

## **Adaptation Outcome: DRAFT Updated Outcome Language and Targets**

### **Prepared by the STAR/CRWG Leadership Team with Climate Resiliency Workgroup Input**

#### **Climate Resiliency Goal:**

Increase the resiliency of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including its living resources, habitats, public infrastructure and communities, to withstand adverse impacts from changing environmental and climate conditions.

Note: There are discussions occurring at the Management Board to integrate aspects of the climate resiliency goal under other goals instead of it being separate. The Adaptation outcome could potentially fall under a proposed Lands and Watersheds goal.

#### **Current Adaptation Outcome Language:**

Continually pursue, design and construct restoration and protection projects to enhance the resiliency of Bay and aquatic ecosystems from the impacts of coastal erosion, coastal flooding, more intense and frequent storms and sea level rise.

#### **Context:**

During the April 10, 2025 Chesapeake Bay Program's Management Board meeting, they reached consensus and agreed on the "update" disposition recommended by STAR/Climate Resiliency Workgroup for the adaptation outcome. The workgroup's assessment included incorporating a holistic watershed approach that includes tidal and nontidal areas; identify and implement nature-based adaptation options; and make it SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Timebound) by considering place-based approach with measurable and timebound targets. Overall, the Management Board liked the core concept of the current adaptation outcome (supporting projects) and were in agreement of it being inclusive of both tidal and nontidal. The Management Board also agreed that updated outcome language should be in plain language as a high level sentence with SMART elements built into targets as bullets underneath the outcome.

**Updated Adaptation Outcome Language:**

Increase the use of nature-based strategies in adaptation planning, project design, and implementation to maximize long-term resiliency of Bay watershed communities, economies, and ecosystems.

**Targets:**

- Nature-based strategies that address changes in temperature, precipitation, and land are incorporated in the plans and design of restoration and protection projects within *seven* regional focus areas by 20xx.
- The capacity to pursue and implement identified nature-based strategies is increased in regional focus areas through technical assistance in developing proposals and metrics to track implementation progress.
- Guidance is developed and shared that consolidates implementation and resilience effectiveness metrics and lessons learned across regional focus areas.

**Activities:**

- *Near-term: 1-3yrs*
  - Identify regional focus areas and state and local partner networks to engage with where increased capacity to support adaptation is needed. Regional focus areas should aim to include aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in tidal, nontidal, or a combination of both zones based on jurisdictional and stakeholder adaptation needs.
  - Identify nature-based strategies that best integrate with the planning efforts in the regional focus areas that enhances long-term resiliency and are based on future projections of environmental change (changes in temperature, precipitation, flooding, land use)
  - Facilitate joint meetings with other nature-related outcomes (e.g., wetlands, forests, submerged aquatic vegetation, fish habitat) when identifying strategies.
- *Mid-term: 2-5yrs*

- Provide technical assistance and information to design and implement the identified nature based solutions.
- Garner support from funders to include nature-based strategies in funding opportunities and provide technical assistance for funding proposals.
- Develop metrics for tracking implementation and effectiveness of nature-based strategies related to resilience of ecosystems, economies, and communities.
- *Long-term: 5+ yrs*
  - Apply implementation and resilience effectiveness metrics to projects in regional focus areas.
  - Share best practices learned from regional focus areas to build capacity and confidence of using nature-based strategies across the Bay and watershed to enhance long-term resiliency.

**Indicators:**

- Number of plans and project designs within regional focus areas that have integrated identified nature-based adaptation strategies to support long-term resiliency of ecosystems, economies, and communities.
- Number of proposals submitted incorporating identified nature-based adaptation strategies within regional focus areas.
- Number of projects with nature-based adaptation strategies funded for implementation within regional focus areas.
- Number of regional focus areas with implementation and resilience effectiveness metrics for nature-based adaptation strategies.