Making assessments count

Protected area management effectiveness

Improving quality

Tony Varcoe (Parks Victoria) and

Andrew Growcock (NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services)







Build in quality assurance to each step









Risks

- Available knowledge not captured/shared
- Data not adequately interpreted or translated into knowledge
- Assessment questions subject to interpretation/ subjectivity
- Variability among assessors / inconsistent answers
- 'Park manager experience' / staff bias
 - reliability/ accuracy
 - responses based on maximising funding?
- Staff culture (doing rather than evaluating)
- Disconnection with day to day business practices







1. Survey design

- Be clear on why you are collecting the information: operational vs strategic
- Frame questions clearly
- Recognise the value and limitations of quantitative and qualitative assessments
- Clear, plain English, accessible guidelines and standards

Healthy People

Have clear business rules and logics

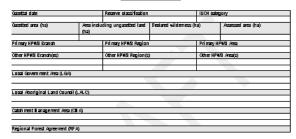




State of the Parks 2013 Assessment Proforma



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Chapter 2 – Using the SoP Information System

Accessing SoP Information System

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- In Infoweb, open on the Applications tab and select the Citix Metaframe icon (you come the light to Citix from the SOR Infoweb ages).
- 2. Click OK and login as usual using your Parks Victoria username and passwor









2. Data management systems

- Ensure stable, reliable information systems for data entry and extraction
- Understand user needs for accessing data
- User friendly platforms/software

Healthy Parks

 Automated summary results on most common questions plus flexibility to create user queries

Healthy People









3. Survey process

- Provide pre-assessment training and help desk
- Get inputs from users and managers
- Ensure you can consistently capture/ reflect different types of evidence
- Identify a single manager responsible for completing the evaluation: 'regional survey coordinators' or 'principal assessors'
- Empower those accountable: ensure senior manager sign-off. Also supports moderation if required









4. Data auditing

- Develop clear business rules and logics (yes, this again!)
- Identify areas and issues where inconsistency likely to be greatest
- Identify areas of greatest risk if incorrect data compiled
- Plan time to review data and steps to 'flag' incorrect data. Have a start and end time
- Follow up with managers in person or via phone
 - Explore not just issue of concern, but the context around it









5. Keep it relevant

- Ongoing interaction is required to review results, discuss context and develop actions.
 This will improve quality
- Consider your audiences needs from evaluation
 - Strategic planning
 - Operations planning
 - Plans of management
 - KPI indicators for the organisation









Improving data quality

Develop evaluation culture





Connect monitoring to MEE evaluation



Ensure qualitative data is content rich

Justification / comment

Many areas of natural values improved in condition as they continue to recover from major landscape scale fire events in the last decade and long term cattle grazing in alpine areas. Habitat condition has improved through management intervention (large scale weed programs, e.g willows, peatland weed programs and predator control, e.g LFP.), however to some extent this has been offset by the negative impacts of horses, deer, and the spread of other weed species. There is a lack of detailed knowledge of all natural values; there has





