Introduction to PAME Assessments

Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME)
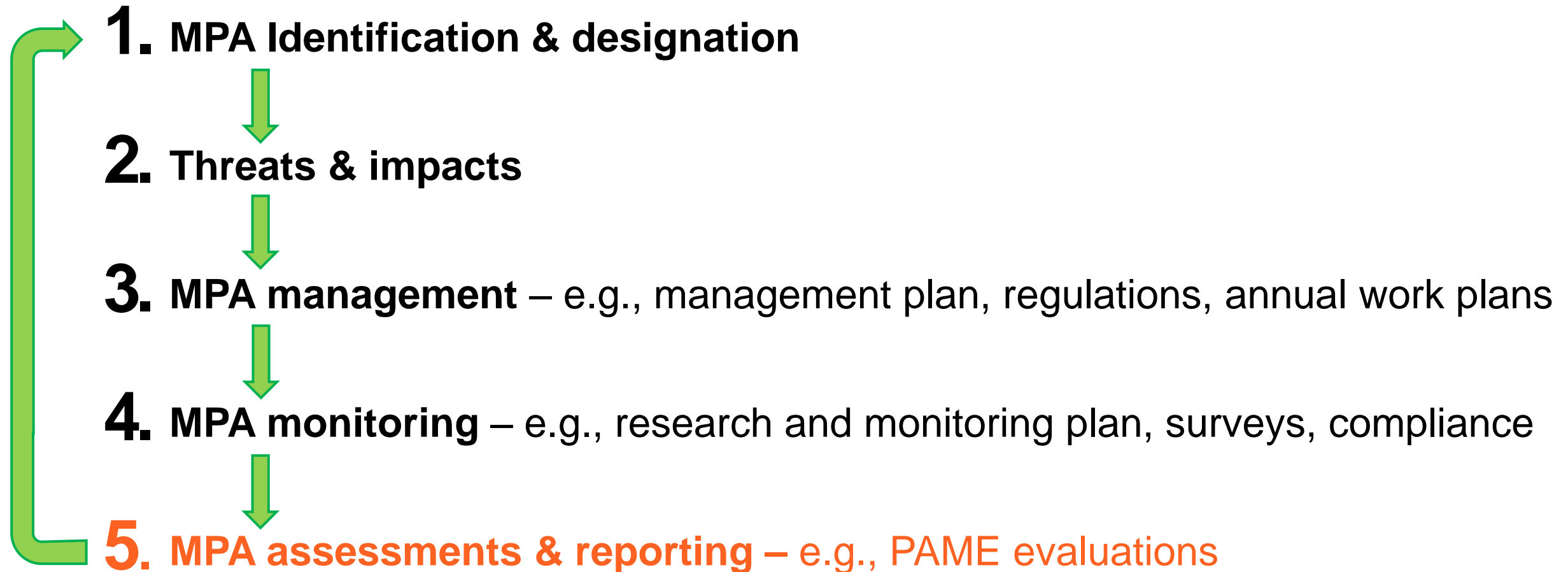
Assessment of how well protected areas are being managed – primarily the extent to which management is protecting values and achieving goals and objectives.

Hockings *et al.*, 2006

- Vital component of responsive, adaptive MPA management.

- PAME evaluates **three main themes**:
  - Design
  - Adequacy and appropriateness of management
  - Delivery of MPA objectives

MPA Implementation – Where does PAME fit in?

1. **MPA Identification & designation**

2. **Threats & impacts**

3. **MPA management** – e.g., management plan, regulations, annual work plans

4. **MPA monitoring** – e.g., research and monitoring plan, surveys, compliance

5. **MPA assessments & reporting** – e.g., PAME evaluations

Why are PAME evaluations useful?

- Enables and supports adaptive management
- Identifies new threats, issues and local needs

- Highlights successes
- Helps share knowledge, skills and experience locally and internationally

- Builds support for MPA values
- Promotes MPA values

Global importance

- PAME evaluations are used globally by protected area managers and governments

- International best practice, increasingly expected by donors

- Help meet international commitments and standards:
  - "*Effective management and equitable governance*" is embedded within biodiversity commitments made by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including recent commitments within the post 2020 Biodiversity Framework Target 2.4.
  - IUCN Green List Standards for successful protected areas

- Global databases and sharing (GD-PAME)

Source: UNEP-WCMC. Global database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness

Types of PAME Assessments

PAME methods

Over 70 methodologies including;

- METT - Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

- I-MET - Africa-Caribbean-Pacific countries

- RAPPAM - Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management

- IUCN/NOAA/WWF - How is your MPA doing?

- Enhancing our Heritage – World Heritage Sites

- SAGE – social, equity, governance

- Regional: e.g. MPA MEAT – Coral Triangle

- National: e.g. Indonesia, France, Dutch Caribbean, Germany, Australia, Belize

PAME methods

Rapid Assessments:

- METT - Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
- Mediterranean MPA Score Card

Detailed Assessments:

- Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report
- A workbook for assessing management effectiveness of MPAs in the Western Indian Ocean

Network-wide Assessments:

- RAPPAM - Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management

Specific Assessments:

- SAGE – social, equity, governance

Rapid assessments summary

✓ Simple with minimal costs

✓ Doesn't require additional research

✓ Provide a mechanism for monitoring progress over time

✗ Doesn't allow a detailed evaluation of outcomes

A workbook for assessing management effectiveness of MPAs in the Western Indian Ocean

A Workbook for Assessing Management Effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas in the Western Indian Ocean

Sue Wells and Sangeeta Mangubhai

October 2004
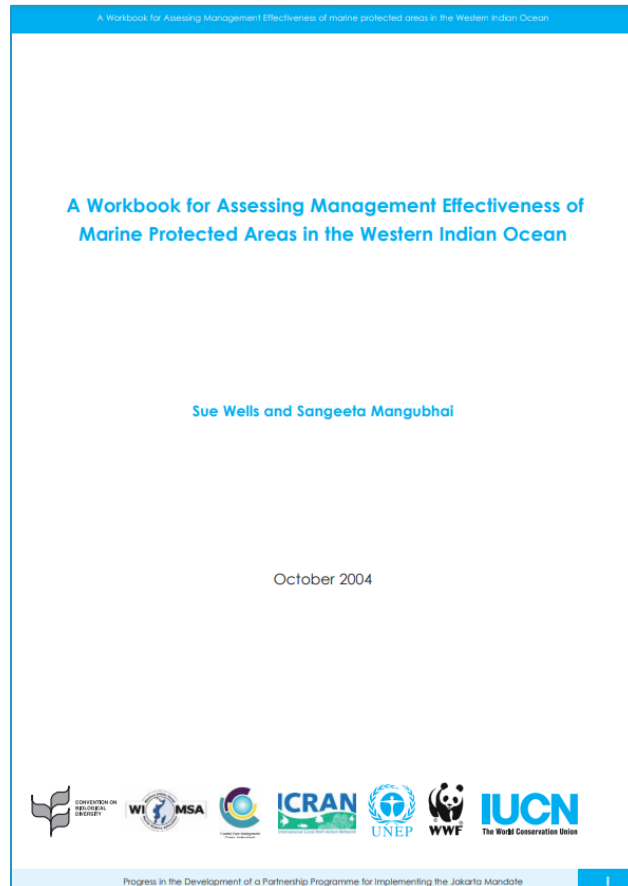
- Designed for Western Indian Ocean but can be adapted

- Includes all 6 Management Framework elements

- 21 'worksheets'

- Requires data collection

- Stakeholder input through workshops

- 3-4 month evaluation period

Detailed evaluations summary

✓ Provide a comprehensive view of management effectiveness

✓ Allow a detailed evaluation of outcomes

✓ Support adaptive management

✗ Time, financial resources and technical capacity required
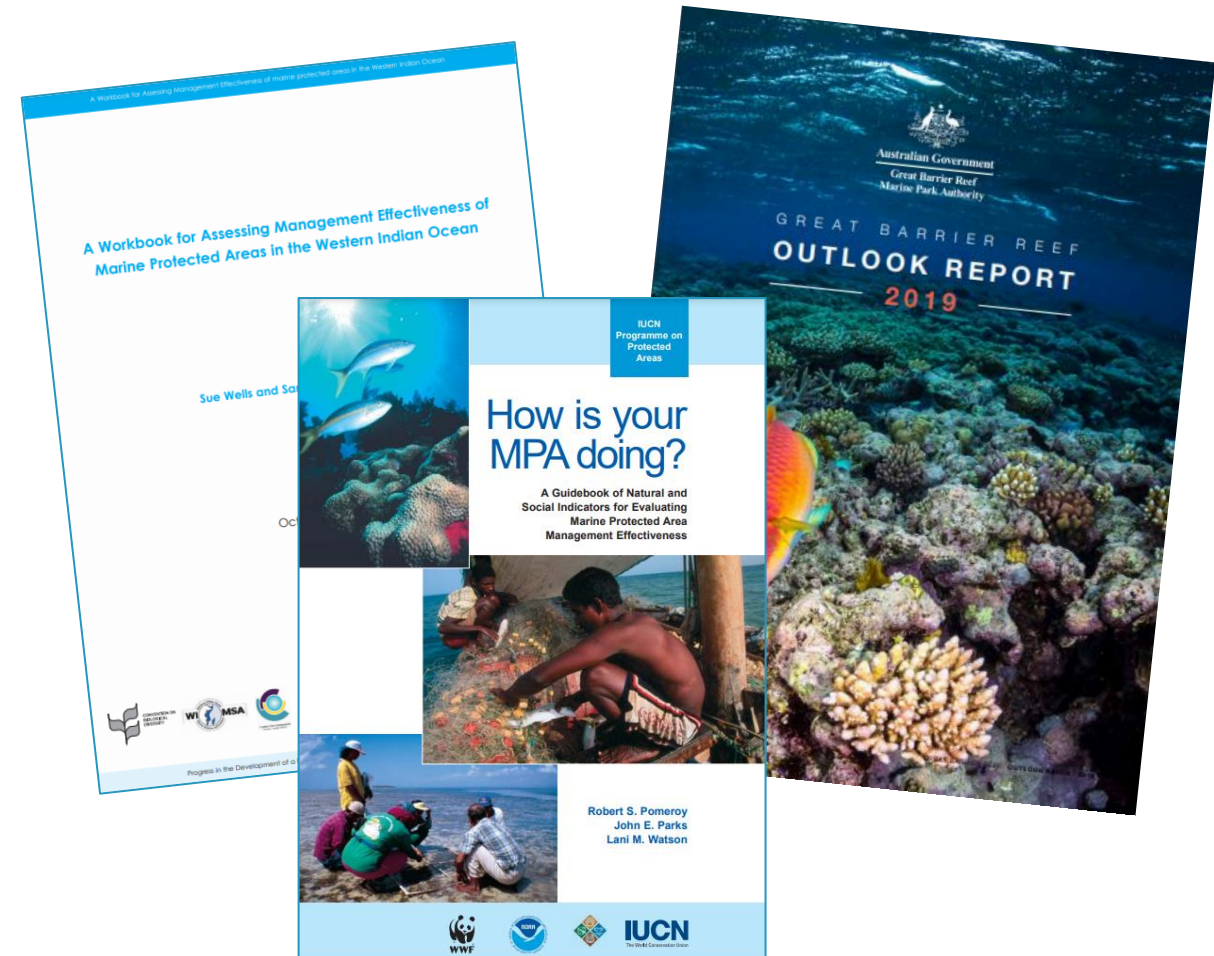
Network assessment: RAPPAM
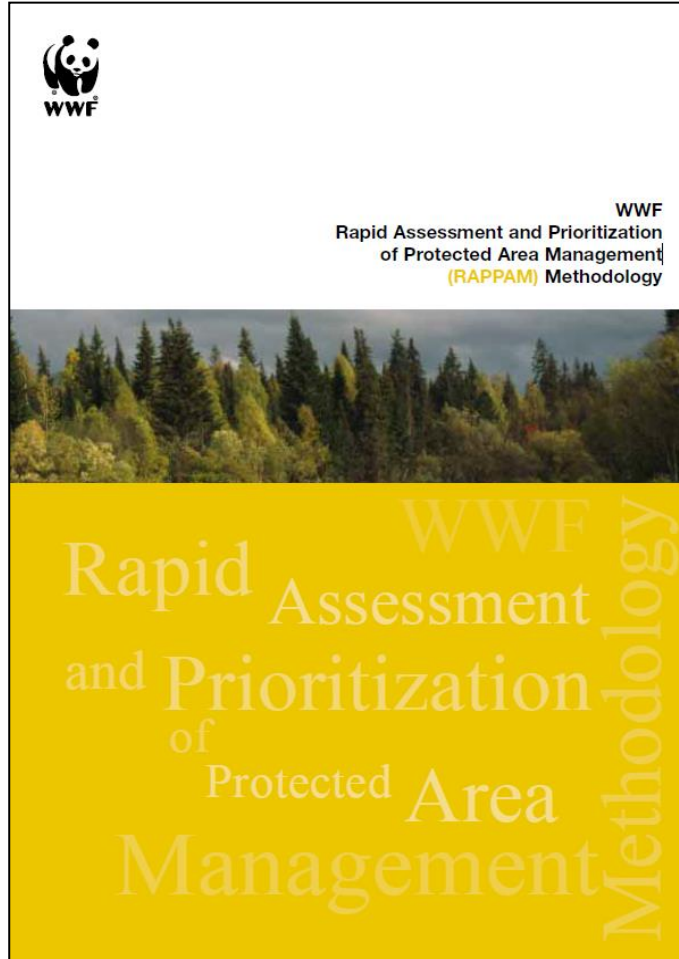
- Rapid Assessment and Prioritisation of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM)

- Broad level comparisons across many protected areas

- Help to identify trends and issues in a protected area system

- Support allocation of resources throughout a protected area network

- Help to prioritise actions

- Cannot be used for single sites

Assessment Framework

IUCN Management Effectiveness Framework
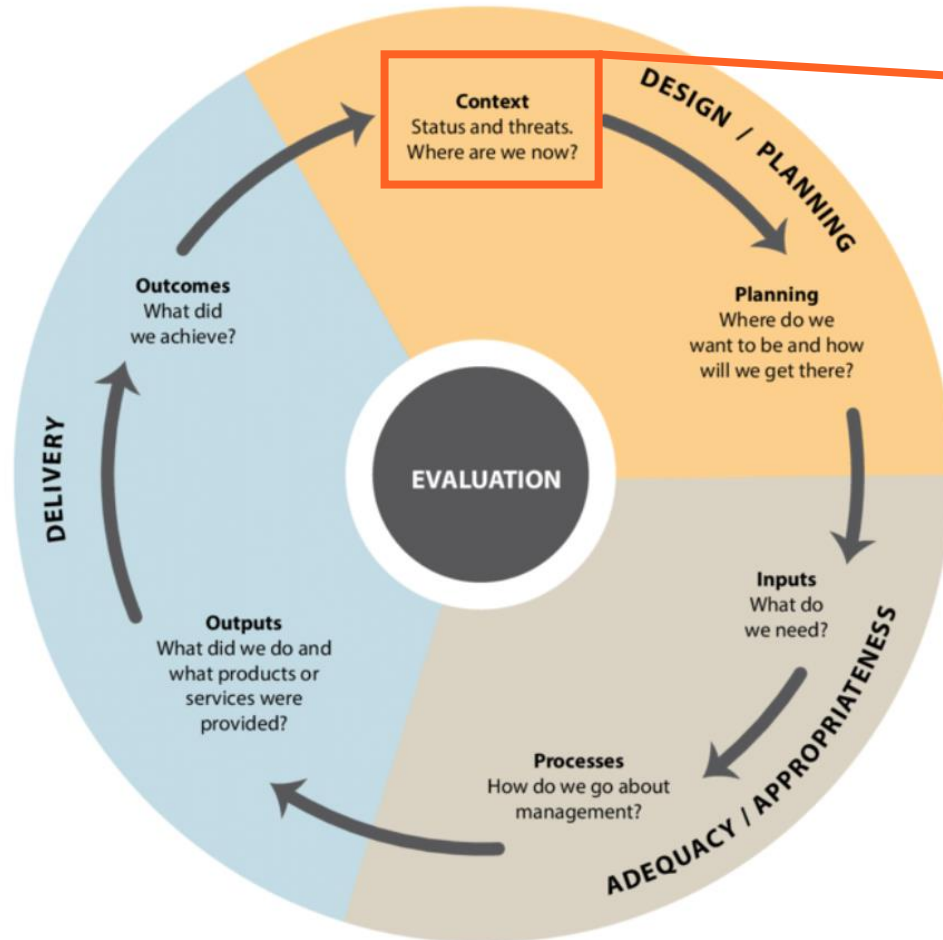
Most PAME evaluations are based on a common framework.

The IUCN developed the Management Effectiveness Framework which follows a cyclical process with <u>6 stages</u>:

1. Understanding the **context** of the MPA

2. **Planning**

3. Allocating **inputs**

4. Implementing management actions according to accepted **processes**

5. Producing **outputs**

6. That result in **outcomes**

1. Context

Context

Status and threats.
Where are we now?

Outcomes
What did we achieve?

Planning
Where do we want to be and how will we get there?

DESIGN / PLANNING

Inputs
What do we need?

Outputs
What did we do and what products or services were provided?

Processes
How do we go about management?

ADEQUACY / APPROPRIATENESS
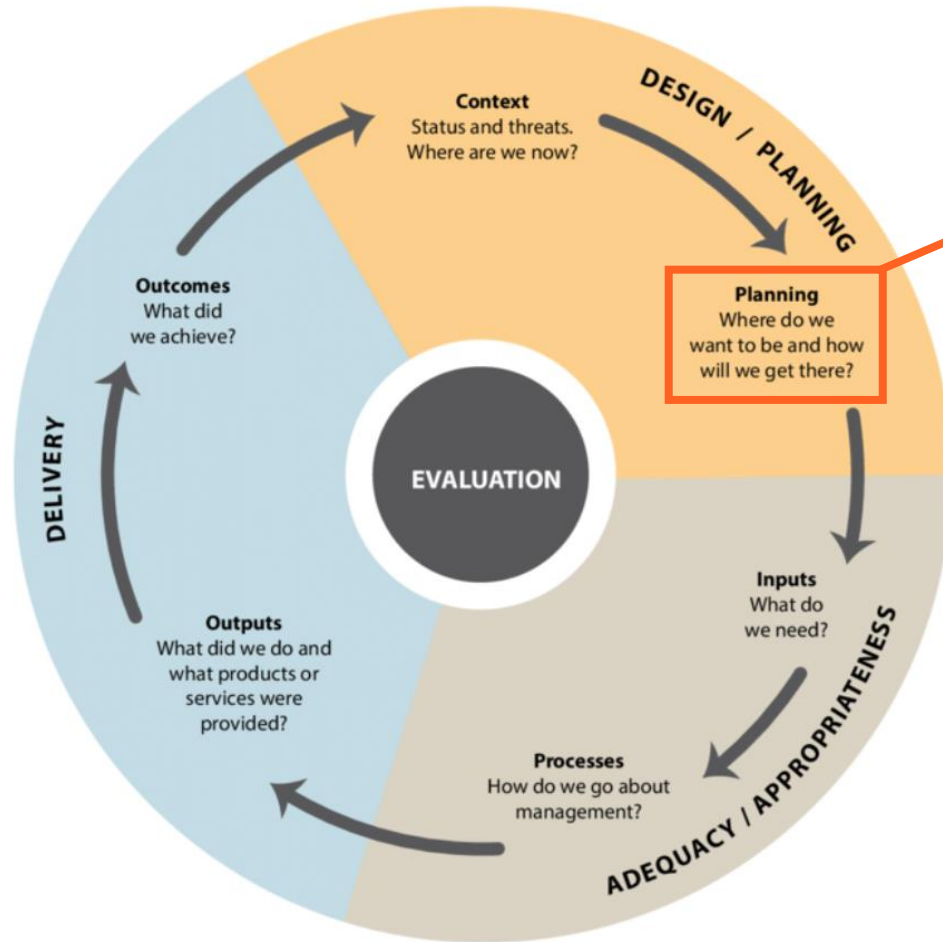
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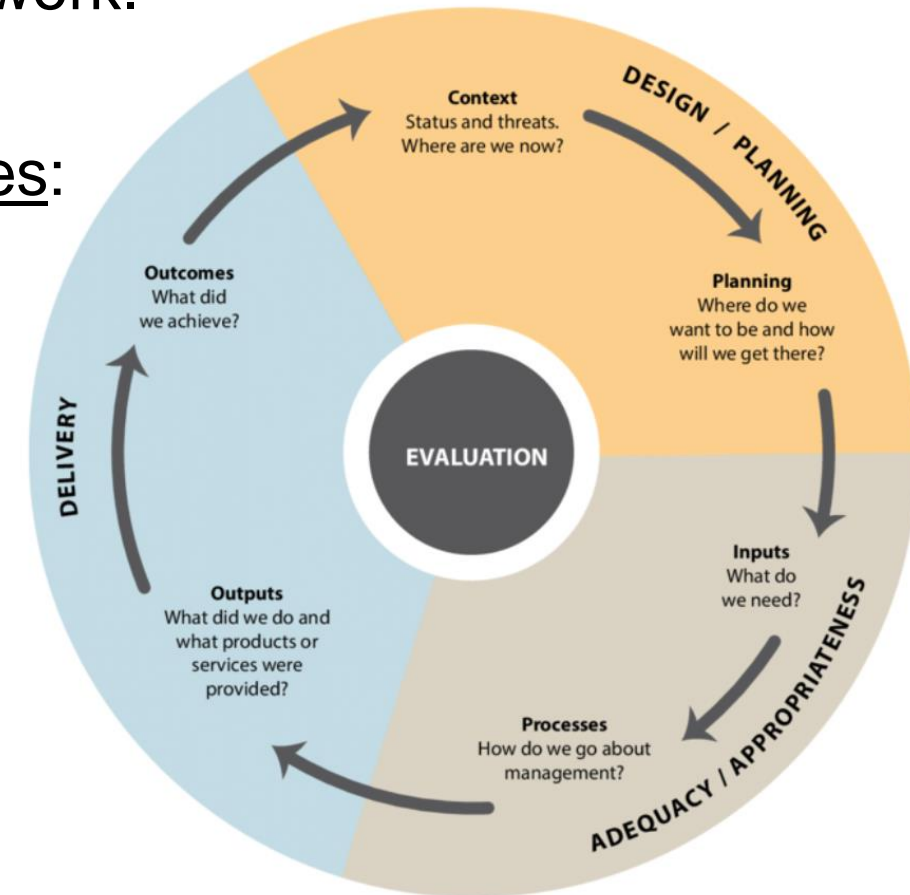
EVALUATION

Context

Focus of evaluation: *Where are we now?*
Assessment of status, threats and policy environment.

Criteria assessed
- Values / significance of the area
- Threats and opportunities
- Social, economic and political factors
- Stakeholders

This type of information can be drafted in advance of a PAME evaluation

2. Planning

Planning

Focus of evaluation: *Where do we want to be and how will we get there?* Assessment of MPA design and planning

Criteria assessed

- Legislation and policy
- MPA design
- Management planning
- Capacity

3. Inputs
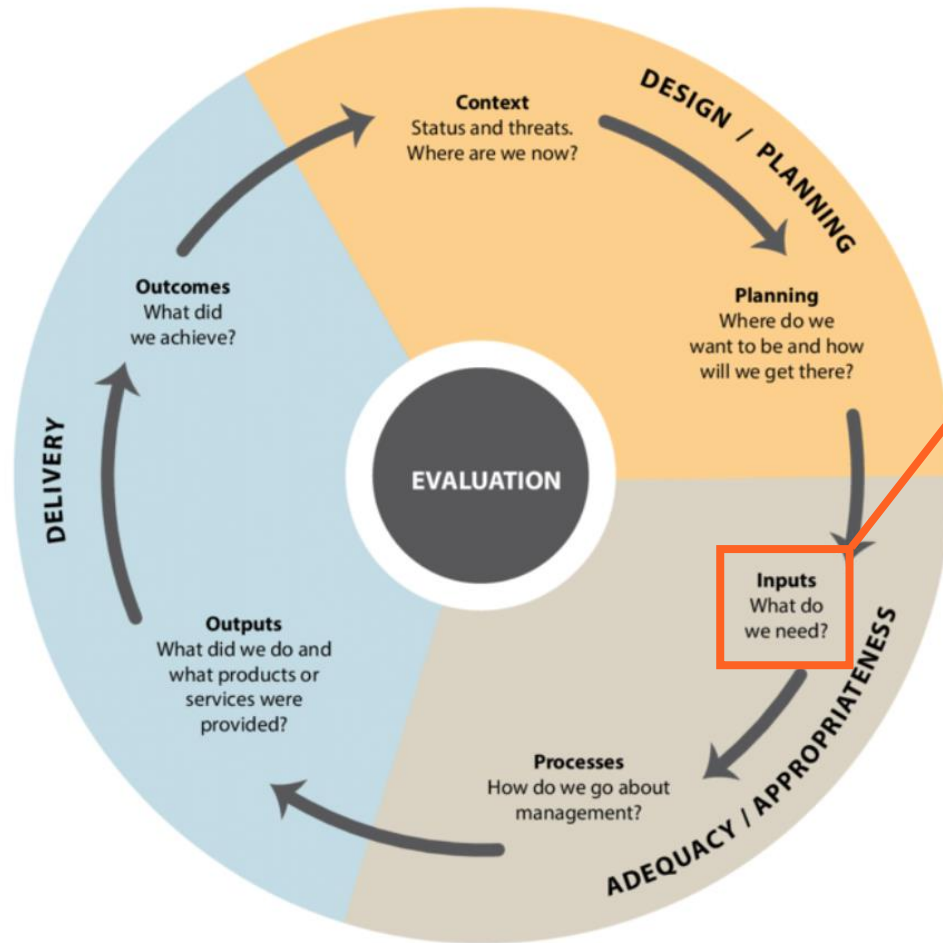
Inputs

Focus of evaluation: *What do we need?* Assessment of resources needed to carry out management.

Criteria assessed

- Resources available for management
- Resources available to the MPA

E.g. budget, people, equipment, facilities, infrastructure

4. Processes
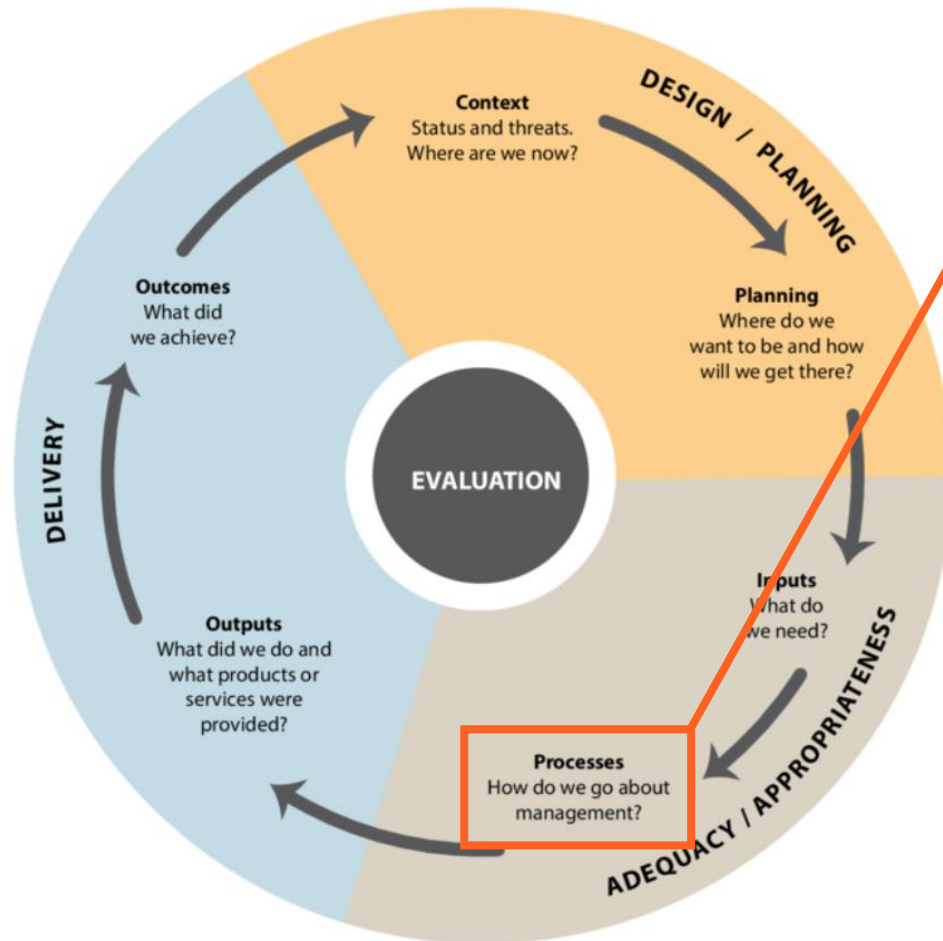

Processes

Focus of evaluation: *How do we go about it?* Assessment of the way in which management is conducted.

Criteria assessed

- Suitability of management processes
- Extent to which established or accepted processes are being implemented

E.g. demarcation, regulation, permits, voluntary measures, zoning, stakeholder engagement, education, outreach, fees, monitoring, enforcement

5. Outputs

Outputs

Focus of evaluation: *What were the results?* Assessment of the implementation of management programmes and actions; delivery of products and services

Criteria assessed

- Results of management actions

E.g. state of visitor facilities, impact on communities, threats addressed
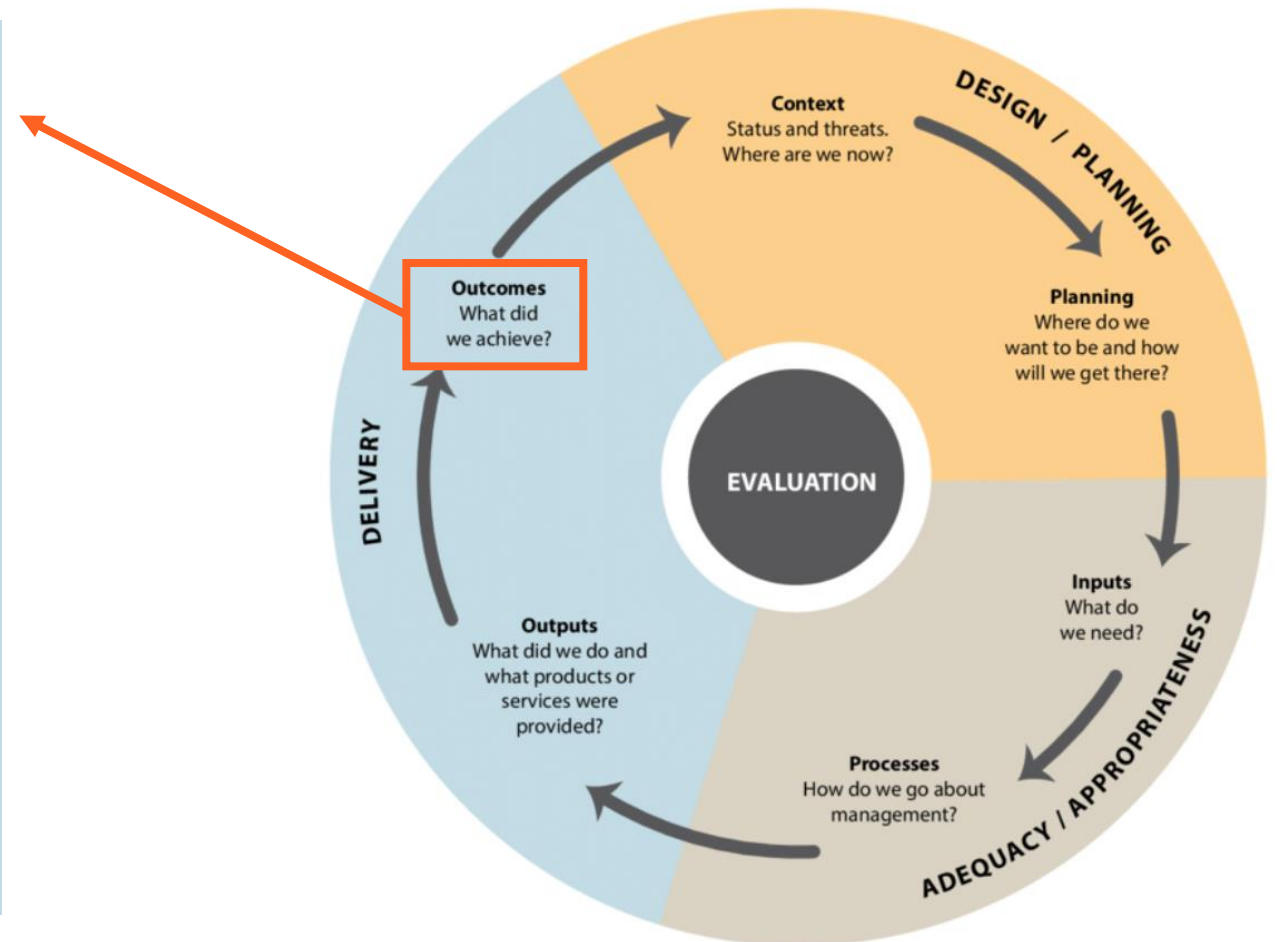
6. Outcomes

Outcomes

Focus of evaluation: *What did we achieve?* Assessment of the outcomes and the extent to which they achieved objectives

Criteria assessed

- Impacts: effects of management in relation to objectives

E.g. MPA condition and trends, species, habitats, cultural values

PAME processes and methodologies

| Define the objectives | Plan format and methodology | Conduct the evaluation | Communicate the results |

- Evaluating management effectiveness is not just about the results – it is about the **process**, and each stage of the process is important.

- It creates a platform for focused discussion on the MPA, and an opportunity to use the results for meaningful change.

- If planned, conducted and communicated well, it can bring stakeholders together and promote mutual understanding.

Define the objectives

Define the objectives	Plan format and methodology	Conduct the evaluation	Communicate the results

- **Clarify the purpose** of the evaluation (e.g. adaptive management, management planning, resource allocation

- **Determine the scope** of the evaluation (i.e. scale and frequency).

- **Agree capacity** and level of assessment

Plan format and method

Define the objectives	Plan format and methodology	Conduct the evaluation	Communicate the results

- **Choose evaluation methodology**: rapid assessments or detailed analysis

- **Define stakeholders:** This may include government departments, NGOs, local communities, fishers, tourism operators, academia, experts, donors, private sector

- **Define meeting format**: this can be individual interviews, small meetings or workshops, through to larger workshops

- **Plan logistics**: who will be involved, when meetings will take place and where?

Conduct the evaluation

| Define the objectives | Plan format and methodology | Conduct the evaluation | Communicate the results |

- **Collate and evaluate** all available information

- MPA **stakeholder involvement** is critical, e.g. interviews, small meetings or facilitated workshops

Analyse, communicate and use results

| Define the objectives | Plan format and methodology | Conduct the evaluation | Communicate the results |

- **Compile and analyse** results

- Develop conclusions and **recommendations**

- **Report** results, actions and recommendations

- **Communicate** this information to stakeholders

- **Implement recommendations** and actions to strengthen MPA management

Summary

Recognised globally as a critical tool, PAME evaluations are a standardised tool used to:
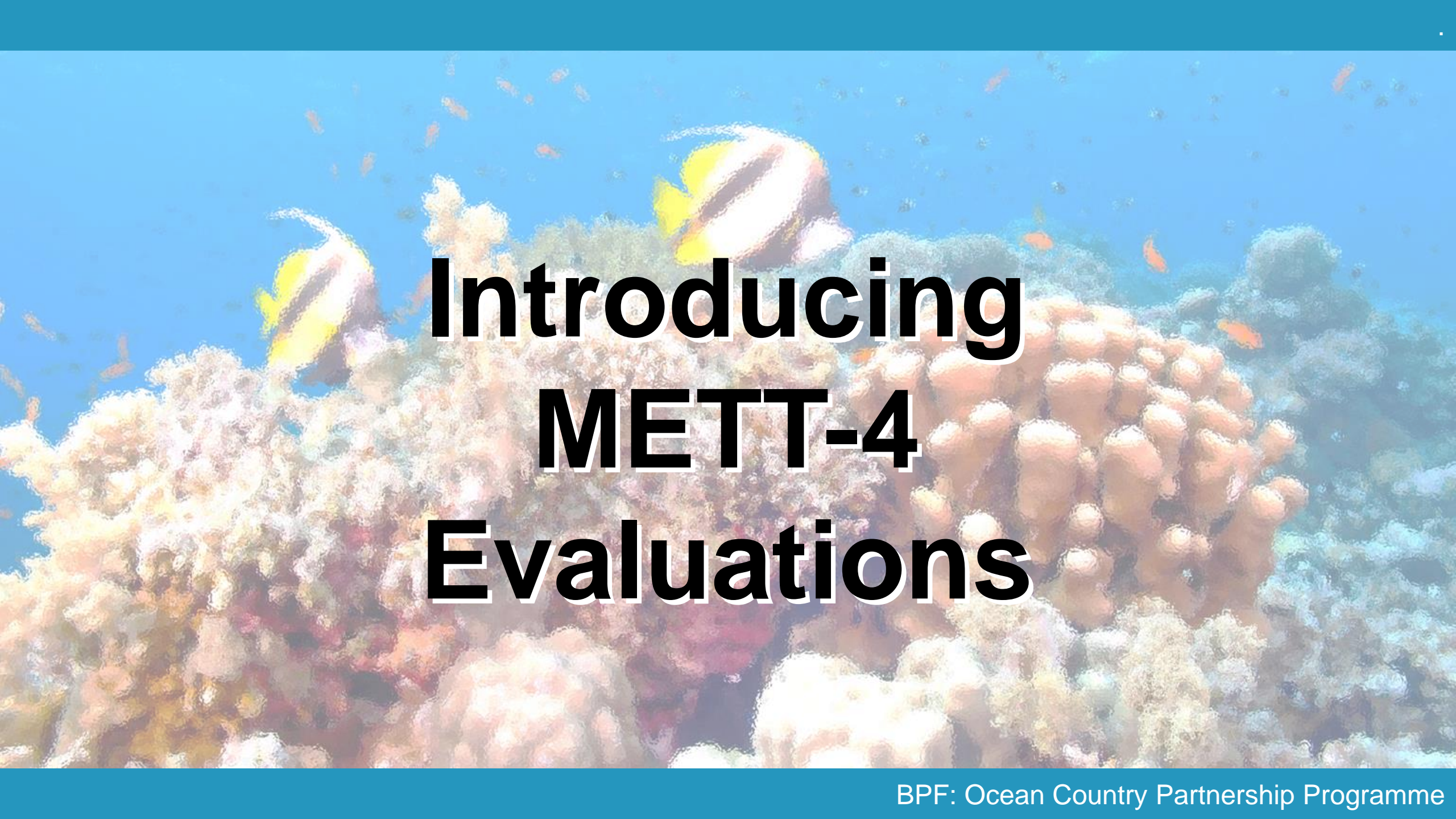
Measure and understand the impact of management actions

Track progress towards achievements of an MPA's goals and objectives

Define and agree actions needed to improve management

Introducing METT-4 Evaluations

Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT-4)

- One of the most well-known and commonly used methods globally

- Has been used to evaluate over 5,000 protected areas in 170 countries

- Regularly revised, based on feedback from users

- Latest iteration – version 4 (METT-4). Available to download from Protected Planet.

METT-4

The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool

Version 4

A guide to the online Excel version of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for protected and conserved areas

Fully updated questions and coverage drawing on 20 years of practical experience in thousands of sites around the world

Country:

Site name and year:

User Name:

About | METT 4 introduction | Dashboard | Protected area attributes | Detail

METT-4

- Excel spreadsheet – available online, straightforward to complete
- Includes a dashboard with charts and visual summaries
- Best practices and instructions available in METT-4 Excel tool and METT Handbook
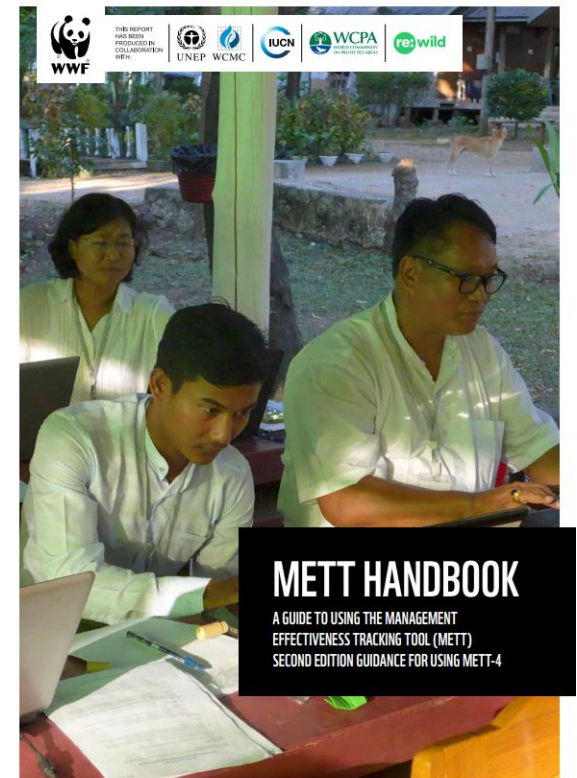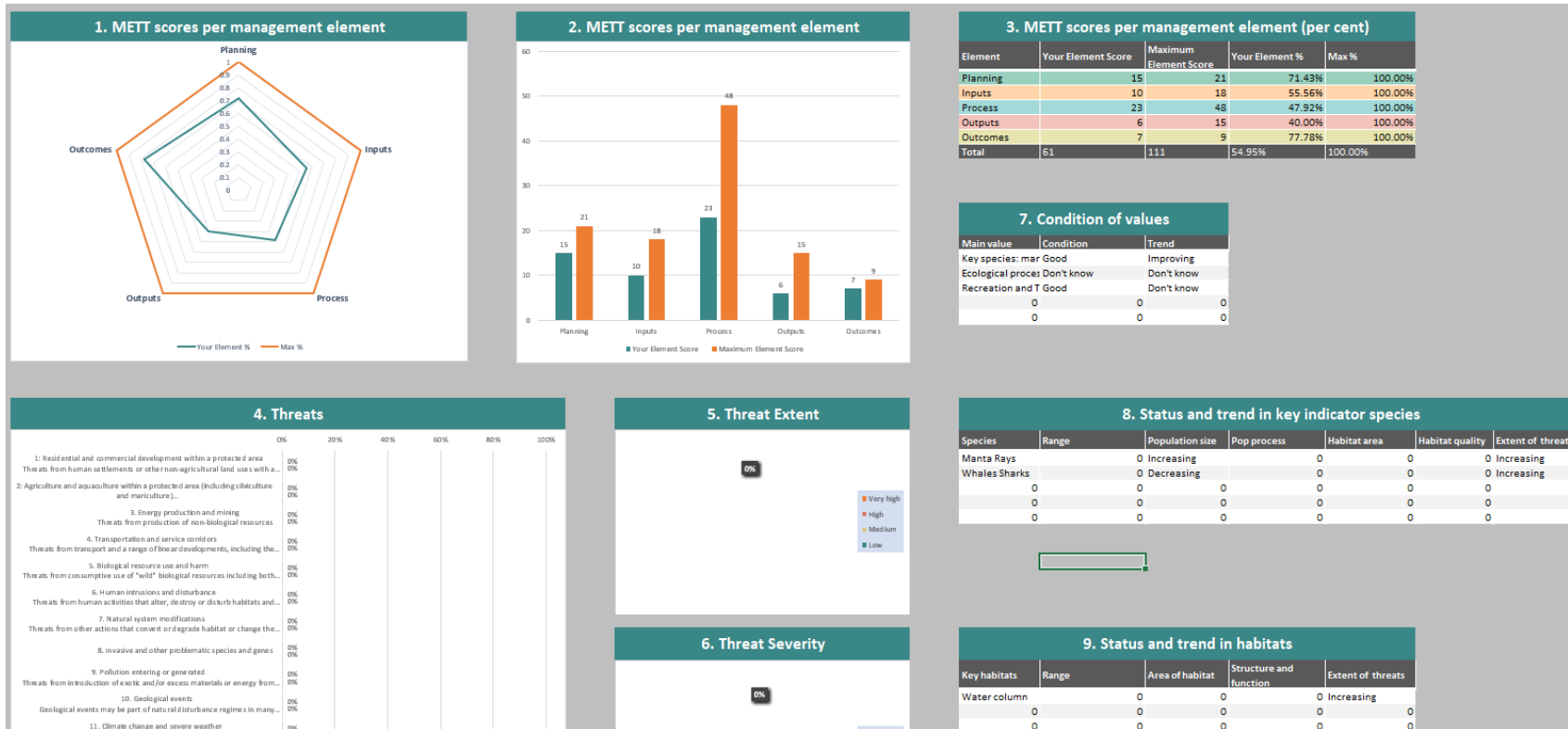
METT-4 Questions and Scores

- Simple, scorecard approach with 38 questions

- Split into five elements – representing five of the six management stages in IUCN's management effectiveness framework:
  - ➢ Planning
  - ➢ Inputs
  - ➢ Process
  - ➢ Outputs
  - ➢ Outcomes

- Management element 'Context' not assessed through questions but addressed in attributes and threats section of the METT-4
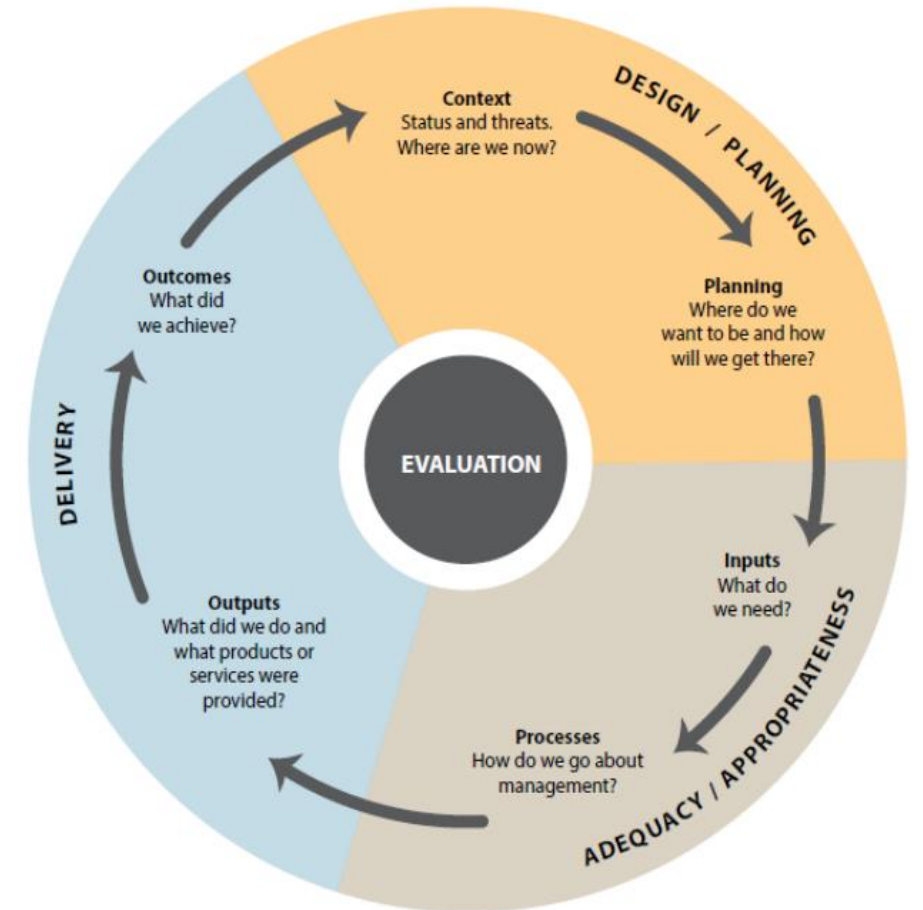
Framework for assessing management effectiveness, developed by IUCN's World Commission for Protected Areas (WCPA)

No.	Question	Management element
1	Does the PA have legal status or is it established through "other effective means"?	Planning
2	Is management undertaken to achieve the objectives of the protected area?	Planning
3	Are appropriate regulations/controls in place to manage use and activities in accordance with the management objectives of the	Process
4	Does land and sea use planning outside of the protected area recognise the protected area and contribute to the achievement of	Planning
5	Is the protected area the right size and shape to protect species, habitats, ecological processes and water catchments of key con	Planning
6	Is the boundary known and demarcated?	Process
7	Is there a management plan or equivalent and is it being implemented?	Planning
7a-c	Additional points: Planning process	Planning
8	Is there a regular work plan and is it being implemented?	Planning
9	Do you have enough information to manage the area?	Inputs
10	Are there enough people to manage the protected area?	Inputs
11	Do the people involved in managing the protected area have the necessary knowledge and skills?	Inputs
12	Is the current budget sufficient?	Inputs
13	Is the budget secure?	Inputs
14	Is the budget managed to ensure effective administration of the protected area?	Process
15	Are equipment and facilities sufficient for management needs?	Inputs
16	Can staff (i.e. those with responsibility for managing the site) enforce protected area legislation and regulation?	Process
17	Are systems (e.g. patrols, permits, intelligence gathering etc) in place to control access/resource use in the protected area?	Process
18	Do protected area staff have safe working conditions and does management prioritise safety?	Process
19	Is there a programme of management-orientated survey and research work?	Process

No.	Question	Management element
20	Are management activities regularly monitored, evaluated and adapted?	Process
21	Is active resource management being undertaken?	Process
22	Is the protected area consciously managed to adapt to climate change?	Process
23	Is the protected area being consciously managed to prevent carbon loss and to encourage further carbon capture?	Process
24	Does management consider ecosystem service provision?	Process
25	Is there a planned education programme linked to the management needs?	Process
26	Is there co-operation with neighbouring land/sea State and commercial users?	Process
27	Do commercial tour operators contribute to protected area management?	Process
28	If fees (i.e. entry fees or fines) are applied, do they help protected area management?	Process
29	Are visitor facilities and services adequate?	Outputs
30	Are Indigenous people involved in management decisions?	Process
31	Do local communities living in or near the protected area have input to management decisions?	Process
31a-c	Additional points - Impact on communities	Outputs
32	Is the protected area providing sustained livelihood benefits to local communities and/or Indigenous people, e.g. income, emplo	Outputs
33	Are the threats to the main values of the protected area being effectively addressed?	Outputs
34	Have the requirements for functional connectivity have been assessed and implemented?	Outputs
	Detailed assessment of condition and trend in values	Outcomes
35	*What is the condition of the important natural values of the protected area as compared to when it was first designated?*	Outcomes
35 a-c	Additional points - Condition of natural values	Process

METT-4 Questions and Scores

- Multiple choice questions

- Scored from 0-3

- List of actions to improve management the most important output

- METT scores tab automatically adjusted as questions are answered

1. Legal Status

This question is not relevant to this PA ☐ If you select this, please explain below why this is not relevant

Explanation:

Does the PA have legal status or is it established under "other effective means"?

This usually only refers to state-managed protected areas. In the case of many privately protected areas and Indigenous and community conserved areas (ICCAs) legal status is not an option and this question is not applicable. Where such protected areas do have some formal status (e.g. a covenant or legal recognition of Indigenous Protected Areas) the assessment below should be completed.

Help for answering this question:

Possible answers

A The protected area is not gazetted or has not been established through "other effective means"

B There is agreement that the protected area should be established but the process has not yet begun

C The protected area is in the process of being established but the process is still incomplete (includes sites designated under international conventions, such as Ramsar, or local/traditional law such as community conserved areas, which do not yet have national

D The protected area has been formally gazetted or established through "other effective means"

Evidence and justification: What are the reasons for choosing this response?

Actions to improve management: Is there anything you could do to improve management?

METT-4 Protected Area Attributes & Threats

METT-4 Attributes Tab

1. MPA name, type of designation, size, location, and management authority
2. Main values
   - **Natural** e.g., threatened species, priority habitats, ecological processes, scenic values,
   - **Cultural** e.g., recreational use, social significance, historic sites
   - **Social** e.g., significance to Indigenous peoples, sites with importance to religions, access to resources of cultural importance
   - **Economic** e.g., tourism or recreational use of the area, sustainable use of resources,
3. Ecosystem services
4. Objectives of the protected area (two most important)

The **METT-4 Threats tab** collects information on the threats including what they are, the extent and severity.

Threats are the human activities or processes that have caused, are causing, or may cause the destruction, degradation, and/or impairment of biodiversity targets. Threats can be past, ongoing and/or likely to occur in the future.
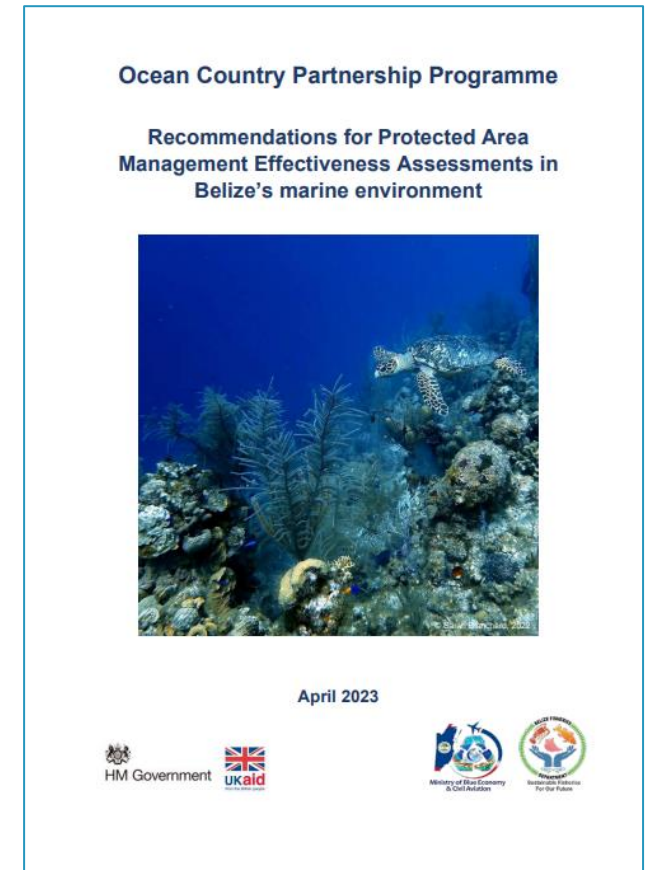
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OCPP Case Studies

OCPP Case study: Belize

- National Protected Areas Management effectiveness evaluation (NPAS-MEE)

- Evaluations conducted by site-level managers or local management effectiveness experts

- Ambition to complete site-level assessments annually

- 5-year network level assessment

- NPAS-MEE aligns with national and international commitments and standards e.g., IUCN Green List Standard criteria

Ocean Country Partnership Programme

Recommendations for Protected Area Management Effectiveness Assessments in Belize's marine environment

April 2023

HM Government   UKaid   Ministry of Blue Economy & Civil Aviation   Sustainable Fisheries For the Future

OCPP Case Study: Maldives

METT-4 evaluations for three different types of protected marine sites:

- **Hanifaru Area MPA** designated in 2009 and a core zone within the Baa Atoll Biosphere Reserve

- **Angsana Velavaru**, a resort house reef with "no take" protection

- **Kudahuvadhoo Kanduolhi** grouper aggregation site, designated as a protected area for fisheries measures in 2013

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Methods

Research

- Initial online review of each site undertaken

- METT-4 questions used as a basis for focused research

- Information sources recorded and literature library created

- Identified gaps in publicly available information. Created focused questions for relevant ministries and MPA managers.

Stakeholder Input

- Stakeholder surveys created
  - Questions based on METT-4 requirements
  - Stakeholder groups identified through METT-4 and stakeholder mapping exercise

- Meetings with MPA managers

- Evidence packages created

Evaluations

- 5 people undertook evaluations

- Between 2-6 hours per site

- During evaluation noted gaps and created focused questions

- First drafts complete

- Stakeholder validation

- Review and update with additional evidence