



# Business Planning for Iran's Wetland Protected Areas

- 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop -

Introduction to the methodology for improving  
WPA management effectiveness

Dr Mike Moser, Senior International Project Advisor  
December 2016

# SIX STEPS FOR BUSINESS PLANNING



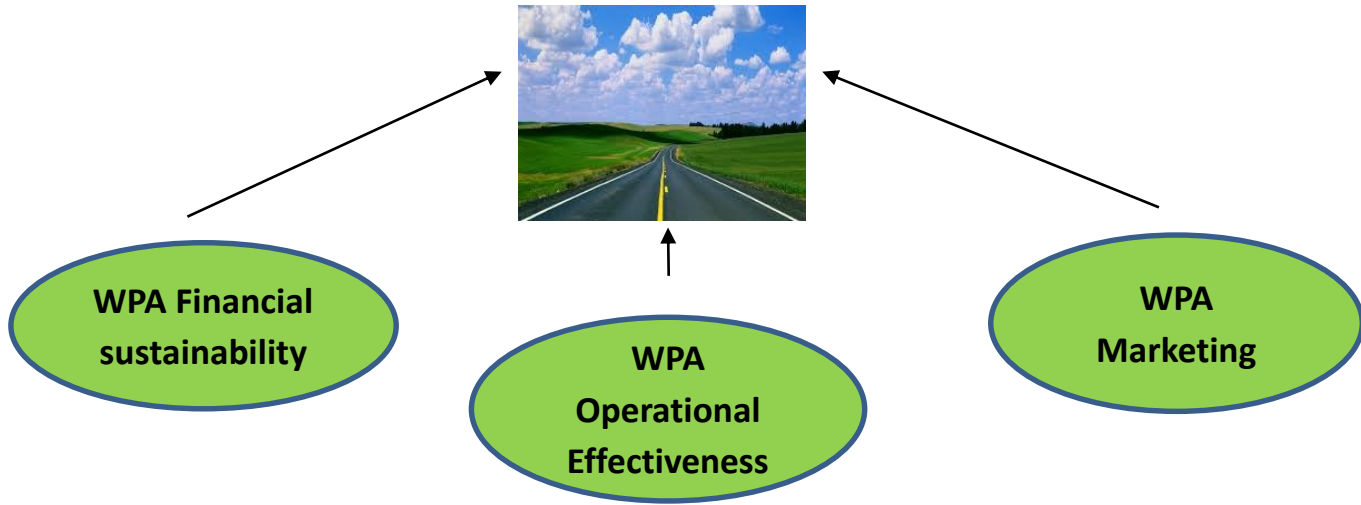
# DEVELOP CLEAR OBJECTIVES TO IMPROVE WPA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS



Be proactive, innovative and forward-looking,

**IMPROVED  
SCENARIO**

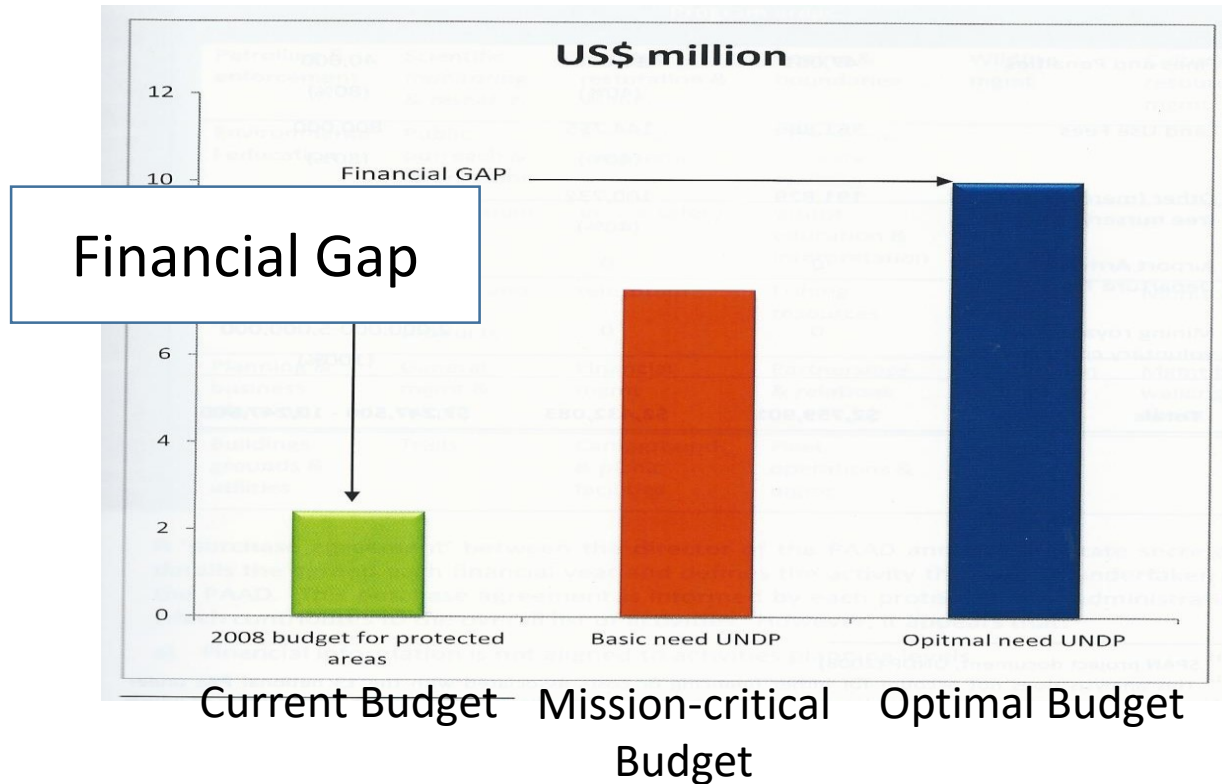
**OBJECTIVES**



**BASELINE  
SCENARIO**

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

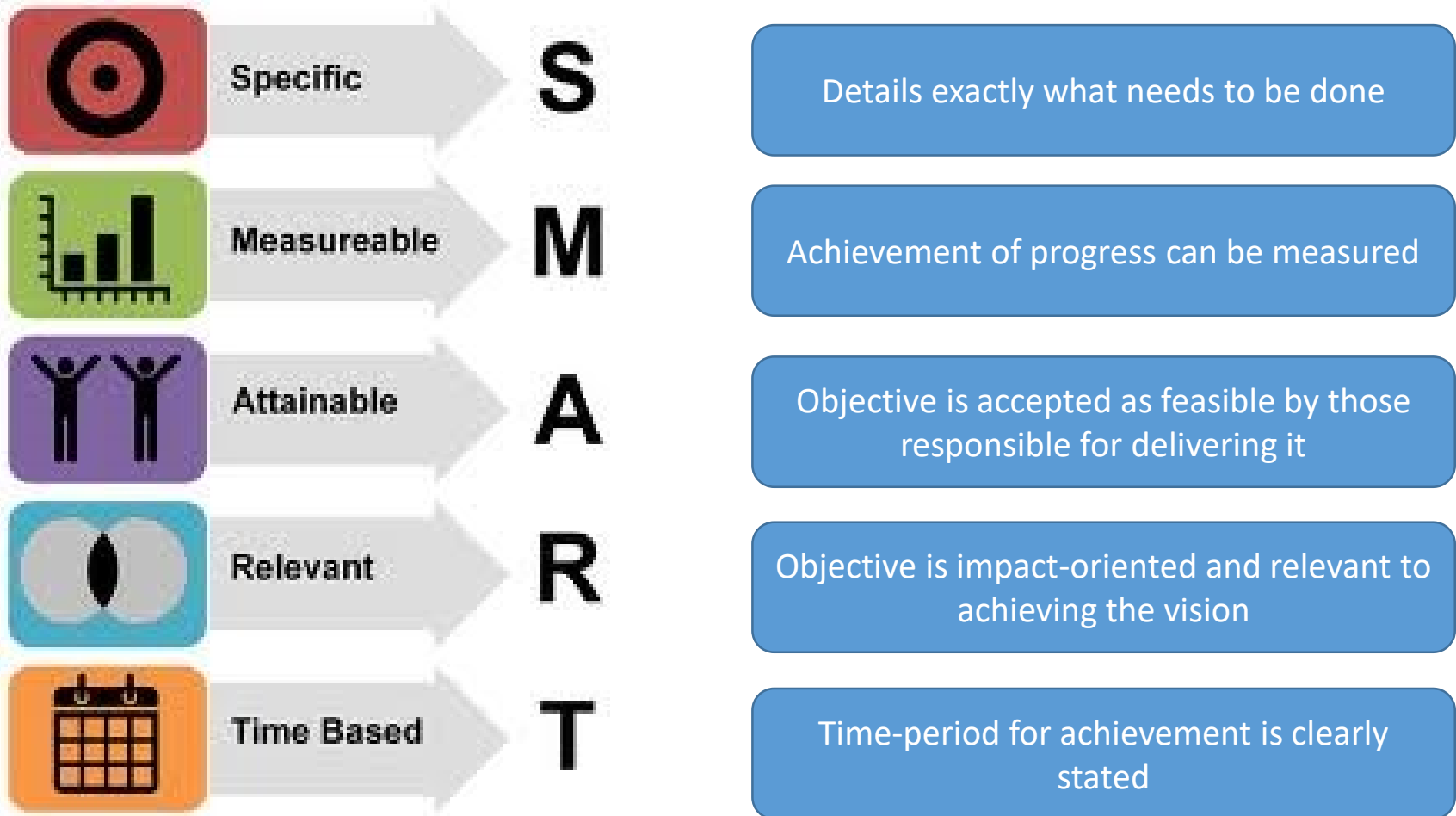
# Examples of Objectives for WPA Financing



“Annual WPA core budget increased by XX% (= \$XXXX) by 2020, and diversified through two new sustainable funding mechanisms”



# Setting SMART Objectives



© Mark Smicklas, Digital Strategist, [IntersectionConsulting.com](http://IntersectionConsulting.com)

"Bar Graph" and "Two Smiling Faces" icons from the [www.flaticon.com](http://www.flaticon.com) collection

"Calendar", "Eye" and "Target" icons from the [www.flaticon.com](http://www.flaticon.com) collection

# Examples of Objectives for WPA Operational Effectiveness



“All front-line staff trained in community and visitor engagement by 2018, and at least one community outreach officer appointed by 2019”

“At least 2 additional rangers (re-named from “guards”) appointed by 2019, and ranger job satisfaction improves by 30% by 2020 as measured by job satisfaction surveys”

# Examples of Objectives for WPA Marketing



“30% rise in visitors by 2020, and visitor experience improves by 20%.”

“Improve local community support/trust as measured by # of community members engaging with the WPA through business links or as volunteers”

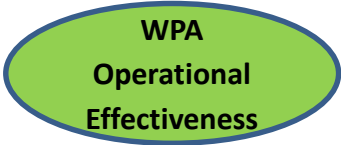
Don't make too many Objectives!!



**MANAGEMENT  
EFFECTIVENESS VISION**



**OBJECTIVES**



**STRATEGIES**



**BASELINE  
SITUATION**

**BUSINESS AS USUAL**

# Examples of Strategies

## WPA Financial sustainability



Establish a fee based parking system to generate new income for PA operations and manage visitor access

## WPA Marketing

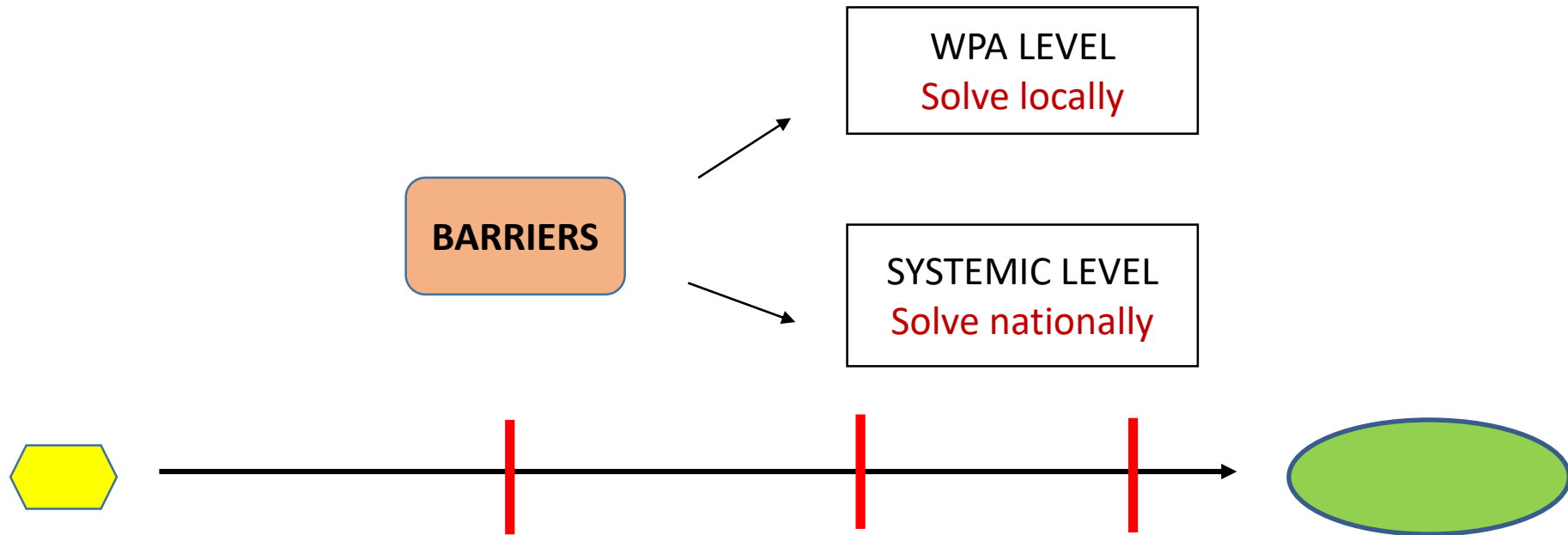


Promote group visits and thematic “open days”, and improve visitor experience

# Identify any Barriers

STRATEGY

OBJECTIVE



## Examples of Barriers

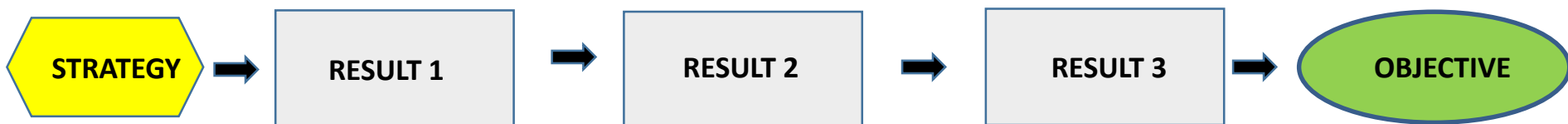
“Legislation does not allow us to retain income that we raise locally through fees and concessions” (= Systemic barrier)

“Our staff are not well enough trained in community engagement”  
(= WPA level barrier)

“Our PA is not well enough known to attract tourists” (=WPA level barrier)

# Making a Results Chain

## Example 1 (Financing)



Establish a fee based parking system to generate new income for PA operations and manage visitor access

Quality parking facility developed adjacent to visitor centre by end 2017

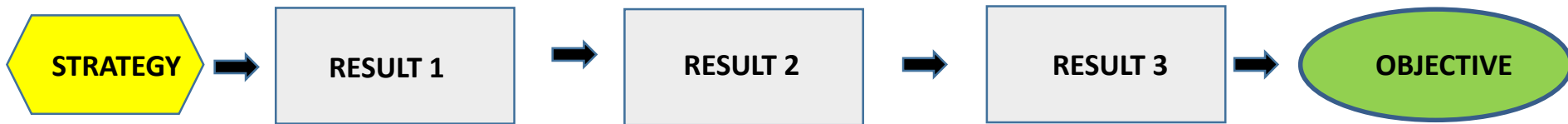
Put up barriers and signs to prevent random parking on roadsides approaching the visitor centre by end 2017

Fees introduced for parking from March 2018, including free access to visitor centre

“Annual WPA core budget increased by XX% (= \$XXXX) by 2020, and diversified through two new sustainable funding mechanisms”

# Making a Results Chain

## An example (Marketing)



Promote group visits and thematic “open days”, and improve visitor experience

Agreements established with 2 local tourism agencies, 4 hotels and 2 local schools for group visits by end 2017

Hold 2 thematic “Open days” each year, advertised using social and other media

Visitor satisfaction surveys conducted every 6 months with sample of 100 visitors, and all key recommendations are implemented

“30% rise in visitors by 2020, and visitor experience improves by 20%”



# Results chains become log-frame of Business Plan

- **OBJECTIVE 1: Annual WPA core budget increased by XX% (= \$XXXX) by 2020, and diversified through two new sustainable funding mechanisms**
- Strategy 1.1: Establish a fee based parking system to generate new income for PA operations and manage visitor access
  - i. Quality parking facility developed adjacent to visitor centre by end 2017
  - ii. Put up barriers and signs to prevent random parking on roadsides approaching the visitor centre by end 2017
  - iii. Fees introduced for parking from March 2018, including free access to visitor centre
- **OBJECTIVE 2: 30% rise in visitors by 2020, and visitor experience improves by 20%**
- Strategy 2.2: Promote group visits and thematic “open days”, and improve visitor experience
  - i. Agreements established with 2 local tourism agencies, 4 hotels and 2 local schools for group visits by end 2017
  - ii. Hold 2 thematic “Open days” each year, advertised using social and other media
  - iii. Visitor satisfaction surveys conducted every 6 months with sample of 100 visitors, and all key recommendations are implemented

# Planning needs to be “joined-up”

**Financial resources**



**Marketing, Infrastructure  
& assets**

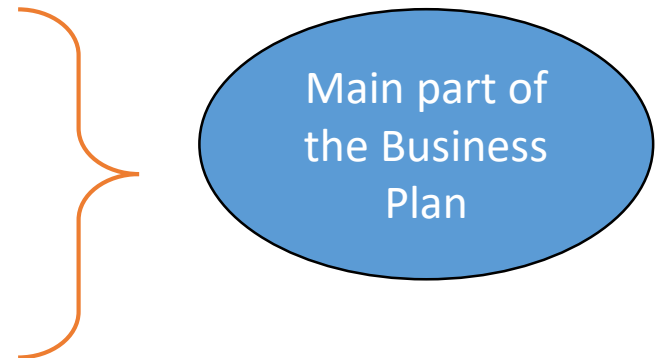


**Operational effectiveness:  
Staff team  
and equipment**



# Content of a typical PA Business Plan

- Introduction
- Manager's Foreword
- Executive Summary
- Overview of the Protected Area
- Historical context / development
- Financing Analysis and Plan
- Organisational Analysis and Plan (human resources and facilities)
- Marketing Analysis and Plan
- Risk Management
- Annexes (additional information)



Business Plans usually cover a 1-3 year period, but undergo ongoing adaptive management

# Aim of the next group sessions

- Session 3. Objectives, Barriers, Strategies for improving WPA management effectiveness, using results from the morning sessions (100 minutes)
- Session 4. Make the Results chains to achieve each Strategy

Group 1: WPA FINANCING

Group 2: WPA OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS (Staffing (numbers and types, ability to carry out their duties, training, management and administration) equipment, facilities).

Group 3: WPA MARKETING (advertising, information, promotions, visitors, sales)

Note: These are practice sessions so that you will be able to return home to work with your teams to prepare the results chains yourselves. What you develop today will provide a useful template to develop for your WPA.

Thank you very much!



Let's get to work!