

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?

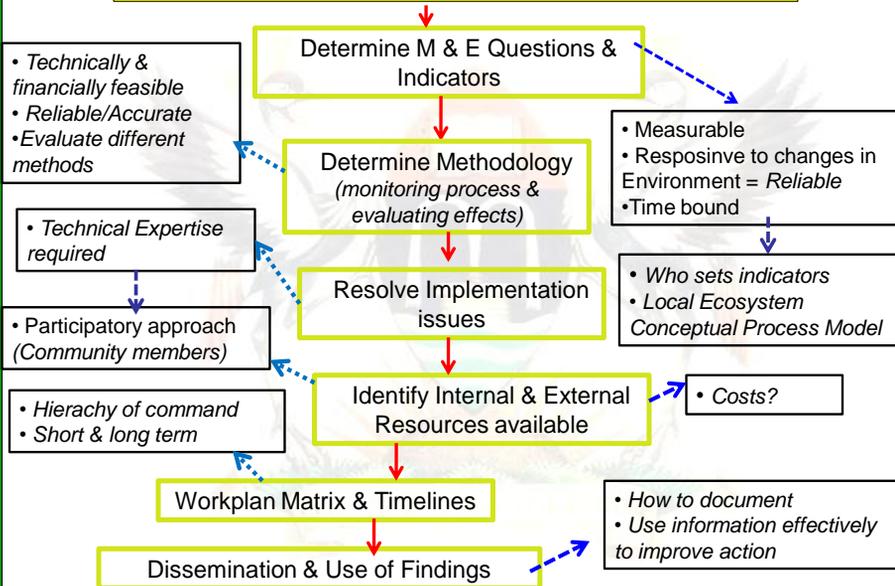
- A flexible guide to the steps you can use to
 - Document project activities
 - Answer evaluation questions, and
 - Show progress towards project goals & objectives
- Explains the
 - Methodologies (*instruments for gathering data*)
 - Implementation plan
 - Matrix of expected results

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



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
 - 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

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

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*

