

The Darwin Initiative and IWT-CF



Mid-term Reviews 2016: Lesson learning from current projects



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Outline



- LTS responsible for project level M&E
- Scope of LTS activities
- Mid term reviews and monitoring visits
- Lessons from DI projects in Belize
- Lessons from DI projects in Nepal
- Forward look



2016/17 M&E Activities



A key objective for LTS is: *'To provide effective monitoring and evaluation of Darwin projects.'* This work includes:

Capacity building for M&E:

- Logframe and indicator support
- Stage 2 applicants workshop
- New project workshop
- Webinars
- Publications

Project Level M&E:

- Annual Report Reviews
- Final Report Reviews
- Spot audits
- Mid term reviews
- Monitoring visits



Mid Term Reviews & Monitoring Visits



- MTRs: assess project progress against objectives using OECD criteria
- MVs: shorter visits when in country on other work
- Project Selection
- Outputs



Maximizing Benefits of Marine Reserves and Fisheries Management in Belize



- Aims to improve biodiversity protection and sustainable livelihoods across Belize barrier reef through:
 - 1) implementation of a rights-based “managed access” programme that uses licensing to facilitate sustainable fishing
 - 2) designation of a number of marine “no-take” zones that function to replenish commercial species and overall biodiversity in surrounding areas
- Project focused on piloting MA at two keys sites in Belize – Glover’s Reef Marine Reserve (GRMR) and South Water Caye Marine Reserve (SWCMR)
- MTR involved interviews with project team, partners, fishers and observing fisheries-dependent surveys on Catch per unit effort (CPUE) at GRMR.



Maximizing Benefits of Marine Reserves and Fisheries Management in Belize



- Project progressing well
- Project highly participatory – original concept of managed access identified by fishers themselves
- Novel and popular comms component – Punta Fuego radio drama
- Project capacity for M&E good – but, indicators related to biological monitoring could be improved (as more data now being collected than when project designed)
- Risk to sustainability – poor enforcement by Fisheries Department



Conserving pine woodland biodiversity in Belize through community fire management



- Belize's lowland pine savannas are a critical and endangered ecoregion and a regional priority for biodiversity conservation – fire identified as a key threat
- Project focused on pine savanna woodlands of Toledo district (Southern Belize) and involve the participation of five communities living in close proximity to Payne's Creek National Park (PCNP), and Swasey-Bladen (SBFR) and Deep River Forest Reserves (DRFR)
- Aims to reduce this threat of fire by:
 - Increasing capacity of conservation managers and communities to manage fire
 - Developing alternative livelihoods for communities living around protected areas to reduce anthropogenic causes of fire
- Project also aims to improve biological monitoring in its focal sites and feed this into national level protocols



Conserving pine woodland biodiversity in Belize through community fire management



- Fire management component of project a key strength
- Links between sustainable livelihood alternatives not clearly enough linked with fire management – business plans unlikely to realise gains before project end
- Current M&E plan not sufficient and many (outcome and output) indicators not SMART
- Engagement of Forestry Department low – need more proactive engagement as project's sustainability reliant on this



Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Community Forestry in Nepal



- Aims to mainstream biodiversity conservation into CFM and create an enabling environment for poverty alleviation and enhanced resilience
- Focus on policy change, training, & local pilots
- Challenging 1st year
- ARR: “Project outcome only likely to be achieved to a very limited extent”



Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Community Forestry in Nepal



Key Findings:

- Project performing more strongly than ARR score
- Project is highly relevant to the national context
- Poor logframe constraining reporting
- Potential for significant impacts



Securing Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve's grassland and wellbeing of local communities



- Aims to address conservation challenges in Nepal's newest NP
- Overgrazing as key threat to the park
- Interventions focused on improving wellbeing of locals and capacity of park staff
- Positive progress highlighted in ARR 1



Securing Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve's grassland and wellbeing of local communities

Key Findings:

- Building on proven approach has led to rapid progress
- Sustained engagement has improved efficiency & effectiveness
- Success of women led cooperatives
- Importance of access to markets
- Potential for wider impacts throughout the Terai Arc Landscape



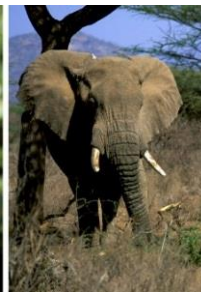
M&E Forward Look



- Four MTRs to be conducted in 2017/18
- Targeted logframes and indicator support
- Exploring possibility of webinars to provide support to non-UK based projects
- Preparations for programme level M&E work



Questions?



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