PAR RESEARCH FRAMEWORK 2013 - 2014

PROJECT/EVENT	PROJECT OR EVENT NAME
ORGANIZER	ORGANIZER'S NAME

In the guidance to follow you will find background information and some specific questions to respond to. We have highlighted the questions we would need you to respond to in **bold** and a *different font* to the rest of the text. Text lines _____ also indicate when a response is needed.

IANRA's objectives for the PAR and the available grants:

Please note that the IANRA grants are specifically meant for participatory and action-orientated research that has as its objective the development of voice by and for communities generally and women specifically that are impacted by the extractives industries. The grant should be used to support particular groups of excluded women – farmers, young women, sex workers, small-scale miners etc. – develop knowledge, build consciousness, access information and strengthen their organisations. You may work with the wider community, of course, but we would expect a very specific focus to working with women in the 'community'. You may choose to only work with women. We leave these strategic decisions to you, and what would make most sense in the contexts you work in.

This framework is meant to assist you conceptualise and design a PAR process. It requires you to think about the potential project and the possible issues and approaches that the target participant group may adopt. This will help us assess your application but would be actual steps in a process once a project is approved and supported. PAR requires a longer term commitment and you should therefore think beyond the immediate timeframe in which funding is available, i.e. we want you to think about these monies as seed monies for a longer term process of engagement with your chosen participant group.

- You should plan with a budget of USD 14 000. IANRA will contribute USD 10 000 and we hope that your organisation could leverage USD 4 000 from your organisational budget or from an interested funder that you have an existing relationship with.
- In a separate excel spread sheet, you will find a broad budget outline that you could work to adjust to suit your needs. It includes most of the costs you will need to consider when developing your PAR budget. It is in ZAR but you can convert to local currency or USD using http://www.xe.com/currencyconverter/
- You should plan for your project to start by end November or very early December at the latest. The budget outline suggests that the project runs to end-March, as this is what seems feasible with the available budget. But, we hope that (a) you can find additional money to continue the work started, (b) you could do more with the available budget than we can imagine and/or (c) most ideally, you are already working in the locality and the funds will help you deepen or expand the work you are already doing.

Preparing your organisation for the PAR:

PAR can often place heavy demands on research facilitators and their organisations. The approach also generally means the development of long-term relations between organisations and communities/target participant groups.

1. *Please tell us about any discussion you have had in your organisation about a WoMin-supported PAR project and the use of PAR methodologies discussed at the IANRA meeting?*

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2. *How will your organisation build a sustainable relationship with a community (and specifically women in that community) that may be approached to go through a PAR process? Or are you choosing a community/group you already have a relationship with?*

_____

3. *Since we are looking to specifically build a relationship with women in this community, how will you navigate to reach the women and build a relationship with them in ways that will not create too much conflict (noting however that some healthy tension may be inevitable for this focus) in the wider community?*

_____

4. *How will your organisation sustain engagement with research participants beyond the timeframe of the seed funding? How will you manage this financially and in terms of organisational capacity?*

_____

5. *Will your organisation be able to mobilise additional funds or contribute organisational resources, such as staff time and vehicles, for example? Where would additional funding come from?*

_____

Framework for action:
1. Engage 'community'/target participant group
2. Clearly define the problem

3. Examine assumptions
4. Develop an action plan
5. Deciding on the purpose of the research
6. Identify/clarify research question (s)
7. Decide on research strategies and methods
8. Ongoing data collection and analysis
9. Future PAR cycles

Step 1: Engage 'community'/target participant group

PAR begins with issues that emerge from day-to-day living. Therefore, PAR involves a broad range of community participants – and women specifically - to choose the issue or problem **that is within their sphere of influence**. Communities have many different sub-groupings shaped by age, race, class gender etc. These PAR activities will need to focus on women and building women's organisation within mining affected communities but even in this category there may be sub-groups that have different interests and different power. Also bear in mind that how you define a particular community will often depend on the problem or issue at hand and how to best strategically advance the interests of a community in general and the participant group more particularly.

1. *Please describe how the community and specific sub-group/s of women within the community were selected and what steps have been taken or will be taken to discuss with them the possibility of a PAR research process.*

_____

2. *Please give details of the community:*
   a. *The name of the community* _____
   b. *The location of the community* _____
   c. *The approximate size of the community?* _____
   d. *The make-up of the community (i.e. the different sub-groups, e.g. youth, elderly, farmers, the employed etc. and women in each of these sub-groups)* _____
   e. *Why does this group of people define themselves as a community?* _____

3. *What is/are the specific sub-group/s in the community you wish to work with and how will this/these group/s be approached and engaged bearing in mind the context of the broader community? How large is the group, what defines them, why have they been selected etc.?*

_____

NOTE: The sub-group/s you select will be referred to as participants from this point onward.

4. *What are the two or three main problems or issues you think the participants may identify? If your identified sub-group includes men and women, how do these issues or problems impact on women specifically (this may change)? What problems/issues would women isolate for attention? If you are working with a mixed sub-group you will need to work alongside women to ensure that a problem/issue of specific relevance to them is identified as a focus. YOUR SUB-GROUP/PARTICIPANTS MAY ALSO BE EXCLUSIVELY WOMEN – IT REALLY DEPENDS ON WHAT IS POSSIBLE IN YOUR CONTEXT*

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Step 2: Identifying the problem (problem analysis)

This step is where research already begins. A PAR is essentially a facilitated process whereby participants use their experiences to explain their problems to the external facilitator and identify a potential course of action aimed at solving the problem. The participants are considered the experts and the external facilitator respects and honours the local knowledge, simply helping to structure this experience into identifiable issues. Taking the one issue you think is most likely to be identified by participants, complete the chart below to clarify the problem.

Note: the following activity is a hypothetical one, i.e. you would need to this exercise with the targeted participants. At this point we are just trying to get a sense of the participants and what the PAR project is likely to tackle.

A few questions for you to respond to:

- *Which problem do you think is most important to the targeted participants?*

_____

- *How frequently does the problem occur?*

_____

- **Who is affected by the problem and in what way? Are there differences in how different groups are impacted?**

_____

- **How many people would you estimate are affected?**

_____

Problem Causes (What are the root causes of the problem?)	Problem Consequences (Who's affected? How do the consequences affect groups differently?)	Potential Solutions (Ideas that can address a part or all of the problem) Brainstorm creative solutions that emphasise and build on local experience and knowledge	Resources to address the problem? (What is available and what is still needed? What is available generally refers to what the community and particularly the targeted participants have to support the problem-solving actions). Resources include knowledge, skills, funds, direct contributions (such as seed or food) etc.

Step 3: Surface assumptions

Community participants, and women as a specific focus for our work, have a critical role to play in determining the direction for solving the problem. As we look for potential solutions or decide on a course of action we can make assumptions that may prove to be an obstacle at a later stage. This step simply aims to surface and check our assumptions. A typical assumption may be that a group of women will see value in participating in the PAR, or that participants may lack certain skills or knowledge.

1. *How will your organization and the targeted participants identify and surface assumptions about the problem, solution or research?*
   a. *What assumptions underpin your identification of the research participants – test these – are they correct?*
   b. *What assumptions underlie your identification of the problems confronting the research participants – do you think they need testing and why?*
   c. *What assumptions underlie the potential solutions you have raised in the hypothetical problem analysis above? What may need to be challenged? Etc.*

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Step 4: Develop an Action Plan

This activity is a critical part of your first cycle of research and would need to be done with the participants in the process. Your response at this point (depending on the level of engagement that already exists with the participants) will be mostly hypothetical for the purposes of proposal assessment. In practice, in a PAR, you would need to work with the targeted participants to develop an action plan. The action plan is based on your problem analysis and addresses the actions needed to solve the identified problem/s.

1. *How will your organization develop an action plan in collaboration with the research participants?*

_____

2. *What sort of actions do you think the participants may identify?*

_____

3. *How could these actions contribute to:*

informing	consciousness-raising	organising

4. *How will you identify community participants that may play a more active role in organizing, mobilizing or informing within the community/targeted participants?*

_____

This action planning process should help the participants and research facilitators begin to identify more specific research questions that would support the development and implementation of the action plan. The action plan and research plan are not necessarily separate steps and the facilitator would normally work with participants to go backwards and forwards developing and then reviewing the action plan and the research plan.

Step 5: Deciding the Purpose of the Research

Determine the purpose of the research with the targeted participants. Again, we would like you to build the case here for your hypothetical research. When you are actually doing the PAR process this would normally fit into the action and research planning process.

Examples of research purpose may include:
- To gain insight (assess needs and wants of the community and/or specific groups of people in the community)
- To improve how things are done (mobilize support for change/challenge an injustice internal to the community or imposed from outside etc.)
- To determine the effects of a program (document the level of success in accomplishing objectives)
- To determine the effects of a problem (document the level and range of impact (who's affected and how))
- To affect participants (stimulate dialogue and raise awareness about an issue)

1. *What do you think the research participants will decide as the purpose/s of the research?*

_____

_____

Step 6: Decide the research questions

Using the answers and plan you developed in step 4 develop some research questions. The research question is the main question that provides a focus for data collection. These questions often address the following:

What happens if…?

What have we changed?

What are the effects of …?

 A research sub-question/s will help to answer the main question.

1. *Identify your research question and sub-questions based on what you think the research participants may decide the research purpose to be.*

_____

_____

Step 9: Determine research methods and tools

It is important that data collection strategies allow the identified research participants to speak, gain access to information, deeper their analysis and knowledge etc. The research methods and tools you choose should be selected for their ability to help participants answer the research question and sub-questions. Here are a few examples of methods and tools you could use.

If you are trying to understand people's <u>experiences</u>	If you are trying to <u>inquire</u> (surface issues and understand better)	If you are trying to <u>examine</u> and deepen analysis	If you are trying to build <u>awareness and understanding</u>
- Participant observation of affected people - Journaling by affected people - Songs or poetry - Story-telling - Theatre - Role plays - Drawing/painting/sculpting	- Unstructured interviews - Focus groups - Structured interviews - Journaling - Questionnaires - Mini-surveys	- Review archival documents - Study artefacts found in the community/amongst participants (for e.g. diaries, photos, found objects, historical materials etc.) - Field Notes	- Community testimony - Community-led tribunals - Oral history, skits or theatre - Images and artwork - Public meetings - Video/Audio recordings - Film screenings etc.

There is a wide range of participatory rural (PRA) or participatory learning appraisal (PLA) tools that you could employ. These have been developed to build understanding and knowledge amongst peoples affected by a problem. Examples of these tools include – diagraming, transect or exploratory walks through

a community or across a terrain, social/resource/service mapping etc. You should choose your methods and tools carefully to support the research purpose and questions. No clever method or tool can substitute for a poorly thought through set of research questions. If you are interested to understand more about PRA/PLA tools here are a few online resources to access and use:

- Catholic Relief Services field resource: http://www.crsprogramquality.org/storage/pubs/me/RRAPRA.pdf (look at Part 111 for tools)
- Canada Nepal Gender in Organisations Project (Gender friendly PRA): http://www.cngo.org.np/pdf/participatoryrural.pdf (look at activity set 2: Using PRA tools)

1. *What methods do you think participants would be most comfortable with?*

_____

2. *Using the research questions identified identify a method/s for each of the research questions*

Research question	Main method

PAR will normally have an internal focus aimed at informing, consciousness-building and organising amongst the participants, and a more external focus relating to the problem analysis and solutions. Sometimes a solution may also be an internal focus e.g. organising young women and building capacity amongst them to represent their concerns in the community or to a mining company.

Step 8: Analysing results, reflecting and further action planning

1. *How will you involve research participants in the analysis of information collected during the research?*

_____

2. *How will you involve the research participants to draw conclusions and adjust the action plan based on research results and experience?*

_____

PLANNING AND BUDGETING FOR THE NEXT STEPS OF THE PAR:

In this section of the framework, we want you to think about the immediate next steps for the PAR, which will take you up to the development of a detailed action plan and research plan (with the full involvement of the research participants) and upon which you could develop a detailed budget for the steps to follow. Please complete the planning grid below up to the development of the action/research plan. Please feel free to use the excel spread sheet budget (sent separately) and the line items therein as a guide.

Step in the process	Due Date	Funds required
e.g. initial community/participant engagement		

Additional Support:

Does your organisation have sufficient internal capacity to run the research and planning processes implied by the methodology? If yes please give examples of past work that would demonstrate this.

_____

If no: What potential support person/organisation is known to your organisation and could assist (remember the importance of the critical education tradition and facilitation processes to PAR)? Would you need to pay for this support or could the skills be enlisted through collaboration/partnership that is mutually beneficial?

> *Name:*
> *Contact details:*
> *Area of expertise:*
> *Past projects:*

Thank you so much! We look forward to receive your completed research framework!