

environmental affairs

Department: Environmental Affairs REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



higher education & training

Department: Higher Education and Training REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA







Rhodes University Evaluation Research Programme

2018 - 2020



- 1. M&E in NRMPs (Natural Resource Management Programmes)
- 2. Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) in a SETA Environment
- 3. Evaluation of ESD (Education for Sustainable Development)





Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning in Complex Socio-Ecological Systems

Drawing on Rhodes ELRC and Environmental Science, AWARD, INR, Dept of Environmental Affairs Treasury (Auditor-General, Dept of Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Donors such as USAID)



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National Department of Environmental Affairs, SANBI

Regional DEA, Working for Wetlands, Working for Water, Working for Ecosystems, Working on Fire





Researchers, Facilitators, Trainers & Evaluators – working in and with complex (adaptive) S-E systems

Citizens in the Catchment



RHODES UNIVERSITY Where leaders learn



Outputs (Person Days & Training Days)

Currently monitored by DEA

Quality and Sustainability

Nomfundiso Giqwa PhD, Kath Fourie M.Ed.

Effectiveness & Impact

• Indicators of social impact – Hanli Human

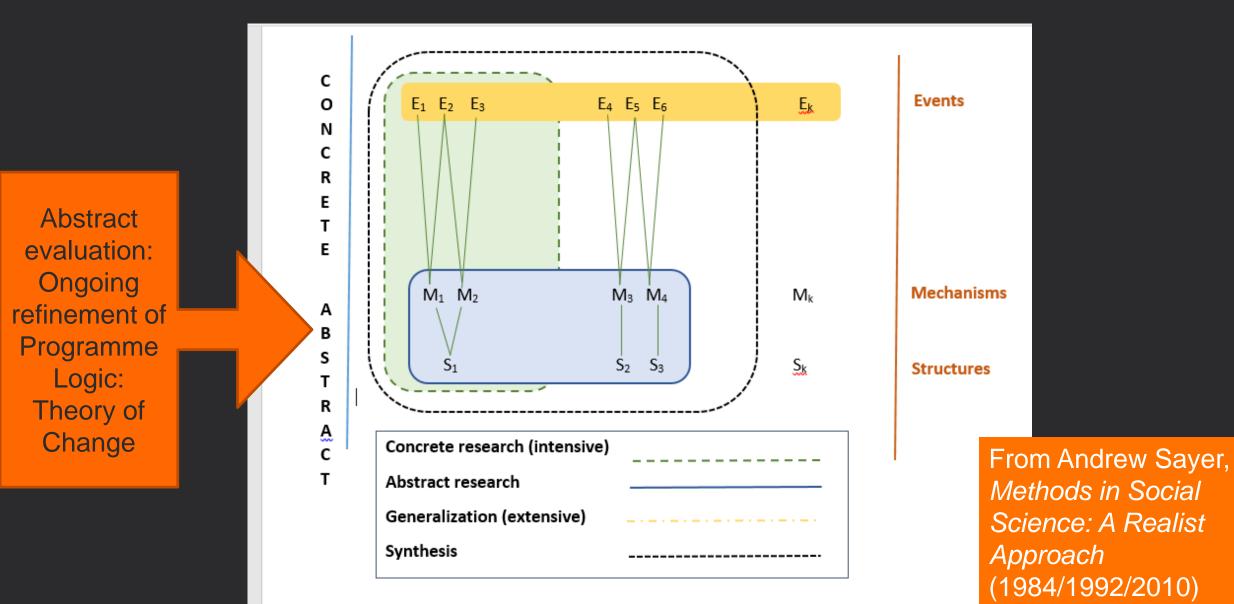
Process

- Learning and Reporting Vhutshilo Mudau
- Citizen monitors Nosiseko Mtati





Under-labouring M&E with a critical realist philosophy



Your experiences with M&E for Learning in complex SES

1. What are you working on? What is your role or interest in MERL?

2. What has motivated the need for MEL in your context?

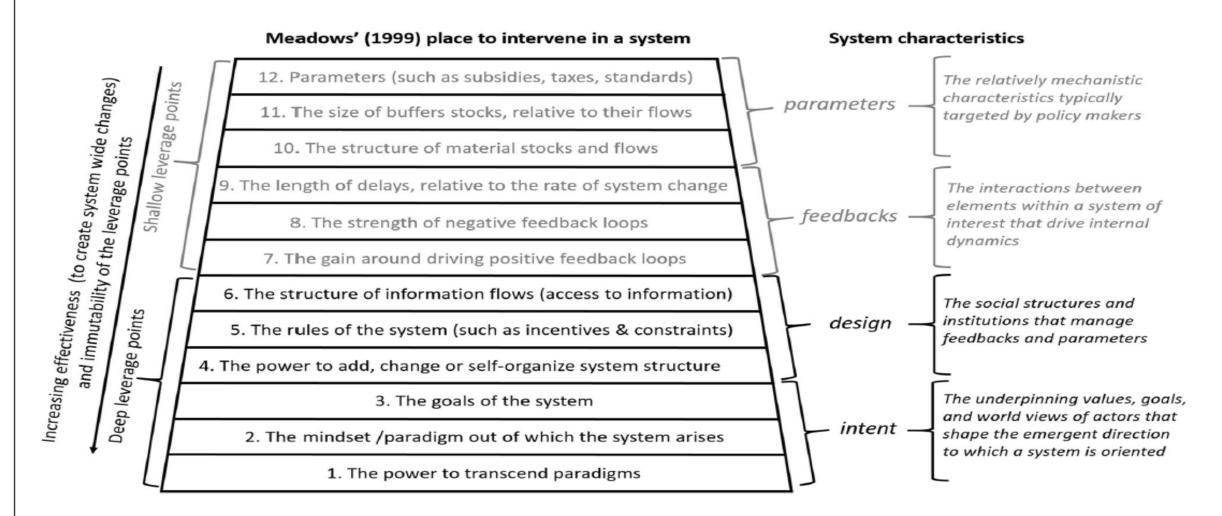
3. What have you tried, methodologically and conceptually?

4. What worked / didn't work?

5. Who learned what and how?

"Places to Intervene in a System" – Donella Meadows, 1997; Abson et al., Ambio, 2016)

Box 2 From twelve leverage points to four system characteristics



The four system characteristics represent a nested hierarchy of, tightly interacting, realms of leverage within which interventions in a given system of interest may be made. Deeper system characteristics constrain the types of interventions possible at shallower realms of leverage

Under-labouring evaluation with a critical realist philosophy

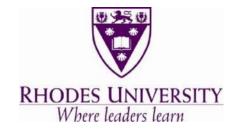
- Critical realism as a service to the sciences
- Allows for congruence in social and natural sciences
- A better explanation for how we do science
- Layered ontology (reality occurs in layers) allows for / requires multiple ways of knowing / researching / evaluating ...
- Deepening beyond what can be measured ...
- ... But tested for reality congruence (avoiding relativism of 'any perception counts')







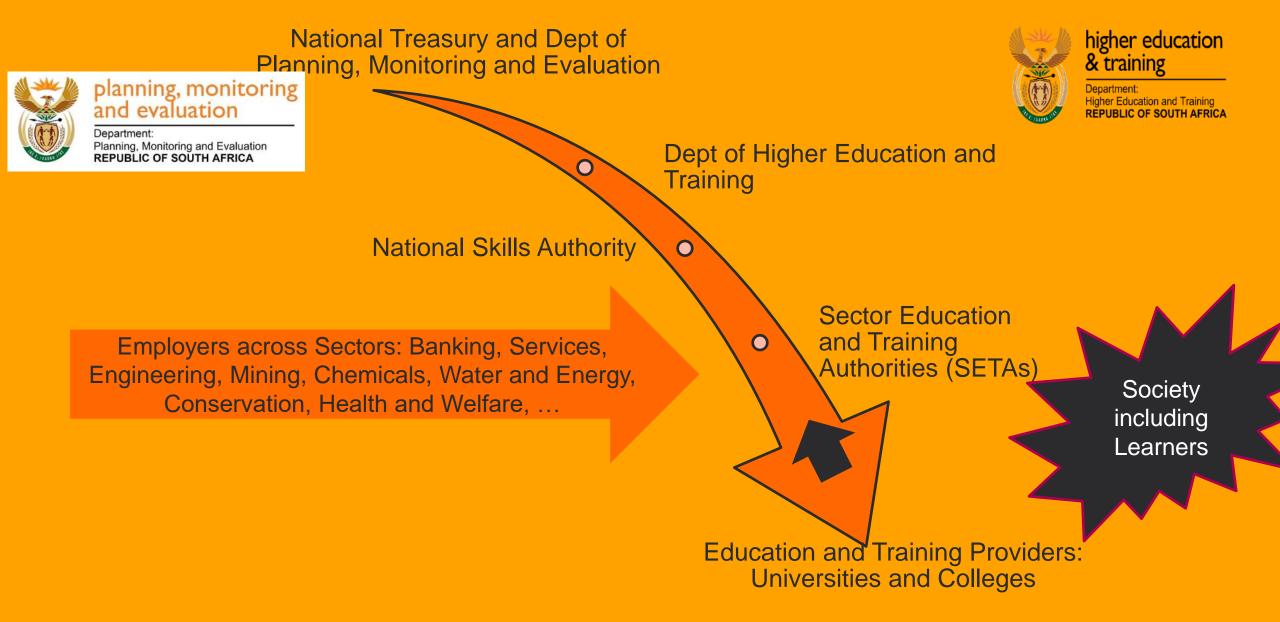
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M&E in a SETA Environment

Project led by Prof Eureta Rosenberg with the Dept of Higher Education and Training, BANKSETA and ServiceSETA



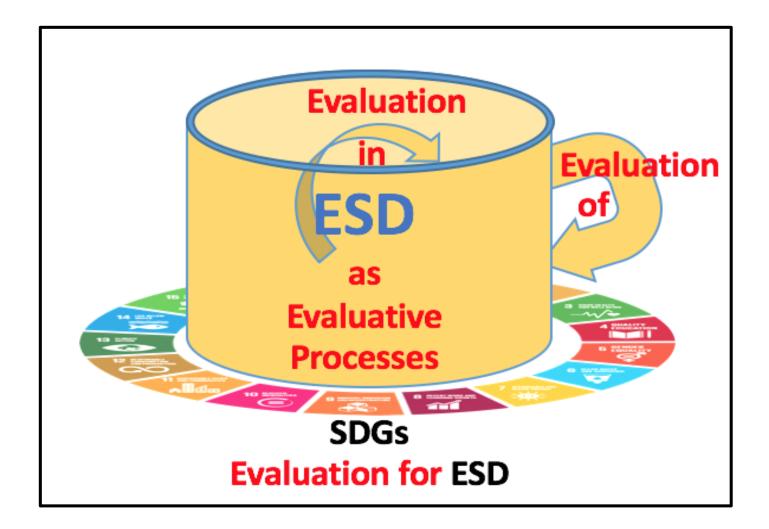
Parties interested in SETA Success



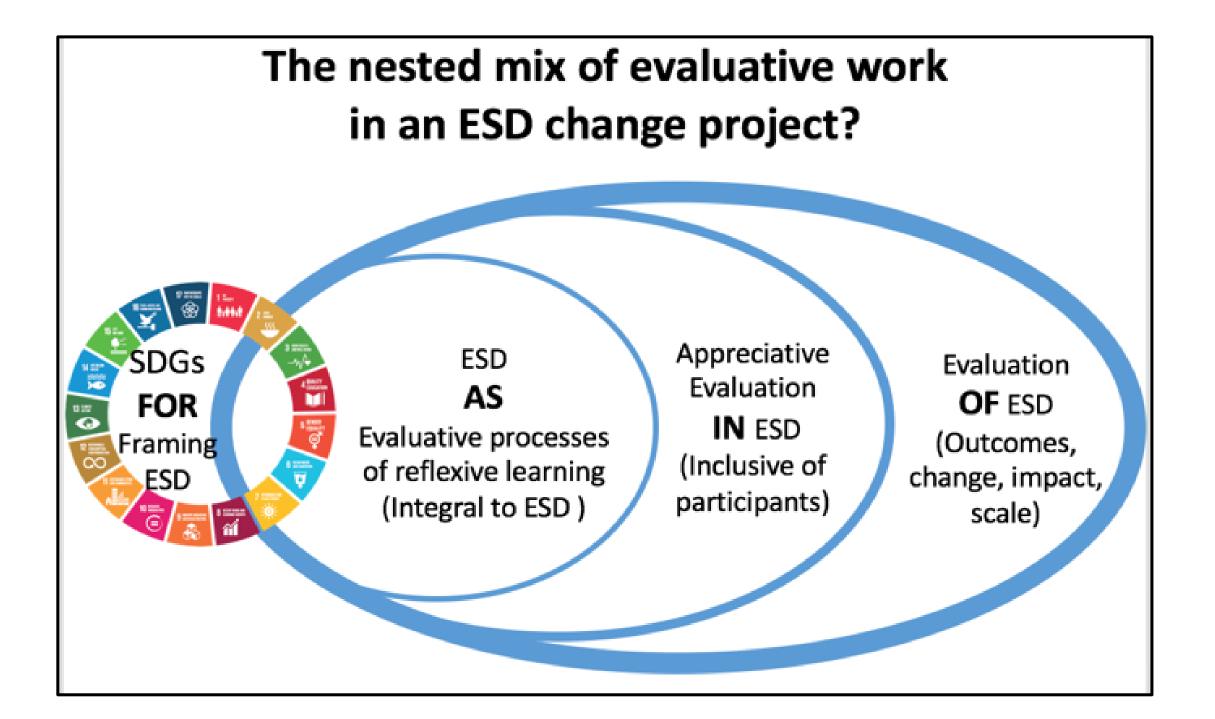


Evaluation of Education for Sustainable Development

Project led by Rob O'Donoghue



Source: Rob O'Donoghue, 2017



An overview of an ESD evaluation process

1. Contextual assessment around focus of project

Constitutive Evaluation

Appreciative Evaluation

Value Creation Assessment

Evaluation

Meta Evaluation 2. Stakeholder accounts of developing ESD activities

3. Value Creation assessment of activities and outcomes

4. Model and assess theory of change processes in the project

Outputs: Evaluation reports, photo case studies of activities and evidence of change.

Review of context, activities and evidence of transitioning

O'Donoghue and Fadeeva, (2016)

SDGs as an evaluation agenda for ESD

Description of our context:

Mpopomeni stream being tested by Enviro Champs to assess water quality and risk to Midmar Dam water supply for Durban & Pietermaritzburg.

Our concerns driving ethical purpose: Overflow from sewage manhole covers increasing disease risk and entering the stream to pollute Midmar Dam

Summary of our current knowledge:

The Enviro Champs have been monitoring manhole outflow, reporting blockages and educating community members.

Learning-led change proposed:

Improvements in water quality will be reported to municipal authorities who will fund the expansion of the blockage monitoring and reporting services.

