

Session: Definitions — outputs, outcomes, impact (Worksheet 1: Slides 1- 7)

HOW TO USE THIS WORKSHEET: TWO PERSPECTIVES, SORT AND CLASSIFY THE IMPACT PATHWAY

You will work with a list of statements.

For each statement, decide:

- **What type of statement it is:**
 - **1 – Activity**
 - **2 – Output**
 - **3 – Short-term outcome**
 - **4 – Long-term outcome**
 - **5 – Impact**
- **Whose perspective it reflects:**
 - **A – Agile response to policy**
 - **R – Research**

👉 **Write your answer as a combination** (e.g. 2A, 3R).

👉 Expect disagreement — that's part of the exercise.

A perspective

You participate in a peatland and integrated land use project requested by a policy team sitting in one of the 4 UK nations. Your role involves enabling and actively shaping the following: co-design, engagement, inclusion of all voices, diverse and equitable participation, evidence translation, synthesis of findings, facilitation, and relationship building.

R perspective

You participate in the same project. Your role involves evidence generation, analysis, synthesis, mapping, indicator development, and scientific interpretation. evidence generation, analysis, synthesis, mapping, indicator development, and scientific interpretation.

STATEMENTS

1. Co-design meetings held with policy teams 2. Stakeholder workshops explore land use trade-offs 3. Evidence needs scoped with government teams 4. Policy briefings produced 5. Rapid evidence request refined 6. Translated summary circulated to policy commissioners 7. Evidence circulated internally within government 8. Briefings referenced in departmental responses 9. Research report improves the usability of evidence 10. Follow-up requests received from policy teams 11. Cross-sector relationships established 12. Researchers and policymakers engage in ongoing dialogue 13. New stakeholders engage with APC processes 14. Evidence reused in internal policy discussions 15. Integrated approaches discussed in planning conversations 16. Cross-sector collaboration continues beyond the project 17. APC approach reused in another policy context 18. Stronger integration of evidence into decision-making 19. Policy teams reference integrated approaches in future work 20. A government department adopts the integrated approach in published guidance 21. Implementation funding allocated to an approach introduced through the project 22. Land use decisions on commissioned topics cite project recommendations 23. Researchers conduct an evidence review	24. Findings discussed with policy stakeholders 25. Researchers develop integrated indicators 26. Mapping tools developed 27. Technical reports completed 28. Scientific evidence synthesised 29. Methodological recommendations published 30. Publication submitted 31. Report downloaded 500 times 32. Improved usability of evidence reported by users 33. Policy teams request clarification and follow-up analysis 34. Scientific recommendations referenced in policy discussions 35. Stakeholders express interest in findings 36. Indicators tested in a related project 37. Research cited in future planning work 38. Monitoring approaches across organisations begin to align 39. Evidence increasingly reused across projects 40. Methods integrated into routine monitoring activity 41. Other UK nations adopt the monitoring approach 42. Land use planning policy revised to require integrated assessment 43. Restored peatland sites show measurable improvements in carbon retention 44. Researchers analyse spatial datasets
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BUILD THE IMPACT PATHWAY

Using your sorted statements, sketch a coherent pathway from activities to outputs to outcomes to impact. Short notes are fine.

1. Activities · Things you did.

A:

R:

2. Outputs · What was produced.

A:

R:

3. Short-term outcomes · Immediate changes in knowledge, understanding, language used and broader awareness or perception of trade-offs

A:

R:

4. Long-term outcomes · Sustained changes in policy, governance, behaviour or partnerships that continue beyond the project.

A:

R:

5. Impact · *The cumulative positive effect of changes achieved across many outcomes. Demands evidence of benefits, or harm avoided*

A:

R:

REFLECT

- Which impact pathways (activities→outputs→outcomes→impact) cause disagreement between A and R perspectives?

- Pull together statements to identify an impact pathway— and what evidence would you need to defend impact?

- Are A and R contributions to impact pathways equally easy to track and evidence — and which are often invisible?