

Developing interesting questions and meaningful objectives



Dr. Ha Hai Duong – Vietnam Academy for Water Resources

Research questions

WH????

- What questions entail a *descriptive* answer
- Why questions ask for *causes* or *reasons* for a particular phenomenon
- When....
- Who....
- How questions ask *how to bring about change* with practical outcomes and interven



Research questions

- In your proposal, you will have up to 5 questions (with perhaps one over-arching question)
- Questions link to the problem statement (and any concepts that you've introduced)



Research objectives

- Objectives define what your research will achieve
- Each research objective should link to a research question
 - Summarizes the direction you will be taking
 - Summarizes the key issues that you will address
- Use phrases such as
 - To identify
 - To compare
 - To evaluate
 - To analyze
 - To define
 - To assess
 - To criticize
 - To determine

Research objectives

- Avoid phrases that are too general, such as:
 - To explore
 - To understand
 - To think about

These are personal objectives, rather than research objectives

- Be careful not to confuse research findings with recommendations coming from the research
 - “To suggest”
 - “To propose:

Check – Do your questions and objectives address the call for proposal?

Individual and small group work on your research question and objectives

