

Questions and Answers

LICCI online training

General questions

Q: Concepts like “livelihoods” are biased, this type of communities and local knowledge may not exist in Europe.

A: There are still pockets of traditional or local ecological knowledge in Europe. Rural communities which main profession or “livelihood activity” depends directly on natural resources (socio-ecological systems) like shepherds and ranchers, farmers, beekeepers or small scale fishermen preserving traditional techniques can keep Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK), Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) or Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK). Apply the idea of “community of knowledge”, they have access to internet and mass media, but still will preserve specific knowledge regarding climatic, physical and biological systems, and its repercussions in human systems. One of the premises of LICCI is that contact with nature give you an understanding of change that is different, but this knowledge is also based on knowledge transmission.

A: Even in urban systems you might have people that have a continuous contact with nature, sailors, miners, or others, that do jobs very related to nature. We are not including them because this misrepresentation of Indigenous People and Local Communities was the issue and we are only addressing this. But we are going to have also a citizen science platform OpenTEK for this other type of knowledge.

Q: Boundaries for what is a village and what is a site: how did you decide? it’s a bit top-down no? For example, here the lowest administrative (formal) unit are the Municipalities (Municipalidad; e.g. Pucón). And in each Municipality, there are different localities (Localidades). I think that in my case the Study Site will be a Municipality and the villages will be localities.

A: The idea is to use a bottom-up approach. Researchers based on their own experience and knowledge of the idiosyncrasy of their site will define and select the villages. There are no fixed boundaries or limitations, researchers will define the villages based on local knowledge and what their members consider as a village. Normally a village is a group of households following the same rules and with the same leader/ tribal chief or mayor. The site will represent the land where the interactions between social and natural systems happen, i.e. the area used by the community to conduct their livelihood activities.

Q: Which is the average **territorial extension of your field work sites** so far? I’m asking just to understand better how big the area could / should be...

A: It really depends on the case. For example, it can be just a valley in the Pyrenees or a big area for a pastoralist community in the Sahara. It depends on the main livelihood of the community and the extension of land they use for their livelihood activities.