# Questions and Answers

## LICCI online training

*Introduction*

**Q**: In some cases, the local communities/knowledge of fishermen/farmers etc. are meshed with urban communities/knowledge (especially in European fisheries). Is this ok for a LICCI project case study?

**A:** The main criteria for selecting a sample for the LICCI project is that you target people with a long history of interactions with the environment. In this context, the idea should be then to target a group of practice with shared knowledge, even if they are embedded in other bigger groups (urban setters).

**Q:** What is the scale of a community LICCI usually operates? Large communities may have people with distinct interest, technologies, socio-economic position and perceptions of climate change. Have you ever had contrasting views?

**A:** Many indigenous communities are small in size (<500 households) and scattered, and this was our original idea when designing the project. Although, local communities can be much larger, communities of practice (I.e., a group of fishermen) are probably smaller, and they should be considered as the targeted unit.  The scale of the community is a group of practice even they are embedded in a larger context. They share a social memory, share knowledge and communicate among themselves.

Contrasting views should be resolved in Focus Group Discussions (FGD). We expect people to have different perceptions driven from their own realities. Such views should be discussed in FGD to get a consensus view.

**Q:** How climate change is identified as the driver rather than other drivers? Especially when the community might not use the term climate change (or it is a common term to use for wide range of changes).

**A:** Climate change operates in synergy with other changes, and it is not always possible to differentiate. The following are the criteria to consider that an observation can be considered as a LICCI (p. 54 of LICCI manual):

- All observations of change in the climatic system (i.e., temperature, precipitation, air masses and seasonal events) should be considered a LICCI.
- Drivers: Changes can be driven by different factors (not only climate change). Since we are collecting perceptions, changes in physical, biological, and socio-economic systems will be considered LICCIs if informants attribute them to changes in the climatic system.
- Time scale: consider changes within a certain temporal width (not from last year).

**Q:** To distinguish observations that can be attributable versus. non-attributable to climate change - what are the key factors to consider? (e.g. thinking about coal extraction areas in northern China like Inner Mongolia where there have been changes to the local environment)

**A:** Attribution is complicated, many times it is all interlinked. By following our methods observation-why-why-why sometimes you get to weather, population, god etc.

You should follow the causal link of an observation. Keep asking and identify if one of the reasons of change is attributed to climate, although we understand the complexity.

**Q:** Could you clarify the difference between long-term versus short/near-term impacts/changes? What's the timeline interviewer/interviewee should look at? Which is the temporal frame? Because in the social memory there could be embedded information on past events also

**A:** One of the methods is a timeline, this goes back 100 years, but of course they can reference further back. The important is that we do not consider LICCI if it just happened last year. We use "when you were young"

Try to know when changes started, there is not a specific date.

**Q:** Is climate change always related to negative impacts? This is quite complex, because it might have positive impacts for people, but not for ecosystems...

**A:** The LICCI project is collecting perceptions of changes driven by climate change. People might consider that a biological impact has positive economic effects. This information has then to be contrasted with other sources of knowledge. What is important is to remember that we are collecting local perceptions.

**Q:** Do you consider the ecological knowledge you collect as stratified? I mean, made of different layers of different knowledges through time?

**A:** Local ecological knowledge is certainly dynamic, but also shared by the community. There might be different layers of knowledge (including different views from different generations), but we are aiming to get a consensus view in the FGD.

**Q**: Do you have any theoretical framework for analyzing data, e.g. Ostrom?

**A**: The LICCI project adopts the recently proposed ***Multiple Evidence Based*** approach, a theoretical approach that "*emphasizes the complementarity of knowledge systems and the values of letting each knowledge system speak for itself, within its own context, without assigning one dominant knowledge system with the role of external validator.*" (Tengo et al. 2014). In other words, rather than attempting to validate or integrate local knowledge and perceptions of climate change impacts into climate science, we propose to bring the insights gained from studying local knowledge as a complementary, equally valid source of evidence for understanding local climate change impacts.

**Q:** By when you need the data uploaded to the app? Any specific date?

**A:** August 2021.

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References:

Tengö, M., Brondizio, E. S., Elmqvist, T., Malmer, P. & Spierenburg, M. Connecting Diverse Knowledge Systems for Enhanced Ecosystem Governance: The Multiple Evidence Base Approach. Ambio 43, 579-591, doi:10.1007/s13280-014-0501-3 (2014).