



**NBS
EduWORLD**



NBS Community Project Management

Lecture

Credit: PPMI

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Learning outcomes

1. Identify **key components** of a successfully managed NBS Community Project
2. Develop **project intervention logic**
3. Understand **policy enablers** for an NBS project
4. Employ **adaptive thinking and problem-solving skills** in managing NBS projects.
5. Select how to **monitor the success** of an NBS community project

What is NBS community project management?

Nature-Based Solutions Community Project Management involves the **planning, implementation, and oversight of NBS initiatives** to ensure they are:

- Effectively integrated into the community,
- Socially inclusive,
- Monitored for success, and
- Sustainably managed over the long term.

Community project management considers aspects of NBS projects **other than** the technical and ecological design and implementation of NBS (which here are assumed to be developed by NBS experts)

Key action areas in NBS project management

Project logic

Stakeholder
engagement

Ensuring
sustainability

Measuring
impact

1. Project Intervention Logic

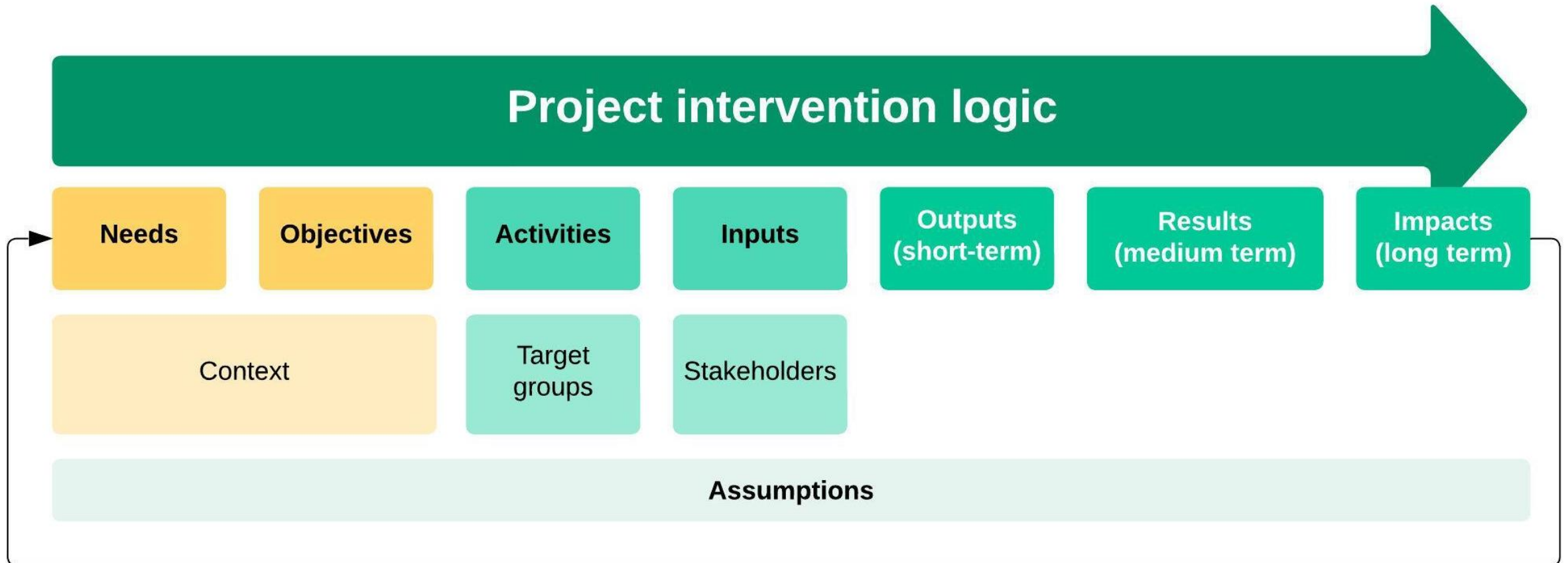
- Define the **needs, objectives, activities, inputs, outputs, results** and **outcomes** of an NBS project.
- Align NBS objectives with broader community and municipal priorities (e.g., climate adaptation, recreation, biodiversity).
- Identify **potential risks** to project success (e.g., funding gaps, climate risks, or community resistance) and plan mitigation strategies early.
- Integrate **key stakeholders** in the process
- **Visually represent the vision** to ensure a common understanding among all actors

Applying project intervention logic to a scenario (10 min)

Your city is planning to transform an abandoned lot into a community biodiversity garden.

This garden will provide green space for recreation, educational workshops for schools, and a small section for residents to grow food.

Applying project intervention logic to a scenario (10 min)



2. Stakeholder Engagement and Co-creation

- Identify key stakeholders (e.g., local residents, NGOs, schools, businesses).
- Use **participatory approaches** to involve them in the planning.
- Seek out **local knowledge and expertise** from community members who understand the specific environmental, social, cultural and economic contexts to make the NBS more relevant.
- Always clearly **communicate** the project to the public and maintain transparent and open communication pathways

Participatory planning: Interactive Walkable Floor Maps (IWFs)

- Floor installation - printed on a large (up to 5 x 8 m) sheet of resistant material
- IWFs enable spatial identification and collaborative dialogue through tactile interaction with the map.
- Provides a platform for learning and a meeting point for dialogue.
- Contextualised dialogue and policy learning amongst policy makers and stakeholders in the local area



What other activities for stakeholder engagement in the planning process can you suggest?



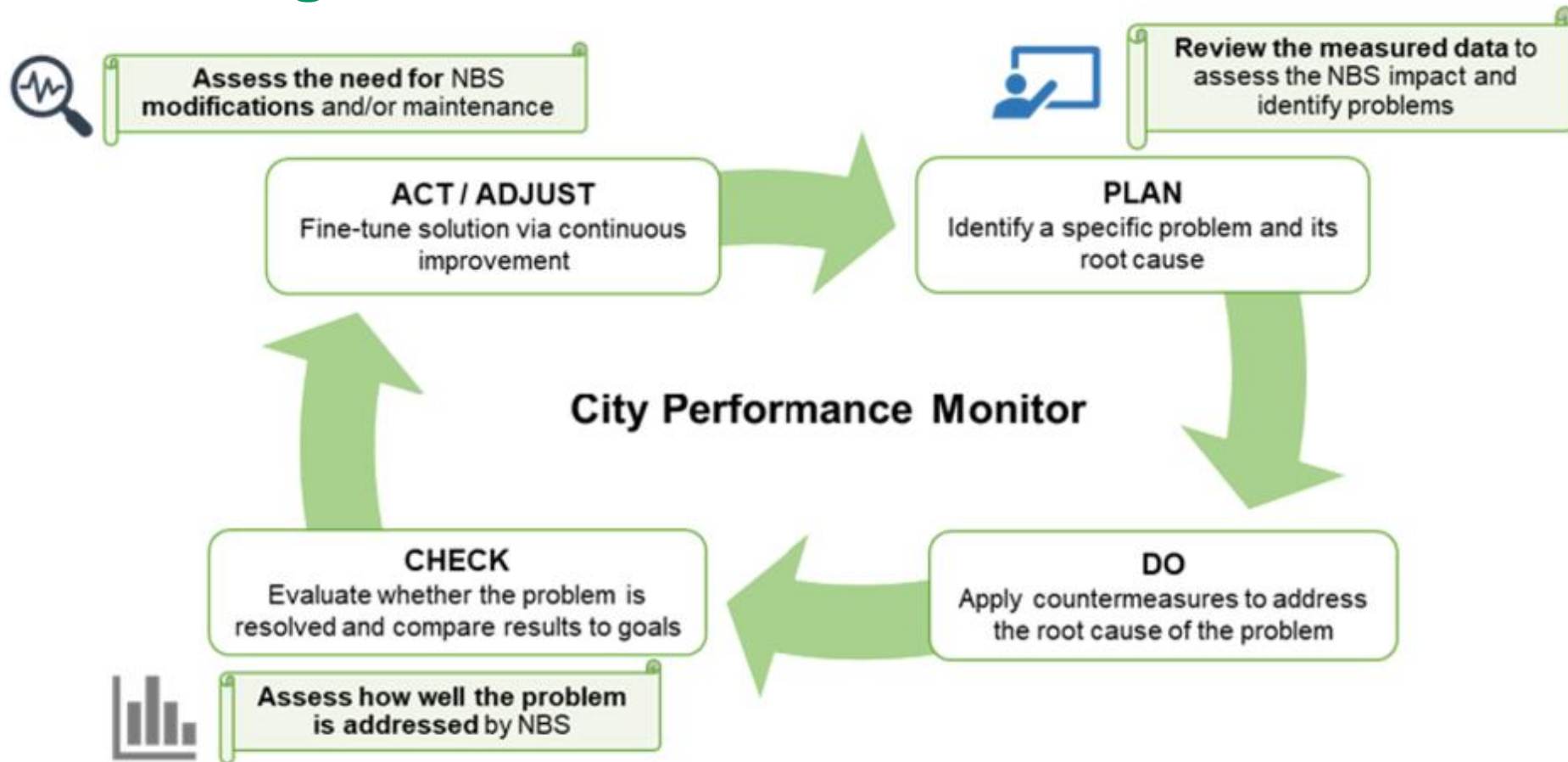
3. Sustainable Management Strategies

- Establish **maintenance** plans (volunteers, municipal staff, partnerships).
- Create **funding** models (grants, municipal budget allocations, sponsorships).
- Adapt **governance structures** to ensure accountability and long-term viability
- Foster **usage**:
 - Design for **inclusivity and accessibility** (who will use the space, and how?)
 - Consider **educational and recreational uses**, and integration with local cultural or economic activities
 - Plan programming (e.g., workshops, events) to foster community interaction with the NBS

Enablers for successful local NBS project implementation

- **Openness to transversal and collaborative interaction with stakeholders**
- Existence of a **policy champion entrepreneur** (e.g. Within local government) having the power/ability to influence decision-making and/or implementation
- Involvement of **boundary actors with expertise and ability** to act as coordinators or advisors
- **External policy drivers** in combination with public awareness (creating windows of opportunity). Policy drivers can both be **sudden** (e.g. flooding events or deaths during heatwaves) or **gradual** (e.g. increasing average temperatures)
- **Coherence** of NBS initiatives with government strategies (connected to availability of funding)
- Adequate **enforcement of targets and regulations** for green space to avoid land take as part of urbanization
- Availability of **funding** – preferably strategic and long-term

Adaptive Management



"What Would You Do?" Adaptive Management Scenario (5 minutes)

Scenario 1

Despite an extensive community engagement campaign during the planning phase, after implementation, usage of the biodiversity garden project is lower than anticipated. Community members seem unaware of its benefits or are not utilizing the space regularly.

Scenario 2

During the implementation phase of your biodiversity garden project, the municipality faces unexpected budget cuts. As a result, the allocated funding for the project is reduced, putting at risk the completion of planned activities, such as educational workshops, garden maintenance, and the installation of certain garden features (e.g., plantings or signage).

Monitoring Project Success

- Develop clear success **indicators** for environmental, social, and economic goals.
 - **Social Indicators** measure community engagement, participation, well-being (e.g., number of workshop attendees, community involvement in maintenance, improvements in health or mental well-being)
 - **Economic Indicators** measure economic benefits brought by NBS (e.g., water savings, job creation, new local business opportunities) and how efficient the NBS project is (e.g., whether project is within budget)
- **Community-led monitoring** allows locals or community groups to participate in monitoring (e.g., bird watching, plant identification, water quality testing). Such efforts can increase community engagement.
- **Adapt** the findings to improve the NBS over time

Monitoring Indicators Brainstorm (5 minutes)

Your city is transforming an abandoned lot into a community biodiversity garden. It will provide green space for recreation, educational workshops, and a small section for residents to grow food. To ensure success, you need to develop monitoring indicators for social and economic outcomes.

How would you measure:

Community engagement? Inclusion? Well-being? Economic impact? Efficiency?

Propose at least 3 indicators and share



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