Status and Trends Workgroup: 2016-2017 Workplan

Under the Scientific, Technical Assessment and Reporting (STAR) Team of CBPO

The Indicators Framework Action Team conducted work in 2015 culminating in a revised Indicators Framework, Indicator Management Process, and a recommendation to re-convene the Status and Trends workgroup under STAR to evaluate our indicator and information needs to support adaptively managing and communicating our progress toward the Bay Watershed Agreement. These findings were approved by the Management Board in November 2015. The following outlines the mission, key actions, and incremental next steps of this workgroup.

Mission

Enforce the integrity of the Indicators Framework and staff the indicators management process. Work with the Goal Implementation Teams to identify information needed to adaptively manage achievement of goals and outcomes and communicate our work. Ensure up-to-date indicators for Partnership products and foster cross-outcome collaboration.

Scope of Work

- Implement the Indicator Framework
- Develop clearly defined criteria to maintain integrity of Indicator Framework
- Identify indicator gaps using the Framework
- Ensure indicators link directly to Agreement outcomes using the Indicator Framework
- Discuss and vet ideas for new indicators
- Offer guidance to GIT coordinators and staffers seeking to develop new indicators
- Develop new indicators as needed (this includes supporting efforts currently underway)
- Manage the process of sunsetting old indicators
- Ensure up-to-date indicator Analysis & Methods documentation
- Recognize links among existing indicators: use framework to identify how some indicators provide information that supports multiple outcomes (e.g., performance indicators for one outcome may be an influencing factor indicator for another outcome).

Partners of the Workgroup

Indicators Coordinator: staffs the Status & Trends workgroup and facilitates the indicators management process.

STAC: uses its reach of scientific and technical experts to address Partnership information needs and advise on adaptive management.

STAR: showcase GIT needs and provide input on workplan of the Status & Trends workgroup. Provide connection to other related workgroups, such as Integrated Monitoring Networks workgroup.

Key Actions

Note: Items with an asterisk indicate that taking the action is contingent upon group discussion and consensus that determines the action would be helpful or necessary.

Completing the Indicator Framework: Indicator Needs Assessment

Action	Timeframe (Calendar Year)	Lead	Completed
Define the Universe			
• Identify which outcomes in the Agreement are measurable (and which are not)	----------------		May Coordinators & Staffers
• Come to agreement on treatment of these different parts	----------------		June Status & Trends
Engage STAC in Prioritization Process			
• Establish criteria needed to prioritize indicator acquisition in light of adaptive management needs—with which indicators should we start filling in gaps?	TBD		
• Develop STAC workshop proposal if needed*	TBD		
Create Program Examples of Indicator Framework in Action			
• Select subset of Outcomes where a completed Indicator Framework could act as an example across the Program	Q2 2017		
• Identify existing or nonexistent indicators or metrics to complete the Indicator Framework for that subset of Outcomes	Q2 2017		
Formulate Prioritized List of Indicators Needed			
• Work with GITs to identify needed indicators of all types	Q2 2017		
• Analyze for commonalities among needs for Factors Influencing indicators	Q2 2017		
• Consider whether filling information gaps (a) is possible and (b) would support adaptive management	Q4 2017		

	Timeframe		

• Develop overview of current indicators (number) and needed indicators (number and status) for Program to practice adaptive management, including
    ○ Performance indicators
    ○ Factors Influencing indicators
    ○ Output indicators (workplan activities)
	Q4 2017		

Present on information needs as necessary	ongoing		

Supporting Indicator Development

Action	Timeframe (Calendar Year)	Lead	Completed
Develop guiding questions to assist GITs in developing indicators in each of the categories of the Indicator Framework*	Q4 2016		
Confirm and codify plans related to development of any revised/new indicators, including …	Ongoing		
• Environmental Literacy (3 indicators, 1 per Outcome)	Q4 2016		
• Diversity	Q4 2016		
• Stream Health	Q4 2016		
• Tree Canopy	Q4 2016		
• Oysters	Q1 2017		
• Stewardship	Ongoing		
• Climate Resiliency	Ongoing		
• Local Leadership	Ongoing		
• Toxic Contaminants Policy and Prevention	Ongoing		
• (other indicators to be added as needs are identified)	Ongoing		
Work with Communications team to develop progress statements for nonmeasurable parts of Outcomes. Determine structure for assessing progress on these actions.	Q2 2017		

Apply the Indicator Framework to Existing Indicator Suite

Action	Timeframe (Calendar Year)	Lead	Completed

Align Current Indicators to Indicator Framework			
• Identify current indicators not directly linked to Outcome	Q2 2017		
• Identify current indicators that require other adaptation support	Q3 2017		
• Work with GIT Coordinators to suggest changes or alternatives that connect directly to the Outcome via the Indicator Framework	Q3 2017		
• Identify indicators that are no longer needed or relevant	Q3 2017		
• Work with GITs to sunset these indicators or transition them to other CBP publications	Q4 2017		
Connect Indicators to Biennial Review Process			
• Facilitate use of existing indicators to make determinations about progress • Encourage use of indicators in adaptive management through biennial review process • Encourage use of the Indicator Framework to identify other information needs • Work with information needs identified in biennial review process to determine if indicator is needed and, if so, guide GIT through indicator development process • Help GITs prepare for biennial reviews • Frame biennial review process as an opportunity to gauge Outputs (workplan activities) and their relationship to achievement of the overall Outcome	Beginning Q1 2017 - ongoing		