

ForHeal Forestry Higher Education Advancement in Laos

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Tools for collaborative research

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The role of Research

Do you know some tools, and, have you experiences with them?

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Five tools

- Mapping
 - Sketch the region around Luang Prabang, show the dominant land uses, and the location of communities
- Venn Diagram
 - What are the relevant actors to local development
- Pebble Distribution
 - How well-being has changed over the last 40 years
- Scenarios
 - How rural communities should live in future
- Semi-structured interview

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1. Preparation
2. Application
3. Analysis

PHASES OF APPLICATION

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Phase 1: Preparation

- Define objectives
 - capture of information / empowerment / elaboration of results / initiation of processes
 - review existing knowledge
 - papers / reports / experts, etc.
- Define/characterize the stakeholders involved
 - stakeholder analysis
- Become aware of expectations of involved people (including ourselves)
 - definition of pre-concepts and hypothesis
- Estimate realistically the costs and potential benefits for each group involved
 - ex-ante analysis
- Think of technical aspects
 - define the strategy (local, schedule, resources)
 - select the methods/tools
 - anticipate possible difficulties and alternative plans
 - define own and other's responsibilities
 - prepare report for documentation

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Phase 2: Application


- Provide complete information (Transparency)
- Negotiation of competences and responsibilities
- **Facilitation and parallel systematic observation**
- Critical reflection (Group/individual)
- Immediate documentation

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ForHeal Phase 3: Analysis


- Synthesize results regarding objectives
- Analyse benefits/impacts
- Understand problems and adoptions
- Communicate about lessons learnt (feedback)

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GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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- Good preparation
- Avoidance of systematic errors (bias)
- Self-critical vision
- Interdisciplinary (local) teams
- Learn together with locals
- Do-it-yourself
- Immediate documentation
- Identification of stakeholders, their role and importance
- Optimal ignorance
- Triangulation
- Rapid and progressive learning

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- Be open
- Offsetting biases
- Handing over the stick
- Have time
- Respect local views
- Let errors happen
- **Don't look at the result but on the process**

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