Indicator Selection: IAP process and impacts

Indicators can be identified for two distinct categories with regards IAP implementation:

* indicators relating to the implementation **process**;
* indicators relating to the **impacts** of IAP implementation.

Indicators concerning the IAP implementation **process** should include Quality, Quantity and Time (QQT) dimensions. These indicators can be included in tools for the Coordinated Implementation of IAPs. The Summary of IAP objectives and actions (**Framework to guide IAP implementation, monitoring and evaluation**) required Independently Verifiable Indicators (IVIs) and associated Means of Verification (MoVs) to be identified and documented. Alternatively the **Logframe for IAP activity planning and monitoring** approach includes Verifiable Indicators with Means of Verification for Goal, Purpose, Output and Activities. Assessment of the IAP implementation process must also include the evaluation of stakeholder representation and transparency as indicators of participation and accountability, notably with regards poor and marginal community members and women, girls, boys and the elderly who are often missing or excluded from participatory planning initiatives.

Concerning indicator selection for the **impacts** of IAP implementation this will depend to a large extent on the nature and scale of actions being proposed. When selecting indicators for impacts it needs to be something that is related to the problem/action at the site, is measurable and can be tracked over time (easily with resources available), will identify if something is going wrong before it’s too late. If possible use data that is already being collected (as long as it is reliable). In terms of biodiversity it should be possible to identify which species (or species communities) can be used as indicators, e.g. those that are moderately sensitive to the major threats identified at the site (often known as ‘bioindicator’ species) , and/or those that may be a target for conservation action within the IAP. Indicators for ecosystem services ideally need to be chosen that represent the flow of a service (i.e. the benefits people receive) either the supply or demand, but often they measure the state (extent/condition) of an ecosystem (a proxy indicator). It is important to monitor those services that are highly valued by the stakeholders at the site, and/or are being targeted (positively or negatively) by the actions being implemented. In addition, indicators for ecosystem services as well as indicators for other livelihood improvements such as income, employment, health, awareness, education and skills, housing, access rights and social or political inclusion in decision-making, organisations and networks should be monitored by stakeholder groups and reflect gender and age related needs and concerns. Indicators for policy-targets may be constituted by specific policy measures being adopted or affirmative policy-statements being officially announced. Once appropriate indicators have been identified the **Matrix for selecting monitoring approaches and data sources for IAP impact assessment** should be used to develop the monitoring strategy.

The end goal of an indicator (within an integrated action planning framework) is that it will identify problems before it is too late, and also provide the relevant information to determine what needs to change (activities or processes) to improve the outcome of the IAP.

Tools and useful references to link to:

Bioindicators - Holt, E. A. & Miller, S. W. (2011) Bioindicators: Using Organisms to Measure Environmental Impacts. Nature Education Knowledge 3(10):8

<http://www.nature.com/scitable/knowledge/library/bioindicators-using-organisms-to-measure-environmental-impacts-16821310>

Ecosystem services indicators

UNEP-WCMC. 2011. Developing ecosystem service indicators: Experiences and lessons learned from sub-global assessments and other initiatives. Secretariat of the Convention on

Biological Diversity, Montréal, Canada.

<http://www.bipindicators.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=QxjjDuqt2Qk%3D&tabid=155>

Sustainability indicators (for forestry) see <http://www.communitiescommittee.org/fsitool/Chapter4.pdf>

OECD Good practice guidelines for indicator development (<http://www.oecd.org/site/progresskorea/43586563.pdf>)