Interview Guide capturing perceived social outcomes of Protected Areas[1]

How to use this guide

This guide includes questions for two broad groups of interviewees:

* those answering questions essentially for themselves: e.g. members of the public, non-experts, interviewees who are not strongly self-identifying as pro-conservation, or are _not_ interviewed as the representative of an organisation or interest group who would be expected to speak for others. For simplicity these are referred to as 'non-expert' and would be expected just to speak mainly for themselves.

* those who are identified as and interviewed as either specialist experts who may speak both for themselves and   also for others (e.g. interviewed in a work role) or are clearly strongly pro-conservation and probably knowledgeable. For simplicity they are referred to as 'experts'.

Possible alternative questions or wordings for experts are highlighted in BLUE. Wordings here are optional, and may be varied to suit individual circumstances of interviewee. In a few cases either or both, or a combination thereof may be better.

In reality there will be overlap between the two groups sometimes, and judgement will be required as to which version of the question to use: expert or non-expert. Experts too are also members of the public of course, with their own opinions and preferences. Nevertheless, when interviewing the head of a conservation NGO, the question: 'Do you think it is important to conserve nature' is probably redundant, and it may be more useful to ask 'Do you think most people around here think nature conservation is important?'.

Each individual interviewed is in a unique position and so the question asked can be taken from the suggestions or adapted from the suggestions given, as long as the topic of interest is explored with them. For each interviewee not all questions will be required. Many interviewees will answer the broader questions in such detail that subsequent more detailed questions are then redundant and can be skipped. Indeed, an open, conversational style is worth preserving as it provides a welcome atmosphere in which respondents can speak freely and offer detailed insights the interviewer may not have thought of.

The interview guide is designed to give an interview lasting approximately 1 hour. In the pilot study, interviews with members of the public and non-experts were generally shorter, but with more knowledgeable and expert interviewees were slightly longer. Ideally, interviewees should be one-to-one with a single interviewee, and it should be noted that interviews with more than one

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interviewee at a time generally take much longer, up to twice as long, and are more complex to analyse. If the interviewee insists on another person being interviewed at the same time this is acceptable, but should be avoided if possible.

 [explanatory notes in square brackets]

Optional support supplementary prompt questions in ==*italics* and yellow==. These won't be needed in most cases.

Preamble

At the beginning of the interview it is important to clarify with the interviewee the area of interest: the nature protected area (NPA) of interest, which can be referred to by its name e.g. Matsalu National Park, (rather than 'the nature protected area', unless appropriate), or an abbreviation thereof, if exactly synonymous. Care should be taken where an area has multiple overlapping designated areas of varying size and status, to ensure that reference is made to the designated area of interest chosen for this study.

In some cases it matters whether we are talking about the PA as a place on the map, or as an institution (ie. with staff, offices, budgets, rules etc.). Occasionally, the wider area in which the PA is set is of relevance. The explanatory notes will make this clear how to focus on this.

If possible, show the interviewee a map of the area of interest to which the questions refer, and give some preamble about the history of the PA, when it was designated, and prior designations or changes in boundaries or level of protection.

If the area is designated as a nature protected area, this should be clear enough. If it is a multifunctional conservation landscape (e.g. for natural, cultural and landscape aesthetic values), it may necessary to clarify that we are particularly interested in the designated area as a place to conserve nature.

SECTION A - PERSONAL CONTEXT (approx. 5 mins)

Here we are interested in the interviewee's history and sense of attachment to the Nature Protected Area as a geographical place rather than an institution. Their connection to the area may long predate the NPA institution.

1. What's your connection to this local area of the ***Nature Protected Area* [use name]**?

2. *How long have you known the* **[*Nature Protected Area name*]/**lived in the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]***?*

3. How do you feel about the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]**? What does it mean to you?

SECTION B - PA POLICY SUPPORT - Public (15 mins approx.)

The following questions are now focused more on the NPA as an institution that was created in a pre-existing landscape ie. do they support the idea of creating the NPA in that landscape?

Attitude Support for the Nature Protected Area (non-active attitude support or opposition)

4. How do you feel about the [*Nature Protected Area name*] generally?
5. Overall, would you say that you support the [*Nature Protected Area name*]?
6. In what way do you support the [*Nature Protected Area name*]?

More active behavioural support for (or opposition to) NPA - choose ONE of 7a (default), b (professional/expert interviewee) or c (hostile to NPA).

Where interviewee is supportive of NPA, then Q7 a or b, choose one depending on role.

7a - Do you do anything actively in support of the [*Nature Protected Area name*], in any way at all, from everyday behaviour to helping its staff or volunteering, or intend to do so? - why/why not?

7b - Do you do anything actively in support of nature protection in the [*Nature Protected Area name*], other than your professional role? [question for people who work in conservation or a conservation -supportive role in their professional work]

OR:

Where interviewee opposes or is hostile to the NPA/clearly does not support:

7c. Do you actively campaign against the [*Nature Protected Area name*] or take action to object to it in anyway, or intend to do so? Why is this?

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8. How easy or difficult is this support/opposition for you and why? Are there practical or personal difficulties or conflicts involved? Any reservations?

Reasons for supporting the PA

9. What are your main reasons for supporting/not supporting the [*Nature Protected Area name*], do you think?
10. What kind of things have influenced your support? For example: other people, information sources, personal beliefs or convictions?
11. To what extent do you think the local community in the [*Nature Protected Area name*] supports/opposes the PA?

Optional supporting questions, particularly if interviewee struggles with Q11 above:

➢ *Do you know if there are other people who do things in support/opposition of the PA?*

SECTION C - BELIEFS ABOUT PROBLEM AND SOLUTION, AND RESPONSIBILITY (10 mins)

Beliefs

12. Do you think it is important to protect or conserve nature? [probably redundant for very pro-conservation interviewees]

13. Do you think most people living within the **[Nature Protected Area name]** think it is important to protect or conserve nature?

14. What, to you, are the most important aspects of nature that need protecting in the **[Nature Protected Area name]**, if any?

15. What aspects of nature in the NP do you think the local community most value?

16. Do you think creating the **[Nature Protected Area name]** is a good way to do that, to protect these aspects?

Perception of Responsibility

CHOOSE ONE OF 17a (default question) OR 17b (if interviewee is hostile to/against the NPA)

17a - Who do you think is, or should be responsible to protect nature from threats in the **[Nature Protected Area name]** ?

OR (if interviewee is hostile to/against the NPA):

17b - So do you think there is actually any need to do anything to protect nature here?

Relations between public and NPA management

CHOOSE EITHER (B) FOR NPA MANAGEMENT ACTORS, OR (A) FOR OTHER INTERVIEWEES

(A) Default questions:

18. Do you know anything about the managers of the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** or have any interaction with them? Tell me about that.
19. Do you trust the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** management? *(For example, do you trust the management to take into account the local community in their decisions? Or to act in the interest of local people living within the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]**?)*
20. Do you trust government and state agencies in this area of the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]**?
21. What about NGOs, charities and other expert groups in the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]**? Do you trust them?

(B) NPA management actors:

18. What kind of interaction do you have with the local community in the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]**? Tell me about that .

    ➢ Do you think there is/are a clearly defined local community(-ies) in the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** that is/are easy to identify and relate to? [only raise this if there is a suggestion that the community is fragmented or it's not clear who the 'community' are, and so further discussion of this is needed.

19. Do you think the local community(-ies) trust the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** management? *For example, do they trust the management to take into account the local community in their decisions? Or to act in the interest of local people living within the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]**?*
20. Do you think they trust government and state agencies in this area?
21. What about NGOs, charities and other expert groups in the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]**? Do you think the local community trust them?

SECTION D - SOCIAL IMPACTS (16 mins)

Perception of impacts (of the environmental problem and the policy solution)

Choose Question (a) or (b). The (b) version in <mark>blue</mark> are aimed at experts and professional specialists who are likely to be speaking for others in their professional role. They may not live very locally or have a strong personal attachment to the area. If they do, they can be encouraged to give their own personal opinion also, and maybe point out any differences between them and other local people.

Questions 22-23 are focused broadly on the NPA landscape, later questions are more focused on the impact of the creation of the NPA institution in the pre-existing landscape.

22a What aspects of nature do you most like/dislike in the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]?**

22b What aspects of nature do you think most people living in **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** like/dislike about it?

23a What sort of things do you get from nature in the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]?**

23b What sort of things do most people living in the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** get from nature, do you think?

24a Do you feel that you or your family get any benefits out of the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** *or that it imposes costs or disadvantages on you or your family compared to before it was created?*

24b What are the benefits and costs of living in the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** for local people compared to before it was created?

25a What do you think is the overall effect or impact of creation of the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** on you, your family? What you do and how you use this area, for example?

25b What do you think is the overall effect or impact of the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** on people living in it? What they do and how they use this area, for example?

26a Have you had to change your habits or behaviour in any way since the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** was created?

26b Do you think local people have had to change their habits or behaviour in any way since the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** was created?

27a Has the **[*Nature Protected Area name*]** had an impact - either positive or negative - on your job, livelihood or income since it was created?

27b Has the NP had an impact – either positive or negative – on people's job, livelihood or income in the PA area, do you think?

28a Has the creation of the [**Nature Protected Area name**] changed how you feel about the area?

28b Do you think the PA has changed how local people living in the [**Nature Protected Area name**] feel about the area?

29a Overall then, from your point of view, do you think the creation of the [**Nature Protected Area name**] is a good thing or a bad thing?

29b Overall then, do you think they see the [**Nature Protected Area name**] is a good thing or a bad thing?

SECTION E - NORMS (10 minutes)

Norms: Formal compliance (relationship institutions <> individual)

CHOOSE EITHER (A) FOR DEFAULT QUESTIONS OR (B) FOR NPA MANAGEMENT ACTORS OR OTHER ACTORS WHO ARE PRO-CONSERVATION EXPERTS

(A) Default questions

Interviewees are invited to talk about activities that they participate in rather than asking questions about activities they may not engage in.

30 Are you aware of any rules relating to your activities in the [**Nature Protected Area name**]? Can you give any examples of restrictions?

31 How do you feel about these rules? What do you think of them? Do you follow them? Why/why not?

32 Do you think most people living in the[**Nature Protected Area name**] expect everyone to follow the rules? Do they take the rules seriously, do you think?

33 If you saw somebody not following the rules, what would you do?

For the next question it may be necessary to discuss differences in behaviour between local people, defined as people living within the NPA and visitors/tourists. People who live locally just outside the NPA boundary may count in either category so it may be best to avoid discussion of such cases as it can be difficult to decide at what distance people are no longer 'local'.

34 Do you think if most people followed the regulations of the [**Nature Protected Area name**], this would have a positive impact on the local environment?

(B) Questions for NPA management actors and pro-conservation experts

30 Do you think most people living locally in or near the [*Nature Protected Area name*] take [*Nature Protected Area name*] rules seriously? Do they obey them and expect others to obey them, do you think?

31 Why do you think that?

32 What do you think about [*Nature Protected Area name*] rules relating to nature conservation. Do you see any problems with or have any reservations about current rules?

33 Why do you think that?

34 If you saw somebody not following the rules, what would you do?

SECTION F - CHANGE (3 mins)

Perceptions of change in the landscape

Question 35 is thinking about the area of the NPA broadly as a landscape. Later questions then focus on the change brought about by creation of the NPA institution in the pre-existing landscape.

35 Overall, how do you think the area or the local landscapes of the [*Nature Protected Area name*] have changed over time?

Thinking now of the NPA as an institution which was created in the recent past:

36 What role do you think the creation of the [*Nature Protected Area name*] has played in changing the area or local landscapes?

37 Has your support for the [*Nature Protected Area name*] changed over time?

38 Has local public support for the [*Nature Protected Area name*] changed over time, do you think?

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CAN END HERE BUT ALSO BELOW IF TIME ALLOWS. THESE ARE REALLY JUST BROAD 'CLOSING QUESTIONS'.

SECTION G - FUTURE (3 mins)

The future and support for change

Choose one of 39a (default) or 39b (for interviewees opposed to the NPA):

39a Do you think things should be done differently?

OR

39b Would you support the PA if things were done differently? If so what needs to change? [objector who dislikes NPA]

Then finally:

40 How do you think the PA's presence will change things round here in the future?