

## STEPS framework for IAP feasibility assessment

The STEPS (Social, Technical, Environmental, Political (or Institutional) and Sustainability) framework can be used to test what conditions and prerequisites may be required before it is possible to proceed with the implementation of specific actions and activities from IAPs (Table 4).

**Table 4.** STEPS assessment framework for proposed IAP actions (*with example text in italics*)

| Conditions required to proceed with successful IAP/Action/Activity implementation                  |   |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| Social   | Technical   | Environmental  | Political<br>(or Institutional)   | Sustainability   |
| <i>Agreement is required from all de facto resource users regarding proposed changes to access</i> | <i>A detailed engineering design is needed for the proposed fish release platform</i> | <i>Restocking to commence when ambient water temperature has increased to desirable levels</i> | <i>Approval required for setting up protected area and implementing hypothecation of fishing permit money</i> | <i>A proportion of fishing permit fee to be ring-fenced to support habitat enhancement and restocking in the long-term</i> |

Note: social relates to agreements and community arrangements and supplementary safeguards and meetings required to proceed; technical relates to engineering designs and costed plans and may include supplementary site surveys or measurement, for example, of physical parameters or recording of hydrological or water quality data; environmental relates to seasonal or weather conditions that would be conducive to implementation; political relates to permissions of permits required or endorsement by group members or voters is needed; sustainability relates to medium- to long-term prospects and who will manage and fund future operation and up-keep of action.

The symbolic importance of proposed actions (perception of ownership, commitment and positive meaning for the involved actors) should also be considered.

[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.]