

## Impartial outcome selection methodology

FE has developed a five-step impartial outcome selection methodology, which can be used in any situation to elicit an impartial consensus of opinion on any outcome or decision which has to be made by a group of people and is facilitated using a participatory approach e.g. at a workshop.

Participants are asked to follow an iterative and interactive methodology as detailed in Figure 1.

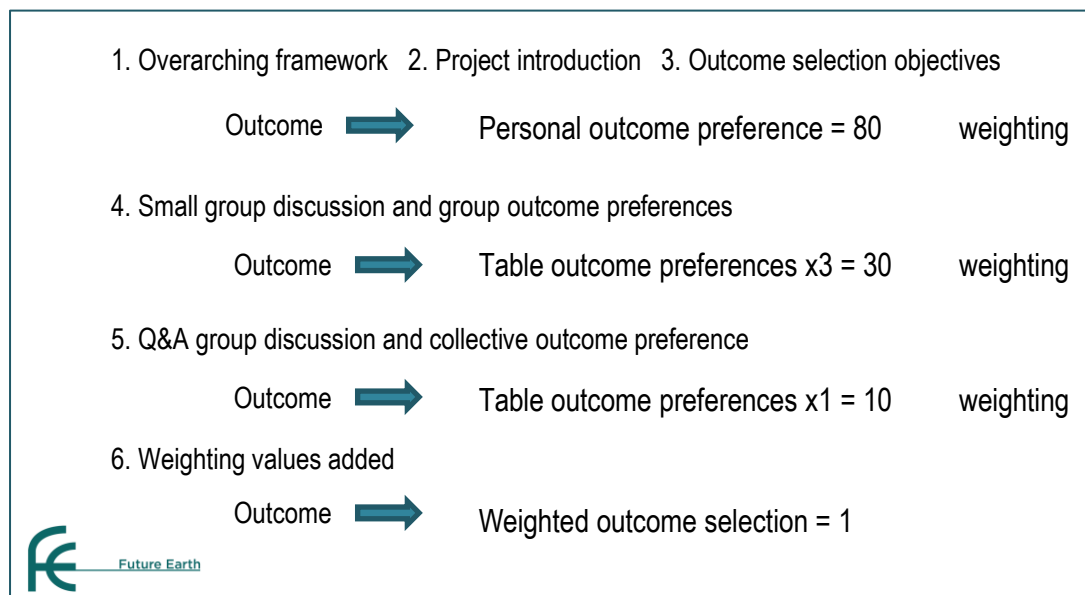


Figure 1 Iterative process for achieving consensus of opinion on a particular outcome selection. Numerical figures show the maximum possible variables given 10 tables.

1 **Overarching framework** is given to address e.g. resilience from a climate, environment and natural resources or priority initiatives to be addressed to address human-wildlife conflict. Local case studies are illustrated and the connection to desired outcomes made.

2 & 3 **Outline of the project and outcome selection objectives** – overarching project goal and critical pathways are discussed and analysed by leading and panel contributors with audience Q&A.

4. **Outcome selection - Personal outcome preferences** - Future Earth Ltd., facilitates interactive breakout sessions. Participants are arranged with mixed expertise across tables of 8 to 10 people, alongside people they do not know or work with and reminded of the required parameters for outcome selection from previous sessions.

Each notes on paper their personal outcome preference in answer to the following question:

1 *Does your chosen outcome have the greatest net positive effect?*

Choices are captured on Post-it notes and displayed on the workshop room wall but not arranged into groups to prevent any visual majority choice forming in the sub-conscious.

Evaluation post event can already shows a clear preference at this stage.

5. Outcome selection - Group outcome preferences - Interactive break out session 2

The personal preferences are shared and discussed at round table sessions and from each of the tables and results shared with the whole group. Tables are asked to nominate their top 3 outcomes for investigation based on the individual preferences and resultant discussions. Tables are not asked to rank their top three but some choose to do so. Results are captured in real time on a display for all to see. As results are shared around the room.

6. Outcome selection - Collective outcome preference - Interactive break out session 3

A Q&A session helped participants understand and focus attention on the requirements for outcome selection in more depth. The questions asked were:

- 2 *What are the fundamental challenges for this outcome? What would you focus on to address these?*
- 3 *What are the key sources of demand and supply for this outcome?*
- 4 *What are the up-coming political and technical decisions to make improvements to this outcome which could feature as part of the case studies?*

Based on the results of table discussions, each table annotates a sheet with their answers to provide learnings for the facilitation team and is then asked to propose 1 single outcome for investigation. The results from stages 4 and 5 are analysed in real time on a display the room for all to see.

It is expected that by this stage only 3 or 4 outcomes will in fact still be under discussion. None the less, a weighting system is devised for the eventuality of a tie in outcome choice, whereby a numerical value is given to each stage of the selection process to ensure personal, group and collective decisions are all accounted for, and with the premise that the outcome with the highest weighted value will be taken forward. The weightings are not visible during outcome selection and are only added post final round if required.

An evaluation form used the first time this methodology was used showed that “regardless of the outcome chosen, participants were satisfied with the process of outcome selection. Overall, 79.1% returned a satisfaction degree of high or very high.

EXAMPLE TABLE

1. Personal outcome preferences	Weight 1	2. Group outcome preferences	Weight 3	3. Collective outcome preference	Weight 5	TOTAL
Outcome 1	5		6		0	11
		Answer 1 Answer 2		Detail of answer 1		
Outcome 2	11		9		20	31
		Answer 1 Answer 2 Answer 3		Detail of answer 1		
Outcome 3	7		6		5	18
		Answer 1 Answer 2		Detail of answer 1		
Outcome 4	4		3		0	7
		Answer 1		Detail of answer 1		

Figure 1 – Stage 5 and 6 outcome selection interactive sessions. Weightings: Personal outcome preference = 1; Group outcome preference = 3; Collective outcome preference = 5.

