

Module 1: Participatory photo journaling



Participatory photo journalling

Session objectives:

By the end of the session participants will:

- Understand **what is participatory photo-journaling** (main concept, principles) and how it can and has been used
- Understand the **process & key steps** for developing participatory photo-journals
- Have a good sense of some **practical examples and tips** for facilitating and developing photo-journals
- Be able to practise completing at least 1-2 key steps (as part of an **interactive exercise**)

Participatory photo journalling

- Participatory photo journalling brings together key stakeholders to take photographs (photos) that are then organised to tell the stories relevant to a given community, area or sector.
- The community/stakeholders decide what they want to show and how they want to show it.
- The photos can be used to highlight problems, challenges, who/what is being affected, potential solutions, or showcase innovations
- Helps illustrate community/stakeholder opinions, concerns and recommendations on issues through photographs, presented in a particular sequence
- Not a professional portfolio; let the 'photo story' be the voice of the stakeholder

Participatory photo journalling – Key Steps

Planning

- Identifying & mobilising relevant stakeholders
- Collectively brainstorming & developing a storyboard or plan of main ideas and what needs to be collected

Fieldwork

- Gathering necessary equipment
- Determining field teams
- Conducting fieldwork – capturing photos

Collating the photo journal

- Reviewing the photos collected
- Deciding the journal format
- Compiling and editing the journal – organising photos in sequence with key messages, captions

Sharing results

- Determining in what forums the final journal can be shared back to others
- Identifying what other platforms the journal can be shared on

Participatory photo journalling - process

Planning - Participatory development of a story board

- The storyboard is a series of drawings that show the images that are to be captured.
- The storyboard will show the title of the photo journal, the kinds of images that will be captured and the order in which they will appear in the photo journal.



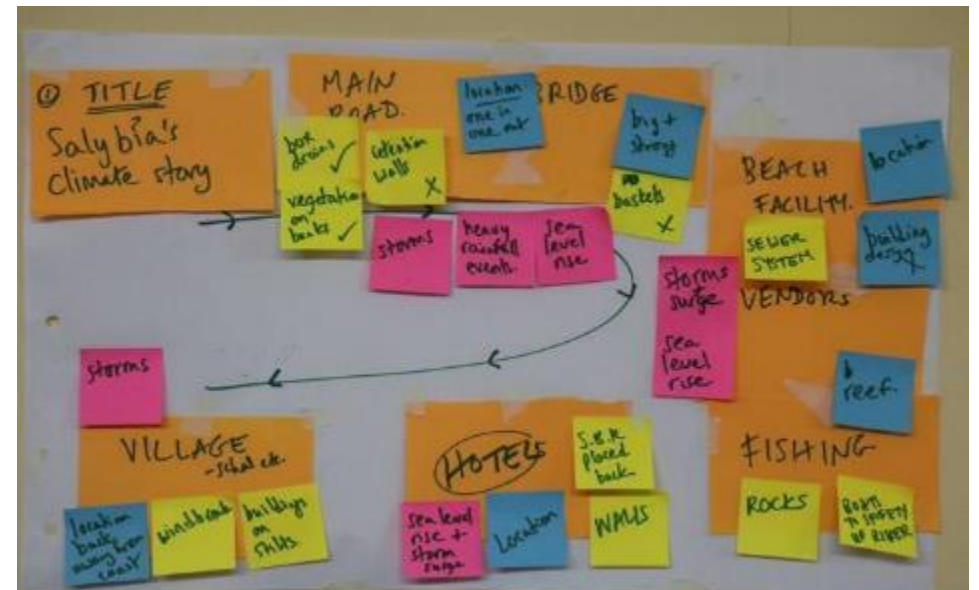
Tip: Develop the storyboard early to help guide fieldwork and later development of the journal

Participatory photo journalling - process

Planning - Participatory development of a story board

- Establish the basis on which the photo journal will be created
- Determine what the photo journal should depict – general sense of focus, title
- Think about your target audience
- Can review what you have already, if anything
- Decide sites to visit to illustrate what to show. Who will go, take what photos?

Tip: Think through which stakeholders need to be engaged; do a simple stakeholder analysis exercise to identify who you need to target and mobilise





Tip: Start with a brainstorming activity to identify key issues the community wants to showcase as the subject of the journal.

Participatory photo journalling - process



Fieldwork - Capturing still shots

- Equipment – camera, cell phone, tripod, batteries, notebook
- Field Teams - assign persons to capture shots from different parts of the storyboard
- Collecting images in the field - images of people, things, places

Participatory photo journalling - process



Tips:

- **Remember to plan and inform participants accordingly as it can take from half a day to several days to collect photos**
- **Review the storyboard, Make a list of your required shots/photos**
- **In the field, walk around and make observations and take notes about photos taken or other observations to assist in developing captions and providing context for the story**
- **Talk to others including any resource persons or others you meet** - useful source of contextual and anecdotal information for developing the journal.
- **Take shots in good lighting and make sure the subjects are well positioned in the frame.** It is better to take wide shots which can be cropped after
- **Review your storyboard and photo list before leaving the field.**
- **Check photo quality** as you take each image/before leaving a location
- **Take establishing shots and group shots for cover/closing images**

Participatory photo journalling - process

Collating the journal

- Review, compiling & editing
- Drafting captions that describe the images and convey messages about a specific issue and the desired actions.
- Consider what product formats - photo story, slide show, print format

Tips: Bring stakeholders back together to review all the photos and collectively develop the journal



Creating the photo journal (post field work)

Review photos

- match photos back to the storyboard
- discuss what they show in terms of key elements of the story you wanted to tell/issue you are showcasing
- Are there gaps?

Organise captioned photos and messages

- Go over and finalise title/focus for the journal
- Select and caption the best photos and note any main messages or ideas to include
- Organise the sequence of the photos of photos for the journal



Key elements / Outline:

- Catchy title
- Introduction – what is it about, prepared by who, why
- Context/Background info e.g. on the community or stakeholders of interest
- What are the key problems/issues/challenges/innovations?
 - areas affected, people affected – how? What would they want to communicate?
 - Innovations – what is unique and why, who is taking action, what results/impact?
- Summarise all the needs and note top 1-2 priorities for action needed/desired and any specific recommendations around these
- Add any acknowledgements / credits

Consider:

- Proper intro and ending
- Descriptions – give enough geographical context
- Give enough detail on how local communities/stakeholders themselves are being impacted by the changes / challenges being highlighted, what they are doing about it, what else is needed
- Photos - some ideas
 - Make sure enough photos - e.g. local people in action, people impacted?
 - Do they show the issues? – directly or indirectly
 - Before and after photos?
- What else can be included to personalise the journal?
 - Quotes. Are messages from people reflected in the journal – in their voice?
 - Use of language – ‘we’, tone, local words/dialect
 - Incorporating info from other sources – interviews etc.

Participatory photo journaling – examples

CAURA WATER WOES

Prepared by the people of Caura Valley in 2012 as part of a pilot community-based adaptation project - “Community action to build climate change resilience in Trinidad and Tobago”.

- Participants in the area decided to document the impacts of the uses of the Caura river which affected quality and quantity of water supply, and impacts of climate change on the Caura River and on their livelihoods
- The group determined their objectives, messages and target audiences then created a story board that identified what they wanted to show.
- They also learned to use cameras to take photographs. Over two weeks, they collected images of places, people and practices either affecting the Caura River or impacted by the use of the Caura River.

All photographs were captured by the residents themselves, and the text of the publication is in their own voice.

Dumping in the Valley also contributes to the flooding problem. Caura Valley seems to be a dumping ground for all types of waste: we have seen used tyres, galvanise, even dead bodies dumped here.



Since many households in the Valley depend on water pumped from the river, apart from what is supplied to communal tanks by WASA, water quality is often quite poor.

People have to get their drinking water from other sources.



You have water here looking at you in the spring and you can't drink it!



We try to treat the water using bleach and chlorine tablets, but we are still not sure that we can drink this water or use it for cooking purposes.



The water from the river is unsafe for use and people still are unsure about the safety of water in communal tanks. Therefore we buy water.



Blue money for blue water!

EXAMPLES



This is WASA water!

Visitor using water

I will have to buy my own water, yes...

Caura Valley resident

Visitors (ab)use the water stored in communal tanks. The supply for residents is therefore decreased.

Refilling of the tanks does not take place on a regular schedule.

We often have to make calls on our personal phones to ask for refills. This is an additional cost for residents.



Can you come to fill the tanks, please? We have no water!



Farmers are using pumps to get water from the river as they have no way to store the water. Ponds cannot work in Caura Valley because of the soil type.

Climate change is predicted to cause many more harsh dry seasons. We in Caura Valley recognise that our present situation of an already challenging water issue, is a source of vulnerability.



In the wet season, it is expected that climate change will bring more intense rainfall events and hurricanes.

With ongoing deforestation, we have other issues to face ... like the soil washing away.

The watershed is in trouble because of slash and burn agriculture and homesteaders.



Water changes its course and the river is filled with debris. The result is: destruction of the land, the river banks and the river bed. This the same water we need - now and for the future.

We decided to find out about some short to medium term measures we could implement to address water issues.



Rainwater Harvesting

We invited Ms Diane Wells an expert in rainwater harvesting systems from OptionsPlus, to talk to us in the community about these systems.

Rainwater harvesting systems have been promoted in Trinidad and Tobago by Global Water Partnership - Caribbean.

It was important to understand what is involved in setting up a system and the possible benefits of doing so.



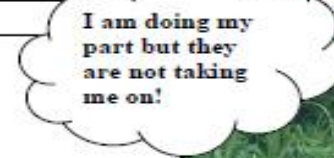
Solutions: Monitoring

- ▶ As a community, we have been doing some serious monitoring and documentation of unregulated deforestation, watercourse diversion and water wastage in Caura.
- ▶ We would like to share this information with the agencies that should be monitoring these abuses and enforcing laws.



Monitoring by authorities

- ▶ People continue to dump and impact on our water quality because they just DO NOT CARE.
- ▶ While the community can commit to being local watchdogs, we believe that the authorities also need to step up their monitoring and enforcement of laws. ENFORCE THE LAW!



CC4FISH Photojournals – climate vulnerability in fishing communities

Dieppe Bay: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc1939en/cc1939en.pdf>

Newcastle Bay: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc1935en/cc1935en.pdf>

Sandy Point: <https://www.fao.org/3/cc1944en/cc1944en.pdf>

Vulnerability through Old Road, St. Kitts

Don't let sea level rise
be your demise

The coastal zone in Old Road has been threatened by coastal erosion and sea level rise caused by frequent hurricanes and storms. Climate change has impacted the coastal communities, fisheries complex and break water in the area. It is important that the community improve their resilience to climate change to ensure the longevity of the fishing industry there.



Vulnerability through Old Road, St. Kitts

KNOWLEDGE; Use it before you lose it.

The fishing community within Old Road is an aging group. There has been a decrease in interest in the youths when it comes to fishing. This has led to a decline in the number of fisher folk in Old Road.



Photo-story example

PHOTO CASE STUDY ON RURAL ENTERPRISE CLUSTERS SUPPORTING CONSERVATION

NATURE SEEKERS



Nature Seekers is a non-governmental organisation focused on turtle conservation based in Matura, Trinidad and Tobago.

It has created a cluster of community enterprises which generate jobs and multiple income streams to support turtle and ecosystem conservation.

THIS PHOTO CASE STUDY EXAMINES NATURE SEEKERS' JEWELLERY AND TOURISM CLUSTERS

Nature Seekers used the Local Green-Blue Enterprise (LGE) Radar developed and piloted by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) to examine their clusters in May 2019.



Exercise - Brainstorming and Storyboarding a Photo-Journal

Participants will work in 2 breakout groups to brainstorm and develop a storyboard for a photojournal, related to an identified issue of interest

1. Communications campaign, facilitated by Natalie
2. Small and Micro Enterprise Ecosystem Stewardship facilitated by Candice

Instructions:

In breakout groups, based on the scenario / info shared:

- Brainstorm the issue and identify the objective of the photo-journal, target audience, what it should depict, and 1-2 key messages you would like it to convey (20 mins)
- Draft a rough storyboard (including title, drawings and captions in sequence) to highlight what you would want to capture (15 mins)

Materials: Blank paper, marker or pen

Plenary presentations and debrief (15 mins)

Exercise - Brainstorming and Storyboarding a Photo-Journal

Brainstorming questions:

- What is the key issue to showcase or story people want to tell as the subject of the journal?
- What is the purpose and objective of the photo-journal (e.g. for info-sharing, awareness raising, advocacy etc on the issue) and who is the target audience?
- What should the photo journal should depict?
 - Is there a particular angle/area of focus, perspective people want to share regarding the issue?
 - What visuals would be good to show?
- What are the (1-2) key messages?