

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) workshop for Darwin Initiative Stage 2 Applicants – October 2026

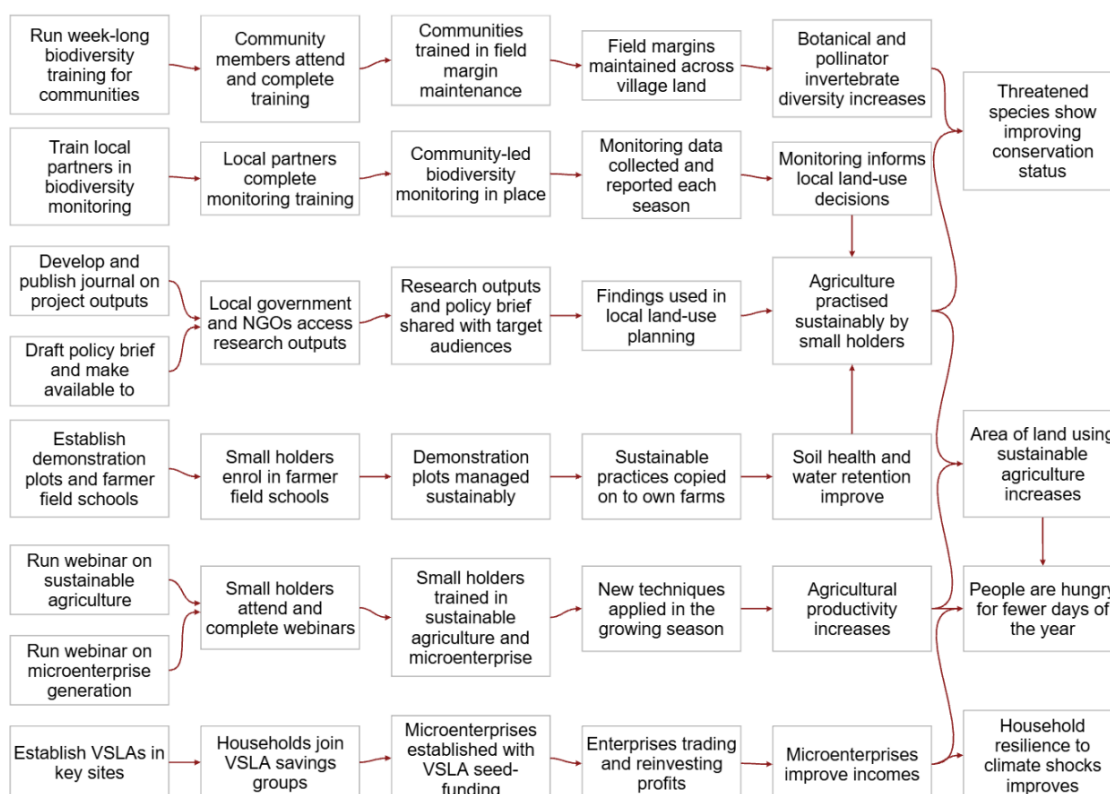
Group exercises

Congratulations for reaching Stage 2 of Darwin Initiative!

In preparation for the workshop, we would like to share the following Theory of Change that we will use as part of the workshop.

Don't worry if you have not used a Theory of Change before. It is simply a helpful way of showing how a project expects its activities to lead to change over time, from the first steps through to the longer-term impact it hopes to achieve. It helps us see the story behind a project: what the project will do, what changes it expects to happen, and what assumptions need to be true for those changes to take place. In the workshop, we will use the Theory of Change shared here as a starting point. Together, we will simplify it and turn the key parts into a logframe that can help with clearer planning, monitoring, and reporting.

Theory of Change diagram



Exercise 1

In breakout groups review the Theory of Change diagram (see above).

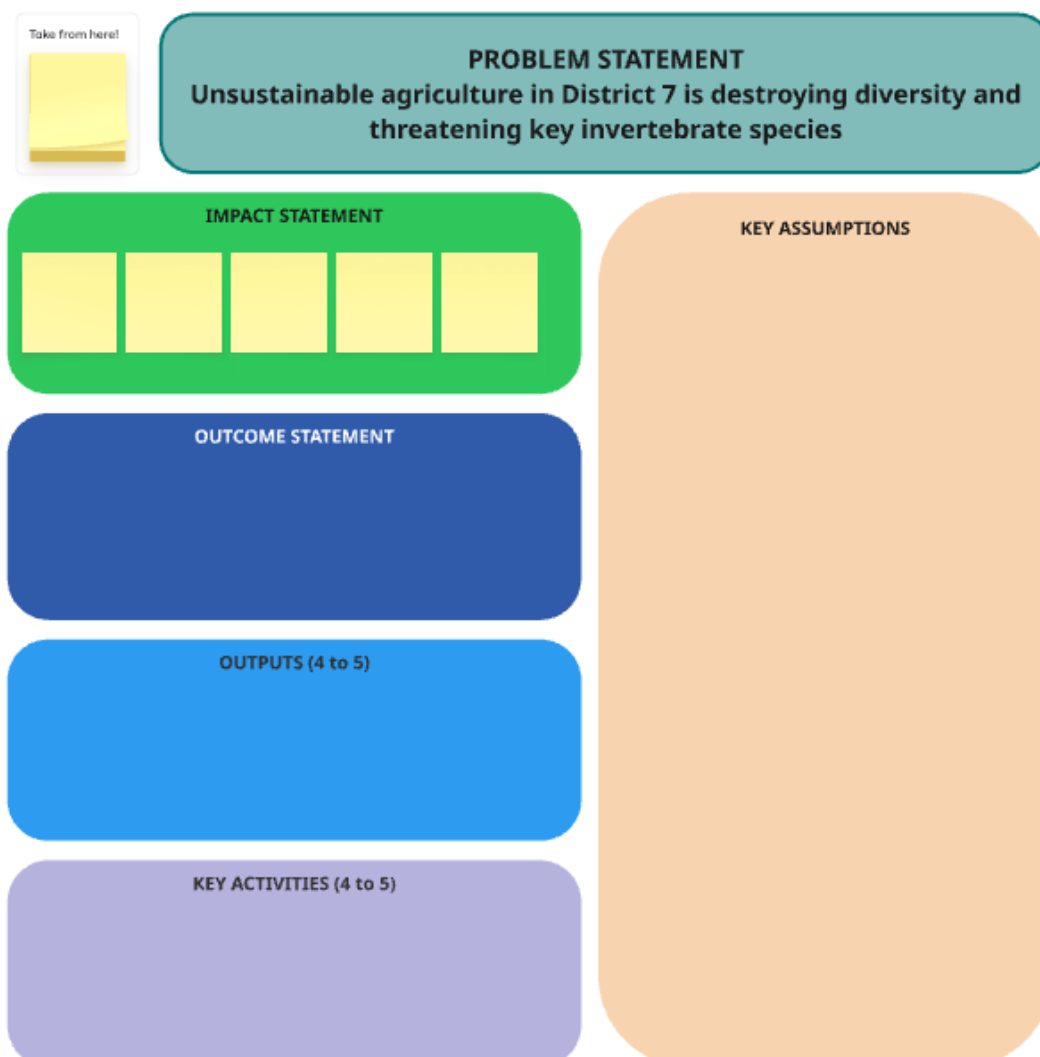
Suggest:

- An impact statement
- An outcome statement
- Outputs
- Activities
- Any key assumptions

These will give you the results chain for a logframe.

Do not worry about indicators / Means of Verification yet.

Fill in the template below.

The diagram is a vertical flowchart template for a Theory of Change. It consists of several colored boxes. At the top left is a small yellow box with the text "Take from here!". To its right is a large teal box labeled "PROBLEM STATEMENT" containing the text "Unsustainable agriculture in District 7 is destroying diversity and threatening key invertebrate species". Below the teal box is a green box labeled "IMPACT STATEMENT" containing five yellow rectangular slots. Below the green box is a dark blue box labeled "OUTCOME STATEMENT". Below the dark blue box is a light blue box labeled "OUTPUTS (4 to 5)". Below the light blue box is a light purple box labeled "KEY ACTIVITIES (4 to 5)". To the right of these four boxes is a large, vertical orange box labeled "KEY ASSUMPTIONS".

Take from here!

PROBLEM STATEMENT
Unsustainable agriculture in District 7 is destroying diversity and threatening key invertebrate species

IMPACT STATEMENT

OUTCOME STATEMENT

OUTPUTS (4 to 5)

KEY ACTIVITIES (4 to 5)

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

Exercise 2

In breakout groups, review part of a logframe based on the example in Exercise 1 (Impact and outcome level).

Find where:

- Indicators are not Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, or Time-bound (SMART)
- Means of Verification (MoVs) are not clear
- Suggest an alternative

Sample logframe



Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification/Source	Important Assumptions
Impact: Agriculture is managed sustainably at the national level with resultant increases in biodiversity and welfare of people			
Outcome: Roll-out of sustainable agriculture and micro-enterprises in 7th District resulting in increased access to food during the hungry months for 12,000 people, reduced land clearance for agriculture and increased biodiversity.	0.1 People in 7th District experience better resilience during the dry season.	0.1 Project staff observations and informal feedback from community members.	Enterprises continue to be registered by the Local Government and records remain open to scrutiny Increases in agricultural productivity does not correlate with a decrease in price for agricultural commodities in 7th District Reduced pesticide use and improved field margin management lead to an increase in beneficial invertebrate populations
	0.2 Micro-enterprises in 7th District increase income significantly.	0.2a Enterprise information, if available. 0.2b Success stories from selected businesses.	
	0.3 Botanical and pollinator invertebrate diversity improves in all places where agriculture is practised.	0.3 Photos of project sites and anecdotal reports from field visits.	
	0.4 Agricultural productivity doubles across all farms within three months of the project starting.	0.4 General project reports submitted at the end of the project.	