Principles for Designing and Implementing Climate Smart Actions

Resources Legacy Fund Expert Panel
Guiding Principles for Ecosystem Adaptation
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1. Conserve the variety of ecological settings that will support California’s biodiversity and ecosystems as they shift in response to the changing climate.

2. Conserve and restore landscape linkages and connectivity areas that will allow diverse species to move to new locations and will enhance their persistence.

3. Set priorities for watershed protection and management that will yield conservation and societal benefits as water flows become more variable and potentially decline.

4. Adjust flows below dams and protect coldwater habitats to support native species and aquatic ecosystems.

5. Develop and implement strategies that will ensure the persistence of coastal ecosystems as sea level rises.

6. Manage ecosystems for resilience in the face of extreme events.

7. Align adaptation and mitigation strategies to optimize the co-benefits for people and for ecosystems.

8. Use best available scientific information and technical know-how to make informed decisions now in an adaptive management framework.

9. Manage for the future.

Excerpted from the forthcoming report soon to be posted online at http://www.resourceslegacyfund.org.