

Central Valley Landscape Conservation Project Process Outline

This document outlines the process for meeting the project’s purpose of identifying actions that will maximize the adaptive capacity of priority species, habitats, and ecosystems to support an ecologically connected Central Valley landscape. This pilot project is a dynamic **process** for partners to cooperatively agree on strategic climate-smart adaptation goals, objectives, strategies, and actions for the Central Valley landscape, and will result in **products** that include integrated information, maps, and tools that help partners prioritize where to focus actions to achieve those goals and objectives.

The approach includes assessing current and potential future conditions of priority resources to guide adaptation options. Implementing adaptation options will yield an ecologically connected landscape with core areas, buffers, and corridors that have been established thorough land management, land protection, and restoration actions.

Iterative Steps

Steps one, two, and three will be completed through this project. Step four will be completed by the project partners. Step five will be completed with assistance of the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC) after implementation of adaptation actions.

Step 1 – Define Goals and Identify Priorities

Step 2 – Assess Vulnerability to Climate Change

Step 3 – Identify Adaptation Strategies and Actions

Step 4 – Implement Adaptation Options

Step 5 – Monitor Effectiveness and Revise Goals, Strategies, & Actions if Needed

Deliverables

1. Identification of priority resources collectively developed by a broad set of partners.
2. Vulnerability assessments and/or scenario planning for identified priority resources based on existing data and climate information.
3. Climate-smart adaptation strategies developed for the priority resources based on vulnerability assessments and/or scenario planning.
4. Building from the adaption strategies, spatially explicit conservation options that will support resilience and adaptation of priority resources.
5. An online toolbox and outreach plan to help partners use and apply the adaptation strategies and conservation options for their organization.
6. A “lessons learned” document to inform similar efforts within the CA LCC and other LCCs.

Process Outline

Step 1 – Define Goals and Identify Priorities

1.1 Bring the Central Valley conservation community together.

1.2 Inventory existing conservation goals, objectives, and priorities for efforts within project boundaries. Priority resources include species, habitats, and ecosystems.

1.3 Affirm overarching project goals, objectives, and expected outcomes.

1.4 Identify priority resources (species, habitats and ecosystems) to focus on. This will require development of selection criteria.

Step 2 – Assess Vulnerability to Climate Change

2.1 Synthesize data, information, and models regarding the **current** and **future** capability of the landscape to support priority resources. Examples include species and habitat descriptions and distributions, land use practices, areas of connectivity, hydrologic data, etc.

2.2 Conduct a vulnerability assessment to identify the distribution and persistence of priority resources based on their current state, a range of predicted landscape and climate change, and evolutionary capacity of species and communities.

2.3 Develop future scenarios for use in conjunction with vulnerability assessment.

Step 3 – Identify Adaptation Strategies and Actions

3.1 Use results from the vulnerability assessments to develop potential adaptation strategies and actions as a spatially explicit synthesis of land protection, land management, and restoration approaches relevant to priority resources.

3.3 Use the future scenarios from the vulnerability assessment to prioritize a set of adaptation strategies and actions needed to achieve an ecologically connected landscape with a spatially explicit set of core areas, buffer zones, and corridors.

3.4 Review and revise climate-smart goals and objectives, if necessary.

Step 4 – Implement Adaptation Strategies and Actions

4.1 Partners cooperatively implement climate-smart strategies and actions as a Central Valley conservation community.

Step 5 - Monitor Effectiveness and Revise Goals, Strategies & Actions if Needed

5.1 Develop an outreach plan to provide decision support and monitor implementation of climate-smart strategies and actions. Decision support will be a user friendly website and training on integration of the design into existing organization operations.

5.2 Periodically survey partners to gather data on actions taken. This data can paint a spatial map of implementation actions and progress towards the goals and objectives.

5.3 Develop lessons learned which can be used to improve the process in other geographies.

5.4 Review and revise climate-smart goals, objectives, strategies and actions, if necessary.

Iterative Climate-Smart Landscape Conservation Process

