

An aerial photograph of a multi-lane highway cutting through rolling green hills. The landscape is lush with vegetation, including a large pond and clusters of trees. The sky is clear and blue.

The Future of RAMP Implementation in California

Denny Grossman
CA Strategic Growth Council

California Mitigation Summit

July 15, 2014

Los Angeles, CA

What's New?

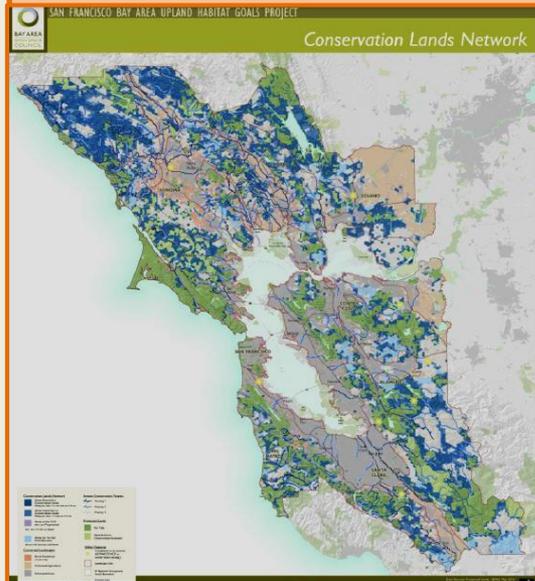
- There is currently an unprecedented level of Political Support that offers a unique window of opportunity to advance this important initiative.
 - State Agencies
 - Governors Office (*tied to HSR)
 - Office of Planning and Research
 - Strategic Growth Council
 - Resources Agency (CDFW, DOC, DWR)
 - Transportation Agency (CalTrans, HSR)
 - Other Organizations
 - TNC
 - EDF
 - RLG

What's New?

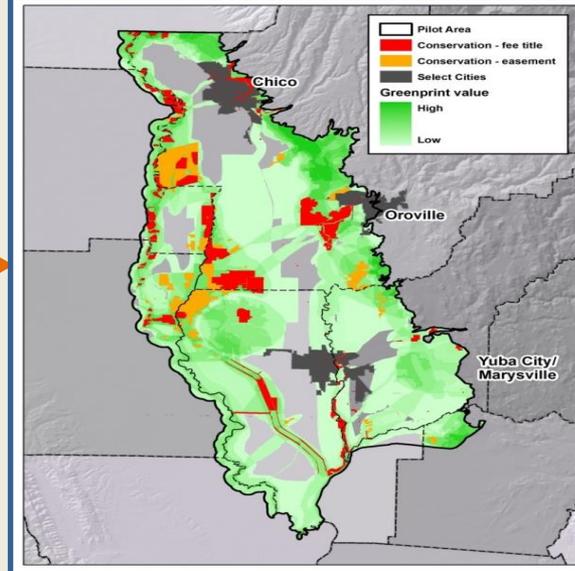
- CA RAMP State Coordinator Position
 - 3 years of support for a RAMP advisor/coordinator is being provided by the High Speed Rail Authority.
 - Position is based at the Strategic Growth Council.
 - I started in this position on April 1, 2014.
 - There is now a person who is thinking about this every day.
- Start up activities.
 - Definition: What is RAMP and what should be included in the concept?
 - Partnership: How can RAMP be most efficiently implemented as a multi-stakeholder (inter-agency and inter-organizational) effort.
 - Policies: Do current policies and associated practices provide impediments or incentives for RAMP.
 - Financing: How can different components of the RAMP process be supported with existing and/or new funding.

Component Processes for Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning

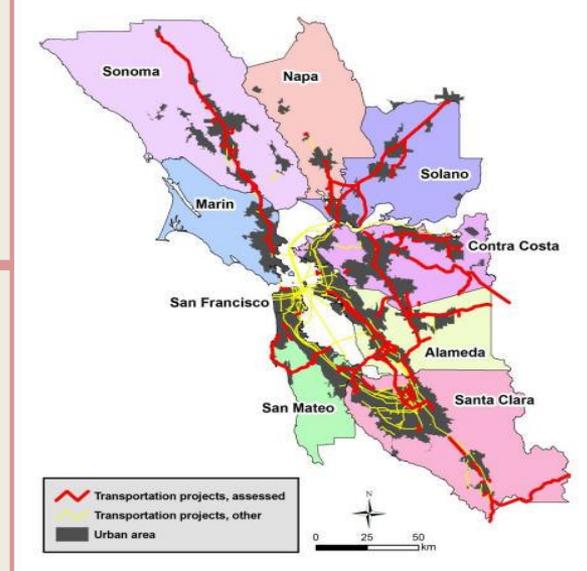
Regional Conservation Assessment



Regional Advanced Mitigation Plan



Regional Development Assessment



Implementation

Regional Conservation Assessment

1. Identify Ecoregions for Conservation Analysis and Reporting

2. Identify and Map Conservation Targets (species, ecosystems and ES) for each Region *

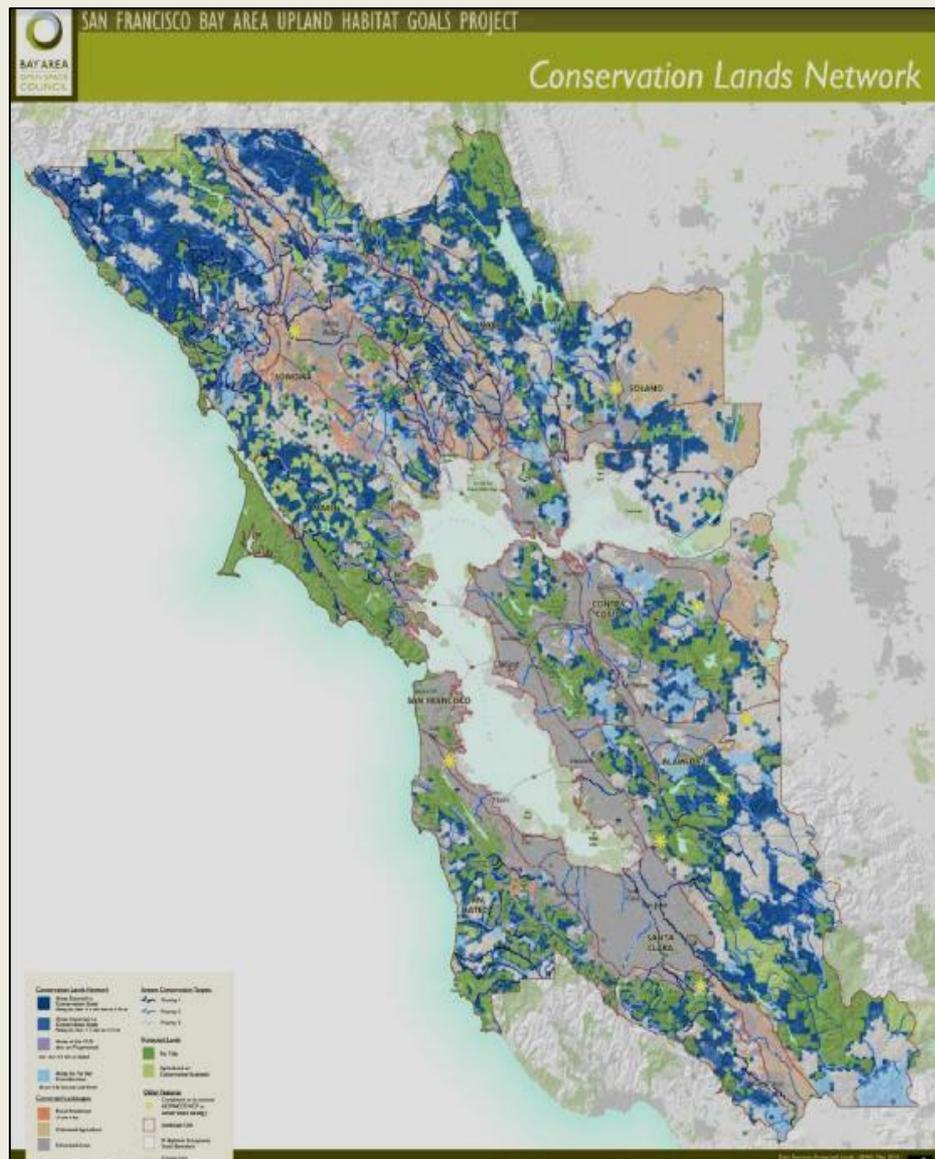
3. Establish Conservation Goals for each Conservation Target

4. Map the Current Conservation Estate

5. Document the Regional Conservation Goals that are met by the Existing Conservation Estate

6. Document the un-met Regional Conservation Goals that still need to be Addressed

7. Identify the best Opportunities to Address these un-met Conservation Goals *



* Build upon current HCP's, NCCPs, ecoregional conservation plans, greenprints, etc.

Regional Conservation Assessment

The regional conservation priority map will focus all conservation activities to achieve the most critical outcomes:

- As an “early warning” tool for avoidance and minimization consideration during all project planning and review phases.
- As guidance to accomplish regionally strategic conservation outcomes through the mitigation of unavoidable environmental impacts.

Regional Development Assessment

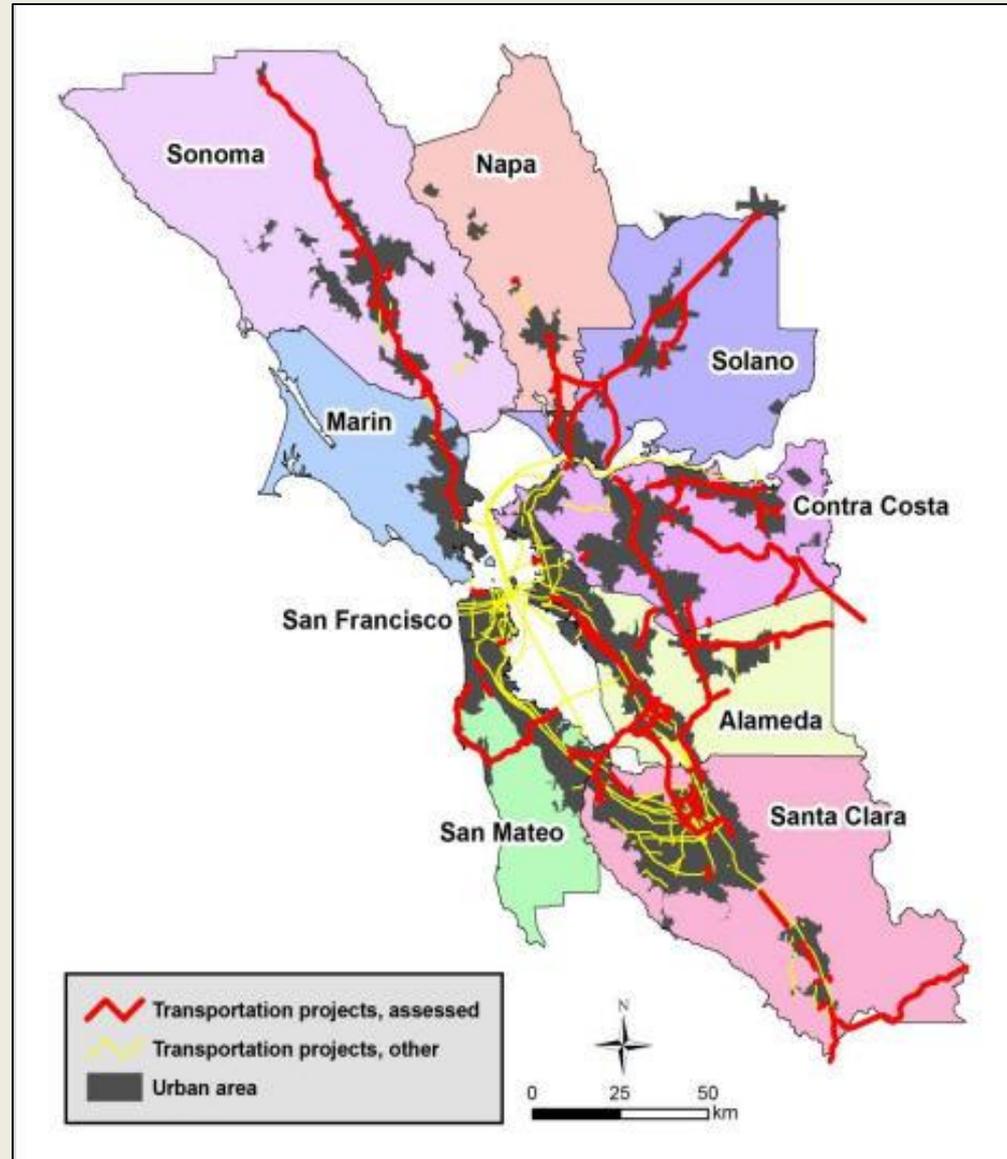
1. Identify Region(s) slated for significant Project Development where there are significant resources of Conservation Concern.

2. Document Development Projects that are proposed to occur over the next 25-50 years in these Regions.

3. Map predicted environmental impact footprints for each proposed development project in the Region.

4. Use regional conservation plans (greenprints) as “early warning maps” to promote avoidance and minimization action during the project design phase.

5. Map the environmental impact footprint for all proposed development projects across the region.



Regional Advanced Mitigation Planning

1. Identify the Conservation Target(s) that will be Impacted by the Cumulative Project Footprint.

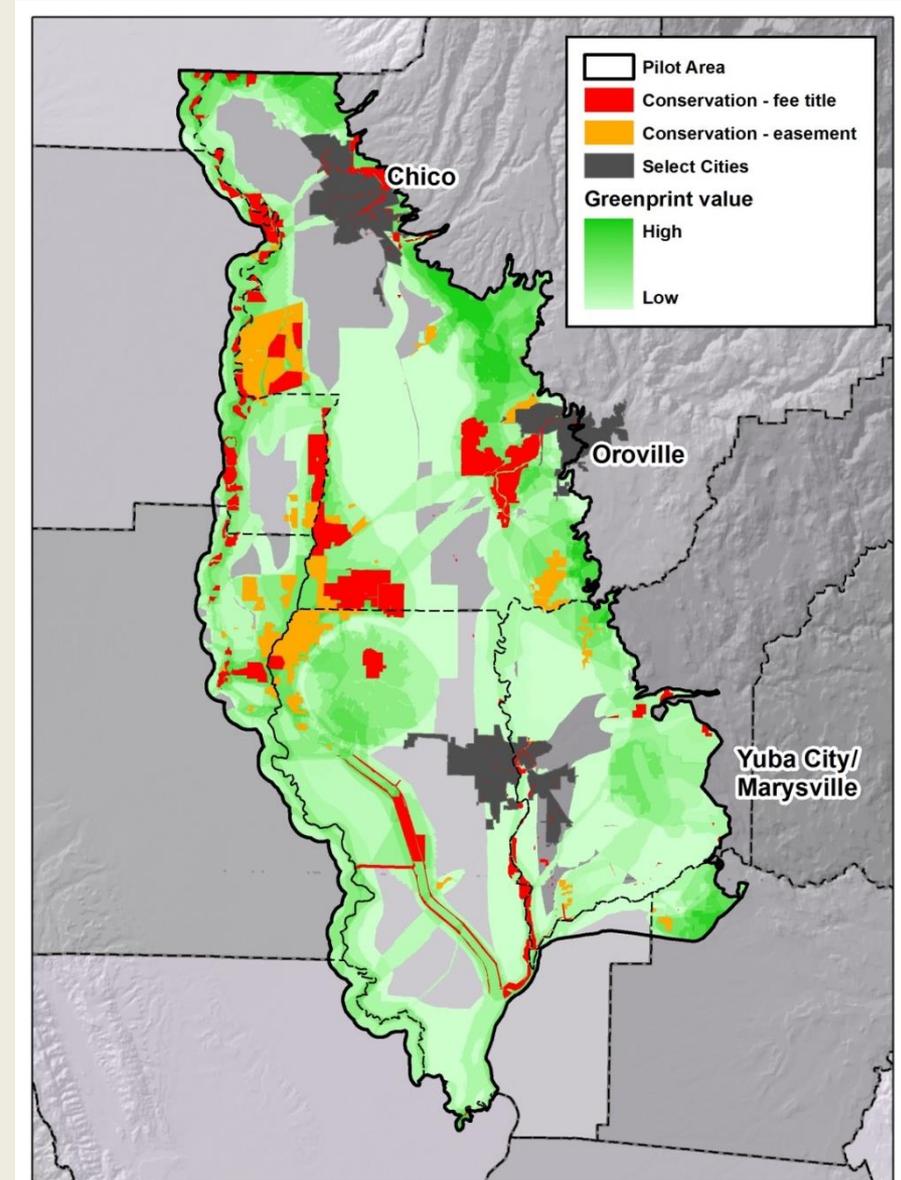
2. Calculate the Environmental Impacts to these Targets, and associated Mitigation Requirements.

3. Select the Conservation Targets for Inclusion in the Mitigation Strategy based on the Regional Conservation Goals. Like for Like is not always the best strategy.

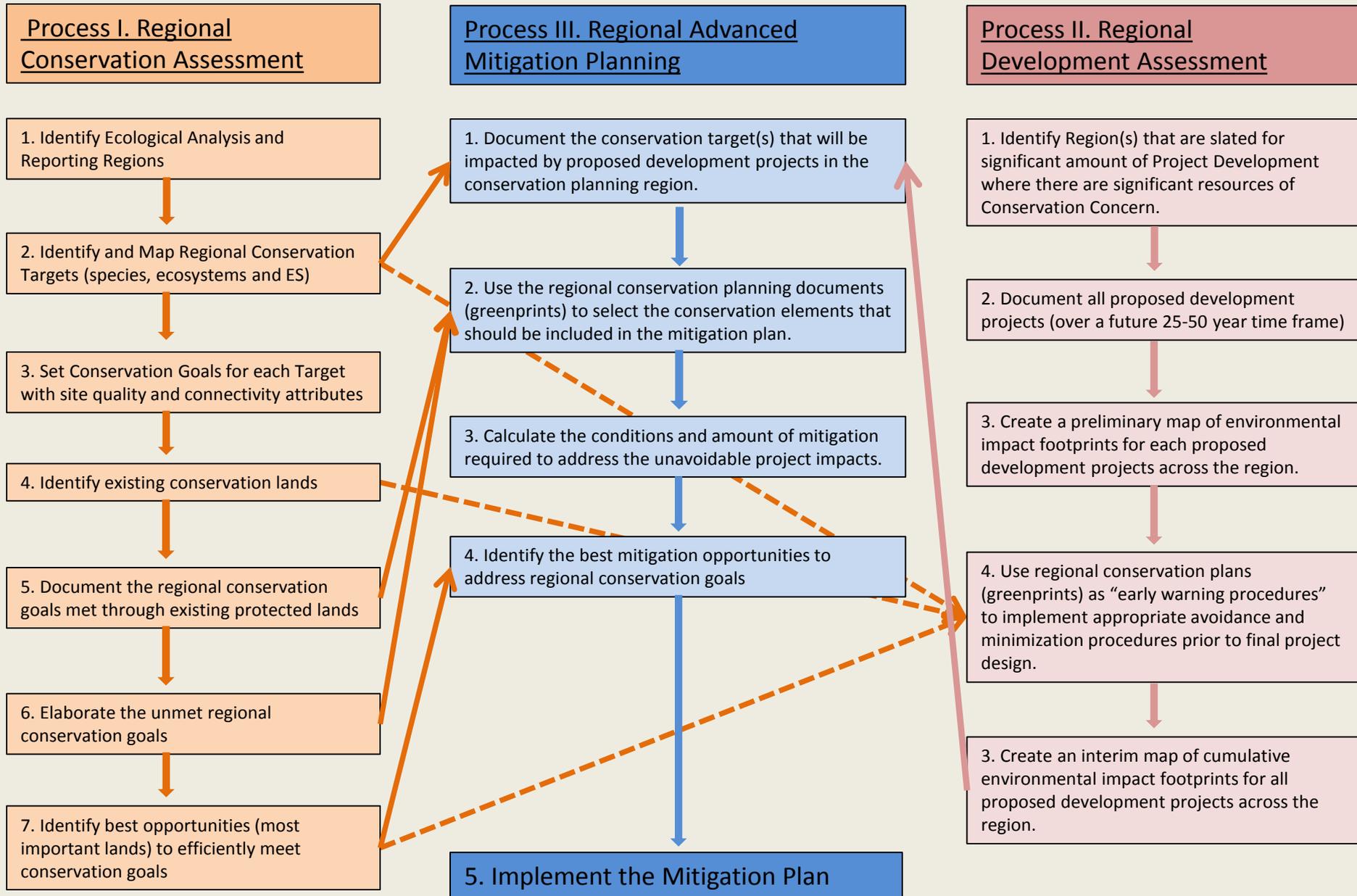
4. Identify the best Mitigation Opportunities to advance the Regional Conservation Goals

5. Secure Alignment with Key Agencies and Stakeholders.

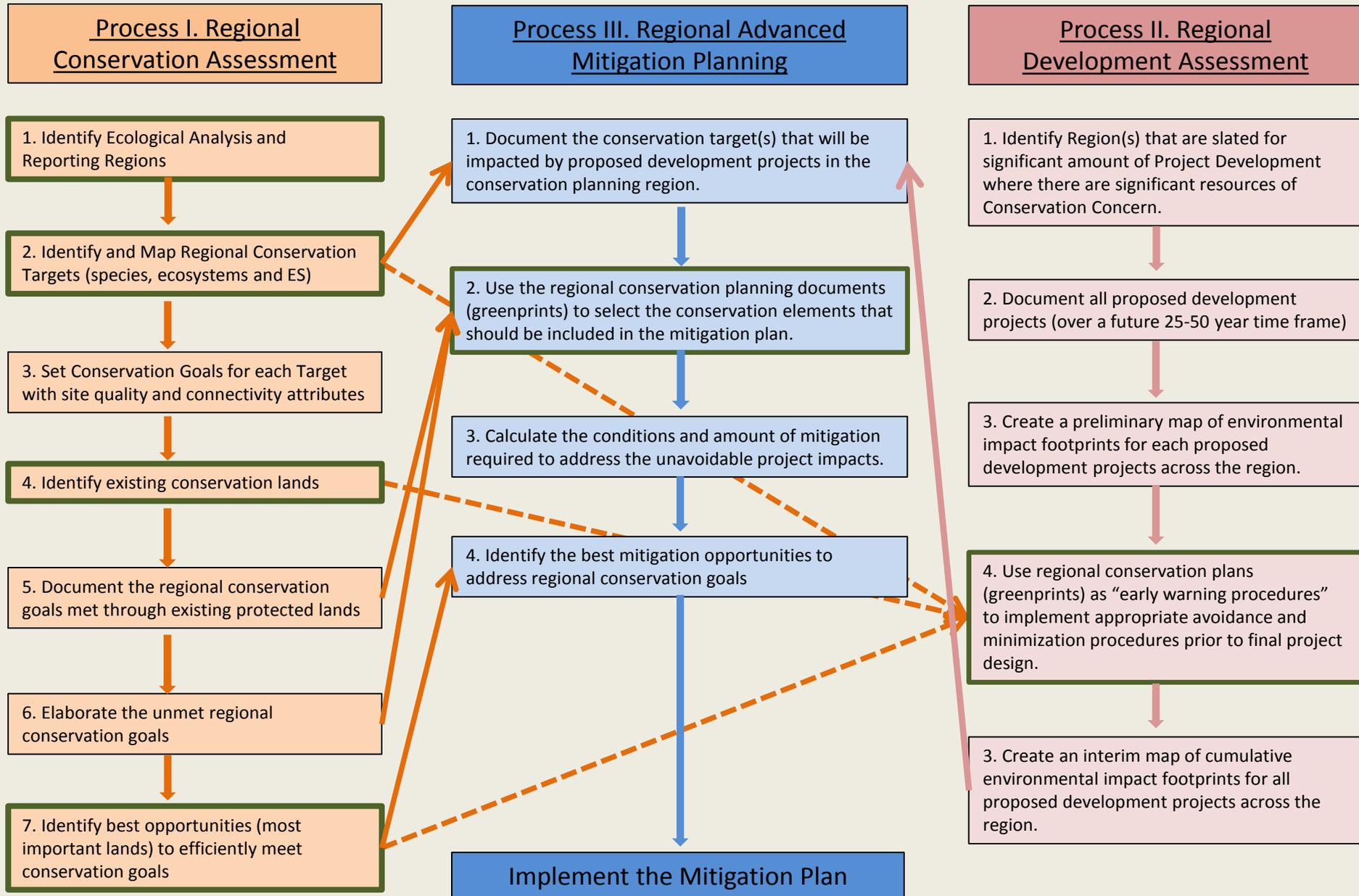
6. Implement the RAMP as a Dynamic Process.



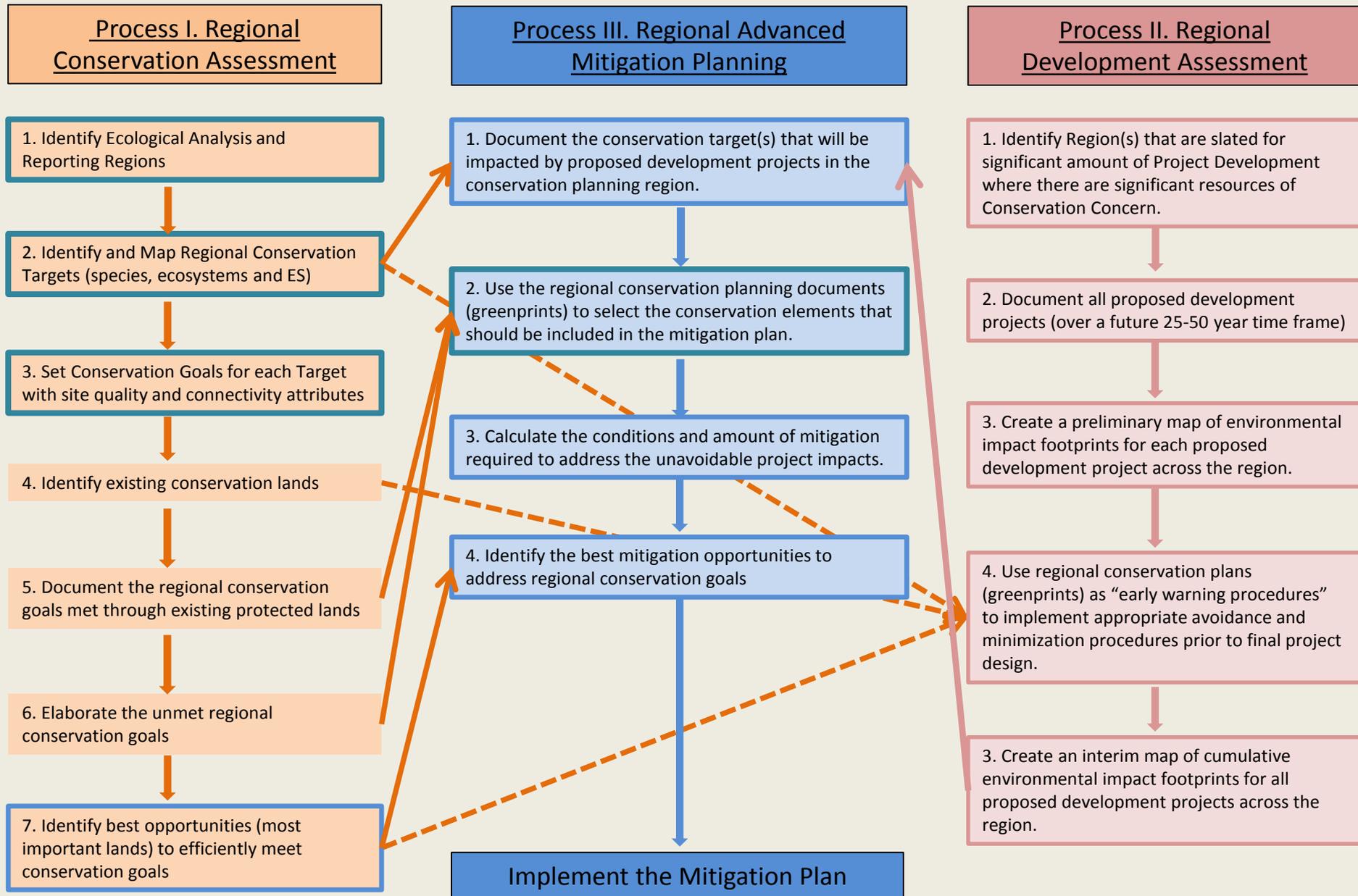
RAMP Components, Steps, Relationships



“GreenPrint” Component of RAMP



Dept of Water Resources – Role in RAMP



Pilot Demonstration Projects

Purpose:

- Test and advance RAMP processes, data and analytic requirements, roles / responsibilities / relationships.

Criteria:

- Significant pressure from development projects.
- Development projects from multiple agencies.
- Important endangered conservation resources.
- Adequate levels of conservation and development data to support analyses
- Diverse and engaged stakeholder community.

Regional Atlas of California Priorities

Map of regional conservation priorities is the foundation for effective conservation and development planning and design.

- We need to be clear about what we need to protect, and where are the best opportunities for conservation.**
- We will never have enough information for this to be a perfect product, but use of these products will advance their quality over time.**
- These maps represent what we currently know, and must be dynamic to represent change in information and landscape status.**

Information Management and Decision Support

- RAMP requires a web-based Information Management and Decision Support System with functions for data integration, visualization, sharing and analysis.
- This information needs to be managed for security, while being available to all stakeholders that need to plan, manage and monitor these resources.
- This system needs to represent the values of different stakeholder groups, and empower users to run their own RAMP analyses.
- We are working to advance this concept through a demonstration pilot project.

RAMP – Outstanding Questions & Challenges

- **Categories that should be included in the conservation scope of RAMP.** Biodiversity??, Flood Protection Lands??, Productive Agricultural Lands??
- **Regional Conservation Assessments.** Can stakeholders agree on standards to generate a set of conservation targets and goals?
- **Information Management and Decision Support.** Can share data and tools on a common technology platform that will provide baseline information and the basic tools needed by RAMP practitioners?
- **Stakeholder involvement.** What are the appropriate roles (public agencies, academic institutions, NGOs, etc.) for the implementation of RAMP?
- **Policies.** What policies and practices need to “evolve” to support the RAMP approach?
- **Financing.** What funding mechanisms are available, and needed, to support these RAMP functions?

RAMP Partnerships

- **RAMP Working Group**
 - On-going partnership of multiple stakeholder organizations to advance the RAMP framework and test through pilot projects.
- **California Biodiversity Council (CBC).**
 - Developing a new proposal to focus future CBC work to better align all agencies (state and federal) to generate maps of regional conservation priorities.
- **California Landscape Community Cooperative (CA LCC)**
 - Communicating with Steering Committee to evaluate their role in coordinating landscape level conservation approaches to support the RAMP process.

Next Steps

- **Solidify RAMP Framework with Processes, Steps, Data Requirements and Defined Stakeholder Roles**
- **Identify Strategic Pilot demonstration pilot projects for demonstration, learning and creation of solutions to current challenges.**
- **Implement pilot Information Management and Decision Support System to demonstrate functionality and empower all RAMP practitioners.**

Relevance for Land Trusts

- Participate in process to identify conservation priorities
- Become managers of mitigation lands
- Use regional conservation priorities to direct your conservation goals & objectives.
- Become suppliers of mitigation credits
- Utilize the available data and tools to carry out specialized conservation analyses.



Questions / Discussion