

Project Work Plan Template

Goal: *Monitoring and assessment in conjunction with modeling, statistics, and other scientific tools will be required to improve our understanding of ecosystem responses to climate change.*

Outcome: *The strategic development and maintenance of modeling, monitoring and assessment programs will allow the Partnership to evaluate and compare current and alternative future scenarios constructed for different policies, programs and projects in response to the potential impacts of climate change together with anthropogenic activities.*

Long term Target:

2 year Target:

Partner contributions to 2 year target:

Management Approach 1: <i>Define Goals and Establish Baselines</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>
Establish baselines for the monitoring, modeling, and assessment of different aspects of climate change as part of a core network.			
Conduct and thoroughly document an evaluation of existing data, research, studies, tools, as they relate to climate and the needs for each of the management strategies.			
Identify available data and gaps in the monitoring network for each management outcome.			
Management Approach 2: <i>Develop conceptual monitoring, modeling and assessment model</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding

Establish the model design through management questions, which link impacts of climate change to the ability to achieve the Watershed Agreement outcomes.			
The Partnership will develop a process to guide the Climate Change Work Group to coordinate with and among individual GITs, the larger research community and stakeholders to identify the linkages of climate to each outcome and evaluate whether those linkages are well understood or need further research.			
Management Approach 3: <i>Prioritize climate impacts</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
Once the gaps in available assessment tools, scientific understanding, and baseline monitoring have been identified, perform a consultative prioritization to determine which of the gaps are most critical to outcome attainment. The highest priorities for the Watershed Agreement should include the identification of gaps that impact multiple outcomes.			
Management Approach 4: <i>Design monitoring and modeling plan</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
<i>Determine if the monitoring data being collected and the tools that are available can answer questions that fill out the assessment framework.</i> For outcomes where the linkages to climate are well understood, the Climate Change Work Group will coordinate with the GITs to evaluate existing monitoring data and available assessment tools to determine if they are adequate to fully explain the relationship of the future impact of climate on the outcome.			
<i>Identify forecast projection models necessary to carry out the needed assessment of outcomes and for use in climate adaptation.</i> Standardized approaches are needed with regard to forecast projections utilized within the Bay Program for assessing the impact of climate on independent goals and outcomes. There is a wide range of projections within the scientific literature related to forecasted precipitation, storm intensity, air temperature, sea-level rise, etc. It is important that the Bay Program be consistent in how these projections are utilized as assessments are made.			

<p><i>Outline an integrated monitoring and assessment agenda for priority aspects of climate change.</i> The Climate Change Work Group will work with GITs to develop a monitoring plan and research agenda for the prioritized gaps that have been identified in terms of assessment tools, scientific understanding, and baseline monitoring. Costs associated with closing those gaps will need to be identified as part of that plan. That plan should also identify agencies/organizations through which commitments could be sought to achieve long-term monitoring.</p>			
Management Approach 5: <i>Assess Trends and Conduct Assessments</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
The Climate Change Work Group will collaborate with partners to analyze trends and document observed changes in sea level, precipitation patterns, bay temperature, and the ecosystem responses.			
Using the trend analysis in combination with modeling programs, the Climate Change Work Group will coordinate with STAC to conduct formal climate vulnerability assessments of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem, including the effectiveness of restoration and protection policy, programs and projects.			
The results of these assessments will be used to inform the development and prioritization of both on-the-ground projects and programmatic management strategies.			
Management Approach 6: <i>Develop a Research Agenda</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
For those outcomes where the linkages to climate are not well understood it will be necessary to conduct research to improve that understanding. The Climate Change Work Group will work with the GITs to engage the research community in order to provide that information.			
Management Approach 7: <i>Reassess priorities and revise goals</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding

Progress will be reviewed on a biennial basis, with particular emphasis on evaluating progress toward the closing of gaps in baseline monitoring and gaps in assessment tools and scientific research. Part of this process will be to re-prioritize gaps that remain in monitoring and scientific understanding.			
Management Approach 8: <i>Undertake Public, Stakeholder and Local Engagement</i>			
Key Action Steps	Timeline	Partner Responsible	Estimated Funding
Traditionally led by scientists, partners will need to build the capability to better understand and address societal responses to policies affecting pollution, climate and control measures. The 2008 STAC report concluded that climate change will change the socioeconomic and cultural environment of the Bay stakeholders, particularly fishermen and those whose livelihoods are directly connected to the water. As such, it is important that the best physical science information and forecasting are utilized and interpreted in a way that is meaningful to the public and policy makers.			
The data collected during the monitoring and assessment component must be accessible and able to support stakeholder discussions on the socioeconomic impacts of climate change on the Bay. This can best be achieved by collaborating with stakeholders in the development of data synthesis products for their use.			