

1 **Appendix A—Glossary**

2 **adaptive capacity**

3 the capacity of organisms, both individuals and groups, to respond to and change in the
4 state of the system (Folke *et al.*, 2003; Walker *et al.*, 2004; Adger *et al.*, 2005); depends
5 on initial diversity and the capacity of component organisms to adjust and change

6 **degradation**

7 deterioration of a system to a less desirable state as a result of failure to actively adapt or
8 transform

9 **ecosystem**

10 all the organisms, including people, in an area and the nonbiological materials, such as
11 water and soil minerals, with which they interact

12 **ecosystem services**

13 benefits that people derive from ecosystems, including supporting, provisioning,
14 regulating, and cultural services

15 **exogenous factor**

16 factor external to the system being managed and which therefore is not incorporated into
17 the management framework

18 **exposure**

19 nature and degree to which the system experiences environmental or sociopolitical stress

20 **mitigation**

21 reduction in the exposure of a system to a stress or hazard

22 **negative feedbacks**