Participation of indigenous groups in sustainable development monitoring: rationale and examples from New Zealand

Nigel Jollands & Garth Harmsworth
To ANZSEE 2005 Conference
13 December 2005
Contents

● Sustainable development indicators
  - In ecological economics
  - Participation & indigenous groups

● New Zealand examples
  - Central government
  - Maori-initiated

● Conclusions and lessons
Sustainable development indicators & ecological economics

- Important place
- Rationale from:
  - Policy relevance
  - Need for information for decision makers
  - Need to link environment and society
Sustainable development indicators, participation & indigenous groups

- Participation important (Gallopin 1997):
  - consensus on value judgements
  - Credibility and “Buy in”

- Participation of indigenous groups is poor

- Compelling reasons for greater participation of indigenous groups:
  - Theory
  - International obligations
  - NZ specific rationale
Rationale – NZ specific

- **Internal drivers**
  - “cultural responsibility”
  - Significant economic interests
- **Issue-based reasons**
- **Exogenous drivers**
  - Treaty of Waitangi
  - Principles of ToW
  - Waitangi Tribunal claims
New Zealand case studies

- Environmental Performance Indicators Programme, Ministry for the Environment
MfE’s response

Assessment of the State of the Environment

EPI Programme

Empirical science indicators

Maori science indicators

Reference Group

Case studies/pilots

Stand-by-strand contracts

MEMG

Case studies/pilots

Stand-by-strand contracts

General public

iwi / hapu
Lessons from MfE

Criticisms
- Too late
- Inadequately resourced
- Superficial

Benefit
- Stimulated activity in Maori communities
Maori-initiated monitoring

- Cultural health index (Tipa and Teirney, 2002)
  - One of EPI case studies
  - Originally trialed in Otago
  - Index made up of:
    - Community connection with water body (high/low)
    - Mahinga kai values
    - Stream health
  - Now widespread use
Conclusions and Lessons

- Strong rationale for
  - Participation
  - Indigenous group participation
- Concern over limited participation
- MfE’s EPI programme
- Critical success factors:
  - *Process is very important.*
  - *Resourcing is essential.*
  - *Openness to different perspectives is essential.*
- Most enduring Maori participation in flax roots programmes
- Participation of indigenous groups essential