

## **GUIDELINES FOR**

# **PROJECT MANAGERS**

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## **PURPOSE**

- These Guidelines are to be used by Project Managers conducting rodent and cat eradication projects based on the PII Resource Kit for Rodent and Cat Eradication.
- The Guidelines describe project management skills and techniques needed to successfully run a project.

## 1. THE PROJECT MANAGER

#### 1.1 THE ROLE

- As the person that leads the team, the project manager is the key role in the project team.
- The project manager is responsible for:
  - o The overall success of the project
  - Managing the project team
  - Giving the team direction
  - o External communication
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Deciding on priorities
  - Delegating tasks to team members
  - Finding the people to make up the team
  - o Making operational decisions and changes as necessary in the field
  - Regulatory compliance
  - o Budgeting
  - Managing the project through all Project Stages to completion
  - Planning and reporting on the project
  - Health and safety of the team

In the smallest projects, the team will be a one man band – the project manager will also be doing all of the work. In this case, remember that you will be playing different roles and understanding the role of the project manager is still important in planning and undertaking a successful project.

#### 1.2 THE PERSON

• The role is very varied and requires a wide range of skills, including:



- o Broad experience in the conservation field, and specific experience in eradication operations
- Ecological knowledge of the target species and its prey species
- An 'eradication mind-set' (a can-do attitude, motivated and dedicated to achieve the project's goals and objectives, and an understanding that nothing less than 100% is acceptable for eradication purposes)
- Good people skills, able to build and maintain positive productive working relationships with key stakeholders and staff
- Good communicator: verbal and written.
- Problem identification and solving.
- Good negotiation skills, prepares cases thoroughly but is able to listen, consult and accept negative or alternative viewpoints constructively.
- o Ability to plan, prioritise, delegate appropriately, set timelines and work to deadlines.
- o Understanding of local environmental regulations.
- Sensitive to and appreciative of local cultural perspectives
- Knowledge of the project and its intended outcomes.
- An example excerpt from a Job Description for a Project Manager of an eradication project

The appointee will be able to demonstrate knowledge, experience and competency in the following areas:

Essential Competencies	Behaviours	
Technical knowledge and transfer skills	<ul> <li>Able to clearly display wide and up to date technical knowledge and experience in the area of pest animal eradication techniques.</li> <li>Understands and is able to manage project scope and scope change processes</li> <li>Understands and implements risk identification, analysis and control</li> <li>Ability and willingness to impart technical information and advice in a</li> </ul>	
	clear and concise manner	
Communication Skills	<ul> <li>Knows how to recognise and pitch material at the right level for different client groups</li> <li>Listens actively and constructively</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Presents information with logic and coherence, both written and oral</li> <li>Uses positive body language</li> </ul>	
	Negotiates appropriately depending on target audience	
Relationship Skills	Builds and maintains positive productive working relationships with key stakeholders and staff	
	<ul> <li>Relates well to a large range of people</li> <li>Maintains a constructive and open approach when dealing with parties</li> </ul>	



	Constructively provides alternative or opposing views without creating unnecessary hostility		
Negotiation Skills	Prepares cases thoroughly, convincingly and positively Consults in situations of conflict or differing agendas to reach agreed outcomes.		
	Addresses negative argument calmly and intelligently		
	Ensures parties are agreed on outcome		
	An awareness of and knowledge of political implications		
	• Able to establish systems to adequately monitor progress with projects		
Contract/Project	or contracts including financial aspects		
Management Skills	Able to deal with performance issues with contractors		
	Able to identify and deal with risks		
	Demonstrates ability to plan realistically and update regularly		
	Balances competing demands		
Planning and Organising	Delegates but remains appropriately involved		
Skills	<ul> <li>Demonstrates ability to be proactive in addressing issues</li> </ul>		
	Assesses effectiveness of the work group		
	• Co-ordinate others contributions advising on development of business plans, resources/budget allocation/management		
Problem-Solving Skills	<ul> <li>Balances competing demands of multiple projects and clients</li> <li>Accurately defines the situation</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Takes into account a range of factors when resolving issues</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Uses appropriate framework to assess information</li> </ul>		
	• Understands the complexity of the problem and the impact of solutions on stakeholders		
	Ability to creatively plan and design tasks		
	Makes objective, well reasoned decisions		

# 2. MANAGING PEOPLE

- Handle problems and changes effectively. Request feedback from the team and incorporate their suggestions
  in your decisions. This input encourages them to value their role on the project team. Create and maintain a
  good working environment where identifying problems and solutions is a team task and not just the
  responsibility of the project manager.
- Keep the team motivated, focussed and determined to succeed.
- A successful eradication has to remove every last target animal as numbers decrease removal becomes harder. Progress can get harder as you near the end of the project and the team can get very dispirited. It is the role of the project manager to keep people's spirits up.
- Communication within the team is important tell team members what is expected of them. When team
  members understand what is expected of them they feel encouraged to live up to expectations, feel
  ownership of their role and are more likely to be accountable when undertaking their tasks and solving issues.



Sometimes, the scope of your project can change over time. Personnel may need to change as a result. The
project manager needs to monitor the performance of the team as a whole, as well as that of individual team
members, to maximise the chances of success. This may require bringing new team members in at certain
points in the project timeline for specific needs, or moving members out of the team as needed. Personnel
who are underperforming need to be either motivated to improve performance, or removed from the project
team.

## 2.1 SELECTING THE PROJECT TEAM

- Consider two key questions:
  - O What are the key planning issues and components of the project?
  - o What sorts of skills do you require to address these issues?
- Here is an example of how you might work this out:

Category	Planning issues	Key skills, knowledge required		
Environmental	What invasive species are present?	Invasive species ecology and		
	What native species are present?	management		
	What knowledge is there about their	Native species ecology and		
	impacts and abundance?	management		
	What effects are invasive species having?	Public health impacts		
	(Consider social and economic effects as			
	well as environmental)			
Social	Identifying stakeholders	Local knowledge, mana/social standing		
	Organising community consultation and	Community liaison/involvement		
	involvement			
	Identifying and managing any opposition			
	to the project			
Cultural	Resource ownership issues	Local knowledge, mana/social standing		
	Gender or age issues			
	Customs			
Economic	Effects on livelihoods and businesses	Understanding of local economy, good		
		relationships with local businesses		
Technical	What eradication techniques are	Relevant eradication techniques		
	available?	Non-target identification and		
	What effects will they have on non-target	management		
	species?	Biosecurity management		
	What are the risks and benefits?	Monitoring systems		
	Is reinvasion an issue?			
	What monitoring is required before,			



during and after?		
Financial and	Who will fund and manage the project?	Project management
institutional	Is there the capacity to do the project	Cost-benefit analysis
	within your country or region?	Financial management
	Do the benefits outweigh the costs?	

- The project team will vary through the stages of the project: the needs of the feasibility study team are different to those of the eradication operation: one is a fact finding/research project while the operation is about doing the work. Choose the people most suitable to the job in hand.
- Identify suitable independent technical advisors early in the feasibility study stage and try to use the same ones throughout the whole project. This will allow the independent technical advisor to build up an in-depth knowledge of the project and make their advice and reviews more useful.
- Understand the specific needs of the project. Every project is different and the makeup of a team needs to
  reflect the specific goals of the project. You may be tempted to use the same team for every project, but
  consider whether this is the most efficient use of skills and time for the people involved. Review the specific
  project tasks, and determine what specific backgrounds and skills are required. Then see whether you can use
  the same team or if you need new skills.
- Select team members to meet the needs of the program. Project team members are the people that are the best suited and will get the job done. Review the specific needs of the project and select team members that meet project requirements. Place high priority on previous experience and on enthusiasm for the project.
- For example, not every helicopter pilot is suited to the aerial application of bait. The pilot must be experienced
  in operating under-slung buckets and delivering bait or similar loads while navigating using GPS-guidance
  systems. Relatively few pilots have this sort of experience. They must also display conscientious attention to
  detail with respect to accuracy of their application of bait.
- All projects should have an identified and well-briefed 'understudy' to the Project Manager, who can take over from the Project Manager if necessary, in times of illness, injury, change of jobs, etc.
- Team members must understand they are part of a wider team, and must work harmoniously within it, even
  in often testing and remote conditions. Team dynamics need to be considered, ensuring motivation and
  support are high.
- Those involved in the operation need to understand eradication is different from control as all pest animals must be put at risk. It requires commitment from the whole team to achieve this.
- In pest eradications, <u>every</u> team member must be fully committed to the operation a mistake, careless action or failure to carry out work in accordance to operational requirements by <u>any one person</u> could easily result in failure of the entire project. Select the team very carefully, with at least 50% of all field staff having prior eradication experience if at all possible, so each 'novice' can be assigned an experienced on-site 'mentor' or supervisor. Do everything possible to maintain positive morale, through such things as ensuring working conditions are as comfortable and achievable as possible, and set the work schedule according to the abilities



of the slowest team members.

- Considerable fitness is required for rodent baiting operations often large distances are walked with heavy loads of bait and/or heavy loads are regularly lifted. A high level of fitness in each team member will reduce the likelihood of mistakes being made through fatigue.
- Project managers need a very high level of skill in project management and organising logistics. Keeping teams
  in good morale and working condition on remote islands for often extended periods is a major component of
  successful ground-based rat eradications.
- Understand the goals and expectations of your team. Make sure your team is clear about the objectives of the
  work by communicating clearly about their roles, responsibilities and deadlines. Do this regularly throughout
  the life of the project.
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of each team member. Regularly evaluate the performance and ability of
  each team member to meet deadlines. Delegate work based on the skill and interest level of each person. It's
  important to ensure team members do not get overloaded or given tasks they do not have the skills to do
  (unless training is provided).
- Bring in new members to fill gaps and build capacity. If your team has no experience with eradication techniques, for example, consider bringing in a technical adviser early on. This will reduce the chances of making mistakes and give you the means to train your own people, leading to increased local capacity and experience.
- Have clear roles for each team member people work better when they have a clear set of responsibilities.
- An example of how this might work for the feasibility study stage of a rodent eradication project on an inhabited seabird island:

Team member	Key work areas	Responsible for:	
Project Manager	Manage project team	Writing the Feasibility Study Report	
	Collate information		
Rodent ecologist	Invasive species management and	Summary of effects on native species	
Eradication specialist	ecology	Eradication methods available and	
		preferred method	
		Logistics required to support	
		eradication	
		Operational monitoring requirements	
Biosecurity specialist	Biosecurity risk and management	Identifying pathways and biosecurity	
		risks.	
Community/social	Community liaison and	List of key community groups and	
adviser	management	issues and how to engage and work	
Local community		with them. Identification of any	



elder/cultural adviser		sensitive cultural or social issues
Seabird ecologist	Native species management and	What species are present?
	ecology	What monitoring is required?
		What effects are invasives having on
		them and what are benefits or risks
		of eradication

Independent Technical Advisor. To provide advice to project manager and to review Feasibility Study Report.

## 2.2 ROLE OF THE INDEPENDENT TECHNICAL ADVISOR

- Remains independent from the project team; does not directly contribute to or complete work on the project.
- Provides advice and mentoring to the project manager and team.
- Acts as an independent check for key project documents, e.g. Feasibility Study Report, by completing document reviews.
- There may need to be more than one independent technical advisor to cover all aspects of a project.

#### 2.3 REALISTIC TIMEFRAMES

- Consider each work area and what it will take to get the outputs. If you already have good information, such as the effects pests are having on native species, it will take less time to put this into a report than if you have to undertake monitoring or research.
- Community liaison, management and identifying stakeholders can be very time consuming. People need time to understand the project, talk to their families and possibly have community meetings. You can't rush this but you can manage it by ensuring you have a team member who is well respected in the local community and can guide them in their discussions and decision making.
- Some of your team members may work in distant locations. Your eradication specialist may be in New Zealand
  and you will need to allow time for information to be passed back and forth, research to be done and final
  results to be sent back to you.

## 3. SETTING GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES



- If a project is to be successful, as project manager you must clearly understand and communicate, why you are doing the project, what the project will achieve and the resulting benefits.
- In a funding application to an external organization you will need to define goals, objectives and outcomes to help the funders understand the project.

#### 3.1 WHAT ARE THEY?

GOAL	A goal is a long term, general desired result.
------	--

An example goal: Restoration of the native environment of Far and Away Islands, Windward Group, as key sites for the conservation of Republic of Pacifica's indigenous biodiversity.

OBJECTIVE	An objective is a specific achievement on the way to the goal. A goal can
	have several associated objectives.

Example objective: Eradicate Pacific rats from Far Island.

From our understanding of the impacts of invasive species, we know that achieving the objective of eradicating the rats from Far Island will move us closer to our goal of restoring the native environment of Far Island.

OUTCOME	An outcome is a change resulting from the achievement of an objective.
	,
	Achieving an objective can mean one or more outcomes are produced.

## Example outcomes:

- No Pacific rat population on Far Island.
- Increase in size of native species populations on Far Island.
- Increase in native vegetation on Far Island.

ie if the objective of eradicating rats from the island is successful, as well as the direct result of there being no more rats on the island, the native species would be no longer predated on by the rats and their numbers will increase. Also, with the rats no longer eating the native vegetation, productivity would increase and denser vegetation will result.

## 3.2 BEING SMART



- A useful acronym to remember when setting objectives or outcomes is SMART.
- SMART is a generic reminder used in all branches of project management.
- SMART is a useful reminder for the key characteristics of a complete and well-written:

## **Specific**

Specific means that the objective is concrete, detailed, focused and well defined. Specific means that it's results and action-orientated. Objectives must be straightforward and emphasize action and the required outcome. Objectives need to communicate what you would like to see happen.

#### Measureable

Measurable means that you can measure the outcome of the objective. If you can't measure it, you can't manage it. Being able to measure the outcome allows you to monitor changes and to clearly establish whether you achieved the objective.

## **Achievable**

You need to have a realistic chance of achieving the objective. Objectives that are too ambitious or too far into the future will cause low morale in the team, will not be achieved and the project will have failed.

#### **Relevant**

Objectives need to be relevant to the goal of the project. That is they need to be directly related to the goals and be a stepping-stone towards achieving the goal.

#### **Time-Bound**

Time bound means committing to when you will achieve the objective. Planning deadlines for achieving the objectives will keep the team focussed on completing the work and increase the chances of success. Deadlines create the necessary sense of urgency and prompts action that we all need to make sure we stay focussed.

• When setting objectives and outcomes remember to ask: is my objective SMART? This will help produce a more useful result.



## 4. PROJECT DOCUMENTS

#### 4.1 THE NEED FOR DOCUMENTATION

- Project documentation is a key part to making a project successful. While some documentation can take a lot
  of time to complete it is all useful effort. Ensure sufficient time is allocated in the project to completing the
  required independently-reviewed project documentation.
- As projects getter larger in size, the importance of documentation also grows.
- The importance of project documentation:
  - o <u>Communication</u>. Having all the details of a project in one place greatly helps you easily explain the whywhat-how-when of a project to others: within the project team and to others.
  - It makes you plan. Much of the project documentation is about recording the plans for later stages.
     Experience has taught us that a lot of planning is required beforehand to make the operation a success. By recording the plans in documents ensures that this vital planning is completed.
  - <u>Centralized information</u>. As you moved through the planning processes you will gather together large amounts of vital information and plans. By recording the information in a few key documents ensures that everybody in the project team will know where to look if they are in need of project information.
  - Changes in the team. Eradication projects can take a long time sometimes projects will span many years. Over such long periods, the people involved with the project will change and people will forget details. Keeping clear and detailed notes and completing all the documentation will help capture all the vital information and will help you as Project Manager to explain the details and history of the project to new team members.
  - Funding applications. You will be able to use the Resource Kit documents to support funding applications to agencies.

## 4.2 INDEPENDENT REVIEWS

- Independent reviews of all key project documents is a key step in a successful project.
- An independent review is when a knowledgeable expert, who has no relationship or involvement with the
  project, reads a document and, using their experience and expertise, provides feedback to the project
  manager on all aspects of the document.
- Independent reviews give the project team the opportunity to check that they are doing everything they need to do, that they have made the correct decisions and are considering everything relevant to the project.



- While independent reviewers can offer advice and guidance to the team, it is important that they do not become directly involved in completing the project work or documentation keeping their distance and separation from the project is important if they are to be useful as independent reviewers.
- Independent reviews are standard project methods, used widely to help project teams.
- Independent reviews demonstrate to funders that the project team are using all available expertise and make funders more confident that the project will achieve its objectives.
- Independent reviews can occur at any time when preparing a document; in fact, it is better not to leave a the
  first review until you have nearly completed the document as you may have spent a lot of time writing a
  document only to be told by an external reviewer that you have made some serious mistakes review often
  and early.
- The number of reviewers depends on the project and the available reviewers.
- It is usual to have more than one reviewer review a document so each reviewer can bring different expertise to the review process. For example, The Feasibility Study Report (prepared in the Feasibility Study Stage) has sections on 'technical eradication techniques' and 'social issues' it is unlikely that any reviewer will be an expert in both areas, so separate reviewers will be required.
- Identify your independent reviews early and seek their agreement to act as reviewers when you begin writing the document. Some experts are very busy and may need plenty of warning of the work.
- It is helpful to document who has reviewed the document on the front page of the document this allows you to demonstrate to readers that experts have contributed to the writing of the document.
- Independent reviews are particularly important for project managers who have not undertaken many
  eradication projects and have not built up significant experience of their own. However, even experienced
  project managers can benefit from external reviews.

## 4.2.1 BENEFITS OF INDEPENDENT REVIEWS

- The final version will be a better, more complete document.
- Improves the planning process so improves the chances of project success.
- You will learn and be a better, more knowledgeable project manager.
- You can demonstrate you are following best practise.
- You can demonstrate to funders and managers that the document is of high quality.

## 5. PROJECT PLANNING

## 5.1 PLANNING TOOLS

- There are many useful tools available to make planning easier for the project manager. Which tools a project manager uses will depend on many factors, for example: their experience, the agency, the size of the project.
- Some useful tools to help project managers plan projects:

## 5.1.1 CHECKLIST

- One of the simplest planning tools simply a list of tasks and a column to indicate when it has to be completed.
- An example checklist for preparing for a site visit.

Task	Completed
	(tick when complete)
Agree site visit team.	✓
Purchase gps.	✓
Train team in using a GPS	
Assemble and check all the equipment.	
Agree site visit protocols and agenda with village	✓
chief.	
Prepare biosecurity loading checklist.	
Prepare site visit plan	

• Useful for simple lists of tasks.

# 5.1.2 TASK SCHEDULE

- A tabular format that includes who is responsible and required date
- An example task schedule:

Task	Who responsible	Output	Time/Date completed
Agree site visit team.	M. Toa	Team list	4-May
Purchase GPS.	Viliamu Reed	GPS is ready for site visit.	18-May



Train team in using a	Viliamu	Team can undertake the required	2-June		
GPS	Reed	monitoring			
Assemble and check all	Viliamu	Team understand the objectives	9-June		
the equipment.	Reed	of the trip and their roles.			
Agree site visit protocols	M. Toa	Village support and involvement	4-May		
and plan with village		in site visit.			
chief.					
Prepare biosecurity	Viliamu	Actions required by team when	9-June		
loading checklist.	Reed	loading boat to prevent any			
		invasive species getting onto			
		island.			
Finalise site visit plan	M. Toa	A clear plan of what the team will	9-June		
		be doing during the visit.			
Site Visit	M. Toa	Feasibility Study Report	23-June to 24-June		

# 5.1.3 GANTT CHART

- A Gantt chart is a graphical representation of the tasks. They can start of very simple and become quite sophisticated if required.
- Example of a simple gantt chart:

Task	Responsibl	4-	11-	18-	25-	2-	9-	16-	23-
	е	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Jun	Jun	Jun	Jun
		У	У	У	У	е	е	е	е
Agree site visit team.	M. Toa								
Purchase GPS.	Viliamu								
	Reed								
Train team in using a GPS	Viliamu								
	Reed								
Assemble and check all the	Viliamu								
equipment.	Reed								
Agree site visit protocols	M. Toa								
and plan with village chief.									
Prepare biosecurity loading	Viliamu								
checklist.	Reed								
Finalise site visit plan									
	M. Toa								
Site Visit	M. Toa								



- Gantt charts can be prepared on paper or using excel spreadsheet or more sophisticated software, for example Microsoft Project.
- Example of a gantt chart showing tasks dependent on other tasks. Column Task Dependency indicates which tasks need to be completed before a task can start, for example, Training the team in using the GPS (task 3) can not be started until the GPS has been bought (task 2).

Tas	Task	Responsibl	Task	4-	11-	18-	25-	2-	9-	16-	23-
k Id		е	dependenc	Ma	Ma	Ma	Ma	Jun	Jun	Jun	Jun
			У	У	У	У	У	е	е	е	е
1	Agree site visit team.	M. Toa									
2	Purchase GPS.	Viliamu									
		Reed									
3	Train team in using a	Viliamu	1,2								
	GPS	Reed									
4	Assemble and check	Viliamu	3								
	all the equipment.	Reed									
5	Agree site visit	M. Toa									
	protocols and plan										
	with village chief.										
6	Prepare biosecurity	Viliamu									
	loading checklist.	Reed									
7	Finalise site visit plan	M. Toa	5								
8	Site Visit	M. Toa	1,2,3,4,5,6,								
			7								



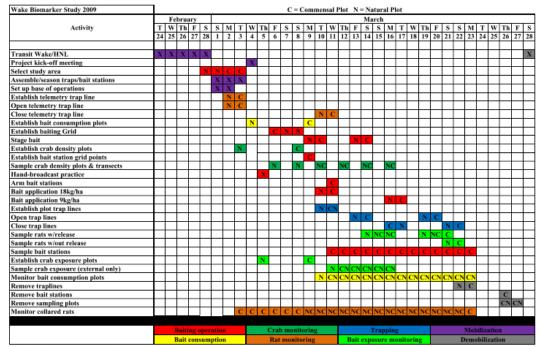


Figure 2. Gantt chart of Wake rat eradication biomarker study activities as they occurred 24 February to 28 March 2009.

Example of a Gantt chart used in a rat eradication operation report. See Wegmann A et al 2009.

#### 5.2 COSTING PROJECTS

## 5.2.1 CONTINGENCY

- It is often very difficult to predict exactly all the costs of a project in the planning. During the actual project costs increase for a number of reasons, for example, unforeseen work will be required, prices will increase, equipment will get damaged.
- These uncertainties are handled by including a contingency amount in the project budget.
- Once individual activities and expenses have been costed and a sub-total calculated, add a contingency amount to the sub-total. The contingency is to cover the unforeseen or unexpected costs.
- Calculate the contingency as a percentage of the sub-total
- The higher the risk of unforeseen costs occurring the higher the contingency should be.
- A contingency of 20% is a typical amount, for example, if the budget is estimated as 1000 Samoan Tala, then requested a contingency of 200 Samoan Tala which gives a total project budget of 1200 Samoan Tala.



- Some funders and implementing agencies may have organizationally mandated contingency amounts .Some funders do not allow the use of contingency amounts. Check with them before costing the project.
- During the project stage, the contingency money is not allocated to the planned work; it is held in reserved to be used only if the budget overruns or a cost not in the project plan is encountered.

#### 5.2.2 ONGOING COSTS

- Consider how you will fund the biosecurity measures long term after the eradication project is completed and the operation team have moved onto other projects.
- The Sustaining the Project Stage may run for many years, for example, Biosecurity costs may need to continue
  indefinitely. When estimating the budget of this stage it is important to carefully cost those activities that will
  continue every year (ongoing costs).
- Such ongoing costs in the Sustaining the Project Stage could include, for example:
  - Annual salaries of people undertaking surveillance.
  - o Amount spent each year on replacing bait or traps in surveillance measures.
  - Costs to repair prevention information signs.
  - Costs to repair/replace traps.
- In any budget, indicate the ongoing costs required per year and over a specified number of years by multiplying the annual ongoing cost by the number of years. Also include the total cost of the specified number of years.
- Be clear about how many years of ongoing costs this will fund remember after that there will be no funding to continue the biosecurity measures!
- Be very clear in the budget how many years of funding is being requested for the Sustaining the Project Stage.

## 6. RISK MANAGEMENT

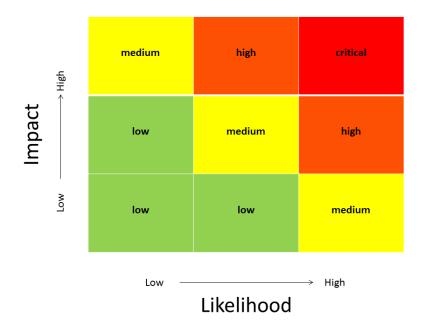
- A risk is a problem that may occur, but you do not know for sure it will. A risk is 'something bad likely to happen that will affect the project'.
- Risk management is the planning how to reduce the likelihood of a risk occurring or what to do if a risk does
  occur.
- Risk management in made up of:



- Risk analysis identifying the risks and the impacts.
- Risk Management planning how to deal with each risk.
- There are 2 factors to the severity of the risk:
  - **Likelihood** is a measure of the chance that the event will happen.
  - o **Impact** is a measure of the impact if the risk were to occur

#### 6.1 RISK MATRIX

As risk is the result of the combined effect of the 2 independent factors (likelihood and impact) it is often
portrayed as a risk matrix:



- Combining the 2 factors, the greatest severity risks are those that are most likely to occur and would have the greatest impact these would be positioned in the top right hand of the matrix and are critical. Severity of risk reduces as the likelihood reduces (moving left on the matrix) and as the impact reduces (moving down the matrix). The bottom left hand corner of the matrix represents low severity risks that are low impact and unlikely to occur.
- Risks should be prioritised based on how close they lie to the right hand corner of the matrix: those closest are
  most critical and should be managed with highest priority. As you move away from the critical corner the
  severity and priority decreases.



## 7. COMMUNICATION

- Communication is a key part of a project manager's responsibilities. They need to ensure that right communication is happening within the team and between the team and the project stakeholders.
- Communication with project stakeholders is covered in detail in the Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement.
- Communication can take many forms you should use the format most suitable to the purpose and the audience.
- Some ways of communicating within the project:
  - One on one face to face meetings
  - Team meetings.
  - Letter.
  - o Telephone.
  - o Email.

## 8. PROJECT GOVERNANCE

## 8.1 DECISION MAKING

- It must be clearly agreed and documented who is authorized to make key decisions in the project.
- If the agreed project or operational plans need changing the documented decision making authority will be used to decide how these decisions will be made.
- Decision making authority will be recorded in the project plan.

#### 8.2PROJECT MONITORING

- At the start of the project select a number of project indicators that represent the health of the project.
- This monitoring will be used by the Project Manager to:
  - Give a view of project progress and direct what the project manager needs to do to keep the project on track.
  - o Reporting on the health of the project to funders and management.



- Budget spent and budget remaining are key indicator that should be included in all project management monitoring.
- Monitoring of the project outcomes will also be undertaken as part of the monitoring and evaluation work.

## 8.3 PROJECT REPORTING

- It is important that key stakeholders are kept informed of progress of the project ongoing communication throughout the project will help retain interest and involvement.
- During the Project Design, the project manager will document in the Project Plan what reporting is required.
- When deciding on the reporting you need to consider:
  - o What project monitoring information to include
  - o Frequency of reporting.
  - o Format of the report.
  - Which stakeholders will receive the reports.
  - o Do you need more than one report to address different stakeholder needs?

## 9. MANAGING THE WORK

- Plan the work and then work the plan. Stick to the plan a lot of time and thinking will have gone into the plan and task schedule by the time the work begins. Any changes, once the work is underway, should be taken only after careful consideration of the impacts.
- Before commencing any work ensure those taking part understand the why, what, who and how of the work.
   The project manager is responsible for clearly explaining to the team all aspects of the work.
- Throughout the work keep the team informed of progress.
- Communicate widely within the team any changes to the plan.
- Checklists are a great way of tracking which tasks have been completed, which are in progress and which are yet to start.
- Health and safety of the team is always paramount when undertaking work in remote and dangers locations.
- As project manager, you are responsible for the morale and spirits of the team. Projects can involve long hours
  working in difficult and demanding conditions remember to spend time on ensuring that team morale stays
  high throughout the operation. Keeping the teams morale high will keep them focussed on the work.



Remember to complete all the post-operation activities are undertaken. Often, the excitement of completing the operation means some non-essential activities, e.g. packing up and cleaning up of the project site, are overlooked.