Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) workshop for Darwin Plus Stage 2 Applicants – September 2026

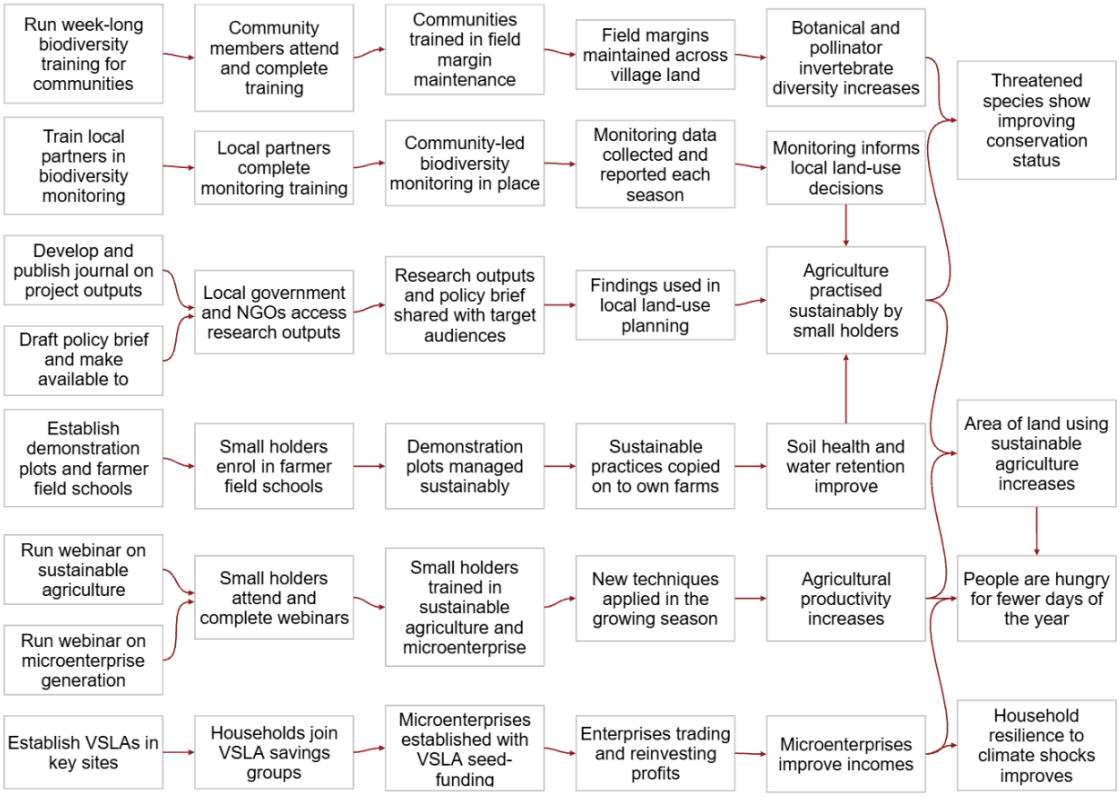
Group exercises

Congratulations for reaching Stage 2 of Darwin Plus Main!

In preparation for the workshop, we would like to share the following Theory of Change that we will use as part of the workshop.

Don't worry if you have not used a Theory of Change before. It is simply a helpful way of showing how a project expects its activities to lead to change over time, from the first steps through to the longer-term impact it hopes to achieve. It helps us see the story behind a project: what the project will do, what changes it expects to happen, and what assumptions need to be true for those changes to take place. In the workshop, we will use the Theory of Change shared here as a starting point. Together, we will simplify it and turn the key parts into a logframe that can help with clearer planning, monitoring, and reporting.

Theory of Change diagram



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UK International Development
Partnership | Progress | Prosperity
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Exercise 1

In breakout groups review the Theory of Change diagram (see above).

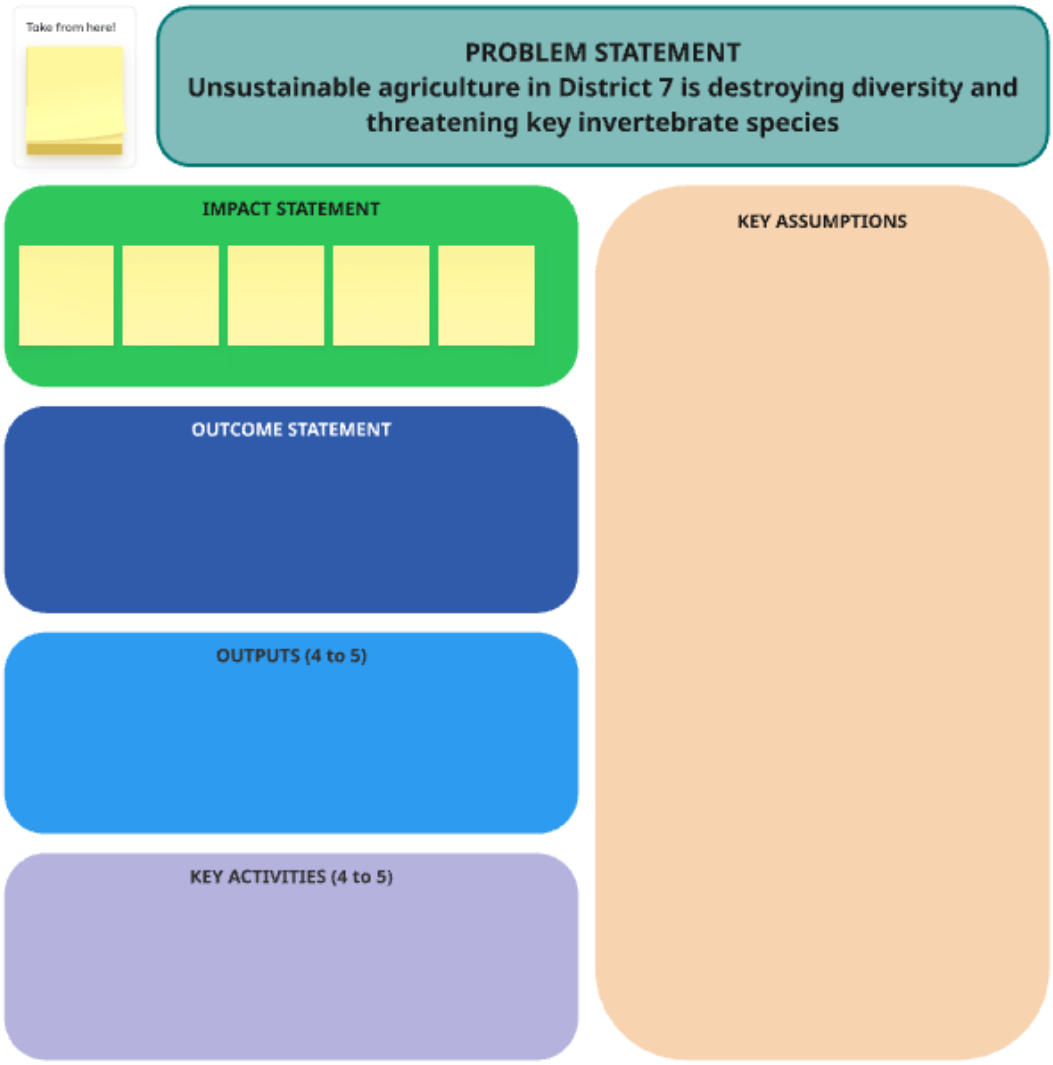
Suggest:

- An impact statement
- An outcome statement
- Outputs
- Activities
- Any key assumptions

These will give you the results chain for a logframe.

Do not worry about indicators / Means of Verification yet.

Fill in the template below.



Exercise 2

In breakout groups, review part of a logframe based on the example in Exercise 1 (Impact and outcome level).

Find where:

- Indicators are not Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, or Time-bound (SMART)
- Means of Verification (MoVs) are not clear
- Suggest an alternative

Sample logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification/Source	Important Assumptions
Impact: Agriculture is managed sustainably at the national level with resultant increases in biodiversity and welfare of people			
Outcome: Roll-out of sustainable agriculture and micro-enterprises in 7th District resulting in increased access to food during the hungry months for 12,000 people, reduced land clearance for agriculture and increased biodiversity.	0.1 People in 7th District experience better resilience during the dry season. 0.2 Micro-enterprises in 7th District increase income significantly. 0.3 Botanical and pollinator invertebrate diversity improves in all places where agriculture is practised. 0.4 Agricultural productivity doubles across all farms within three months of the project starting.	0.1 Project staff observations and informal feedback from community members. 0.2a Enterprise information, if available. 0.2b Success stories from selected businesses. 0.3 Photos of project sites and anecdotal reports from field visits. 0.4 General project reports submitted at the end of the project.	Enterprises continue to be registered by the Local Government and records remain open to scrutiny Increases in agricultural productivity does not correlate with a decrease in price for agricultural commodities in 7th District Reduced pesticide use and improved field margin management lead to an increase in beneficial invertebrate populations