

Interview Guide for the Researcher Diaries

Short project summary

The COVID Observatories is working with Indigenous communities and decision-makers to document the impacts COVID is having on communities and how people are responding, with a specific focus on food systems. We are interviewing community members and decision-makers on a regular basis over 12 months to document their stories, experiences, and responses to COVID and its impact on food systems. This knowledge will help understand and communicate the unique challenges, resilience factors, and needs of Indigenous communities for COVID response and recovery, informing decision making at local to global levels. Researchers on the team are also keeping diaries on how COVID is affecting the study regions, building upon results coming out of the community and policy observers, along with broader research developments.

Aim of researcher diaries

The following is a set of themes to guide the diary-keeping across the study regions (objective 3). The researcher diary guides differ from those that will be used for the community and policy observers and are designed to guide high-level reflection by team members on the project and COVID-19 in the study regions around key topics. The idea is that the diaries will provide: contextual information and reflection on the project for the regional teams that will be useful for interpreting and understanding findings coming from the community and policy observers; could provide the basis for end-of-project examination of what worked and what didn't work (e.g. around community engagement, remote working, the diary-keeping approach), and how this varied by region and context; and will allow us to further explore across the regions the different experiences of and perspectives on COVID. The researcher diaries are intended to be 'bottom-up', where regional teams basically do what they are able to, how often, and how, and use the themes as potential entry points for reflection. One model could be where each regional team nominates one person to lead the documentation of these reflections from across, or during regional team meetings, some time is spent to reflect on the themes below.

Theme 1: Methodology

This theme focuses on the methodology being used and the challenges, strengths and opportunities being faced as the project and pandemic progresses. It also focuses on the use of virtual technologies for managing the project remotely across a large team in different time zones.

- **What has your experience been of working remotely with communities and decision-makers?**
 - o Does it foster community leadership and ownership?
 - o Have any unexpected challenges/opportunities arisen that you wouldn't usually face (e.g. around ethics)
- **How is the diary keeping approach working (for community and policy observers)?**
 - o Could it be strengthened in the future?
 - o What are your community and decision-maker partners saying?
 - o Are there certain areas where the approach works well (e.g. data collection) and areas where it doesn't work as well (e.g. outreach)
- **What is your experience of interacting with the larger project?**
 - o In what ways has the 'remote' project management been effective / not effective?
 - o Are there take away lessons for future projects using a remote management model?

Theme 2: COVID-19

This theme is to document the reflections of team members on

