

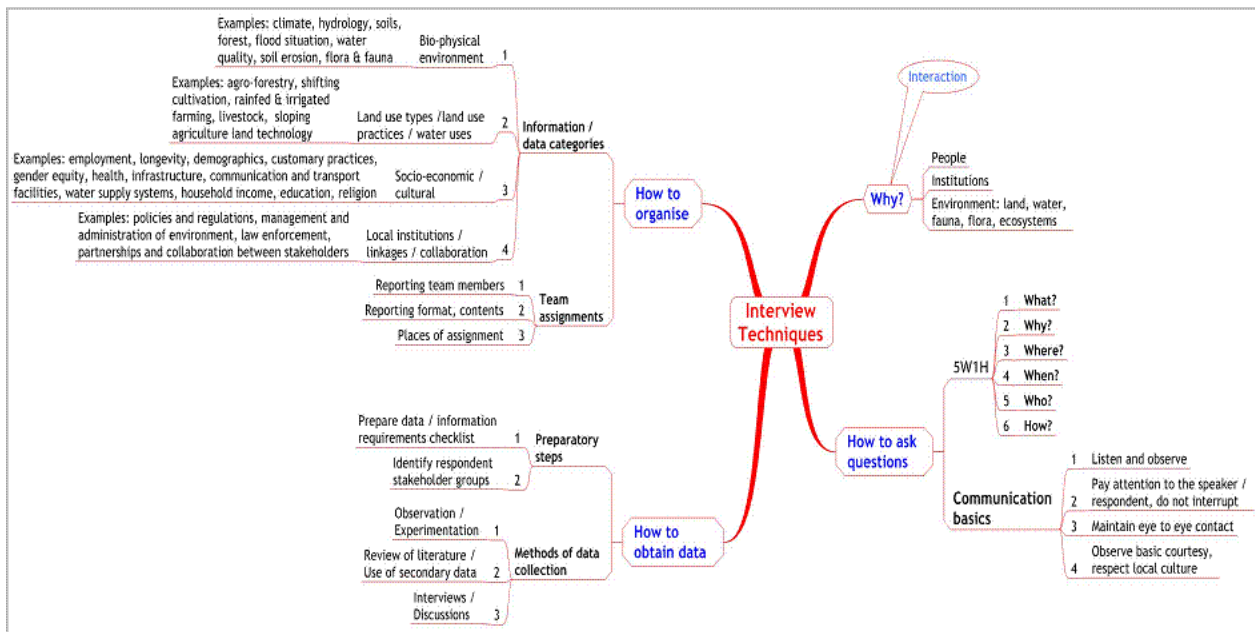
117TA Interview Techniques Overview

Overview of Major Interview Techniques

During planning related to watershed management information about the environment, people and institutions needs to be collected and analysed. The mind map on the following page encapsulates the basic components of the necessary interview techniques and provides guidance in organising the following four different aspects of questioning: Why? (Focusing on the interaction between the environment, people and institutions) How to obtain data? How to ask questions? and, How to organize information?

Interview techniques are an important participatory tool to collect relevant information, which can be used besides observation, experimentation and the use of secondary data. In preparation to the data gathering through interviews, the planner needs to undertake *preparatory steps*, including the preparation of a checklist of data / information requirements and the identification of respondent stakeholder groups. These preparatory steps are important so as to ensure a targeted and focused interview.

In order to obtain the relevant information from pre-identified stakeholder groups, it is important in the planning stage to consider the structure of questions and how the interview will be conducted. The fundamental guide to question formation should then also be considered and discussed i.e., what, why, when, where, who, and how questions, as well as the most appropriate way for the interviewer to conduct himself during the interview (e.g. courtesy and respect for local customs).



References and Sources for Further Reading

1. DSE, 2001: Integrated Watershed Management Planning. Training Manual. [unpublished]

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