The analysis of vulnerability of places, peoples, and ecosystems to environmental change is both a very old and a very new topic. To date, both research and assessment have been significantly fragmented and specific to particular projects or types of environmental change. It is clear from the work of the IPCC and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment that more integrative and systemic modes of analysis must be found. This presentation puts into perspective recent progress in vulnerability assessment and then inquires into how more integrative approaches can be created, particularly ones that take into account multiple stresses, scale interactions, and linkages between ecological and human systems.