



Using video to capture 'stories of change'

The Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme (MWBP) in collaboration with Health Unlimited, pilot the Most Significant Change (MSC) approach to Participatory M&E in Attapeu Province, Lao PDR.



Staff facilitator training

At the MWBP training centre in Attapeu, more than twenty local Government recipients and project staff from the HU and MWBP offices, took part in a training combining participatory Video and the MSC approach.

Community facilitator training

In the community, twenty four women and twenty four men from four target villages were trained and then went on to collect more than one hundred video 'stories of change' from within their own communities, contributing towards a monitoring and evaluation of MWBP project implementation.

Why MSC?



Framing a shot

MSC is an approach to monitoring and evaluation based upon story telling. Its oral nature combined with the absence of indicators makes it a perfect choice for PM&E at the local level.

Participatory M&E



Practicing zooming in and out

MSC stories are documented by the recipients themselves in a non threatening environment. Facilitators and recipients share information and feedback on project impact and all interviews are conducted in an open and participatory fashion.

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Combining 'Participatory Video'

Lao culture and tradition is strongly associated with story telling and song. Rural recipients, especially ethnic women have high illiteracy rates and 'P'VDO lends itself very well to capturing stories of change in this context and is a lot of fun too!

Participatory video can be a great medium with which to tackle sensitive issues. Through the use of stories, song, role play, theatre, comedy or drama, communities are sometimes more able to give voice to 'hidden' issues that can take many years to uncover, if at all. There is opportunity to ensure that all voices are heard especially the marginalized and the weak, and it can be through participation that transformation occurs!



Acting out role plays