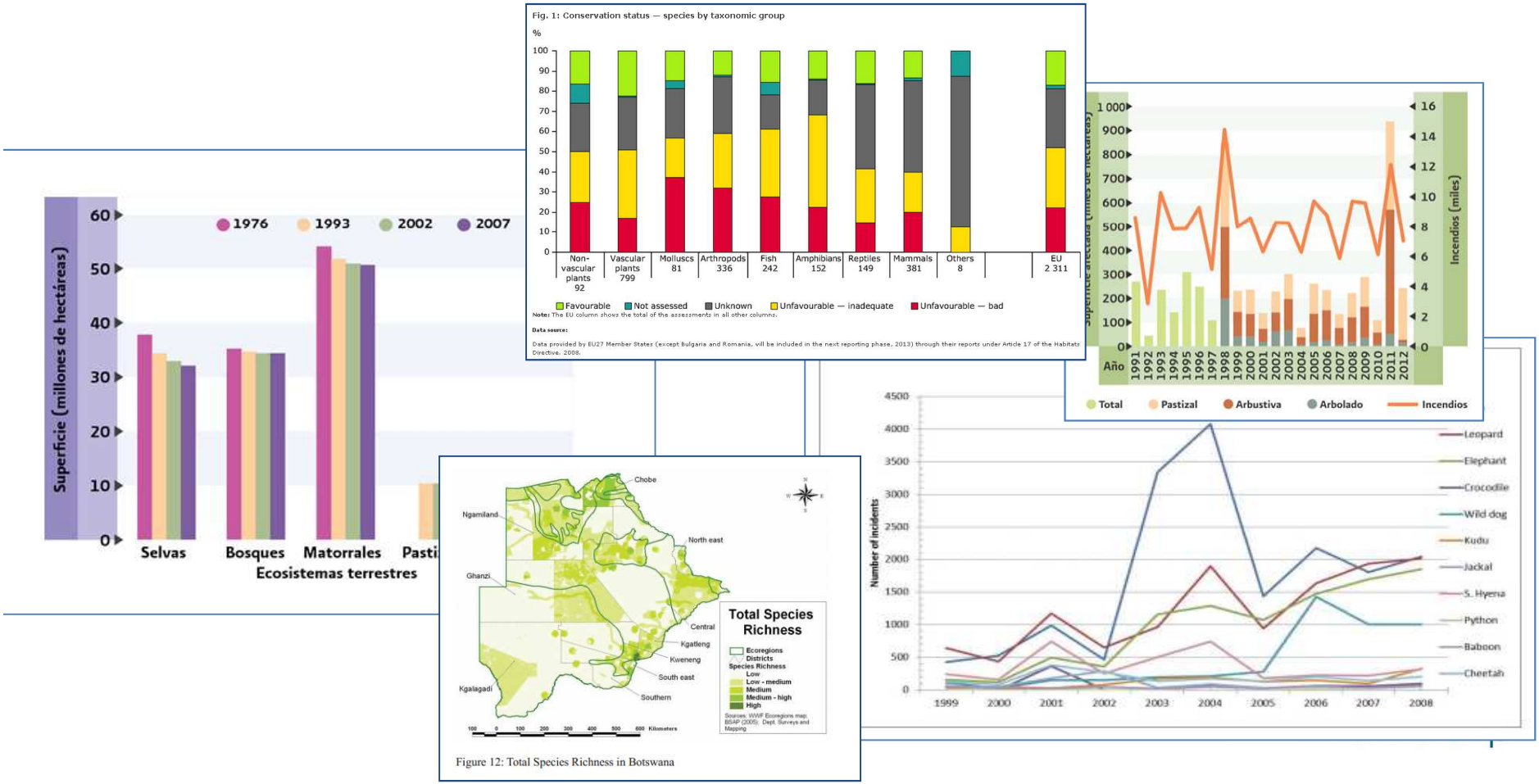
Western Balkans Capacity Building Workshop on Indicators as part of NBSAP Updating

What is an Indicator and Uses of Indicators



Being clear about the basics...

What is an indicator?

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

INDICATORS ARE PURPOSE DEPENDENT

- the interpretation or meaning given to the data depends on the purpose or issue of concern.

- always first determine your purpose.

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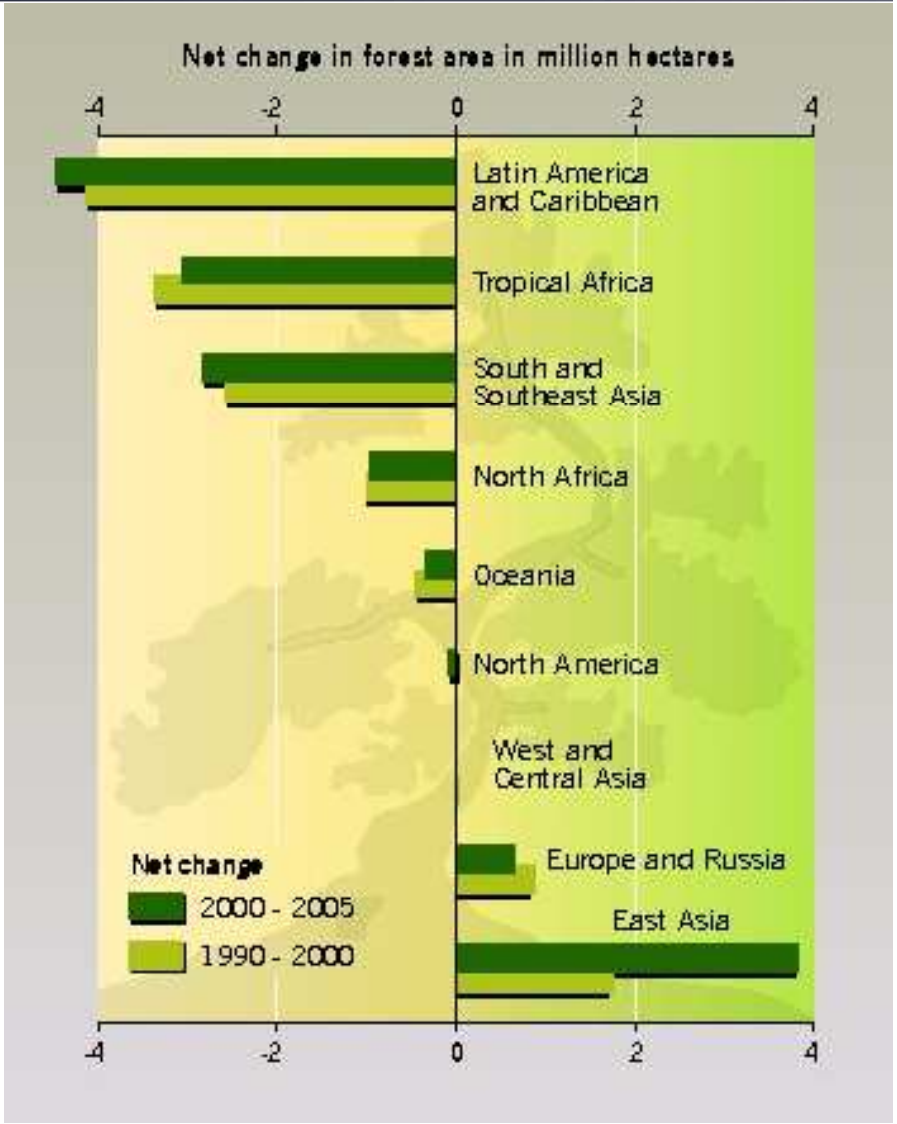
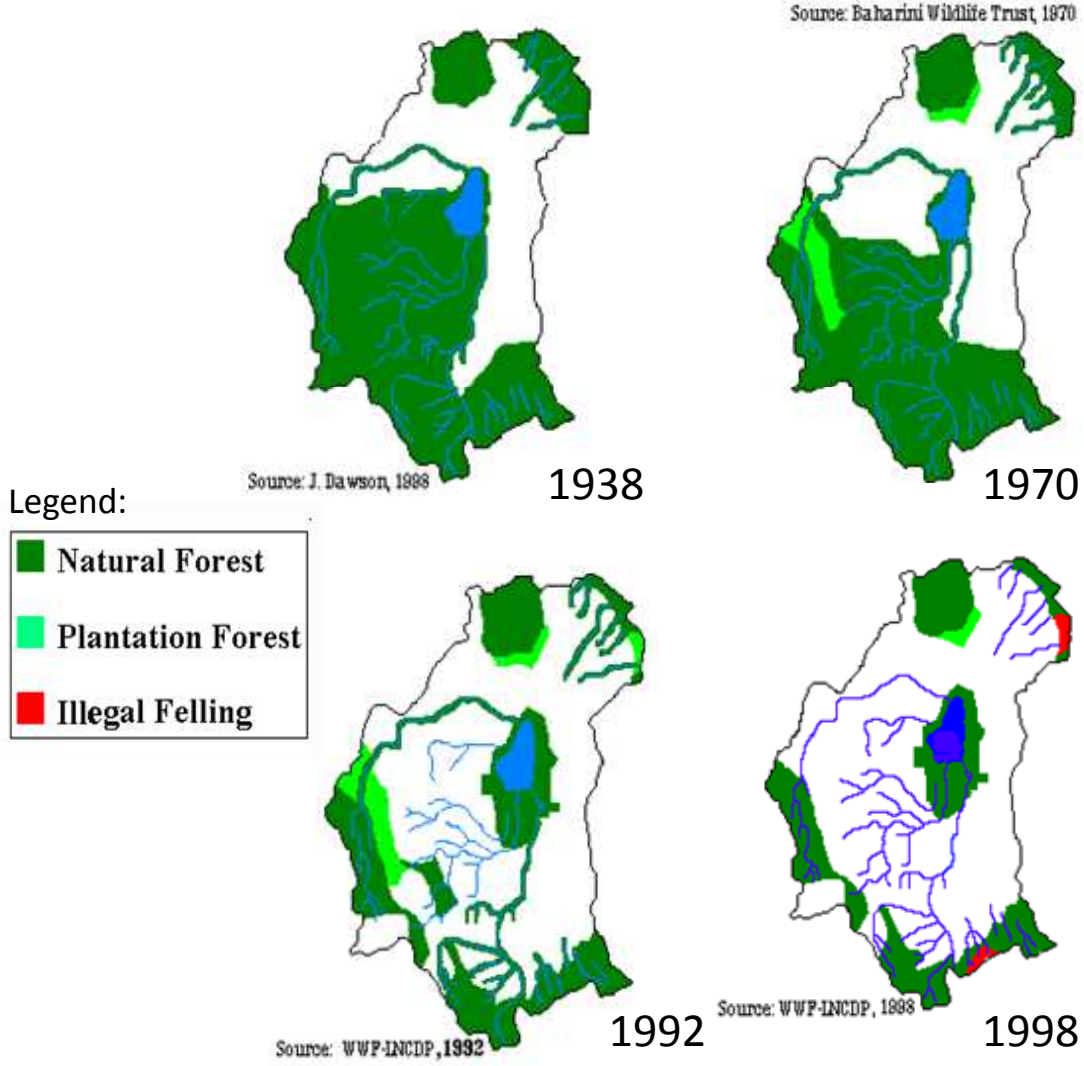
Indicators are purpose dependent

Net change in forest area over time could be an indicator of:

- 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
E.g. Policy making cycle



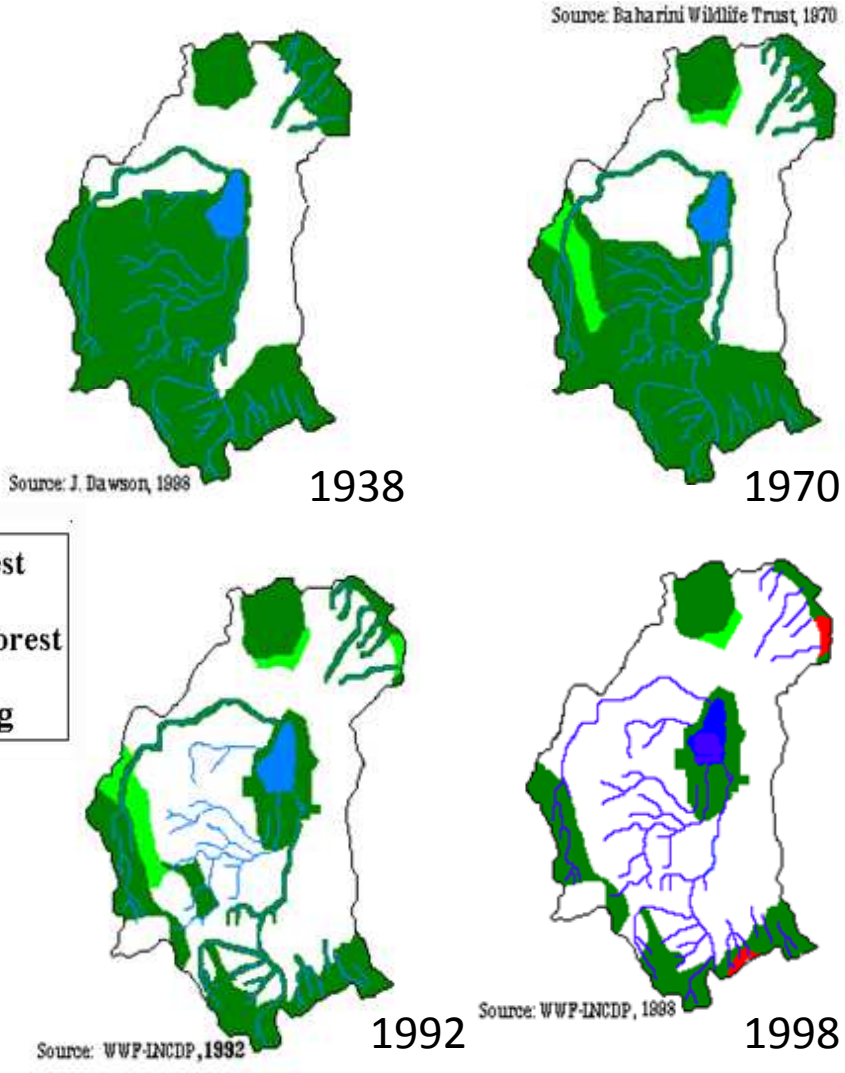
Multiple purposes of indicators
E.g. Policy making cycle

- **Understanding an issue:**
  (Where is the forest?, How much is there?, Change over time? 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 Report, lobbying, fund-raising)



Uses of biodiversity indicators:

- Track progress in achieving targets
- Guide policy design & implementation:
  - *Highlight where action is needed*
  - *Adaptive management*
- Build support:
  - *Communicate simple messages*

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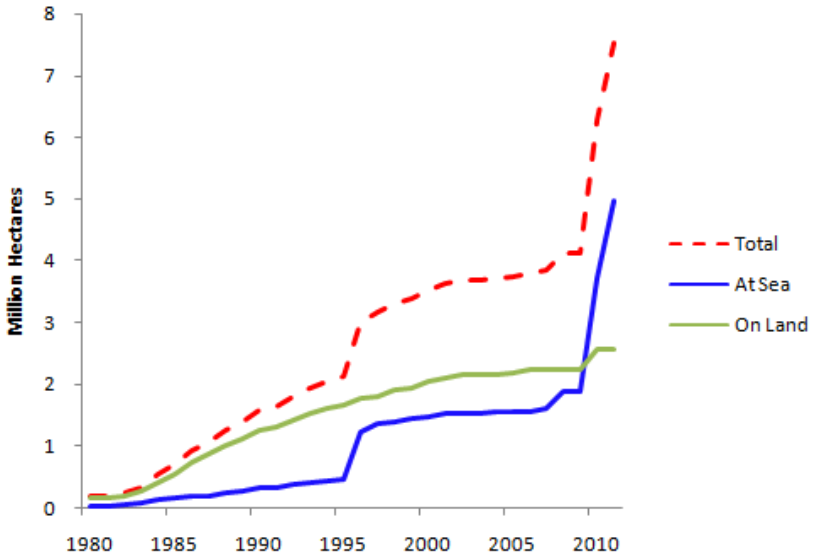
Indicator or Index?

Summary

Figure C1i. Extent of UK nationally and internationally important protected areas: (i) total extent; (ii) on land; (iii) at sea, 1980 to 2011.



Source: UK Biodiversity Indicators in Your Pocket, 2012

Notes:

1. The demarcation between the protected areas on land and at sea is mean high water (mean high water spring in Scotland). The calculations to create the indicator split the terrestrial and marine components of coastal sites between the 'on land' and 'at sea' lines shown.
2. Based on calendar year of site designation.

Source: Joint Nature Conservation Committee based on its own data and data from the Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Scottish Natural Heritage.

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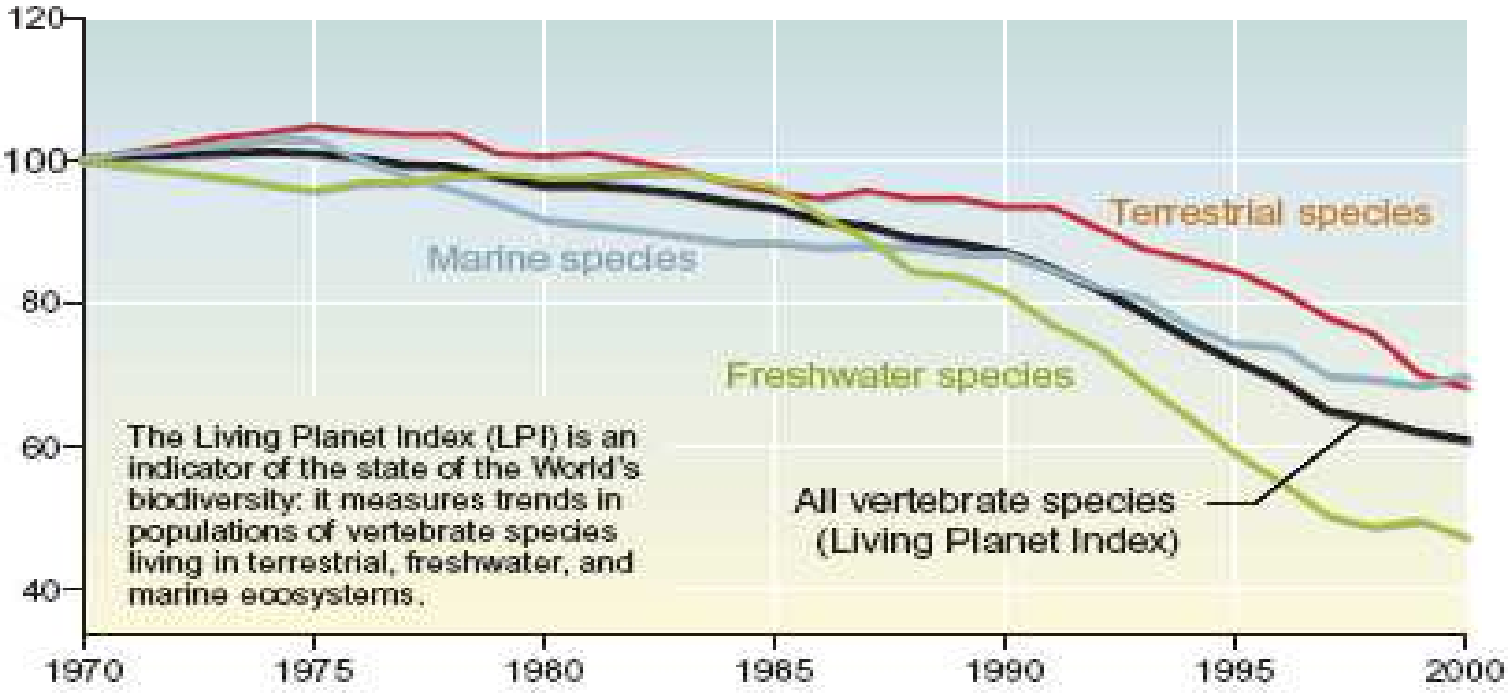
Indicator or Index?

An index is a numerical scale used to compare variables with one another or with some reference number.

Population Index = 100 in 1970

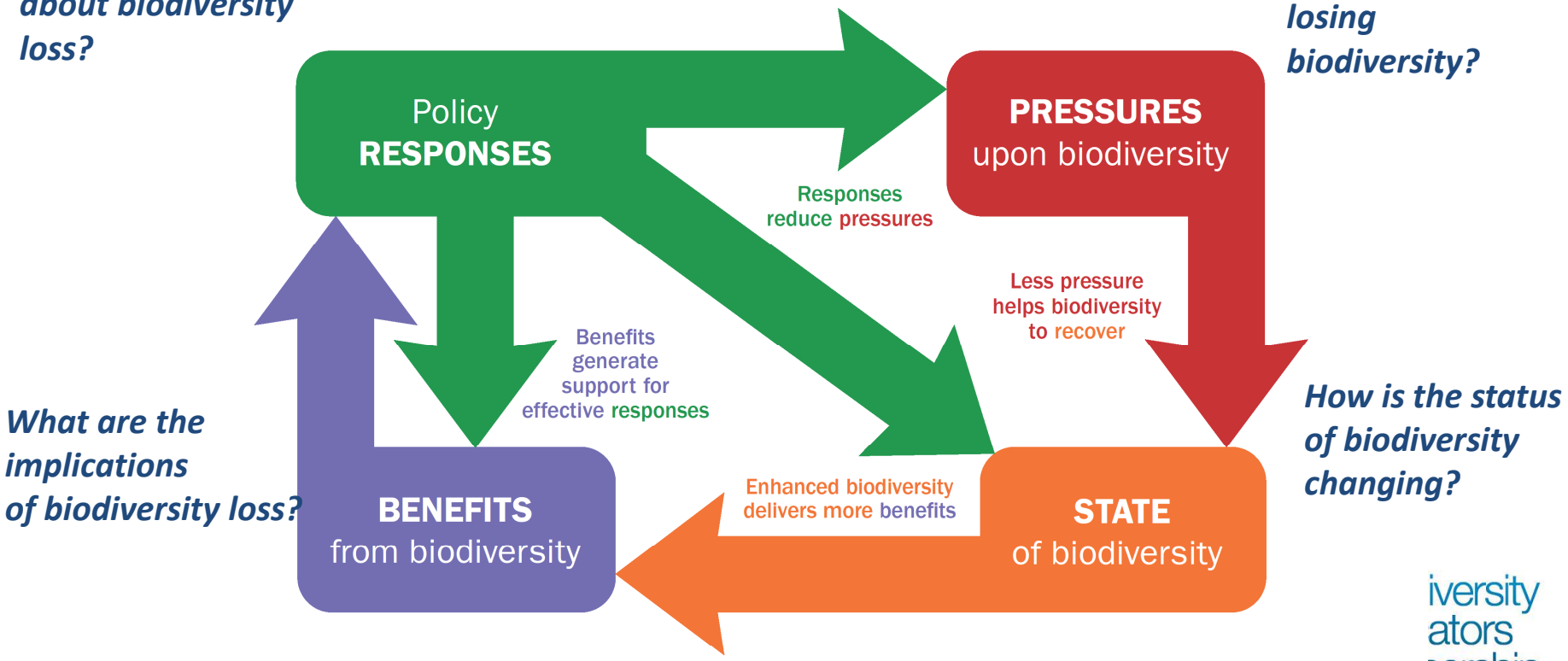


Source: WWF, UNEP-WCMC; Living Planet Report 2004.

Pressures – State – Benefits – Response Framework

To assist identifying key questions and interpreting indicators

Pressure-State-Benefits-Response Framework



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What is a successful indicator?

Scientifically valid – theory of relationship between the indicator and its purpose (what change in the indicator means) + reliability of the data

Based on available data – over time (monitoring)

Responsive to change in the issue of interest

Easily understandable – conceptually + presentation + interpretation

Relevant to user's needs

It is used!
(for measuring progress, early-warning, understanding an issue, awareness-raising, …)

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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**.*

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

What ***story*** are you trying to tell?!

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

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

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Distinctions between Targets and Indicators

National Target:

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

Indicators?

1. 15% terrestrial Protected Area coverage
2. Increase in Protected Area coverage
3. Protected Area coverage
4. Percentage Protected Area coverage

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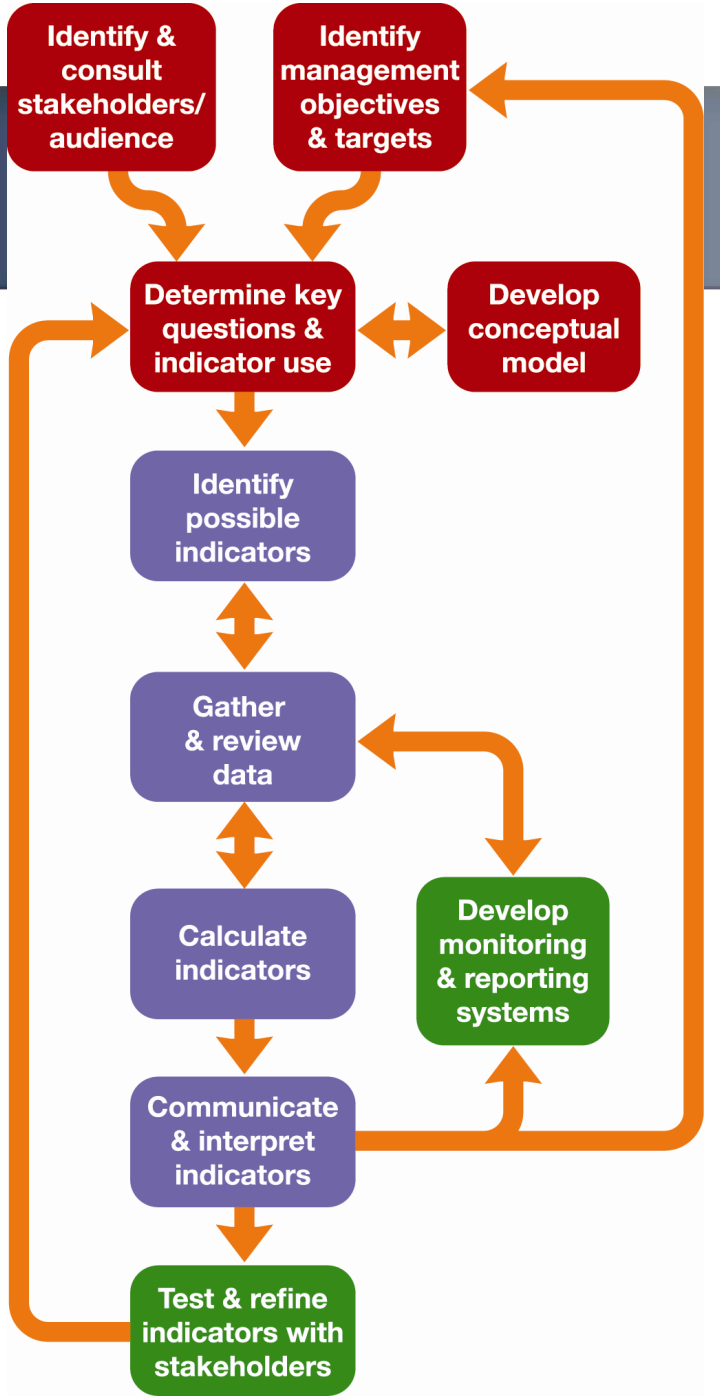
The Biodiversity Indicator Development Framework



www.bipnational.net


2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
Guidance for National Biodiversity Indicator Development and Use
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2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
What is an indic
Guidance for National Biodiversity Indicator Development and Use
The Biodiversity Indicator Development Framework
Identify & consult stakeholders/ audience
Identify management objectives & targets
Determine key questions & indicator use
Develop conceptual model
Identify possible indicators
Gather & review data
Calculate indicators
Develop monitoring & reporting systems
Communicate & interpret indicators
Test & refine indicators with stakeholders
For more information about the framework and national biodiversity indicator development visit the National Biodiversity Indicators Portal: www.bipnational.net
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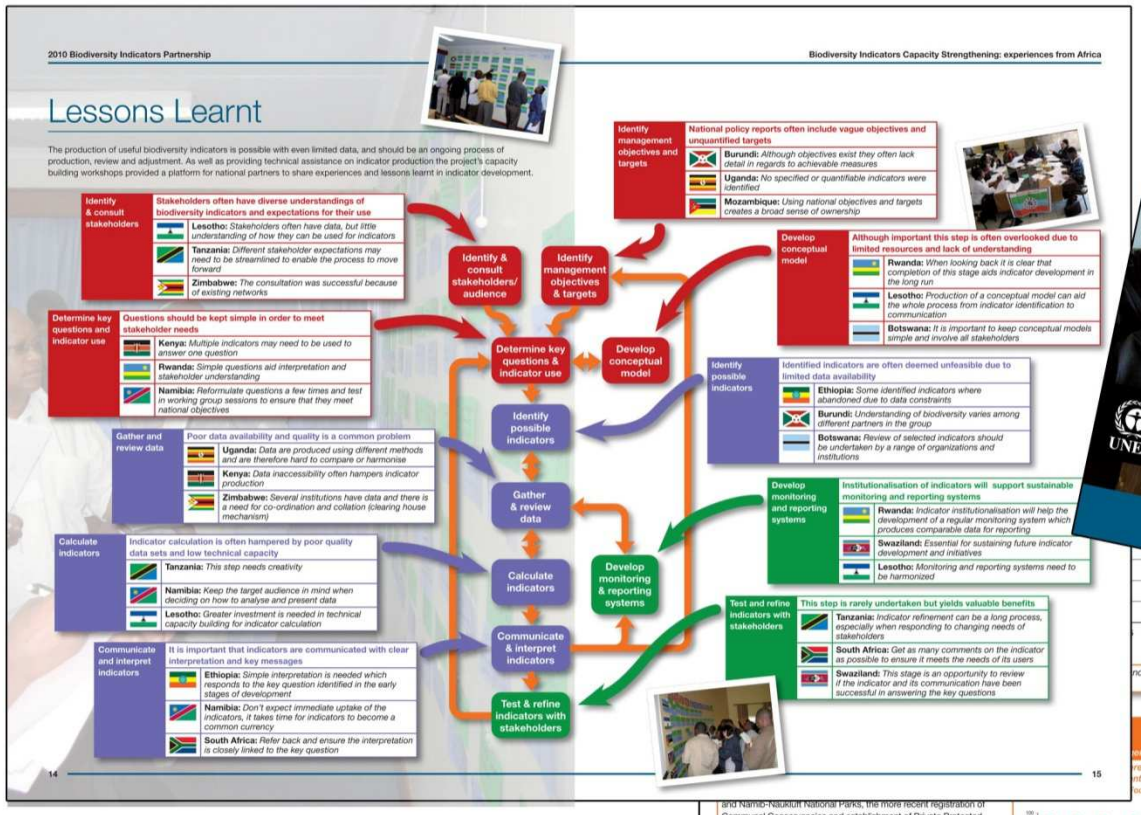
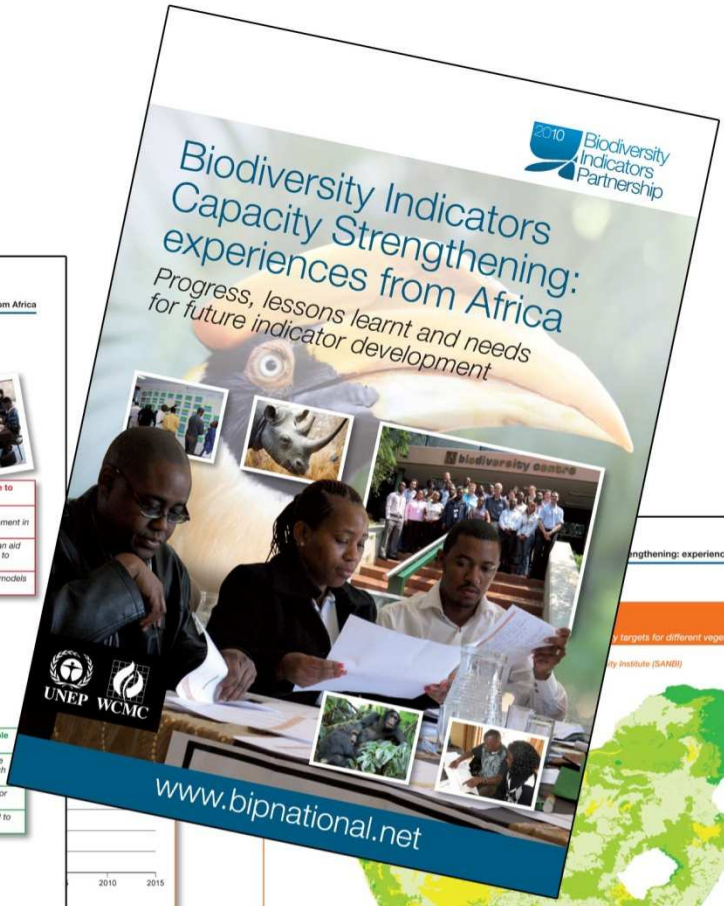
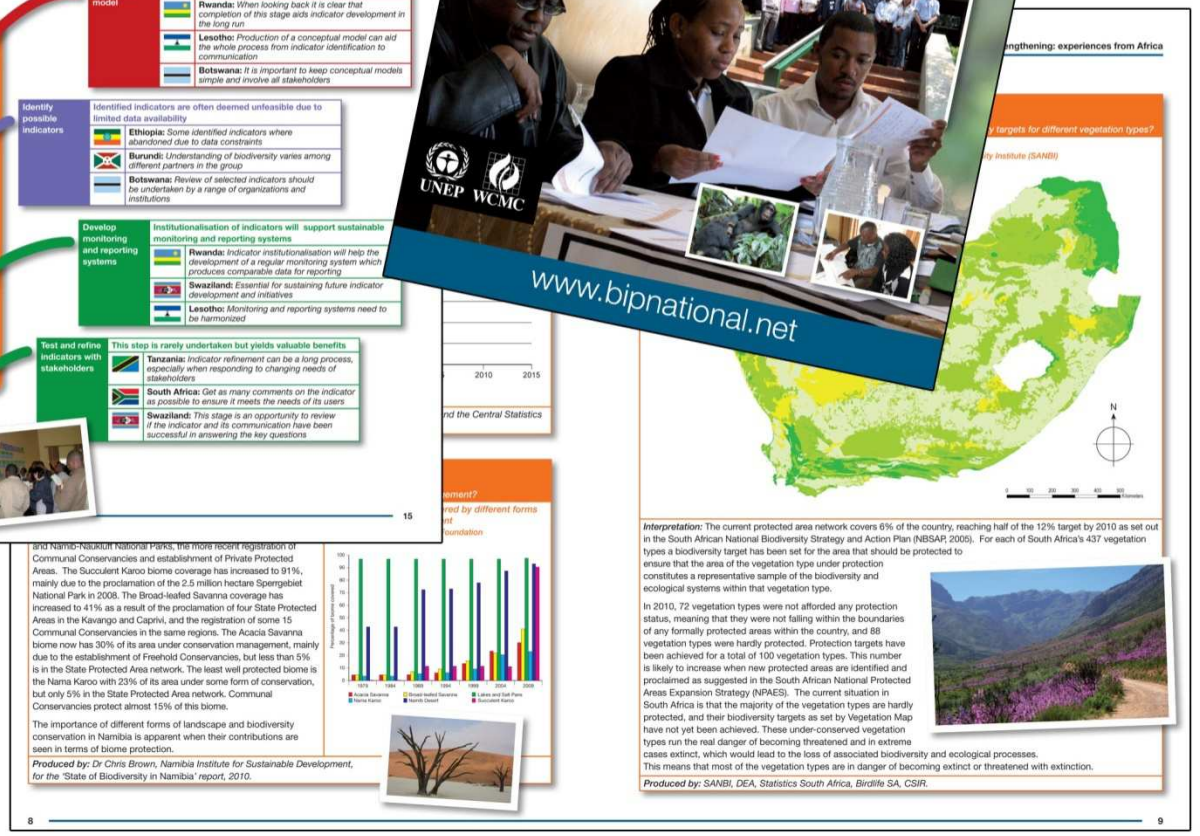
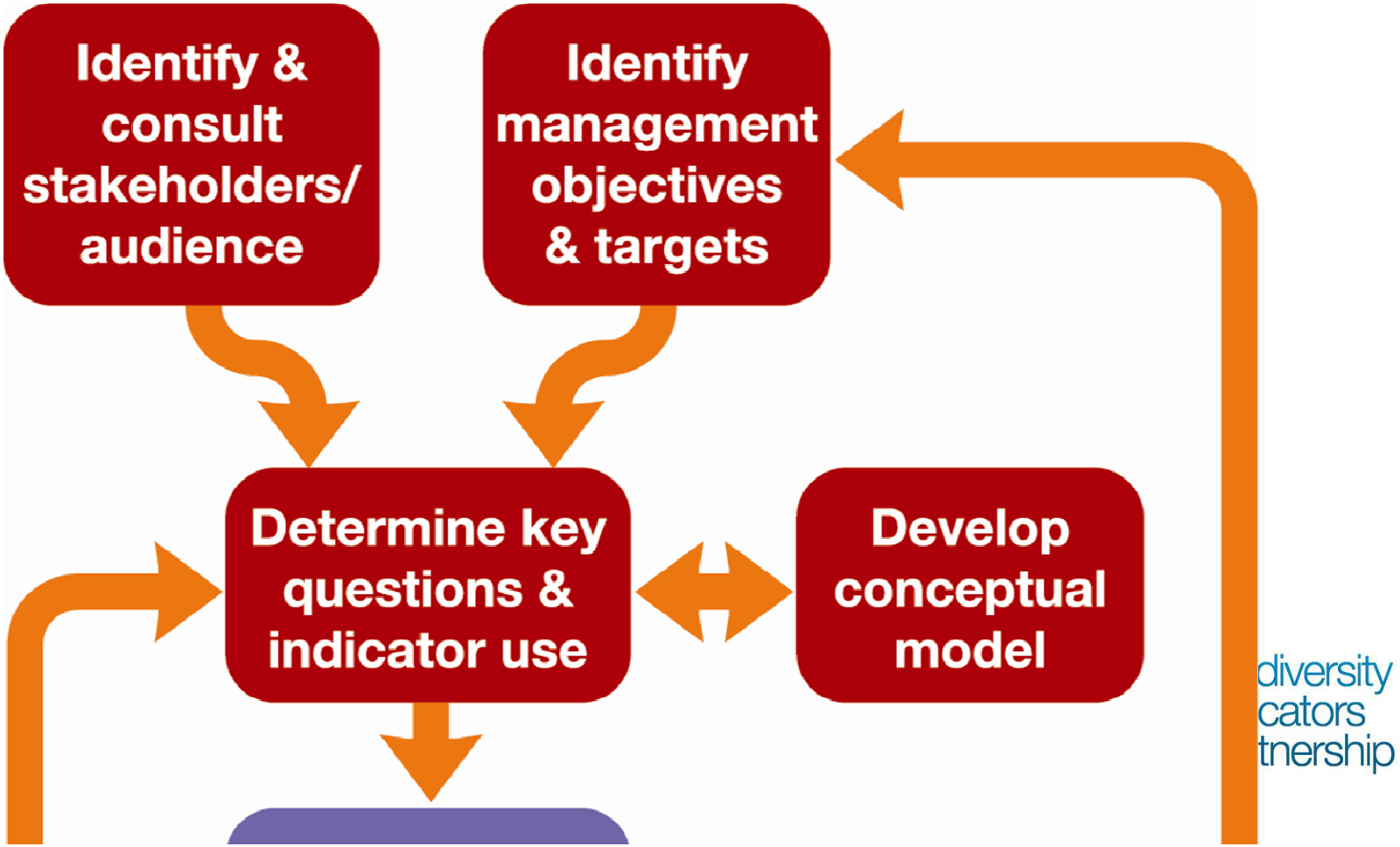




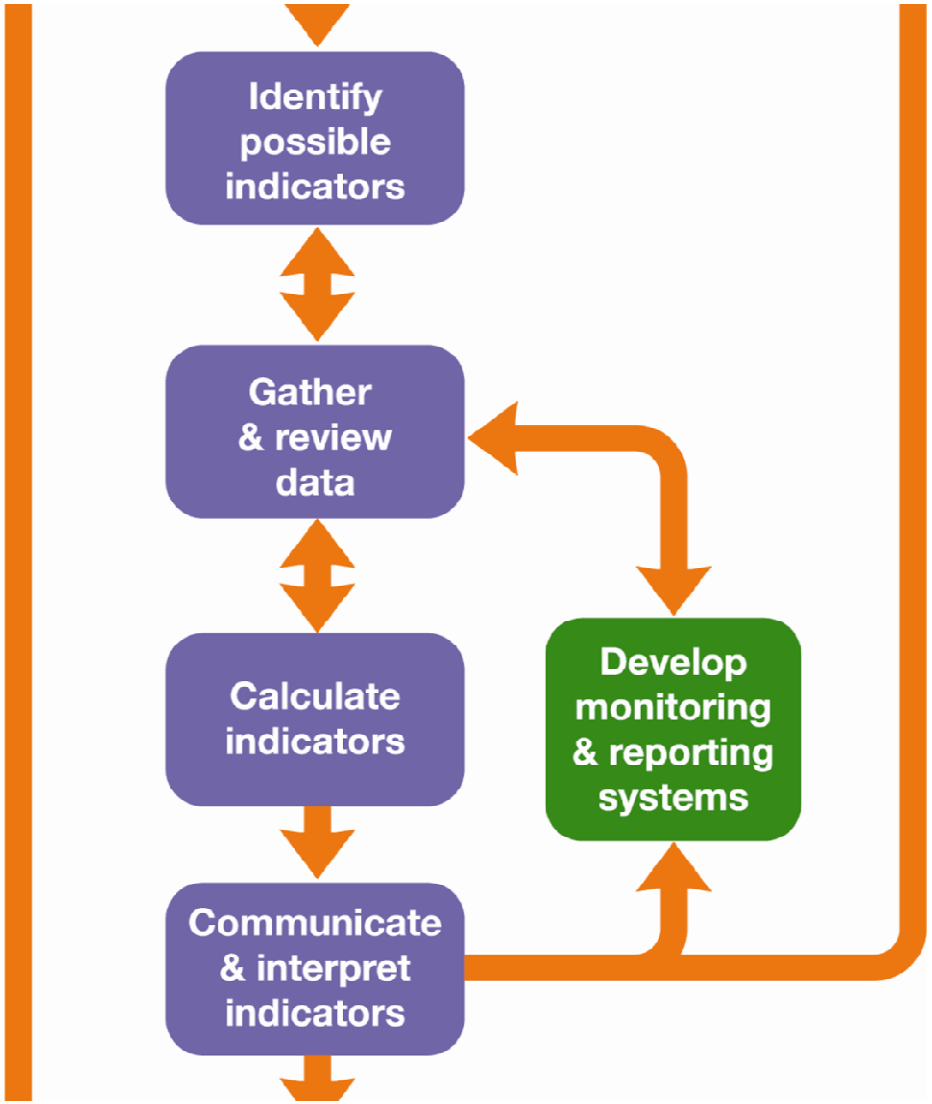


The Biodiversity Indicator Development Framework

Purpose – actions needed for selecting successful indicators



The Biodiversity Indicator Development Framework



Production – essential to generate indicators

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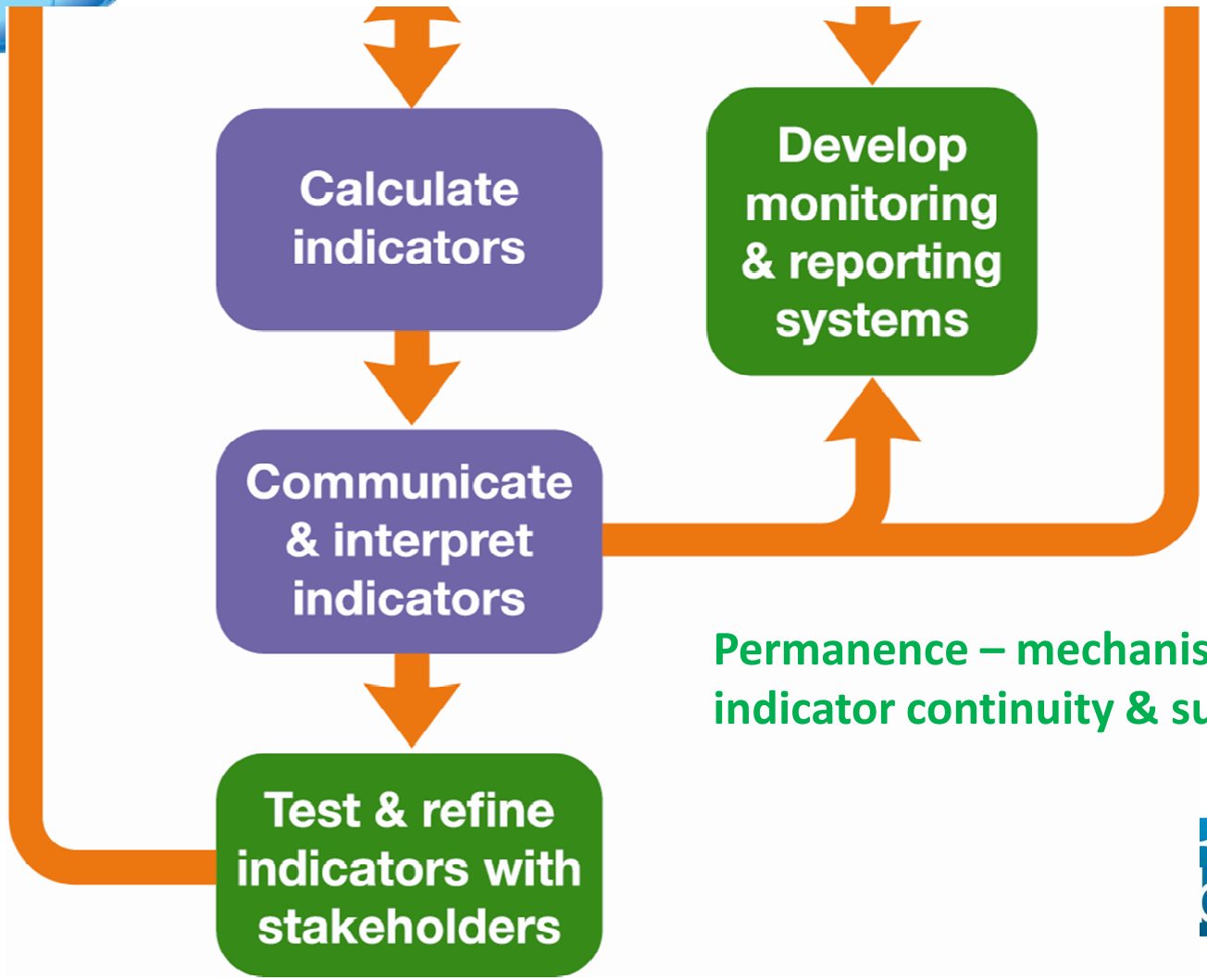

Permanence – mechanisms for ensuring indicator continuity & sustainability

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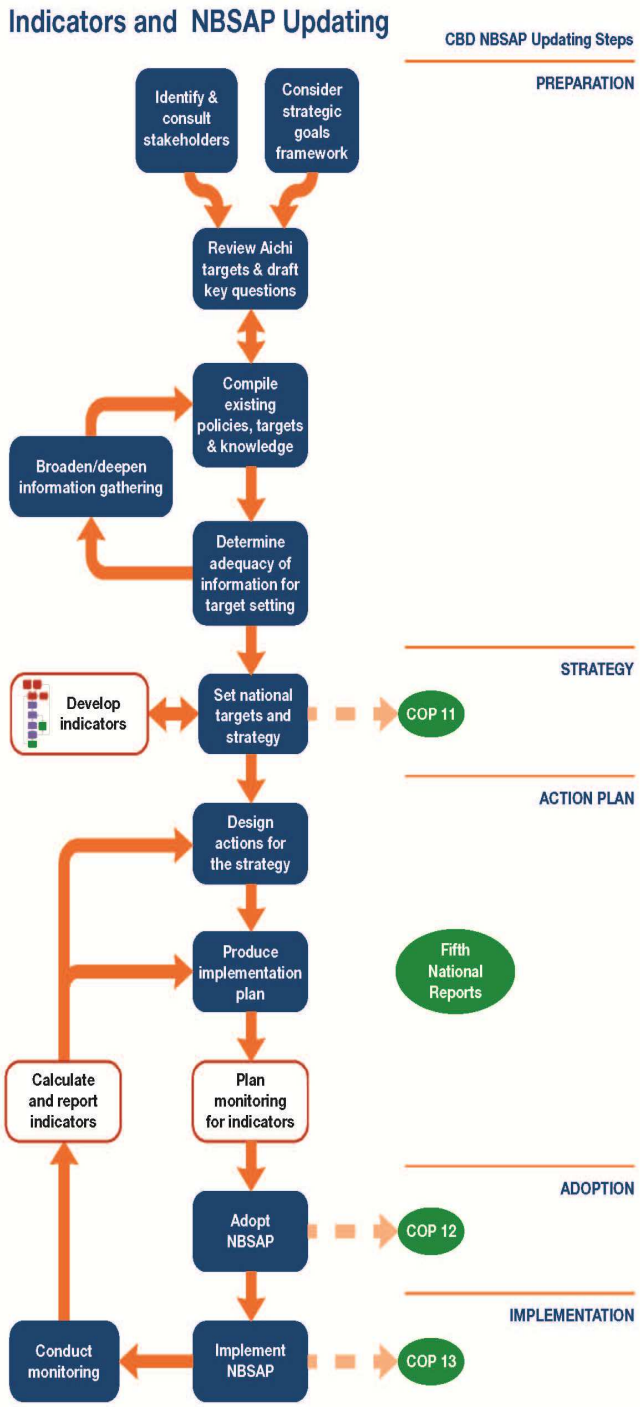
Indicators and NBSAP Updating



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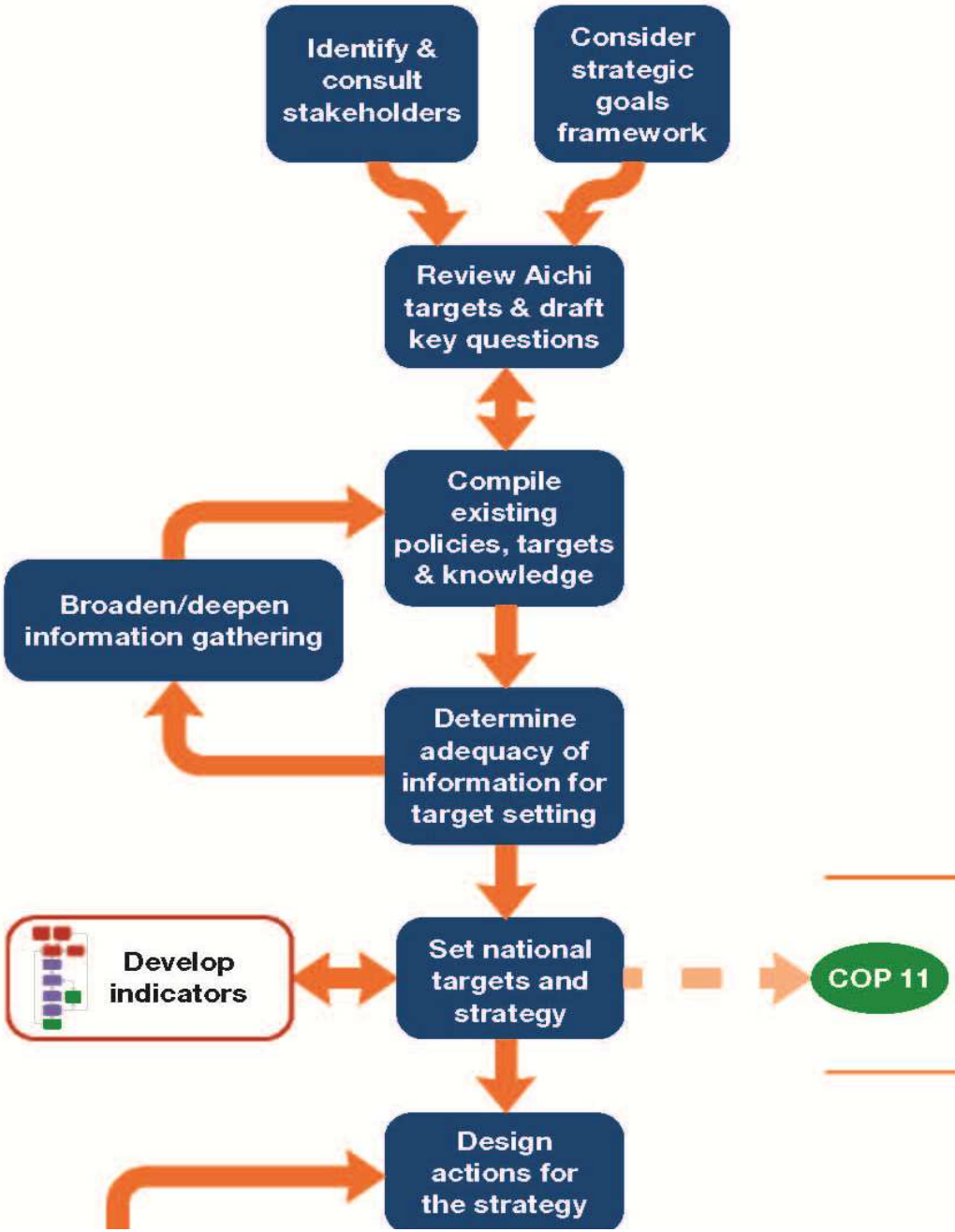
Indicators and NBSAP Updating



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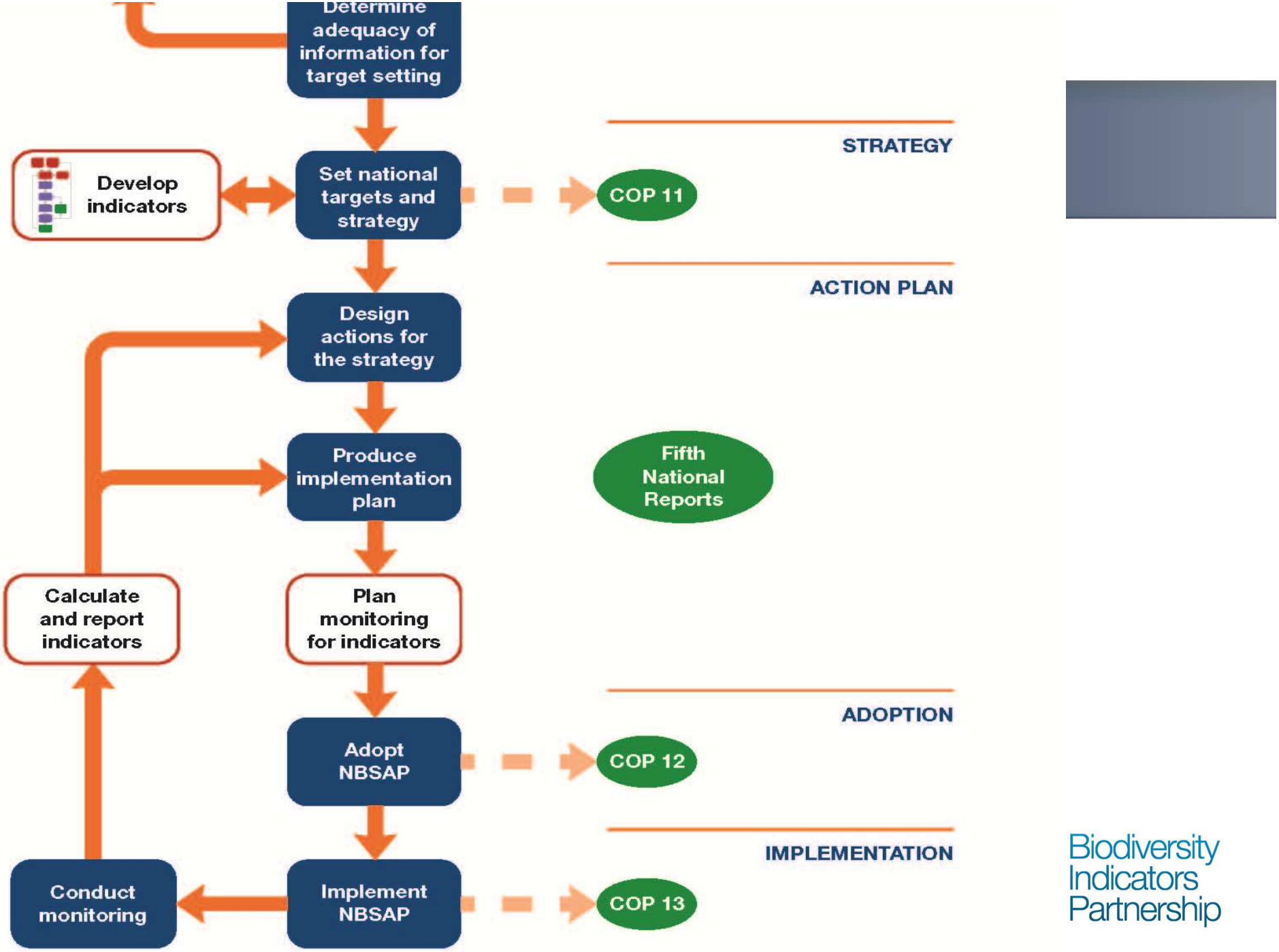

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Indicators and NBSAPs

2 main types of indicators used in NBSAPs:

Impact indicators – for measuring progress towards a target and a desired state of biodiversity

Implementation indicators (performance indicators) – for monitoring the implementation of particular actions for example in an NBSAP

You may also use existing indicators (e.g. of status and trends, or from your previous NBSAP) in order to guide the preparation of your strategy.

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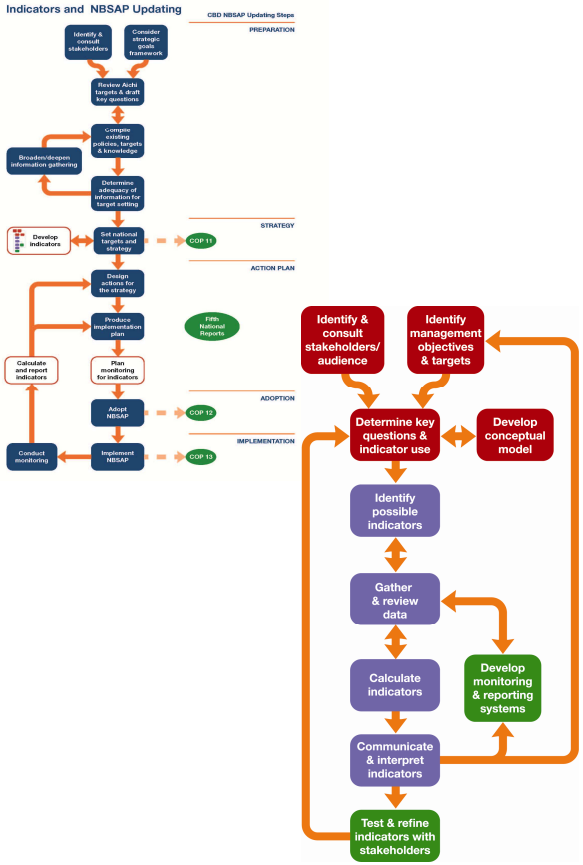
Indicators and NBSAPs

- While the BIDF does not map exactly with the NBSAP updating process, the steps are still all relevant for impact indicators.

- The steps of the BIDF may be addressed in a slightly different order or way during NBSAP updating.



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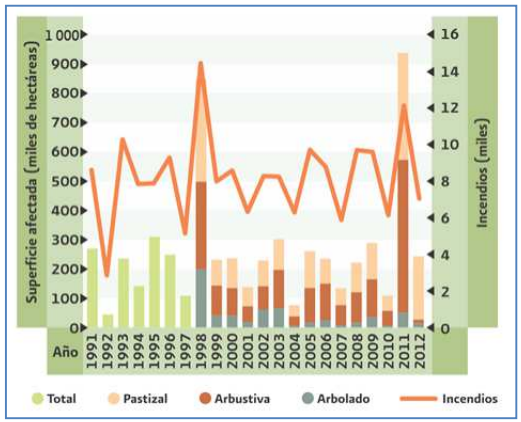
Indicators and NBSAPs

- It is recommended to consider all steps in the BIDF when at the stage of developing strategies and actions for your NBSAP.

- This will help ensure that the methods of calculation and communication of the indicator(s) are clear and supported by stakeholders before investing in the monitoring and reporting systems.



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