

Facilitation Tool: Leveraging Existing I&M Frameworks for Adaptation



The Tijuana River National Estuarine Reserve. Photo credit: Ralph Lee Hopkins with Aerial support by Lighthawk.

Purpose of Interviews & Workshop

To better understand the array of Indicators & Metrics (I&Ms) already being tracked either internally or externally by your organization and others. This will help to prep the participants and get them to think about I&Ms before a workshop, and help facilitators gather information from participants to help design a meaningful process for actually identifying and tracking meaningful metrics.

Target Audience

Staff in organizations already tracking I&Ms or expected to track I&Ms moving forward.

When to Use

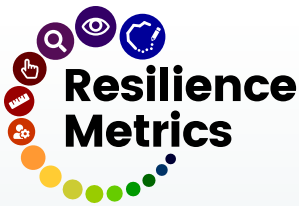
- Use in the early phase of adaptation, in the exploring/identifying phase of working on I&Ms.
- Whenever there is an interest to help ensure I&Ms being identified for adaptation are aligned with existing I&M tracking frameworks that are already required or in place, providing opportunities to leverage ongoing I&Ms and tracking mechanisms.

Directions

- Set-up one-on-one meetings with potential workshop participants or people who will be accountable for tracking I&Ms identified throughout the process. When you don't know who in an organization tracks I&Ms, inquiring with key contacts to identify the best individuals may be a preparatory step.
- During each interview ask participants to discuss how they already interact with I&Ms. Questions may include:
 - What I&Ms are you already required to track in your job and for what purpose? What are these I&Ms telling you about the things you manage?
 - How useful are these I&Ms? How do you use these I&Ms? If use or usefulness is limited, what gets in the way? How could tracking of I&Ms be made more useful to you?



This facilitation tool was created to serve as a reference for individuals interested in indicators and metrics to help communities define and track progress on their climate adaptation goals. Additional background and resources are available on the website: www.ResilienceMetrics.org. This website was developed in partnership with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System with funding from NOAA.



- Are there I&Ms currently not being tracked that you wish were being tracked by your organization or another partnering organization? Why? How would these additional or alternative ones help you?
- Will the I&Ms you currently track be useful in light of climate change? Can they tell you about your progress and effectiveness of adaptation? Where do you feel are the gaps in what you would like to know about making progress on adaptation?
- Are there ways to tweak existing I&M tracking methodologies to be more relevant to climate change or adaptation?
- What are some challenges you face in tracking I&Ms in general? What barriers are there to tracking new I&Ms specific to climate adaptation?

Example Use and Outcomes

At the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR), every programmatic lead (Research, Stewardship, Training, Education and Management) were interviewed before convening a workshop to discuss how to integrate I&Ms about successful adaptation into existing workflows and the Reserve's Comprehensive Management Plan. This provided an outline of where existing frameworks could be leveraged to include successful adaptation I&Ms and got staff interested in the subsequent workshop on this topic.

TRNERR's interviews helped to reinvigorate staff in tracking I&Ms. It was found that each individual was tracking I&Ms as mandated by their program and/or organization; however, the I&Ms were not being utilized to their full potential, as they were often being tracked and documented but not consistently analyzed to inform future decisions and direction. This process helped to remind everyone how powerful I&Ms can be if analyzed, and shared inter-programmatically to achieve broader impact.

Additionally, these conversations provided participants an opportunity to think critically about what parts of the framework are working and where improvements need to be made, especially in the context of climate change. This exercise made it clear that the I&Ms currently being tracked by TRNERR provided a good foundation for tracking progress towards successful adaptation but weren't necessarily designed or being tracked in a way that would directly link them to climate change or adaptation. This set the stage for the workshop where the team was able to think about how to leverage existing frameworks and modify them to meet emerging needs.