

Sampling – Q & A

Q: *Regarding quota and site/livelihood sampling, what is the frontier between fisher/marine life gatherer? How do we define the hunter-gatherers of the sea?*

A: We have not differentiated between fisher/marine life gatherer. We do have a general classification of livelihood activities (please check manual page 11), but we acknowledge that this is insufficient to cover all livelihood activities practiced by local communities. You may classify the different livelihood activities in a way that you think fits better to the context of your fieldsite, and you may also create new categories. The point here is that we use these categories to make sure that our sample includes people who engage in different activities because they might perceive different LICCI and LACCI. So if you think that a given group of people who practice a certain livelihood activity might have different perceptions, keep them in a separate group for sampling.

Q: *Regarding quota sampling, what if we have just one main livelihood activity? For instance, Pucón is a mountainous ecosystem where Mapuche and local peasants are mainly farmers.*

A: Even in sites where there is a single major livelihood activity, you may have groups of people who are more engaged into some specific complementary activities (e.g., harvest of wild edibles, hunting, etc.). In this case, you may use these complementary activities as the basis for your classification. The main idea here is that the sample should represent the whole diversity of actors of your fieldsite, including variation in gender, age and livelihood activity.

Q: *Concepts like “livelihoods”, ‘indigenous communities’ and ‘local/traditional ecological knowledge’ may not be suited to places like Europe or peri-urban areas.*

A: The LICCI project focuses on communities that are in close contact with nature because one of the premises of LICCI is that contact with nature gives you a different understanding of nature and its changes. Through this intimate and long-term interaction with nature, these communities have developed a detail understanding of their environment, both empirically and also through knowledge transmission, which is what we term ‘local ecological knowledge’. Local communities like these – which we call ‘indigenous peoples and local communities’ (IPLC) - exist all over the world, ranging from semi-isolated tribes with little contact with the outside world to rural communities in Europe with plenty access to markets, internet, etc. As long as they are in close contact with nature and their livelihoods are strictly dependent on the use and management of natural resources, these communities have some level of LEK and thus are within the scope of the LICCI project. In urban areas there are also people who work closely related with nature, but we are focusing on IPLC who live in rural areas because their knowledge is still underrepresented in our understanding of climate change. However, the online platform OpenTEK, which is also part of the LICCI project, is open to citizens in general to document their observation of climate change.

Q: *How to define what a ‘village’ is? This might not be suited to every field site.*

A: In the LICCI manual (page 14), a village is defined as ‘the lowest administrative unit of an area’. In some cases these are relatively easy to define, because they have clear geographical boundaries and

function as a well-defined entity, usually under a certain organization scheme (e.g., a local leader, chief, etc), but this is not always the case. Even when these boundaries are unclear, what is important here is to define 'sub-units' that are representative of the social and environmental characteristics of your fieldsite (i.e., avoid exceptions), within which you will sample the households. To define this, you should use your own knowledge of the area, preferably combined with the local knowledge as well (i.e., considering what local residents understand as a 'village') and discuss this with your buddies from the LICCI core team.

Q: *Which is the average territorial extension of a given field work site?*

A: It varies a lot: it might be just a valley in the Pyrenees or a large area used by pastoralists in the Sahara. What needs to be taken into consideration is that your field site should be more or less homogenous in terms of social and environmental characteristics, and you need to consider carefully which people/geographical region you want to represent in your sample. For example, one of the field sites is located along the Juruá River, in western Amazonia. It is a very long river, stretching for thousands of kilometers and inhabited by different indigenous groups and local communities. In this case, we decided focus only on the middle part of the river, where the villages are more homogenous regarding their cultural background (they are all 'ribeirinhos') and the types of environment that they use and manage. We names this fieldsite 'Ribeirinhos of the middle Juruá River', to clarify the people and the geographical region represented in our sample.