Checklist for Choosing Indicators & Methods

# Acknowledgements

This content was created by Fauna & Flora for external audiences with support from Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. *Last update 2024*

# Choosing the most appropriate indicators

Use the checklists below to help choose indicators and methods that are suitable to your context.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Reflection question | Notes | No | Partially | Yes | Don’t know |
| Will this indicator help us understand our progress to impact?* Will it be critical for understanding our contribution to bringing about change?
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is this indicator helping to test a critical part of our Theory of Change?* For example, the success of an activity that is anticipated to lead to multiple changes, or a weak point in our logic where we need to test if our approach is working
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Will the answer help us make management decisions in a timely manner? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Are there risks if we do not monitor it? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is it mandatory for complying with specific funding, standards or policies that are important for our work? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is it feasible to monitor this indicator given resources (funds), time, data accessibility, and technical requirements (skills) available? *You may wish to consider the methods questions below to help answer this.*  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is the indicator appropriate to the context - including social and cultural values, the political situation, sensitivity of the topic etc.? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is the indicator appropriately accurate, clear and reliable for your needs?* Is it specific about target group, time and place? If appropriate, has it been disaggregated into relevant social groups (including gender)?
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Once you’ve worked through the above questions, take all remaining indicators and check if they are all still essential: * Does this indicator add value when considered with all others?
* Can you reduce the number and still get a comprehensive understanding of progress to impact, and inform decision making?
 |  |  |  |  |  |

Please review the Indicator Menu for inspiration for the types of indicators you could include *(currently under development).*

# Choosing the most appropriate method

First, consider; **do we need to collect the data? Are there any secondary sources we could access?**

If you do need to collect the data and there are not any secondary sources, consider**what methods you could use to answer your indicator?**

Go through the following questions with those methods in mind to determine which is right for you.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. How suitable is the method and the data?
 |
| Reflection Question | Notes | No | Partially | Yes | Don’t know |
| Does the method provide the data needed to answer your indicator? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Does the method allow for transparent and consistent data collection, analysis and reporting? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Does the method allow you to disaggregate data into the different attributes you need (e.g., gender, age, ethnic group)? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is the robustness of the data collected through this method sufficient for the project's needs?  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Can multiple of our priority indicators be answered using this method? |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Can we implement the method?
 |
| Reflection Question | Notes | No | Partially | Yes | Don’t know |
| Do we have the resources needed for each component of the method (design, pilot, collect, process, store data, analyse, communicate, report)?* Are these likely to be sustained long-term?
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Do you know how to decide what sampling size and strategy you need? *If not reach out to the CDI/ConsTech/P&N teams.* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is it feasible to implement the optimal sampling strategy, including sample size?  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Given the logistical (and legal) considerations for implementing this method (e.g., permits, safety, distances, equipment, accessibility of site), can we safely & legally implement it? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Can we access, use, and maintain the equipment and technology needed (e.g. remote sensing imagery of the required resolution, camera traps) for this indicator for the duration needed?* Consider costs and accessibility
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Given the type of data this method produces, can we securely and accessibly store the data it produces? |  |  |  |  |  |
| Can the method be applied in way that's ethical and context appropriate? *Consider the role of each partner, including local communities, in delivering conservation (e.g., should community conservation groups have ownership over the data); and any specific cultural or social values.* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Can we generate and share accessible feedback using the findings from this method to the people who are most impacted by our conservation actions? Can these people also be part of the interpretation and use of results? |  |  |  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Overall reflection
 |
| Reflection Question | Notes |
| Given all the above and the relative importance of the indicator(s) that this method can answer, is this method right for us? Notes: why you’ve reached this conclusion. |  |