Recommendations from Management Effectiveness Stream

"Using Evaluation for Better Management" Session

Considerations:

These recommendations are provided recognizing that their application will be context specific and also that the use of evaluation results should respect intellectual property rights of relevant stakeholders.

Prioritized recommendations from the session:

A) Make monitoring and evaluation systems relevant and understandable to the key audiences involved in protected area management.

B) Integrate evaluation into the management cycle so it becomes a regular part of protected area management and receives appropriate resources.

C) Involve relevant stakeholders in all steps of the management effectiveness process; provide ongoing training and capacity building for stakeholders where needed. This collaboration should involve two-way communication.

All of these recommendations are relevant for the CBD/COP 7, IUCN, and WPC. The only thing that would change are the actors and the scale. These recommendations are offered with the specification that their application will need to consider cultural and other contextual aspects.

Original recommendations from the session

The following are the original recommendations (concept form only) from which we prioritized the previous recommendations

A) Make evaluations relevant:
   a. Present data/results in a useful and culturally appropriate format for the evaluation audience
   b. Design monitoring systems that are relevant to protected area management needs
B) Make evaluations rigorous
   a. Collect baseline data and do time-series analysis
   b. Monitoring and evaluation should collect more quantitative data
   c. Make clear objectives, target audiences, and intent
   d. Recognize and communicate assumptions and limitations of tools
C) Integrate evaluation into the management cycle – make it a regular part of management
   a. Foster and encourage adoption of evaluation into the management cycle (not a separate activity)
   b. Quarantine a percent of the budget for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting
   c. Integrate evaluation into the management cycle to build trust with stakeholders
   d. Recognition of need for monitoring and evaluation
D) Involve stakeholders and build capacity
   a. Involve local stakeholders in all steps of monitoring and evaluation
   b. Identify which communities are ready to do management effectiveness evaluation and adaptive management and provide capacity to those who are not.
   c. Training must be provided and continuous (to help with continuity)
   d. Researchers and evaluators should adhere to ethical standards and ensure sharing and validation of their results with all evaluation stakeholders. Collaboration should be two-way. Liaise with local agencies.
E) Learning across sites should take place
   a. Support cross-site comparisons and learning (strengthens findings and provides inferences for higher scales)
F) Decentralization
   a. Where appropriate, promote decentralization of protected area management
G) Staff recognition
   a. Recognize those who are doing monitoring and evaluation and of project staff who are performing