



Guidance on Integrating Justice Issues into the Monitoring and Evaluation of Ecosystem-based Adaptation Interventions

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Objective of the guidance

This guidance document provides an overview of the considerations and process for integrating justice issues into the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) interventions. It is primarily **aimed at the practitioners and planners** who design and implement EbA on the ground, offering them guidance on how to integrate justice aspects into M&E and especially into indicators.

To that end, the **main objective of the guidance** is to demonstrate two key steps:

- Integrating aspects of justice into the objectives envisaged and respective results framework of a project as well as into the selection of suitable indicators
- Designing the M&E process with project participants during conceptualisation and implementation of the M&E system in such a way as to foster justice

To keep in view the importance of an enabling environment, this guidance document also highlights the necessary role of implementing organisations and institutions. Anchoring climate justice at a strategic level is a necessary prerequisite for effective integration into the M&E of development interventions, thus paving the way for justice-based project portfolios.

This guidance document is not intended to serve as a detailed manual. Rather, it describes key considerations and steps in a condensed form, and points to methodologies that involve more specific instructions.

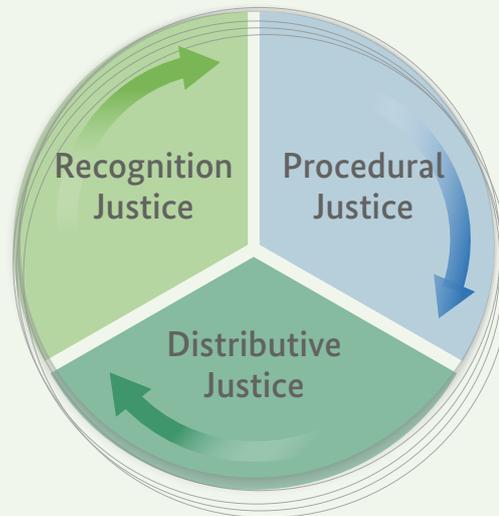
The document is intended to complement other **materials available**:

- Most notably the [policy paper on climate justice](#), examples of good practices in Vietnam and Honduras and the guidance document on project planning published by GIZ in 2022
- Other documents that provide practitioners with general background on establishing **M&E systems for EbA interventions**, especially the [Guidebook for Monitoring and Evaluating Ecosystem-based Adaptation Interventions](#), which GIZ published in 2020.

This guidance document was developed on the basis of results from a desktop review as well as stakeholder consultation and dialogue conducted by GIZ from May to July 2022. The process involved over 60 representatives of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, local civil society organisations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutions, national policymakers, implementing agencies, donors, and climate and biodiversity funds. At the end of the process, this guidance on M&E was identified as an important tool that should help development cooperation projects take justice aspects more fully into account.



Climate Justice is about recognising social differences



Recognition justice: Justice-based EbA is rooted in Indigenous, local, traditional and diverse knowledge, and recognises the different cultural values of ecosystems. It actively promotes the recognition of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as well as particular groups, such as women, youth, people with disabilities, LGBTQS2+ and underrepresented groups, as key stakeholders in EbA projects. It accounts for their distinct rights over natural resources, based on human rights principles and the specific rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Procedural justice: Justice-based EbA includes creating an open, fair and inclusive governance structure, and integrating existing human rights procedures into planning, implementation, and monitoring & evaluation of EbA projects. It grants access to information on projects and ecosystems to all stakeholders. It enhances their ability to organise and influence rules on ecosystem use through effective and meaningful participation. It ensures that individuals and communities have effective access to complaints and grievance mechanisms or other legal procedures.

Distributive justice: Justice-based EbA ensures equitable and fair climate change policies and projects that protect individuals and communities from the loss of their land and livelihoods, and generate benefits for all affected stakeholders and rightsholders. It offers equitable compensation mechanisms for any losses or negative effects on land, resource access or livelihood opportunities in surrounding ecosystems impacted by the execution of EbA.

Definition: justice-based EbA accounts for the specific rights of people of all genders, cultures, classes and ages, including Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities, as part of international and national human rights. It is based on approaches that are non-discriminatory, transparent, accountable, meaningfully participatory and inclusive in their design and execution. Therefore, it ensures equitable and fair climate change legislation, policies, action plans and projects.

GIZ (2022). Defining Climate Justice in Ecosystem-based Adaptation.

Key elements of climate justice in EbA include integrating and recognising human rights principles and the specific rights of Indigenous Peoples. Climate Justice in EbA builds on an understanding of social dynamics and vulnerabilities on the ground, and examines the local situation through a cross-sectoral approach. The approach values Indigenous and local knowledge, and recognises different cultural values.

Background

Nature-based Solutions (NbS), which serve as an umbrella for EbA interventions, have generated disputes over human rights violations. There is increasing concern about disregard for justice aspects in developmental projects, leading to a fair portion of these initiatives having a negative impact on Indigenous Peoples’ and local communities’ rights, especially land use rights. There is also concern that these initiatives barely reach or do not address the needs of marginalised populations. In early 2022, the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlighted the role of climate justice as an enabling factor and a precondition for successful adaptation processes and projects.

→ Why is M&E key to climate justice?

M&E is crucial for anchoring aspects of justice in project design and for pursuing them strategically throughout project implementation. This activity helps understand whether or not and why an intervention is achieving its objectives, including those related to justice issues.

M&E is thus a highly useful tool for:

- Ensuring **accountability** for the funds used
- Steadily **assessing assumptions** and possible risks that could cause the intervention to have a negative impact
- **Adapting project management** to make informed strategic decisions
- **Facilitating participation and ownership** through local participation in data collection, interpretation and adaptive project management

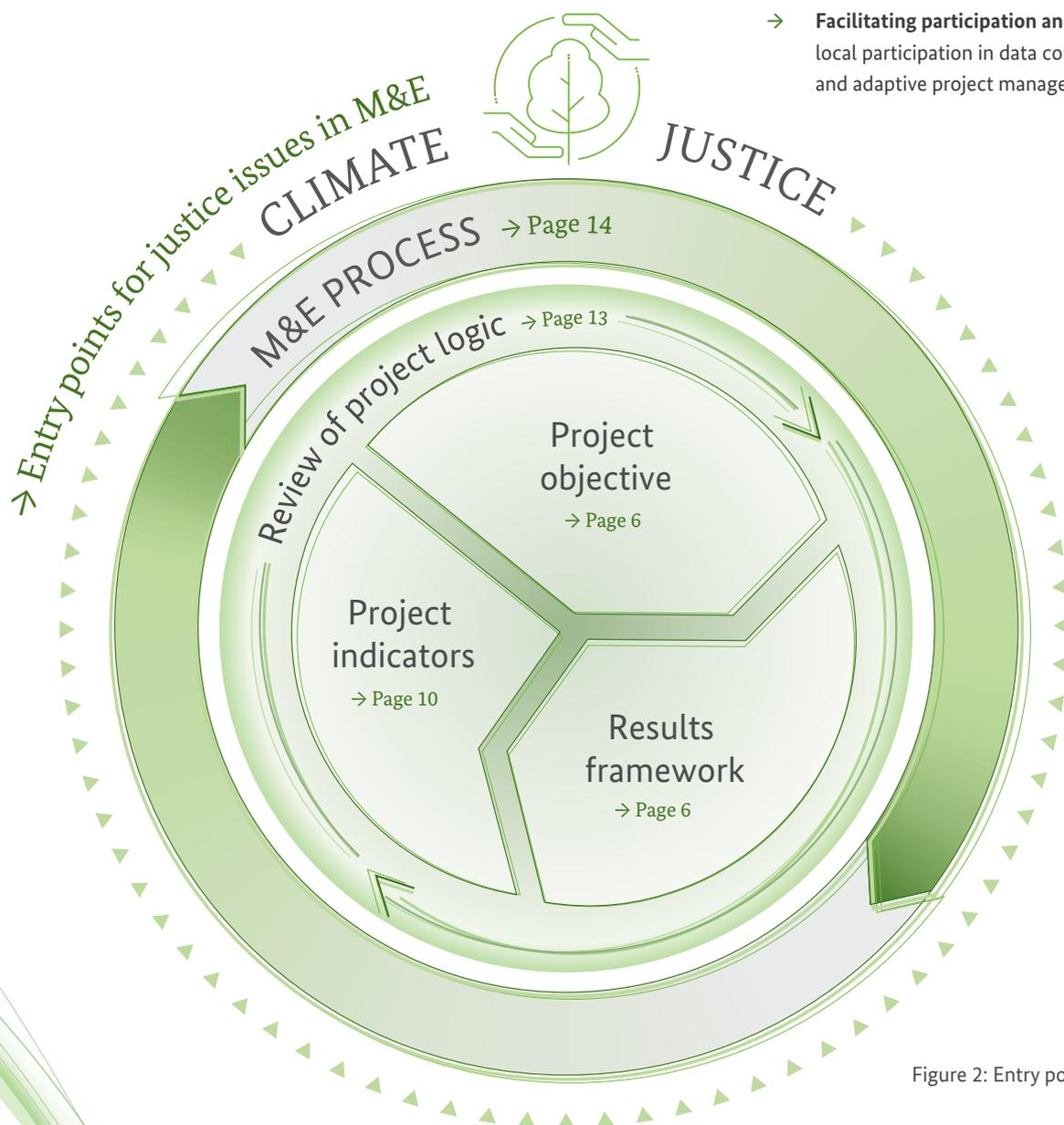


Figure 2: Entry points for justice issues in M&E

To consider justice issues in M&E first requires integrating these into a project’s objective, and then considering them in the results framework and monitoring of risk factors (e.g., conflicts over resource use). The process continues with the identification of indicators that reflect justice issues, and it ends with participatory M&E approaches (see Figure 2).

Justice-based M&E should be implemented throughout the lifetime of an EbA project for many reasons (see Table 1). Justice issues should be considered right from the early stages of conceptualisation (i.e., in the appraisal mission, safeguard analyses, etc.). This is vital for helping clarify the project’s underlying logic and pathway of change.

Considering climate justice aspects in M&E helps ensure that ...	
ARGUMENT	WAYS OF INTEGRATION
... EbA projects benefit marginalised, often Indigenous, groups and do not come at their expense	by considering justice issues in developing the outcomes and impacts of a project.
... the EbA project strategically pursues and promotes aspects of justice (e.g., women’s participation and youth promotion)	by considering justice issues in the results framework and indicators.
... social risk factors, such as conflicts and discrimination, are prevented or minimised, thereby improving the sustainability of the EbA project	by using results from the peace and conflict, safeguards, and risk assessments.
... the target group is more committed to effective project implementation and has an increased sense of project ownership	by involving them actively in M&E.

Table 1: Arguments for and ways of integrating justice aspects into EbA projects



Entry points for integrating justice aspects into M&E

The design of an M&E system provides a strategic framework for orienting the project. It specifies which aspects the project concept takes into account and which objectives the project pursues.

Entry points for justice aspects in developing the project logic

→ Integration into the project objective

Anchoring justice aspects in the project objective indicates that the EbA measure strategically pursues the improvement of justice issues as its main goal (e.g., that certain marginalised parts of the population in particular should benefit from the EbA measure). For an EbA project on disaster risk management, for example, the objective could read as follows: *The resilience to storm surges of the marginalised ethnic minority community XYZ has been increased.*

→ Integration in the results framework

Justice aspects can best be mainstreamed in the whole project concept by taking them into account in the results framework (e.g., the Theory of Change or Logframe). This starts with specification of the results that the project is expected to achieve.

The following questions can be used for this purpose:

Which **long-term improvements (impact)** with regard to justice issues should be sought in relation to adaptation effects (e.g., improved protection of the most vulnerable groups in a population from a specific impact of climate change)? (for examples see Table 2)

What **concrete contribution (outcome)** can the project make to this long-term improvement? Can it strengthen the adaptive capacities of certain marginalised groups in a targeted manner? Which processes for the participation of disadvantaged groups can be improved? Which legal and governance issues can be strengthened? (for examples see Table 2)



Results	Level of result	Focal area	Rationale for result
Losses and damage affecting the local or Indigenous population, caused by climate change impacts, have been reduced.	Impact	Disaster risk management	In the long term, the local population will be enabled to cope with the risks and damage caused by climate change.
Climate-sensitive development planning and implementation for the region draw on the visions, values and experiences of the local population.	Impact	Governance	Indigenous people, local actors and their ideas on adaptation to climate change are recognised as important for development planning.
The marginalised local population is increasingly able to sustain their livelihoods through EbA measures.	Outcome	Improved livelihoods	Adaptation measures help the marginalised local population to secure and enhance their livelihoods.
Representatives of marginalised local actors are meaningfully involved in local decision-making for adaptation-relevant development and investment planning.	Outcome	Governance	The active participation of marginalised actors in decision-making ensures that their concerns, needs and ideas are taken into account.
The land and resource use rights of the local and Indigenous population are explicitly strengthened by EbA projects.	Outcome	Governance	The land and resource use rights of the local and Indigenous population are fundamental factors for the effectiveness of adaptation projects.
The rights of Indigenous People are considered in regulations, plans and statutes for decision-making.	Outcome	Governance	The consideration of Indigenous People's rights in rules and regulations enables them to be reflected in decision-making.
Actions undertaken by the local population for protecting and rehabilitating natural resources to adapt to climate change have increased.	Outcome	Natural resource management	The local population has acquired the knowledge and skills to implement resource conservation measures for adaptation to climate change.
Satisfaction with natural resource management has increased for all local stakeholders (disaggregated by stakeholder group, gender and age).	Outcome	Natural resource management	All stakeholder groups, including the Indigenous population, support the management system for protection of natural resources.

Table 2: Examples of results related to justice issues



Once the project outcomes and impacts have been clarified, the next step is to identify justice-related changes (outputs), project activities, risks and assumptions, which determine if the project achieves its higher level results. The following questions can help:

Which corresponding changes (**outputs**) must the project bring about so as to achieve its objective (outcome)? Which aspects of justice does the project need to take into account?

Which **activities** must be carried out to specifically promote justice aspects? Whose capacities in particular need to be strengthened and by whom? Which framework conditions need to be improved for this purpose?

Which **assumptions** are decisive for the project to succeed in improving justice aspects at the output and outcome levels?

What **are the risks** that jeopardise the achievement of justice-based EbA at the output and outcome levels? How can these risks be addressed?

For examples on justice issues in the results framework, refer to Table 3 and Figure 3.

Aspect	Level	Focal area	Rationale for the aspect
Indigenous people participate in decision-making bodies.	Output	Governance	Participation in decision-making bodies is a precondition for Indigenous People to have a say in development issues.
Women and youth organisations are strengthened to participate in natural resource management.	Output	Natural resource management	Strengthened women and youth organisations enable these groups to actively engage in decision-making on natural resource management.
Efforts are made to strengthen women and youth organisations and participation processes.	Activity	Governance	Development of women and youth organisations and of participatory processes increases their chances of having an influence on decision-making.
Rural populations are provided with capacity building for sustainable resource management.	Activity	Natural resource management	Capacity building for the rural population is a precondition for implementing actions to achieve sustainable resource management.
All stakeholders are committed to the participatory natural resource management approach and accept it as a guiding principle.	Assumption	Governance	The assumption is a precondition for the participatory approach to be applied in project management.
The government is willing to share power over natural resources with the local population.	Assumption	Governance	The assumption is a precondition for the project to achieve co-management of natural resources together with the local population.
Internal community tension may result in the exclusion of marginalised population groups.	Risk	Conflict/ governance	The risk can jeopardise the project's prospects for achieving sustainable outputs, outcomes and impacts.
New policies (e.g., on REDD+ or protected areas) can undermine the Indigenous population's land rights .	Risk	Policy/ governance	The risk has the potential to negatively impact project results and sustainability.

Table 3: Examples of justice aspects in outputs, activities, risks and assumptions

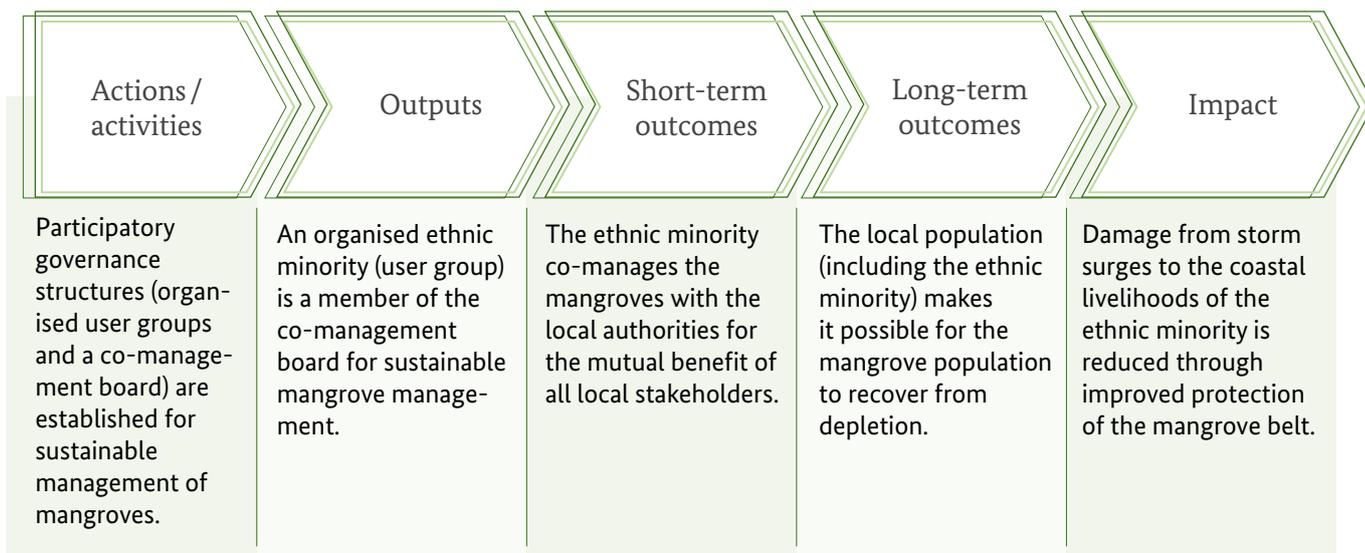


Figure 3: Example of a (linear) justice-related pathway of change in a results chain for coastal risk management through mangrove management, from the project ‘Management of Natural Resources in the Coastal Zone of Soc Trang Province, Viet Nam’. Source: GIZ (2022). *Climate Justice in Ecosystem-Based Adaptation – The Case of the Coastal Zone of Soc Trang in Vietnam*.

→ **Integration in the project indicators**

Finally, the most relevant changes (results) must have suitable indicators, which make it possible to determine whether expected project activities or achievements are on track. These indicators serve as a guardrail for adaptive management. The ones focusing specifically on justice issues in EbA interventions ensure that the project tackles these issues (see Table 4).

It is important to distinguish between two levels of project indicators:

- At the **outcome and impact levels**, changes are tracked by **results indicators**, which suggest whether or not a measure is or was effective. These indicators are illustrated and integrated into the results framework. In terms of climate justice, these indicators most often point to improved adaptation benefits for certain disadvantaged groups (distributive justice). Often, however, these benefits materialise only in the medium to long term, making it difficult to identify indicators that are measurable within the duration of the project. Therefore, so-called proxy indicators are used to measure changes achieved within the project duration, which will most probably lead to the targeted longer term impacts. For example, if there is an increase in the area of mangrove protection forests under sustainable, participatory management, then this increase has probably enhanced protection of the local population against storm surges.
- During **project implementation**, justice issues can be tracked through **process indicators** at the output level. These mainly address recognitional and procedural justice aspects, like capacity building for disadvantaged groups in society or decision-making structures in which these groups take part.

Sector	Result	Indicator	Level
Natural resource management	Reduced damage to Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods through forest fires	Decrease in the number of Indigenous households affected by forest fires	Impact
	Improved resilience of the rural Indigenous population to forest fires	Percentage of EbA measures mentioned in the municipal fire management plan that are implemented in coordination with the Indigenous population	Outcome
	Strengthened local capacities for municipal forest management	The local marginalised population forms part of a municipal board for forest management.	Output
Agriculture	Improved income from climate-resilient agriculture	Marginalised small-scale farmers have doubled their income from agricultural products.	Impact
	Increased produce from climate-resilient agriculture	Marginalised small-scale farmers have increased their produce by 5%.	Outcome
	Strengthened farmer cooperatives amongst the Indigenous population	Increase in number of functional (operational plan and regular meetings) farmer cooperatives amongst the Indigenous population	Output
Governance	Recognition of the needs and development visions of Indigenous people in EbA project implementation	Increase in the level of satisfaction of Indigenous population with the implemented EbA projects	Impact
	EbA measures that address the rights of the marginalised population	Increase in the number of EbA measures with reference to the demands of the marginalised population	Outcome
	Recognition of the ancestral rights of Indigenous People in government processes for land entitlement	A governmental guideline document on land entitlement specifies how the ancestral rights of Indigenous People are to be considered	Output

Table 4: Examples of justice-related EbA indicators by prioritised sector

Since it makes sense to monitor only a limited number of indicators and these capture just a specific part of the result, the focus should be on the most relevant aspects of the intervention.

In a new project, justice issues should ideally be integrated right from the start, when the indicators are defined. In ongoing projects, where justice issues emerge in the course of implementation, the existing set of indicators should be revised to integrate justice issues. This can easily be done by disaggregating the benefits by target group, focusing on the most marginalised. Example: The local population has increased their income by applying EbA measures, disaggregated by ethnicity, age and gender.

→ Considering justice aspects in standard indicators

In addition to project-specific indicators, there are **standard indicators**, which are sometimes referred to as institutional indicators. Many institutions and international development organisations have introduced such indicators in recent years, focusing on key areas on which the entity is working or on which the international agenda is focused. These indicators are used to report on the overall performance of an organisation's project portfolio with regard to a specific development concern. The aggregated data from projects are used for political communication beyond the project level. Since the topic of climate justice is gaining attention, commissioning parties should establish new indicators or revise existing standard indicators to capture climate justice aspects (see Text Box).

Different types of standard indicators can be used to measure justice issues in projects for any marginalised group of persons, as communities and within a community (see Figure 4).

Outcome indicators capture the progress that projects make on justice issues. The easiest option is to disaggregate the total number of beneficiaries and highlight the number of marginalised persons who benefit from projects on EbA, climate change adaptation or Nature-based Solutions.

Examples:

'Number of people who have benefited from the use of natural resources whilst conserving biodiversity. Disaggregation: member of Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities' (BMZ 2022)

'Proportion of [Indigenous] people with ownership or secure rights over land (out of total community population), disaggregated by sex' (UNDRIP Indigenous Navigator)

Process indicators measure the progress of ongoing efforts to implement human rights commitments and create inclusive decision-making processes.

Examples:

'Quality of cooperation between duty-bearers and rights-holders' (HEKS 2019)

'Percent of (vulnerable) people that report effective participation in decision-making organisations/bodies at community level' (HEKS 2019)

Structural indicators assess the legal and policy framework within different contexts.

Examples:

'Recognition of indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources in national legislation' (UNDRIP Indigenous Navigator)

'Degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries' (UNSTATS 2022)

Establishing an enabling institutional environment to anchor justice aspects in the project portfolio

The institutional framework is crucial to strategically integrate climate justice into project goals and indicators. Commissioning parties and implementing agencies should integrate climate justice into their vision and strategic objectives, and monitor the implementation and success of these strategic objectives, using appropriate indicators (e.g., the number of interventions that address the needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities). The guidance document '[Integration of Climate Justice in Project Planning](#)' and the policy paper '[Climate Justice in Ecosystem-based Adaptation – A Policy Paper](#)' provide hints on how climate justice can be anchored at the institutional level. Ultimately, the strategic objectives of an institution should be reflected in project objectives, approaches and indicators that lead the development interventions to improve climate justice. Standard indicators are an appropriate tool for measuring the extent to which cross-cutting issues like justice are tackled across the project portfolio. In mainstreaming climate justice in their institutions, project implementers have an important role to play as drivers of innovation. Through their practical experience, they have a need and also an obligation to contribute their expertise to the design of institutional approaches that mainstream the issue in the project portfolio. In addition, they should promote and push management to take justice aspects more into account in the conception and implementation of projects. However, this requires inclusive management at a higher level that promotes a bottom-up learning in development organisations.

→ **Regular review in participatory M&E**

It is important to question critically – and, if necessary, adapt – the project objective, results framework and underlying hypotheses as well as project indicators during project implementation. The revision should also consider new insights into risks (e.g., participation or distribution conflicts) and assumptions. For this purpose, designing a participatory M&E system is vital.

The UNDRIP Indigenous Navigator comprises a set of indicators that are structured around 13 thematic domains and are clustered as follows:

- Structural indicators, which assess the legal and policy framework
- Process indicators, which measure states’ ongoing efforts to implement human rights commitments through programmes, budget allocations, etc.
- Outcome indicators, which capture the actual enjoyment of human rights by Indigenous Peoples.

Source: Indigenous Navigator (n/A)

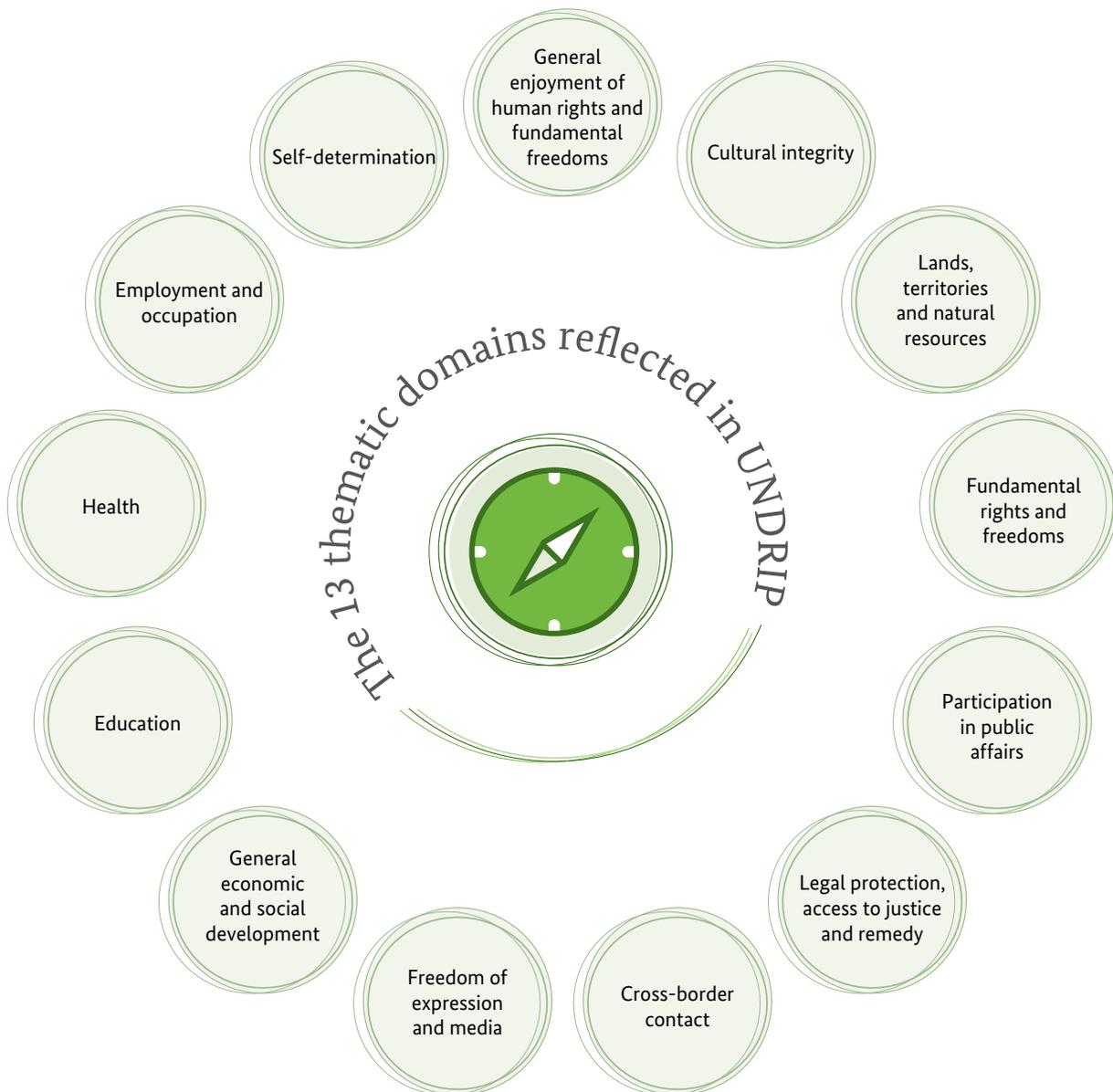


Figure 4: The UNDRIP Indigenous Navigator as an example of international indicators on justice issues.

Designing a participatory M&E process

The process for design, implementation and information use in M&E systems should be developed in such a way as to ensure the participation of all actors involved in the project but above all, the target groups – with a focus on particularly disadvantaged actors. This ensures that local perspectives and knowledge are reflected in project design and implementation.

Taking into account stakeholders' views in the M&E process

Efforts to integrate climate justice into climate change adaptation and EbA increasingly recognise that participation strengthens M&E, underlining the need for it to be inclusive and consultative. **Participatory M&E** is 'a process through which stakeholders at various levels engage in monitoring and/or evaluating a particular project (...), share control over their content, the process and the results, as well as engage in taking or identifying corrective actions' (GCF, 2019).

Broad participation of target groups in M&E:

- Promotes more **solid results frameworks** and a shared understanding of projects.
- Helps capture the needs and aspirations of these groups in the results to be achieved and thus increases their **sense of project ownership**.

With regard to justice issues, participatory M&E offers several advantages:

The most vulnerable population groups and their needs are taken into account in the project strategy.

The knowledge of the local population and marginalised groups is integrated into prioritisation of fields of action, project design and implementation of the project strategy.

The quality, accountability and transparency of project implementation are increased.

→ Steps to integrate stakeholders' views into M&E

To consider stakeholder perspectives in M&E requires a paradigm shift that starts with the project planning phase. Planning should be open to innovative participation formats and react flexibly to the different needs of various stakeholders (see also the document '[Integration of Climate Justice in Project Planning](#)').

To consider stakeholder views in M&E and integrate these in implementation involves eight key steps (Figure 5).

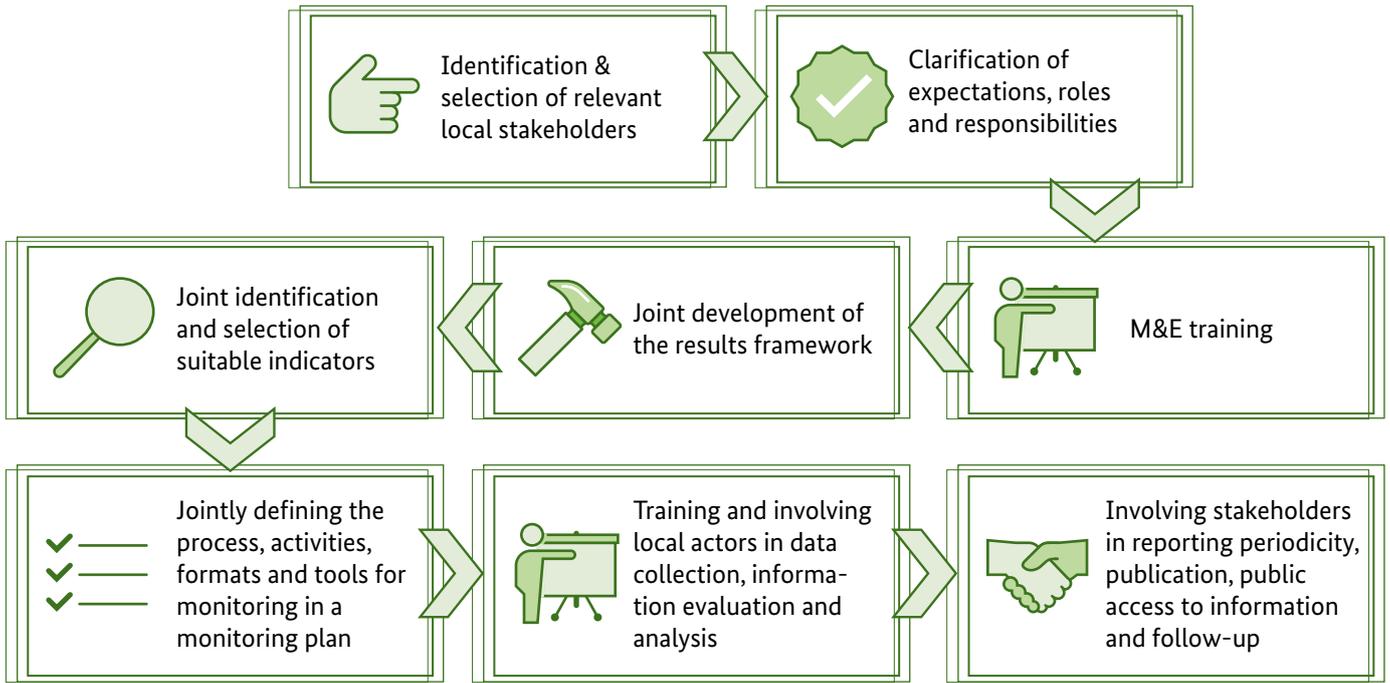


Figure 5: Steps for integrating stakeholder views into the project logic



Step 1: Identification and selection of relevant local stakeholders

The first step towards integrating stakeholders into M&E is to identify relevant partners. Special emphasis should be placed on involving representatives of **marginalised groups** in the target population. This is important for capturing their views and values regarding an effective, successful project from its conception. Even within a vulnerable group, important **sub-groups** should be identified to reflect their different perspectives. Subgroups can be subdivided according to:

- Gender (man/woman/diverse)
- Age (elderly/adults/youth/children)
- Different religions and cultural backgrounds
- Different livelihoods (e.g., forest users, arable farmers and fishermen)
- Different functions (e.g., members of the Council of Elders)
- Regional affiliation (e.g., lowland/mountain dwellers and inland/coastal dwellers)

The selection of actors should be based on transparent criteria, about which key stakeholders mutually agree.



Step 2: Clarification of expectations, roles and responsibilities

The selected stakeholders need to be familiarised with the role they are expected to play in M&E and their corresponding responsibilities. Additionally, their expectations and concerns need to be heard and taken into account.



Step 3: M&E training

In order for these actors to participate in an informed and active manner, they should receive training in M&E. This should include a general session on M&E as well as a section dealing specifically with the approach selected for developing the results framework (e.g., Theory of Change).



Step 4: Joint development of the results framework

In this step, it is important to take into account the perspectives and needs of local actors and to develop a common understanding of the project logic. Experience has shown that local actors tend to focus strongly on details. It is thus important to strike a balance between abstraction and attention to detail, thus ensuring that the results framework is clear. Planning of this step must recognise that joint development of the results framework is a time-consuming process. For tips on how to engage the local population actively, see the guidance document ‘Integration of Climate Justice in Project Planning’.



Step 5: Joint identification and selection of suitable indicators

The next step in defining the project logic is to **develop, prioritise and select suitable indicators** for the monitoring system. As this is such a crucial step, it is described in the next section of this guidance document.

✓ — **Step 6: Jointly defining the process, activities, formats and tools for monitoring in a monitoring plan**

In this step, the monitoring and evaluation process and activities are jointly defined, and the tools for data collection and analysis are agreed in a monitoring plan. The tools and methods that resource users and/or the local population apply need to be simple and well adapted to the context. In the example of ‘Climate Justice in Ecosystem-Based Adaptation – The Case of the Coastal Zone of Soc Trang in Vietnam’, data were gathered through participatory resource-use monitoring, which resource users carried out monthly. For this purpose, they used a simple, picture-based resource-use monitoring sheet to record the time required for collecting a fixed amount of marine resources. Thus, whilst placing only a limited additional burden on them, resource-use monitoring made possible more transparent decision-making. The Bolukiluki local monitoring system is another easy-to-use tool for data gathering and analysis. Developed and applied in the Democratic Republic of Congo, this is a tablet-based tool, which enables local interviewers to collect qualitative and quantitative data through focus group discussions (Lottje et al., 2019).



Step 7: Training and involving local actors in data collection, information evaluation and analysis

Subsequently, target group representatives need to be trained in using (and involved in testing for applicability) the tools and methods developed for collecting and evaluating relevant information. If it turns out that these tools and methods are not applicable or pose major challenges, then they need to be simplified or modified accordingly.



Step 8: Involving stakeholders in reporting periodicity, publication, public access to information and follow-up

During the analysis of monitoring results, local actors are important partners for correctly framing the results and making well-grounded decisions regarding adaptation of the project strategy. Additionally, the representatives of local stakeholders should be involved in disseminating the results in their communities and through their networks. This ensures transparency and credibility of the results achieved.



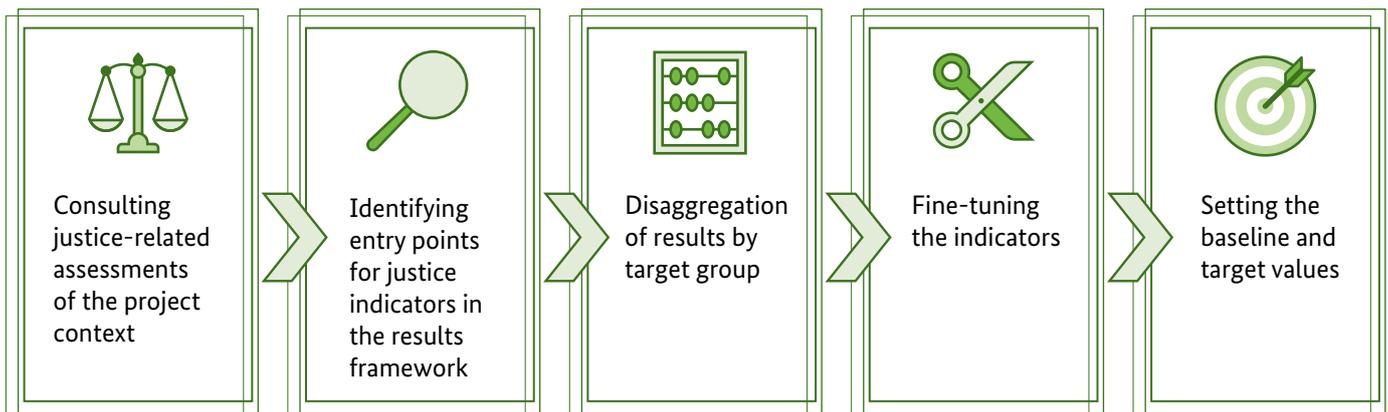


Figure 6: Steps for considering justice aspects in project indicators.

The process for considering justice aspects in project indicators

Justice aspects can be strategically anchored in project indicators by following the steps illustrated in Figure 6.



Step 1: Consulting justice-related assessments of the project context

The consideration of justice aspects in project indicators should start with a review of the **Environmental and Social Safeguard Assessment**. If the project shows potential to significantly increase social and environmental risks, development organisations and donors, like the German BMZ, often require indicators at the outcome and/or output level, which measure the effectiveness of risk reduction. Often, those measures address justice issues (e.g., mechanisms for involving marginalised people in decision-making). Additionally, consult other **sources of information** on the project for indications of relevant justice issues (see Text Box 2). More detailed information on such assessments can be found in the guidance document ‘[Integration of Climate Justice in Project Planning](#)’.



Step 2: Identifying entry points for justice indicators in the results framework

The **project’s results framework** provides the main basis for identifying suitable indicators. Special attention should be given to aspects that indicate changes in terms of justice issues from the point of view of marginalised groups. Indicators can reflect **how these changes are made manifest** (e.g., in the participation of Indigenous representatives or women in municipal council meetings), to which **improvements they contribute** (e.g., increased income for women) or what **indications suggest the changes** (e.g., legal determination of the rights of local communities or the Indigenous population).



Step 3: Disaggregation of results by target group

A relatively simple way to integrate justice aspects into indicators is to **disaggregate the results** to be achieved (e.g., improvement in human nutrition) with regard to the target groups. This makes it possible to quantify the contribution to improving the resilience of marginalised segments of the population (e.g., women and ethnic minorities), thus contributing to distributional justice (e.g., the number of local people that have been involved in decision-making over resource use, disaggregated by ethnicity, age, gender).



Step 4: Fine-tuning the indicators

To prioritise and fine-tune the list of indicators, check whether the pre-selected project-specific indicators **contribute directly or coincide with higher level monitoring** or reporting (e.g., national SDG processes, standard indicators of the commissioning party and development programme indicators) on topics such as general climate adaptation, governance, gender, human rights, the environment and natural resource protection (see section on standard indicators). This should facilitate monitoring and reporting, since one can use the indicator for project steering as well as for reporting on higher level goals. Furthermore, take into account the technical and financial feasibility of measuring the indicators, and finally align the final set of indicators with the SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound).



Step 5: Setting the baseline and target values

In setting a baseline and establishing target values for the indicator, local stakeholders who know the context should be consulted. They can help access and collect the data needed and establish realistic target values.

Important sources for considering justice issues in M&E

It is essential to consult various key documents on the conception of the project logic and on the design of participatory monitoring. These documents provide important information on injustice and conflicts in resource use and decision-making, and point to possible solutions. Additionally, these documents can help identify important local actors who should be involved in participatory monitoring.

Environment and Social Safeguards (ESS). These are policies, standards and operational procedures for international development organisations. They are designed to identify, avoid, mitigate and minimise adverse environmental and social impacts, which may arise in the implementation of development projects. ESS assessments call attention to, for example, environmental conflicts, unjust decision-making structures and processes, and disadvantaged groups in society. These documents are therefore useful references for designing a M&E system.

Peace and conflict impact assessments (PCIA). For the purposes of justice-based EbA, these assessments can provide vital information on the complexity and dynamics of conflicts over resource use (e.g., forest resources) as well as on the interests, objectives and actions of stakeholders. Such assessments offer advice on what the project should and should not do to diminish conflict.

Gender analysis. For a project on climate change adaptation, this analysis identifies how men, women and other genders are differently affected by climate change impacts and the kinds of adaptive capacities they possess in terms of resource distribution, opportunities, constraints and power in decision-making. Gender analysis allows for the development of interventions that address gender inequalities and meet the different needs of women, men and LGBTQS2+.

Stakeholder analysis. Various tools are available for identifying and understanding power structures as well as the roles, needs and expectations of major stakeholders inside and outside the project environment. For the purposes of climate justice, it is important to identify the capacities, needs and visions of the final target group, the local communities as well as the major factors and stakeholders that influence them. Understanding the attributes, interrelationships and interfaces between project advocates and opponents can help plan a justice-based EbA project more strategically.

Climate risk assessment. Such an assessment analyses the justice-relevant risk factors and their structural root causes, providing important information on the neuralgic points that the EbA intervention will address. Justice aspects related to climate risks and risk management mainly fall within the area of vulnerability (adaptive capacity and sensitivity) and exposure. These aspects need to be mapped in the results framework.

EbA projects play an important role in supporting the efforts of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to realise their rights in the context of EbA. National or international project implementers thus need to fully adopt a justice-based approach to M&E in the planning and implementation of EbA projects. Such an approach can support the systemic and fundamental change that is needed for ensuring effective and sustainable adaptation to protect marginalized communities and the ecosystems they live in from the increasing impacts of climate change.

Further reading

Anne Hammill et al. (2014): Repository of Adaptation Indicators - Real Case Examples from National Monitoring and Evaluation Systems. Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Bonn, Germany.

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