Indicators and their uses

CBD Regional workshop for Central & Eastern Europe & Central Asia on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies & Action Plans

11 September 2012

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Cambridge, UK

Day's objectives (1)

- Understand:

  Indicators relating to targets

- Explore:

  information /data needs and availability

- New ideas:

  experiences from neighbouring countries

Day's objectives (2)

- Understand:

  "Indicators are purpose dependent"

- Introduce:

  BIP *Biodiversity Indicator Development Framework*

- Collaborate:

  national, regional, global

Plan

9:00	What is an indicator?
9:20	Difference between targets and indicators
9:45	Indicators & monitoring
Group exercise	
10:15	Defining the purpose of indicators
11:15	Break
11:45	Compiling information & target setting
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Calculate indicators
15:30	Break
16:00	Continuation of exercise & Conclusions

Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)

- **CBD-mandated collaboration**
- **Over 40 organizations working globally**
- **Secretariat based at UNEP-WCMC**

Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

2007-2010 Programme

A framework to assist indicator developers

Guidance Documents

National Indicators web-portal
www.bipnational.net

Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

The Partnership to 2020 - Expansion in national capacity-strengthening will include...

- **further regional workshops to support development of national indicators**
- **development of a guidance "toolkit" for online and remote learning**
- **further development of a www.bipnational.net based on clearly identified needs**
- **Development of 'Training of Trainers' programme**

Workshop for the Balkan region

- 1st of two workshops – support countries in developing national biodiversity indicators

- 8 countries – Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia

- Planned for January/February 2013

- In collaboration with PEBLDS

- Working to identify host country?

What is an indicator?

What is an indicator?

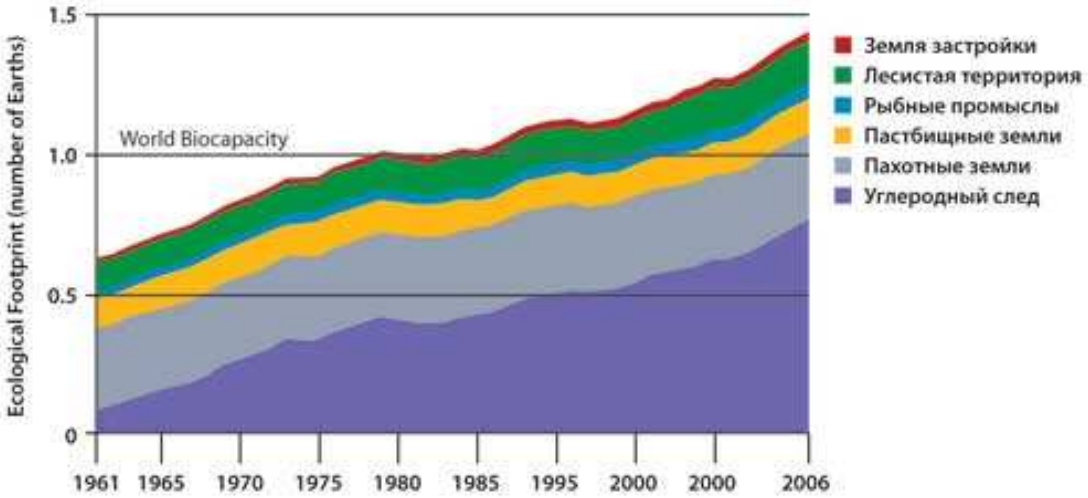
"A measure based on verifiable data that conveys information about more than itself"

Indicators are purpose dependent...

"interpretation depends on the purpose or issue of concern"

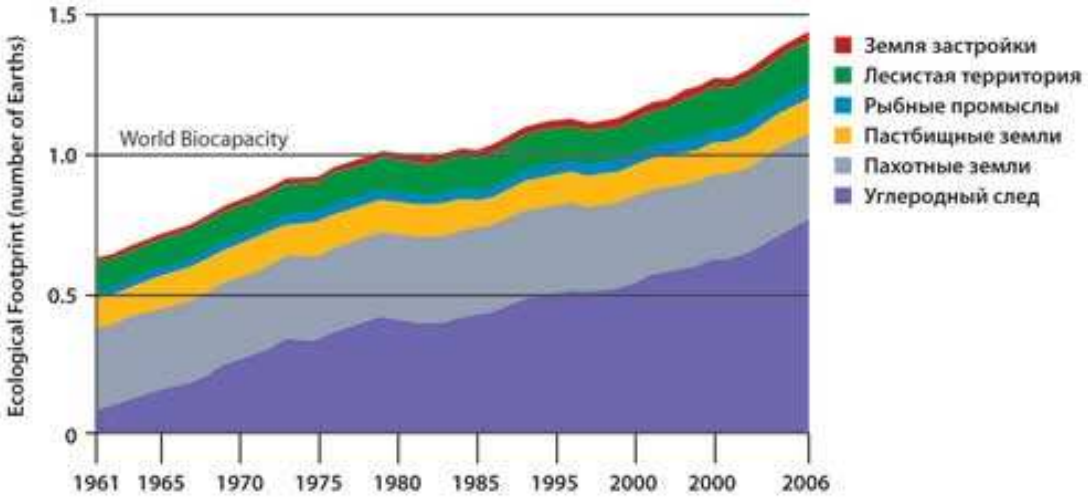
What is an indicator?

Temporal

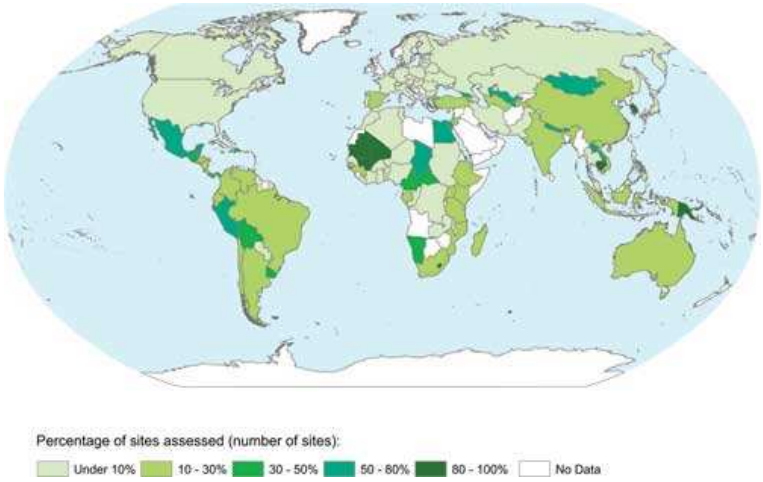


What is an indicator?

Temporal



Spatial



What makes a successful indicator?

What makes a successful indicator?

Scientifically valid

Based on available data

Responsive to change in issue of interest

Easily understandable

Relevant to user's needs

Used!

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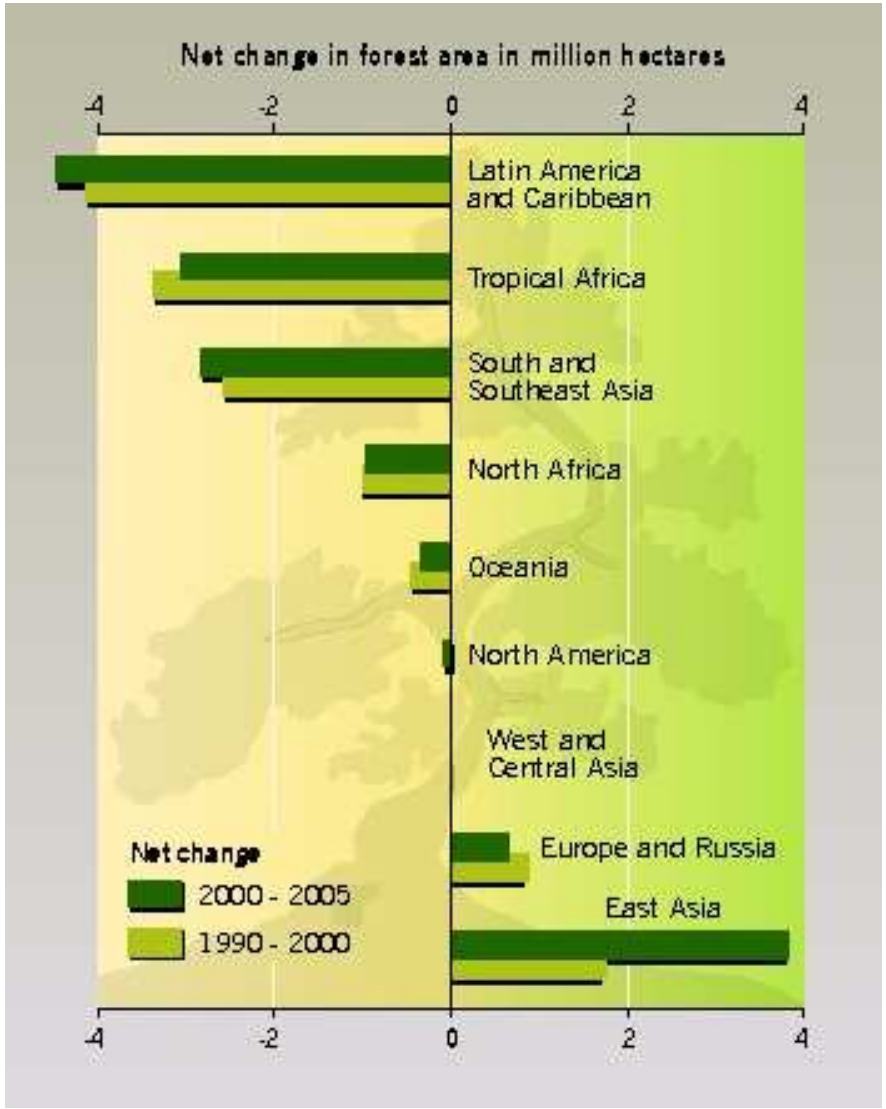
Obstacles to successful indicators

- Lack of resources (funding, expertise, data)
- Insufficient stakeholder/audience consultation
- Project-based data collection and/or management
- Data utilised not sensitive to change
- An after-thought to a wider process of strategy development and target setting

Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

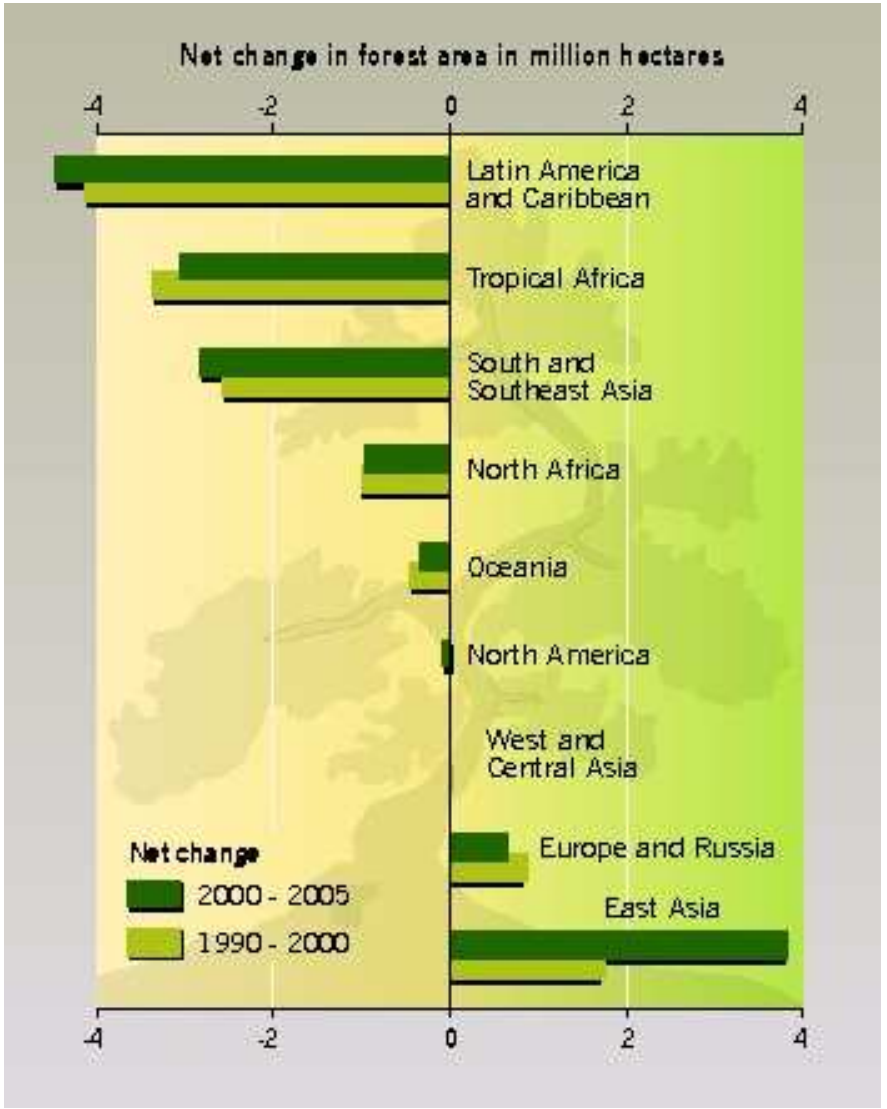
UNEP WCMC

Net change in forest area over time...



Net change in forest area over time...

- *availability of forest resources?*
- *progress in forest conservation?*
- *intensity of threats to forest ecosystems?*
- *investment in plantations?*
- *change in soil cover and erosion?*
- *change in forest carbon sequestration?*
- *conservation status of forest-dependent species?*
- *.....*



Multiple purposes of indicators

- **Track progress in achieving targets**

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- **Guide policy design & implementation**

  Highlight where action is needed

  Adaptive management

Multiple purposes of indicators

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- **Guide policy design & implementation**

  Highlight where action is needed

  Adaptive management

- **Build support**

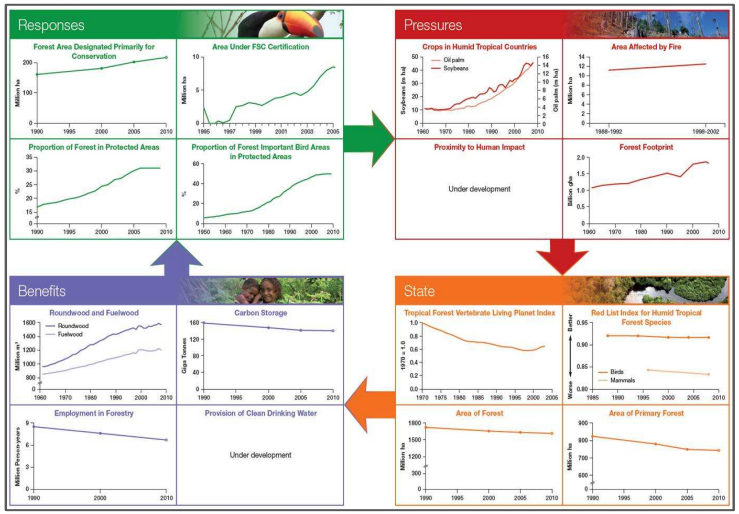
  Communicate simple messages

Multiple purposes of indicators

How are indicators used?

dashboards

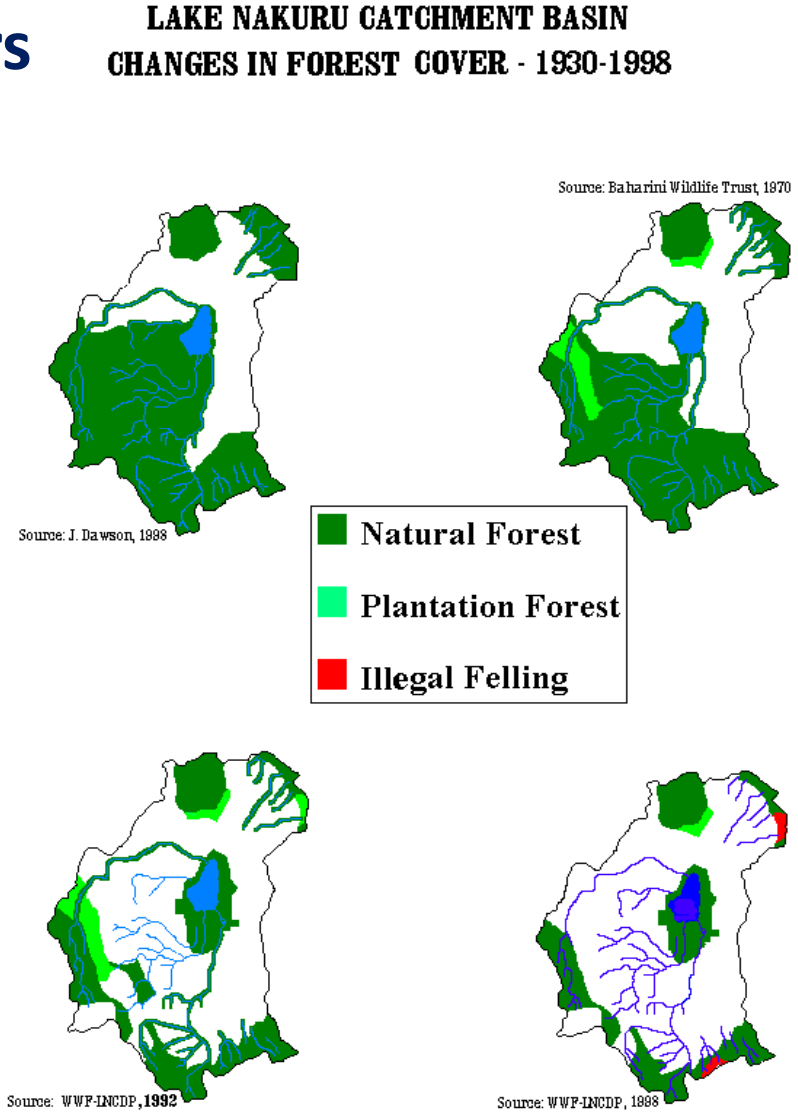
linked...



warnings

Multiple purposes of indicators

e.g. The Policy making cycle



Multiple purposes of indicators

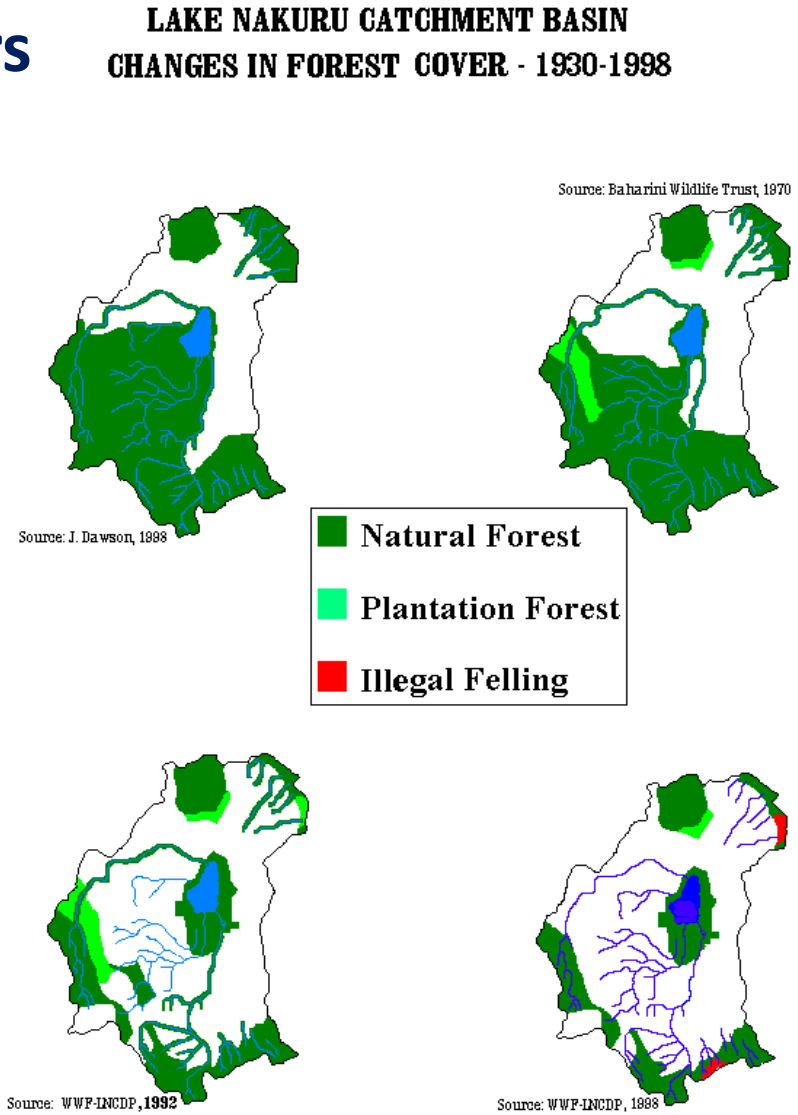
e.g. The Policy making cycle

- **Understanding an issue:**
(Where is the forest?, How much is there? Why is it changing?)

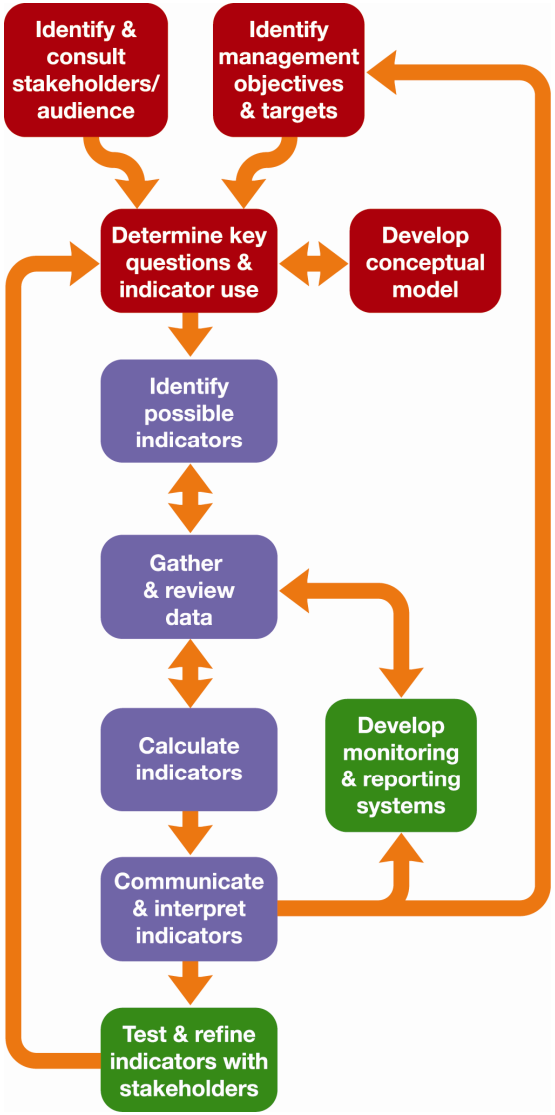
- **Setting Objectives, Targets, Policies**
(Location and extent of forest types, conservation or restoration, protected areas? By when?)

- **Monitoring progress & outcomes**
(forest extent, status of protected area)

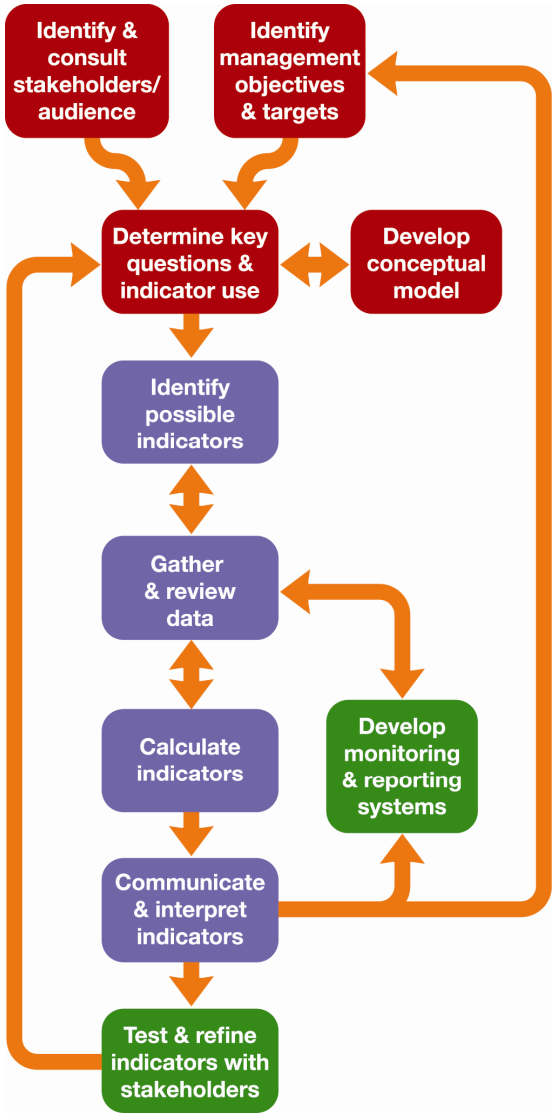
- **Communicating, getting support**
(stakeholder dialogue, State of Environment reporting, lobbying, fund-raising)



The Biodiversity Indicator Development Framework



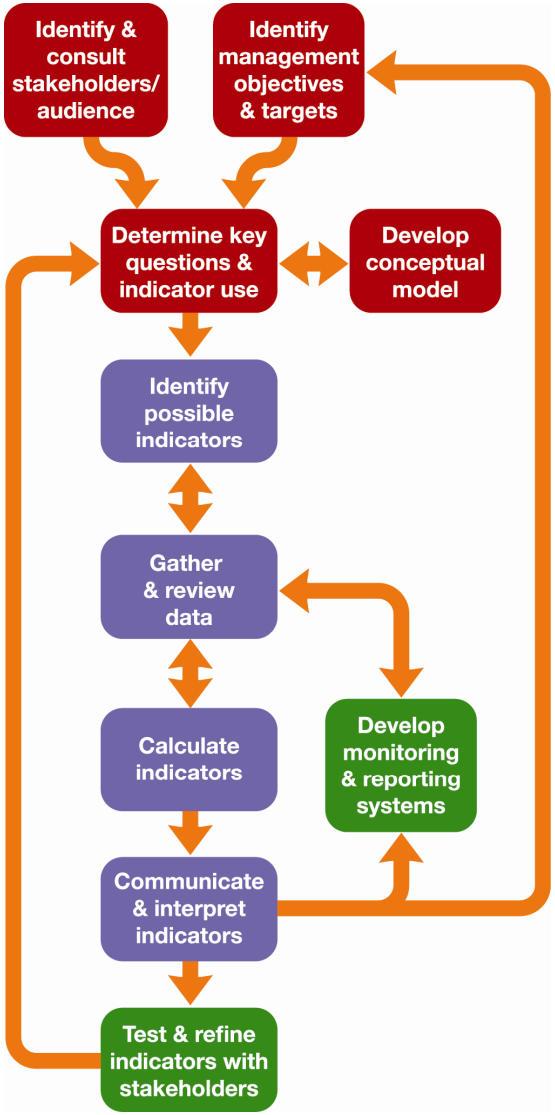
www.bipnational.net



"National governments and regional organizations using and contributing to the improved delivery of global indicators"

Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

UNEP WCMC

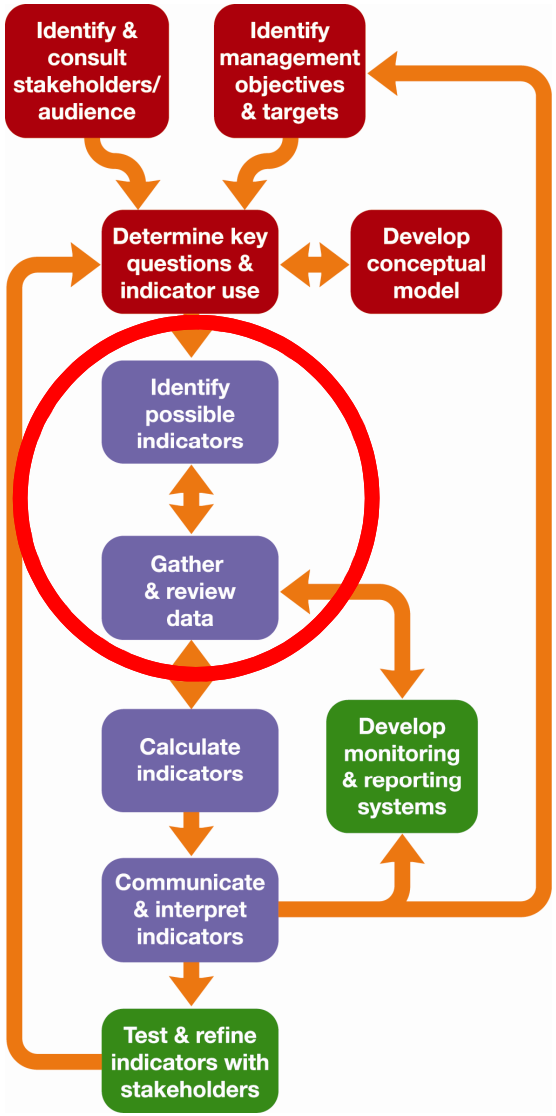


~~*"National governments and regional organizations using and contributing to the improved delivery of global indicators"*~~

"National governments developing and using indicators relevant to national priorities"

Capacity building in 70+ Countries

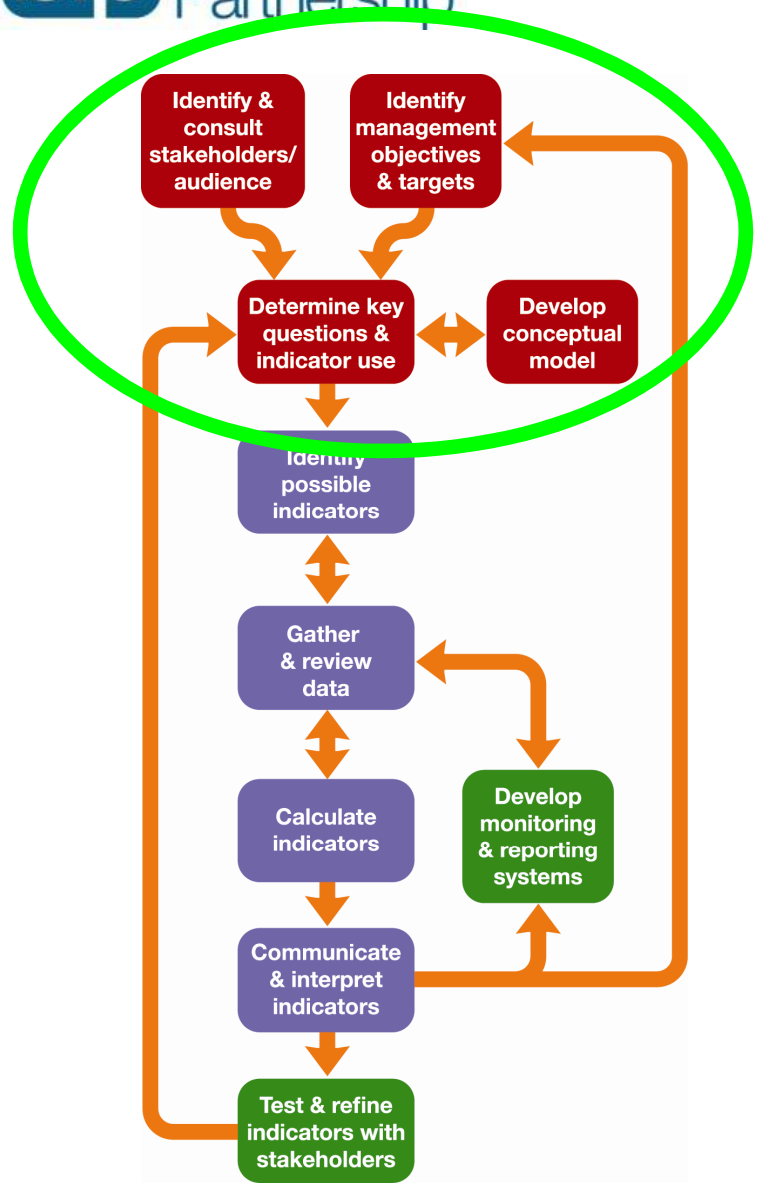
South East Asia
South Asia
Caribbean
Mesoamerica
Eastern Africa
Southern Africa



Common start point

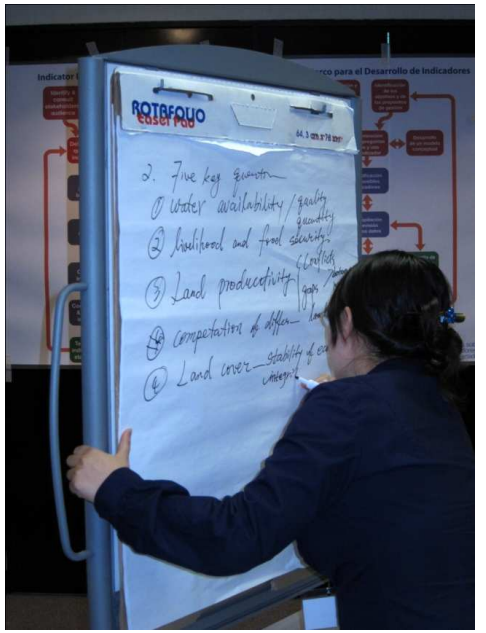
Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

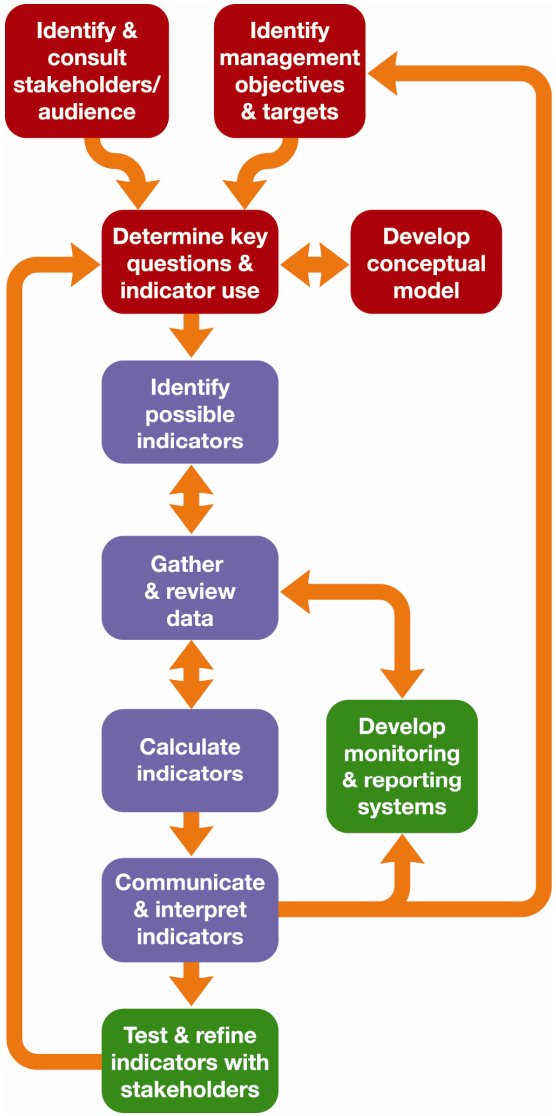
UNEP WCMC



~~Common start point~~

Found to be a more successful start point





Purpose

Production

Permanence

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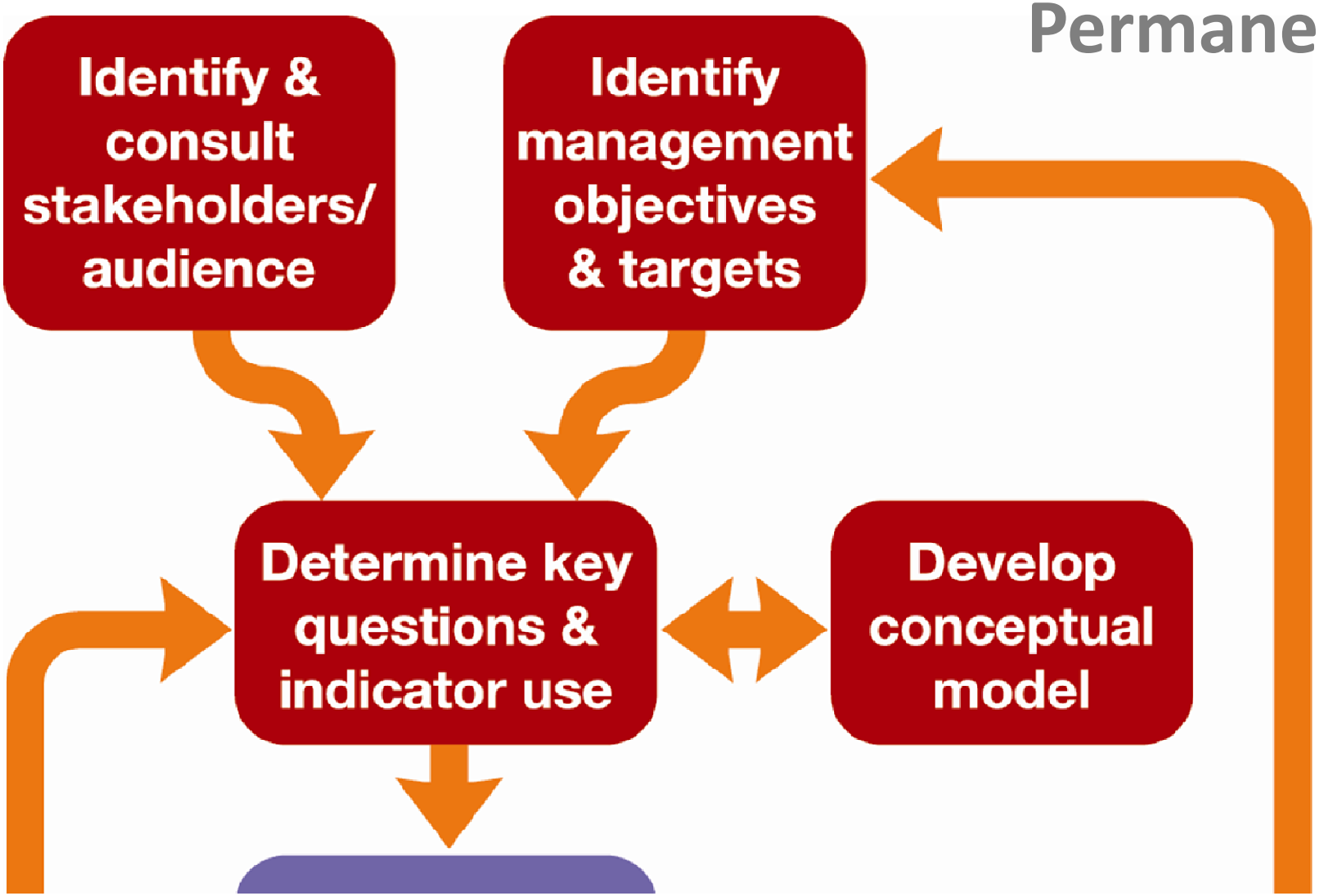

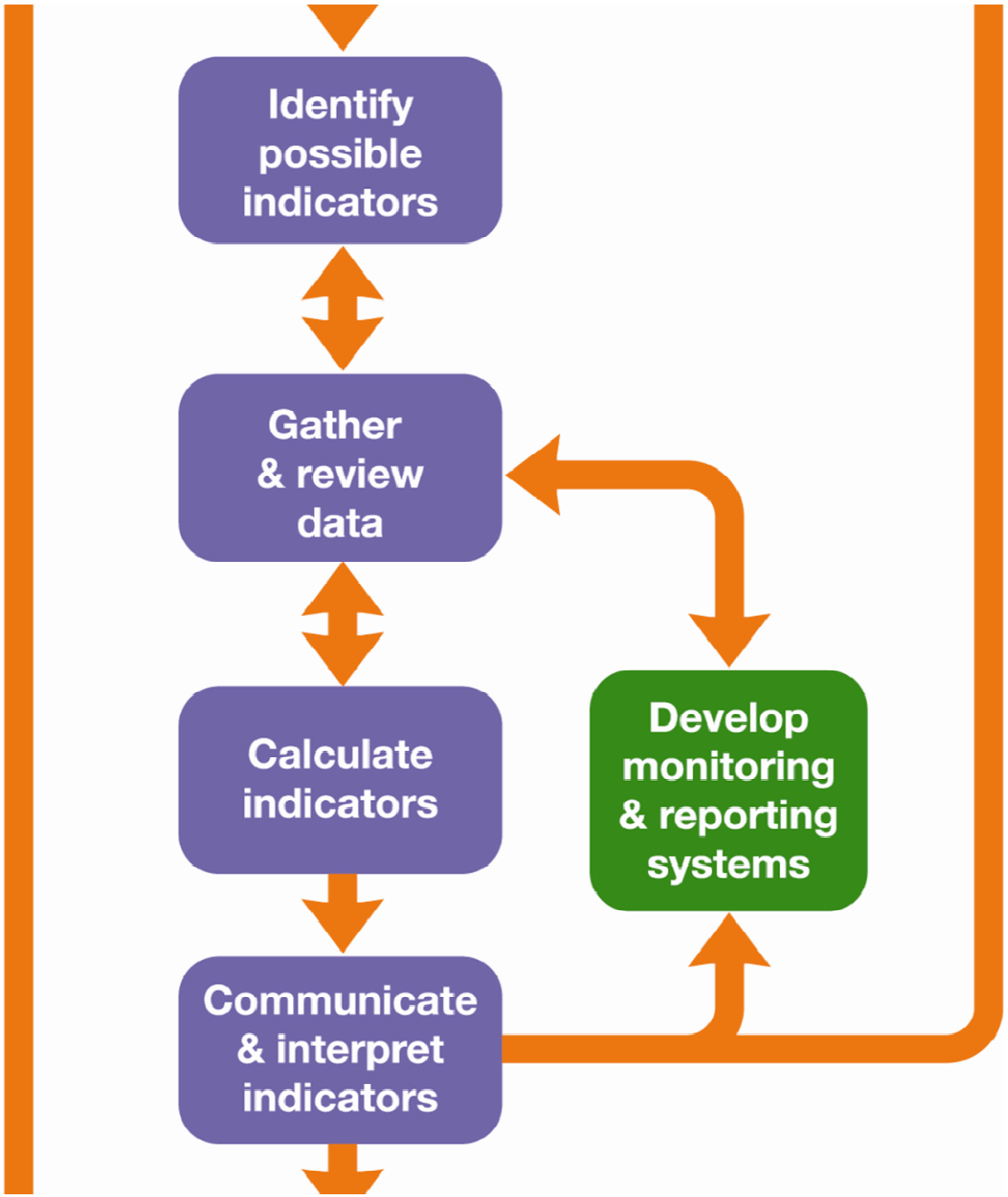

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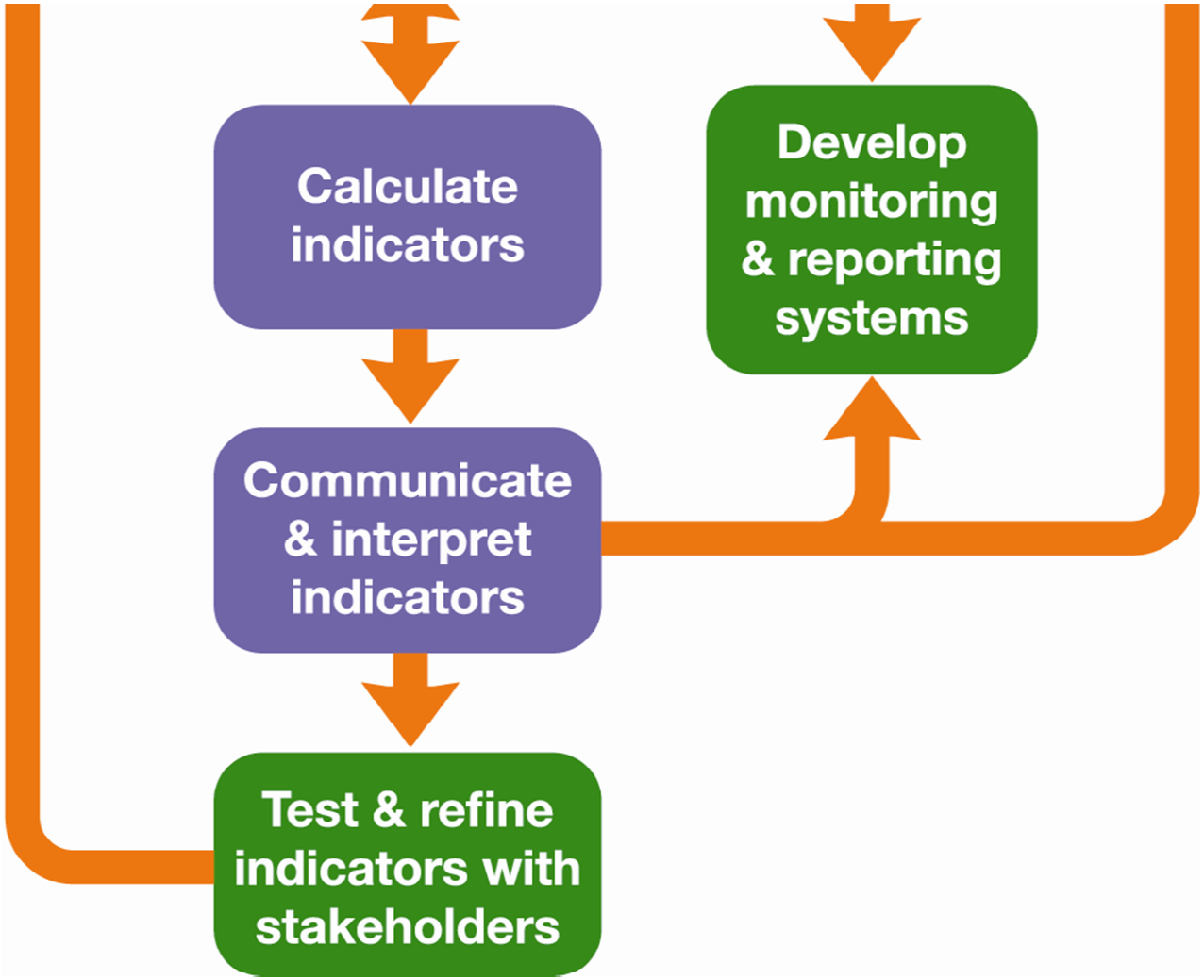

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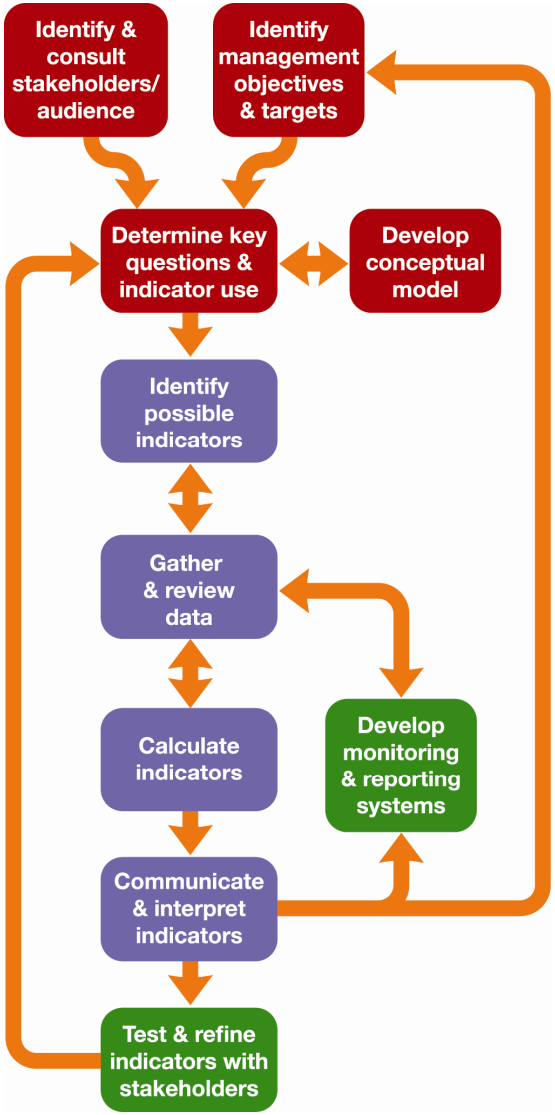

To consider...

- **"Narrative":** ***What story are you telling?***
- **<u>Understand</u> your data:** ***limitations, provenance***
- **Don't try to answer everything at once:** ***one indicator will rarely tell you all you want to know***

Some key messages for <u>using</u> indicators

- Understand your data: their strengths, their limitations, where they come from.
- Always put your indicators in context.
- Don't try to answer everything at once: one indicator will never tell you all you want to know.

Some key messages for <u>using</u> indicators

- What story are you trying to tell?

Some key messages for using indicators

- Who are you trying to tell the story to?

Some key messages for using indicators

- Indicators should lead on to other things – they are not ends in themselves.

Distinction between Targets and Indicators (1)

National Target:

Increase terrestrial Protected Area coverage from 5% of the country to 15% by 2020

Indicators?

- Increase in Protected Area coverage
- Protected Area coverage
- Percentage Protected Area coverage

Distinction between Targets and Indicators (2)

National Target:

By 2015, reduce the level of fisheries by-catch by 10% to 50,000 tonnes per year

Indicators?

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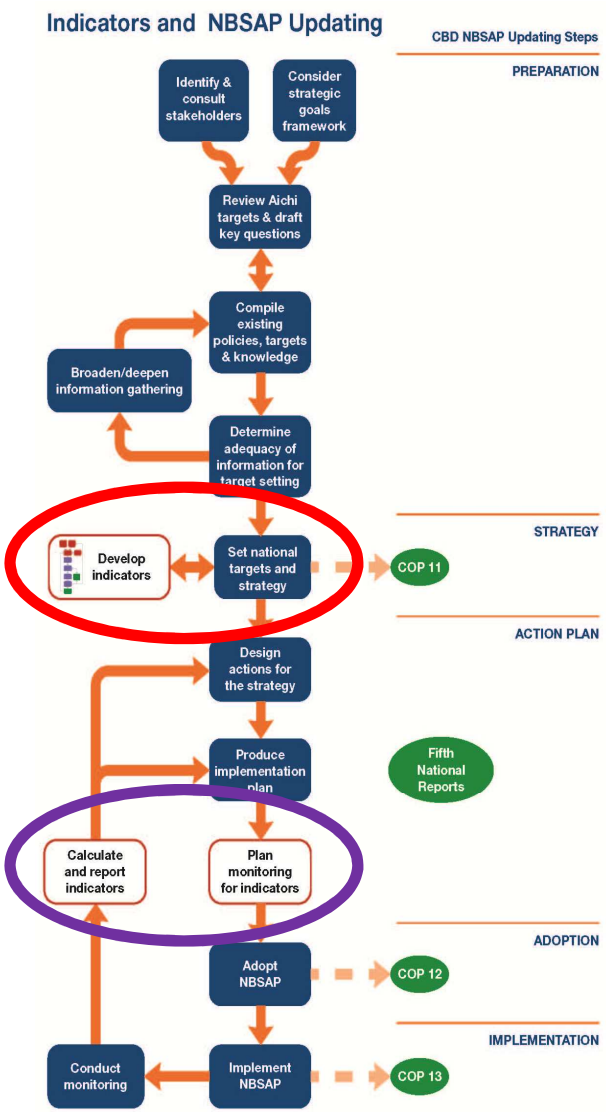
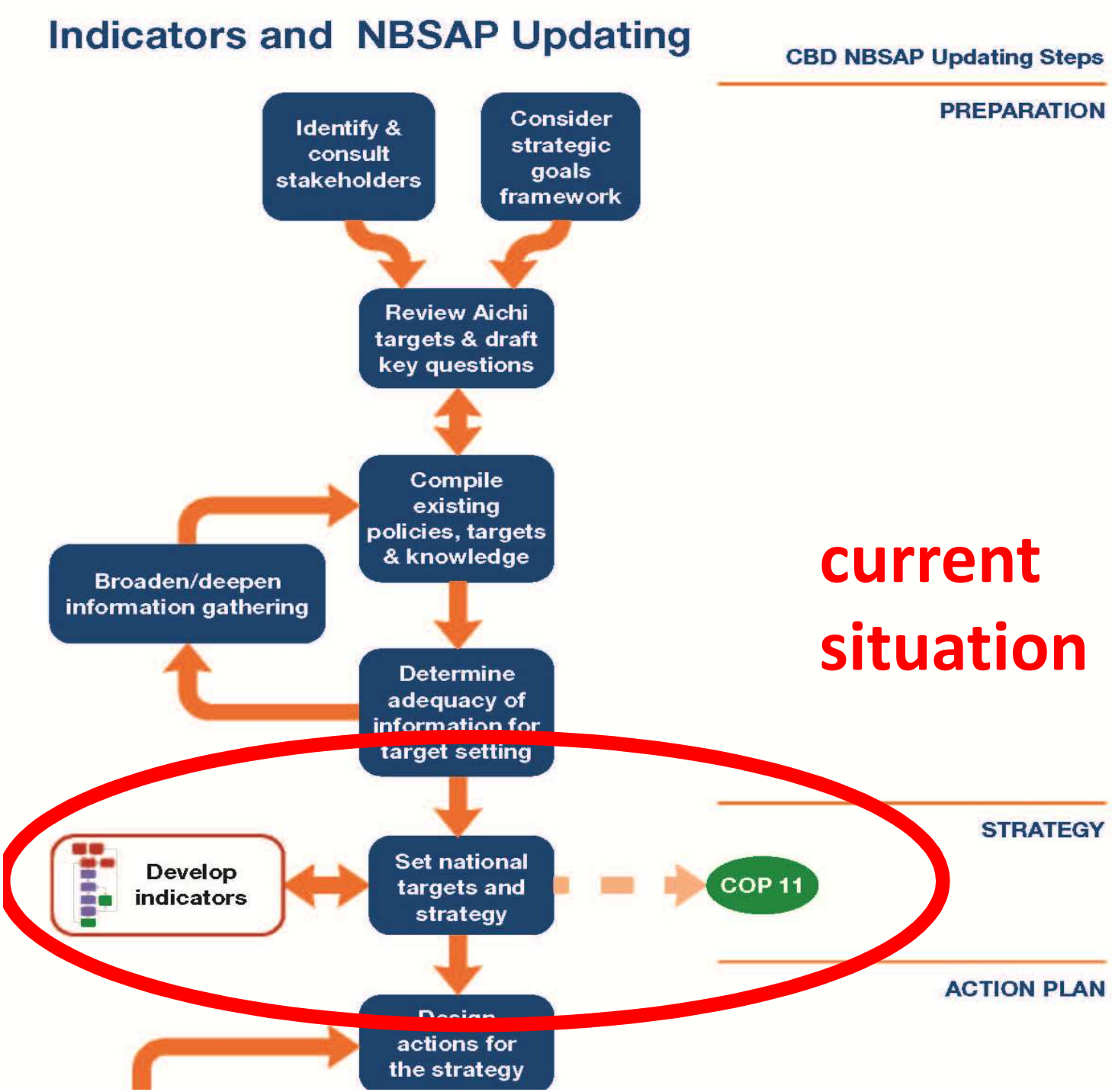


Indicators and NBSAP updating

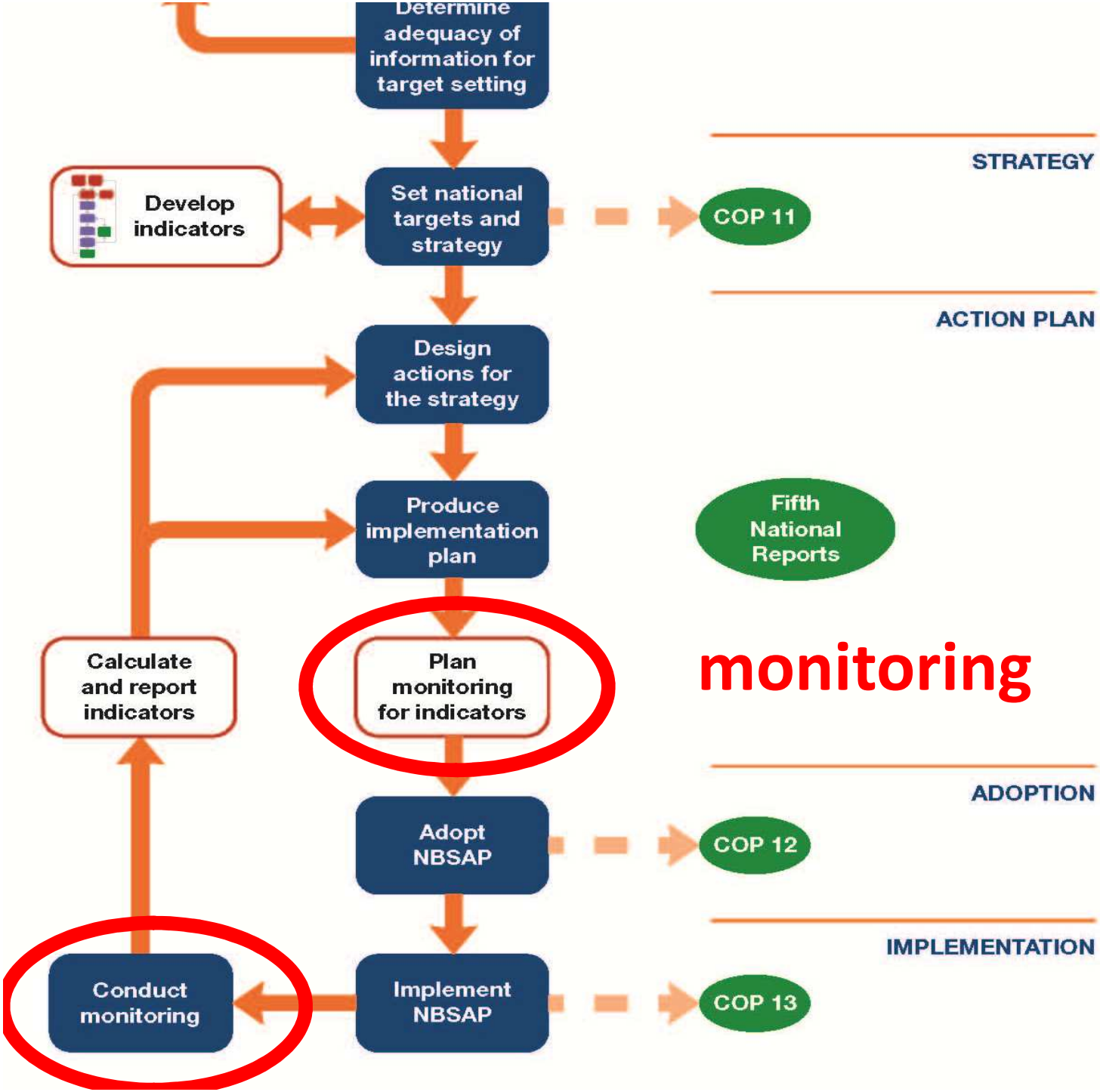
Indicators and target setting

Indicators and implementation

Indicators and NBSAP Updating



current situation


Determine adequacy of information for target setting
STRATEGY
Develop indicators
Set national targets and strategy
COP 11
ACTION PLAN
Design actions for the strategy
Produce implementation plan
Fifth National Reports
Calculate and report indicators
Plan monitoring for indicators
monitoring
ADOPTION
Adopt NBSAP
COP 12
IMPLEMENTATION
Conduct monitoring
Implement NBSAP
COP 13

Why monitor?

...to detect change

- **Curiosity driven / Mandated / Question driven**
(Lindenmayer and Likens, 2010, *Biological Conservation* **143** 1317–1328)

- **Drivers of change? (anthropogenic, natural dynamics, climate change)**

- **Resource limitations**

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Obstacles to successful indicators

- Lack of resources (funding, expertise, data)
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