Appendix 5 – The ODI Framework

Slide 1

The Analytical Framework

External Influences
- Socio-economic and cultural influences, donor policies etc.
- The political context – political and economic structures and processes, future, institutional pressures, incremental change etc.
- The evidence: credibility, the degree of challenges received wisdom, research approaches and methodologies, acceptability of the message, how it is packaged etc.

Slide 2

Political Context: Key Areas
- The macro political context (democracy, governance, media freedom, academic freedom)
- The sectoral issue process (Policy uptake = demand – coordination) (NS Demand, political and social)
- How policymakers think (narratives & policy streams)
- Policy implementation and practice (bureaucracies, incentives, street level, room for manoeuvre, participatory approaches)
- Decisive moments in the policy process (policy process, vote, policy windows and crises)
- Contact is crucial, but you can maximize your chances

Slide 3

Evidence: Relevance and credibility
- Key factor – did it provide a solution to a problem?
- Relevance:
  - Topical relevance: What to do?
  - Operational usefulness: How to do it?
- Credibility:
  - Research approach
  - Of researcher x of evidence itself
- Strenuous advocacy efforts are often needed
- Communication

Slide 4

Links: Feedback and Networks
- Feedback processes often prominent in successful cases.
- Trust & legitimacy
- Networks:
  - Epistemic communities
  - Policy networks
  - Advocacy coalitions
- The role of individuals: connectors, mavens and salesmen

Slide 5

External Influence
- Big “incentives” can spur evidence-based policy – e.g. EU accession, PRSP processes.
- And some interesting examples of donors trying new things to support research.
- But, we really don’t know whether and how donors can best promote use of evidence in policymaking (credibility vs backlash)

Slide 6

Framework: Key Questions for WLI
- External influences: Socio-economic and cultural influences, donor policies etc.
- The political context – political and economic structures and processes, future, institutional pressures, incremental change etc.
- The evidence: credibility, the degree of challenges received wisdom, research approaches and methodologies, acceptability of the message, how it is packaged etc.

Slide 7

Political Context: Key Questions for WLI
- What are the main policy issues in water and livelihoods policy in India?
- Who are the key players?
- What is the policy process – is it transparent and predictable?
- Are new policy directions implemented?
- What are the barriers to policy change?
- Which other political issues affect research-policy link?

Slide 8

Evidence: Key Questions for WLI
- What is the evidence to support better approaches?
- Is it credible?
- Is the evidence contested? Does the research community agree on the policy conclusions?
- Is it operationally useful?
- How do researchers communicate their results?
- What could be improved?
- What kind of evidence convinces policymakers in this area?
Slide 9

**Links: Key Questions for WLI**
- What types of intermediaries are involved in this sector (media, NGOs)?
- What is their impact?
- Do researchers use them?
- Are there different intermediaries in different areas?
- What networks are useful?
- How to build trust and legitimacy?

Slide 10

**External Influences: WLI Key Questions**
- What external influences affect research-policy links in the water sector in India?
- What is the impact of donor funding policies within the sector?
- Which donors have impact?
- How is donor-funded evidence viewed – by policymakers and by different groups within the local population (with suspicion or as credible)?