

# Clear Horizon

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### Helen Suich, PhD, Principal Consultant



#### Overview of Expertise

With 25 years' experience in evaluation and a PhD from the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, Helen has worked in the international development context and Commonwealth and NSW government. Skilled in mixed-methods research, she is also highly adept at designing and conducting impact evaluations, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) frameworks and plans. A majority of her work has involved initiatives designed to improve the sustainability of agriculture, natural resource management or conservation.

Her experience includes the design and delivery of complex evaluations using participatory approaches, and the delivery of capacity building activities for diverse audience groups. Helen draws on her strong stakeholder engagement and facilitation skills to deliver inclusive engagement processes, translating complex evaluation concepts into accessible language and building buy-in from a wide range of government, civil society and other stakeholders.

#### Qualifications & Training

- 2010 Doctor of Philosophy, Australian National University
- 2000 Master of Science in Development Economics, University of London, SOAS, UK
- 1994 Bachelor of Agricultural Economics, University of Queensland

#### Project Experience

##### Measurement, evaluation and learning (MEL)



I have extensive experience in evaluation, including designing and conducting impact evaluations, developing MEL frameworks and designing and implementing program MEL plans. A central principle of her work is to make improvements grounded in lessons learned from implementation experience and in response to stakeholder feedback. Example projects:

- Theory of Change and Learning System, Better Cotton Growth and Innovation Fund (2023).
- Developing and implementing strategic and programmatic elements of the approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning of the \$A5 billion Future Drought Fund; developed nested program-level MEL Plans including designing data collection tools, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (2021–2023).
- Developing and implementing a program for monitoring, analysis and synthesis of research and development impacts arising from £40m Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation program (2011–2013).



A common thread of my applied research has been to take a systems approach to building understanding of how change happens and the pathways by which changes occur over time, and to discern differential impacts among affected social groups. The latter includes consideration of both the material and non-material dimensions of people's lives and livelihoods and broader social impacts. I have also focused on trying to improve the approaches to, and methods of, measuring and monitoring change.

## Select publications

- Dawson, N. and Suich, H. (2025) 'Advancing social impact assessments for more effective and equitable conservation'. *Conservation Biology*. 39(2):e14453.
- Suich, H. and Schneider, M. (2022) 'Monitoring disability inclusion: setting a baseline for South Africa.' *African Journal of Disability*. 11: 1020.
- Suich, H. and Boardman, J. (2017) 'Wheat growing and changing farming systems in South African dryland margins: the case of the Sneeuwberg, South Africa', *Land Degradation & Development*. 28(1):57–64.
- Howe, C., Suich, H., Vira, B. and Mace, G.M. (2014) 'Creating win-wins from trade-offs? Ecosystem services for human well-being: a meta-analysis of ecosystem service trade-offs and synergies in the real world', *Global Environmental Change*. 28:263–275.
- Suich, H. (2013) 'The effectiveness of economic incentives for sustaining community based natural resource management', *Land Use Policy*. 31:441–449.
- Tacconi, L., Mahanty, S. and Suich, H. (eds.) (2010) *Payments for environmental services, forest conservation and climate change. Livelihoods in the REDD?* Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

## Positions held

2025	Principal Consultant, Clear Horizon
2024	Senior Advisor, NSW Natural Resources Commission
2021–2023	Assistant Director, Evaluation and Data Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
2011–2020	Senior Research Fellow, Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University (Research Fellow 2011–2016)
2011–2013	Research Fellow, Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation Directorate Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, UK
2003–2005	Resource Economist, Transfrontier Conservation Area Unit, Conservation International, South Africa
2002–2024	Independent Researcher
2000–2002	Overseas Development Institute Fellow/Resource Economist, Directorate of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia