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Welcome back!

The Importance of Good Evidence and Appropriate Indicators

UKaid
from the British people

Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS

Objective of the Session

- To discuss:
    - What is an indicator?
    - SMART indicators
    - Why do we need evidence?
    - Demonstrating progress and means of verification – providing evidence for your claims
- Group Exercise
- Other Resources

Indicators

- Are a critical element of your monitoring plan and help you know if you're on track or not or if things need to be adjusted

- Demonstrate progress towards project Outcome and Outputs

- Strong indicators should be SMART

SMART Indicators

S – Specific

M – Measurable

A – Achievable *(Attributable)*

R – Relevant *(Realistic)*

T - Time-bound

Ambition   **Realism**

Achievable indicators

SMART Indicators

Starting point: Deforestation of mangroves reduced in Cayman Islands

S - Specific

Deforestation of mangrove forests in Cayman decrease *by 75%*

M - Measurable

Deforestation rates (*measured using satellite imagery*) of mangrove forests in Cayman *decrease by 75% from an established Y1 baseline*

A - Achievable

Deforestation rates (measured using satellite imagery) of mangrove forests *in the project area* decrease by *15%* from an established Y1 baseline

R – Relevant

Ask yourself – does this indicator reflect progress towards the stated Outcome?

T - Time-bound

Deforestation rates (measured using satellite imagery) of mangrove forests in the project area decrease by 15% from an established Y1 baseline *by project end*

Don't forget baselines and targets!

Steps in defining an indicator

Process	Education	Agriculture
	Outcome – The education system in the southeastern province provides higher-quality and equitable education.	**Outcome** – The rural, agrarian population in province X has improved their income-earning potential.
Step 1: Determine the basic indicator—what is to be measured?	More and better-educated students graduate.	Rice yields of small farmers increased.
Step 2: Decide on the quantity—how much (increase/decrease)?	The number of graduates increased **from 10,000 to 25,000.**	Rice yields of at least **1,000 small farmers (owning 3 hectares or less)** increased by at least **30% from 5 tons to 6.5 tons.**
Step 3: Describe the quality—what kind of change?	The number of graduates **(55% female and 45% male) passing national standard examination from lower-income families ($5,000 per annum) in the southeastern province** increased from 10,000 to 25,000.	Rice yields of at least 1,000 small farmers (owning 3 hectares or less) increased by 30% from 5 tons to 6.5 tons **while maintaining the same quality (average weight of grain) as in 2004.**
Step 4: Add the time frame—by when?	The number of graduates (55% female and 45% male) passing national standard examination from lower-income families ($5,000 per annum) in the southeastern province increased from 10,000 to 25,000 **per annum starting in year 4 of project implementation.**	Rice yields of at least 1,000 small farmers (owning 3 hectares or less) increased by 30% from 5 tons to 6.5 tons **annually, starting 2007,** while maintaining the same quality (average weight of grain) as in 2004.

Why do we need evidence?

- **Progress reporting and accountability** to show funds are being used appropriately
- **Demonstrate effectiveness** to justify continued support from communities, donors, policy-makers etc.
- **Evidence-based learning** from experience in order to develop and apply good practice
- **Share experiences** with the wider conservation community so they can learn from your work
- **Evidence-based policy** - use the results to influence policy reform

EXPERIENCE IS THE WONDERFUL KNOWLEDGE THAT ENABLES YOU TO RECOGNIZE A MISTAKE WHEN YOU MAKE IT AGAIN

"Learning is experience. Everything else is just information"

Albert Einstein

Demonstrating Progress

- **Means of Verification** – this is how you will evidence achievement of (or progress towards) an indicator

- Consider both primary and secondary data

  – Is this data available from somewhere else?

  – Is this data reliable/objective?

  – If you need to collect data – who will do this/when should you do it/how much will it cost?

- Will these data show Outputs/Outcomes have been met?

- Is the evidence independent and objective?

Where could we do better?

Output

Increased public awareness of the importance of improved marine protected area (MPA) management to fisheries and the potential benefits of alternative livelihoods

Indicators

- Number of conferences and workshops organised

- Increased media coverage

- Changes in attitudes

Means of Verification

- Project reports

- Outcome evaluation surveys conducted in final year of project

Indicators and Evidence: Key Considerations

In your applications, <u>please</u> consider that…

- **Indicators must be relevant to the result they are measuring** – make sure your indicators actually demonstrate achievement towards stated results.

- **Evidence and Indicators should be linked** – we often see applications where sources of evidence are put down that bear little resemblance to the information needed to verify progress against an indicator.

Indicators and Evidence: Key Considerations

- **Indicators are not activity outputs.** They need to be independently or objectively verifiable and linked not to activities, but to the results (i.e. Output or Outcome).

- **Unsubstantiated claims are not acceptable**

  "we think that this progress is adequate" ☹ ✘

Group Exercise

2 stages to this group exercise – 'filling in' the **Indicator** and **Means of Verification** columns of the logframe

Stage 1 - Indicators

- Sort out the indicators from the 'Means of Verification' (MoV)

- Are indicators at Output or Outcome level?

- Map onto relevant part of your logframe

- Are indicators SMART? Consider how they could be improved. **Identify at least one example to feed back to the plenary.**

Group Exercise

Stage 2 - MoV

- Take the 'MoV' identified in step 1 and match to the corresponding indicator.

- Discuss the MoV – carry out an evidence assessment:
  - Is it feasible?
  - Will it produce high quality evidence?
  - Is it relevant to the indicator?
  - Is it sufficient?
  - If MoV are not appropriate or feasible, discuss more robust alternative(s)

- Would alternative indicator wording be more appropriate to reflect the result/realistic likelihood that evidence may be collected?

What Miro will look like

	INDICATORS:	MEANS OF VERIFICATION:
OUTCOME: Improved knowledge and understanding of the yellowfin grouper population for fishery managers and fishers in UKOT X to inform sustainable management		
OUTPUT 1: Baseline on current yellowfin grouper fishing practices, biological and catch data established		
OUTPUT 2: Training and knowledge exchange initiatives and collaborative working opportunities for fisheries scientists and managers		
OUTPUT 3: Local fishers trained on effective logbook data entry		

Other resources

With your project teams, consider the other exercises (details included in the handout shared).

- Carry out a **SMART assessment** of your proposal's indicators

- Consider developing an **M&E plan** (using template on final page)

- Evidence collection: how/when/who?

Thank you!

Any final questions?

Next Steps

- We will be sharing the slides on the Darwin Plus website as soon as possible next week, with the proceedings (including Q&A) to follow shortly afterwards

- We'd love to hear your feedback so we can improve future workshops – what did we do well? Feel free to leave any feedback on the Miro board in the top right hand corner

- We remain available via normal channels (email best at the moment) for any final questions you might have

- Good luck with your applications!

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