*Excerpt about the Long-Term Plan from the 2020 MRGESCP Science and Adaptive Management Plan (page 22):*

# Tools Supporting the Science and Adaptive Management Plan

## Long-Term Plan

A long-term plan is an important tool for implementing structured decision-making in AM of natural resources, as it uses clear and measurable goals to develop a vision for desired products. By using the Collaborative Program’s goals to establish objectives and strategies, a long-term plan helps identify needed resources, develop contingencies, and prioritize strategic work along a meaningful timeline. Commitment to consistent updates makes the plan adaptive and ensures that tasks are adjusted and realigned to goals as conditions change. Providing a long-term plan with administrative schedules and deadlines facilitates the timely completion of tasks.

Development of the Collaborative Program’s Long-Term Plan is guided by information in the AM Database, predominantly the Project Bank. In addition to serving as a tool for scientific planning, the Long-Term Plan informs the Collaborative Program’s administrative needs (e.g., updates to science and AM decision-support tools, deadlines for work products, timetables for meaningful recommendations on management alternatives, tracking of project statuses). Using the AM Database to query priority Collaborative Program objectives and uncertainties generated a list of linked ongoing and proposed scientific activities with descriptive labels for sorting and filtering. This list helps managers prioritize activities, identify logistical concerns, and secure funding and other resources.

The Collaborative Program’s Long-Term Plan provides program-wide context and describes the specific ways in which listed activities support the Collaborative Program’s guiding principles, and reduce critical scientific uncertainties related to management needs. Additionally, the administrative tasks needed for carrying on normal operations and fulfilling upcoming obligations within the Collaborative Program are outlined in the plan. The Long-Term Plan is assessed and adjusted regularly in order to accommodate changing operational and/or environmental conditions.