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# Developing guidelines to enhance the evaluation of overseas development projects

Diane McDonald  

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### Abstract

This paper identifies some of the key factors which should be considered by those engaged in the evaluation of overseas development projects, in order that the evaluation process leads to the empowerment of local stakeholders. An extensive review of prior research undertaken by the author has led to the development of seven broad "guidelines" relating to: stakeholder participation; a focus on education; appropriate methodology; feedback and utilisation; enhancement of local capacity; partnership; and cross-cultural teaming. Rather than being definitive, the proposed list indicates significant aspects which could be of assistance to those working in the field.

Although based on a wealth of experience accumulated by prominent evaluators, these "guidelines" need to be further extended by other practitioners involved in the evaluation of international development cooperation activities in various project settings and cultural contexts. In so doing, particular attention should be given to seeking and

and cultural contexts. In so doing, particular attention should be given to seeking, and listening to, the views of indigenous stakeholders.



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## Keywords

Cross-cultural evaluation; Evaluation of overseas development projects; Empowerment evaluation

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