



Guidance to improve coverage of environmental aspects in evaluations of economic development interventions.

Some practical considerations from UNIDO



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Guidance areas suggested in ongoing study

- **Foster definition/analysis of impact:** direct and indirect effects, long time scales of environmental consequences, DAC criteria and environmental effects

	impact	risk to sustainability	coherence	cross cutting
definitions	The extent to which the intervention has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended or <u>unintended</u> , higher-level effects.	Includes an examination of the financial, economic, social, <u>environmental</u> , and institutional capacities of the systems needed to sustain net benefits over time	Policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD; SDG 17) requires a close look at the interactions between economic, social and <u>environmental</u> dimensions.	Cross-cutting issues like the <u>environment</u> and gender equality are relevant to all aspects of development. Environment and development should be seen as one and the same thing. (OECD DAC)
issues found	Evaluations would need to determine possible environmental effects and include it in an adjusted TOC; a map of industry specific environmental effects (e.g. pollution) would help	Requires a sound understanding of the environmental issues related to the project. Rebound effects important: use of good science important.	Need to analyze more the trade-offs and co-benefits between SDGs (e.g. SD report 2019)	Disadvantage: considering the environment a “cross cutting factor” places it outside the causal logic of the theory of change



Guidance areas suggested in ongoing study

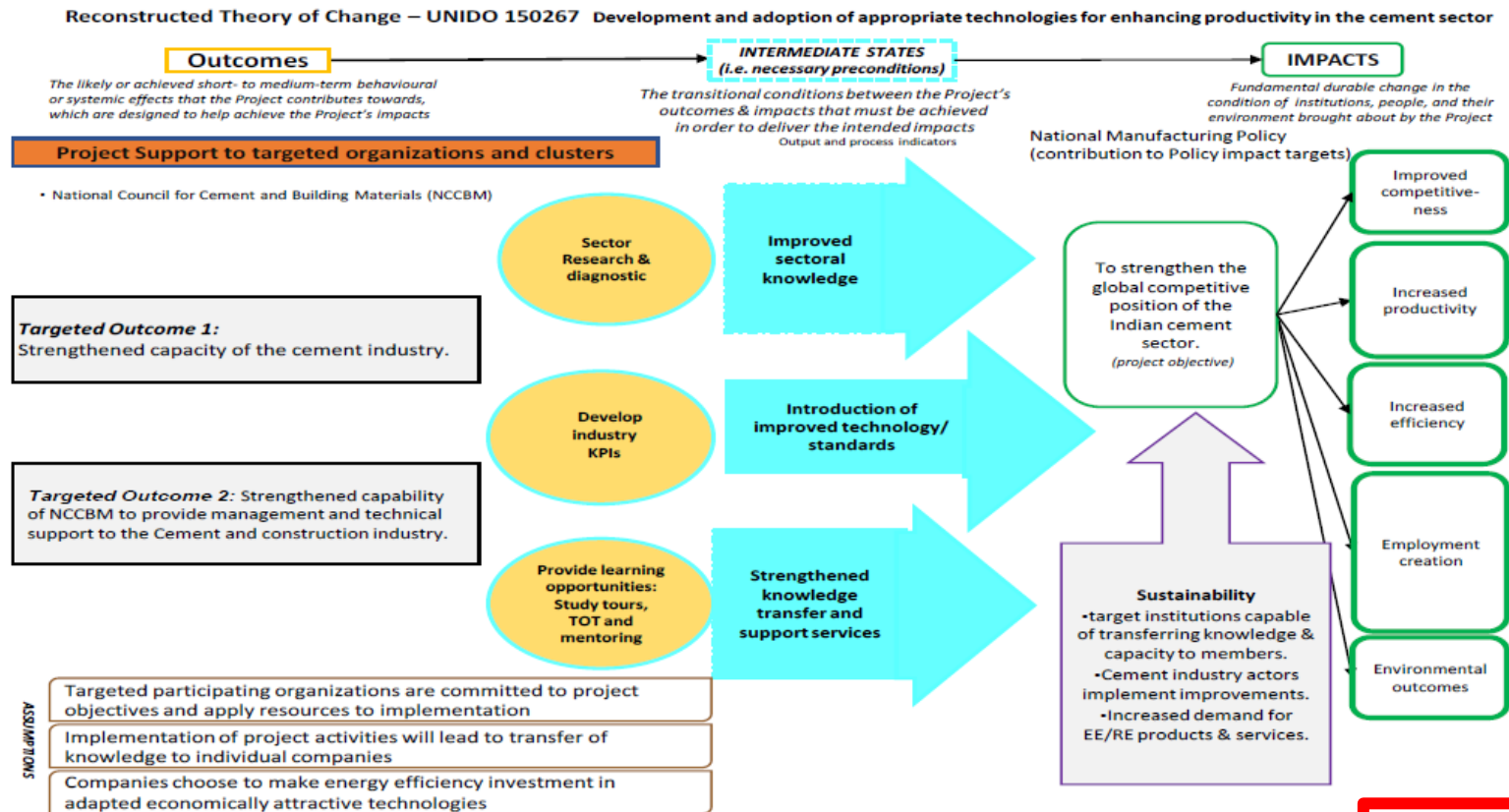
Use more specific environmental information/science: map of agency specific environmental impacts, environmental data sets

- Challenge to define the scope: reduce environmental impact of cement factories in region X vs. overall impact of cement industry/use of cement – where to draw the line?
- Global vs. Local environmental effects: for industry both need to be considered (Climate change bias?) impact on humans;
- E.g. Lancet report on pollution effects; in general local environmental effects more challenging to link with good science
- Introduce environmental impact categories (High, medium, low)?



Case: Cement sectoral Project in India – impact dimension

Figure 2 Reconstructed Theory of Change



Environmental dimension

Guidance areas suggested in ongoing study

Foster environmental learning: environmental mainstreaming to programme design through management action records, lessons learned to move from unintended to intended environmental effects

- More explicit requirements for coverage of environmental issues in evaluation TOR, including specific recommendations and lessons; relatively easy to implement
- Will take time, but represents an opportunity for the evaluation community to influence the whole programme cycle.
- At UNIDO inclusion of environment category in databases of lessons and recommendations feasible. Also inclusion in the quality rating system for evaluations.



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Some conclusions

- Overall the challenge of covering environment without increase in evaluation cost remains
- Some of the proposed guidance areas can help to do “more with less”
- Maybe linkage with environmental & social safeguards can Help (“environment marker”) to decide where the evaluation need to go deeper.



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