



CAPABILITY STATEMENT

Independent advisory for community, environmental and social investments.

Projects are delivered. Budgets are spent. Targets are achieved.

The real measure of success is what happens next.



30+

YEARS EXPERIENCE

8

COUNTRIES

3

REGIONS

4

SECTORS

THE PROBLEM

Delivery Is Not the Same as Performance

Every year organisations invest millions of dollars in community, environmental and social investments. Many achieve their implementation targets, but far fewer continue delivering value once responsibility transfers to local organisations and communities.

The difference is rarely the amount invested. It is the quality of the decisions made before implementation begins.

Infrastructure creates opportunity. Capability determines whether that opportunity continues delivering value.

WHY EDGE5 EXISTS

Organisations invest in community, environmental and social programs to create lasting value. Most investments are designed for delivery.

EDGE5 helps organisations create the practical conditions required for investments to remain functional, locally owned and continue delivering value long after implementation.

THE EDGE5 FRAMEWORK

THE EDGE5 SURVIVAL GATES

Long-term performance is determined by the weakest gate.

01**WATER**

Is water available in sufficient quantity and quality to support long-term function?

02**SOIL**

Is the resource base improving, stable or declining over time?

03**LABOUR CAPACITY**

Can the system be maintained within the real daily capacity of the people responsible for it?

04**SKILLS**

Do local people possess the skills required to sustain the system?

05**AUTHORITY**

Who has the recognised authority to decide and to act when problems arise?

Projects operate within systems, and long-term viability depends on five critical conditions.

If one gate is absent or weak, the likelihood of long-term decline increases.

A project is only as strong as its weakest gate. Strength in one area cannot compensate for weakness in another.

THE FRAMEWORK, IN DETAIL

The Survival Gates

Five conditions determine whether an investment continues to function once external support reduces.

01 WATER

Water is essential for life, production and system function. Without reliable access to water, many household, agricultural, environmental and livelihood systems cannot be maintained.

EDGE5 question *Is water available in sufficient quantity and quality to support long-term function?*

02 SOIL

Soil provides the foundation for biological productivity. Healthy soils support food production, environmental restoration and long-term resilience.

EDGE5 question *Is the resource base improving, stable or declining over time?*

03 LABOUR CAPACITY

Systems depend on ongoing human effort. Labour capacity determines whether the work a system requires fits within the time and routines people already carry, or is quietly abandoned once external support reduces.

EDGE5 question *Can the system be maintained within the real daily capacity of the people responsible for it?*

04 SKILLS

Systems depend upon people. Skills determine whether individuals and organisations can operate, maintain, adapt and improve systems without ongoing external assistance.

EDGE5 question *Do local people possess the skills required to sustain the system?*

05 AUTHORITY

Authority refers to recognised legitimacy and the ability to make decisions, allocate responsibilities, enforce agreements and resolve disputes. Where authority is absent, decision-making processes weaken over time.

EDGE5 question *Who has the recognised authority to decide and to act when problems arise?*

EDGE5 PRINCIPLE

The true measure of success is what happens after external support ends.

HOW EDGE5 WORKS**Independent Advisory**

Five services, applied at the points where long-term performance is decided.

Program Design

Reduce implementation risk by designing for long-term performance before projects begin.

Capability Development

Build the knowledge, skills and confidence needed for long-term ownership.

Training & Education

Develop practical capability that strengthens local decision-making and implementation.

Technical Support

Provide independent technical advice during implementation to improve long-term outcomes.

Monitoring & Review

Evaluate post-handover performance and identify opportunities to strengthen long-term value using the Survival Gates.

AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

- Community development and livelihoods
- Agricultural development and food security
- Capacity building and training systems
- Environmental restoration and landscape rehabilitation
- Water security and productive land-use systems
- Post-handover sustainability and local ownership

Countries include Australia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, Uganda, Mali, Indonesia and the Philippines.

PROVEN ACROSS DIVERSE CONTEXTS

Selected Experience

More than 30 years of field experience across sectors, regions and partners informs every EDGE5 engagement. The following projects illustrate that breadth in practice.

RWANDA — ADRA EMBRACE PROGRAM — 2019

Strengthened local design capability through participatory planning and practical field training supporting long-term household food security.

TANZANIA — COMMUNITIES ASSIST — 2026

Practical field assessment of soil function, soil pH and land management to support long-term agricultural productivity.

CAMBODIA — ADRA BASELINE SURVEY — 2018

Participatory baseline assessment and community consultation to inform agricultural and livelihood development.

MALI — RESOLUTE MINING — 2017

Participatory home hub and farm design supporting household food security and local capability.

ABOUT

Greg Knibbs

Founder & Principal Advisor



Greg Knibbs has more than 30 years of international field experience across Australia, Africa and Southeast Asia. From 1983 he worked at Western Mining's Kwinana Nickel Refinery, first on staff and then, from 1985 to 2004, as the site's landscape and environmental maintenance contractor through his own company, New Earth Enterprises.

He has since advised mining companies, governments, NGOs and communities on practical systems that continue to perform long after implementation. He leads every EDGE5 engagement personally.

Projects are handed over once. Their consequences remain for years.

DISCUSS YOUR PROJECT

EDGE5 provides independent advice that helps organisations maximise the long-term value of community, environmental and social investments.

GREG KNIBBS

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The EDGE5 Survival Gates™ framework was developed by Greg Knibbs, founder of EDGE5.

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