

## **Chesapeake Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge: Public Awareness and Response (CSSPAR)**

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The Conservation Fund (TCF) proposes to bring together an interdisciplinary team, the Chesapeake Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge Public Awareness and Response (CSSPAR) partnership, to model, analyze, and disseminate information to the public about the projected impacts of sea level rise and greater and more frequent storm surges on coastal areas of the Chesapeake Bay. The CSSPAR team will include interdisciplinary experts from The Conservation Fund (TCF), National Geographic Society (NGS), Chesapeake Bay Observing System (CBOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR), Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program and Burke Environmental Associates (BEA). The participation of CBOS in this initial project will primarily be through the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), Noblis, and NOAA via the Chesapeake Inundation Prediction System (CIPS).

The CSSPAR team will leverage current projects of these organizations to develop new and enhanced capabilities. The resulting information would increase public awareness and provide tools for vulnerability assessment that would contribute to enhanced community resilience to sea level rise, storm surge and inundation, and other biological and physical challenges of climate change in the region. To accomplish these goals, the CSSPAR partnership through this project will produce prototype tools including a webenabled geospatial map viewer and interpretive cartographic maps and graphics that are based on an emerging, sophisticated hydrodynamic modeling capability. Additionally, public education will occur through development of region-wide, multi-level classroom curricula; professional training modules; and collaboration with local community representatives (government, business, and public) to develop project capabilities and products.