Systematic Planning Process Flowchart

1. State the Problem to be Solved

Concisely describe the problem to be solved. Review prior studies and existing information to gain a sufficient understanding to define the problem.

2. Identify the Decision to be Made

Identify what questions the study will attempt to resolve, and what actions may result.

3. Identify the Inputs to the Decision

Identify the information that needs to be obtained and the measurements that need to be taken to resolve the decision statement.

4. Define the Study Boundaries

Specify the time periods and spatial area to which decisions will apply. Determine generally when and where data should be collected.

5. Develop a Decision Rule

Define the statistical parameter of interest, specify the action level, and integrate the previous Planning Process outputs into a single statement that describes the logical basis for choosing among alternative actions.

6. Specify Tolerable Limits on Decision Errors

Define the decision maker's tolerable decision error rates based on a consideration of the consequences of making an incorrect decision.

7. Optimize the Design for Obtaining Data

Evaluate information from the previous steps and generate alternative data collection designs. Choose the most resource-effective design that meets the Planning Process objectives.

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