



TOOL 9

PARTICIPATORY RESOURCE MAPPING



Local community members of the REACH Italia project, located in Burkina Faso, map their local village area during a collaborative meeting. Credit: REACH Italia Project



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What is the **purpose** of participatory resource mapping?

- To map the landscape and component natural resources from local people's perspective.
- To identify linkages between different landscape and natural resource elements.
- To ensure that key landscape elements with appropriate interventions are incorporated into the project.

Plan Vivo Carbon Standard (PV Climate) **requirement?**

It is recommended especially during the development of the Land Management Plan and for the description of the proposed project interventions and theory of change.

When to use this tool?

- During the preparation of the PDD. When used at this stage, Participatory Resource Mapping will help to define the Project Area and will assist with developing appropriate project interventions for different landscape components including different type of natural resource.

Why is this tool required?

Participatory mapping is a generic term for all types of mapping directly involving people, where the purpose is not to create an accurate map, but to understand peoples' perceptions of their landscape and resources. There are a number of techniques ranging from mapping by community through collecting data on smartphones through to 3-D maps using paper maché to sketch maps laid out on the ground using leaves, sticks and stones to represent features. While participatory natural resource mapping is specific to natural resources, participatory resource mapping can include all sorts of resources important to people, including social and cultural resources. It is a particularly useful tool for projects that involve community-based management of natural resources (both terrestrial and marine) although it can also be used for smallholder farmers based projects because it can identify critical resources and areas for which interventions are required to reduce degradation or prevent further resource deterioration.

The map produced from this tool can be kept by the community as a permanent display. In some projects a 3D landscape model has been constructed as a more detailed alternative to a participatory resource map.

Who should participate?

A mixed group of community representatives. If there are more than 10 people, they should be divided into 2 groups e.g. men/women or based on different occupations such as farmers, non-farmers etc. Each separate group will produce their own participatory resource map.

How to use the tool?

- ☐ Introduce the tool to participants. Explain why the participatory map is being produced and how it will be prepared. It is important to explain that the purpose is not to produce an accurate map, but a map which represents how participants view the landscape and its natural resources.
- ☐ Give a large piece of flipchart paper to each group so they can produce a map. If the paper isn't large enough, join several pieces using tape. The larger the better. Also give each group a set of coloured pens for drawing. Note that in some versions of this tool the participatory resource map is prepared by drawing it on the ground and using natural objects to represent features. This is a simple technique but has the disadvantage that the map produced will not be permanent and cannot be used by participants for other purposes later.
- ☐ Start by asking groups to mark local physical features on the map e.g. hills, rivers, coastline, wetland areas etc. At this stage, the facilitator may need to assist and encourage if participants aren't yet confident to draw on their own.
- ☐ Ask participants to mark their current location on the map and show villages, roads, community buildings, mosques, churches, bridges etc. within the project area.
- ☐ As the map develops, participants can use symbols and colours to represent different natural resources and resource use areas within their local landscape e.g. NTFP collection areas, areas prone to soil erosion or flooding, hunting areas, sacred sites, timber harvesting areas etc. In all these cases, the facilitator should ask questions and encourage participants to mark their map by themselves. It is better to let participants take control and mark things on the map that are important to them, rather than telling them what to draw.

- ☐ Once the map has been completed, ask questions about it. It is a tool for discussion! For example:
- Why do people use one area for agriculture, and not another?
 - Why has that forest area been left intact, but not another?
 - Do other people use the resources within this area – e.g. neighbouring villages; pastoralists? Do they come into conflict?
 - How have resources changed over time? Which resources are changing most rapidly and why?
 - How does local use of different natural resources change from season to season?
 - Which elements in the landscape need specific interventions by the project? What should these interventions and activities be?
- ☐ If more than one map has been produced, ask a member of each small group to show and describe their map to other participants. As a facilitator, ask questions to each group, focusing particularly on any differences between maps e.g. differences between maps produced by men/women or by farmers/livestock owners.
- ☐ Before closing the session, take photographs of the maps and ask participants to keep the actual maps safely or display them where others can look at the e.g. in a community building. Don't take the actual maps away from the village.

Examples of participatory resource maps

A: Example of participatory resource maps (forest-based) from Bhutan. Different symbols have been used to show different resources near the village and their use

