

Technical Advisory Council

Item 10: ICARP 2025 Priorities

Oct. 25, 2024

2025 Priorities

Actionable Research & Resilience Metrics

Actionable climate science is a cornerstone of California's leadership on climate change and supports science-informed policies and investments to respond to accelerating climate impacts. Through the California Fifth Climate Change Assessment and the Tribal Research Program, the Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) will continue to generate climate science that can empower communities, the private sector, and local, regional, and tribal governments to make informed decisions.

Decision Support Tools and Guidance

To support local governments with adaptation planning and implementation, the state supports grant programs, guidance, technical assistance, capacity-building, and collaborative partnerships. ICARP plays a central role in equipping local governments and stakeholders across the state with the tools and resources they need for climate adaptation planning and implementation. These tools will deliver real-time, equity-centered data and guidance, focusing on the most vulnerable communities – such as low-income, rural, and tribal populations.

Strategic & Aligned Engagement

ICARP will foster more strategic and diverse engagement across programs to streamline efforts and reduce stakeholder fatigue. Through coordinated, inclusive engagement, including with Tribal and vulnerable communities, ICARP will ensure that collaboration is efficient, maximizing shared expertise and improving stakeholder experiences.

Innovative Funding & Financing

ICARP will pursue innovative funding strategies, including public-private partnerships, to ensure long-term investment in local and regional resilience. Building on lessons from programs like RRG, EHCRP, and APGP, ICARP will support adaptation projects through fluctuating funding cycles. By optimizing resources, expanding technical assistance, and leveraging federal and private funds, ICARP will drive effective and sustained adaptation efforts across communities, with an emphasis on supporting vulnerable communities to advance climate equity in the State.

Partnerships for Innovation

By cultivating partnerships with academia, local governments, and private sectors, ICARP will continue to translate cutting-edge climate research and insights into practical, community-based solutions. Through these partnerships, ICARP will foster a community of practice, pilot new adaptation solutions, and innovate at scale to ensure communities,

especially those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, have the tools they need to adapt effectively.

Interagency Coordination for Statewide Adaptation

ICARP will strengthen collaboration with key agencies to align major state adaptation efforts, including the Adaptation Planning Guide and Extreme Heat Action Plan. This coordination will ensure a unified approach across sectors, improving California's capacity to respond effectively to emerging climate challenges.

2022 Impact Report – Priorities for 2023, [See link](#)

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Building Partnerships and Leveraging Resources

To support development of climate and adaptation as an emerging field, leveraging networks and building a community of practice is important to scale up and increase the sophistication of California's adaptation and resiliency efforts. ICARP supports local and regional adaptation and resiliency planning and disaster recovery efforts through facilitation, collaborative partnerships, funding alignment, and technical assistance.

Funding and Financing

Adequately meeting the scope and scale of climate change requires direct investment in capacity-building, planning, and project deployment to advance adaptation and resiliency in California. ICARP has three programs that provide direct support for adaptation planning and projects, works to enhance the state's ability to leverage federal investment, and develops partnerships with other State agencies' programs that support the resiliency of California's natural and built environment.

Climate Equity and Vulnerable Communities

Reducing risks from climate impacts requires strengthening protections and increasing the resilience of communities and people to respond, recover, and adjust to climate change driven impacts. Yet, some communities face compounding vulnerabilities and experience disproportionate impacts, particularly low-income and rural communities, communities of color, and tribal nations. A resilient California ensures all communities can weather and

adjust to climate change so that all communities can thrive. Ensuring a climate resilient “California for All” requires focused support for those communities most vulnerable to climate threats.

Additional Special Initiatives

While many actions to promote adaptation and resiliency are inherently longer-range efforts, the pace and urgency of climate change also requires a rapid response to emerging challenges. ICARP responds proactively to new and emerging issues and opportunities as they align with the ICARP vision and principles. This includes building new partnerships and initiatives and providing guidance and support for partner efforts to respond in real time to local, regional, and state adaptation and resiliency needs.

2020-21 Impact Report – Priorities, [See link](#)

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2019 Impact Report – Priorities for 2020, [See link](#)

Resilience Metrics:

Building adaptation and resilience to an equal footing with the state’s ambitious climate mitigation efforts requires a clear set of measurable resilience goals. ICARP could serve as a venue to elevate current state resilience metrics and to identify critical gaps or areas of additional need/research. These metrics could serve as indicators of progress over the lifetime of the program.

Tools and Guidance:

The TAC can continue to inform state-led programs through the development and sharing of tools and guidance to address the challenges faced by local and regional entities pursuing adaptation and resilience. One near-term effort could focus on the integration between the Adaptation Clearinghouse and Cal-Adapt to ensure that the strategy for delivering data and science becomes more of a climate services model, meaning one that is responsive to the biggest needs on the ground and paves the way for climate smart decisions. ICARP staff could also support the development of additional plan alignment compasses, similar to the coastal compass, that focus on other adaptation topics, such as fire.

Vulnerable Communities:

ICARP could build upon the TAC’s 2018 work to define vulnerable communities by exploring opportunities to support development of additional decision-support tools that ensure adaptation actions respond to and benefit vulnerable communities. Specifically, with the release of recent reports, such as “Mapping Resilience: A Blueprint for Thriving in Face of Climate Disasters” and “Making Equity Real in Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience Policies and Programs: A Guidebook”, there is a growing body of work that ICARP can draw from to support the development of actionable and flexible decision-support tools.

Adaptation Clearinghouse:

ICARP should focus on integrating the Adaptation Planning Guide and other new tools and resources into the Adaptation Clearinghouse in a dynamic and interactive way while continuing to integrate existing California-relevant resources into the Clearinghouse. With such improvements and enhancements, the development of a long-term maintenance and

update plan of the site as well as an outreach and engagement plan to ensure it best supports decision-making could also be prioritized.

Funding and Financing Adaptation:

Funding and financing could continue to be a major body of work for ICARP, including: (1) Identifying opportunities to increase climate considerations in existing state funded programs, including opportunities to mobilize and leverage private capital and focus on supporting local government implementation, and (2) focusing on the role of the private insurance markets and identifying opportunities to align public and private activities that address climate impacts and support resilience.

Building Partnerships and Leveraging Resources:

ICARP should continue its coordination role in order to: (1) improve partnerships between state, regional, and local entities and across sectors such as transportation, agricultural, and health systems, and across the rural-urban divide, and (2) ultimately strengthen adaptation programs. While ICARP is not staffed to provide a full statewide climate services program, ICARP could continue to explore opportunities to leverage the Adaptation Clearinghouse to support local implementation of adaptation and resilience efforts as well as identify state initiatives the TAC could inform and advise for greater uptake and impact locally.

Challenges Necessitating Attention:

Given the program's ability and flexibility to tackle new and emerging challenges that do not neatly fall under one mandate or to the responsibility of a particular entity, ICARP could be leveraged to focus on developing issue areas such as natural climate solutions and the co-benefits and tradeoffs of integrated climate action.

Reporting and Tracking Progress:

Going forward, the program's progress could be informally assessed at the last meeting of each calendar year to track and improve its effectiveness and reflect on gaps in capacity and expertise

Discussion Questions

1. What additional priorities should we be considering for 2025?
2. Are there any priorities above that should be amended or adjusted?