What are Good Measures from a Local Perspective?
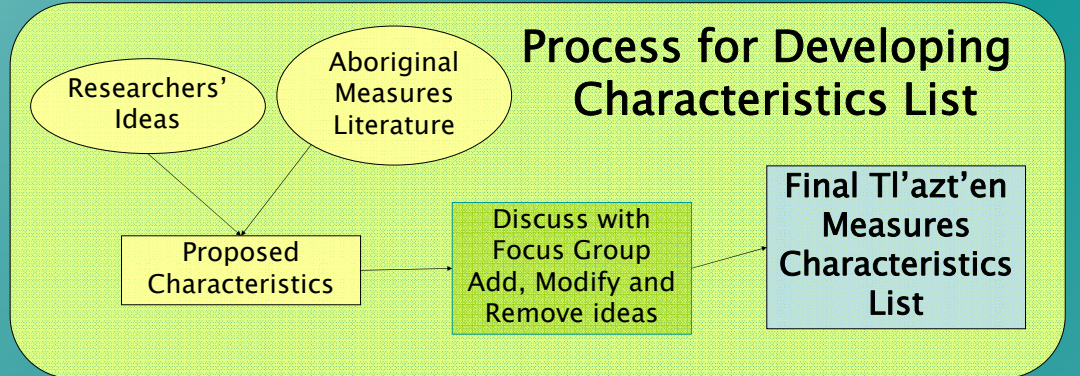## Tl'azt'en Measures Characteristics for use by the John Prince Research Forest
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Introduction

Reflecting on progress is an important step in improving and adapting delivery of services, programs, and co-management. The way we assess programs must be culturally appropriate and community specific. Defining what to measure is the first step in setting up a monitoring and evaluation system.

Measures Characteristics can be used:

- As **guidelines for developing** measures of success, or
- To **evaluate and improve** existing measures

Process for Developing Characteristics List

Researchers' Ideas → Proposed Characteristics

Aboriginal Measures Literature → Proposed Characteristics

Discuss with Focus Group Add, Modify and Remove ideas → **Final Tl'azt'en Measures Characteristics List**

Results

OVERALL APPROACH TO MEASURES DEVELOPMENT

Use an Empowerment Methodology: The results of the process must include multiple community benefits relating to empowerment

Include Local Perspectives: Measures must include subjective measures to ensure community members voices are heard

Management/Community Orientation: Measures must assess community expectations for community conditions and the co-management organization

Mixed-Methods Approach: Quantitative (numeric) *and* qualitative (descriptive) measures should be used

MEASURE WORDING

Positive Focus: Measures should be oriented to what should increase to maintain a positive outlook

Build Capacity: Technical measures should be used as appropriate, and should also include laypersons' terminology to enhance community learning

MEASURE QUALITY

Valid: Community members must see the link between measures and specific community values (indicators)

Trustworthy: Measures must be perceived by community members as reliable and credible

Sensitive: Local experts' role in measures development ensures sensitivity at a local scale

Realistic: Measures design should consider the resources required for monitoring and evaluation

Range of Applications

JPRF Adaptive Co-management

- One purpose for the list is to guide development of cultural revitalization measures for the JPRF, and to ensure measures meet Tl'azt'en standards
- In the future, this list can help guide measures development for other JPRF outcomes, such as use of traditional knowledge, protection of wildlife habitat, and other critical local values

Other Tl'azt'en Interests

Forest Management Certification

- Measures are used in third party certification, such as the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This list could be used by Tl'azt'en Nation to critique the measures used in these programs, and suggest how to improve them for community interests.
- These guidelines could be used in a national First Nations Forest Management Certification initiative.

Improving other Forest Management Partnerships

- The characteristics could be recommended to others managing forests on Tl'azt'en Territory to use as guidelines for starting a community-based monitoring program for industry or government effectiveness

Program Evaluation

- This list could be applied to measures or indicators used for other internal evaluations of Tl'azt'en services such as:
  - Schools or other education initiatives
  - Social programs
  - Health programs

How are Tl'azt'en Measures Unique?

Emphasis on Community Perspectives: Usually, concerns about biased opinions means that opinion-based measures are removed from the analyses. This research shows that for measures to be valid, they must include the opinions of Tl'azt'enne.

Mixed-Methods Approach: Qualitative measures have been regarded by others as being more susceptible to bias; however, many Aboriginal groups have seen how numeric measures can exclude important information.

Focus on Community Conditions: Most forest management measures look only at the activities or conditions of management. While co-management arrangements (JPRF) are not responsible for community conditions, it is an important factor in co-management success.

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