



Community characteristics & orientation

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Community & UN SDG(s): **SDG 15:** Life on Land – Protecting forests and biodiversity.
SDG 13: Climate Action

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Instructions

Research the community you are most interested in exploring using links from the UN Sustainable Goals website (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>) and others. In your exhaustive research, answer the following.

Community characteristics		
Community life cycle (current state)		
Where is your community in its life cycle?	What you need to focus on:	Special needs
<input type="checkbox"/> Just forming Need basic tools to connect, but not sure from there	Research and/or discuss the potential of some basic tools with members, explore what ideas it might give them, and see what they might bring in with them.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self-designing Information stage, but with a strong sense of what it wants to accomplish	Contribute ideas to the design. Analyze systematically the implications of their community design for technology, infrastructure, and technology skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The community is forming around the issue of deforestation and sustainability. - It requires data analysis tools (like Power BI) to make deforestation trends more transparent. - Finding open-source datasets and developing insights for decision-making.
<input type="checkbox"/> Growing & restless Ready to add new functionality to its tool configuration	Try to make this a community reflection and self-design event. Does their restlessness suggest a major change, such as a transition to a new platform?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Stable and adapting Just needing some new tools	How much disruption will the community tolerate? How will the new tools be integrated into or affect existing practices?	
Constitution		
Diversity: How diverse is the community?		
Topic	Your notes	



What are the different types of members and what are their levels of participation?	Students (middle/high school, junior college)
How spread apart is it in terms of location and time zones?	Global, covering deforestation trends worldwide.
What language(s) do members speak?	Primarily English, but project could also be presented in Hindi and Gujarati.
What other cultural or other diversity aspects may affect your technology choices?	Different regions experience deforestation due to diverse causes (e.g., agriculture, logging, urban expansion).

Openness: How connected to the outside world is your community?

Topic		Your notes
How much do you want to control the boundaries of your community? Does your community need	<input type="checkbox"/> To be private/secure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open boundaries <input type="checkbox"/> Both private & public spaces	public data platform (educational or other institutions, governments or if any data from private sector if available publicly)
How does your community need to interact with other communities? Do you need common tools for sharing and learning with them?		Requires common tools (like dashboards, APIs) for knowledge sharing or anything like online platform where they can share the data.

Technology aspirations

Technology savvy, tolerance, & constraints: What are your community's technology interests and skills and patience thereof? What are the constraints imposed by technology factors?

Topic	Your notes
How interested is your community in technology?	High (users rely on data-driven decision-making).
What is their capacity for learning new tools?	Users should be comfortable with analytics tools and understanding visualizations (Power BI).
What is the range of skills? If their interests and/or skills are diverse, could it cause conflict or distraction?	Some may need training on data process(ETL Process , data visualization).
How tolerant are members of the adoption of a wide variety of tools?	Users should be willing to adopt web-based dashboards.
How many technological boundaries are they willing to cross, e.g. sign in to more than one web-based tool, learn to use new tools, or give up old	Internet access in remote areas might be an issue; need for mobile-friendly solutions.



favorites? This helps you understand what level of integration you need.	
What are your members' technology constraints (e.g., bandwidth, operating systems, etc.)?	Limited bandwidth in remote areas, cross-platform compatibility (Windows, macOS, mobile), Power BI licensing constraints, large datasets slowing performance, need for cloud storage solutions, varying technical expertise among users.
How much time are members able to be online and from where (office, home, field)? Some people have limited online time, or are able to be online only in specific locations. Others are always on. Very diverse situations can affect participation	Members have varying online availability, with some accessing from offices, homes, or remote field locations. Researchers and policymakers are mostly online during work hours, while field experts may have limited access due to connectivity constraints. Some users are always online, while others engage periodically based on data needs.

Community orientation

Relevance to community: Use the range from 0 (no relevance) to 5 (high relevance) to determine what matters most to the community. Look at these from the perspectives of the different types of members (under "constitution"). Also discuss the "value-added" to each member group

0	1	2	3	4	5	Orientations	Variants	Key activities/your notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Meetings Many communities place a great emphasis on regular meetings where members engage in shared activities for a specific time. Meetings, and the visible participation of members, assert the community's existence	<input type="checkbox"/> Face-to-face/blended <input type="checkbox"/> Online synchronous <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Online asynchronous	Workshops, Webinar
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Open-ended conversation Some communities maintain ongoing conversations as their primary vehicles for learning. Open-ended conversations are common when a community is co-located and people keep the conversation going as they "bump" into each other.	<input type="checkbox"/> Single-stream discussions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multi-topic conversations <input type="checkbox"/> Distributed conversations	discussing deforestation trends
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Projects In some communities' members want to focus on particular topics, go deep, and collaborate on projects to solve problems or produce useful artifacts. Learning is not just a matter of sharing knowledge or discussing issues. Members need to do things	<input type="checkbox"/> Practice groups <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project teams <input type="checkbox"/> Instruction	Creating Power BI reports, research collaboration



						together in order to develop their practice. Projects usually involve a subgroup within the community		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Content Some communities are primarily interested in creating, sharing, and providing access to documents, tools, and other content. Valuable and well-organized content is a useful resource for members	<input type="checkbox"/> Library <input type="checkbox"/> Structured self-publish <input type="checkbox"/> Open self-publish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Content integration	Data reports, case studies, dashboards
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Access to expertise Some communities create value by providing focused and timely access to expertise in the community's domain, whether internally or externally. Communities with this orientation focus on answering questions, fulfilling requests for advice, or engaging in collaborative, just-in-time problem solving	<input type="checkbox"/> Questions & requests <input type="checkbox"/> Access to experts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shared problem solving <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge validation <input type="checkbox"/> Apprenticeship & mentoring	Sharing insights from sustainability experts
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Relationships Some communities focus on relationship building among members as the basis for both ongoing learning and being available to each other. This orientation emphasizes the interpersonal aspect of learning together. Communities with this orientation place a high value on knowing each other personally, emphasizing networking, trust building, and mutual discovery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Connecting <input type="checkbox"/> Knowing about people <input type="checkbox"/> Interacting informally	Connecting researchers and policymakers
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual participation Learning together happens in the context of a group, but it is realized in the experience of individuals. People bring different backgrounds, communication styles, and aspirations to their participation in a community. People have different levels of commitment, they take on different roles, and they use tools differently	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Levels of participation <input type="checkbox"/> Personalization <input type="checkbox"/> Individual development <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-membership	Different levels of engagement (contributors, analysts, viewers)



<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Community cultivation Some communities are happy with loose self-organization and unplanned evolution, while others thrive on attention to community cultivation. They have a need to reflect on the effectiveness and health of the community to make things better, joined with a willingness to work on it	<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic governance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strong core group <input type="checkbox"/> Internal coordination <input type="checkbox"/> External facilitation	Democratic governance, strong core group for dashboard updates
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Service context In some cases, serving a specific context becomes central to the community's identity and the ways it operates. They may live inside an organization, whose charter their practice needs to serve. They may have a mission to provide learning resources to the world or to recruit members widely. Or they may seek interactions with other communities whose domain complements their own	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization as context <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-organizational <input type="checkbox"/> Other related communities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public mission	Open-source mission, cross-organizational collaboration
Scratchpad (other interesting insights, questions/answers, etc.)								