

Restoration Alone isn't the Answer: Protecting and Maintaining Healthy Watersheds through Local Engagement



Chesapeake Bay Program
Science. Restoration. Partnership.

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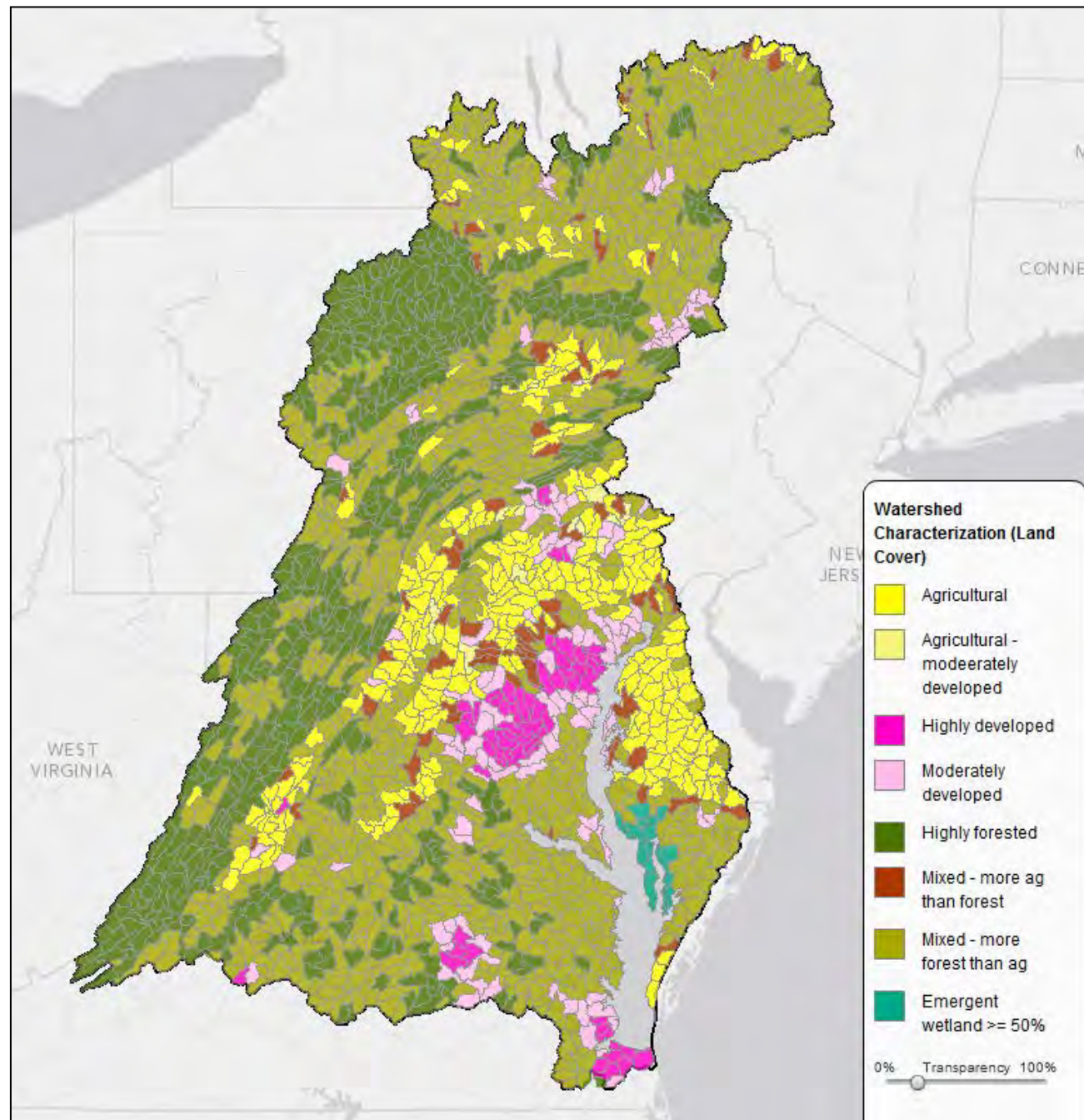
Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Team, Chesapeake Bay Program

Overview

1. Background: The Chesapeake Bay Program Partnership and Maintain Healthy Watersheds Goal Team
2. Importance of healthy watershed protection for the long-term health and resilience of the Chesapeake Bay
3. Using local engagement as a strategy

The Chesapeake Bay Watershed

- 17+ million people
- 64,000 sq miles
- 6 states and the District of Columbia
- 14:1 land-to-water ratio



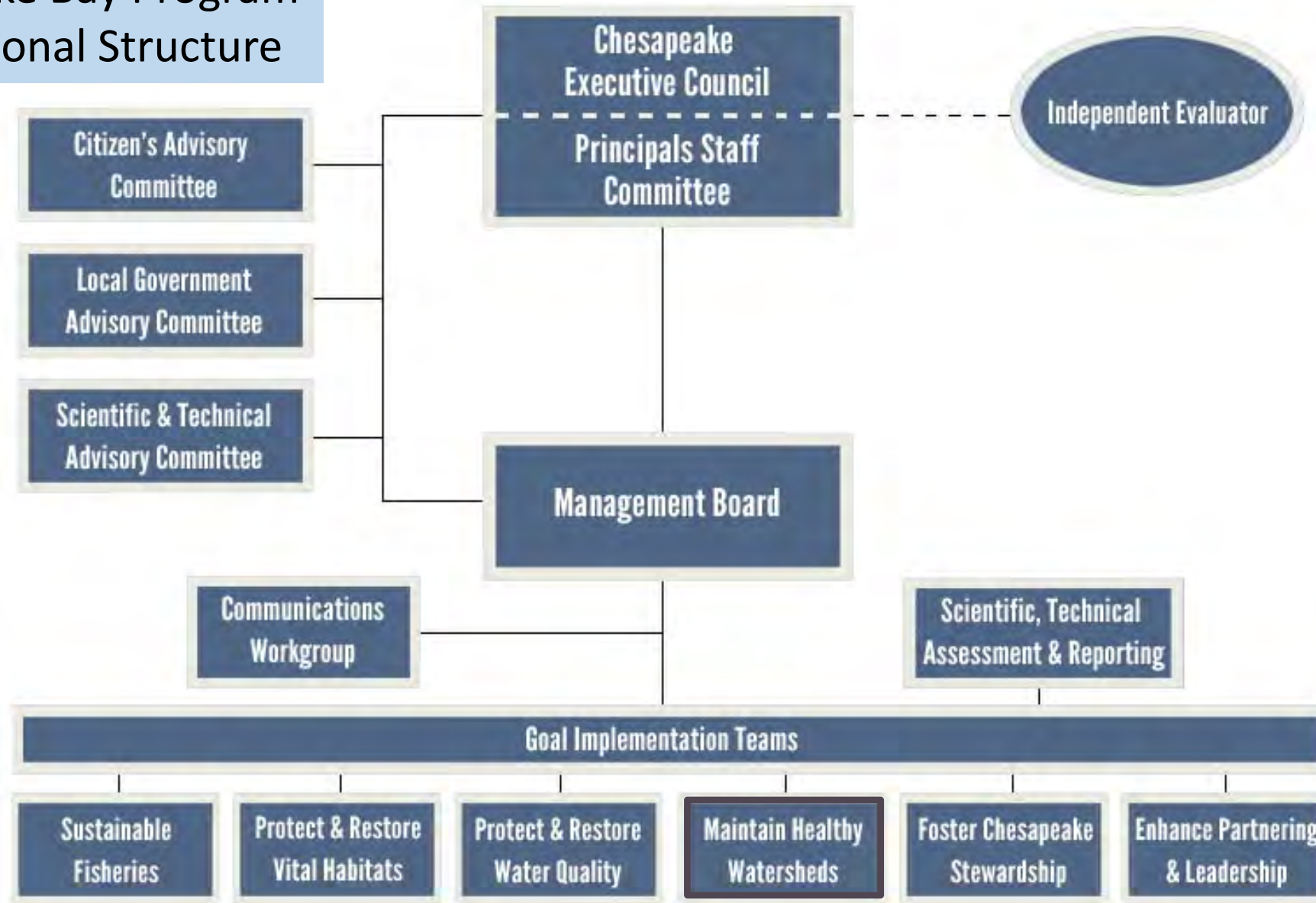


Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP)

A unique regional partnership made up of federal, state, local, and non-government agencies working collectively to restore the Chesapeake Bay since 1983.



Chesapeake Bay Program Organizational Structure





Benefits of Protecting Healthy Watersheds

Clean water

Habitat and biodiversity

Erosion control

Fisheries

Timber

Increased property value

Recreation and tourism

Flood control

Carbon sequestration

Nutrient cycling

Lower restoration and compliance costs

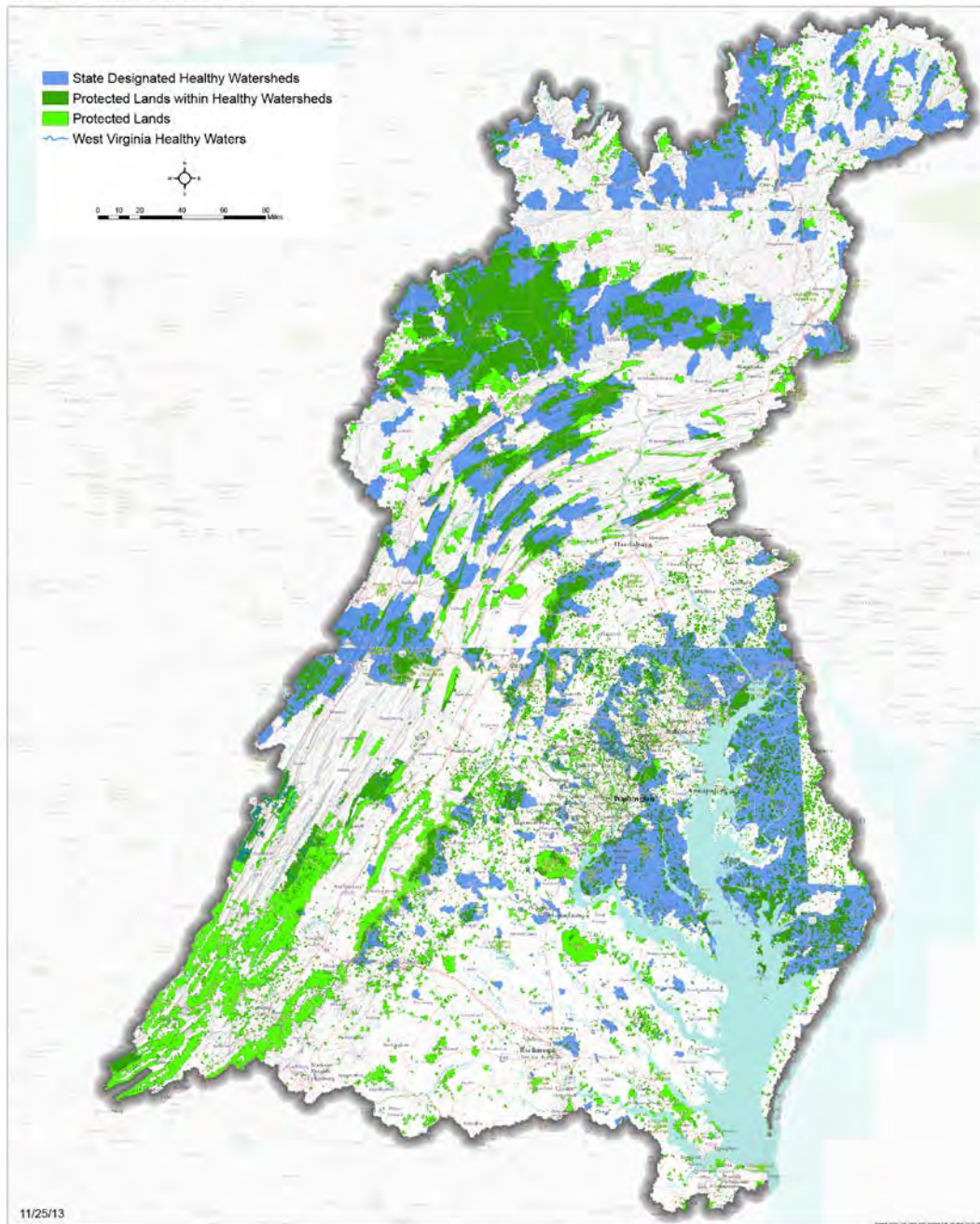
Increased quality of life

Increased resiliency



State Identified Healthy Watersheds

With Protected Lands



2014 Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement – Healthy Watersheds Goal

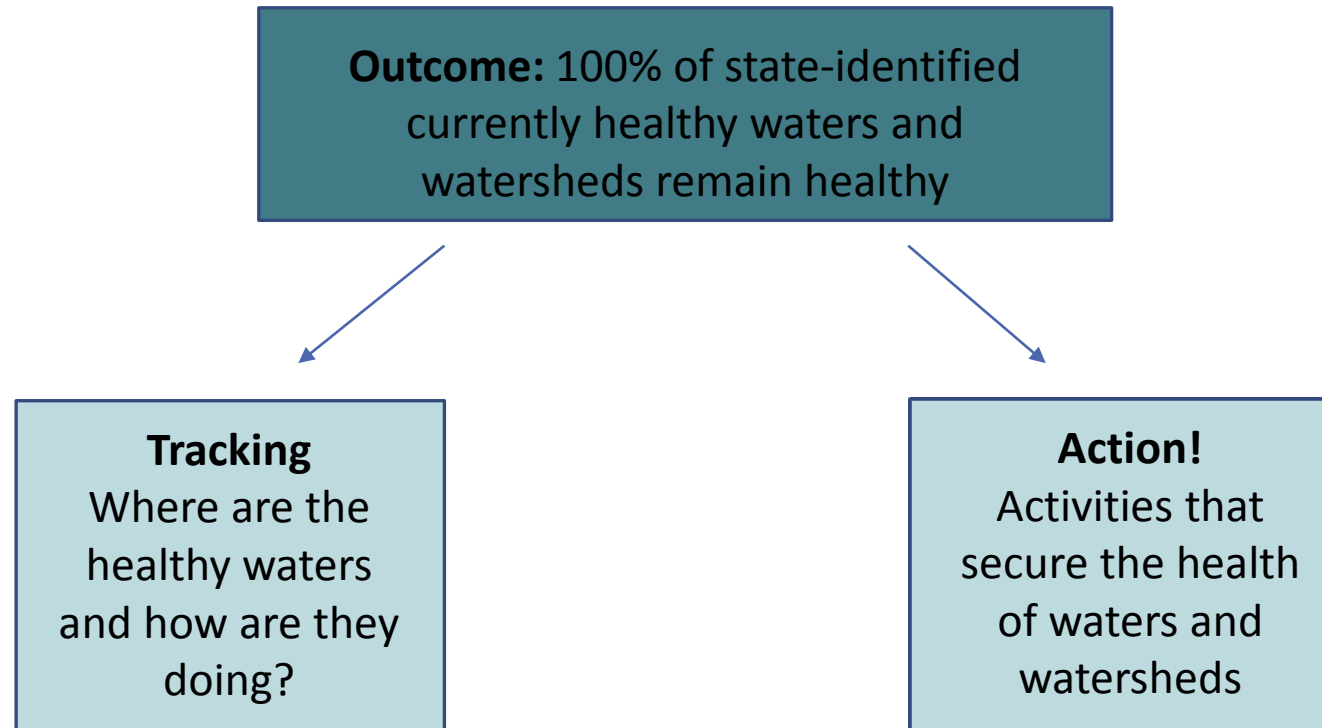
Healthy Watersheds Goal:

Sustain state-identified healthy waters and watersheds recognized for their high quality and/or high ecological value.

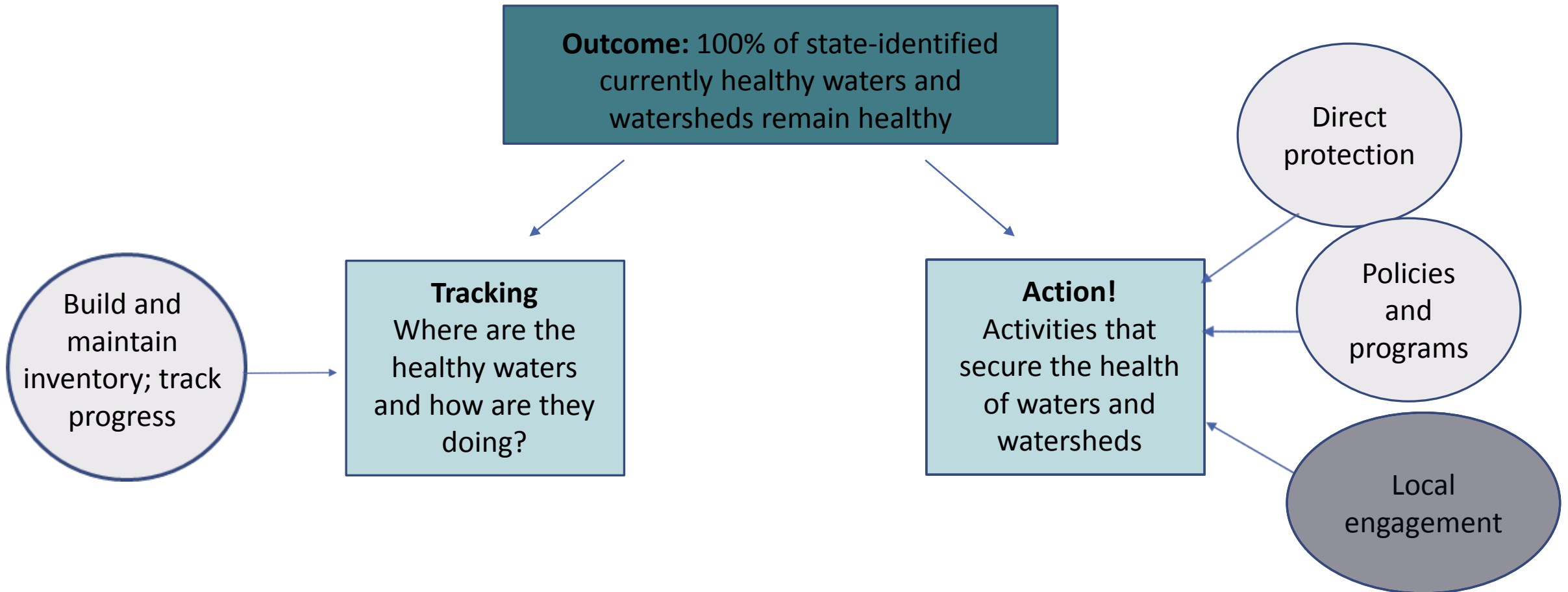
Healthy Watersheds Outcome:

100 percent of state-identified currently healthy waters and watersheds remain healthy.

Achieving our Outcome requires two things...



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What is local engagement?

We asked ourselves: what do we mean?

- There is a broad spectrum of activities that we could put into the “local engagement” category.
- Local engagement is getting the boots on the ground to move. That is, moving people to action.
- *“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”*

Why “Action!” through local engagement?

Our Assumptions:

1. Healthy watersheds provide various local and Bay water quality benefits.
2. Cumulative impact of unsustainable development is the primary threat to “healthy watersheds.”
3. Land use change is controlled to a significant degree by local decisions and local factors.
4. The status quo is loss of healthy watersheds.
5. Change in locally-driven land use trends will be required to maintain healthy watersheds, and “local engagement” is the proposed intervention.

Who are we engaging with?

Examples of local actors:

- Local governments
- Land trusts
- Citizens
- Watershed organizations and other NGOs
- Non-traditional partners (hiking groups, bird clubs)

How?

Our charge:

“**build capacity** for local actors and help further healthy watershed and water protection at the local level”

The reality: local actors’ needs may not match our needs.
But if we can empower them to do more, we all win.

Our roles:

As a Goal Team and partnership, we are conveners, aggregators, and supporters. Using these roles, what can we do to help local actors maintain healthy watersheds?

Next steps for our local engagement efforts

- Continue the local engagement and “building capacity” conversation
- Coordinate with other Chesapeake Bay Program Local Engagement efforts
- Develop a local pilot demonstration project?

Questions?



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Healthy Watersheds Goal Team website page:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/maintaining_healthy_watersheds_goal_implementation_team