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Using Evidence in Policy and Practice – Lessons from Africa

Goldman, Ian; Pabari, Mine; Amisi, Matodzi; Pophiwa, Nedson; Hon Abdalla, Amina ...

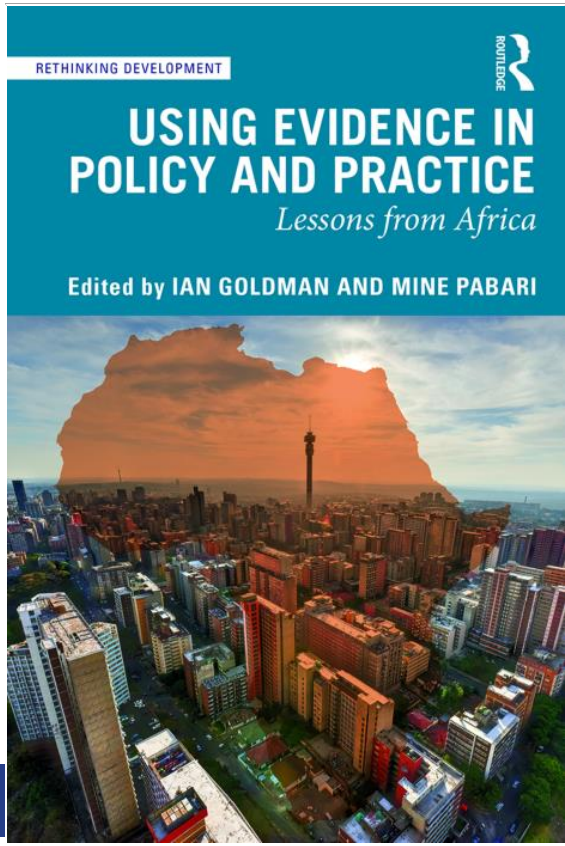
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gLOCAL webinar

Parliament, participation and policy making: The case of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA, 2013) in Kenya

3 June 2020



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Research project

- Research project on Using Evidence for Policy and Practice
- Perspective of policy makers (co-authors)
- African research team with researchers in each country
- 8 cases from 6 countries/West Africa, linked with the Twende Mbele countries
- Explores use of different types of evidence (evaluations, research, rapid synthesis, citizens engagement)
- And what supported evidence use to happen
- Book coming out in July 'Using Evidence for Policy and Practice – Lessons from Africa' https://www.routledge.com/Using-Evidence-in-Policy-and-Practice-Open-Access-Lessons-from-Africa/Goldman-Pabari/p/book/9780367440077

Chapters/cases

5 Using evaluations to inform policy and practice in a government department: The Case of the Department of Basic Education in South Africa

6 Use of evidence in a complex social programme: an evaluation of the state's response to violence against women and children in South Africa

7 The influence of local ownership and politics of the use of evaluations in policy making: The case of the public procurement evaluation in Uganda

8 Rapidly responding to policy queries with evidence: Learning from Rapid Response Services in Uganda

9 The challenges and potential of evaluations to positively inform reforms: working with producers in the Benin Agriculture Sector

10 Parliament and public participation in Kenya: The case of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013

11 The contribution of civil society generated evidence to the improvement of sanitation services in Ghana

12 Using evidence for tobacco control in West Africa

Introduction to Analytical framework

Builds on :

- Science of Using Science's framework (Langer, Gough, Tripney 2016)
- The Context Matters framework (Weyrauch, Echt and Suliman, 2016)

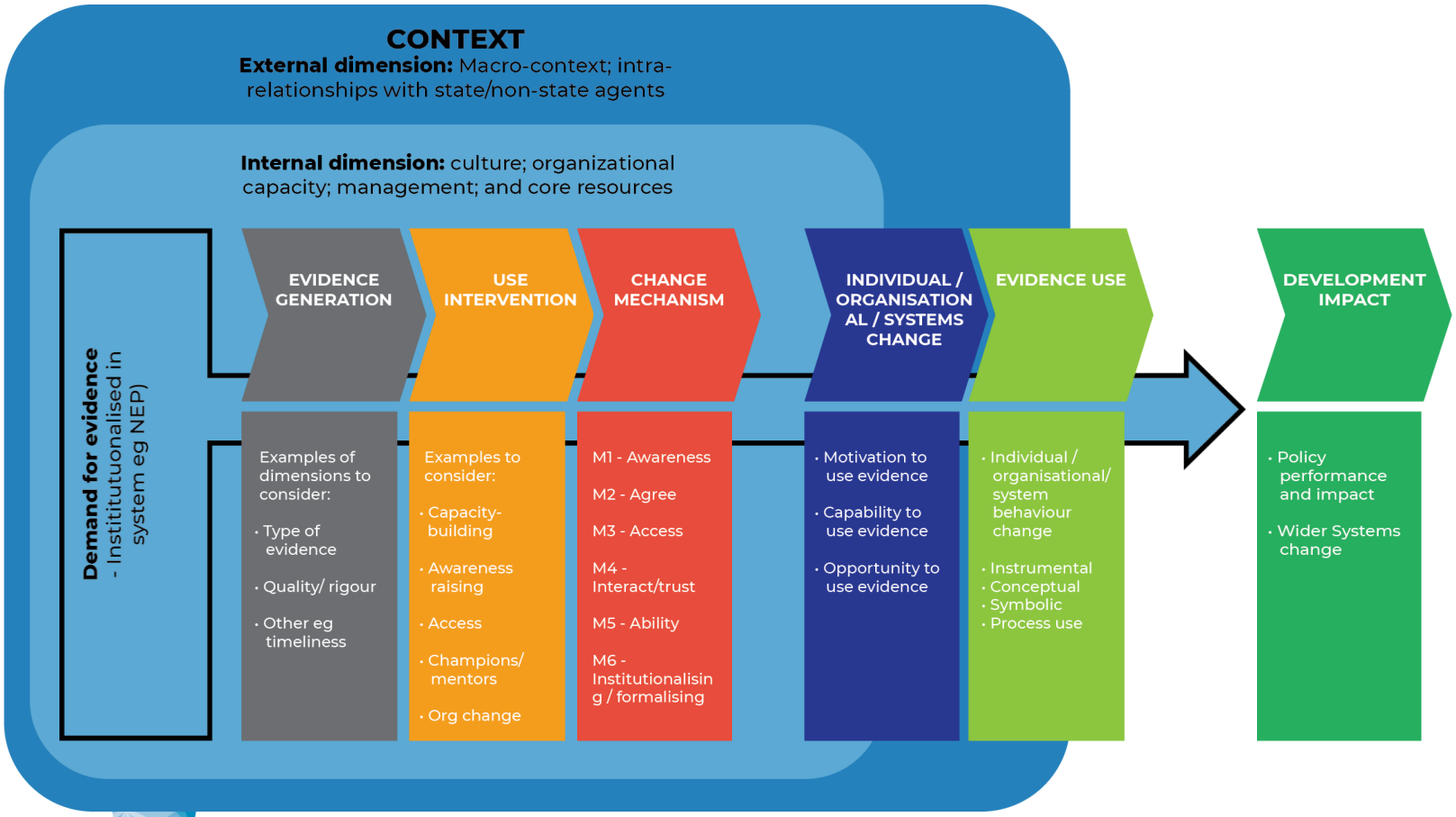
What does the framework do?

- to investigate and unpack the effectiveness of programmes and instruments aiming to support decision-makers' use of evidence.
- to present an inductive analytical tool to explore evidence-use interventions, not necessarily outlining what or how interventions *should* lead to positive impacts on decision-makers' use of evidence.
- to structure the generated research and tacit knowledge evidence-base in a consistent manner which allows us to identify patterns in the *overall* evidence-base *across* case studies;

  → allows for cross-learning and collaboration around synergies of different EIPP interventions and approaches.

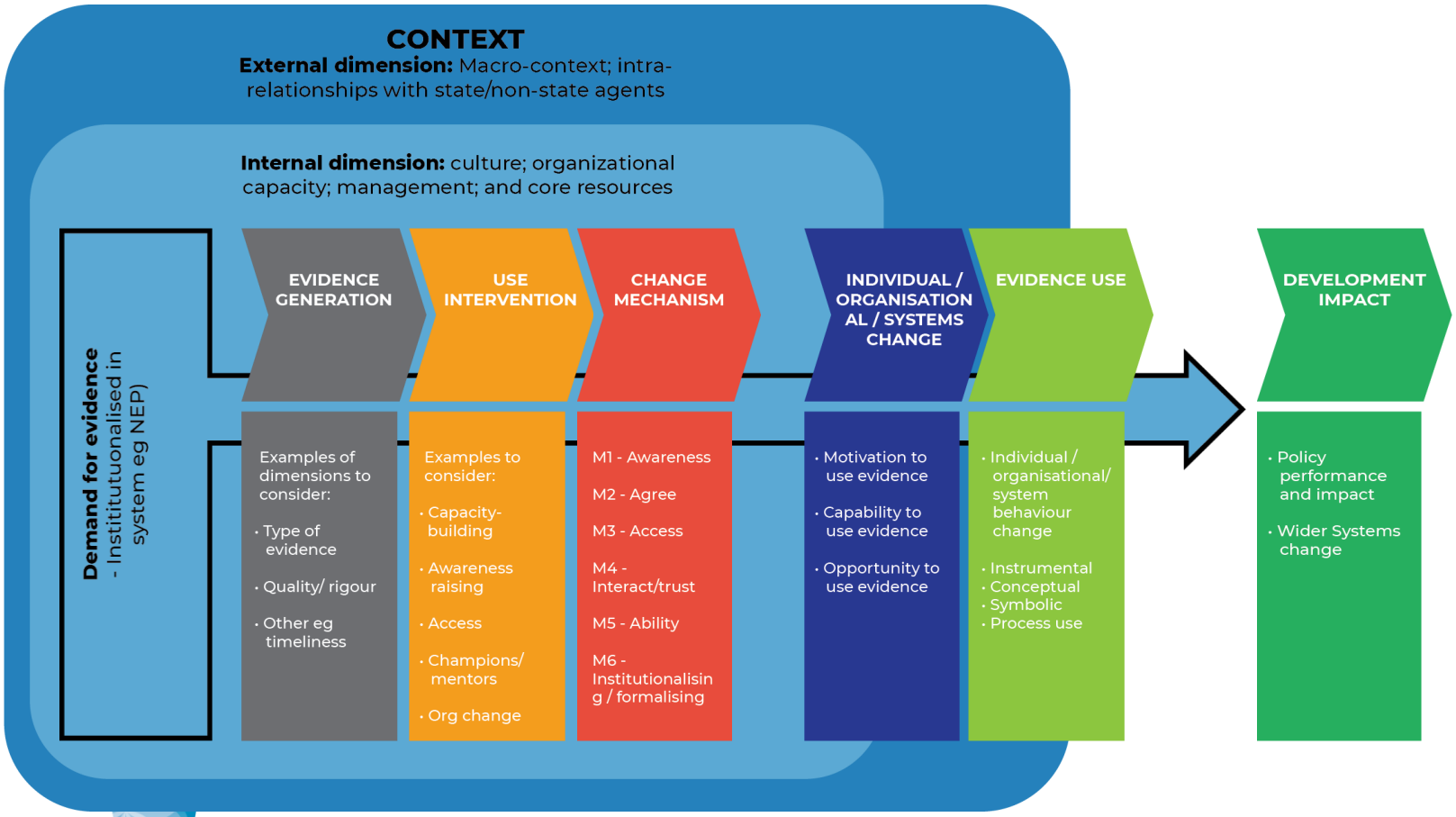
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Analytical framework/TOC



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Analytical framework/TOC



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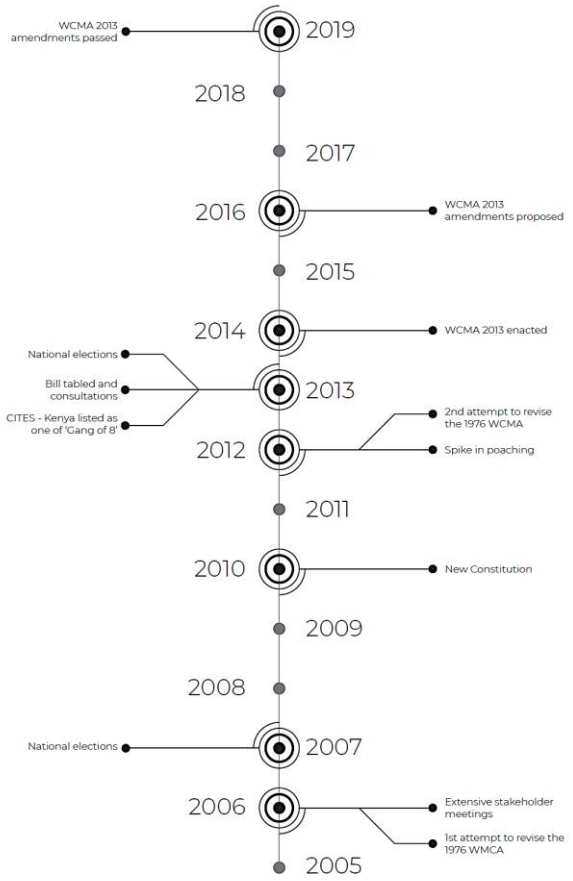
The case – Kenya's Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA, 2013)

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Context

The evidence journey

- Engaging a public that had long history of fragmented & polarized views
- Led by a parliamentary committee (DCENR) comprised of members of parliament
- Parliamentary Research Services (PRS) provided interface between Committee & public, gathering and synthesizing evidence
- Invitation for engagement through public media
- Convening of forums for debate & discussion within Nairobi
- MPs outreach to their constituencies
- Submission of joint positions by non-governmental organisations and actors
- Enabling discussion and debate within Parliament (during the second reading)
- Monitoring the Act to inform amendments



What emerged



Instrumental use

- Act revised after 16 years, reflecting public views on new directions
- Fundamental changes to the sector and way in which Kenya engages with the sector

- Conceptual & process use
  - Sense of ownership across diversity of stakeholders
  - Experiences used to inform public participatory processes in government
  - Rebuilding of trust and relationships

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Use interventions - Why public participation was successful (this time)

USE INTERVENTION

Examples to consider:

- Capacity-building
- Awareness raising
- Access
- Champions/ mentors
- Org change

CHANGE MECHANISM

M1 - Awareness

M2 - Agree

M3 - Access

M4 - Interact/trust

M5 - Ability

M6 - Institutionalising / formalising

Interaction

- Building trusted relationships and understanding of different perspectives and realities

Agreement

- Negotiating and arriving at joint positions

Abilities

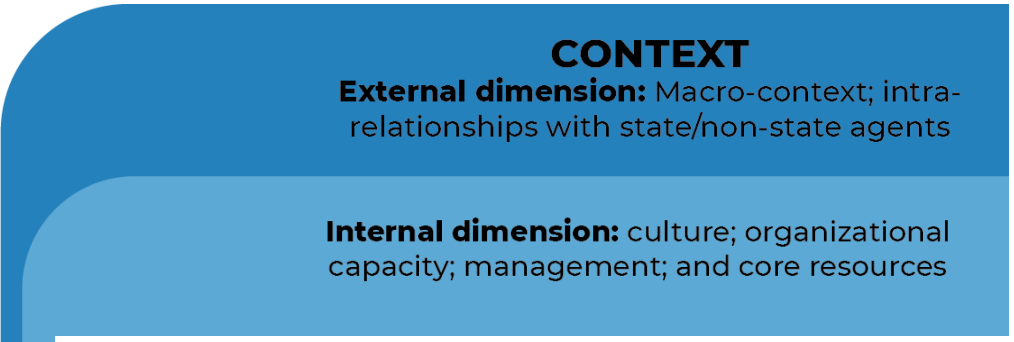
- Strengthening policy makers understanding of sectoral realities

Access

- Enabling convenient access to evidence

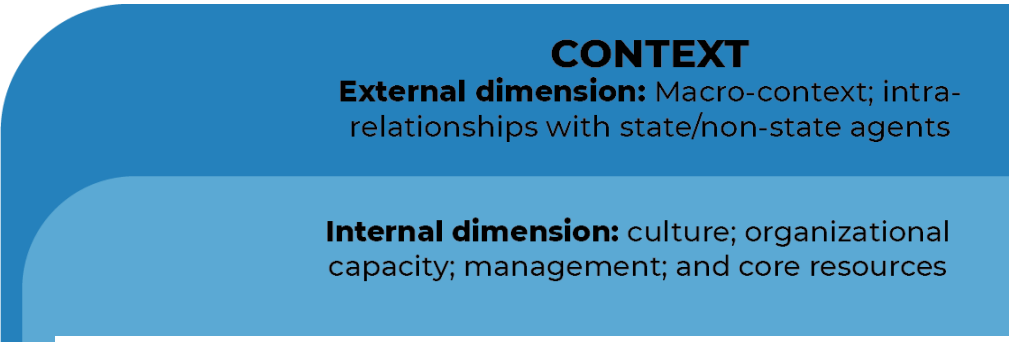
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FACILITATION & KNOWLEDGE BROKERING BY THE COMMITTEE AND PRS



Contextual factors which facilitated use

- Fortuitous circumstances and timing
- Well-organized civil society with established relationships
- Members of Parliament – motivated to reach out to wider community
- Skills, experience and expertise to take advantage of the opportune time
- Effective knowledge brokers



Barriers to use

- Lack of guidance and regulations for effective participation
- Resource limitations ⇢ evidence quality
- Limitations in knowledge management & a learning culture
- Knowledge and understanding of the legislature of the realities of the sector
- Understanding of the public on the workings of parliament and the policy processes

Lessons

- Benefits of direct engagement of Parliament in a leadership role
- Significance of the PRS as a knowledge broker
- Importance of the right leadership
- Importance of ensuring adequacy of resources & skills

The structure of Committees is often political (based on parties) rather than technical skills and knowledge. So, efforts must be made to bridge the politics with the technical and ensure that the individuals have the information and knowledge they need to effectively engage (Interview respondent, G14)

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Considerations for the future

Recommendations to strengthen public participatory processes in Kenya (and beyond)…

- Establish a clear legal framework is established to guide public participation;
- Strong facilitation skills are made available to government bodies responsible for leading and guiding policy processes;
- The roles of knowledge brokers (such as Parliamentary Research Services) in policy making processes are strengthened, ensuring that they have the necessary skills and expertise to carry out their roles;
- Guidelines are developed to provide a diversity of tools and processes to support public participation in different contexts; and
- Mechanisms are established to ensure that wider public and civil society members are aware of public participatory processes, principles and tools in order to engage constructively.

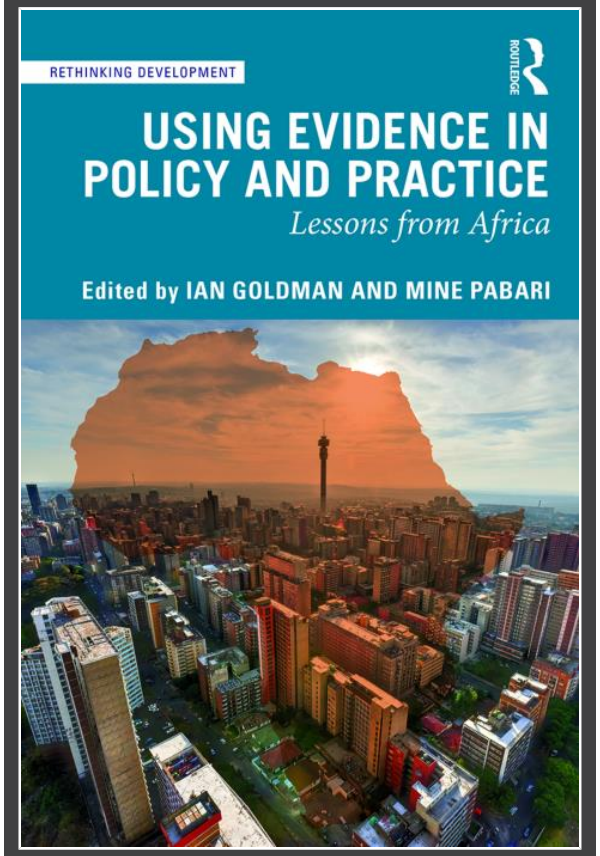
Conclusions

- Value of public participation in the revision of the Act unquestioned
- Benefits include strengtheing capabilities for more deliberative engagement in decision making processes

….

….However, need to invest in ensuring that the evidence is robust and well governed to avoid bias

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Table of Contents

Forewords, *Ruhakana Rugunda, Prime Minister, Republic of Uganda and Paul Cairney, University of Stirling;* 1. Introduction to the Book; 2. An Introduction to Evidence-Informed Policy and Practice in Africa; 3. Using Evidence in Africa; 4. Mere Compliance or Learning; 5. Using Evaluations to Inform Policy and Practice in a Government Department; 6. Use of Evidence in a Complex Social

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Aug (in French) Chapter 12 'Using evidence for tobacco control in West Africa'.

Sept Chapter 7 'The influence of local ownership and politics of the use of evaluations in policy making: The case of the public procurement evaluation in Uganda'.

Oct Chapter 11 'The contribution of civil society generated evidence to the improvement of sanitation services in Ghana'.

Nov Chapter 6 'Use of evidence in a complex social programme: case of an evaluation of the state's response to violence against women and children in South Africa'.

Dec (in French) Chapter 11 'The challenges and potential of evaluations to positively inform reforms: working with producers in the Benin Agriculture Sector'.

Thank you

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