

Instructions for draft interview-guide for WP4.

Introduction

This guide has been developed to accomplish a successful interview-process. Some of the information might seem basic – still it is useful that we all have the same understanding of what is important before, during and after the interviews.

The leading theme for the WP4 interviews is: “Scientific knowledge in local marine co-management”. All other sub-themes stem from this one focus and it is key to our analysis of the interviews that we try to keep the main theme in mind at all times during the process.

Preparation for interviews

The most important preparation for the interviews lies in choosing the right persons to talk to in the study area. We want to talk to 2-3 fishers, 2-3 greens and 2-3 scientists. We want to find people that

1. are generally well informed of the activities in the local area
2. have experiences from dealing with scientific advice in local fisheries co-management

The informants should be contacted, presented with SAFMAMS project information and informed of the purpose and main theme of our interview. *We will not be handing out questions/questionnaires before the interviews – instead **the draft review of scientific advice in fisheries co-management** will be used as the common point of departure for the conversation.*

A draft version of the review will be ready 3/3 and after that you will need to distribute it to the informants and ask them to read it before the interview.

Finally, it is important that the informants have earmarked at least 1.5hour for the interview. Time passes quickly during an interview, and very often the ‘good stuff’ will come at the end of the conversation when both parts are more relaxed with the situation and guards have come down a bit.

The short background information on the study area that you all have prepared should serve as a quick reminder of the context before preparing the mind for the interviews.

Checklist, preparations:

- Choose 2-3 key informants from each group (fishers, greens and scientists) in your study-area
- Present the informants with SAFMAMS information, purpose of the interview and main theme.
- Set a date for the interview (No less than 1 hour).

Interview themes and method

The interviews for WP4 are carried out using a semi-structured interview-guide based on themes and examples of theme questions.

During the interview you should use the draft review as a common base for your conversation and the themes and theme questions as a means of exploring the overall theme: Scientific advice used in local fisheries management.

The interview guide is presented in the excel sheet.

Sometimes the informant will answer several of your questions at the same time; therefore it is often helpful to tick the themes and questions answered during the interview. Go through the interview guide to check that the important questions have been answered before you finish the interview.

To document the interview you should make notes. It is helpful to use a digital recorder during the interview (then you will be able to go back and listen if you missed something in your notes or if something is unclear). Sometimes, though, the informants are uncomfortable with being recorded and you will have to rely on your notes.

The sooner after the interview you type out the notes the better. The notes should **not** be direct transcripts of the conversation – rather a condensed version of the content. Sometimes direct quotes reflect the informant's perspective best, but normally your own words will do fine. However, nicknames for other actors or specific expressions add valuable information of the feelings and views that are expressed.

Checklist, interview method:

- Use interview guide during interview to make sure that all relevant questions are answered. Tick as you go along.
- Make short notes during interview (record if possible).
- Type out interview soon as possible after interview. (Use recordings as help.) Write condensed version of the conversation in your own word. Keep specific expressions, good quotes or nicknames!

Important things to keep in mind before and during interviews

- The most important questions are always HOW? And WHY? The main goal is to make the informants share their stories and experiences. This is done by encouraging them to talk while at the same time keeping them on track. It's easy to make the mistake of trying to make the informants reason as scientists – try to encourage their own logic, language and knowledge.
- The informants often have their own agenda (conscious or unconsciously) when talking to a scientist. Keep this in mind during the interview and try not to be led astray by the favorite subjects presented by the informant. Instead, let the informant know that you are sensitive to her/his agenda, but that you would like to focus on the theme at heart of the interview.
- People often communicate just as much with body-language, intonation, pauses and what they don't say. Be sensitive to these factors as well – you can take note of the most important displays of 'underlying' messages with short key-words on the theme chart during the interview. (Example: The informant seems reluctant to talk of a certain theme, actor, situation etc – then make a short note of it.)