

Technical Advisory Council

Item 6: ICARP 2025 Priorities

March 7, 2025

Updated 2025 Priorities

Purpose: The 2025 ICARP Priorities will be used by the TAC and ICARP staff to inform TAC meetings, guide and challenge program efforts, and track progress in 2025. These priorities center on fostering community trust, strengthening resilience investments, expanding data and research tools, and advancing innovative adaptation actions. By aligning technical assistance, engagement, and funding mechanisms, ICARP aims to enhance climate adaptation outcomes, particularly for the most vulnerable communities across California.

Cultivate Trust and Empower Communities

1. Deepen partnerships with CA Native American Tribes and Indigenous communities that meaningfully respond to Tribal feedback, include consistent and reliable engagement opportunities, and honor and respect Tribal sovereignty.
2. Foster meaningful ongoing relationships with grantees, local governments, and vulnerable communities.
3. Strengthen participatory and equitable grant processes that prioritize community needs and enhance accessibility to State funds.
4. Evaluate and address shortcomings in community support and engagement to better align State efforts with local priorities.
5. Align public engagement, technical assistance, policies, investments, and State-funded research to meet the diverse needs and contexts across regions.
6. Build capacity in vulnerable communities through focused technical assistance and training programs.
7. Guarantee reliable public access to statewide and locally specific information to support informed decision-making.

Showcase Impact Through Storytelling

1. Develop tailored outreach campaigns, case studies, and storytelling initiatives to demonstrate the tangible outcomes of climate adaptation investments.
2. Highlight locally led efforts and success stories across California communities to inspire action and enhance public understanding.
3. Uplift Tribal voices, stories, and perspectives, highlighting the work California Native American Tribes and Indigenous communities have done since time immemorial.
4. Track, analyze, and celebrate investments, policy adoption, and project implementation with robust data to ensure long-term progress.
5. Communicate the co-benefits of resilience efforts, such as job creation, cost savings from disasters, and opportunities for innovative economic models (e.g., worker-owned cooperatives).

Expand Localized Data, Research and Tools

1. Further develop and leverage informational resources, frameworks, and tools to guide local governments in assessing vulnerabilities and implementing adaptation actions.
2. Identify shared regional and local priorities to streamline efforts, avoid duplicative processes, and ensure consistent messaging.
3. Expand decision-support tools and data resources to deliver equity-centered guidance, enhance local planning capacity, and support resilience-oriented recovery from climate impacts.
4. Support low-capacity users with technical assistance, translating complex data and information into actionable insights for projects and plans.
5. Fund tribally-led research and knowledge sharing that respects Indigenous data governance and acknowledges the unique relationships and histories of Tribes in California.
6. Develop regionally-specific action-based research that uplifts local priorities through a community-driven research model.

Implement Innovative Adaptation and Resilience Action

1. Prioritize investments in climate adaptation and resilience efforts in the communities most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
2. Utilize ICARP's role as an interagency connector to advance a comprehensive and coordinated response across state agencies for equitable climate adaptation and resilience outcomes.
3. Foster and invest in diverse partnerships among public, private, Tribal, and community-based entities.
4. Support access to multiple funding mechanisms for local projects.
5. Provide technical assistance to align plans, accelerating the development and implementation of holistic resilience plans.
6. Provide technical assistance, evaluation, and case studies for climate adaptation infrastructure and programs.
7. Identify opportunities to fund regional resilience efforts that help interconnected and diverse communities build resilience across jurisdictional boundaries.

2022 Impact Report – Priorities for 2023

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. California provides resources to translate and apply climate science to 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.

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

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2019 Impact Report – Priorities for 2020

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