

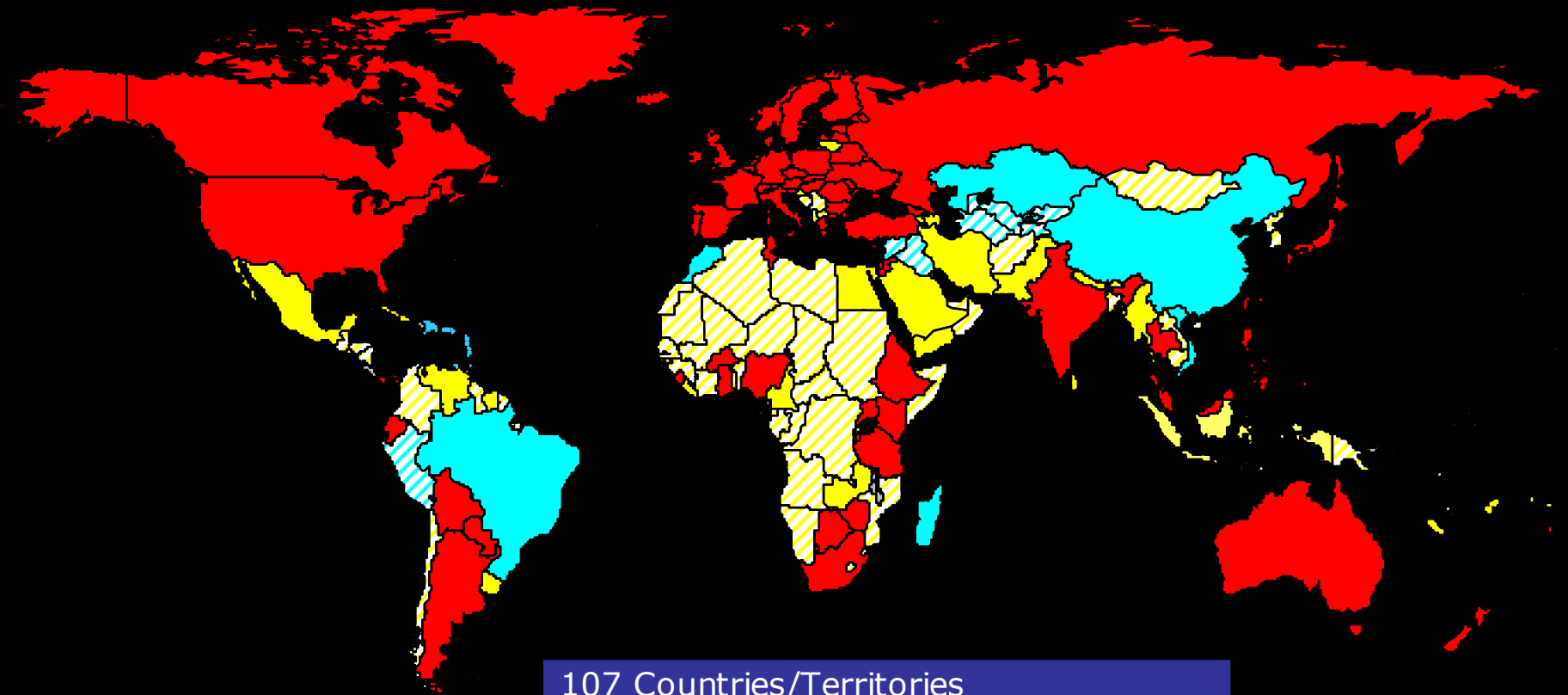
# Evaluating livelihoods impacts – Institutional Approaches and Challenges

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# Outline

1. Introduction to BirdLife
2. BirdLife's strategy - Evaluating livelihoods impacts at organisational and programmatic level
3. Local level evaluation
4. Spot-light on local, project-level measures
5. Issues and challenges

# A Global Partnership



107 Countries/Territories

- 74 Partners / Partners Designate
- 34 Affiliates
- 8 Country Programmes
- 9 Secretariat Offices

# A Grass Roots Partnership

## NGOs representing over 100 countries/territories



# What 'livelihoods' and 'poverty' mean to BirdLife

- Multi-dimensional (DAC, DFID, WB frameworks)
- The poor and dependence on the environment
  - Ecosystem services and the poor
  - Environmental degradation, risk and vulnerability
- Environment as a foundation for development





# Strategic context

- BL strategy  
*“..people and nature living in harmony, equitably and sustainably”*
- BL objective (4.4)  
*“Promote and foster the links between biodiversity conservation and sustaining people’s livelihoods”*



# Expected Results (for objective 4.4)

- Mainly very process/output orientated (deliverables over which we have direct control, and can measure):
  - Partners with projects that link biodiversity conservation and livelihoods/wellbeing
  - Lessons of integrating conservation and livelihoods are effectively shared
  - Increasing collaboration with non-BirdLife organisations
- The exception:
  - The BirdLife Partnership makes a substantial, measurable and recognised contribution to achieving national, regional and global development targets



# Issues of Scale

- Projects – and development – happen at local level
- BirdLife representation in over 100 countries, working at 1000's of sites
- But development influenced by national-global scales
- Reporting at national to international levels
- Challenges for international organisations:
  - Link local level actions to global strategy and programme
  - Be relevant at local to global levels
  - Create a shared framework for communication and lesson-learning





# Local, project-level indicators of livelihood

- Evaluated small grants programme
  - National Partners working with IBA-Local Conservation Groups
  - Tools and methods used to identify indicators:
    - Participatory Poverty Assessment
    - Problem Analysis
    - Logical Framework (Indicators)
- Indicators a combination of local people's and staff understanding and needs

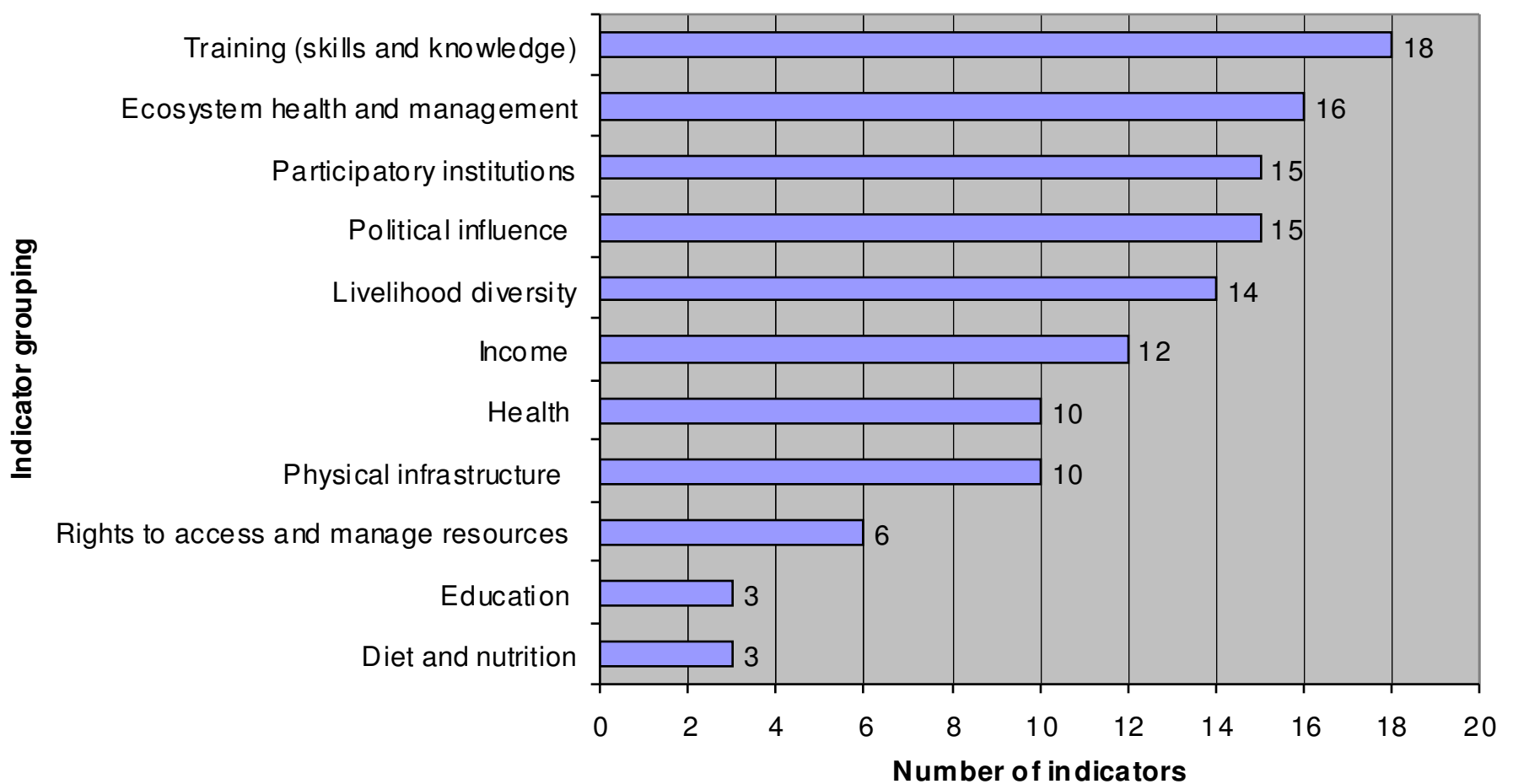


# Analysis of project-level indicators

- Analysis of indicators from 23 projects (*Abisha Mapendembe*)
- 122 indicators of livelihoods
- Grouped these diverse indicators into 11 composite indicator classes
- Classes guided by:
  - OECD DAC
  - Millennium Development Goals
  - Sustainable Rural Livelihoods framework



# Number of site-specific indicators within each indicator grouping



# Examples (1)

## **Health**

- Number of people using sanitary latrines at the Island (Uganda)
- The number of women using the improved hearths (Burkina Faso)
- Mosquito nets available as part of the household goods (Panama)

## **Training (Skills and knowledge)**

- Community members trained in management of natural resources (handicrafts etc.) (Bolivia)
- Number of members of INYANGE SSG trained in beekeeping (Rwanda)

## **Ecosystem health and management**

- Reduced incidences of bushfires (Ghana)
- Illegal egg collection reduced or stopped (Uganda)
- Less encroachment into the grassland (Zimbabwe)



# Examples (2)

## **Political influence**

- Level of participation in revising natural resources by-laws (Zimbabwe)
- Number of existing licences for exploitation of forest products held by local people (Vietnam)
- The recognition, in writing, of KMPH's role in the management of the national park by National Park management and other key stakeholders (Indonesia)

## **Participatory institutions**

- SSGs meetings initiated with active participation of marginalised groups (Lebanon)
- Formation of a local organisation for NTFP management (Pakistan)

# Issue 1: Outputs, Outcomes, or Impact?

- Many indicators measure Output (goods and services generated) and Outcome (access, usage and satisfaction of users).
- Fewer directly measure Impact (effect on living standards)

## *Reasons?*

- Easier – availability of data
- More control
- Projects short-term (outcomes and impact change slowly)

## *Consequence*

- Indicators likely to be a mix of
  - what is important to people
  - actual benefits that can be realistically delivered through NRM projects
  - what project staff think they can measure



## Issue 2: Contributing to global targets

	Millennium Development Goals							
Composite indicator	MDG1	MDG2	MDG3	MDG4	MDG5	MDG6	MDG7	MDG8
Level of income	x							
Livelihood Diversity	x							
Farm outputs	x							
Physical infrastructure	x							
Rights to access and manage resources	x							
Diet and nutrition	x					x		
Education		x						
Health			x	x	x	x	x	
Training (skills and knowledge)	x		x				x	
Political influence	x		x					x
Participatory institutions	x		x					x
Ecosystem health and management							x	

# MDGs, 4,5 and 6 (Goals and Targets)

## 4. Reduce child mortality

Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five

## 5. Improve Maternal health

Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

## 6. Combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases

Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases



Local, project indicators may address the MDG Goals, and even the Targets, but they provide a different set of indicator measures.

# Missing dimensions to poverty/ wellbeing in the MDGs?

- Common indicators used by the projects:
  - Participation institutions
  - Political influence
- Relate to decision-making, empowerment, social capital (*DAC: Political and Socio-cultural capabilities*)
- But where are these covered by the MDGs?



# Relevance of global targets (e.g. MDGs) to BirdLife?

- BirdLife Expected Result:
  - The BirdLife Partnership makes a substantial, measurable and recognised contribution to achieving national, regional and global development targets
- But are these global frameworks relevant at local level?
- Danger that national (and local) programmes and projects (and measurement of impact) driven by inappropriate international frameworks and targets/indicators? Steer towards particular methods and ignore locally specific solutions?

## Issue 3: Ecosystem Services and the Poor

- Includes water supply, storm protection, soil stabilisation, flood regulation, nutrient cycling etc.
- Likely to be immensely important to poor (disproportionately dependent) in many cases
- Indicators included in 'Ecosystem health and management' category/cluster



## **Ecosystem health and management indicators**

- Reduced incidences of bushfires
  - Number of farmers practicing soil improvement interventions
  - No. of target beneficiaries undertaking natural resources conservation
  - Size of area reforested by SSG members after each year
  - Reduction in hunting and poaching levels
  - Less encroachment into the grassland
  - Reforestation of degraded areas of Kabira Park
  - Illegal egg collection reduced or stopped
  - Reduced logging /deforestation
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- These indicators don't capture real, full value of ecosystem goods and services
  - Don't capture maintenance of existing value (project indicators tend to look for and measure change, 'improvement' rather than maintaining something good).
  - Complex, multiple (dispersed) benefits
  - Need to get maintenance recognised as a positive project outcome.

## Issue 4: Practical challenges of indicator approach

- Context and Causality
- Learning (feedback about methods etc.)
- Cost (proportionality – small projects)
- Capacity (Social sciences)
- Not suited to programmes (rather than objective-driven projects)



# Summary

- How to move from short-term project (output/outcome) to long-term programme (impact) measures in a project-driven context
- Possible mis-fit between national-to-global development targets and meaningful change at local level
  - Locally specific issues and solutions
  - social capital dimensions
- Capturing ecosystem service benefits (and maintenance) as a significant benefit from NRM projects
- Objective driven indicators – may not be suitable for monitoring programme impacts?

