



From Knowledge to Action
for a Protected Planet

A PROTECTED AREA IS
A CLEARLY DEFINED
GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE,
RECOGNISED, DEDICATED
AND MANAGED, THROUGH
LEGAL OR OTHER EFFECTIVE
MEANS, TO ACHIEVE THE
LONG-TERM CONSERVATION
OF NATURE WITH ASSOCIATED
ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND
CULTURAL VALUES.

(IUCN DEFINITION 2008)

IMET

THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS TOOL

Protected areas are a mainstay of biodiversity conservation, while also contributing to people's livelihoods, particularly at the local level. Protected areas are at the core of efforts towards conserving nature and the services they provide us with, like food, clean water supply, medicines and protection from the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

*Effectively managed systems of protected areas have been recognized as critical instruments in achieving the objectives of the **Convention on Biological Diversity** and the **Sustainable Development Goals**. Therefore, evaluation of management effectiveness is recognised as a vital component of responsive, adaptive and pro-active protected area management.*



1

WHAT IS MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION?

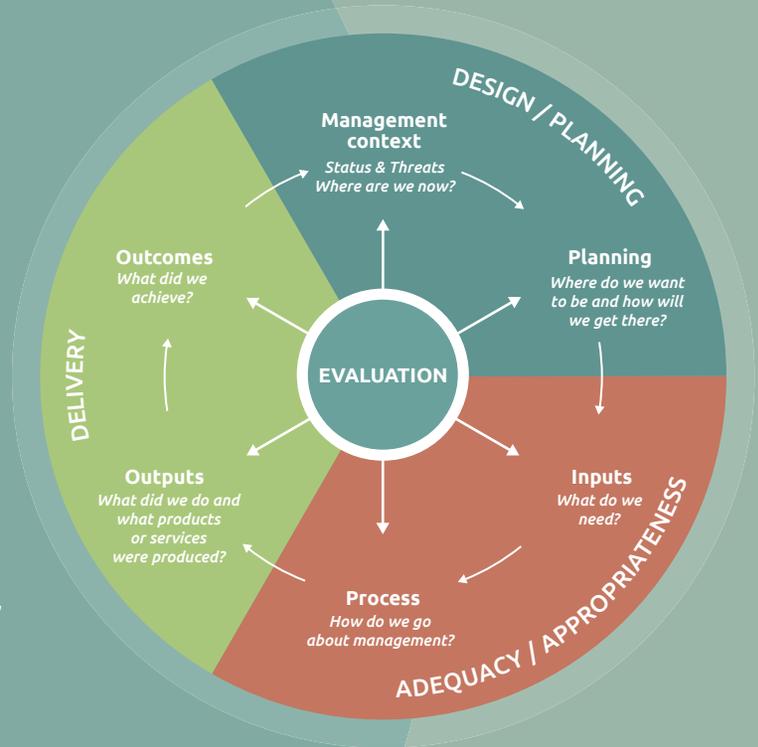
The IUCN World Commission for Protected Areas (IUCN-WCPA) has developed a management effectiveness evaluation framework which provides a consistent basis for designing protected area evaluation systems. It is based on three aspects related to protected area management:

- **Design of issues relating to both individual sites and protected area systems;**
- **Adequacy and appropriateness of management systems and processes and**
- **Delivery of protected area objectives including conservation of values.**

These components are divided into six elements, elaborated in the graphic 1, each one comprising a number of evaluation indicators to assess management effectiveness.

An assessment needs to be made in the context of the protected area. Hence assessments begin with gathering data on issues related to the area's values, threats and opportunities, stakeholders, and the management and political context. Based on the elements of the context, management starts with planning of strategies needed to fulfil the vision, goals and objectives of protection and to reduce threats.

To put these plans in place and meet management objectives, managers need inputs (resources) of staff, money and equipment. Management activities are implemented according to accepted processes (i.e. best practices), which produce outputs by completing activities outlined in work plans. The expected final result of management is the achievement of outcomes, i.e. reaching the goals and objectives set for the biological conservation, economic development, social sustainability or cultural heritage of the protected area.



Graphic 1. Management Effectiveness Evaluation Framework (IUCN WCPA)

Management effectiveness evaluation is defined as the 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).

HOW TO EVALUATE PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS?

Several methodologies have been developed to evaluate the management effectiveness of protected areas. In this document, we will present an overview of the Integrated Management Effectiveness Tool (IMET) developed in the context of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme and in close consultation with several protected area authorities and managers.

The IMET tool has been designed to directly support managers, both in the field and at the national level, to improve the effectiveness of protected area management and, more generally, biodiversity conservation.

IMET provides support for planning, monitoring and evaluation of protected areas based on the organization of available information and the definition of baseline. The resulting analyses can be explored at different scales: protected area, national or regional level.

In this way, the tool promotes a proactive results-based approach that facilitates planning, analysis of the conservation status and visualization of parameters to assess the effectiveness of management in terms of achieving conservation objectives.



WHAT IS IMET?

THE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS TOOL (IMET) IS AN APPROACH TO SUPPORT PROTECTED AREAS PLANNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION AND TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT PATTERNS AND CONSERVATION OUTCOMES. IMET IS SUPPORTED BY A COMPUTER-BASED APPLICATION THAT COLLECTS, ORGANIZES AND ANALYSES DATA TO FACILITATE INFORMED DECISION-MAKING FOR PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT, OPERATIONS AND PLANNING.

The tool is available in both online and offline versions. It contains several forms which allow for the compilation of a variety of data from many sources: raw data, documents and personal knowledge from several stakeholders such as management teams, scientists and community members.

IMET structures the information with quantified targeted outcomes, and its internal statistics module provides a score-based estimation of level and quality of management with visual graphics of the relative contribution of each indicator to management effectiveness.



WHAT IS THE IMET ADDED VALUE?

This tool is a well-designed decision support system that provides a systematic, robust and results-oriented analysis based on information collected on-site and through participatory methods. It offers managers the necessary elements to collectively analyse the current situation, identify strengths, weaknesses and threats, supporting the development of the list of improvements necessary to achieve objectives and targets.

The IMET combines an analysis of the context of intervention with the protected area management assessment:

Context of intervention

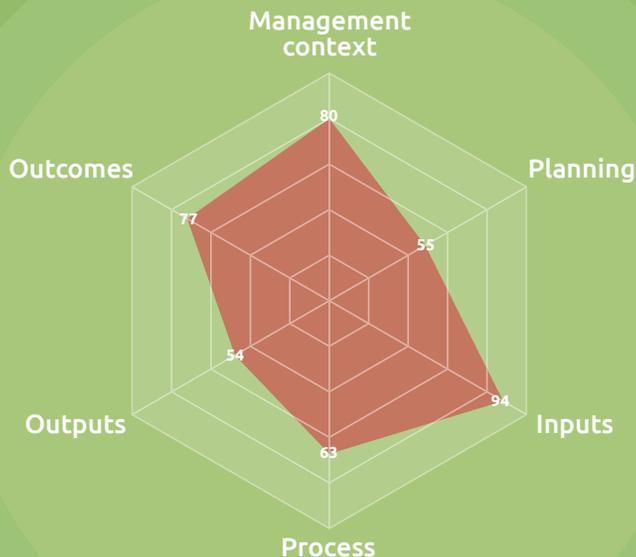
A comprehensive collection of information on protected areas and their surroundings, including baseline data, values (species and habitats), threats, climate change and ecosystem services.

Effective management of protected areas

Detailed assessments of the management process carried out throughout the six stages of the protected area management cycle (context, planning, inputs, processes, outputs, outcomes).

The results of IMET assessments include not only the evaluation of protected area management effectiveness, but also delivers:

- **A deeper and in-context understanding of management systems, needs and opportunities towards improved effectiveness;**
- **A list of objectives and actions built in a participatory process that could be useful to define a work plan;**
- **Visualization aids supporting a proactive results-based approach to adaptive protected area management;**
- **A comprehensive decision support system for protected area agencies and managers;**
- **An analysis report with the systematized information which allows the user to define operational recommendations.**



Graphic 2. Visualization of results: management effectiveness evaluation of a protected area

5

HOW DO I START?

Important considerations for getting started with an IMET assessment include the definition of the following points:

How are we going to do it?

Plan the activities and agree on a budget for it. Define the methods to gather the information (through meetings, direct interviews and field visits using IMET forms), and agree on the events to share the assessments results and agree on the way forward with communities and authorities.

Who will participate in the process?

Set up an organizing committee consisting of key agency staff, NGOs, partners, donors and local communities.

Where will it be applied?

Delimit the scope of assessment, either an entire system of protected areas or an individual protected area.



WHICH ARE THE STEPS OF THE IMET ASSESSMENT?

Training on the tool

1



2

Collection of information on the protected area and its periphery, including basic data, values (species and habitats), threats, climate change and ecosystem services.

Data analysis based on the detailed assessment of the protected area management process

3



4

Visualisation of structured, detailed and reliable information to support decision-making

Sharing of information, analysis and results with all stakeholders

5



Steps of IMET assessment

WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT COULD I RECEIVE?

The Biodiversity and Protected Area Observatory or Hub in your region can support you in this endeavour. Please contact the regional centre or BIOPAMA Technical Officer covering your country. It offers information management systems and tools, capacity building, knowledge sharing products and communication activities to reinforce the management effectiveness and governance of protected areas and surrounding communities.

For more information see: www.biopama.org

You can receive support from an experienced professional. Call a biodiversity coach, a professional trained in the use of this tool, who can guide your team in your first IMET assessments. You can also consult the **Coach Observatory Mission Information Toolkit (COMIT)**, the pedagogical support guidelines aimed at helping coaches to carry out their training/support assignments using the IMET.

If you would like to learn from other experiences, you can find some success stories as well as other resources in the BIOPAMA Reference Information System (RIS), a web-based, open-source information system for protected areas across the 79 countries of the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) Group of States.



<https://rris.biopama.org>

WHERE CAN I FIND THIS TOOL?

Check the latest IMET Offline Tool version and other relevant information here:

<https://rris.biopama.org/pame/tools>



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