

Appendix 4

Framework for semi-structured interviews

Please note that this is a broad framework; given the semi-structured nature of the interviews. On encountering a relevant line of thought, it was explored further with the respondents. Questions and mirrors were asked through the interview and not necessarily in the chronology below.

Interview code:

Village/community:

GPS reading:

Ice-breaker and general questions

How long have you been living here?

What is your age?

What is your occupation?

What crops do you grow? (if farming)

Do you experience any crop-related troubles? If so, please tell me more about them.

Elephants' ecology and mitigation

What animals visit your village? (if/when elephants come up)

How do they come, in what manner – such as loners, small groups, or large herds?

How predictable and regular are their visits?

Mirror: How often do the elephants come in a month? Can you predict when they shall come?

You have been here since XYZ years; have there always been elephants coming here? If no, since when did they start coming in these numbers/frequency?

Is there a change in where you used to see them and where you see them now?

Can you share some of your experiences with elephants?

Why do you think that the elephants come to your village?

(if chasing elephants away comes up) What mitigation measures are used?

Fence-related questions

If/when the fence comes up - if not, mention- 'On my way here, I saw an electric fence...' or 'I heard that there was an electric fence established as well...'

How was the fence designed? How was the location of the gates and the area it encloses decided upon?

Who all were involved in the establishment such as design, construction etc? Did the people have to contribute towards it (labour, capital, material)?

Mirror: How, when was this established?

How do elephants break the fence?

(if yes) Do they tend to break it at particular locations?

(If no) How do they interact with the fence?

(follow-up) Have you seen them do so?

How was the maintainer chosen?

What are their responsibilities (operational)? How were they determined? (eg. how often do they have to check the fence etc?) – is anyone from your household involved?

If you had wanted, could you have been part of the committee? Did they (if outsiders like FD, NGO, Tea Estate Management were involved) speak to you folks/ give you any training?

How are the other responsibilities with regard to commons such as water pumps, fishing etc distributed amongst the rest of the community?

Congruence in benefits and costs

Do the maintainers get paid for the maintenance? If yes, is that adequate for the work that they are doing?

Follow-up: Where does this money come from and why? (follow-up, why would the ones living in the centre of the village contribute?)

When/ if the fence breaks down, who pays the costs/ what do you do? (material, capital, labour)

(for maintainers) How do people react when the fence is broken? What do they expect you to do?

What utility does the fence provide? (is there any difference between before and after the fence? For instance, if there were 10 elephant visits per month prior to the fence – how many now?).

What are the kinds of benefits do you experience? Has it changed your routine?

What kinds of costs do you experience? Has it changed your routine?

Mirror: Have your daily chores/ movement patterns changed because of the fence? (and similar process-based contextualized questions that come up in the conservation)

How often/predictably do the elephants come?

Confidence in steward of public good

If the fence breaks down, what happens?
What do they do towards maintenance?
Do the maintainers have a good record/ history of maintenance?
Why do the stewards volunteer to be part of the committee?
Mirror: What do you think about their work?

Sense of dependency on the public good

Whose responsibility do you think the fence is (villagers, maintainers, FD, NGO, TE)? Why do you think so?
(if NGO/ FD are maintaining it) You had mentioned that the (entity maintaining it) are maintaining it– why do you think that they are maintaining it?
What used to happen without the fence?

(For the maintainers) Does it ever break? Are you able to keep the fence working? [do they point/insinuate at technical incompetence]
Mirror: have you ever been unable to fix the fence?

FD involvement

Which all entities are involved in the maintenance of the fence/ HEC mitigation? (is the FD involved?) What do they do?
Why do you think that they do/don't come here and partake in the maintenance?
What would happen if conflict continued here?