Science Outcomes and Metrics

It is the aim of the Foundation that the projects that it funds will have long-term impact beyond immediate KPIs and outputs. In your Science application, you will be asked to select up to three long-term outcomes. If only one or two apply, that is fine.

Below is a list of the Science outcomes as of December 2017. The right-hand column indicates some examples of ways to measure these outcomes. The list is by no means exhaustive.

The Ian Potter Foundation also recognises that we all can play a small part in broader global movements and adopts a collaborative approach, both in our grant-making and our outcomes measurement. As such, we are beginning to offer relevant indicators from the [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals](#) as options for outcomes measurement.

These goals are deliberately broad to serve as a collective playbook that governments and private sector alike can use, they can also serve as a much needed shared language across philanthropy and the non-profit sector to signal areas of common interest, and measure shared progress.

While grantees are free to select outcomes measurements that are best suited to their stakeholder needs, as a Foundation we support the global goals and, as such, offer the option to use of the global indicators behind these goals (such options are indicated in *orange italics*, with the goal listed in parentheses). We encourage grantees to learn more about the SDG goals.

Technical

Fellowship programs

Long-term outcome	Example metrics
Improved financial sustainability	Early career artist/researcher receives ongoing funding/position; Research group receives ongoing funding (NHMRC/ARC)
Promotion/dissemination of best practice/new knowledge (including conferences and media appearances)	H-factor/number of publications

Environment/biodiversity

Long-term outcome	Example metrics
Increase knowledge about and use of environmental conservation strategies	*Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type (15.1.2)*; uptake of novel innovations in environmental conservation

Renewables and energy

Long-term outcome	Example metrics
Increase knowledge about and use of renewable energy	*Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (7.2.1);* uptake of novel innovations in renewable energy

Strategic

Long-term outcome	Example metrics
Mobilise and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustain […ably use] biodiversity and ecosystems (15.a)	$ ongoing grants received; $ income/sales increased
Increase skill base	# staff/volunteers trained; # staff/volunteers using new technique; Proportion of female researchers
Improved quality of policy dialogue and development	# stakeholders engaged; # papers produced/forums conducted; # submissions; Policy outcomes achieved; *Introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species (15.8.1)*
Improved service system/sector collaboration	% service improvement across # organisations; # MOUs signed; # joint publications/projects
Increased adoption of sustainable industry practices	# km^2 land and waterways impacted; # industry partners agreeing to new practices; Facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, *energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology (7.x); Promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology (7.x)*

We understand that while some organisations have stellar evaluation systems, others may have limited capacity to evaluate. We also recognise that strong evaluations can often improve sustained service and/or build a case to leverage government and other philanthropic funding. Past grantees have found it helpful to know their measures at the beginning of a project so that they can collect baseline data (to prove progress). Also, careful data collection can be time-consuming. This is why we are asking questions about outcomes at the application phase.

As part of our commitment to improving the sustainability of our projects, if your grant is successful, our Research and Evaluation Manager will contact you to provide support through the evaluation process (e.g. workshops, mentoring with past grantees, assistance in finding publicly available datasets, recommendations for external evaluators, etc.)