The Darwin Initiative



Evidence











Objective of the Session



To discuss:

- Why we need evidence
- How to collect evidence
- How to report evidence

Why do we need evidence?



Evidence gaps – ICAI review

- ICAI Independent
 Commission
 for Aid Impact
- Progress reporting and accountability
- funds being used appropriately
- Demonstrate effectiveness to justify continued support from communities, donors, policy-makers etc.
- Learning: from experience in order to develop and apply good practice
- Share experiences with the wider conservation community
- Evidence-based policy use the results to influence policy

Collecting Evidence



- ✓ M&E Systematic collection of evidence
- ✓ Log frame Means of verification for each indicator (source)
- ✓ Importance of baseline
- ✓ Think creatively
- ✓ Think about feasibility
- time, resources, expertise

M&E – finding the balance between...



Collecting Evidence



Primary Data

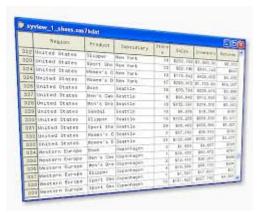


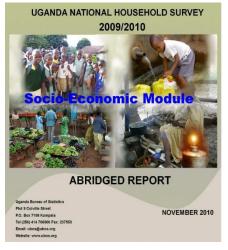






Secondary Data





Monitoring & reporting



Indicator	Frequency	Baseline	End of Year 1		End of Year 3	Target	Data Source / MoV
No. of citings of							Field
lesser spotted Dingo	Per visit	10	6	11	no data	20	monitoring
Average no. of							Household
household micro-							survey/micro-
credit transactions	Per annum	20	40	60	no data	60	credit provider
Number of hunting							Official park
incidents	Per annum	200	150	100	no data	20	reports

"you can't buy dingo these days, it is very rare to find it in the market"

(Market Trader, Bulgaria, Focus Group, 2015)

Reporting Evidence



- Should be submitted in reporting as verification of progress
- Reduce onerous narrative reporting

In-report

- Use of secondary data
- Illustrative quotes
- Figures / tables

Additional documents (Annex)

- Meeting minutes of Steering Committee approving plans
- Letter formally accepting management plans from Ministry of Environment
- Photos

Reporting Evidence – Don'ts



Write general statements without evidence, for example:

"we are making good progress"

"we believe this is true"

"we think that this progress is adequate"

Only list activity outputs
 (no. of workshops, plans, maps etc)
 No evidence = unsubstantiated claims

 Forget about higher level outcomes and impacts – what has changed and how in terms of biodiversity and poverty?

Reporting Evidence – Do's



- Provide evidence (graphs, tables, photos, quotes), but be selective
- Report where claims come from, for example:

"We are making good progress towards our goal, as demonstrated by data provided in **table x, Annex x"**"From interviews with local residents about, we believe this to be true [insert quote as evidence]"

 So what? Describe and include evidence on what has changed





Quality of Evidence – <u>BOND's</u> 5 principles

Voice and Inclusion

Appropriateness

Triangulation

Contribution

Transparency

4 indicators per Principle (20 indicators total)

4 scales per indicator (1-4)

Group Exercise



- Look at the 'Means of Verification' (MoV) for the outcome level indicators in the logframe that your group has been working on
- Discuss if the MoV are appropriate and feasible. If not, then agree an alternative(s)
- Read the handout on Bond's Evidence principles
- 4. Using the template, develop a plan to collect evidence for each of the outcome indicators that takes into consideration the evidence principles
- 5. If time, then swap your plan with another table and score it against each of the 4 relevant evidence principles