


**A REVIEW OF
"MONITORING AND ASSESSING PROGRESS TOWARD
SUSTAINABILITY",
A PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY IICNL SUPPORTED BY IDRC**



by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a review of the IUCN/IDRC Project on "Monitoring and

Assessment of the Status of the World's Freshwater Fishes

behaviour at the local level, as this is a fundamental process and location for

The IUCN/IDRC approach stands in stark contrast to the PSR/SDI work

group has developed a grass-roots, reflective approach which has a major international impact. IUCN/IDRC could fill such a gap.

documentation to greatly enhance the Project's work during Phase II. b6

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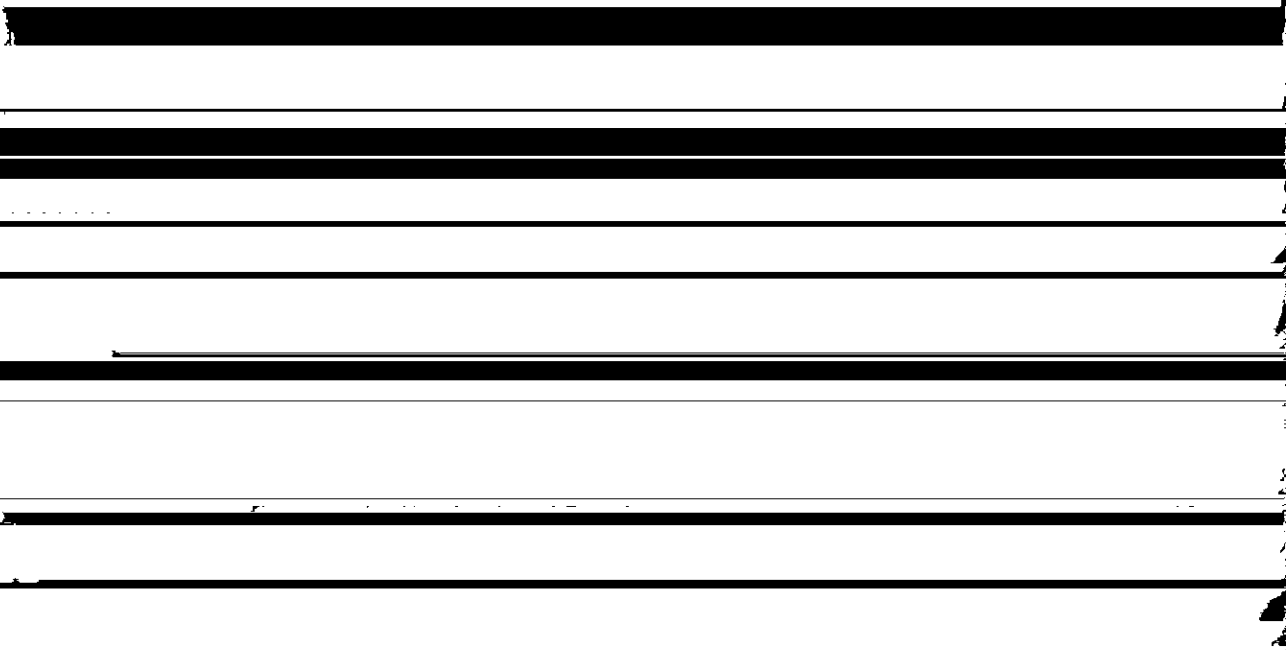
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Appendix 1: Review Team Methodology for Review of "Monitoring and

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course of the Project; who was involved and what benefits they perceived; what is continuing in the field sites; human and material costs and benefits associated with the approach; how it is anticipated that the tools and methods will be adopted in the community.

constraints, opportunities and other issues.

C. Related work: The following work is related to the work of the project.

the nature of the review changed considerably, however, as the complexity of the

of IUCN turned out to be rather different from that described in its original

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Figure 1: Framework for Comparing IUCN Approach with Approaches

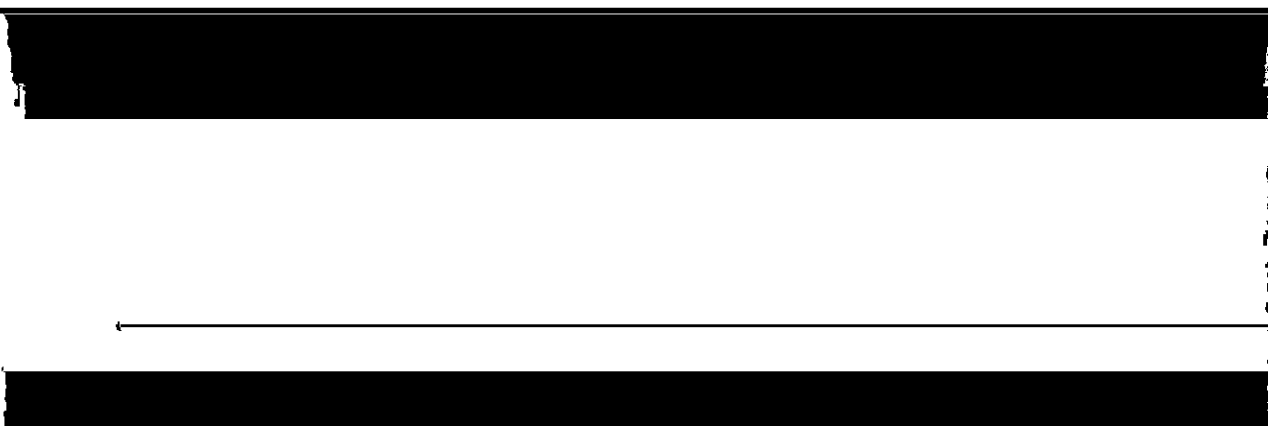
MAJOR PARAMETER	APPROACH			
	IUCN	UNEP	WORLD BANK	OTHERS
Conceptual Framework				

implications is undertaken, dividing the resources into "human" and "material".
Further, the site visit is used to determine the extent to which resources from
sources other than IICN/DRC have been used for the Project. Detailed

The Conceptual Development of the IUCN Approach

The IUCN Approach

The IUCN approach is based on the premise that the world "crisis of unsustainability" is reflected in the dual observations that well-being for all people is not being achieved, and, at the same time, the ecosystem is being degraded and destroyed. "Human behaviour is the main cause of this crisis and the only source



A second major idea underlying the IUCN approach is that human action and reflection should operate in a continuous cycle, within which societies reflect upon the conditions of their

The IUCN Project has involved field testing in three locations -- Colombia, Zimbabwe, and India -- where efforts have been made to develop and test these three forms of assessment. The table which summarizes the methods used in each location is reproduced below in Figure 5.

METHODS USED IN	METHODS FOR SYSTEM ASSESSMENT	METHODS FOR SELF ASSESSMENT	METHODS FOR PROJECT ASSESSMENT
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COLOMBIA

• Participatory

• Systematic Analysis

• Logical

The appendices in Assessing Progress Toward Sustainability: Methods and Field Experiences provide descriptions of the various methods of assessment, as follows:

Methods of System Assessment -- Participatory and Reflective Analytical Mapping (PRAM); Barometer of Sustainability; Assessing and Planning Rural Sustainability; System Analysis and Planning; Strategic Negotiation for Community Action.

Methods of Self-Assessment -- Community Assessment and Planning

The origins of the IUCN approach, however, predate the Rio Summit by many

in a range of activities related to environmental assessment, the creation of indicators of sustainability, and the development of environmental strategies. When, in 1992, the Strategies for Sustainability Programme of IUCN was asked to

1. *... in assessing and evaluating strategies* B. Bennett-Allen

experiences that would be required to develop new approaches that could bridge the widening gaps among those attempting to assess and monitor sustainability.

The International Assessment Team held four meetings prior to its meeting at the

1994 (Santa Marta); May-June, 1995 (Harare); and January, 1996 (Bangalore). Various members of the Team also participated in regional workshops, and communicated with each other and with IDRC in a series of communications which fill several shelves in the IDRC office.

Barometer of Sustainability are clearly documented in a very useful paper by Robert Prescott-Allen.¹² In this case, the method can be traced partly to earlier work, and partly to research and development (on dissemination of technology)

Project proceeds into further stages.

A related point concerns the extent to which some of the IUCN models are appropriate for communication or for measurement. This is of particular concern

The analysis which follows is organized according to the major topics/parameters in the research methodology employed for the review (see table 1).

Ministry of Environment and Tourism, was engaged in an ambitious programme
to help local districts prepare District Environmental Action Plans (DEAPs). A...

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their appreciation for and concurrence with the definition normally used by the World Commission on Environment and Development. Again, the emphasis is on encouraging local communities to plan in discretion where humans and the

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In Colombia and Zimbabwe this is considered to be "premature". At the same time, "indicators" have been developed at the level of the village and ward in

~~the following table. The indicators identified in~~

Several "communities" are associated with the DEAP/IUCN Project in Zimbabwe, and the report of the site visit (Appendix 5) includes an assessment of communities at four levels -- the village, the ward, the district, and the nation. The Project was introduced at the national level, part of a wide-spread effort to create District Environmental Action Plans. The Project quickly spread down to

the form of written reports, meeting minutes, etc. has been maintained so that the

days of intensive training, and meet at least monthly to consider assessments and plans generated at the village level. It is impossible, of course, to identify the precise proportion of this activity which is associated with the IUCN methods and tools, since they are thoroughly embedded in the entire DEAP process. Members of the IUCN International Team have also played an important role in Zimbabwe, through visits, special studies (e.g. preparation of the national "Barometer"

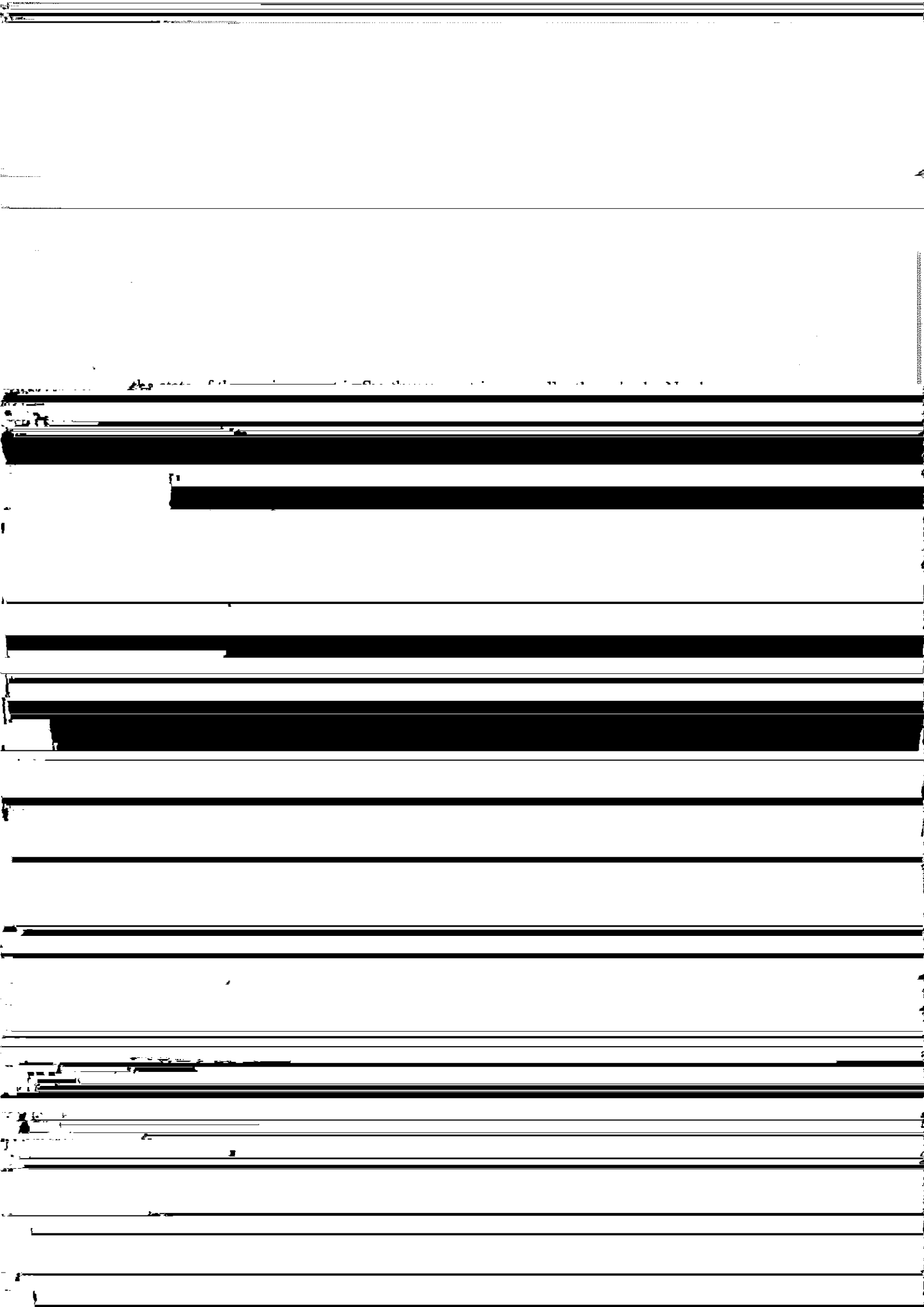
people, "expert" or not. The Director of the Bangalore DA office is fully aware of the IUCN approaches, and can articulate their meaning and uses very clearly. How much of this expertise has been absorbed at the village level is not known.

Material resources for employing the IUCN approaches and tools include cars or trucks for transportation, computers, photocopying machines, paper, flip-charts, flip-chart stands, and marking pens. Space for regular meetings is also an

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In India, the planning process at the level of the gram panchayat has not occurred



sustainable development as that which "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". Many SDI documents do not even provide an explicit definition of sustainability, probably indicating that a working consensus on the meaning of the term exists.

Methodology (Type And Use Of Data, Methods Of Reaching Conclusions, Participatory Features)

While there is a great deal of information available on the conceptual frameworks

Extent of Participatory Processes and Accessibility by/to Non-Experts

[REDACTED]

governments in 1991. In addition, the OECD has been entrusted by its member countries to launch a new program of environmental performance reviews with the principal aim of helping Member countries to improve their individual and collective performance.

In early 1995 an international policy conference was hosted by the Belgian and Costa Rican governments (in connection with UNEP and SCOPE) to seek consensus on the need for and the uses of indicators internationally. The CSD agreed that SDIs would be discussed at its 1995 meetings. 1996 saw the second

Impacts of Tools, Measures, Etc.

It is clear that the work being done by the international agencies working with SDI is having an effect on the work of other international agencies. It is less clear

pressure-state-response model is useful at the micro- and meso- levels, as well as at national and international levels, no examples are provided. OECD is one of the few organizations to even mention the possibility of working at sub-national

level. OECD also notes the importance of...

Future Applications

The Review Team pursued at some length the question of future applications of the HON/DPO approach with field units. On 11/17/11, the Review Team met with the HON/DPO approach with field units. On 11/17/11, the Review Team met with the HON/DPO approach with field units.

Issues relating to expansion are less clear in India, where the overall ECON

Major Conclusions

Various conclusions have been stated throughout the report, both in the main text

an organization to implement effectively the overall approach that was

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9. There are a number of ongoing projects in Colombia related to sustainable rural development, projects which could benefit through joint exploration of the use of the IUCN/IDRC tools. In particular, M. Winograd and G. Gallopin of CIAT, which is based in Cali, are engaged in an indicators

running of these projects did not seem to be associated with the IUCN/IDRC approaches/tools.

5. The DA staff working in the field on the IUCN/IDRC project were most

Zimbabwe

1. The IUCN activities in Zimbabwe observed by the Review Team coincide very closely with the description in Assessing Progress Towards Sustainability: Methods and Field Experiences (IUCN, 1996). The IUCN Report is a concise and very useful description of the project in Zimbabwe.
2. The Egg of Sustainability has proven to be a very useful metaphor for work within the villages. The concept is easily understood by a significant number of villagers, particularly when local adaptations are made (e.g. changing the various colour combinations of the egg yolk and "white").
3. The Barometer of Sustainability has been understood by a number of villagers, particularly those who are relatively young and literate. Some

scientific information for local planning could be through GIS, perhaps information provided using Map Maker.

7. It is difficult to assess the full impact of the use of the Barometer and Egg of Sustainability because it is difficult to relate the assessments and actions in village-level planning to these tools. The high-priority actions identified in the planning process appear to represent basic needs—e.g.

important planning unit. The DST has good access to information and expertise from a number of ministries, particularly DNR. The fact that the DST is a subcommittee of the District Planning Council is also advantageous.

The case study for this review, involving the district of Umzingwane and ward 8, exemplifies the strengths of the organization. Ward 8 has both an elected councillor and chiefs who are highly supportive of the DEAP process. Umzingwane has a chief executive officer (Zii Masiye) who is dedicated to the DEAP process, and who plays a major leadership role in

17. The DEAP process seems sufficiently promising that it could be usefully

extended to other ministries, programs, and projects within Zimbabwe. At the same time, extension to other organizations will require collaboration, and the garnering of support from a number of "allies". Perhaps DEAP/IUCN should seek specific collaborative projects with other agencies, particularly those in the process of developing sustainability indicators.

18. The IUCN/IDRC Project has limited horizontal integration and virtually

no vertical integration as yet. Even though a national-level analysis of the use of the Barometer of Sustainability had been undertaken by a member of the IUCN International Team, no mention of this Report was made at any time during the site visit.

19. Through the DEAP process people at the village level have achieved an

Government planning in general at the national, provincial, district and

multi sectoral planning which leads to continued financial support and

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the IUCN documentation, are metaphors, intended to reflect important relationships and to facilitate communication. A metaphor engenders "an

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tend to speak with one voice. Those concerned with the development of assessment procedures and sustainability indicators at the community or grassroots level, however, are much more dispersed in activity.

illustrate the work of the Project in different sites, particularly to those
who cannot visit those sites. Given rapid technical change, one can also

ENDNOTES

1. IUCN, Assessing Progress Toward Sustainability: Methods and Field Experiences, 1996.
2. The IUCN booklets include the following: Barometer of Sustainability: Questions of





Australian Government

