



# Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group Fact Sheet

## What is the Coral Triangle Initiative Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group?

The Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group (MEWG) has been supporting the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF) since its inception and has grown into a functioning body to support monitoring the success of the progress towards the five goals of the CTI-CFF Regional Plan of Action (RPOA)

### Who is in the MEWG?

The MEWG is composed of at least two representatives from each of the CT6 (Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste), a representative from the Regional Secretariat and CTI-CFF partners. Decisions are made by the CT6 members.

The MEWG also asks for support from external participants such as experts or facilitators.

### What does the MEWG do?

The primary function of the MEWG is to develop the Monitoring and Evaluation System and provide technical inputs and recommendations to the Regional Secretariat and the National Coordinating Committees of the CT6. It has formulated the indicators and system for tracking these in the overarching goals that have been set forth in the RPOA.

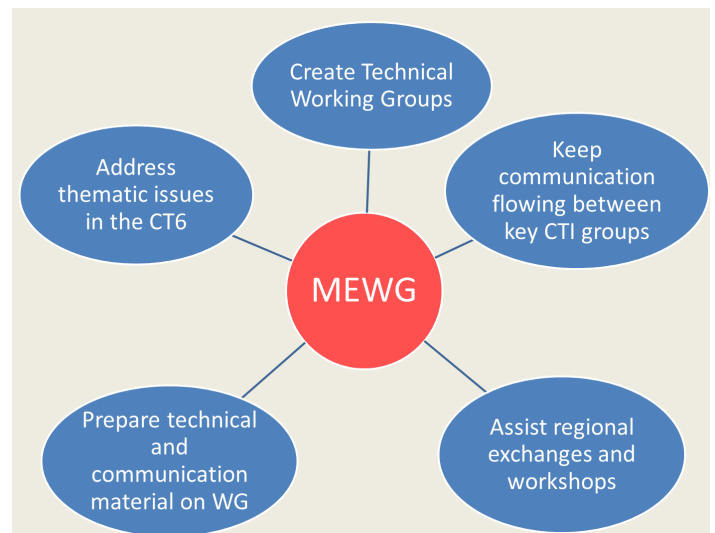


Fig 1. Primary functions of the MEWG

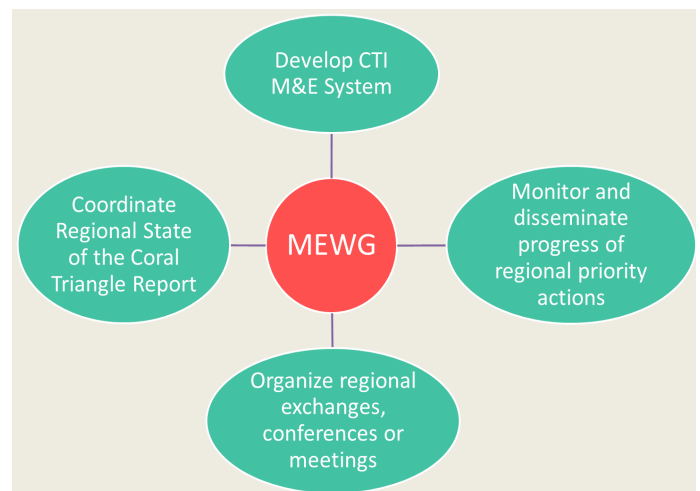


Fig 2. Secondary functions of the MEWG



## What is M&E?

When you hear “There are 6,291km<sup>2</sup> of coral reefs in MPAs in Indonesia” or “More than 85 percent of reefs within the Coral Triangle Region are currently threatened by local stressors”, do you wonder how people know this?

These types of statistics and other similar information result from “monitoring and evaluation” or “M&E” efforts. M&E is the process by which data are collected and analyzed in order to provide information to policy makers and others for use in program planning and project management.

**Monitoring** of a program involves the collection of data that measure progress toward achieving program objectives. It is used to track changes in program performance over time. Its purpose is to permit stakeholders to make informed decisions regarding the effectiveness of programs and the efficient use of resources.

**Evaluation** measures how well the program activities have met expected objectives and/or the extent to which changes in outcomes can be attributed to the program or intervention. The difference in the outcome of interest between having or not having the program or intervention is known as its “impact” .

**Indicators** are clues, signs or markers that measure one aspect of a program and show how close a program is to its desired path and outcomes. They are used to provide benchmarks for demonstrating the achievements of a program.

**Data sources** are sources of information used to collect the data needed to calculate the indicators. Throughout the data collection process it is essential that data quality be monitored and maintained. Data quality is important to consider when determining the usefulness of various data sources; the data collected are most useful when they are of the highest quality.

**Monitoring** is sometimes referred to as process evaluation because it focuses on the implementation process and asks key questions:

- How well has the program been implemented?
- How much does implementation vary from site to site?
- Did the program benefit the intended outcome? At what cost?

### Did you know?

One rule of thumb is that 5-10% of a project budget should be allocated for M&E

Source: Nina Frankel and Anastasia Gage. 2007. *M&E Fundamentals: A Self Guided Minicourse*. USAID and Measures Evaluation

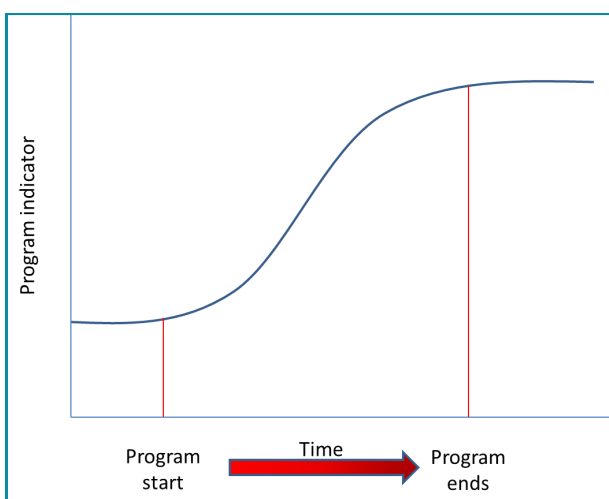


Fig 3. Monitoring: increase in program indicators

- is an ongoing, continuous process
- requires the collection of data at multiple points throughout the program cycle, including at the beginning to provide a baseline
- can be used to determine if activities need adjustment during the intervention to improve desired outcomes.

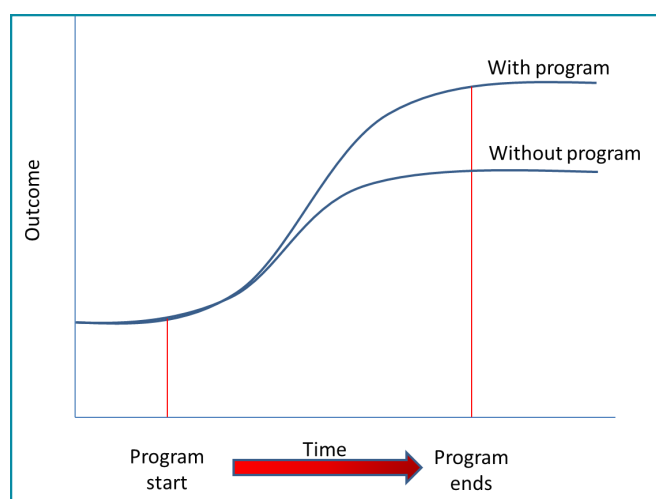


Fig4. Evaluation: increase in outcome

- requires data collection at the start of a program (to provide a baseline) and again at the end
- requires a baseline in order to measure whether the changes in outcomes can be attributed to the program
- requires a well-planned study design.

## What is an M&E framework?

An “M&E framework,” provides a streamlined linear interpretation of a project’s planned use of resources and its desired ends.

Frameworks have five essential components:

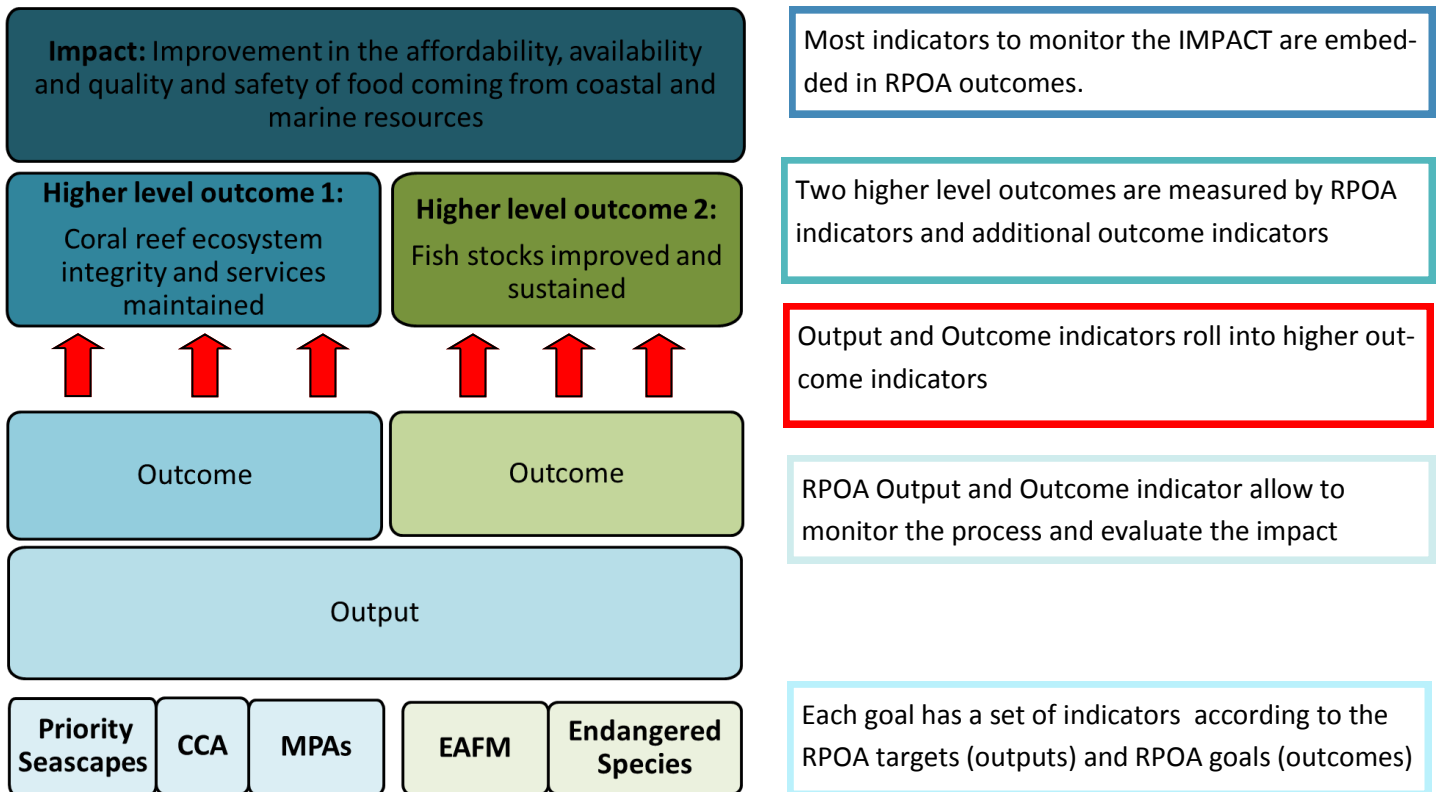
**inputs** – the resources invested in a program

**processes** – the activities carried out to achieve the program’s objectives;

**outputs** – the immediate results achieved at the program level through the execution of activities;

**outcomes** – the set of short-term or intermediate results at the population level achieved by the program through the execution of activities; and

**impacts** – the long-term effects, or end results, of the program.



Graph 4. Details of the Strategies, Higher Level Outcomes and Impact of the CTI-CFF logic model.

Graph 3: Example of a logic model from the RPOA, MPA

