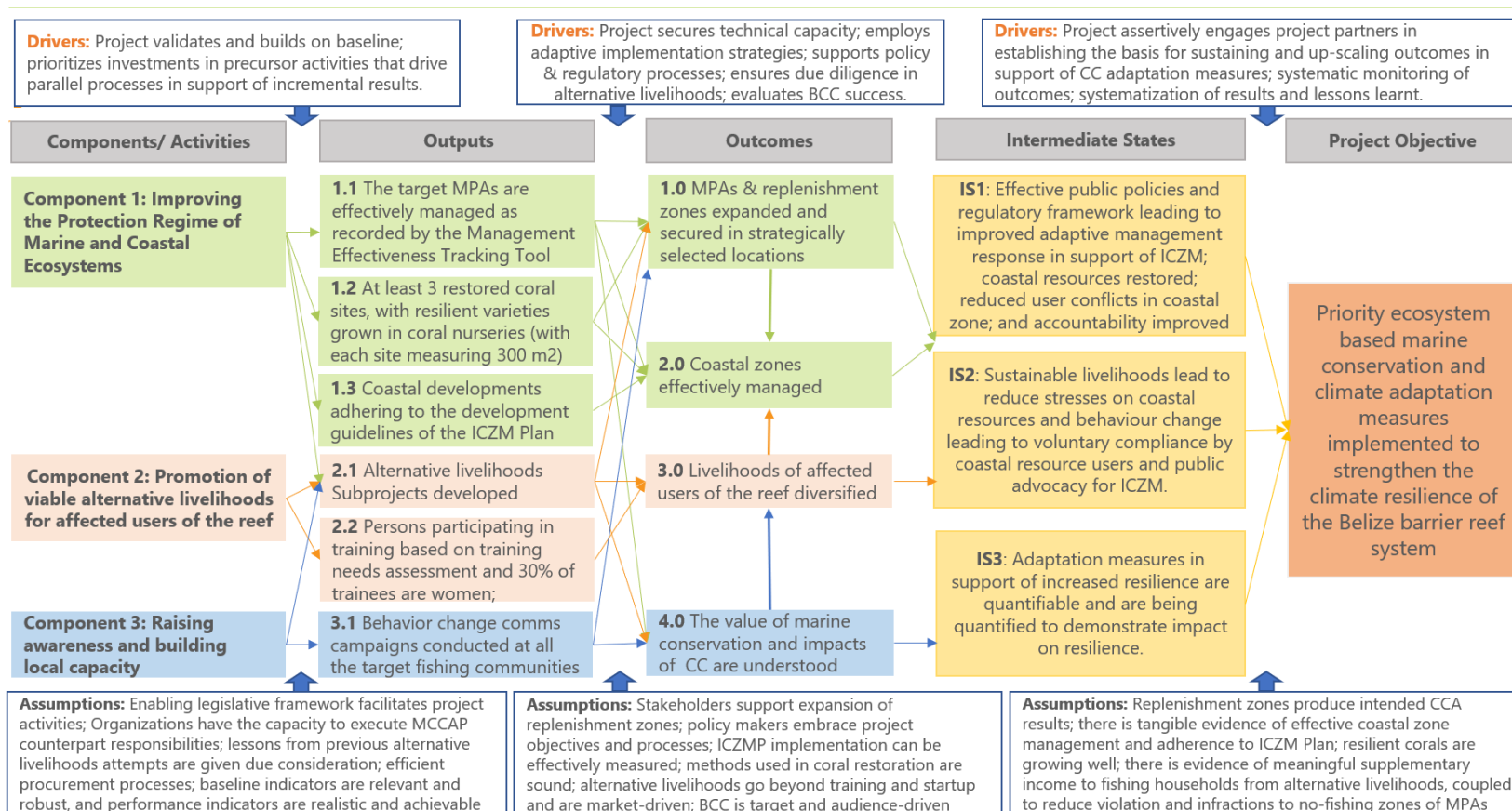


Training handout – GOING FROM THEORY OF CHANGE TO THEORY OF SUSTAINABILITY

A Theory of Change (ToC) outlines a series of desired and actual outcomes and linked rationales—all of which flow in chronological order. The process of TOC differentiates between actual and desired outcomes. It starts from the desired impact (here project objective) and goes backward from outcomes to activities.

Source: <https://www.corecentra.com/what-is-theory-of-change/>

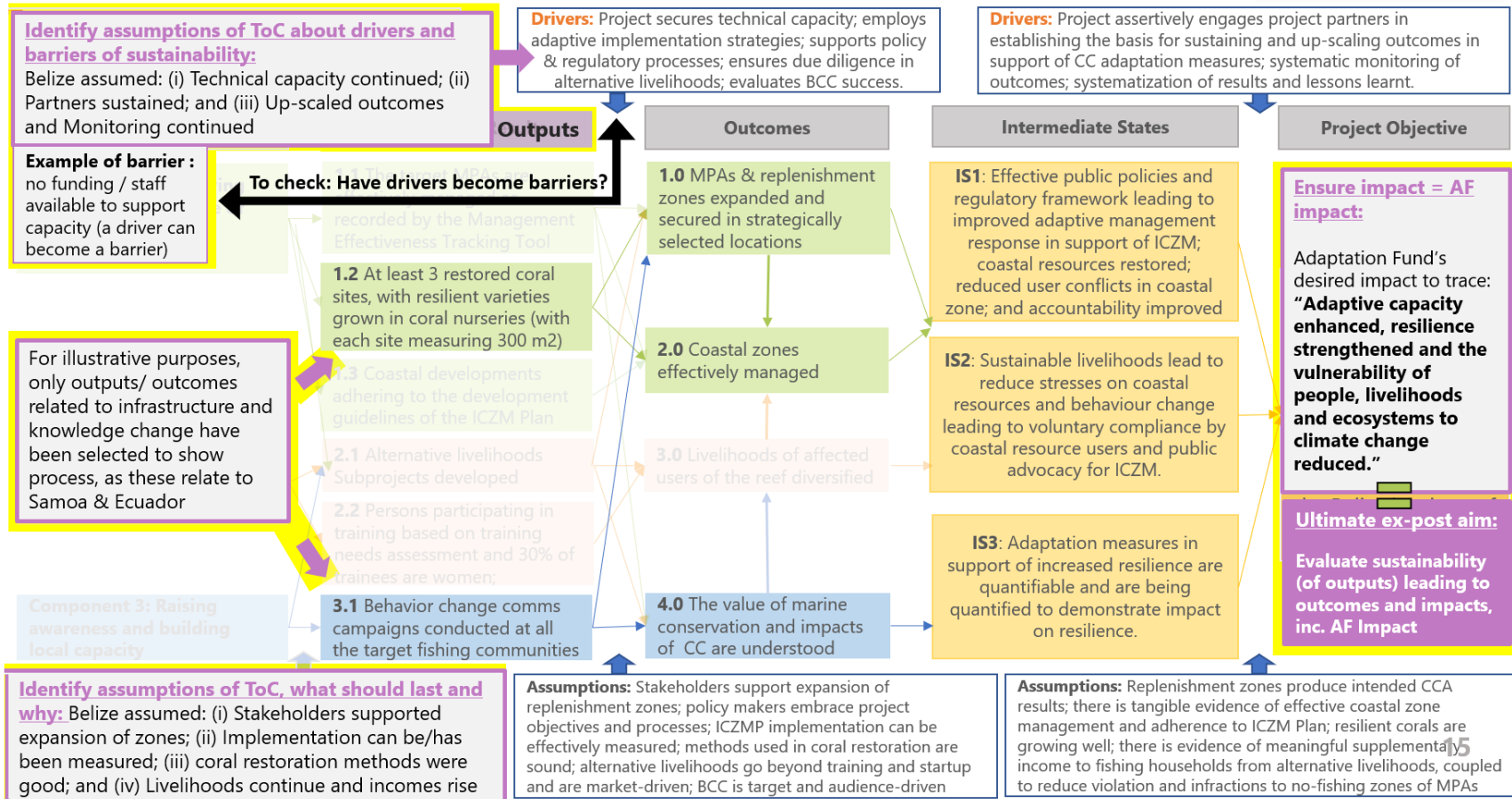
Example: Belize Marine Conservation and Climate Adaptation Initiative (IBRD)



How do you revisit the TOC?

- ensure project Impact = Adaptation Fund’s Impact
- identify assumptions of ToC about anticipated drivers and barriers of sustainability ex-post
- identify assumptions of TOC vis-à-vis climate shocks and stresses

Example:



2

How do you develop a Theory of Sustainability (ToS) from the ToC?

***Based on your document review and learning priorities, pre-select specific outcomes and outputs of the ToC to determine the anticipated post-project Theory of Sustainability**

- consider the link with the Adaptation Fund impact
- consider outcomes and outputs linked to assets and capacities

***Identify which assets and capacities are expected to be functioning given changes in the intervening years and identified barriers and drivers to sustainability**

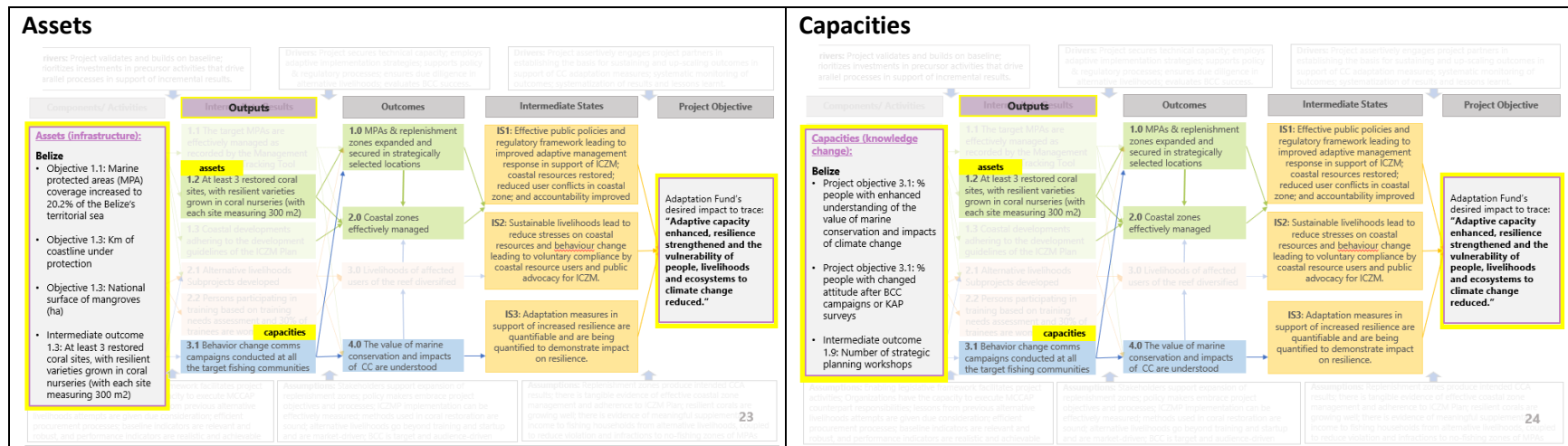
- consider what can affect the sustainability of assets and capacities
- consider data indicating aspects of functioning and sustainability

***Identify existing data for the pre-selected outputs and outcomes**

- consider indicators and measurement for the identified assets & capacities

***Confirm that the drivers & barriers that existed in the theory of change are still true.**

Example:



3

What will the Theory of Sustainability say?

The **anticipated theory of change/ sustainability** post project for specific outcomes and outputs (consider financial, systems, organizational, infrastructure, behavior change etc..) should answer...

- What assumptions were made in the ToC and who is expected to sustain results, based on stakeholder and other mappings?
- What projected ratings of sustainability were made, if any, and can they be validated?

- What is expected to still be functioning, based on findings from terminal evaluation and initial discussions with IE/EE?
- How well were ex-post plans developed and/or executed?
- What were plans for continuation of activities and/or follow-on support, replication, scale-up, other?

Regarding resilience

- What characteristics of resilience are possible based on targeted outcomes (Did the project aim for redundancy, diversity, feedback loops, scale, dynamism/dynamic solutions?)
- What is the overall strategy of the project on the RRT scale? Did the sum total of the sustained outcomes aim for resistance, resilience and/or transformation?

