

Community Forestry & Environmental Research Partnership
Criteria and Indicators for Assessing Impacts of Participatory Research Projects

1. PR/PAR

- a. Fellows actively involve community members in their research to a level with which the latter are satisfied.
- b. Community members feel like equal partners in the research

2. Rigor

- a. The methods are appropriate for obtaining a full and detailed understanding of the situation under study.
- b. The choice of methods enables credible conclusions.
- c. Indicators of credibility include, but are not limited to, prolonged and/or intense engagement between the various actors, triangulation, negative case analysis, inclusion of multiple perspectives in the analysis, participant checking, and peer or colleague checking. See PowerPoints on methodological issues and case study methods.

2. Community impacts – the benefits to the community will vary with each community's goals and with the goals of the research. It is unlikely that a community will realize all of these benefits, but it should realize some.

- a. Increased/improved participation
 - i. community members taking on new roles in the sustainable management of natural resources
 - ii. increased collaboration between communities and land management agencies
 - iii. democracy enhanced at the local level (i.e. increased involvement of community members in county planning processes)
- b. New ecological knowledge that improves environmental management (for example, a CFERP fellow's research on floral green harvesting in the state of Washington has led to the development of new biophysical monitoring protocols, and the involvement of floral greens harvesters in forest monitoring)
- c. Reduced conflict over local environmental issues
- d. Increased/improved access to resources (land, plants, information, credit) for community members
- e. Improved environmental conditions
- f. Improved economic conditions
 - i. new income/income sources for community members
 - ii. access to new markets
 - iii. improved participation in markets