ADAPTATION OUTCOME

STAR/CLIMATE RESILIENCY WORKGROUP

CHESAPEAKE BAY WATERSHED AGREEMENT OUTCOME LANGUAGE

PROPOSED DRAFT OUTCOME LANGUAGE: Increase the capacity to pursue nature-based solutions to improve planning and response to changing conditions while balancing long-term resiliency of watershed communities, economies, and ecosystems.

EXISTING 2014 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 more frequent storms and sea level rise.

PROPOSED TARGET(S) (SMART, Directional, etc.). (Suggested time horizon of 2040 for achievement of draft output.)	**New Target / Update of Existing Target**	**Date estimate for target being developed**
1) Knowledge-sharing of benefits and technical assistance in identifying adaptation options with nature-based solutions is provided in at least seven subwatershed areas by 2040. Nature-based solutions include restoration and protection projects that can reduce risks to people, infrastructure, and habitats from changes in temperature, precipitation, and landscapes.	New	June 2026
2) Adaptation strategies that build in nature-based solutions informed by workgroup activities is increased within the above subwatershed areas by 2040.	New	June 2026

*Detailed activities will be included in an updated work plan

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Rationale and context for proposed draft outcome language: The Management Board reached consensus on April 10, 2025 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 a 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 projects.

Topics/challenges for Management Board guidance (Optional): Thoughts on how to select the seven subwatershed areas. Workgroup meeting participants expressed that it should not be interpreted as one in each jurisdiction. There is interest in selecting areas based on criteria where there are adaptation needs that can be supported by nature-based solutions and added capacity.

Thoughts on programmatic structure (decision-making authority) and resources (time, money) to effectively implement the outcome's strategic plan, such as technical expertise to assist partners (including tidal and nontidal areas), indicator development, and data collection, analysis, and research?

Methodology for data collection and tracking of each Target (Optional): Developing the methodology for data collection and indicators for tracking will be incorporated into the workgroup's management strategy and logic and action table. Potential indicators and activities for the targets are listed below.

Target #1

Potential Indicators:

- Number of knowledge-sharing activities on nature-based solutions with subwatershed partners.
- Number of subwatershed areas and partnering groups that have received technical assistance from the workgroup in identifying adaptation options with nature-based solutions.

Potential Activities (funding through the CBP partnership, other sources, or in-kind support):

- Generate list of nature-based solutions that align with CBP restoration and conservation priorities that provide various benefits (water quality, habitat, shoreline protection, flood reduction, cooling, thermal refugia).
- Determine method for selecting subwatershed areas and which partners to engage with where increased capacity to support adaptation with nature-based solutions is needed. These areas should aim to include aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in tidal, nontidal, or a combination of both zones and align with other priority areas and restoration goals within the partnership.
- Facilitate joint meetings that supports knowledge-sharing on nature-based solutions (benefits, tradeoffs) between researchers, subwatershed stakeholders, and other nature-related outcomes (e.g., wetlands, forests, submerged aquatic vegetation, fish habitat).
- Identify and support research in pilot areas that represents various adaptation needs to inform metrics for best selection of nature-based solutions; consolidate into best practices guidance.
- Identify nature-based solutions that best integrate with the planning efforts of stakeholders in the subwatershed areas that enhance long-term resiliency and are based on future projections of environmental change (e.g., temperature, precipitation, flooding, landscape transitions).
- Assist stakeholders with the development of adaptation plans for the subwatershed areas.

Target #2

Potential Indicator:

- Number of projects with nature-based solutions supported by workgroup member organizations and/or partnering groups in the subwatershed areas.

Potential Activities (funding through the CBP partnership, other sources, or in-kind support):

- Garner support from funders to include nature-based solutions in funding opportunities and provide technical assistance for funding proposals.
- Provide technical assistance and information related to design, implementation, and monitoring of nature-based solutions.
- Identify and support research that quantifies benefits provided by nature-based solutions related to communities, economies, and ecosystems to inform long-term resiliency progress.
- Share best practices learned from subwatershed areas to build further capacity and confidence of implementing nature-based solutions across the Bay and watershed to enhance long-term resiliency.

Links to documentation that provide Target justification/context and/or rationale (Optional):
Working with stakeholders in specific areas has proven successful in building capacity to integrate nature-based solutions in resilience and adaptation planning and projects. Example projects below:

- Habitat GIT: Targeted Local Outreach for Green Infrastructure in Vulnerable Areas
- STAR: Partnership-Building and Identification of Collaborative Tidal Marsh Adaptation Projects Report and Appendix