

Project Work Plan Template

Goal: *The essence of this outcome is to facilitate, demonstrate and implement “climate smart” protection and restoration planning to enhance the resiliency of the Bay watershed’s habitats, public infrastructure and human communities from the impacts of coastal erosion, coastal flooding, more intense and more frequent storms and sea level rise.*

Outcome: *On-the-ground restoration efforts will be addressed largely through the 29 individual strategies comprising the Watershed Agreement. It is critical that these restoration efforts be made climate smart by considering and integrating changing climatic conditions (e.g. precipitation patterns), sea-level rise, and storm surge factors in the pursuit, design, implementation and long-term maintenance of restoration components of each Strategy. Climate change considerations must be designed into current agricultural, forestry, urban, and wastewater Best Management Practices (BMPs) associated with the TMDL/WIP goals. Additionally, the Partnership may need to use specific BMP’s to address specific restoration or protection needs, such as restoring or protecting areas that may serve to facilitate inland wetland/SAV migration. To ensure that adaptation efforts are forward-thinking and not actually maladaptive, a systematic approach to planning should be undertaken.*

Long term Target:

2 year Target:

Partner contributions to 2 year target:

Management Approach 1: <i>Compile and assess current efforts and lessons-learned.</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
<i>Define each action step on its own row. Define as many action steps as necessary by adding rows to the table. Identify specific program that will be used to achieve action</i>	<i>An expected completion date (month and year) must be defined for each action step.</i>	<i>A responsible partner must be identified for each action step.</i>	<i>Estimated and identified funding necessary to achieve action.</i>
The Climate Change Work Group will develop a process to periodically compile and assess lessons learned from past and ongoing adaptation planning and programmatic efforts within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.			
Current efforts, including policy, tools, products, and scientific understanding should be compiled, analyzed and shared with all interested parties engaging in adaptation work or discussions. This process could be achieved through an annual STAC workshop or similar venue.			

Management Approach 2: <i>Assess climate impacts and vulnerabilities</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
The Climate Change Work Group will coordinate with both STAR and STAC to prepare a state-of-the-science synthesis of climate change impacts, vulnerabilities and adaptation information that link explicitly to management endpoints; evaluate tools, frameworks, and other products for their applicability to the Chesapeake Bay Program.			
The Work Group will also work to produce or evaluate guidance on implementation of climate change science within adaptation decision making processes; and, ensure that monitoring and assessment align with adaptive management needs.			
A feedback loop will be developed to ensure that adaptation approaches are utilizing the best available science and techniques.			
Management Approach 3: <i>Review and revise conservation, restoration and protection goals and objectives.</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
In some cases, Watershed Agreement Management Strategies may need to be revised or reconsidered to accommodate anticipated climate-related changes or impacts.			
GITs will coordinate with each other and the Climate Change Work Group to ensure that climate-related impacts have been considered. A science-based framework should be developed and used to engage one-on-one with GITS to identify, assess, evaluate and revise, as necessary, climate-related elements of individual management strategies.			
GITs will also coordinate to integrate and understand the cumulative effects of multiple climate and non-climate related stressors. This requires simultaneous modeling of the multiple factors of concern. This could be accomplished through the creation of GIT Climate Liaisons, who would be instrumental in communication among their groups and stakeholders about the best available science.			
Management Approach 4: <i>Establish Adaptation Outcome Priorities</i>			

Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
The Climate Change Work Group will work to inform decision-makers and stakeholders of the data, tools, resources and support to assess climate vulnerability and establish and set priorities for increasing ecosystem resiliency. Possible approaches for this task may include the development of a decision framework to identify climate change effects on the performance of specific management practices (i.e., BMP's), restoration actions, and protection measures; the identification of ecological and sociological restoration risks, vulnerabilities, or opportunities; the collection and synthesis of data, tools and resources to support vulnerability assessments; and providing a plausible range of responses from the natural and built environment to future climate conditions.			
Development of decision frameworks that will drive community adaptation direction must include coordination and collaboration with affected communities. Such an approach would strengthen the likelihood of successful adaptation planning outcomes.			
Management Approach 5: <i>Increase the institutional capacity of the Chesapeake Bay Program to prepare for and respond to climate change</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
The Climate Change Work Group will build the capacity among the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership to understand and address the consequences of climate change.			
The Work Group will also develop an Adaptation Network and Collaboration Strategy focused on increasing opportunities for formal and informal communication and the exchange of ideas among the Chesapeake Bay watershed's existing "adaptation planning network." This strategy would maximize the partnership's capacity to implement intentional and effective adaptation, across organizational, jurisdictional and disciplinary boundaries.			
A comprehensive framework and list of organizations within the "Chesapeake Bay Adaptation Network" should be developed.			
Management Approach 6: <i>Implement priority adaptation actions</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner	Estimated Funding

		Responsible	
The Adaptation Outcome calls for the continual pursuit, design and construction of restoration and protection projects to enhance the resiliency of Bay and aquatic ecosystems from the impacts of coastal erosion, coastal flooding, more intense and more frequent storms and sea level rise. The pursuit of specific adaptation projects will be a major undertaking on the part of the Partnership and an effort that will be carried out, most likely by participating partners, agencies, local government and stakeholders.			
A number of gaps must be addressed including increasing the capacity of the Chesapeake Bay Program to help plan for and implement restoration and protection efforts that build community and ecosystem resilience within the Bay watershed and to remove some of the institutional barriers that currently exist.			
The Climate Change Work Group will identify priority actions related to these factors, but in the near-term, will focus efforts on: 1) the development of climate-related siting and design guidance for on-the-ground protection and restoration projects; 2) the identification of funding availability and needs; 3) the recommendation of specific policy, programmatic and regulatory enhancements that will increase support for such efforts.			
Management Approach 7: <i>Track adaptation action effectiveness and ecological response</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
The Climate Change Work Group will reassess priorities following implementation of steps 1-6, as outlined above. The establishment of performance metrics will aid in the assessment of progress to achieve the Adaptation Outcome.			
Management Approach 8: <i>Increase Local Engagement</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
Information regarding climate adaptation should be incorporated into the Management Strategy for the Local Leadership Outcome, as appropriate.			

Management Approach 9: *Undertake Public and Stakeholder Engagement*

Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
The Climate Change Work Group will conduct targeted conversations, focus groups and other appropriate mechanisms, with stakeholder groups that may help to establish and implement Adaptation Outcome priorities, including recommended changes in policy at the local, state, and regional levels. Local governments and natural resource groups should be engaged alongside the broader community.			
The Work Group will also strive to engage stakeholders through existing community development, economic development, floodplain management, shoreline protection, hazard and flood mitigation, emergency management, and coastal zone management programs.			

Management Approach 10: *Foster a larger discussion on the linkage between climate impacts and diversity*

Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
The Climate Change Work Group will coordinate with the Diversity Action Team to ensure that a diverse group of local stakeholders are engaged in discussion related to climate change and the Chesapeake Bay.			

Management Approach 11: *Increase regional collaboration*

Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
The Partnership should increase participation of regional collaborations of local governments and other stakeholders, such as the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition in central Maryland and Metro Washington COG. Efforts such as these will provide a mechanism for implementing and creating a broad constituency for Bay-wide goals on adaptation and resiliency at the community and			

neighborhood level to provide effective regional solutions.			
Management Approach 12: <i>Conduct Targeted Education and Outreach</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
Provide both practitioners (including consultants) and the general public the opportunity to learn about adaptation science, approaches, and demonstration projects and feel empowered to have a voice in the decisions being made in their communities.			
Release a periodic “special issue” newsletter to disseminate adaptation-related information.			
Engage the Stewardship Work Group in support of climate outreach and education			
Provide support for decision-makers and community leaders to engage on climate change adaptation planning efforts at multiple levels (county, city, state, federal)			
Develop broad Chesapeake Bay Program climate messaging, including information on how it integrates climate science into restoration efforts and impacts of climate on restoration work in progress			
Identify mechanisms that can increase community engagement and provide communities and diverse stakeholders with a voice and opportunity to engage in climate adaptation planning and policy decision-making processes for their communities			
Explore effective formal and informal education tools to increase climate resilience literacy among multiple audiences in the Bay. These should be closely linked with management strategies to achieve the Diversity and Environmental Literacy Outcomes			
Engage the academic community to develop effective collaborative learning approaches for informing and empowering communities across the watershed and test and develop new communication tools that are audience specific so that climate information is accessible and understandable across multiple audiences and communities.			