board election cycle, we are seeking candidates with experience/perspectives in the areas below. Please check any of the below that apply to you.

Leading or participating in ASAP Member Led Interest Groups and/or ASAP Committees,
Representation of diverse racial, cultural, age, and gender backgrounds on the ASAP Board of Directors.

Katia Carranza

Candidate Name: Katia Carranza

Candidate Title: Consultant, Community Organizer, and Storyteller

What Board position are you running for?: Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Why would you be a great candidate for this specific ASAP Board position? (250 words):

For over ten years, all of my professional and community work has been focused on advancing climate solutions and healing our social and ecological relationships with a focus on advancing justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. I have actively worked on advancing transdisciplinary initiatives alongside cross-scale communities to improve our interconnected social and environmental conditions for sustainability and climate adaptation. With experience in governments, nonprofits, academia, and grassroots movements, I have advanced sustainability and climate solutions focused on reducing waste and emissions for a California city and college campus, leading equitable engagement for international coalitions, mobilizing for environmental justice across scales, advocating for social justice and immigrant rights alongside my communities, supporting Indigenous conservation with Indigenous leaders, facilitating sustainability intergenerational education in collaboration with youth, building solidarity across boundaries across movements, working for a fair circular economy alongside marginalized workers, and amplifying community-driven nature-based solutions to climate with fellow underrepresented leaders. This diverse experience has prepared me to support the wide-ranging work ASAP and its members advance. Specifically, my projects led with marginalized communities should help inform solutions that are more equitable, relevant, and culturally sensitive. The work I have advanced across sectors paired with my academic focus on resilience and systemic solutions should also contribute to supporting efforts that are holistic. Moreover, my cross-scale collaborations can support in amplifying ASAP work in addition to supporting solutions that are scalable.

As a Board member, how would you contribute to advancing ASAP's vision and mission, and that of the field? How does your work advance climate adaptation solutions? (250 words):

In all of my work, I have also focused on advancing community-building, education, and networking to promote the connections we need to advance climate action and sustainability. As a result, I have direct experience with leading initiatives that relate to ASAP's vision and mission, and I would be inspired to support you in promoting connections, amplifying impactful stories, and amplifying climate adaptation education. Because I have contributed to building and maintaining cross-scale networks, I would be able to support in promoting equitable engagement and more inclusion of marginalized people. Moreover, I would be able to support in building and amplifying resources and opportunities that contribute to advancing culturally sensitive and accessible impacts. My participation would be complemented by my wide-ranging experience and work with climate adaptation solutions. I continue to work directly with climate solutions from changing institutional

processes, climate nature-based solutions, building policies and processes, shaping educational campaigns, supporting climate entrepreneurship, and fostering climate organizing, and this experience has been advanced with a lens of marginalized and environmental justice communities. As a result, I would be able to support ASAP efforts in upholding justice and equity as we work towards climate adaptation.

What sets you apart from other candidates? What unique experiences or qualities do you have? What special contributions have you made to ASAP? (500 words)

My background gives me a global and social-ecological perspective for understanding and planning the systemic change we need to achieve equitable sustainability and climate action, and it would benefit ASAP in advancing equitable impacts. I am a woman of mixed Indigenous heritage that came from a low-income and environmental justice community in Mexico and grew up in a similar one in the United States; this experience is shared by many migrant and Indigenous people, and we have observed first-hand how it is the same global systems exploiting us and our environments and contributing to climate change.

My commitment to advancing equity and sustainability has not allowed me to stay quiet in the face of these intergenerational and international injustices. Since I was in high school, I have worked to improve social-ecological conditions alongside my communities as I have served as an environmental and immigrants justice organizer. This experience has taught me how to collaborate with diverse communities to build our collective awareness and power for creating systemic change. I have also directed a variety of equity and sustainability initiatives from the local to the international levels working for governments, universities, and nonprofits. As a result, I have gained a holistic understanding of how different sectors can work together to improve their social-ecological impacts. In all of these roles, I have also been responsible for assessing how systems can change to advance equity and sustainability, and I have developed policy recommendations and equitable collaboration strategies.

As I have worked in diverse environmental fields, I have also continually observed their compartmentalization and separation from social fields. Conservation efforts often see all people as the problem when oftentimes oppressed people are being harmed by the same forces degrading our ecosystems. There are also many definitions for sustainability that lead to diverse goals and impacts across sectors. In some cases, sustainability and climate solutions are replicating disparities as it advances strategies that center the longevity of natural resources and resilience of current systems while ignoring marginalized communities. My professional and community experience have made me realize that environmental justice and equity are needed to secure the pathways to a sustainable and equitable world, and our long oppressed and excluded communities need to be centered in order to achieve it. They have experienced firsthand how environmental and social exploitation are linked, and most of all, they know what they need in the face of the disparities they face and coming climate changes. People of color, many of which are Indigenous, also have diverse perspectives that hold ancestral knowledge for regenerating societal processes to heal our people and environment. For those reasons, my participation with the ASAP board would focus on advancing equitable collaboration and impacts through climate adaptation.

For this board election cycle, we are seeking candidates with experience/perspectives in the areas below. Please check any of the below that apply to you.

Non-profit financial management, Representation of diverse racial, cultural, age, and gender backgrounds on the ASAP Board of Directors.

Julia Chase

Candidate Name: Julia Chase

Candidate Affiliation: City of San Diego

Candidate Title: Chief Resilience Officer

What Board position are you running for?: Member-at-large

Why would you be a great candidate for this specific ASAP Board position? (250 words):

I believe I am uniquely suited for this board position with ASAP due to my unwavering passion for climate resilience and a deep concern for our future. The challenges posed by climate change require urgent, innovative solutions and collective action. I have dedicated my career to this and am personally driven to help create a more resilient and equitable future for all communities. My commitment extends to supporting the next generation of practitioners in this field. I aim to foster mentorship and knowledge-sharing opportunities that empower emerging leaders to tackle adaptation challenges head-on. ASAP has supported my work in climate adaptation, providing invaluable resources and a supportive network that continues to build my understanding of best practices and new perspectives. I look forward to the opportunity to support ASAP continue to provide invaluable resources to adaptation professional and advance the field of practice.

As a Board member, how would you contribute to advancing ASAP's vision and mission, and that of the field? How does your work advance climate adaptation solutions? (250 words):

I am excited to apply for a board position with ASAP to further their mission of connection climate adaptation professional and furthering the field of practice. My professional experience has equipped me with a depth of experience in climate adaptation and resilience planning, risk assessments, community engagement, and urban planning. Currently, as Chief Resilience Officer for the City of San Diego I am leading the implementation of their climate adaptation and conservation work program. In this role, I have worked to center and prioritize social equity in adaptation planning and implementation, leverage the best available science to guide our work, and stay at the forefront of adaptation approaches to build a more resilient future. I am dedicated to community-informed and community driven solutions. My work has included relationship building with community organization, partnership building with other agencies and organizations, regional collaboration, and cross-sector cooperation. I will bring these skillsets to the ASAP Board to support knowledge sharing, capacity building, and network expansion for adaptation practitioners.

What sets you apart from other candidates? What unique experiences or qualities do you have? What special contributions have you made to ASAP? (500 words)

For this board election cycle, we are seeking candidates with experience/perspectives in the areas below. Please check any of the below that apply to you.

What sets me apart as a candidate for the board position with ASAP is my engagement with ASAP since becoming a member in 2021, coupled with my active participation in various peer learning groups, including those focused on nature-based solutions, funding and finance, and policy practice. These experiences have provided me with an understanding of the organization's value and the breadth of resources that ASAP provides to its members. My involvement in the NOAA Community of Practice, in partnership with ASAP, has provided an unparalleled opportunity to connect with other coastal practitioner and inform my coastal resilience work. The Community of Practice I think is an excellent example of the power of connecting practitioners and providing space for peer learning and knowledge sharing. I would like to support ASAP in providing more platforms and spaces like this for adaptation professional. Additionally, I have also served a mentor in the Mentor/Mentee program, where I found immense fulfillment in guiding emerging professionals and being inspired by their passion for the field. I look forward to serving as a mentor again when the program is relaunched. I am applying to this board position because I hope to further support the mission and programming of ASAP. Specifically, I am applying for the member-at-large position because of my experience in the peer learning groups, mentorship program, and programs. I am well suited to support coordination and communication between the board and ASAP staff, member-led interest groups, and peer learning networks. I am well versed in coordination across diverse stakeholder groups and am a detailed oriented, organized individual who can support general board coordination.

For this board election cycle, we are seeking candidates with experience/perspectives in the areas below. Please check any of the below that apply to you.

Leading or participating in ASAP Member Led Interest Groups and/or ASAP Committees.

Melissa Deas

Candidate Name: Melissa Deas

Candidate Affiliation: Cadmus

Candidate Title: Technical Director

What Board position are you running for?: Member-at-Large (or whatever is needed)

Why would you be a great candidate for this specific ASAP Board position? (250 words):

Melissa would bring both her expertise and leadership skills to ASAP as a board member. As a seasoned climate adaptation professional, she has extensive experience advancing resilience across the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Given her broad range of perspectives, Melissa understands how to effect change using a variety of strategic levers. She can also offer valuable insights into how ASAP can support adaptation professionals working in diverse settings. She has a proven track record of building consensus and driving progress through volunteer committees and working groups, having led several nationwide peer learning networks, staffed the DC Commission on Climate and Resilience, and developed cross-sector partnerships throughout her career. Melissa is deeply committed to integrating adaptation considerations into long-term planning and policymaking. As an organization central to advancing climate adaptation, ASAP will benefit from her continued efforts to ensure its offerings meet the evolving needs of the field.

As a Board member, how would you contribute to advancing ASAP's vision and mission, and that of the field? How does your work advance climate adaptation solutions? (250 words):

Melissa would contribute to ASAP by serving as an ambassador for the organization, helping to expand membership, supporting fundraising efforts, and driving strategic decisions that deliver consistent value to members.

With over a decade of experience in the adaptation field, Melissa has collaborated with stakeholders from a wide range of sectors and jurisdictions. One of ASAP's core goals is to foster connections among its members, and Melissa will focus on creating more opportunities for members to collaborate and achieve shared objectives. The existing membership already holds a wealth of knowledge, which is being leveraged through peer learning groups, the mentorship program, and other working groups. Melissa will assess these initiatives to identify areas where they can be enhanced, expanded, or refined to better serve the community.

As a board member, Melissa is committed to training the next generation of adaptation professionals, forging partnerships with a broader array of organizations, and better supporting those with years of experience to help them continue making progress. She will also work to ensure that ASAP more effectively communicates its successes using data and tools, making it clear to

members, funders, and potential partners how integral ASAP is to advancing climate adaptation solutions.

What sets you apart from other candidates? What unique experiences or qualities do you have? What special contributions have you made to ASAP? (500 words)

Melissa has been an active member of ASAP for the past decade, serving as a mentor, speaking on panels, and participating in various working groups. Recently, she stepped into a new role as Technical Director at Cadmus, which she sees as an opportunity to engage more deeply with ASAP and would be honored to do so as a board member.

Throughout her career, Melissa has demonstrated a strong track record of turning adaptation concepts into tangible actions. While serving as the District's Chief Resilience Officer, she focused on connecting climate resilience projects to funding, successfully increasing federal grants by 20 times over three years, securing more than \$100 million. She is deeply knowledgeable about climate planning, having authored DC's first extreme heat plan and resilient design guidelines. Melissa has a history of advancing equitable and innovative solutions that protect communities from climate hazards while maximizing benefits. Notably, she created DC's first revolving loan fund for resilient retrofits of affordable housing. She also supported the development of floodable community parks that provide important amenities during blue-sky and grey-sky days. Melissa spearheaded efforts to build the first FEMA-funded microgrid that will mitigate power loss at critical health facilities.

Melissa's expertise in climate resilience has garnered national and international recognition. She served as a reviewer for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report, FEMA's National Resilience Guidance, and NOAA's National Integration for Heat Health Centers of Excellence program.

In addition to her subject matter expertise, Melissa has extensive experience in project and non-profit management. At the Georgetown Climate Center, she played a key role in building donor relationships and managing philanthropic support. Over the course of her career, she has led initiatives from launch to implementation, including her current work building a nationwide technical assistance network through the Reconnecting Communities Institute. This project connects public and non-profit sector leaders with resources and technical knowledge to undo past infrastructure harms and advance community-driven solutions.

Melissa is skilled at supporting professionals across all stages of project development. Whether helping early-career members navigate the field or collaborating with established members to tackle complex challenges, she is committed to leveraging her experience to support ASAP's members. She will work to ensure that ASAP remains a valuable resource for both newcomers and seasoned professionals, helping them connect, learn, and make meaningful progress in the adaptation space.

For this board election cycle, we are seeking candidates with experience/perspectives in the areas below. Please check any of the below that apply to you.

Non-profit financial management, Donor relationship development, Representation of diverse racial, cultural, age, and gender backgrounds on the ASAP Board of Directors.

Sarah Dobie

Candidate Name: Sarah Dobie

Candidate Affiliation: Corvias Infrastructure Solutions, LLC (CIS)

Candidate Title: Urban Resilience Associate

What Board position are you running for?: Member-at-large

Why would you be a great candidate for this specific ASAP Board position? (250 words):

I have mentored and worked alongside Dr. Dobie since 2018, and I have had the pleasure of watching her as she has built her career around climate adaptation. Dr. Dobie has experience working as a researcher and practitioner with clients and partners across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to advance interdisciplinary solutions to complex climate challenges. Her passion for climate adaptation is contagious, and I know few people as adept at bringing diverse groups of people together and building relationships to advance equitable climate adaptation solutions.

As a member-at-large, I have no doubt that she would help to energize members to participate in interest groups, peer learning networks, mentor/mentee programs, and other general programming. She also has existing relationships with several organizational members and an existing network of local governments, non-profits, and companies in the adaptation field she could leverage to help inform ASAP's programming and grow its network. I am certain that having Dr. Dobie serve on ASAP's board as a member-at-large would bring significant benefit to the network and its membership.

As a Board member, how would you contribute to advancing ASAP's vision and mission, and that of the field? How does your work advance climate adaptation solutions? (250 words):

Dr. Dobie is a deeply passionate climate adaptation practitioner with experience working in communities across the country on a wide range of resilient infrastructure and capacity building projects.

In her current role at CIS, Dr. Dobie leverages her training as a planner and policy researcher to support the implementation of urban greening and resilience projects across the country to tackle challenges related to stormwater and flooding, wildfires and wildfire smoke, and extreme heat. Her work has helped clients, including The Nature Conservancy, Water Research Foundation, and local governments and water utilities across the country, manage climate risks. She also provides mentorship to junior staff and interns, helping to grow their interest in the field and develop their skills to be effective climate adaptation practitioners. At CIS, she has been successful in bringing new business for her employer, expanding the network of non-profit and community partners, and leading several community engagement programs – all of which are significant assets that will help ASAP achieve its mission.

Dr. Dobie's passion for climate adaptation is evident in every conversation, complemented by her strong organizational skills and ability to simplify complex topics for diverse audiences. Few young professionals excel as she does in building meaningful partnerships and uniting interdisciplinary teams to tackle climate policy challenges. She is a dedicated, effective multitasker, and I believe she can greatly contribute to ASAP's board by providing strategic oversight, fostering accountability, and ensuring the organization's vision and mission are fulfilled.

What sets you apart from other candidates? What unique experiences or qualities do you have? What special contributions have you made to ASAP? (500 words)

Dr. Dobie has been a champion for climate adaptation throughout her career. Dr. Dobie first started working on climate adaptation her sophomore year of college when she began research on community resilience working with the Rochester Sustainability Collaborative, a group of local government agencies, universities, non-profit organizations, and companies committed to advancing sustainable development in Rochester, NY. She worked with the group to perform an assessment of their current work on sustainability and climate action, and helped to develop programming around resilience and develop concepts for collaborative projects. Since then, she has worked on a wide breadth of projects focused on climate adaptation as a researcher and practitioner.

She has also participated in ASAP as an individual member during school and now as an organizational member through her company, CIS. She is part of ASAP's private sector group, and she helped to recruit her current company as an organizational member. Her diverse experience working on climate adaptation across sectors and geographies gives her a strong understanding of the breadth of the field and interests of its growing base of practitioners. As a woman and person with a disability, she also brings a strong understanding of the importance of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI), which she centers in all of her work. Even after working in the field for nearly a decade, she remains as passionate about the work as the first day I met her.

Dr. Dobie hopes to become more involved in helping to facilitate ASAP programming and interest groups/peer learning networks – drawing from her diverse experience and many relationships with adaptation practitioners, researchers, and communities – by serving on the board. She is committed to helping to continue to grow ASAP's membership, creating new opportunities for learning and knowledge co-generation, developing strategies to improve organizational management and efficiency, and serving on committees such as the JEDI Committee.

For this board election cycle, we are seeking candidates with experience/perspectives in the areas below. Please check any of the below that apply to you.

Leading or participating in ASAP Member Led Interest Groups and/or ASAP Committees,
Representation of diverse racial, cultural, age, and gender backgrounds on the ASAP Board of Directors.

Josh Foster

Candidate Name: Josh Foster

Candidate Affiliation: Adaptation Leader.org

Candidate Title: Board Member and Affiliate

What Board position are you running for?: Any (specifically, Secretary or Governance)

Why would you be a great candidate for this specific ASAP Board position? (250 words):

Participated in early conceptualization and co-founding of ASAP starting in 2010, evolving into an adaptation membership organization.

Highlights: coining "ASAP" acronym, contributing to the first Business Plan, co-chairing the ASAP Executive Committee from 2011–2015, overseeing ASAP "soft launch" in 2012, hiring first Managing Director, incorporating ASAP as an independent entity in 2015, and hiring first Executive Director.

Served as Secretary of the Board from 2015 – 2020, co-led the Governance Committee, and established the Policy Practice Group in 2018 based on an earlier policy group.

Other ASAP activities:

- Participated in regular meetings of leadership and Board from 2010 – 2020, including, development, approval, and promotion of ASAPs mission, review of budget and finances, strategic planning, formulating workplans, member services, annual awards, external partnerships and engagement, conference and events, state of the field assessments, and documenting and archiving
- Co-led Governance Committee: Creating Articles of Incorporation, and overseeing Board and organizational management
- Co-led ASAP Professional Education Advisory Group: best practices, standards, certifications, and trainings
- Advised Board Membership Committee
- Advised Board Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (JEDI) Committee
- Co-authored ASAP Code of Ethics
- Contributed to Racial Equity Statement
- Edited and trained ASAP members on Living Guide to the Principles of Climate Change

Adaptation

- Shepherded successful funding proposals to Rockefeller, MacArthur, and Kresge Foundations
- Participated in other member-led groups, including JEDI, CMMR, Finance, Private Sector, and Network of Networks
- Participated in early career Mentorship Program
- Developed and co-led ASAP DC-Metro member hub
- Participated in ASAP Strategic Planning Process 2020 – 2040

- Conducted organizational assessment 2024

As a Board member, how would you contribute to advancing ASAP's vision and mission, and that of the field? How does your work advance climate adaptation solutions? (250 words):

Over 50 years, climate adaptation has evolved from denigration to curiosity to inflection point in 2007 when the IPCC stated 1-2 degrees of warming was inevitable. Adaptation went from a one room climate conference topic to entire events dedicated to it.

The demand for practitioners to explain adaptation solutions grew in tandem, straining individuals who identified as "adaptation professionals." The concept of ASAP grew from a need for these individuals to coalesce into islands, archipelagos, and eventually continents for mutual support, networking, and professionalization.

At first, ASAP was composed of diverse membership working specifically on adaptation; then "adaptation adjacent" fields; and now many citizens or organizations are involved interested in the role of adaptation as a general necessity.

The main trends for ASAP from founding have been on increasing equity and diversity of the field and membership, mainstreaming adaptation, and developing adaptive capacity across swaths of society. The first decade of ASAP explored best practices and planning for adaptation, while 2020 Federal funding enabled implementation. The result has been a "Wild West" feel to the field with many new actors, chaos of practices, and few standards for measuring effectiveness.

My vision for ASAP is to return to its roots distilling what we have learned about implementation, consolidating best practices, and enabling transition of ASAP and the adaptation field into a more mature phase, mainstreaming adaptation into the underlying drivers of society (e.g. financing, planning, designing, building, governing), while also maintaining and expanding equity and diversity in membership and the field.

What sets you apart from other candidates? What unique experiences or qualities do you have? What special contributions have you made to ASAP? (500 words)

Josh is a climate adaptation professional with 30 years working at the intersection of science, policy and society. His career has integrated climate change research, policy, and adaptation to increase community resilience. He has worked with Federal, state, local, regional, and international governments, tribes, non-profits, universities, the private sector, and the US military to provide policy relevant, scientific, and technical information to organizational and agency leadership, communities, and stakeholders on climate impacts and solutions across multiple sectors.

Currently, he is a Board member and affiliate of Adaptation Leader.org, developing a research and policy agenda for receiving communities enabling settling of internally displaced US climate migrants.

Previously, he was a Senior Program Manager, Resilience and Climate Adaptation, for Versar, Inc. advancing coastal climate resilience via nature-based solutions for Navy and Marine Corps clients in the US and Indo-Pacific regions.

He was Senior Manager (Executive Service) for Climate Risk Management and Resilience, and Acting Assistant Director/Managing Director, Office of Environment, The Secretary's Office, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), leading climate adaptation policy for the department and enabling climate resilience across state transportation modes.

For seven years he was faculty at the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute (OCCRI), Oregon State University (OSU) as university program manager for the Northwest Climate Science Center (NWCSC, now CASC) supporting the Department of Interior and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives; and the Pacific Northwest Climate Impacts Research Consortium (CIRC), a Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) Team (now Climate Adaptation Partnership (CAP/RISA)).

He managed the Urban Leaders Adaptation Initiative at the Center for Clean Air Policy (CCAP) in Washington, DC, developing a climate adaptation peer-learning and advocacy network for metro local governments, including authoring a guide for green infrastructure and urban climate adaptation.

He was a program manager for the Climate and Societal Interactions Team (CSI) at the NOAA Climate Program Office (CPO) for 13 years. At NOAA, he managed the Transition of Research Applications to Climate Services Program (TRACS), and Climate Resilient Communities (CRC) Project; developed the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), the Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments Program (RISA), the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS); and conceptualized National Climate Services (NCS). Other activities included work on the climate adaptation chapters of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Third Assessment Report, staffing the first National Climate Assessment (NCA), supporting the US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), and serving on the White House Subcommittee on Water Availability and Quality (SWAQ).

Early career included working at the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).

He served from 2005-08 on the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Board on Enterprise Economic Development (BEED); and from 2020-2022 on the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Standing Committee on Extreme Weather and Climate Change Adaptation.

Josh has a BA in International Relations and Environmental Policy, with a minor in Latin American Studies, from UMASS at Amherst; and MAs from Yale University in International Relations, and Environmental Management and Natural Resources policy.

For this board election cycle, we are seeking candidates with experience/perspectives in the areas below. Please check any of the below that apply to you.

Non-profit financial management, Leading or participating in ASAP Member Led Interest Groups and/or ASAP Committees, Representation of diverse racial, cultural, age, and gender backgrounds on the ASAP Board of Directors.

John Phillips

Candidate Name: John Phillips

Candidate Affiliation: Parametrix

Candidate Title: Director of Integrated Watershed Management

What Board position are you running for?: President

Why would you be a great candidate for this specific ASAP Board position? (250 words): John has been here since I started. He co-runs one of the long-standing and successful MLIGs at ASAP. Part of a mid-size consulting firm, he has served as both client and consultant. He works well with organizations of all sizes and is knowledgeable in his field, while also being fun, kind, and capable.

As a Board member, how would you contribute to advancing ASAP's vision and mission, and that of the field? How does your work advance climate adaptation solutions? (250 words):

John possesses an exceptional skill set and has a thorough understanding of the organization, which he is helping to advance based on his previous successes. I am confident that he can extend this impact even further. John has been both a leader and mentor to me, and I believe he would excel in a broader role as president. With over two decades of experience in climate adaptation, John has a deep understanding of the field's evolution. He has been instrumental in defining essential skills for climate professionals and recognizes the importance of professional organizations in advancing causes. Additionally, he has served as a board member and board president for various professional organizations in the past.

What sets you apart from other candidates? What unique experiences or qualities do you have? What special contributions have you made to ASAP? (500 words) John possesses extensive expertise in climate adaptation and policy, having been an integral part of the organization for over a decade. He has established strong connections with other experts and members in the field, as well as within professional organizations. John has demonstrated the wisdom required to manage a nonprofit professional organization effectively and is highly capable of leading.

John's primary skill lies in his experience with nonprofit boards of professional organizations. He has developed strategic plans for such entities and understands the unique dynamics between professional staff and volunteer board members and leaders. His leadership skills are strong, characterized by an inclusive leadership style.

Moreover, John is known for his humility and dedication to furthering the interests of the organization rather than his own. His commitment to the organization's goals and values is unwavering.

For this board election cycle, we are seeking candidates with experience and perspectives in the areas below. Please check any that apply to you.

Leading or participating in ASAP Member Led Interest Groups and/or ASAP Committees, Donor relationship development, Strategic Planning.

Russ Sands

Candidate Name: Russ Sands

Candidate Affiliation: State of Colorado - Department of Natural Resources

Candidate Title: Section Chief (Water, Climate and Conservation)

What Board position are you running for?: Any - Willing to serve in any position ("at large" may make the most sense)

Why would you be a great candidate for this specific ASAP Board position? (250 words): I have worked with ASAP for a number of years including many conversations with Sasha, Beth and Rachel. My work with ASAP included work on the first national Adaptation Policy with a small group of ASAP leaders, helping with one of the first mentor programs, and putting together one of the group's first handbooks. I have worked on and off with ASAP over the years but always support and promote their efforts. In my 20 years of experience, I frequently work across Climate Adaptation, Water Conservation, Resilience, Climate Mitigation and Natural Hazards (e.g. drought, wildfire and flood). Both me and my staff have presented posters at the National Adaptation Forum. I recently led the update to the Climate Change in Colorado Report with Colorado State University and developed the 2023 Colorado Water Plan which heavily focus on future impacts from climate change and how we can adapt. I also support the State's Resiliency Framework and have develop Resilience plans for the City of Boulder and Da Nang Vietnam. I feel this experience and broadening of climate issues to inland (not just coastal) water issues is of key importance in a world where water resources are being threatened by climate change and impacts from flooding, drought and wildfire are ever-present threats.

As a Board member, how would you contribute to advancing ASAP's vision and mission, and that of the field? How does your work advance climate adaptation solutions? (250 words):

I think the breadth of issues I work on help connect issues from not only a variety of initiatives and topics (e.g. water, climate, resilience) but also a range of sectors (municipal, environmental, recreational, and agricultural) that are not always well represented in adaptation conversations but are equally critical to be thinking about. For example, the connections between adaptation, climate, resilience and water as it pertains to agriculture and working lands is critical to building healthy supply chains, preparing for shocks and stresses, sequestering carbon and being drought-resilient. The connections between our food, city health and areas we go to recreate (e.g. streams, forests) is not always well represented in the national dialogue. I think i bring some breadth to discussions which are often be more focused on city policies, coastal flooding, etc. However, I also bring a deep bench of experience working on policy issues at local, state, federal and international scales.

What sets you apart from other candidates? What unique experiences or qualities do you have? What special contributions have you made to ASAP? (500 words)

In addition to my history with ASAP which I think is unique (being on the ground floor of some of its earlier efforts noted in the question above), my work internationally in India, Vietnam and Brazil and my background growing up in Kenya and the Dominican Republic gives me a global perspective on the importance of protecting our resources, how lack of investments in adaptation can lead to poorer outcomes and the importance of equity and bringing all groups together. Additionally, my work in water and leading the 7-year development of Colorado's Water Plan and other state climate efforts is a unique background that often looks at climate adaptation through the lens of balancing our shared needs for natural resources. I also led the state's first equity task force with support from the Governor.

For this board election cycle, we are seeking candidates with experience/perspectives in the areas below. Please check any of the below that apply to you.

Leading or participating in ASAP Member Led Interest Groups and/or ASAP Committees,
Representation of diverse racial, cultural, age, and gender backgrounds on the ASAP Board of Directors.