

South Atlantic LCC 2012 Operations Plan (12-18 months)
(Approved by Steering Committee on March 9, 2012)

Goals , Objectives, and *Strategies*

1. Provide a blueprint¹ for enhancing SALCC conservation planning and investments.

a. Champion the conservation blueprint as a shared focus among a broad audience

1) 2013, 2014...

b. Prioritize applied research that fills gaps in the blueprint

1) Partnership committee, staff, and other interested partners will provide a prioritized assessment of current science gaps in the blueprint (as related to priority questions (2a?) of partnership).

c. Establish priorities with measurable targets² to conserve and enhance natural and cultural resources while considering the socio-economic benefits to the community

1) Build off existing prioritization efforts (e.g. SWAPs, OCS project) to set measurable natural resource targets for the cooperative. Staff, professional facilitators, and 2 postdocs+ 1 researcher will help the cooperative set detailed targets for resources.

2) Begin to define scope of cultural resources included within blueprint. (Cultural resource targets to be set beginning in 2013.)

d. Link SALCC blueprint to other LCCs and partnerships to achieve a seamless North American conservation network

1) Staff actively coordinates with southeast LCCs to ensure overlap of science and planning through SE Conservation Adaptation Strategy effort

a. Support establishment of biological priorities (conservation targets) related to Longleaf pine conservation throughout its range (WITH ADDITIONAL CAPACITY)

e. Develop response models that incorporate change and uncertainty into the blueprint

1) Priorities will be established in 1.b above.

2. Provide support for conservation investment decisions

a. Develop a formal process for understanding and responding to the needs and requirements of (LCC members) key partners

1) Develop a clear and transparent process for the partnership to submit and prioritize key conservation questions

b. Provide support that spans decision-making needs from policy makers to local managers

1) Provide information on future landscapes....Provide interim products (climate change, sea-level rise, urban growth, species response models) to support existing planning efforts. Top priorities: Longleaf, SWAPs, Forest acquisition planning (Forest Service).

Also work with the conservation planning atlas³ group to make data more broadly available.

- 2) *Provide more tailored and focused support for Longleaf pine place-based conservation efforts (WITH ADDITIONAL CAPACITY)*
- c. Provide decision support tools⁴ that identify ecosystem services and economic benefits of conservation investments
 - 1) *Inventory ecosystem services for the SALCC, document the relative differences among geographic units in the effectiveness of providing those services, document the economic value of those services, document the current economic impact of those services*
- d. Provide online tools, data and models that support non-technical users
 - 1) *Develop conservation planning atlas to support B (above) (Need to define CPA)*
- e. Facilitate understanding and effective use of available conservation planning and decision support tools
 - 1) *Provide quick start guides, fact sheets, and recorded roll-out webinars describing the use of developed products and support tools and be available to answer questions.*
- f. Support new monitoring and research efforts across spatial scales to improve the blueprint and related decision-support tools
 - 1) *Connect predictions of the blueprint to at least one ongoing monitoring effort (SET) stations compared with sea level rise data for blueprint)*
- g. Assist conservation managers in planning for change
 - 1) *See 2b.1*
- h. Facilitate implementation of the blueprint
 - 1) *2013, 2014...*

3. Facilitate collaboration to maximize conservation investment

- a. Encourage and optimize conservation partnership investments in the South Atlantic
 - 1) *Support SENRLG project*
 - 2) *Support Marine Corps Installations East low level aerial training route project*
- b. Promote cross-LCC integration of research, monitoring, and conservation efforts
 - 1) *Before funding projects or filling new gaps consult with adjacent LCCs*
- c. Coordinate conservation actions that integrate and enhance existing partnerships
 - 1) *Support SENRLG project*
- d. Identify and help resolve the barriers and constraints to effective partnering
 - 1) *2013, 2014...*
- e. Facilitate regular information exchange among SALCC partners

- 1) Provide time during each Steering Committee call for members to share activities of mutual interest.
 - 2) During monthly webinars provide opportunity for stakeholders to share activities of mutual interest
 - 3) Encourage partners to share items of interest via SALCC website
- f. Identify & communicate priority shared science needs to DOI Climate Science Centers
- 1) *Provide the climate science center the applicable results from 1.b.b.1*
- g. Facilitate external communication
- 1) *See Communications Plan at 7*
- h. Foster innovative public-private partnerships by speaking with one voice
- 1) *Convene at least 1 session with private focus groups(industry, private land owners, COG's, mitigation banking, etc.) to begin understanding their interests and potential roles as related to the SALCC mission*

4. Promote data integration and sharing

- a. Evaluate and identify existing data and interoperability standards, and promote best practices
 - 1) *2013, 2014...*
- b. Work across agencies and groups to align diverse data sets
 - 1) *Staff will work to integrate at least one data set across state/organizational boundaries (e.g. LiDAR data)*
- c. Provide guidance and facilitate linking spatially explicit data and models to the conservation blueprint
 - 1) *Staff will create a 1-3 page document that provide guidance to researchers and data managers on how to link their information to the blueprint. It would include descriptions of the type and scale of variables produced by the future change models and requirements for formally incorporating into the blueprint (e.g., scale, uncertainty)*
- d. Identify best locations to store the integrated data sets from multiple partners
 - 1) *Identify a data access and storage system, determine and establish connectivity needs and access privileges (Conservation Planning Atlas)*
- e. Maximize use of relevant monitoring, research and information
 - 1) *This should probably be a GUIDING PRINCIPLE or could fall under the "Do not duplicate the effective work of others principle". To insure that we adhere to it we would develop a business process whereby we research existing data and state of knowledge on subjects prior to working on a project. We could have a section on our web site for questions developed for approval by Steering committee. Partners could then comment on and provide resources that are available to support them.*

5. Evaluate and report progress

Mission Accomplishment Reporting

- a. Determine the adequacy of available information to assess current and future conservation targets
 - 1) *2013, 2014...*
- b. Identify and collect data on indicators of success for SALCC conservation targets
 - 1) *2013, 2014...*
- c. Assess monetary and non-monetary value of conservation outcomes
 - 1) *This is covered by 2c*
- d. Report progress on meeting shared landscape conservation goals, resources needed to meet those goals and societal benefits when goals are met
 - 1) *2014, biannually thereafter*

Operational Effectiveness Reporting

- e. Establish administrative metrics and benchmarks to indicate SALCC operational effectiveness
 - 1) *Through inclusive process, develop annual work plan to set expectations.*
- f. Coordinate annual feedback sessions with stakeholders and partners
 - 1) *Conduct web-survey and Steering Committee interviews to provide feedback on qualitative metrics*
- g. Report on SALCC progress toward implementing strategic plan, updating as necessary
 - 1) *Prepare annual report with summary of accomplishments from the operating plan and qualitative feedback*
 - 2) *Use January Steering Committee Meeting for reviewing past years accomplishments and feedback and to update strategic plan and operations plan*

6. Business Processes

- a. Support National Network efforts to develop consistent approaches and communicate successes
 - 1) *All LCC staff will be actively involved in LCC network development and coordination*
 - 2) *SALCC Chair and Co-chair will participate as needed and as available*
- b. Develop additional partnership processes to ensure effective collaborative governance and transparency
 - 1) *Define and establish membership categories, including benefits, roles, expectations,*

- approval on SC, etc.*
- 2) Develop 2 page summary of process for how stakeholders needs are identified and how they get filled*
 - 3) Voting and conflict of interest*
 - 4) Financial Management (managing, soliciting, holding) 2013*
 - 5) Refine and adopt decision criteria*

7. Communications

a. Inform broad audience about SALCC happenings

- 1) Maintain website*
- 2) Provide monthly electronic newsletter*
- 3) Conduct monthly webinar*
- 4) Draft short email invitation to join website (and get monthly newsletter) and work with each steering committee member to get out to their organization*

b. Inform general and targeted audiences about what the SALCC is

- 1) Develop multiple use fact sheet that can be tailored for use with targeted audiences*
- 2) Adapt the Strategic Plan for use in marketing the SALCC*
- 3) Develop basic power point presentation that can be used by any SALCC staff or Steering Committee members*
- 4) Develop messages/talking points for use by Steering Committee members within their agencies and broader networks*
- 5) Develop individual elevator speech for each staff*

c. Inform stakeholders how they get their needs met by the Cooperative

- 1) Develop short 3 minute video that outlines the process by which the Cooperative identifies their needs and how decisions are made about what is undertaken*

¹An interactive, living plan that describes the places and actions needed to meet the SALCCs conservation targets in the face of future change.

²A platform that serves a limited number of key datasets to support landscape conservation and allows end-users to easily discover, access, and integrate existing data and tools.

³The biological outcomes we are seeking across the landscape

⁴Maps, data bases and other tools built from geospatial data, biological information, and the results of ecological models that help a manager decide which conservation actions to apply to a given landscape.