



Guidelines for Addressing Disease Risk in Wildlife Trade

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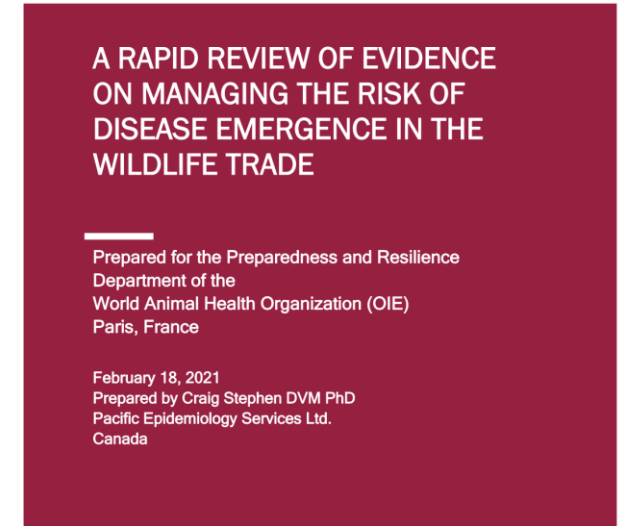
WOAH Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Health Risk Management

Wildlife Health Australia

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Background

- In April 2020, the OIE Wildlife Working Group released a statement highlighting the complexities, and challenges of wildlife trade and called for guidelines.
- Early in 2021, a consultant-led 'rapid review of evidence on managing the risk of disease emergence in the wildlife trade' was completed.
- The review emphasised:
 - Current evidence base to inform risk mitigation strategies for wildlife trade is weak.
 - Limited number of studies, many with biases towards zoonoses, certain geographical regions, specific activities (animals for food and live animals).
 - Risk management solutions need to be attentive and adaptable to different socio-ecological, socio-political and/or cultural settings.





WOAH Ad Hoc Group

- WOAHA drew together an Ad Hoc Group (AHG) to develop guidance for risk management.
- Seed-funding from the Australian Government.
- Participants
 - from multiple sectors and multilateral organisations
 - with expertise in wildlife crime, wildlife trade, animal welfare, risk assessment, veterinary services, animal health standards, ecology, public health, social and behavior change and systems-thinking.
- Content developed :
 - Over a series of 7 virtual meetings in addition inter-sessional work since June 2021,
 - Informed by the subject matter expertise of the group, previous work (e.g. IBPES, WHO-UNEP-OIE report) and complemented by ongoing literature review and resource sharing.



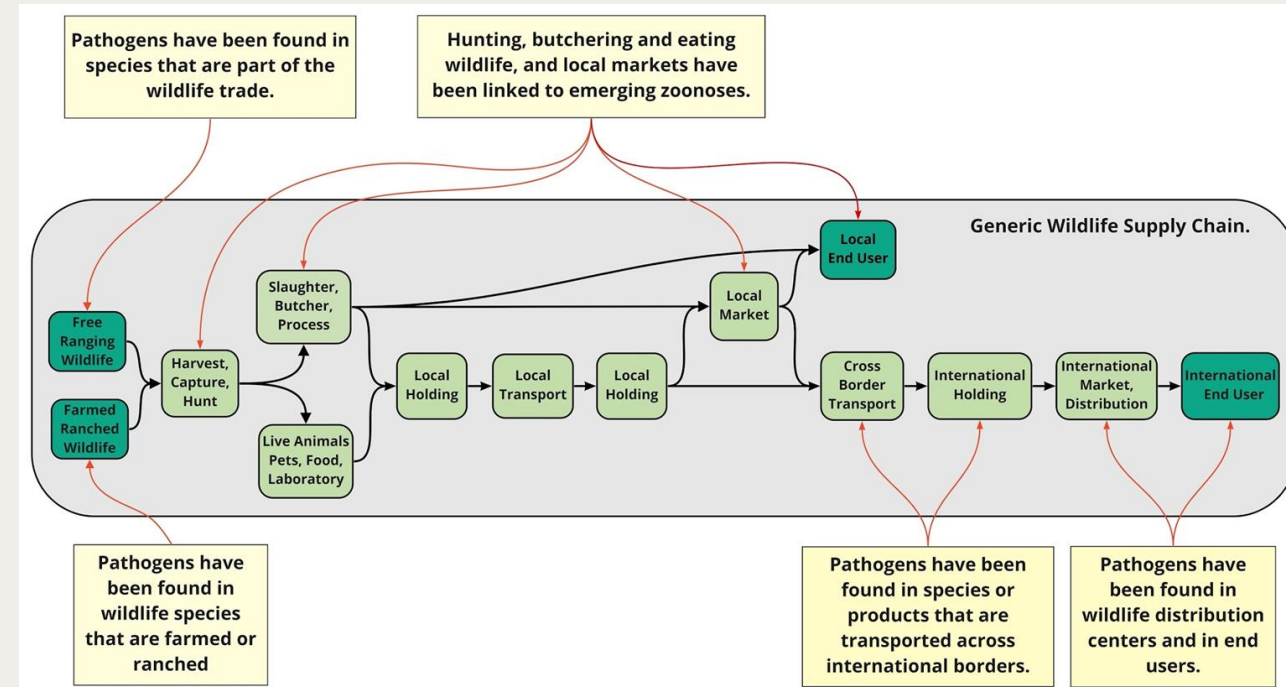
The *Guidelines* - Overview

- Overview • Provides a framework to support informed decision-making in the face of uncertainty and complexity.
- Approaches to enable users to select pragmatic and relevant risk reduction / intervention strategies according to identified risk, context and need.
 - The guidance portion of this document is split into four main sections:
 - 1. Engagement with stakeholders and system mapping
 - 2. Risk analysis
 - 3. Monitoring and evaluation
 - 4. Tools and guidance



Image: pixabay.com

- **Primary audience:** Veterinary Services, Wildlife Authorities, Public Health Authorities, other Competent Authorities with a mandate on animal health and welfare, public health, wildlife management and trade, law enforcement.
- **Any potential or infectious pathogen at any interface.**
- Commercial and non-commercial, legal (both regulated and unregulated) and illegal wildlife trade.
- **Wildlife includes wild animals and captive wild animals.** Feral were out of scope.
- Guidelines acknowledge that wildlife trade and related supply chains are highly variable and complex, including both illegal and legal trade.



Generic Wildlife Supply Chain [Credit Dr. John Berezowski, adapted from Stephen C, Berezowski J et al. 2021 Rapid Review of Evidence on Managing the Risk of Emerging Diseases in the Wildlife Trade. Prepared for the Preparedness and Resilience Department.



The *Guidelines* - Content

[These guidelines](#): Living things that are neither human nor domesticated, including animals, fungi and plants. For the purposes of the Guidelines, Wildlife means wild animals and captive wild animals (WOAH, 2022)

[WOAH General Guidelines for Surveillance of Diseases, Pathogens, and Toxic Agents in Free-ranging Wildlife](#): **Non-domesticated animals and plants.** For the purpose of this guidance, wildlife refers to free-ranging wild animals. The definition includes wildlife in areas managed by public agencies as well as private entities (for example, both public parks and private game reserves).

CITES does not explicitly define the standalone word "wildlife". Instead, its legal framework revolves around "**wild fauna and flora**," which encompass all undomesticated animals and uncultivated plants.



Steps



Describe the wildlife trade system for which risks are to be addressed and the objectives to be achieved.



Use **structured decision-making** to address complex, multidimensional problems and trade-offs.



Identify and engage with stakeholders, champions and experts.



Develop management and **intervention strategies using the Hierarchy of Controls** or other approaches.



Conduct **risk analysis via engagement** with subject matter experts.



Develop metrics for each intervention and **monitor and assess effectiveness. Adjust accordingly.**



Identify and prioritize the risky wildlife trade activities.



Map the Wildlife Trade

Geographic scale

Wildlife supply chain or market type:

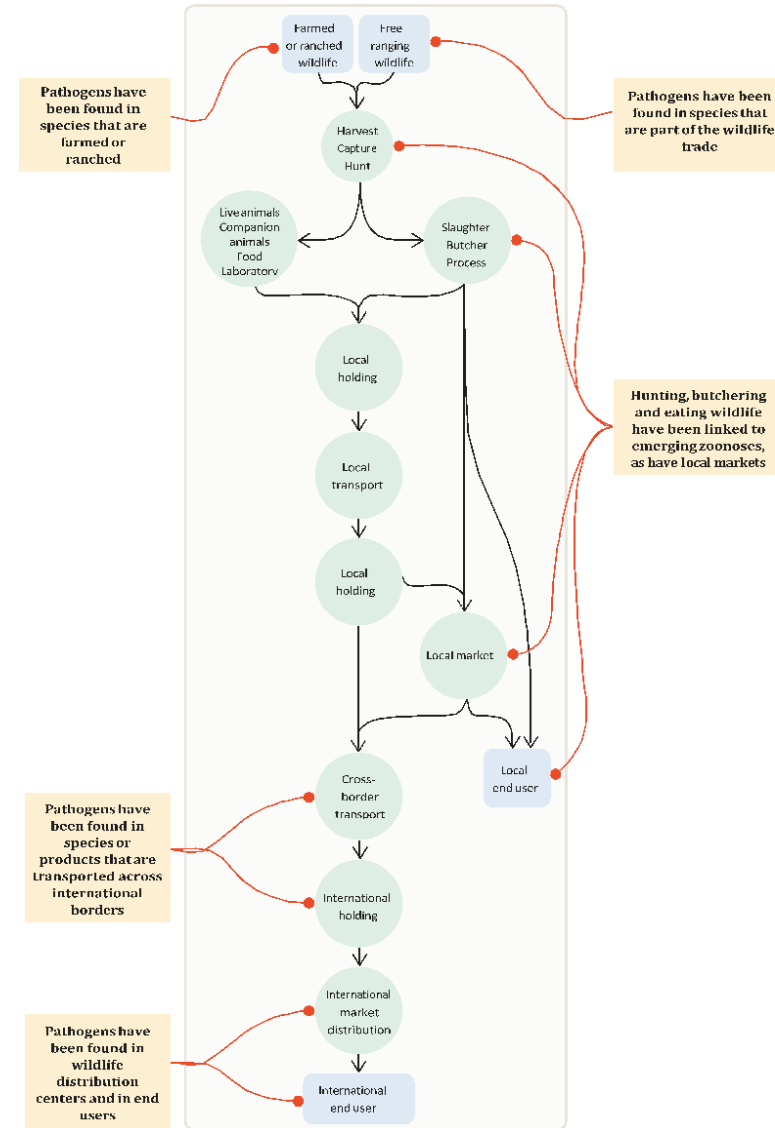
Legal or illegal?

Type of wildlife: Which taxa or species are involved?

Volume of trade

Existing strategies and policies

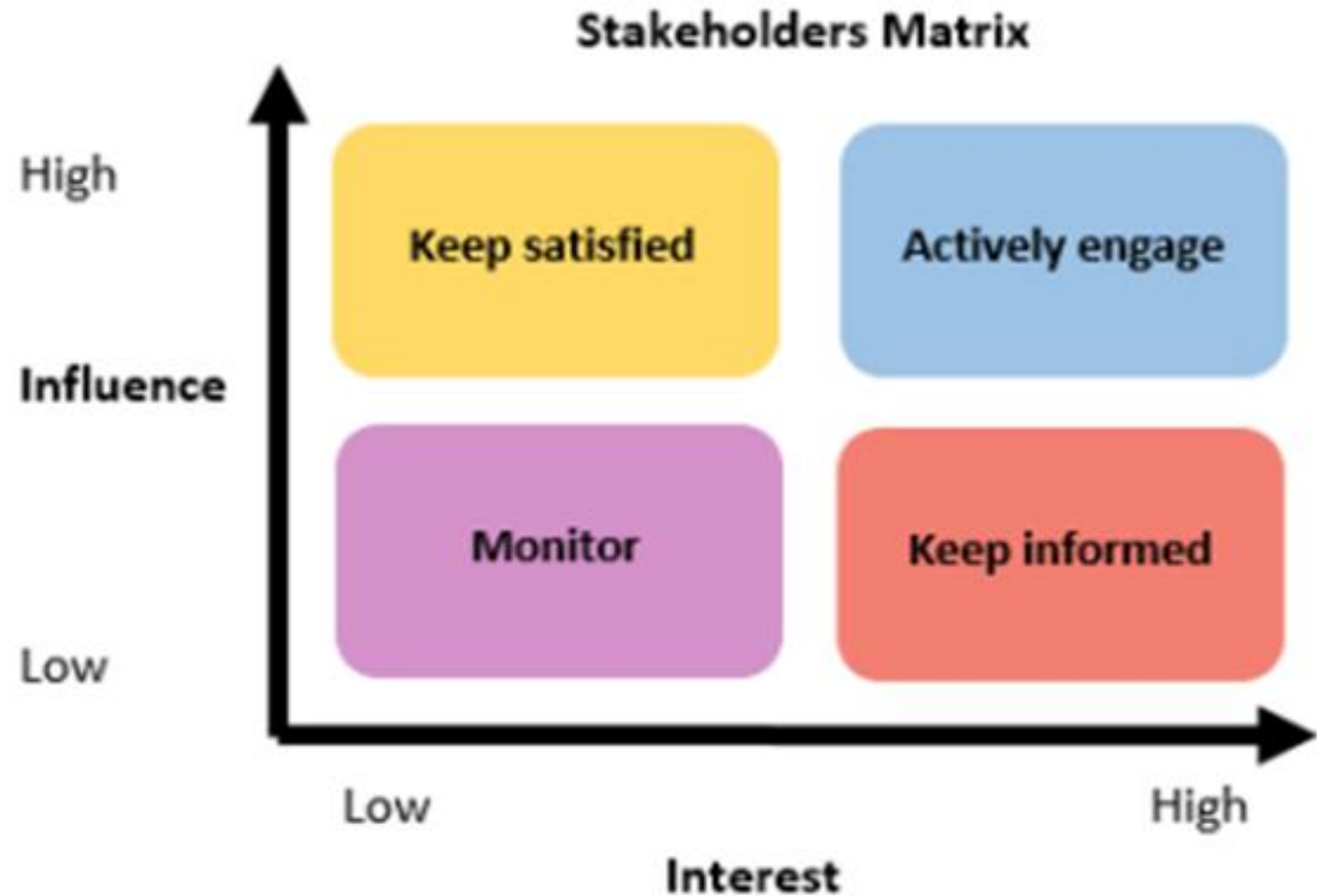
Knowledge gaps or limitations





Identify and Engage with Stakeholders, Champions and Experts

- Collaboration and inclusive approaches required at all stages.
- Communication and engagement critical to build awareness, understanding and support.
- Equitable treatment of all stakeholders.



Source: Modified from Mendelow's stakeholders map

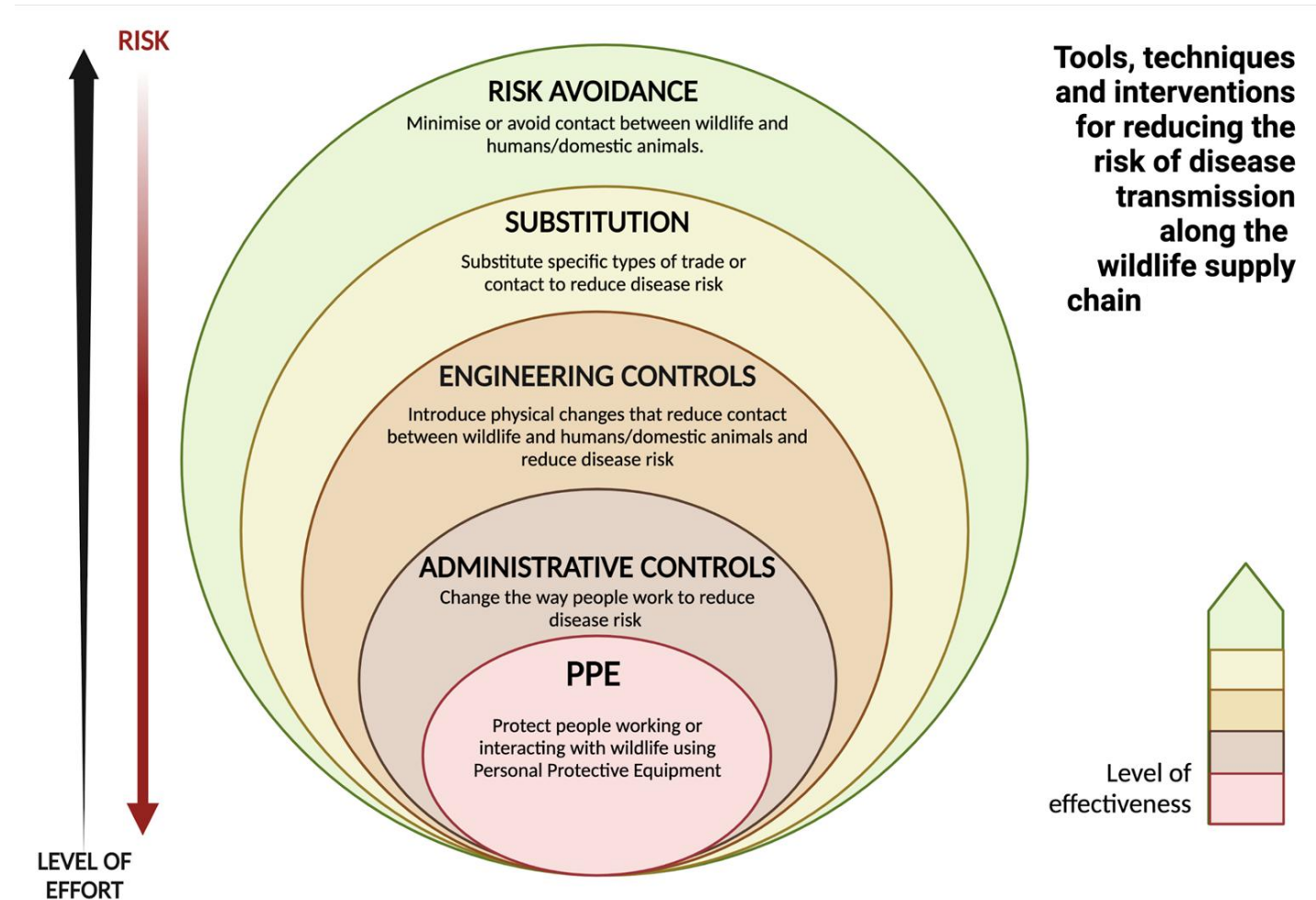
Risk Analysis





Risk Management: Hierarchy of Controls

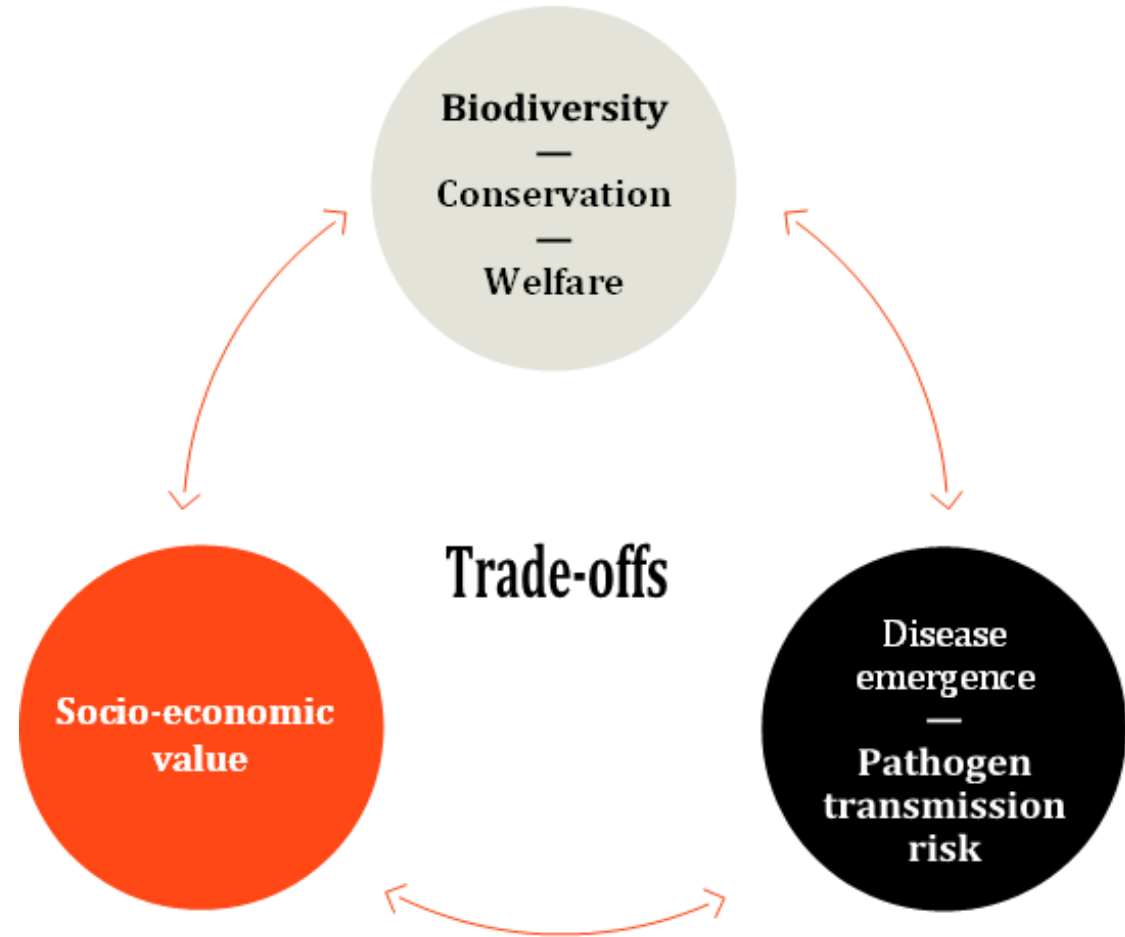
- Tailor intervention strategies to regionally and locally unique socio-ecological conditions and interactions.
- Prior to and during implementation, consider and document any potential unintended consequences upstream or downstream.



Managing Trade-offs

Multi-hazard risk reduction strategies that balance and account for risks to:

- Public health and disease emergence
- Conservation, and welfare
- Socio-economic values.





Decision Frameworks

Wildlife Trade that has LOW ECONOMIC AND/OR SOCIO-CULTURAL VALUE

	Low Disease Emergence Risk	High Disease Emergence / Pathogen Spillover Risk
Low Biodiversity Threat	Allow	Restrict, with enhanced sanitary measures, and trade standards
High Biodiversity Threat	Restrict, with enhanced conservation measures	Prohibit

Wildlife Trade that has HIGH ECONOMIC AND/OR SOCIO-CULTURAL VALUE

	Low Disease Emergence Risk	High Disease Emergence / Pathogen Spillover Risk
Low Biodiversity Threat	Allow	Manage, with enhanced sanitary measures, and trade standards
High Biodiversity Threat	Manage, with enhanced conservation measures	Range from restrict to prohibit, pending further evaluation and additional policy measures

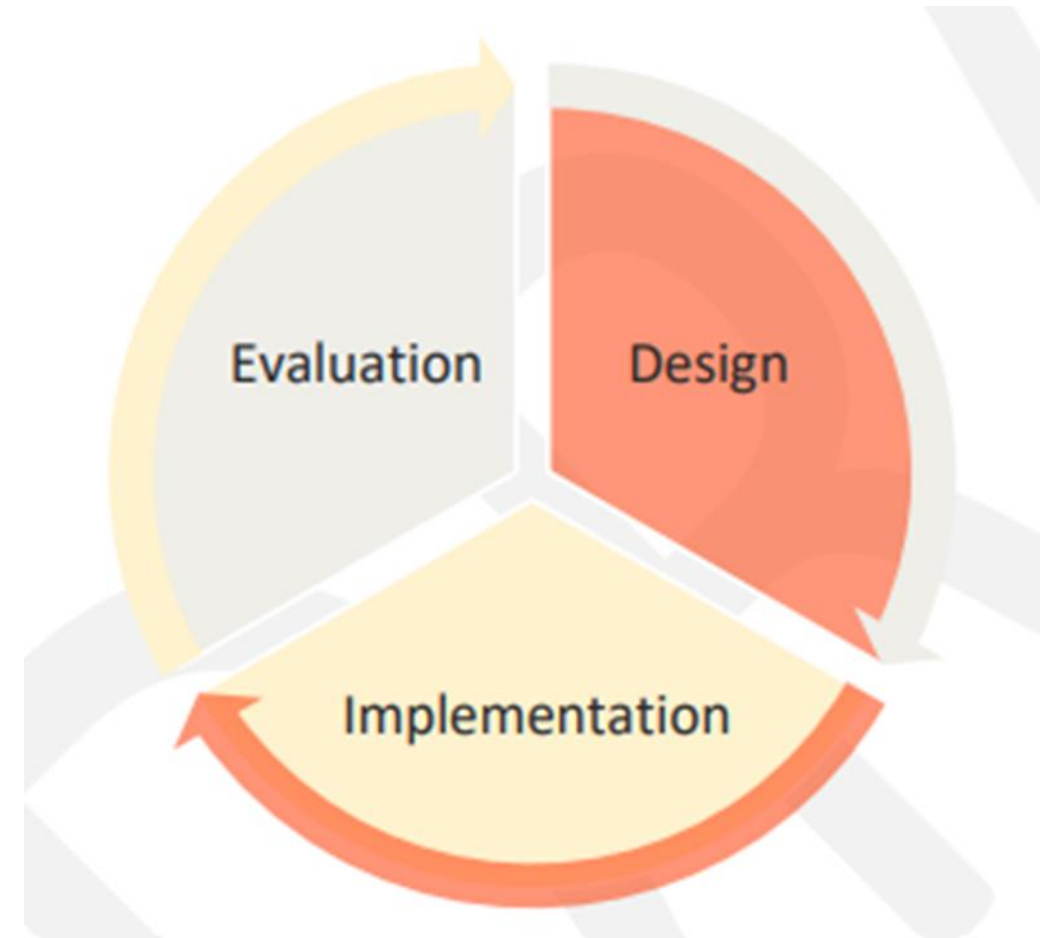


Monitoring and Evaluation

It is important to measure the effectiveness of a risk management strategy.

It is also important to identify areas for improvement.

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process must be appropriate for the local context and supported by appropriate metrics.





Additional Recommendations



Image: pixabay.com

- Share successful approaches and lessons learned to support a community of practice:
 - where evidence is currently lacking, and
 - allows adaptation and upscaling of approaches that work.
- Knowledge exchange and implementation data monitoring platforms:
 - PANORAMA Solutions for a Healthy Planet : <https://panorama.solutions/en>
 - WOAHA Observatory: <https://www.woah.org/en/what-we-do/standards/observatory/>



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