



MIRADI USER GUIDE I: DEVELOP A SITUATION MODEL



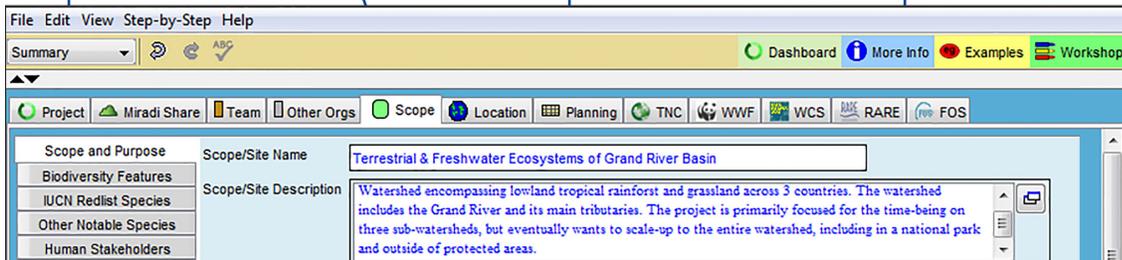
BEFORE YOU START: This guide provides a general overview of using Miradi Adaptive Management Software to develop situation models for USAID Biodiversity Programming. It is a companion to **Biodiversity How-To Guide I: Developing Situation Models in USAID Biodiversity Programming**, which contains more detailed instructions for completing the steps outlined here.

- Step 1 - Define the Biodiversity Program Scope
- Step 2 - Define and Add Biodiversity Focal Interests
- Step 3 - Identify Ecosystem Services and Human Well-Being Interests
- Step 4 - Define and Rate Direct Threats
- Step 5 - Define and Add Drivers (Constraints and Opportunities)
- Step 6 - Discuss, Complete and Document the Model
- Step 7 - Use and Revise the Situation Model

Step 1 - Define the Biodiversity Program Scope

A. Start with the Summary View and select the Scope Tab

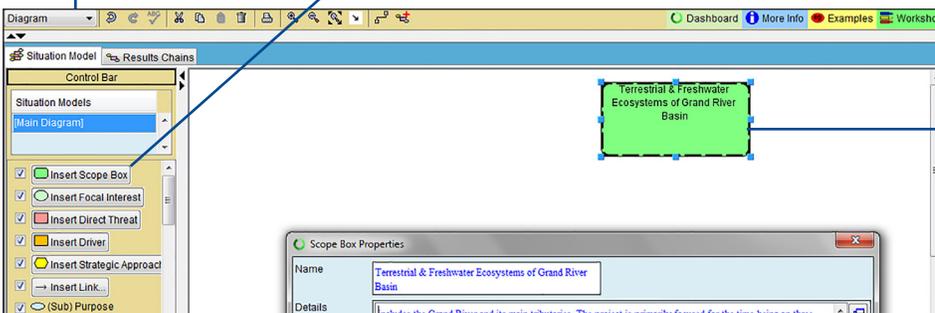
B. Use these fields to fill out the Biodiversity Program Scope Name and Scope Description



C. Use the Long Text Field button to write more detailed text

D. Switch to the Diagram View

E. Insert a Scope Box



F. Use the handles around the box to resize it; double click to edit text

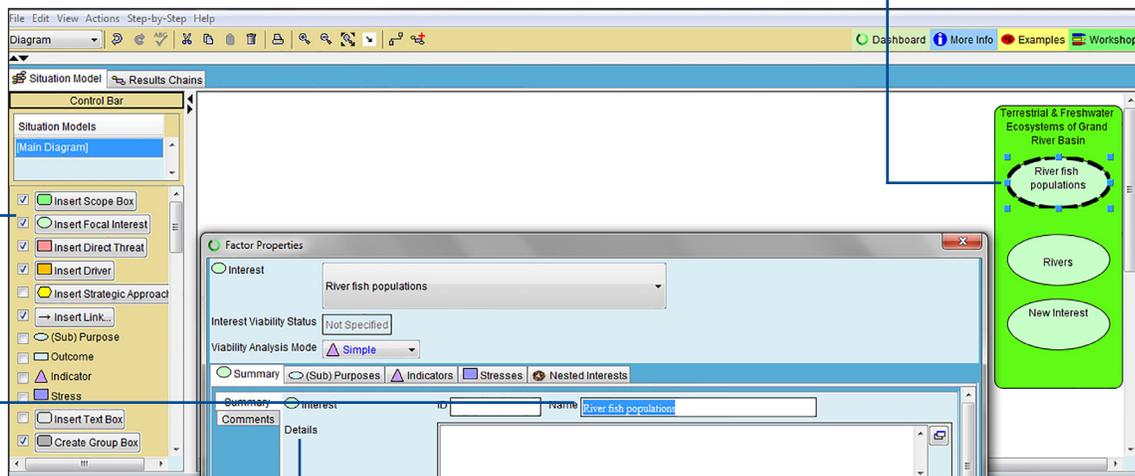
Step 2 - Define and Add Biodiversity Focal Interests

A. Insert Focal Interest

B. Use handles to resize ovals; double click to edit text

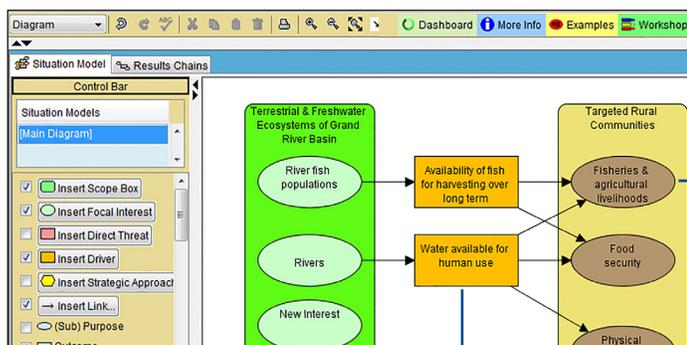
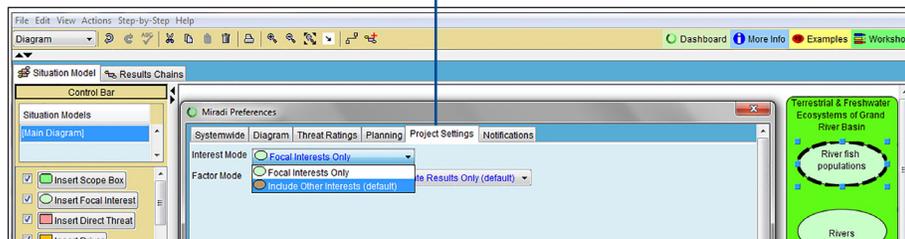
C. Use this field to add name of Biodiversity Focal Interest

D. Use details field to record information, as needed



Step 3 - Identify Ecosystem Services and Human Well-Being Interests

A. If Other Interests are not showing, click Edit / Preferences / Project Settings / Interest Mode to enable



B. Insert brown Other Interests in a similar fashion to depict Human Well-Being Interests

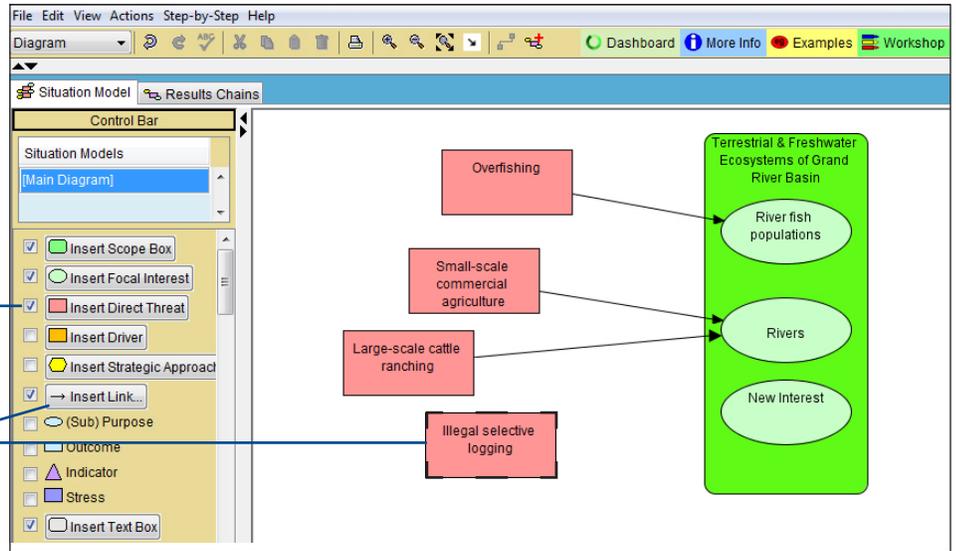
C. Use orange Driver boxes* to depict intermediate ecosystem services; to distinguish them from drivers, you can use blue text

* Miradi does not have a separate shape for ecosystem services, but it allows the use of orange driver boxes in multiple places.

Step 4 - Define and Rate Direct Threats

A. Use pink boxes to represent Direct Threats

B. To link two components, click on (select) the first, hold the shift key, click the second, and then click Insert Link



C. Switch to the Threat Rating View

D. Biodiversity focal interests are on the top row; Threats are in the left column

E. A filled-in cell corresponds to a linked threat-focal interest pair in the diagram

F. Rate each threat-focal interest pair using drop down menus for scope, severity and irreversibility

G. Use the comments field for notes on ratings

Threats \ Interest	River fish pop...	Rivers	Tropical Lowla...	Summary Threat Rating
Overfishing	Very High	Very High		High
Large-scale cattle		High		High
Small-scale				Medium
Illegal selective			Low	Low
Excessive hunting				Not Specified
Summary Interest Ratings:	High	High	Low	Overall Project Rating: Very High

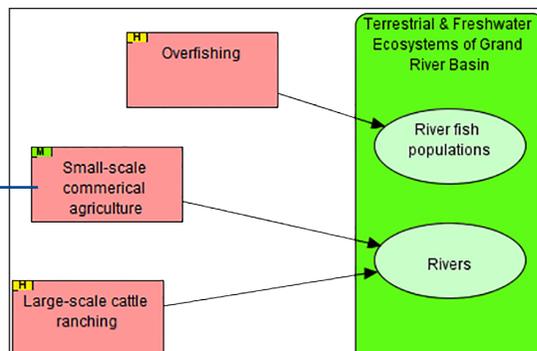
Direct Threat: Overfishing Interest: River fish populations

Scope: Very High Severity: Very High Irreversibility: Medium Summary Interest-Threat Rating: Very High

Comments: Recent team research shows that overfishing is particularly problematic in terms of the impact on the river fish population.

H. Miradi calculates summary threat rating

I. Summary threat ratings are shown by colors in the diagram view



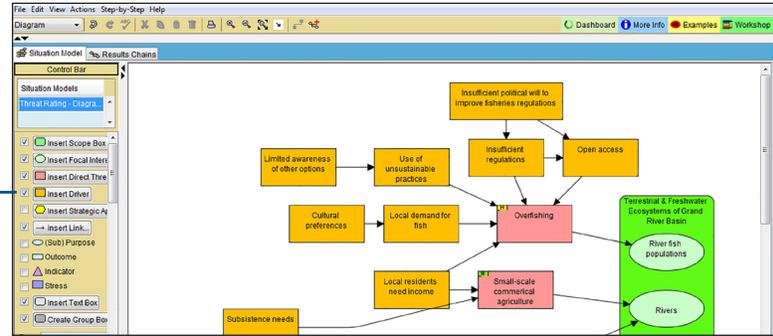
Step 5 - Define and Add Drivers (Constraints and Opportunities)



Quick Tip

Double clicking on any shape will open a dialogue box for entering additional information, questions, and references.

A. Use orange boxes to add Drivers



Step 6 - Discuss, Complete and Document the Model

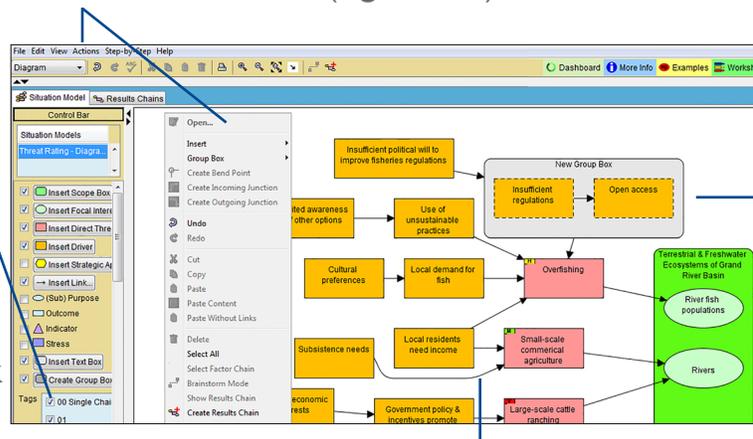
Like all features in Miradi, situation analysis diagrams are primarily a device to help USAID program design teams have a structured conversation and document their assumptions about their project. To make a useful model, Miradi offers several tools to help reduce visual complexity.

A. Tools are available through the Actions menu or context (right-click) menu

B. Group boxes reduce number of links needed; to add a group box, select factors while holding shift key and then use the **Create Group Box** menu item from the right-click or **Actions** menu.

C. Tags can hide/reveal sets of components menu

D. Bend points can be used to route link arrows



Step 7 - Use and Revise the Situation Model

There are a number of advantages for using Miradi to document a situation analysis. Specifically, teams can:

- Easily move components around
- Work over multiple sessions without having to preserve hand-written models
- Work both virtually and in-person
- Consult with different sets of decision makers and stakeholders along the way to vet thinking
- Learn from the work of others

Have questions not answered here? Email usaid@miradi.org or visit <https://www.miradi.org/faqs/> for more information

Miradi supports program design and adaptive management practices that are part of the USAID E3/FAB Measuring Impact initiative and are based on the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation.