

SMART framework for Action prioritisation

Although a range of Actions will have been included in IAPs, it is important to note that resources and time available present constraints to implementation. A framework for rating potential actions for different attributes is a good way to make sure actions are selected for implementation that fulfil a range of desirable criteria and are also likely to yield meaningful outcomes that encourage widespread and ongoing support (Table 3). Commonly the SMART mnemonic is used to guide such assessments but there are variations around what this encompasses. The final assessment should specify how this matrix was completed and what measures were agreed on to ensure the reliability of scores given.

Table 3. Assessment of IAP components against SMART criteria (*with example text in italics*)

Integrated Action Plan components	Specific	Measurable	Achievable	Agreed	Reviewed	Realistic	Traceable through time	*etc...	Overall assessment
<i>R2. Wise-use of highland aquatic resources is advocated to enhance poor livelihoods</i>	+	+	++	+	+	++	+		+
<i>R4. Nursery grounds of endangered fish species are protected but access by local communities is permitted elsewhere]</i>	++	++	+++	+	++	++	++		++
<i>R5. Illegal fishing is stopped and ban on irresponsible fishing gear is enforced</i>	+++	+++	++	+++	++	+++	+++		+++
<i>etc ...</i>									

Notes: key to criteria assessment scale (+) moderate, (++) good, very good (+++);

*additional categories may be included as deemed appropriate given local conditions and priorities

[adapted from: Bunting SW, Smith KG, Lund S. 2012. Guidelines for planning and reporting on implementation and monitoring strategies agreed for IAPs for HighARCS sites in China, India and Vietnam. HighARCS Project Working Paper.]