

SWOT framework for IAP feasibility assessment

The SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) framework is widely applied to assess the potential of new proposals and modified management regimes. Potentially it could be applied at a site level for an IAP or to specific actions and activities. The framework presented in Figure 1 could be developed to synthesise and summarise SWOT analysis outcomes. Definitions to inform the completion of the framework are included here:

Strengths - Internal aspects of the process that may help the IAP (an activity or objective) be a success

Weaknesses - Internal aspects of the process that may stop the IAP (an activity or objective) from being successful

Opportunities - External aspects of the process that can be exploited or engaged with, that may help the IAP (an activity or objective) be a success

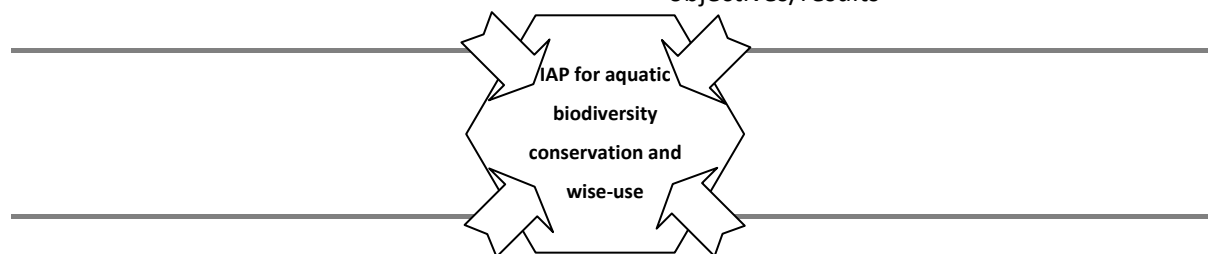
Threats - External aspects of the process that can hinder or stop the IAP (an activity or objective) from being successful

– etc ...
 – *Political interests and high level commitment in international agreements and obligations.*

– etc ...
 – *Aquatic resources management is only one of the many issues of environmental concern, so focus is diluted, with a subsequent rubber-stamping process.*

Strengths: existing or potential resources or capability

Weaknesses: existing or potential internal force that could be a barrier to achieving objectives/results



Opportunities: existing or potential factors in the external environment that, if exploited, could provide a competitive advantage

Threats: existing or potential force in the external environment that could inhibit maintenance or attainment of unique advantage

[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.]

– *Constructive dialogue established with key agencies and potential funding sources identified.*
– etc...

– *Weak state level policy and capacity to support aquatic biodiversity conservation and wise-use initiatives.*
– etc...

Figure 1. Framework for assimilating SWOT assessment outcomes (*with example text in italics*)

Ideally, both STEPS and SWOT assessments should be made jointly with local stakeholders (communities, authorities). In case this is not possible, it should be undertaken by an interdisciplinary team. The combined outcome of the STEPS and the SWOT analyses should serve as the basis for concluding on the final list of Actions selected for implementation.