

Q & A Interviews – SSI

FORMS

Q: Do group interview generates group form or still individuals' forms? What about the basic's demographic information from the group?

A: To provide the collective narrative from your study site (e.g., demographic description, history) you will run some semi-structured and informal interviews in which we are not expecting basic demographic information unlike the interviews and the focus group discussion to collect LICCI and LACCI later. For more details on groups and individual forms, you can peruse your "master manual" section "Focus group discussion".

TIMELINE AND SEASONAL CALENDAR

Question 1

Q: Should we make the timeline and calendar during the previous test (with 3-5 interviewees)? Because we may need to establish some trust relation before we ask them for important events?

A: Of course, it is always better to keep the first interviews to establish a trust relationship with the interviews even more if it is a new field site for the researcher. But the timeline and the seasonal calendar will be constructed throughout the semi-structured interviews and then validated during the focus group discussion so you can collect data even while running the first interviews. But we will always preconize starting by doing informal interviews before addressing these topics.

Question 2

Q: When asking about the "memorable" socio-cultural and climatic events to fill the timeline, are we asking "their" perceptions of what is memorable? And there must be the group consent on that?

A: Here, we are not questioning "their perception of what is memorable" but what they remember. We are expecting for events that everyone remembers in the community. These data that you collect should help you to frame the LICCI and LACCI. However, you will find some variability while processing the semi-structured interviews, but it will be clarifying during the focus group discussion to reach a consensus. During the SSI, the question could be formulated as follows: "Is there extremes climatic or socio-cultural event that everyone here in the community remembers?"

Question 3

Q: Regarding calendar and timeline: it may happen that within the same study site differences between villages appear. In this case, should we merge all in the same calendar/timeline or elaborate different outputs?

A: We are expecting a seasonal calendar and a timeline at the study site level. So, you should select event et/or activities representative to your study site (e.g., main crops calendar, hunting time). These two outputs will be used as a guideline for your fieldwork. It will be useful to frame the semi-structured interviews, so it is better to avoid this variability the much as possible.

ADAPTATION

Question 1

Q: Sometimes local people adapt without knowing that they are putting in place adaptation measures. In this specific case, how can we catch the information?

A: Besides from collecting information on local adaptation from semi-structured interviews, data on local adaptation can also be collected through informal conversation and field observation. Each field observation should best be confirmed by community members by going back and asking if they have changed this because of changes in the local weather. We do not expect people to know the concept of adaptation to climate change. Hence, we encourage our partners and collaborators to differently phrase the question and replace 'adaptation' through other wordings, such as 'changes in behavior', 'changes in practices related to the livelihood and living' (i.e., 'doing things differently today compared to the past') related to observed changes in rainfall, temperature, Each researcher has to find the adequate wording for the local context.

Question 2

Q: What is the framework and the definition of adaptation applied in the LICCI project?

A: For our approach, we refer to local responses to climate change impacts and define adaptation according to the generic but inclusive definition provided by [Moser and Ekstrom \(2010\)](#): 'Adaptation involves changes in social-ecological systems in response to actual and expected impacts of climate change in the context of interacting non-climatic changes. Adaptation strategies and actions can range from short-term coping to longer-term, deeper transformations, aim to meet more than climate change goals alone, and may or may not succeed in moderating harm or exploiting beneficial opportunities.' We furthermore include both, actions with direct benefits regarding the reduction of local climate change impacts, and those with indirect benefits by increasing the adaptive capacity.

Question 3

Q: Would 'adaptation' or 'coping' also include responses such as the abandonment of practices (e.g, agriculture) or migration?

A: It is important to have a complete list that covers all local responses to climate change, given that the community members have an agency on the implementation. This should also include changes in human behavior such as migration and the abandoning of certain activities. However, whenever someone reports the abandoning of an activity, always ask what people do instead (**important!**), since most of the time the adaptation is not only or mainly about stopping to do something but to START something new or to practice another activity more frequently. Always ask for as many details as possible to understand the reasoning and the rationality behind a behavioral change.

Question 4

Q: How to distinguish between coping and adaptation?

A: We know that it is not always easy or possible to tell if a change in behavior is a short-term coping strategy or a long-term adaptation and changes can start as coping but transform to adaptation. Therefore, we include both coping and adaptation in our list of local responses. When asking our partners to evaluate the local responses as adaptation or coping we aim at understanding the local context based on the experience of the partners and collaborators. This question is of a qualitative nature and is understood as a mere estimation of the local context. The idea is to understand if the

reported local response in the specific case study refer to short-term process of temporary adjustment during and immediately after unusual, abnormal, and adverse conditions of a hazardous event or process ([Agrawall, 2008](#)) or rather to a long-term process of enduring adjustment. We ask our partners and collaborators to justify their decision, especially in critical cases and based on the context specificity.

Question 5

Q: Is the scale of local adaptation within the LICCI project limited to the household level?

A: We include adaptation on which at least one household member has an agency. Adaptation of individuals are included if a) they are also representative for other (not necessarily all) household members (e.g., boiling water for disinfection), and b) if it affects the household as a unit (e.g., only the household head practice fishing but this provides the whole family with food and income and thus any changes in the fishing practices concerns the entire household). We also include adaptation that is based on collective actions, thus the cooperation of various households. Important is that the community members have an agency on the implementation and realisation of the adaptation measure. Hence, we exclude all adaptation measures that are entirely implemented by external agents, e.g., the construction of a dike that was planned, constructed and paid by the government.

Question 6

Q: What if households act based on a political guideline? Should this be considered as adaptation according to the approach selected by the LICCI project?

A: This depends on the context and if there is at least a certain degree of agency from the community members. For instance, if the political guideline contains recommendations or subsidies and community members can decide to either opt in or opt out, then we can include them as local adaptation but have to note all potential external non-climatic drivers, e.g., external financial support or incentives. If the freedom of decision is not given, e.g., due to a top-down imposition, the adaptation should not be considered as local response from the community members.

Question 7

Q: Do you consider historical data as helpful to understand if something is a local response to climate change?

A: Our primary approach is to ask people first about changes in their environment related to climate change (but keep in mind to rephrase the question according to the local context and without using the expression 'climate change') and subsequently ask how community members respond to the observed changes. However, historical data (if available) can be a useful additional data source following the multiple evidence approach ([Tengö et al., 2014](#)). However, it is important to keep in mind that we are interested in responses to the anthropogenic climate change, thus focusing on adaptation approximately for the last 40 - 50 years, with a higher importance of the last 20 - 30 years.

Question 8

Q: Are we also interested in biological adaptation (e.g., plants)?

A: In the section of adaptation we only focus on human responses to climate change. However, biological adaptation probably relates in most cases as local indicators of climate change (LICCI) and will be coded as such.