



Designing an M & E plan for assessing MPA management effectiveness and conservation success

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Starting point

- Check what you are doing already - do you already have an M&E plan?
- Is the revision of the management plan integrated with an M&E plan?
- Are there any national requirements?
- Is the MPA part of a network for which there is already an M&E process? Is collaboration needed?
- Does the site have overlapping designation (WHS, Ramsar, Natura 2000 ..) – are there specific requirements for these? Can you produce one plan to suit all requirements?
- Understand the resources (personnel, funding, equipment) available – across all components of the plan
- Understand the time available and any reporting deadlines

The monitoring plan

- Ensure the MPA **objectives** are as **SMART** as possible and that you know the **expected conservation outcomes**
- Select the **indicators** to be monitored
- Are there suitable existing **methods and protocols**? - don't re-invent the wheel
- What will be the **frequency of data collection**? - will vary with the indicator
- What **equipment and resources** will be needed?
- **Who will do what?** Staff, researchers, local fishers and stakeholders, volunteers?
Will training and additional funding be needed
- Keep the plan **as simple as possible**, but the results should be useful and credible;
do you need a series of smaller plans within the overall M&E plan?
- How will the data be **stored**?
- Make sure the monitoring will be **long-term and integrated** into existing processes & systems

Data collection, management and analysis

3-2	<i>Collect data</i>	
3-2a	Study and understand the data collection methods	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-2b	Familiarize yourself with the best practices and principles for collecting data in the field	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-2c	Determine the sampling approach	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-2d	Ensure everything is in place for data collection	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-3	<i>Manage collected data</i>	
3-3a	Determine who will be the 'data manager'	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-3b	Determine how collected data will be submitted to the data manager	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-3c	Code the data	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-3d	Develop a system for storing and entering the data	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-3e	Collate and review the data set	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-3f	Determine how to make the data available for analysis and sharing	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-4	<i>Analyse collected data</i>	
3-4a	Review the questions being asked by the evaluation	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-4b	Complete a preliminary analysis	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-4c	Determine and prepare analyses	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-4d	Capture and prepare results	<input type="checkbox"/>

PAME assessment/evaluation

- **Choose a tool** – existing national tool? Adapt a general tool? Use one ‘off the shelf’?
- Do you need a **numerical or qualitative** scoring or ranking system?
- Decide whether the evaluation will be **self-assessment or participatory**: who will be involved?
- Plan the date and time for the assessment and invite participants
- Assemble the **data/evidence/‘means of verification’**
- Undertake the assessment
- Identify **actions to address weaknesses**

Are visitor facilities and services adequate?

Help for answering this question: not all protected areas need visitor facilities; this question is judging against the perceived need. Issue of adequacy and appropriateness is critical, protected areas with low visitation do not require extensive visitor facilities. This question should focus mainly on facilities inside the protected area but also may consider facilities immediately adjacent to the protected areas where these impact on the visitor experience directly

Possible answers

There are no visitor facilities and services despite an identified need

Visitor facilities and services are inappropriate for current levels of visitation

Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation but could be improved

Visitor facilities and services are excellent for current levels of visitation

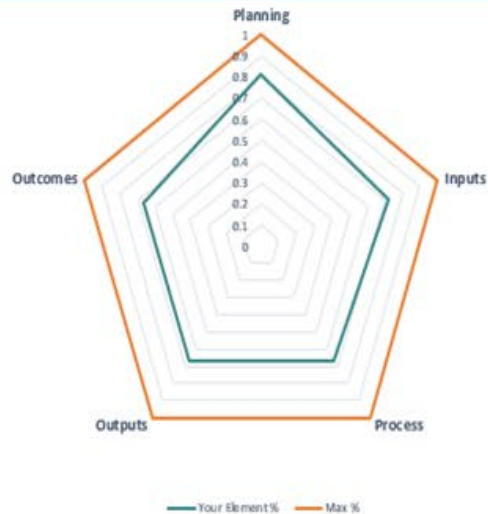
Evidence and justification: What are the reasons for choosing this response?

Actions to improve management: Is there anything you could do to improve management?

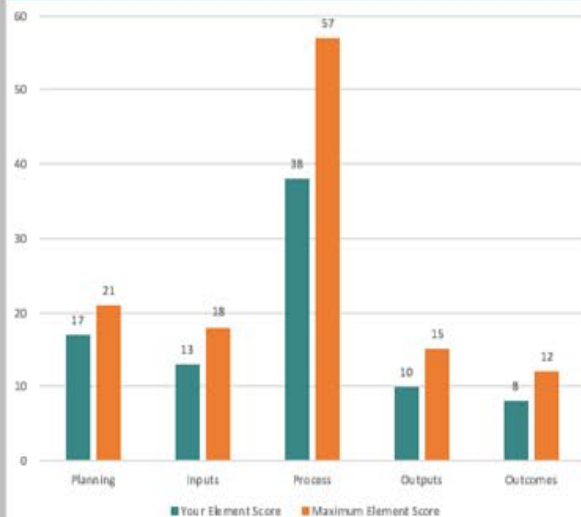
After the assessment

- **Analyse the results**
- **Share results** in user-friendly format: use to improve relationships and awareness – locally, nationally, regionally, globally
- **Report the assessment** and results to relevant bodies – local, national, international
- **Record and store results** – national data portals and regional data centres
- **Repeat periodically** – in line with the **management cycle** (planning, business, financial)
- **Implement the actions**
- Consider whether the monitoring protocol and M & E plan need revising

METT scores per management element



METT scores per management element



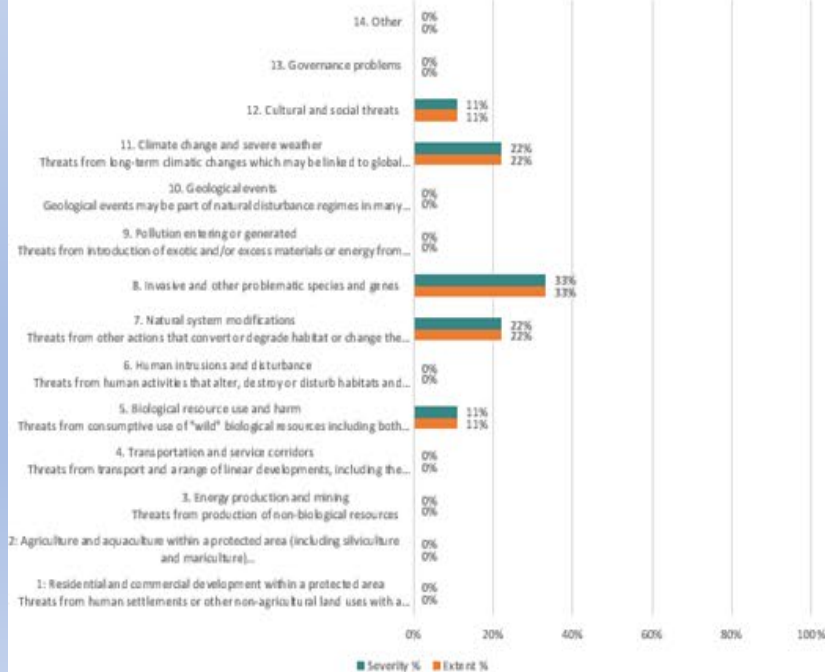
METT scores per management element (per cent)

Element	Your Element Score	Maximum Element Score	Your Element %	Max %
Planning	17	21	80.95%	100.00%
Inputs	13	18	72.22%	100.00%
Process	38	57	66.67%	100.00%
Outputs	10	15	66.67%	100.00%
Outcomes	8	12	66.67%	100.00%
Total	86	123	69.92%	100.00%

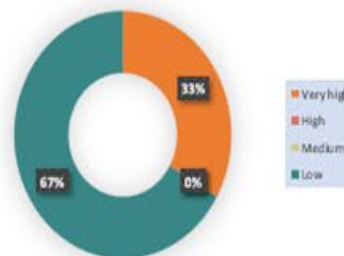
Condition of values

Main value	Condition	Trend
Sub-tropical ra	Good	Stable
Antarctic beech	Good	Stable
Significant anc	Fair	Don't know
Outstanding sc	Very good	Stable
Indigenous cul	Good	Stable

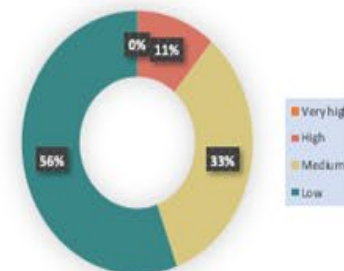
Threats



Threat Extent



Threat Severity



Status and trend in key indicator species

Species	Range	Population size	Pop process	Habitat area	Habitat quality	Extent of threats
Antarctic Beecf	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable	Declining	Increasing
Eastern bristlet	Stable	Decreasing	Declining	Decreasing	Improving	Stable
Barred frog sp	Stable	Decreasing	Declining	Stable	Stable	Decreasing
	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0	0

Status and trend in habitats

Key habitats	Range	Area of habitat	Structure and function	Extent of threats
Antarctic Beecf	Stable	Stable	Stable	Increasing
Notophyll everg	Stable	Stable	Stable	Stable
Dry rainforest	Stable	Stable	Declining	Increasing
	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

Exercise – designing an M & E plan

- Do you have an M & E plan(s) already? If so, what does it cover?
- What is missing?
- Using the work on indicators yesterday,
 1. Decide how you could improve the **Monitoring** Plan
 2. Design or improve the **Assessment/Evaluation** process
- Two handouts:
 - HO2: Selecting Indicators and Planning your Evaluation
 - HO3: Indicator Feasibility Analysis

A Good Effectiveness Framework:

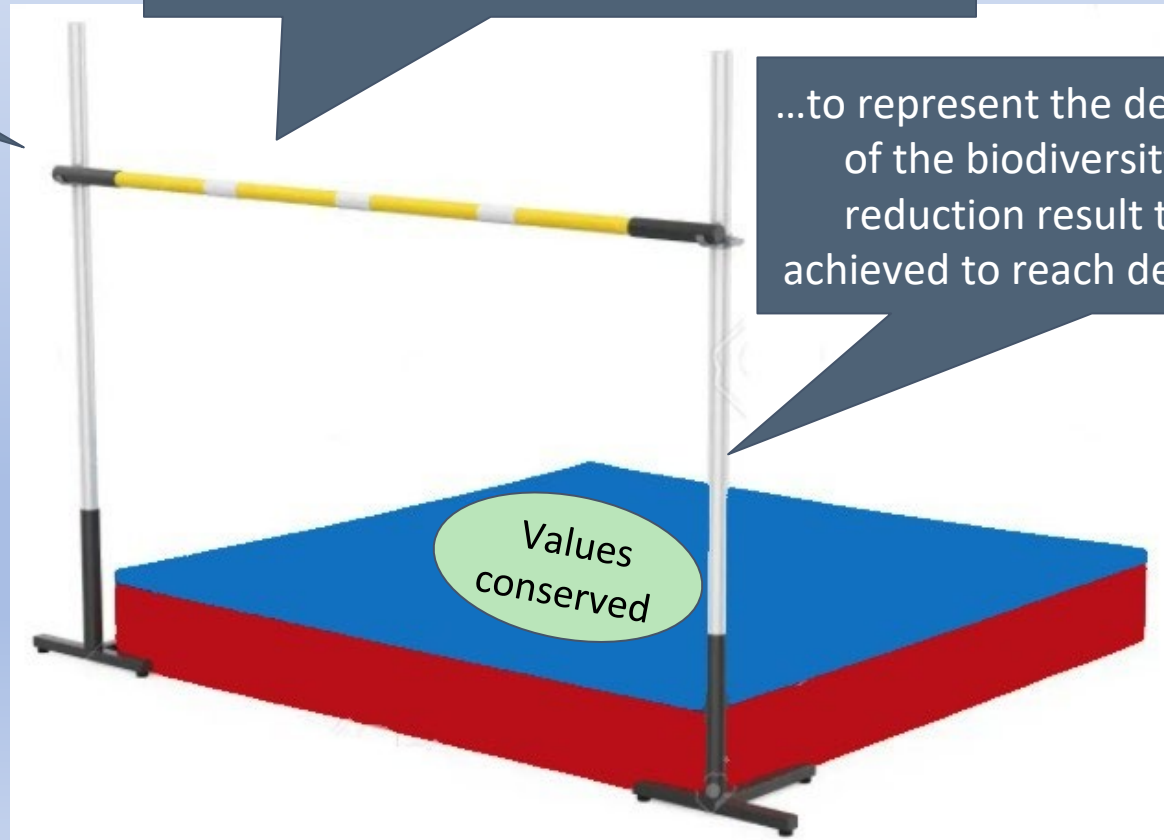
Setting Credible & SMART Objectives / Outcomes

One analogy to think about setting desired targets for a given objective or outcome is a high-jump competition. During the planning process, the managers must specify the height of the bar to be cleared.

The bar represents the desired target (aka threshold) for a given objective or outcome.

Specifying the height of the bar must be determined by the area or network managers during the planning process...

...to represent the desired viability status of the biodiversity value or threat reduction result that **NEEDS** to be achieved to reach desired effectiveness.



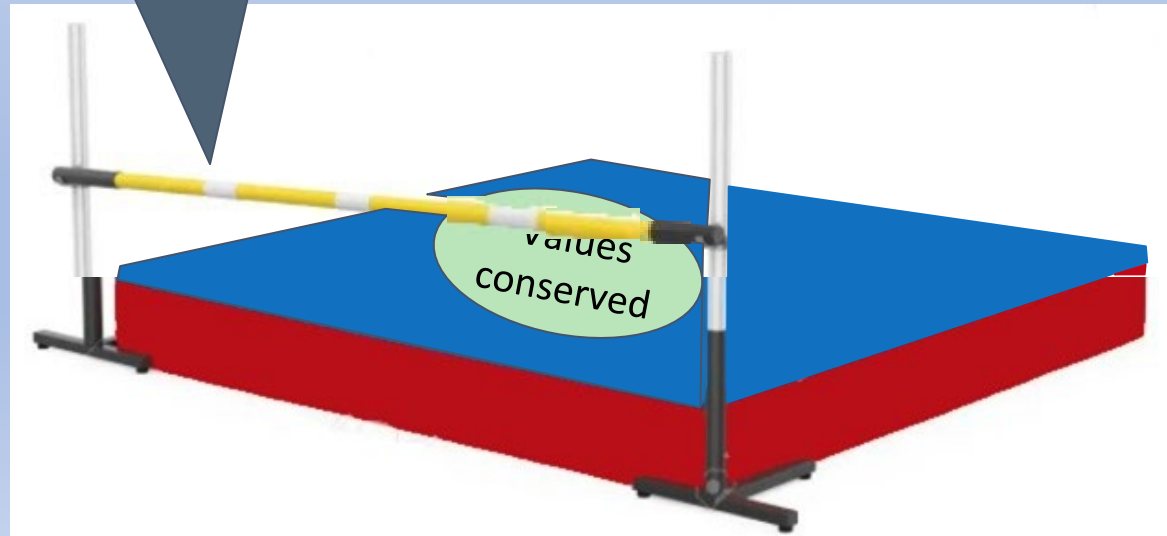
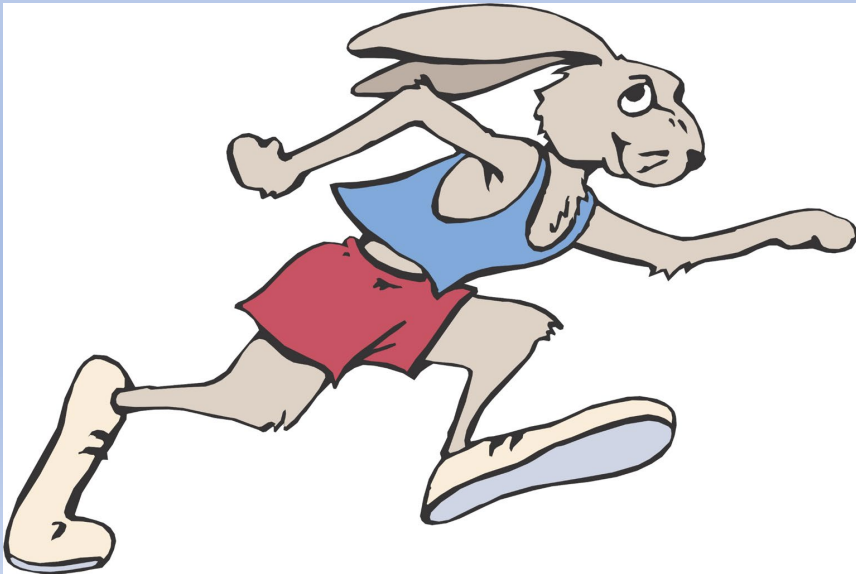
Values
conserved

A Good Effectiveness Framework:

Setting Credible & SMART Objectives / Outcomes

Although managers need to set their objectives or outcomes to meet local needs, they still need to be ‘credible’ to ensure that the bar is not being set at too low a level.

The bar has to be ‘credible’ -
if the bar is set too low, it will not
lead to ultimate effectiveness...

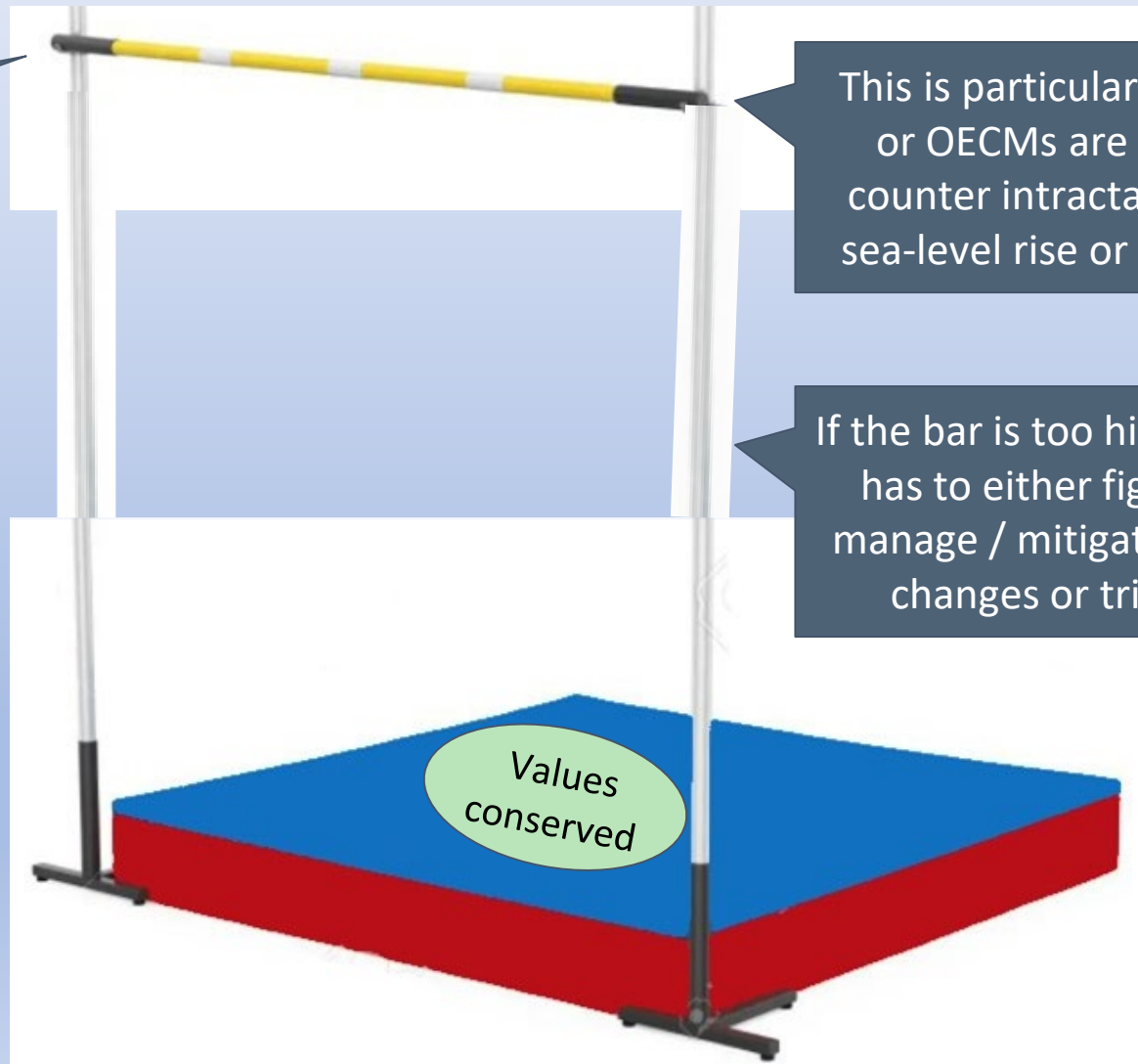


A Good Effectiveness Framework:

Setting Credible & SMART Objectives / Outcomes

If the bar is set too high, then there is no way that the PA or OECM will clear it. This is particularly relevant when dealing with intractable changes that no management will be able to deal with.

...while if the bar is set too high, then, the protected area is being set up for failure.



This is particularly relevant if PAs or OECMs are being asked to counter intractable changes like sea-level rise or invasive species.

If the bar is too high, then the team has to either figure out how to manage / mitigate the intractable changes or triage the work.

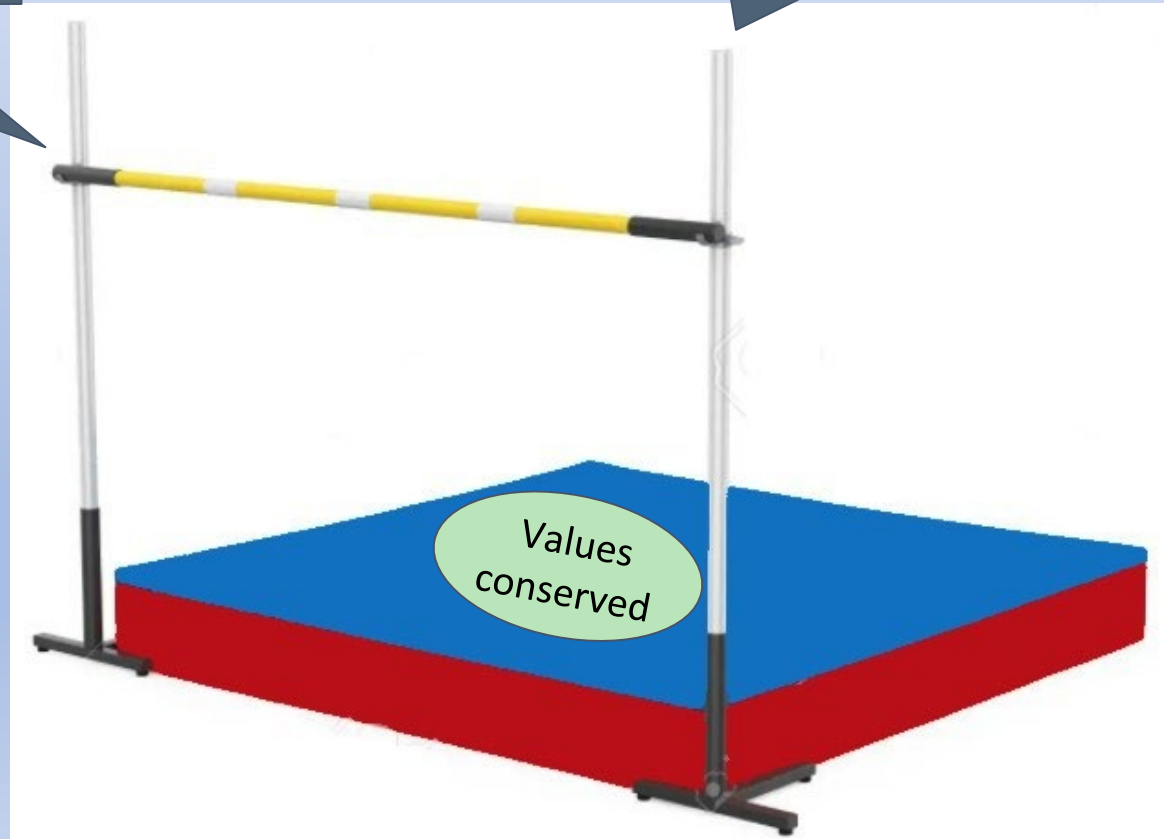
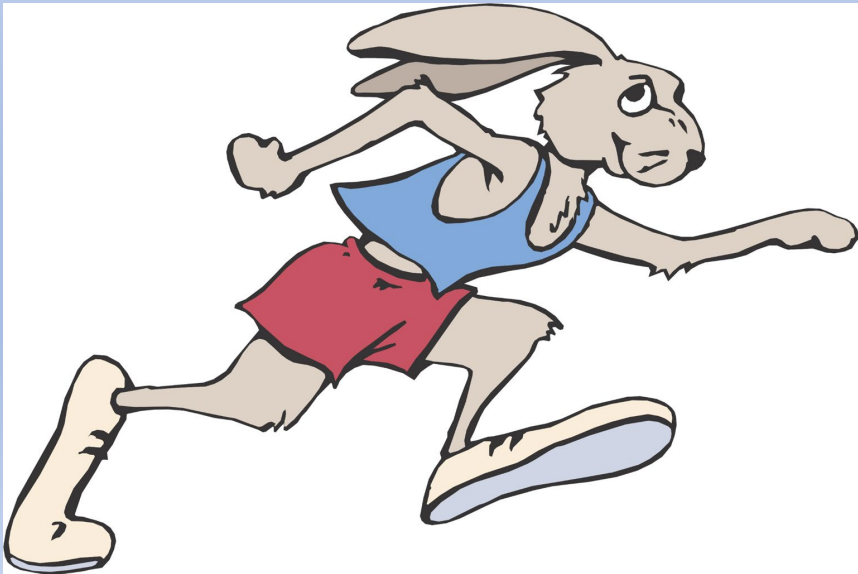
A Good Effectiveness Framework:

Setting Credible & SMART Objectives / Outcomes

Objectives and outcomes need to strike a balance between being Results-Oriented and Achievable. They also have to be Specific, Measurable, and Time-Limited so they can be easily assessed.

Setting the bar must thus balance between *Results-Oriented* (high enough to matter) and *Achievable* (low enough to be feasible).

It also must be *Specific, Measurable, and Time-Limited* so that it can be easily assessed.



A Good Effectiveness Framework:

Setting Credible & SMART Objectives / Outcomes

In most cases, there is not one “bar that needs to be cleared” but rather a series of hurdles that are linked together along a *theory of change pathway*.

Rather than a one-time high jump, working along a theory of change is more like a set of hurdles.

