

Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Information Module

Methodology Description

Tasmanian World Heritage MEE (Australia)

1.1 Organisation/ Affiliation

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service

1.2 Primary reference

Parks and Wildlife Service (2004) State of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area – an evaluation of management effectiveness, Report No. 1 Department of Tourism Parks Heritage and the Arts, Hobart, Tasmania.

Jones, G (2000); Outcomes-based evaluation of management for protected areas – a methodology for incorporating evaluation into management plans, in *The Design and Management of Forest Protected Areas*, (eds.) D Rana and E Edelman, WWF International, Gland: 341-349

1.3 Brief description of methodology

The methodology is based on assessment of the achievement of the key desired outcomes specified in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area Management Plan. Actions in each section of the plan specify associated monitoring and evaluation criteria with more than 230 monitoring and assessment items listed in the 1999 version of the plan.

The evaluation report provides evidence of management performance against each of the objectives of management or key desired outcomes (KDOs) in the plan where data from monitoring programs is available or based commentary from staff within the Agency.

While the general approach is transferable to other protected areas, the specific indicators are not easily transferable as they relate to the specifics of the KDOs in the plan. There is no consolidated list of indicators available in the 2004 evaluation report.

1.4 Purposes

- ✓ to improve management (adaptive management)
- ✓ for accountability/audit
- ✓ for prioritisation and resource allocation
- ✓ to raise awareness and support

1.5 Objectives and application

The objective of the system is to provide structured information on the performance in management against the KDOs established for management of the site. This information is intended to both provide feedback to improve management in the future as well as to meet public accountability requirements. The report consists of presentation of evidence from monitoring and research programs as well as qualitative assessments from staff and stakeholders.

1.6 System origins

The system for evaluating management performance for the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area was developed by an evaluation consultant working closely with Agency staff to identify key desired outcomes of management along with potential performance indicators. This approach was integrated into the (10 year) statutory management plan for the area which also prescribes requirements for monitoring and regularly reporting on the performance of management.

Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Information Module

Methodology Description

1.7 How the methodology is implemented

The evaluation report was assembled by dedicated evaluation staff over a number of years, accessing information from field staff, reviewing monitoring and research reports, auditing management plan implementation and conducting stakeholder surveys and interviews.

1.8 Elements and indicators

There is no standardised or consolidated list of specific indicators used in the assessment report. Performance is reported under the following headings.

| Aspect of plan | Reporting areas |
|--|--|
| General Management and Arrangements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of desired outcomes of management. • Balance of management effort across responsibilities. • Community acceptance of TWWHA management. • Legislation, law enforcement and compliance. • Accordance of management with legal instruments and conservation agreements. • Management of controversial issues. • Land tenure, boundary and adjacent area management. • Transmission of knowledge and ability to future generations. • Community engagement with the TWWHA. • Management arrangements for Aboriginal heritage. • Integration of TWWHA management with local and regional planning. • Public health and safety in the TWWHA. • Management of property and assets. • Standard and practice of management. • Performance evaluation and adaptive management. |
| Identification and understanding of the natural and cultural heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and definition of the natural and cultural values. • Knowledge of the natural and cultural values. • Social and cultural values affecting management. • Adequacy of knowledge for sound management. |
| Protection of the natural and cultural heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the natural and cultural heritage of the TWWHA? • What are the main threats to the natural and cultural heritage? • Management of identified threats and adverse impacts, 1992-1999. • Cessation or reduction of damaging activities and practices. • Wildfires. • Plant diseases and dieback. • Weeds and other introduced plants. • Introduced animals. • Tourism and visitor activities and use. • Development of new facilities and other infrastructure. • Coastal erosion of Aboriginal heritage sites. • Lack of maintenance or active conservation of historic heritage. • Regulation of river flows by hydroelectric power generating operations. |
| Conservation and rehabilitation of the natural and cultural heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Condition of natural diversity and processes. • Wilderness quality. • Environmental quality. • Landscape quality. |

Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Information Module

Methodology Description

| | |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Condition of Aboriginal and historic heritage.• Monitored condition of significant values (including degraded values). |
| Presentation of the natural and cultural heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community awareness and support for the TWWHA.• Popularity and effectiveness of information and education products and services.• Visitor facilities, use and sustainability.• Visitor satisfaction with facilities, services and their experience of the TWWHA. |
| Stakeholders' assessments of management performance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How were stakeholders' assessments gathered?• Overall management performance.• General management and arrangements.• Identification and understanding of values.• Protection and conservation of values.• Presentation values. |

1.9 Scoring and analysis

There is no structured scoring system or consistent form of analysis across the assessment. Information in relation to each topic is usually presented on:

- Key desired outcomes addressed
- Management actions undertaken
- Results
- Outcomes
- Commentary on management performance
- Key factors positively contributing to management performance
- Key factors limiting or threatening management performance
- Suggestions for improving management effectiveness
- Sources of information and comment