

CAF Track 2: Integrated Planning for Holistic Solutions

Workshop #1: Challenges & Solutions for Integrated Planning

Thursday, July 29th • 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

[Main Session Recording](#)

Description

Following up from the introductory webinar for Track 2: Integrated Planning for Holistic Solutions, this interactive workshop continued to explore major challenges shared amongst adaptation practitioners when pursuing integrated adaptation planning. Track participants delved into five key challenge areas: 1) insufficient resources, 2) competing priorities, 3) siloed sectors, and 4) ineffective governance. After the participants had a clearer understanding of specific issues and barriers, participants identified case studies, promising practices, and potential solutions to overcome identified challenges.

Track Facilitators

- **Whitney Brennan** | Acting Program Supervisor for Landscape and Forestry, California Tahoe Conservancy
 - **Peggy Nguyen** | Environmental Supervisor, City of Los Angeles
 - **Reema Shakra** | Climate Adaptation Program Manager, Rincon Consultants, Inc.
 - **Juliette Finzi-Hart** | ICARP Program Manager, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
 - **Julia Kim** | Climate & Energy Program Director, Local Government Commission
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Welcome

Code of Conduct and Group Norms

[CAF Code of Conduct & Track 2 Group Norms](#)

- All participants were asked to abide by the CAF Code of Conduct and Track 2 Group Norms
- Opportunity for participants to suggest improvements to Track 2 Group Norms for future workshops
- Norms will be finalized and reviewed at the next workshop

Visioning

ICARP TAC Vision

All Californians thrive in the face of a changing climate. Leading with innovation, California meets the challenge of climate change by taking bold actions to protect our economy, our quality of life, and all people. The state's most vulnerable communities are prioritized in these actions. Working across all levels of government, the state is prepared for both gradual changes and extreme events. Climate change adaptation and mitigation is standard practice in government and business throughout the state. California meets these goals with urgency, while achieving the following long-term outcomes:

- All people and communities respond to changing average conditions, shocks, and stresses in a manner that minimizes risks to public health, safety, and economic disruption and maximizes equity and protection of the most vulnerable.
- Natural systems adjust and maintain functioning ecosystems in the face of change.
- Infrastructure and built systems withstand changing conditions and shocks, including changes in climate, while continuing to provide essential services.

Draft Vision Statement for Integrated Adaptation Planning for Holistic Solutions

Adaptation planning efforts effectively address the cascading and compounding impacts of climate change, spanning all areas and levels of government to create holistic adaptation solutions that address impacts to people and communities, natural systems, working lands, built infrastructure and social and economic systems.

- [Mentimeter poll](#): What stands out to you in the draft vision? Is there anything missing?
- Areas indicated to be of high interest by participants:
 - Natural systems
 - Equity
 - Compounding/ cascading effects
 - Holistic approaches
- An updated vision statement will be shared at the next workshop to ground the work of this track.

Key Challenges

Insufficient Resources

- What tools and resources are missing that would help address the cascading effects of climate change?
- Is staff capacity limited? Is there a lack of decision-making support tools?

Competing Priorities

- Many of the groups that we represent have conflicting interests and priorities.

- How do more general goals around addressing the systemic issues that impact BIPOC communities conflict with immediate adaptation goals?
- How do we achieve post-Covid economic recovery while not losing sight of our adaptation goals?

Siloed Sectors

- Siloed planning is inhibiting a comprehensive and holistic response to climate change across impacted sectors.
- What are the impediments to working across sectors and jurisdictions?
- How do we address near-term emergencies while planning for long-term impacts?

Ineffective Governance

- A lack of effective coordination across jurisdictions and levels of government makes collaboration difficult.
- Are the governance structures that we have in place effective at addressing the cascading effects of climate change?

Report Out from Breakouts

What are the specific barriers you've encountered in your planning efforts?

Breakout discussion notes captured by participants in [Jamboard](#) (yellow sticky notes)

What are some case studies, replicable strategies, and bold ideas to overcome identified barriers?

Breakout discussion notes captured by participants in [Jamboard](#) (blue sticky notes)

- **Insufficient Resources**
 - Funding
 - Funding and capacity of staff is always an issue.
 - If there is a lack of political will, there will also be a lack of funding.
 - Science Translation
 - There are barriers in translating science and as a result there needs to be more investment in education as early as K-12.
 - Staff should be provided more opportunities to pursue education
 - Science to Action
 - How do we move from information collection into policy implementation?
 - Climate models need to be updated with newer data in order to remain applicable and useful
 - Capacity
 - It is difficult when experienced staff moves on to new/ different opportunities.

- Internal standard operating procedures should be adopted to ensure that knowledge is not tied directly to staff.
 - Life/ Covid
 - It is difficult to find time to vision, brainstorm, stand back and reflect.
 - There should be more effort put into creating work spaces that allow for flexible schedules to balance home life and work life.
- **Competing Priorities**
 - Conflicting/ Mis-aligned priorities
 - It is often hard for utilities to balance efficacy and their bottom line.
 - Utility providers must be regulated by the State to ensure that they evolve to changing demands
 - There is historically no place to have adaptation within organizations and as a result there is no budget for that work.
 - County-led planning with direct involvement from State agencies can help align interests and provide support for towns and cities without funding or staff.
 - It is difficult to work across jurisdictional boundaries
 - Existing entities such as Council of Governments can be utilized to expand their directives and funding
 - Funding
 - Necessary funding for basic government services can leave no additional funding for climate action.
 - Policies such as retrofitting requirements can place an undue burden on residents with fixed incomes
 - Lobbying for federal assistance for these residents or grant programs could help to alleviate this pressure on residents
 - When working to address an issue, look to see if there is an existing precedent or models that can be adopted.
- **Siloed Sectors**
 - Institution/ Sector Issues
 - There are often competing priorities between sectors.
 - There should be one central authority to oversee the efforts of various organizations.
 - The emphasis on fixing things ASAP can often conflict with long-term planning efforts.
 - Public funding programs often exist in silos.
 - Within these systems there is an intrinsic bias toward simple replacements rather than assessing systemic changes.
 - Public/ Community/ Equity issues
 - Public input is often constrained by predetermined options developed by agency/ experts which in turn suppresses new ideas.

- There is often a bias towards near term solutions, as opposed to sustainable long term solutions.
 - Working Better together
 - Is there someone who can push agency heads to work more collaboratively?
 - Oftentimes organizations are not “speaking the same adaptation language” and must expend resources working through the process of coming to a common understanding of these concepts.
- **Ineffective Governance**
 - Organizational
 - The very organization of the structure through which these processes occur can be ineffective and slow-moving.
 - Agencies can be restricted by a narrowly-defined scope of work.
 - Political
 - Politicians often have different agendas which can conflict with one another and interfere with staff coordination.
 - Funding
 - Low-resourced communities often lack the capacity to acquire funding even if they have a higher need for those funds.
 - Should funding be linked directly to collaboration across jurisdictions?
 - Collaboration
 - There is a lack of effective partnerships and too many uncoordinated State agencies.
 - Health agencies are often left out of these partnerships and they often have substantial population knowledge.
 - Tools/Data
 - Existing tools and platforms often go underutilized while many choose to start the process of building these platforms from scratch resulting in too many tools with data spread on to multiple platforms.
 - There is often no agreement on which scale to focus the scope of vulnerability assessments/ adaptation planning.

Next Steps

- Facilitators will be incorporating the feedback of participants as they develop the next workshop which will be taking place on August, 17th 1:00 - 3:00pm.