Implementing PES Agreements: Monitoring and Evaluation Plans

TRAINING COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS ON PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (PES) IN UGANDA

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What is an M&E Plan?

- A flexible guide to the steps you can use to
  - Document project activities
  - Answer evaluation questions, and
  - Show progress towards project goals & objectives

- Explains the
  - Methodologies (instruments for gathering data)
  - Implementation plan
  - Matrix of expected results
The M&E Plan

- Should be well-planned prior to implementation
- Should be developed with the input of all key stakeholders
  - to ensure all parties are satisfied with the parameters that are being monitored
- Should be evaluated and modified over time as the project progresses,
  - ideally with the input of all stakeholders throughout

Developing the M&E Plan

Clear about PES Project Goal & Objectives

- Determine M & E Questions & Indicators
  - Measurable
  - Responsible to changes in Environment
  - Reliable
  - Time bound

- Determine Methodology
  - Monitoring process & evaluating effects
  - Technically & financially feasible
  - Reliable/Accurate
  - Evaluate different methods

- Resolve Implementation issues
  - Technical Expertise required
  - Participatory approach (Community members)
  - Hierarchy of command
  - Short & long term
  - Who sets indicators
  - Local Ecosystem Conceptual Process Model
  - Costs?

- Identify Internal & External Resources available

- Workplan Matrix & Timelines
  - Costs?

- Dissemination & Use of Findings
  - How to document
  - Use information effectively to improve action
### Setting Indicators

- **Deciding What to Monitor and Evaluate**
  - Relevant to the project goal
  - Measure of impact/measurable
  - Should reflect effectiveness/efficiency

- **Natural systems are dynamic and with various interrelations**
  - Outline the cause-and-effect relationships that may occur within the ecosystem
  - Identify which specific characteristics of the ecosystem to monitor

### Choosing Methods

- **Methods used must be**
  - Technically feasible: required skills
  - Financially feasible: Cost implications
    - *e.g. using landsat images*
  - Consistent

- **Any number of methods can be used**
  - Before making a final choice, the options should be listed and their advantages and disadvantages assessed
Choosing Methods

- Minimize superficial involvement of local stakeholders
  - Consider the practicalities of adopting a more-or-less participatory approach

- Key considerations
  - Monitoring sites/Sample plots
  - Measurement procedures
  - Data management

Choosing Methods

- **Selection of Monitoring Sites**
  - the most commonly-used practice being a “stratified random sampling” technique
    - Reflects the overall distribution within the project area
    - Ensures that the monitoring sites are sufficiently spread out
  - Sites should be permanent throughout the duration of the PES project
    - Reliable information on trends can be collected
    - A permanent-site approach also makes it is easier for independent verifiers to locate the appropriate sites
  - Possibility of a control site is commendable
## Implementation Issues

The plan to build up human and technical capacity = Effective M&E

- M&E unit's organizational structure
  - Hierarchies, areas of responsibility and authority among stakeholders
  - Clarity about responsibilities

- Human Resource Management
  - Hire appropriate people
  - Capacity building for community members

- People need to be motivated if they are to do a good job.
  - The right incentives are crucial, and can come in many shapes and forms

- People's ability for good M&E is dramatically enhanced if the technical capacity of information systems is adequate
  - Availability of Important Information
  - Appropriate management information systems
Who can take on M&E roles?

- The role(s) can be undertaken by:
  - Community members,
  - An external /third party entity,
  - The buyer (or a designated proxy of the buyer)
  - A government agency
  - or another entity

Dissemination & Use of M&E Findings

- Findings should be reported a user-friendly manner
  - All stakeholders to understand
  - Results should be made available to buyers, intermediary institutions and the public to increase transparency and legitimacy

- There should be a plan to
  - making changes in project activities if the desired results are not being realized = Adaptive Management
THANK YOU