

Guidelines for conducting Climate Crowd key informant interviews

Aims and objectives of the interview

The aim of this research is to investigate the biggest changes in weather and climate that communities have experienced over the last few years, what actions they are taking to cope, and the impacts on local biodiversity.

In order to fulfil the above aim, the following themes will be explored:

- A. Background information
- B. Changes in weather and climate
- C. Impacts and responses to these changes
 - C1 Main livelihood, e.g. farming, livestock, fishing
 - C2 Natural resources, e.g. water, wood
 - C3 Other impacts and responses
- D. Impacts on biodiversity
 - D1 Direct climate impacts to plants and animals
 - D2 Impacts of human coping responses on biodiversity
 - D3 Other environmental issues

Selecting key informants

The interview will be conducted with key informants in the communities. Key informant interviews are a social science tool used to explore a particular set of topics in detail, with someone who has extensive knowledge or a unique perspective on the issue. They can typically give an overview of community circumstances, as well as particular insights based on their position. Key informants may be farmers, park rangers, village leaders, or leaders of civic groups (such as women's associations). They are being asked to give their answers based on the community as a whole, not just themselves.

Points to consider when conducting research in communities

1. Before undertaking any interviews, make sure you have *met with the community leader(s)* to explain what you are doing and *ask permission* to conduct research. Even if you are well known in the community and have worked there for a while, make sure that you have *explained the reasons* why you want to ask these questions.
2. Once you have received the go-ahead from the community leader(s), don't assume that you can start the interview immediately. If you are new to the community then set aside some time to *introduce yourself and get to know the community members with whom you want to talk*. Even if you are well known in the community, explain what the interview will be about and, very importantly, find out what date, time and location for the meeting would best suit them. *Do not expect people to be able to drop everything to speak to you immediately!* Ask if it is ok to take photographs.
3. It is important that this research be *gender sensitive*. There is inequality between men and women in communities, and to be gender-sensitive we want to recognise these differences and make an effort to hear the voices of men and women. *In order that women feel able to speak freely, they should be interviewed by female researchers when possible*. There is a box to tick whether or not a man is present in interviews with women. Such presence may impede a woman's ability to express herself freely, and cause her to present the views of the powerful, even if she does not agree. It is thus important for valid analysis for us to know whether or not this is the case. For further information, please review the following guidelines on undertaking gender sensitive research:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UAY6mLynlzyAdv4XpiJfIkaffAlpwgr/view?usp=sharing>

4. In your introduction, explain that you are interested in seeing if (s)he has seen any changes in weather and climate and, if so, what the effects of these changes have been on local people and nature, and how people are responding to them.
5. Along with explaining to respondents that the interview is *completely anonymous* and that you will not be recording their name, it is also important to make it clear that participation is entirely voluntary and the respondent *can withdraw at any time*. For further information on Free, Prior and Informed Consent, please visit the following website:
<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/publications/2016/10/free-prior-and-informed-consent-an-indigenous-peoples-right-and-a-good-practice-for-local-communities-fao/>
6. Explain that anonymous interview responses will be uploaded to the Climate Crowd website where they are publicly available for research purposes. The same is true for any photographs taken.
7. We would suggest *not conducting the interview using a tablet or other forms of technology*. These devices can be distracting at best and intimidating at worst.
8. The interview is a combination of closed-ended and open-ended questions. With regards to the latter, you need to listen carefully and ask *further probing questions* to get as much detail as possible. Turn the interview into a conversation. The person may go “off topic” but that is often when the most important information is shared. You should allow them to continue and find a way to bring them back on track when necessary – don’t shut the conversation down. Some potential examples are provided to form the basis of discussion, but this is by no means exhaustive. New findings – beyond these examples – will particularly add to the research impact. Provide as much detail as possible, as this will enable us to better understand how impacts of, and responses to, climate change vary from place to place.
9. Be prepared to *ask the questions in different ways* if the respondent does not understand. Use language and analogies/examples that are familiar to the person with whom you are talking.
10. *Allow people to ask questions themselves* and be prepared to answer the same type of questions you are asking!

Completing the interview

Our particular interest is in weather and climate, but it is often difficult to separate out impacts and responses to weather and climate variables from the range of other stresses that rural communities face. From the discussions you can tease out which ones are weather and climate-related and, if necessary, seek clarification and further probe on these issues. For example, someone may tell you that fish catch is declining but rather than being due to anything weather and climate-related, it is due to encroachment into coastal waters by foreign fisherman. You are welcome to record such information in section D3, but please also probe to see if any impacts or responses are weather and climate-related. This is important so that we do not falsely attribute environmental or social issues to weather and climate when there are, in fact, other causes.

Section A: The interview details and background information should, for the most part, be self-explanatory. Personal information will not be displayed publicly. Please use a descriptive title, which highlights the key findings from the interview. When entering time started and time ended, be sure to use 24-hour time notation. For example, if you started the interview at 2:00PM and ended at 3:00PM, you would enter 14:00 and 15:00, respectively.

Section B: To get the conversation going, begin by asking what are the biggest changes that have occurred

over the last few years (**B1**)? The respondent may immediately focus on weather and climate (since they've been briefed that that is the focus of the interview). If they don't, note their responses, then ask what are the biggest changes in weather that have occurred over the last few years (**B2**)? It is not necessary to find out about all the changes that have occurred, just those that the respondent mentions as most significant. Section **B3** is for use by the interviewer only. Please place a check mark next to the changes in weather, climate and extreme events that the respondent mentioned. As noted in the interview form, you will need to re-check these boxes when you submit your interview on the Climate Crowd website.

Section C: In this section the intention is to obtain more detail on what impacts any observed changes in weather and climate have had, and how communities have responded. Always specify which change in weather/climate an impact or response is linked to. It's recommended that you ask additional follow up questions (e.g. which of these responses are working well and which aren't?). This section is divided into 3 parts: **C1** focuses on the impacts to the main livelihood of the respondent or the main livelihood in the area (main livelihood being their main source of income), and how the respondent/community has responded to such impacts. **C2** focuses on the impacts to natural resources used by the community (e.g. water, wood, building/craft material, etc.) and how the respondent/community has responded to these resource-related impacts. **C3** focuses on any other impacts/responses that the respondent mentions (e.g. health, education, culture/religion). These questions are more open-ended because, as outlined above, the intention is to get as much information as possible. However, a *non-exhaustive list of potential responses* for **section C** is outlined in **table 1**. The nature of the impact and the response are often difficult to separate out. As a result, it's better to give more information and repeat, rather than being too concerned about getting the information in the correct box and potentially leaving out information.

Table 1: a non-exhaustive set of examples of potential community responses, based on existing literature

| Change | Indicative examples |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Main livelihood (e.g. crop farming, livestock production, fishing, trading, park ranger, etc.) | Planting of different crops, irrigation, increased application of fertiliser or pesticides, changing planting and harvesting dates, conservation farming, purchasing fodder, purchasing medicines, changing livestock type, selling livestock, taking livestock to new locations to graze, rainwater harvesting, planting trees to provide shade, diversifying livelihood, farming in a different location, encroaching into protected areas to access pasture, illegal hunting as an alternative income source, switching from farming to fishing, traveling farther to fish, etc. |
| Natural resources (e.g. water, wood, etc.) | Using alternative fuelwood sources, using alternative building materials, using alternative energy sources, hunting or foraging in protected areas, traveling farther to fetch water, sinking boreholes, rainwater harvesting, etc. |
| Other responses | Keeping children home from school to assist with farming, relocating to escape flooding, borrowing money/food, joining a village savings and loan group, selling assets, migrating (or sending one member of the family to the town/city), relying on government/NGOs for assistance, seeking medical attention due to new diseases, using forests to rebuild following extreme weather event, etc. |

Section C4 is for use by the interviewer only. Please place a check mark next to the broad response categories which best capture the responses that the respondent mentioned. As noted in the interview, you will need to re-check these boxes when you submit your interview on the Climate Crowd website.

Section D: is concerned with determining the effects of climate change on biodiversity. This section has 2 parts and a third optional part: **D1** asks about the direct impacts of changes in weather/climate on local plants and animals (e.g. birds moving to higher altitude to escape heat, certain tree species dying from lack of rainfall, flowers blooming at different times of the year, coral bleaching, etc.). Please include the species

name, if possible (local names are acceptable). Section **D2**: examines which coping responses by the respondent/community may impact local biodiversity. With your knowledge you may be aware of the implications for certain responses, and so can further probe these if the respondent does not immediately answer. For example, if it has been mentioned that livestock are now roaming a protected area, you can specifically probe issues such as increased human-wildlife conflict, and change in wildlife populations, as a result. Please be specific. For example, do not just write “habitat degradation.” Which habitat? How is it being degraded? A better response would be “logging is leading to loss of forests.” If logging is NOT a response to climate impacts, then do not include it here. Section **D3**: is optional, and is for recording any environmental issues with no suspected link to climate change mentioned by the respondent during the interview.

See below for an example interview. Once completed, please submit the interview online at wwfclimatecrowd.org/form. Detailed submission directions are provided below. **See note on taking and submitting photos.**

The image shows a screenshot of the Climate Crowd website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the WWF logo and the text 'CLIMATE CROWD Crowdsourcing human responses to climate change'. Below this is a banner image of a man in a rural setting with the text 'SUBMIT A REPORT'. The main content area is divided into two parts: a world map on the left and a form on the right. The map shows an orange location pin over Africa, with 'Lock Location' and 'Get Location' buttons. The form contains the following fields: 'Report Collection Date' (calendar icon), 'Organization' (dropdown menu), 'Your Name' (text input), 'Your Email' (text input), 'Type of Report' (dropdown menu), and 'Report Title' (text input). There are also small text labels '(For Internal Purposes Only)' under the name and email fields.

When submitting your interview, please follow the directions provided below for filling out the report form:

- 1) Select the date the data was gathered
- 2) Select your organisation (if not listed, select “Other”).
- 3) Enter your name (this will not be published online)
- 4) Enter your email (this will not be published online)
- 5) Select “Interview” as the type of report
- 6) Come up with as descriptive a title as possible (E.g. “Farmers switch to fishing to cope with drought-related crop failure”). Please avoid using generic titles such as “Interview” or “Impacts of climate change to people and nature.” Do not include the respondent’s name or contact information.
- 7) Check the boxes for the weather/climatic changes mentioned in this interview (select all that apply)
- 8) Check the boxes for the responses mentioned in this interview (select all that apply)
- 9) Enter a brief summary of the key findings in the description box. Do not include the respondent’s name or contact information.
- 10) Find the approximate data collection location on the map using the orange pin. Do not enter a specific address.
- 11) Attach photos and videos that describe some of the changes/responses you heard about. Pictures of a landscape or particular issues they mention are typically more useful than pictures of the interviewee. Hover your cursor over the orange information icon to see size and format restrictions. *****NOTE: Please make sure you ask for permission prior to taking photos of people, and clearly explain that photos may be uploaded to the Climate Crowd website. If subjects are interview respondents, please explain that their photo will be shown alongside their interview responses. If they are not comfortable with this, do not include their picture.**

12) Import your completed interview or enter the interview data directly into the online form

Interview Survey

Import Survey 

Or fill in the fields below

If you choose to import the interview, be sure you are using the correct version of the excel form, otherwise it will not import. You can access the interview form on the Participate page, under “Interviews.”

 **540 Interviews**

Submit data from interviews with people in the community you live in or work with regarding their perceived changes in climate and weather, how this has affected their livelihoods, how they have responded, and how nature has been affected by their responses. Please use this [survey form](#) and be sure to read these [guidelines](#).

13) Once you have completed the report form and imported or filled out the interview online, click “Preview”

14) Please check to make sure you have entered all information correctly. Once finished, click “Submit.” You should see the following message to confirm your submission:

Report submitted successfully

[Return to Home](#) ×

15) Once submitted, WWF will review and approve your report

Below is a completed example of the interview to give an indication of the types of responses and level of detail that is expected for the open-ended questions.

Interview on local impacts of climate change on people and nature

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Interview title | Drought affecting access to pasture for pastoralists |
| Interviewer's email | Nikhil.advani@wwfus.org |
| Interviewer's organisation | WWF |
| Interviewer's sex (male/female/other) | male |
| Translator's name | No translator |
| Country | Kenya |
| Village | Siana Conservancy |
| Interview date (date – mm/dd/yyyy) | 08/13/2016 |
| Time started (24-hour time notation - hh:mm) | 13:00 |
| Time ended (24-hour time notation - hh:mm) | 14:00 |

| A. BACKGROUND INFORMATION | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| A1. Respondent's Role (e.g. farmer, park ranger, village leader, etc.) | 5 Park rangers from Siana Conservancy |
| A2. Main livelihood(s) in village (e.g. farming, livestock, etc.) | Pastoralism |
| A3. Respondent's sex (male/female/other) | male |
| A4. If the respondent is a woman, is a man present during the survey? (yes/no) | |
| A5. How many years have you lived in this area? (Enter range: less than 1 year, 1-5 years, 6-10 years, >10 years) | >10 years |
| A6. What is your age? (Enter range: 18-35, 36-53, 54-70, >71) | 18-35 |

| B. CHANGES in WEATHER and CLIMATE | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>In this section we are trying to learn about the most significant changes in weather and climate that have occurred over the last few years. It is not necessary to find out about all the changes that have occurred, just those the respondent mentions as most significant.</i></p> | |
| <p>B1. What are some of the biggest changes you have observed over the last few years?</p> <p><i>If they immediately begin talking about weather or climate, record their responses in section B2 below.</i></p> | <p>Conservancy was started in 2008. There has been less poaching since then.</p> |

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>B2. What are the biggest changes in weather you have observed over the last few years?</p> <p><i>Engage the respondent in conversation about different aspects of the weather and, if you are not certain of their answer, then ask them to clarify. e.g. After a chat about rainfall, “so, do you think rainfall is staying the same or increasing or decreasing? What about timing?”</i></p> | <p>Used to be periods of drought, but there was more rain last year, possibly due to conservation of the area and more trees. Maasai believe that if you conserve a certain species of tree (seketeki) in the hills, you will get more rain. Timing of the rainy season is now more variable.</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

B3. The boxes below are for use by the interviewer only. *Please place a check mark next to the changes in weather, climate and extreme events that the respondent has mentioned. Check all that apply. *Note: When submitting the interview on the Climate Crowd website, please re-check these boxes using the online form.*

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Increased rainfall | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Decreased rainfall | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Changes in timing of seasons | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Drought | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Loss of water source | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Flooding | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Storms | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Heat waves/hotter days | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cold spells/frost | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wildfires | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Changes in wind | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Erosion/landslides | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Ice/permafrost melt | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sea level rise | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |

C. IMPACTS and RESPONSES

C1. Main livelihood
This section is focused on the impacts and responses to changes in weather and climate on the main livelihood of the respondent, or the main livelihood in the area. Be sure to repeat the changes in weather they mentioned, then ask how this has impacted their livelihood.

C1a. How have the changes in weather you mentioned impacted the main livelihood?

What are the specific impacts? Be sure to list the weather changes that have played a role.

(e.g. hotter temperatures lead to decreased crop production and more pests; changing seasonality of rainfall changes the availability of pasture for livestock leading to livestock death, more frequent and intense storms limits the amount of time people have to fish, etc.)

Changing rainfall patterns result in less pasture, this leads to a decline/death of cattle.

C1b. How have people responded to these impacts?

(e.g. changing to a more drought resistant crop, rainwater harvesting, planting in a different location, taking livestock to a different area to access pasture, relying on a different livelihood source such as logging or hunting, etc.)

Which of these responses is working well and which isn't?

Due to decline in pasture, people are fencing off their pasture (each person has approx. 35 acres of land).

During periods of drought, pastoralists are allowed to graze their livestock in the conservancy. They are told where to graze, and for how long.

Migrate to areas with pasture.

Reduce the number of livestock.

Change livestock breed.

C2. Natural Resources (e.g. water, wood, etc.)
This section is focused on the impacts of changes in weather and climate on natural resources used by the community and how people are responding.

C2a. How have the changes in weather you mentioned affected natural resources used by the community?

What are the specific impacts? Be sure to list the weather changes that have played a role.

(e.g. reduction in the variety and/or size of wild animals to eat, reduction in availability of wild fruits, lack of water for household needs, less firewood available, etc.)

Changes in timing of the rainy season mean that rivers are now seasonal.

| C2b. How have people responded to these impacts? | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>(e.g. relying on a different source of freshwater, traveling longer distances to find firewood, purchasing food from market, relying on other species of plants or animals for sustenance, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>Which of these responses is working well and which isn't?</i></p> | <p>Donors have drilled boreholes.</p> <p>Rainwater harvesting in the communities.</p> |

| C3. Other | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><i>This section is for noting any other general impacts or responses to changes in weather and climate that are not specific to the categories above, for example health or education.</i></p> | |
| C3. Are there any other impacts or responses to the changes in weather you mentioned? | |
| <p><i>e.g. new health conditions, migration, borrowing, reliance on NGO/government support, selling assets, keeping children home from school, impacts on cultural or religious practices, etc.</i></p> | <p>Increase in the incidence of respiratory illnesses</p> |

| C4. The boxes below are for use by the interviewer only. Please place a check mark next to the change in activities in response to changes in weather and climate that the respondent has mentioned. Check all that apply. *Note: When submitting the interview on the Climate Crowd website, please re-check these boxes using the online form. | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Crop practices | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Livestock practices | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Fishing/aquaculture practices | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Livelihood type | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Livelihood location | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Water management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Disease/Pest management | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural resource use | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural habitat encroachment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Land conversion | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Infrastructure development | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Energy source | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Migration | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other (please specify) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None | <input type="checkbox"/> |

D. IMPACTS TO BIODIVERSITY

This section investigates how climate change is impacting local species of plants and animals both directly due to changes in climate such as hotter temperatures or more intense storms, and indirectly through changes in human behavior in response to climate impacts. If possible, specify which species are affected (local names are acceptable).

D1. Have you observed any changes in plants or animals that you suspect might be related to the changes in weather or climate you mentioned? (e.g. birds moving to higher altitude to escape heat, certain tree species dying from lack of rainfall, flowers blooming at different times of the year, coral bleaching, etc.)

Which species? How are they affected?

Drought means there's not enough water for elephants, so they are traveling farther in search of it.

D2. Are there any actions that people are taking to cope with climate change that impact biodiversity? (e.g. shifting farming location leads to clearing of forests, conflicts with wildlife as people enter protected areas in search of water, increased pressure on fisheries as farmers switch to fishing to cope with poor yields, switch to resource intensive livelihoods such as logging to cope with loss of traditional livelihood, etc.)

Which coping response? How?

Response: Fencing
Fencing is a problem for migrating wildlife, especially elephants and zebra. Wildlife doesn't move past the reserve now. Humans and wildlife are also competing for the same water source.

D3. Use this space to enter any non-climate-related issues the respondent may have mentioned

Which issues?

Increased plastic pollution