



2011 CA LCC Priorities and Criteria

Projects should support decision-making and conservation delivery for natural resource managers while accounting for sources of uncertainty about system dynamics in a changing environment. Projects should address at least one of the following priority issues:

Ecosystem Response/Species and Habitat Information

- Developing relevant downscaled models clearly addressing resource manager needs and habitat/organism responses to projected change under alternative climate/economic/planning scenarios
- Identifying future biodiversity hotspots and connectivity needs
- Better understanding of demographic responses to climate change, including dispersal, survival, and productivity (e.g. why hotspots are hot).
- Modeling the frequency, intensity, and impacts of extreme climate-driven events (e.g. sea level rise, floods, wildfires, and droughts)

Decision Support for Climate Adaptation

- Future scenario planning at landscape and ecoregional scales
- Ecosystem impacts of adaptive land-use change – avoiding conflicts between human infrastructure changes and biodiversity/conservation
- Developing open access information retrieval (i.e. metadata commons) systems to inform managers, and decision-support systems/tools that help managers allocate limited resources on prioritization, scenario evaluation and adaptive management.
- Development/standardization of metrics of change, measurement protocols, indicator species, performance measures to assess resiliency
- Monitoring in the context of fully implemented adaptive management frameworks
- Long term monitoring programs designed to establish ecological baselines and trends, and track climate (or adaptation to climate change) effects

Evaluation Criteria – The following describes the criteria by which the CA LCC will score proposals. In order to score highly in the evaluation process, proposals should address all the major headings listed below.

- 1. Applicability to Conservation and Adaptation Decisions-** Highly likely to aid conservation and adaptation decisions. Policy makers or other decision makers are clearly asking for support.
- 2. Ecological or Ecosystem Response to System/Climate Change -** Will improve understanding or help address crucial sources of uncertainty about how

species, ecosystems, habitats, and/or landscapes respond to projected change under alternative scenarios.

3. **Breadth of Understanding** - Project is integrative – multi taxa, crosses trophic levels, includes physical and biological data, enables comprehensive understanding, considers several major climate system components, e.g.: water, carbon.
4. **Accessibility** – Products and information generated will be available and easy to use preferably online, designed for target audience access/understanding.
5. **Scope/Transferability** - LCC-wide or region-specific with projected outcomes and/or products that are clearly transferable to other LCCs.
6. **Partnerships/Leveraging** - Multi-partner project –includes scientists, habitat managers, and/or policy makers from multiple organizations (e.g., conservation and other NGOs, local governments, and state and federal agencies). Builds new collaborations and has secured matching funds and/or in-kind support from multiple partners.
7. **Timeliness and Urgency** - Information is urgently needed because of high risk or to avoid severe impact. Products will inform urgent actions and provide important information for setting up the CA LCC for long term success.

Continuing CA LCC projects will be evaluated by the following additional criteria.

1. **Continued Relevance** - The project addresses one or more of the 2011 priorities.
2. **Project Performance** - The project deliverables were received in a timely manner and were high quality.
3. **Readiness** - The project is ready for additional funds.