

# Collaborative Stewardship Sustainer Kit

## ***Resource: What to Measure***

There is no one-size-fits-all set of measures—they should match the collaborative’s stage, goals, and capacity, with partners aligned on priorities and use of the data while keeping the effort manageable.

- **Assessing Pulse for Continuous Learning**—In the sustaining stage, pulse assessments help sustain momentum, protect capacity, and keep the collaborative functioning effectively over the long term. Examples of indicators described below help sustain collaborative health, capacity, and performance at scale.
  - √ Ongoing partner engagement and commitment
  - √ Leadership continuity and succession readiness
  - √ Health of relationships, trust, and collaborative culture
  - √ Effectiveness of governance and decision-making processes
  - √ Adequacy of coordination, staffing, and backbone capacity
  - √ Partner bandwidth and ability to sustain long-term commitments
  - √ Funding stability and short-term financial risks
  - √ Effectiveness of communication and information sharing
  - √ Progress on annual priorities and stewardship actions
  - √ Early signs of fatigue, misalignment, or capacity strain
  
- **Evaluating Impact or Change Over Time**—Impact assessments in this stage prove long-term value while guiding big-picture decisions. Examples of indicators identified below demonstrate durable results, value, and long-term change.
  - √ Sustained stewardship outcomes across the landscape/seascape
  - √ Scale, pace, and longevity of collaborative initiatives and projects
  - √ Long-term improvements in landscape/seascape resilience or conditions
  - √ Strength and durability of partnerships over time
  - √ Institutionalization of collaborative practices and systems
  - √ Institutionalization of collaborative culture and mindsets across regions

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- √ Growth and retention of collaborative capacity across partners
- √ Efficient use of resources and return on investment
- √ Ability to adapt to changing ecological, social, or funding conditions
- √ Evidence of systems change, paradigm shifts, and changes in norms and behaviors
- √ Clear evidence of collective impact communicated to stakeholders

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