Community Participatory Mapping

5-Step Process Flow Chart

Participatory mapping is a valuable tool used to enable local and indigenous communities to represent boundaries, land use types, and resources of their territory. The objective is to represent areas of common interest for development through reforestation.

Key Points

- All locals must be well informed about the objective of the work and must give their consent to participate.

- The knowledge of each gender translate into different understandings of village planning. Therefore, work in two groups to ensure that both perspectives are included in the final map. If the population is large enough, other groups like the youth can be added.

- Each group creates their own representative symbols for map elements and design them on kraft paper.

- REFACOF cartographers are only there to guide the locals. All the work comes from the community and reflects their interests.

- When defining land boundaries, talk with authorities and neighbors to address conflicts to avoid problems.

This information poster is a part of the women-led restoration initiative of mangroves in Londji 1 in the Kribi district, Cameroon. The project was implemented by *Women4Biodiversity* in partnership with *The African Women's Network for Community management of Forests (REFACOF)*.

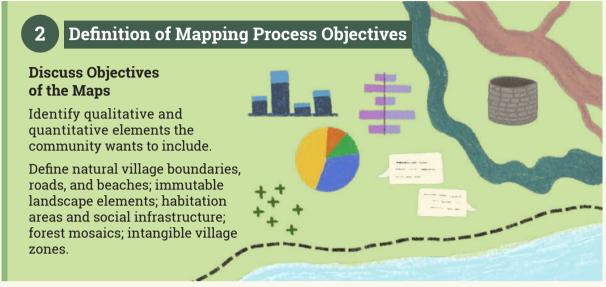Learn more at bit.ly/Londji

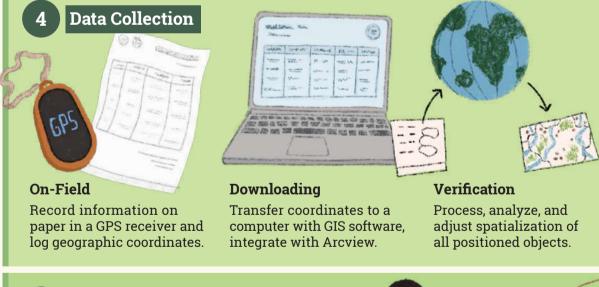Visual poster by Deepika Nandan / W4B
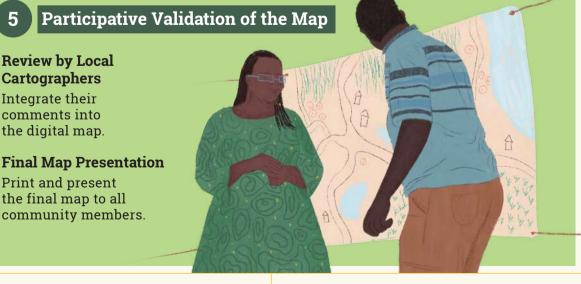
1 — Preparation of the Community

Train Local Cartographers
in map reading, data collection in a GPS receiver, and the four main elements of a map: scale, orientation, title, and legend.

Prepare Materials
GPS (Global Positioning System), kraft paper, white conference paper, markers/felt-tip pens, and a camera.

2 — Definition of Mapping Process Objectives

Discuss Objectives of the Maps

Identify qualitative and quantitative elements the community wants to include.

Define natural village boundaries, roads, and beaches; immutable landscape elements; habitation areas and social infrastructure; forest mosaics; intangible village zones.

3 — Creation of the Map and Legend

Make Two Participatory Maps*
(about 4 hours of work)
One made by women, & one made by men.

Final Map Creation
Present, compare, and combine group maps to validate a final map.

Each gender's unique experiences and knowledge result in diverse perspectives on village planning.

4 — Data Collection

On-Field
Record information on paper in a GPS receiver and log geographic coordinates.

Downloading
Transfer coordinates to a computer with GIS software, integrate with Arcview.

Verification
Process, analyze, and adjust spatialization of all positioned objects.

5 — Participative Validation of the Map

Review by Local Cartographers
Integrate their comments into the digital map.

Final Map Presentation
Print and present the final map to all community members.

Building Resilience and Weaving Gender Approaches to Biodiversity Governance in Londji, Cameroon

View REFACOF's website to learn more about their mapping work.

SwedBio

W4B
Women4Biodiversity

REFACOF