

Sept 29, 2026

2026 Delta Science Plan

Strengthening Science in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta

Hollis Jones
Rachael Klopfenstein
Lisamarie Windham-Myers



Delta
Science
Program

DELTA STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

Acknowledgements



Outline

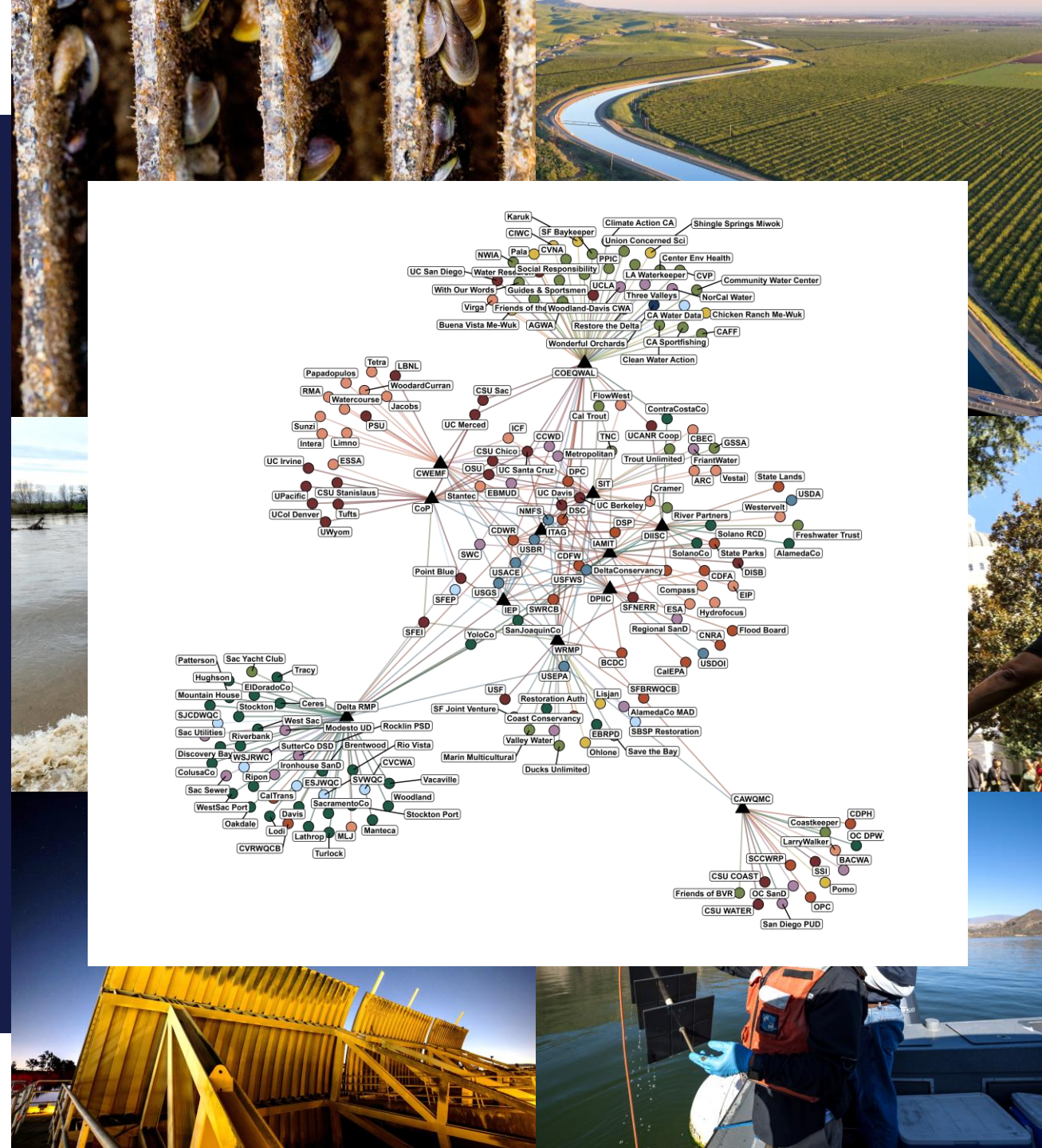
1. Background
2. The 2026 Delta Science Plan
3. Development Process
4. Next Steps

Goal:
Request for support

Why do we need a Delta Science Plan?



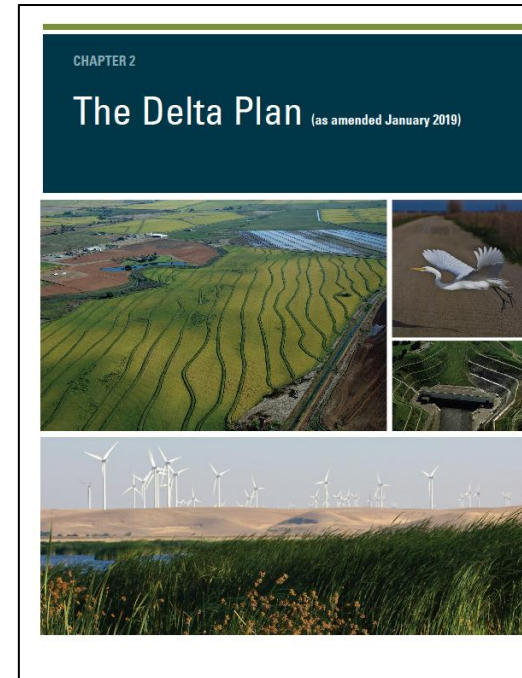
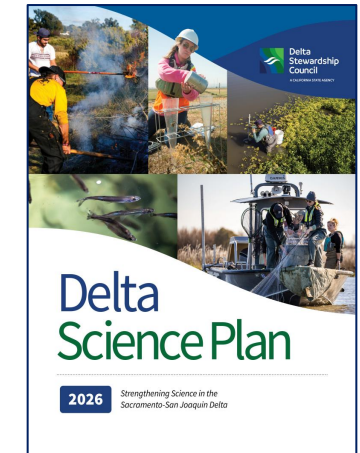
Why do we need a Delta Science Plan?



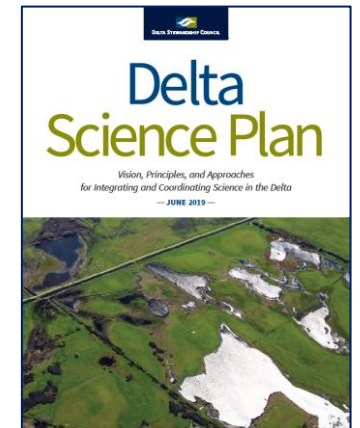
The Delta Plan

Delta Plan Recommendation
G R1. Development of a Delta
Science Plan

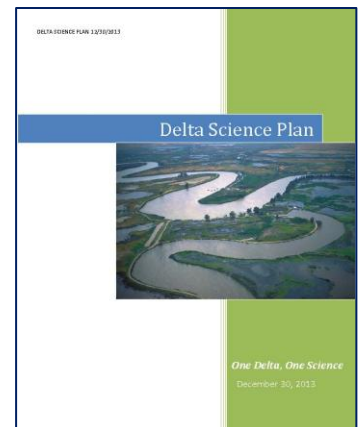
*"a comprehensive science plan
that specifies how scientific
research, monitoring, analysis,
and data management will be
coordinated among entities"*
(The Delta Plan)



2026



2019



2013

Delta Science Strategy

Establishes the foundation for achieving the vision of **One Delta, One Science** – an open Delta science community that works together to build a common body of scientific knowledge



What is in the Delta Science Plan?

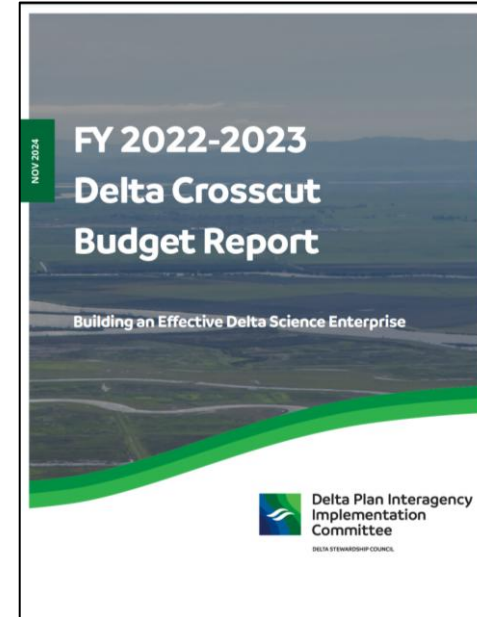
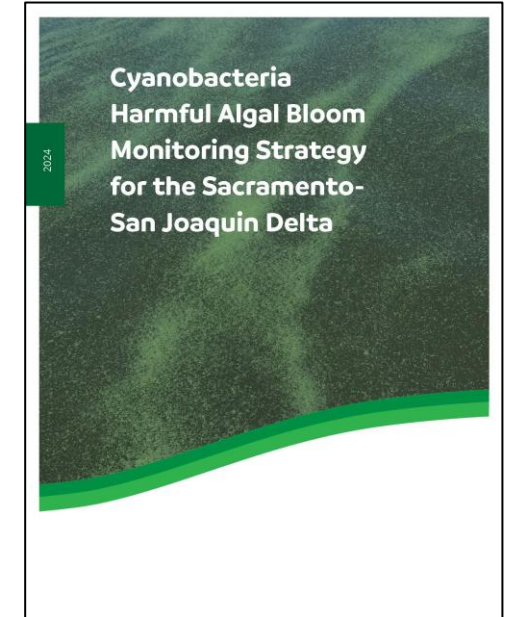
Actions and Resources
informed by and created for
the greater Delta science
community



Delta Science Plan Successes

- First Annual Crosscut Budget (2020)
- Delta Science Tracker released (2023)
- Convened workshops and independent scientific peer reviews
- Delta Modelling Collaboratory

Appendix 1: Implementation successes: Status of 2019 Delta Science Plan and relevant outcomes



The 2026 Delta Science Plan

Grand Challenge

1. high impact potential
2. feasible to address

(National Research Council, 2001)

24 actions that collectively strive to tackle four **grand challenges** to Delta science



1. Scientists and managers must anticipate a world in which environmental conditions and regulations may be fundamentally different from those faced today



2. Environmental change is outpacing the traditional pace of science



3. Flows of scientific information remain decentralized and poorly connected to communities and decision-makers



4. Other ways of knowing, especially Traditional Knowledge, remain siloed from decision-making

Action Highlights



Action 1.2: Support horizon scanning to detect and understand emerging signals



Action 2.5: Utilize mechanisms of sharing information more efficiently and effectively



Action 3.5: Incorporate social science data and disciplines in management decision frameworks



Action 4.4: Build trust through intentional and reciprocal working relationships

Action Highlights: **Action Examples**



Action 1.2: Support horizon scanning to detect and understand emerging signals

- **ArkStorm 2.0**



Action 2.5: Utilize mechanisms of sharing information more efficiently and effectively

- **Delta Science Tracker**



Action 3.5: Incorporate social science data and disciplines in management decision frameworks

- **Delta Residents Survey**



Action 4.4: Build trust through intentional and reciprocal working relationships

- **Interweaving Roundtable Series**

Eight Resources provide practical and useful information for the Delta science community

- A. Data governance
- B. Social science
- C. Science communication
- D. Research funding
- E. Conflict of interest
- F. Science governance
- G. Scientific review and scientific advice
- H. Science workshops



RESOURCE A

Data governance, portals, and online resources

Introduction

This Resource provides a basic overview of open data principles and practices that may be useful for anyone working directly or indirectly with scientific data in the Delta. The purpose of the Resource is to: 1) provide one possible interpretation of open data and describe a practical approach to the data lifecycle; 2) provide background on the history and evolution of open data in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Suisun Marsh (collectively referred to herein as Delta; California Water Code § 85058), the San Francisco Bay-Delta (Bay-Delta) system, and the broader San Francisco Estuary; and 3) highlight key guiding documents and online resources that are relevant to the Delta science community.

Research and monitoring generate large amounts of data in the Delta, which are used to deliver management-relevant science to decision-makers (Baerwald et al., 2020). But these data are not always collected or formatted in standardized ways that allow them to be combined with other similar data, or they may be difficult to access or understand (Hale et al., 2015). To increase the efficiency of data use and re-use, the Delta science and management community has moved toward an “open data” framework to facilitate collaboration, ensure transparency, and increase the capacity for data synthesis, all of which can help generate new insights on the system and its management (Baerwald et al., 2020).

Development Process



Grand Challenges
Essay released
(Nov 2024)



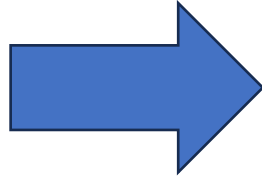
Participants from half of the DPIIC agencies

Delta Science Plan
Workshop
(Feb 2025)

Grand Challenges
Essay released
(Nov 2024)



Delta Science Plan
Workshop
(Feb 2025)



24 Actions

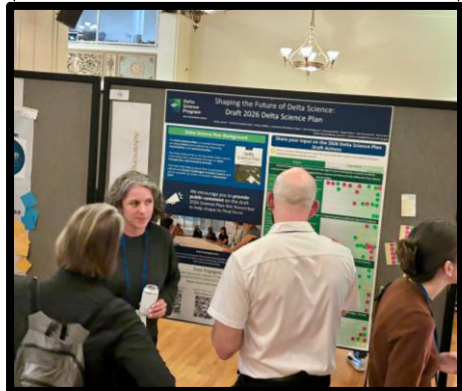
Grand Challenges
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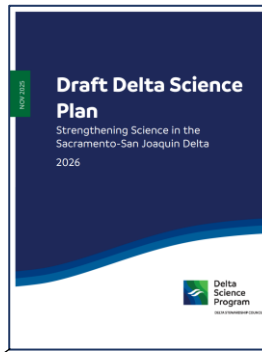
Grand Challenges
Essay released
(Nov 2024)

State of the
Estuary Poster
(Oct 2025)





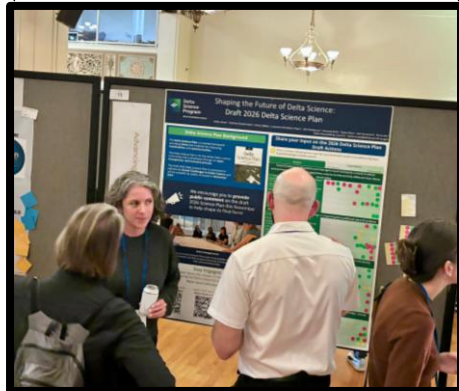
Delta Science Plan
Workshop
(Feb 2025)



Draft 2026 Science
Plan released
(Nov 2025)

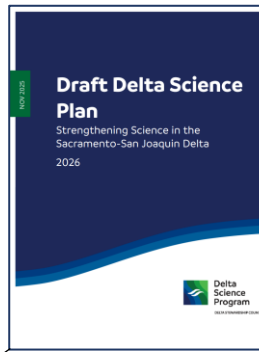
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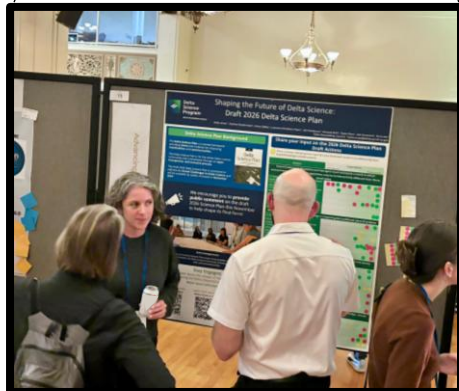
Delta
Stewardship
Council

A CALIFORNIA STATE AGENCY

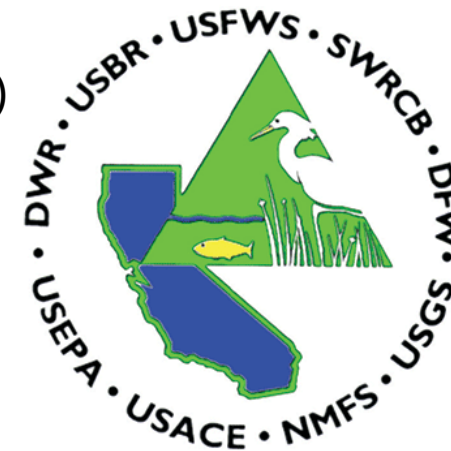
Council endorses
the draft
(May 2026)

Grand Challenges
Essay released
(Nov 2024)

State of the
Estuary Poster
(Oct 2025)

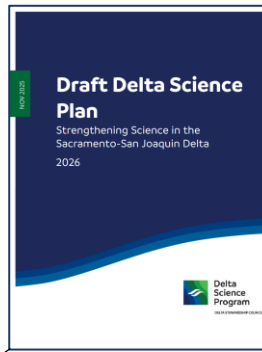


Interagency
Ecological Program
Workshop
(March 2026)



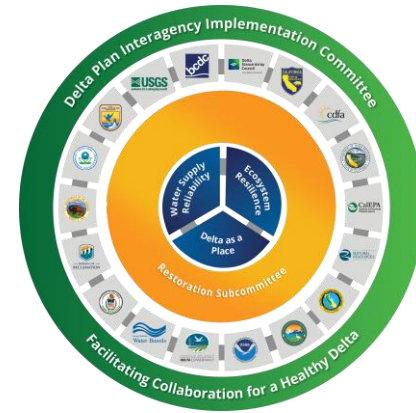


Delta Science Plan
Workshop
(Feb 2025)



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Plan released
(Nov 2025)

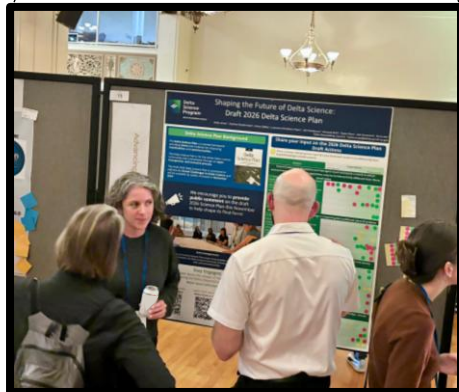
Council endorses
the draft
(May 2026)



DPIIC request for
support
(Sept 2026)

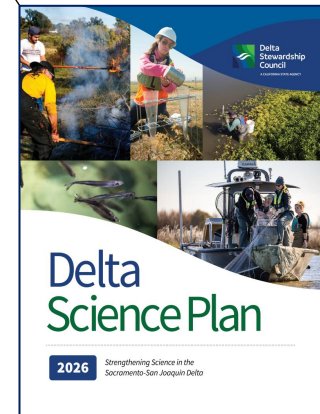
Grand Challenges
Essay released
(Nov 2024)

State of the
Estuary Poster
(Oct 2025)



Interagency
Ecological Program
Workshop
(March 2026)

Final released
(Aug 2026)

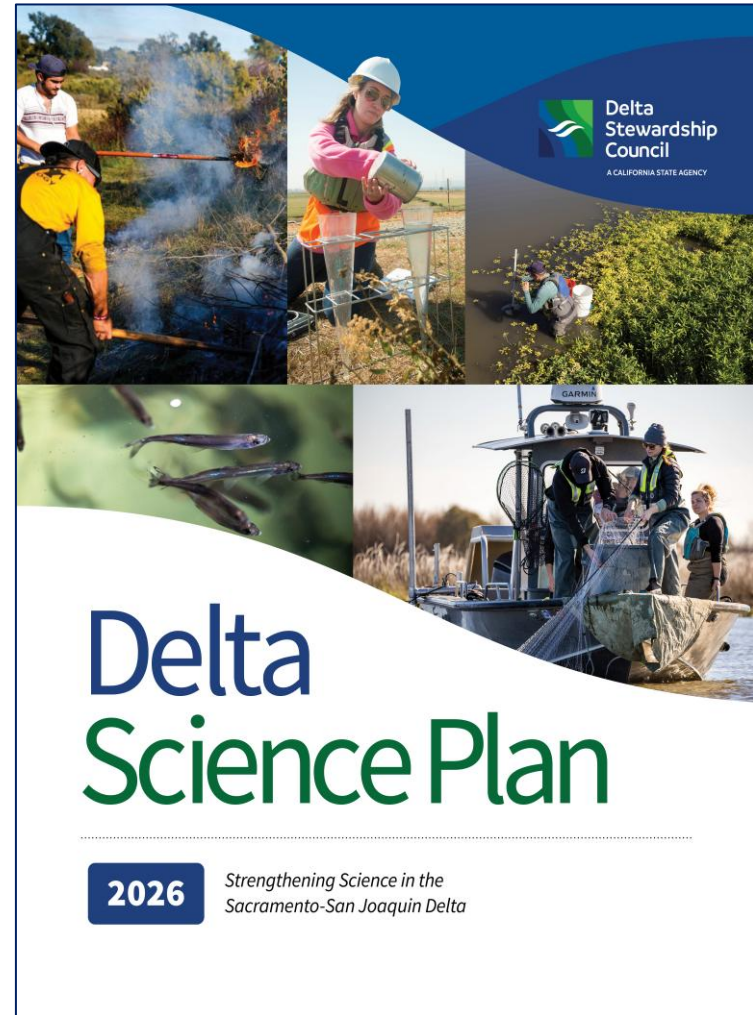


2026 Delta Science Plan

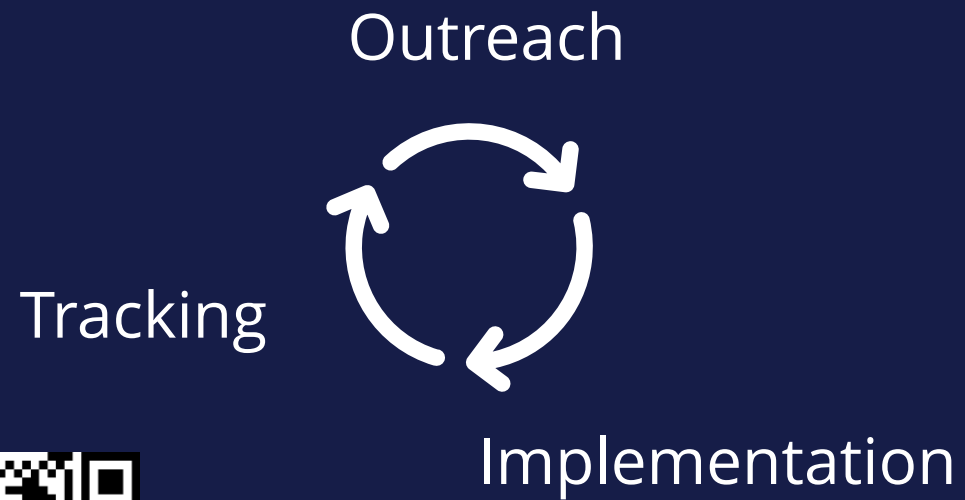
- 4 grand challenges
- 24 Actions
- 8 Resources



Learn more



Looking forward



Learn more



Request

DPIIC support of the
2026 Delta Science Plan



Learn more



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