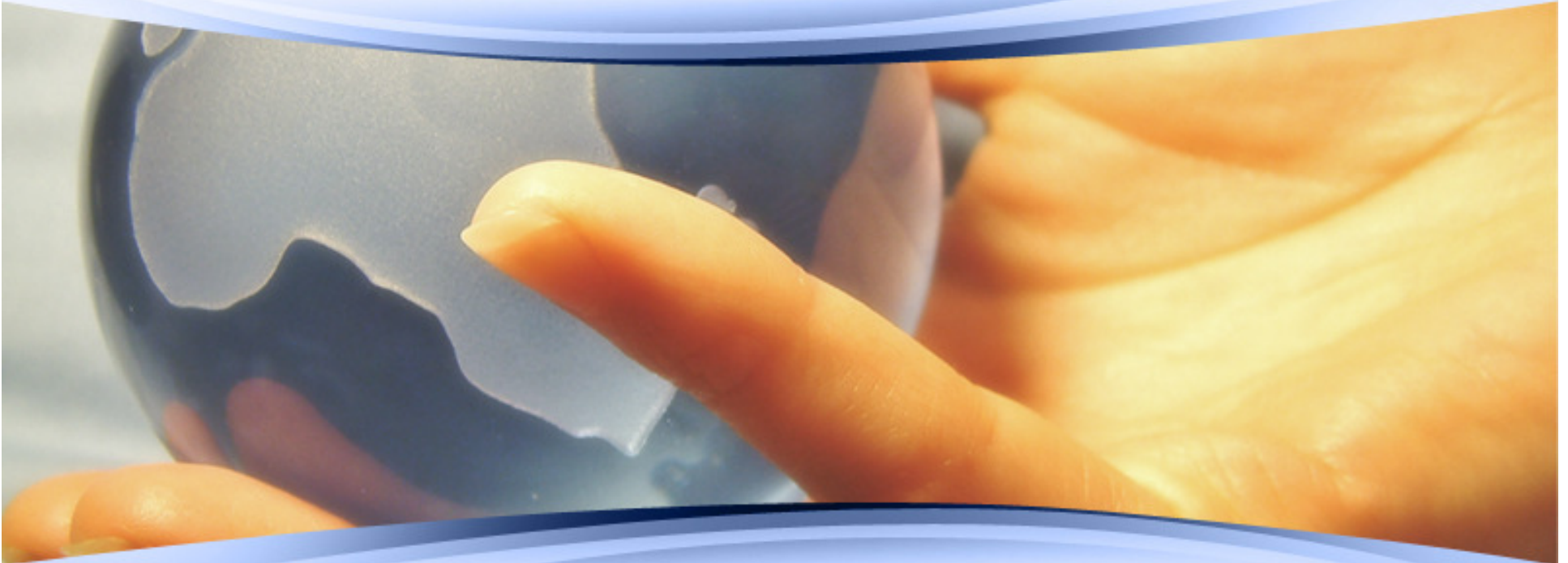


Action Plan Revision

What you need to know...





Existing Guidance Documents:

1. Congressional Legislation – Required 8 Elements – 2000
2. Guiding Principles – 2002
3. AFWA Guidance Binder – 2003
4. NAAT One Year Out Guidance – 2004
5. FWS Letter: Guidance for Wildlife Action Plans (Review and Revision) – 2007
6. Draft 2 521 FWS State Wildlife Grant Chapter – 2007

NOTE: These will be provided.

The 8 Elements:



- Only the original 8 Elements identified by Congress rise to the status of a law
- 8 Elements are the structure for all subsequent guidance - each attempted to further define what each of the 8 Elements required at a minimum or set a standard for states to achieve

The 8 Elements Continued:



1. Distribution and abundance of wildlife,
2. Locations and condition of key habitats,
3. Problems and research/survey needs,
4. Conservation actions proposed,
5. Plans for monitoring species & habitats,
6. Procedures to revise the strategy,
7. Coordination of development, implementation, review and revision, and
8. Public input.



Element 1:

- *Information on the distribution and abundance of species of wildlife, including low and declining populations as the state fish and wildlife agency deems appropriate, that are indicative of the diversity and health of the state's wildlife.*
- **Probable ties to Chapter ii. Vulnerability and Chapter iii. Adaptation (will be developed)**



Element 1 Continued:

- Review and update SGCN list as needed as climate change is embedded into their SWAP
- Consider marine and game species and may also consider plant species during reviews
- Analyze SGCN for potential changes to distribution and abundance from climate change
- Conduct vulnerability assessment for any new threats associated with climate change
- Identify appropriate actions at both the SGCN and landscape levels



Element 1 Continued:

- 2003 AFWA Guidance Binder specific criteria for SGCN
 - Imperiled species (Globally rare)
 - Declining species
 - Endemic species
 - Disjunct species
 - Vulnerable species
 - Species with small, localized “at-risk” populations
 - Species with limited dispersal
 - Species with fragmented or isolated populations
 - Focal species (keystone, wide-ranging species, specific needs)
 - Indicator species
 - Responsibility species (center of range within a state)
 - Concentration areas (migratory stopover sites, bat roosts)



Element 1 Continued:

- Consider other potential management implications:
 - species range will move out of it's historical range
 - define a “native,” “exotic” or “invasive” species if species migrate into the state
 - for migratory or far ranging species, how does climate change influence species in parts of their range outside of the state?



Element 2:

- *Information on the location and relative condition of key habitats and community types essential to the conservation of each state's SGCN.*
- **Probable ties to Chapter ii. Vulnerability, Chapter iii. Adaptation & iv. Research, Monitoring and Adaptive Management**



Element 2 Continued:

- Address the broad range of wildlife and associated habitats, with priority placed on SGCN
- Provide GIS and other maps and text in describing species and habitat conditions, conservation needs and other issues/actions
- Consider habitats/biotic communities that serve as “umbrellas” for multiple species
- Consider the scale required for effective conservation of species and habitats.



Element 2 Continued:

- Consider the change in relative abundance and distribution of habitat types on the landscape
- Evaluate the need for buffers or linkages including corridors
- Evaluate both landscape level and site-specific impacts and actions under climate change scenarios
- Consider at-risk seasonal habitats and specialized habitats, and scale for some habitats too small to map, (mudflats, seasonal wetlands, alpine meadow, etc.)



Element 3:

- *Descriptions of problems which may adversely affect species identified in (1) or their habitats, and priority research and survey efforts needed to identify factors which may assist in restoration and improved conservation of these species and their habitats.*
- **Probable ties to Chapter ii. Vulnerability, Chapter iii. Adaptation & iv. Research, Monitoring and Adaptive Management**



Element 3 Continued:

- Focuses on issues affecting wildlife – threats, problems, impacts
- Identifies surveys and research needed to inform conservation efforts
- In the context of climate change, Element 3 requires that Wildlife Action Plans identify climate change related impacts and research needs



Element 3 Continued:

- Analyses of climate change as a potential problem for species and their habitats
 - potential impacts of sea level rise
 - invasive species
 - Disease
 - catastrophic natural disasters -increased number/severity of floods/droughts
- Research and monitoring to identify vulnerability of species to climate change



Element 3 Continued:

- Research to “step down” global climate models to the state level so that local level changes can be modeled and better understood
- Research to understand how vital rates or life history characteristics are influenced by climate change
- *Assessments in enough detail so that specific actions and monitoring and research needs can be determined and prioritized.*



Element 4:

- *Descriptions of conservation actions determined to be necessary to conserve the identified species and habitats and priorities for implementing such actions.*
- **Probable ties to Chapter ii. Vulnerability, Chapter iii. Adaptation & iv. Research, Monitoring and Adaptive Management**



Element 4 Continued:

- Identify actions and strategies that will facilitate adaptation by SGCN or mitigation of the effects of climate change on SGCN
- Actions will need to be identified and implemented based on incomplete information and recognized levels of uncertainty
- Prioritize climate change related actions in comparison to other conservation actions



Element 4 Continued:

- Develop actions to address impacts of climate change on species and their habitats
- Utilize scenario planning to address the range of potential situations
- Identify/describe how actions will be prioritized in consideration of threats from climate change
- Identify decision mechanisms or thresholds for actions that are designed to prevent endangerment or extinction
- Develop process for taking actions under uncertainty



Element 5:

- *Descriptions of the proposed plans for monitoring species identified in Element 1 and their habitats, for monitoring the effectiveness of the conservation actions proposed in Element 4, and for adapting these conservation actions to respond appropriately to new information or changing conditions.*
- **Probable ties to Chapter iii. Adaptation & iv. Research, Monitoring and Adaptive Management**



Element 5 Continued:

- How should existing monitoring plans be modified to address climate change, or should climate change monitoring stand on its own?
- Describe proposed plans for monitoring species and their habitats and effectiveness of the conservation actions taken.
- Attention to adapting conservation actions to new information and changing conditions (AFWA Guidance Binder 2003).



Element 5 Continued:

- Base SWAPs in the principles of
 - best science
 - best management practices
 - adaptive management
- Include
 - measurable goals and objectives
 - strategies, approaches, and activities that are complete, realistic, feasible, logical, and achievable (AFWA's Guiding Principles 2002)



Element 6:

Each State's provisions to review its strategy at intervals not to exceed ten years.

FWS/AFWA Review and Revision Letter, 2007

- All states must revise their WAPs by October 1, 2015 or the date specified in their approved WAP.
- A change that requires revision of 2 or more elements or a change in the SGCN list in the SWAP would be considered "Major" revision.
- A SWAP revised as a "Major" revision for climate change must demonstrate that the entire plan was examined and that all 8 Elements were met, including an up-to date public review process.



Element 6 Continued:

FWS/AFWA Review and Revision Letter cont.

- Section A. States planning to review/revise entire plan for climate change
- Section B. States planning to undergo a “Major” revision for climate change prior to the planned revision date
- Section C. States planning on a “Minor” revision for climate change prior to the planned review/revision date



Element 7:

- *Each State's provisions for coordination during the development, implementation, review, and revision of its Strategy with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian Tribes that manage significant areas of land or water within the State, or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of species or their habitats.*



Element 7 Continued:

- Ensure that appropriate organizations, agencies and tribes are included in climate change review processes.
- Consider the scale required for effective conservation of species and habitats in the face of a changing climate
- Encourage coordination with other/neighboring countries, especially for border states and where such coordination is needed for successful conservation of SGCN



Element 8:

- *Each State's provisions to provide the necessary public participation in the development, revision, and implementation of its Strategy.*
-
- Climate Change is complex and can be controversial-strategic PP will help with this
 - PP serves the public interest and can lead to better decision-making
 - Good PP models are available from states (links provided)
 - Many resources available such as PP spectrum (www.iap2.org)



Summary:

- States should consider all the guidance as relevant to revisions of SWAPs
- Strongest guidance
 - Original 8 Elements passed by Congress
 - 2007 AFWA/FWS Letter regarding revision with definition of major and minor revisions – until additional guidance is developed regarding revisions