

Verbal Consent Script

Hello. My name is [Research Assistant Name] and I am helping Harriet Ibbett, an independent researcher from the University of Oxford in the UK, to conduct some research here in Seima. Harriet is investigating the reliance of local people on resources collected from the forest. The research focuses on the importance of forest resources for local people's livelihoods, and how law enforcement affects access to these resources.

I would like to ask you to participate in a survey, which will ask you about the activities of your household. The survey will take approximately 60 minutes, and will involve two exercises. During one of the exercises you will be asked to consider a set of choices, and asked to make decisions about which option you prefer the most i.e. which option you think is best for you.

There are no serious risks associated through your participation in this questionnaire. All information shared with me will be saved in a secure database which can only be accessed by Harriet, using a password. At the end of the research, Harriet will write a report on her findings, the information of which will be used by WCS and the Government to help communities improve the protection of their forest resources. Please note that we are conducting independent research, i.e. we are independent of the government and WCS, and thus we have neutral views with regard to forest use and forest policies. We also reassure you that your answers will not be communicated to anyone in a form where your reply can be linked to you. Any information I pass on will be at a general level; I will never identify individuals, use names, or identify specific villages. Some results may also be published internationally in academic journals, or presented at conferences or online blogs.

All the information you provide will be completely anonymous. I will not record your name, or any information that can personally identify you or your household. At times, you may feel discomfort at some of the topics we discuss, you do not have to answer any questions that you do not want. If you would like to skip a question or a topic, please just let me know. Participation is completely voluntary, you may refuse to answer or stop participating at any time, without having to explain yourself and your responses will be discarded.

This study has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through the University of Oxford CUREC. I also have permission of the Ministry of Environment, the Commune Chief and the Village Chief to carry out this research in your village. If you have any concerns about this project, please speak to Harriet and she will do her best to answer your query.

NOTE TO INTERVIEWER: *For the purpose of this survey a HOUSEHOLD is defined as 'an economic unit that shares their wealth'. This should include household members that live away and send back money to the household.*

Would you be willing to participate in the survey? Yes / No

If no, record reason in notebook with date, village and house number. Then move on to the nearest household.

Are you happy for your responses to be recorded? Yes / No