Habitat GIT Priority Example:

Strengthen communities' understanding and management of, and connection and accessibility to, shallow water habitats (EC Charge, Beyond 2025 recommendations, Cross-GIT and Advisory Committees)

Task 1: Raise the awareness of Chesapeake Bay watershed residents of the societal (including ecological) importance, and multiple and tangible values and benefits, of shallow water habitats and projects to conserve and restore them.

Objectives (examples):
1) Using social science methods, increase public engagement in habitat enhancement projects by understanding local priorities and history, and articulating and relating habitat and implementation project values and benefits to those, at multiple touchpoints. Focus on making content accessible, engaging, and relevant.
2) Structured, targeted engagement with networks of partners, utilizing diverse strategies/projects to showcase ongoing restoration and conservation efforts, their benefits, and year-over-year improvements. Identify successful local programs and initiatives and scale up these efforts across rivers, subwatersheds, and communities.
3) Train and assist partners and planners in utilizing ecosystem services information and tools for identifying and planning project options.

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Task 2: Better understand and predict climate impacts on, and adaptation options for, shallow water habitats and adjacent communities.

1) Assess relative current and future vulnerabilities; provide the tools for climate adaptation decision-making and planning; and assist communities in understanding adaptation options (including their benefits).
2) Co-develop adaptation strategies with partners and communities to take advantage of local knowledge and collaborate with local planning to provide a holistic approach that aligns with local priorities.
3) Pilot BMP implementation with local non-profits that seek to balance water quality improvements with improvements to habitats, living resources and communities, in the context of climate change. Identify successful local programs and initiatives and scale up these efforts across rivers, subwatersheds, and communities.
4) Formally and periodically assess process and project effectiveness and implement learnings into updated vulnerability assessments, modeling, and planning.

Relevant CBP Groups: All GITs, STAR and Advisory Committees
Delivery Date: 1-2 years to get this initiated. This a long-term effort that will need continuous focus and attention.