

The Adaptation and Resiliency Work Group (ARWG) of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change (MCCC) is charged with developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy for reducing Maryland's climate change vulnerability and providing state and local governments with tools to plan for, and adapt to, climate impacts such as sea level rise and extreme weather. The ARWG pursues this charge through the development and implementation of recommendations and an annual work plan, which are reviewed and approved by the MCCC. This document was created to provide additional details about two of the 2020 recommendations, and provide information on how these efforts contribute to the advancement of climate adaptation planning for the state.

The first recommendation, *Develop and Adopt Indicators to Track Progress* (the "Coastal Adaptation Report Card Project"), is being achieved through a partnership with the ARWG and the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Integration and Application Network (UMCES IAN). The research team at UMCES will be leading the initiative, the end result of which will be a suite of adaptation indicators and a Coastal Climate Report Card that will track adaptation progress across the state. The development of indicators and report card will take place over the course of one year, from February 2020 to January 2021. Indicators will be developed by UMCES with input from the ARWG, the MCCC and diverse stakeholders through workshops to be held in fall/winter 2020. All stakeholder workshops will be open to the public, facilitated online and offered at varying times of day to allow for broad public participation. Stakeholders will be identified by the UMCES research team and ARWG and MCCC members as well as through recommendation by other stakeholders or through individual responses to the public invitation for participation. It is anticipated that over 60 organizations, agencies and nonprofits will participate. The ultimate aim of this effort is to provide ARWG, MCCC and others within the state the ability to better monitor future action.

The second recommendation, *Evaluate and Update the Adaptation Strategy* (the "Adaptation Framework Project"), is being achieved through a collaboration across ARWG members, partner agencies, organizations and stakeholders. The University of Virginia Institute for Engagement and Negotiation (UVA) is helping to facilitate this effort, through which more than 60 participants will reflect on progress achieved under the state's existing adaptation plans and develop a framework of potential strategies to be employed moving forward. This evaluation effort will take place over the course of a year, from May 2020 to April 2021, and require continual engagement by the participants. A project team (PT) made up of 6 individuals from state agency and community organizations will serve as a steering committee within the initiative. The PT will also serve as the point of communication with the ARWG and MCCC throughout the initiative. The ARWG has organized the work into five sectors (critical infrastructure, water resources - quality and quantity, human health, natural resources & ecosystems, and natural and working lands). Additionally, three focus areas (local government action and state service delivery, climate jobs and training, and diversity and environmental justice) will be incorporated into each of the five sectors to serve as pillars which will guide strategy development. Each sector is led by a team of co-leads who will work with the PT and UVA to guide the sector-specific efforts and overall framework.

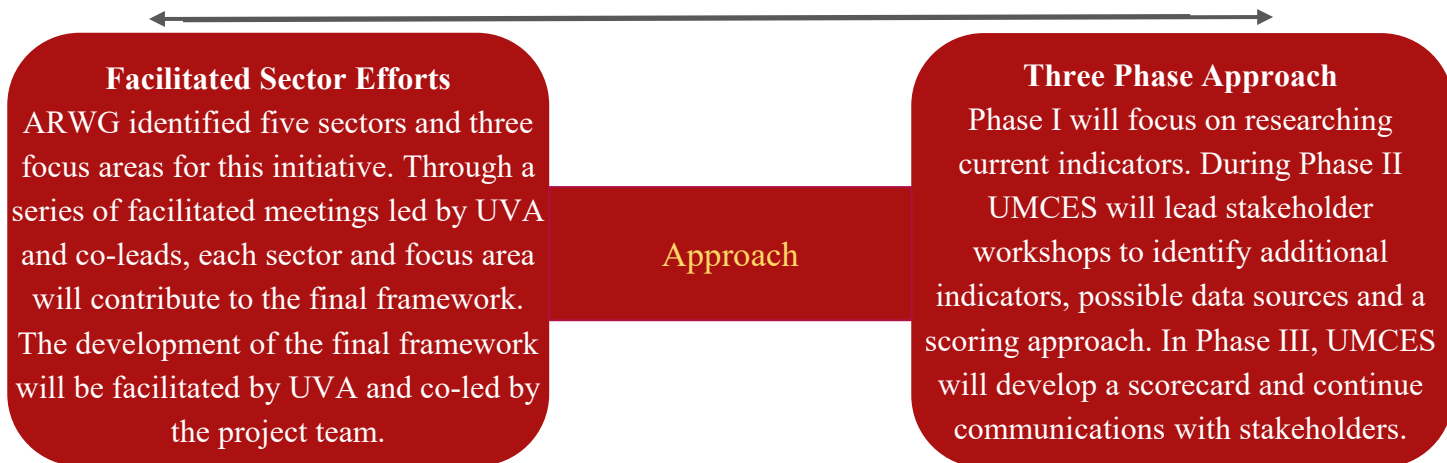
These two recommendations driven by the ARWG and approved by the MCCC aim to further the charge of the MCCC. The ARWG is working to capitalize on synergies between these two efforts and the MCCC to ensure that adaptation in Maryland is moving forward in an integrated, collaborative and comprehensive manner.

If you have any questions or would like to be involved, please contact the ARWG Coordinator Allison Breitenother at allison.breitenother@maryland.gov

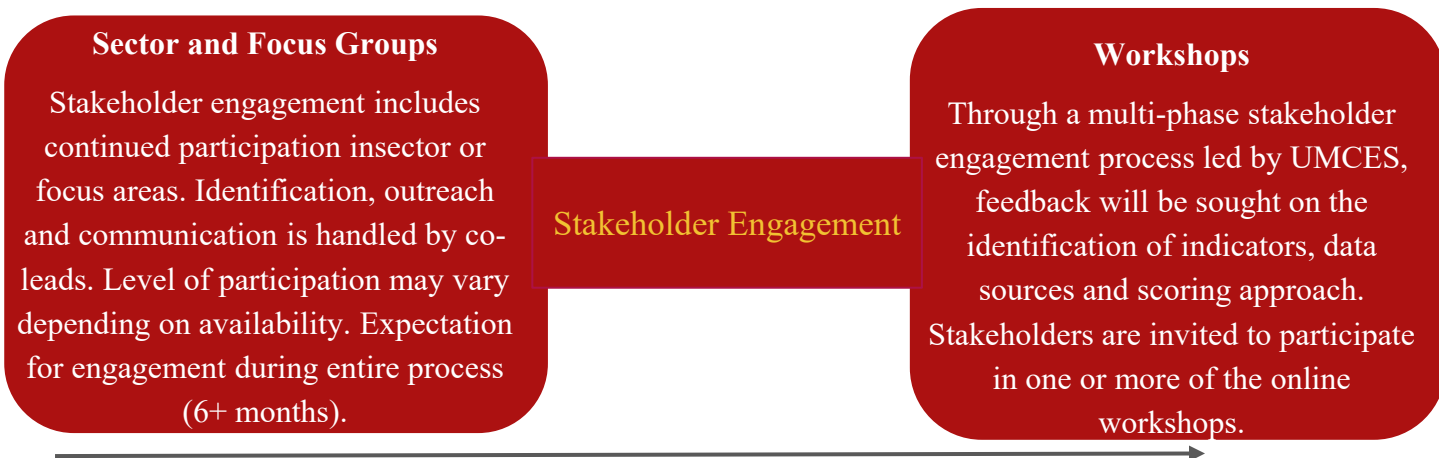
Adaptation Framework

Coastal Adaptation Report Card

DNR and ARWG will coordinate with UVA and UMCES to align the efforts of each phase (research, stakeholder engagement, process and outcome) to minimize duplication and enhance synergies. This will include coordinated outreach and messaging as well as aligning indicators with framework strategies.



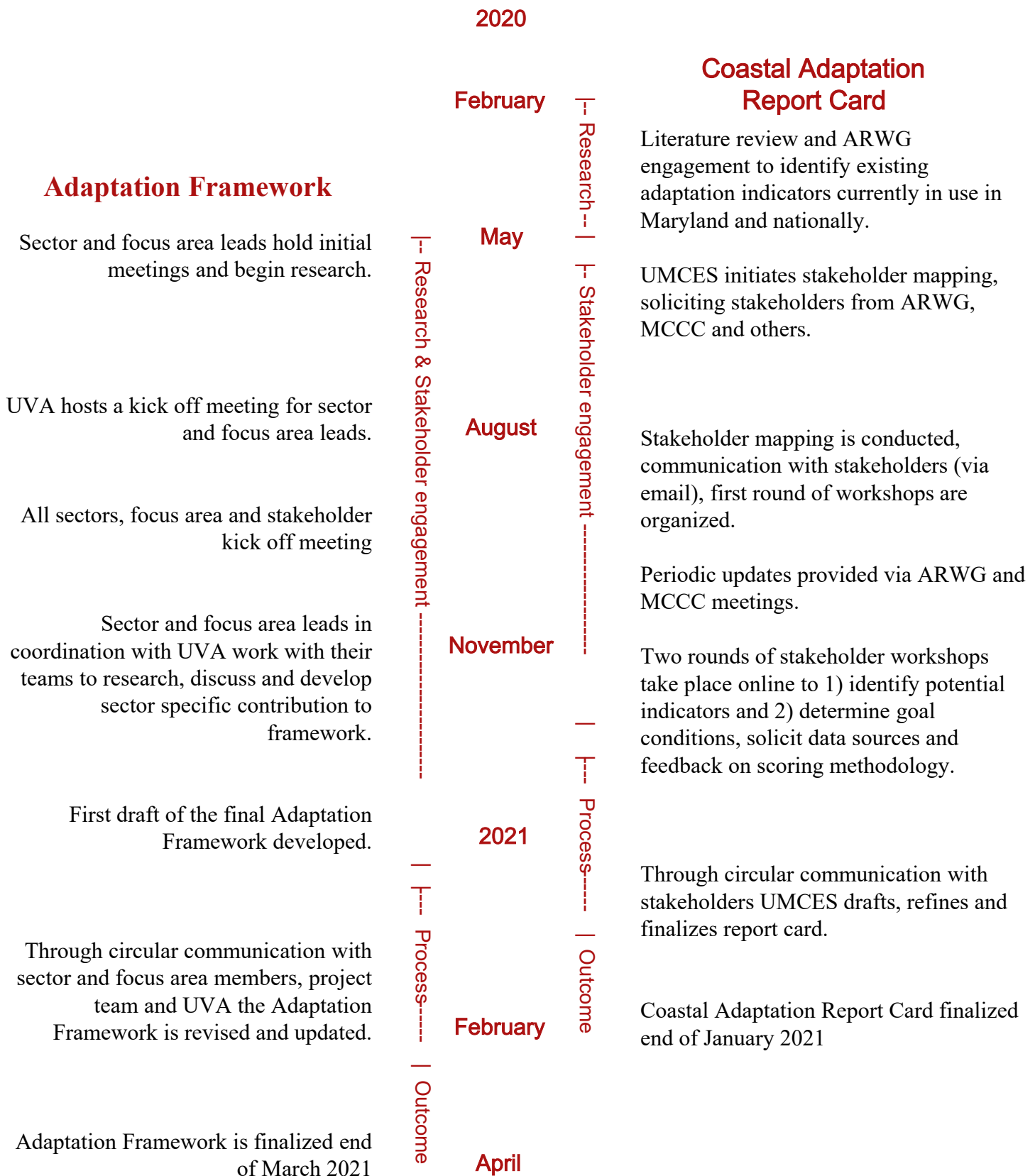
Stakeholder lists, maps, summaries from stakeholder workshops, identified indicators and data sources from the work in Phase I will be shared with UVA and the PT as they become available.



The PT will share key findings and summaries from the kick off workshops facilitated by UVA and provide periodic updates of sector group progress and outcomes.



UVA, the project team and UMCES will hold meetings to compare and align the strategies identified during the stakeholder workshops (UMCES) and the sector group facilitated efforts (UVA).



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