# PORTRAITS OF TERRITORY

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR FACILITATORS

## Introduction

Portraits of Territory is an interactive tool that allows participants to start a dialogue about the transformations of a specific territory and identify its conflicts and alternatives. The exercise seeks to depict and describe different feelings and dynamics associated to the territory through the elaboration of portraits.

> A portrait goes beyond a landscape or a map, a portrait expresses physical features but also the emotional state (the "soul") of a place.

Each box can facilitate dialogue for maximum 12 people (hopefully of a diverse gender, age and ethnicity) divided in two groups. It contains four blank boards, pieces of different shapes and colors, emoji pieces, and string, which can take on the meaning agreed upon by the participants, and a Meaning Format so that they can record their decisions.

The exercise consists of the following steps:

1. Preparation **20 min.**
2. Construction **60 min.**
3. Narrative **40 min.**
4. Socialization **10 min.**
5. Proposals and Alternatives **10 min.**

Total duration: 2h 10 min (without step 5)/2h and 50 min (with step 5).

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> Verbally communicate the text marked with this icon to the participants

## 1. Preparation 20 min

Introduce yourself and ask the participants to briefly do the same.

Organize two groups with between 2 and 6 participants each.

Direct each group to sit at separate tables.

Divide the contents of the box equally between both tables.

> ### Materials per group
>
> - 2 Boards
> - Pieces of different shapes and colors
> - Emoji pieces
> - Blank emoji pieces to represent feelings
> - Different lengths of colored string
> - Markers to draw and color
> - A Meaning Format for both portraits

If you are going to perform **step 5**, you will need a blackboard or poster board to make notes.

*This exercise aims to have you depict how you feel your territory has changed through time.*

*We want you to build 2 portraits of the territory (one from "before" and one from "now") including geographical elements, memories, feelings, and perceptions about it.*

## 2. Construction 60 min

### Portrait 1

*Jointly define a "before" point (for example: when you arrived in the territory or a point in history you feel is important).*

*Depict how you feel the territory was at that time.*

*Define what each element means and record it in the Meanings Format.*

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*It is not necessary to use all of the pieces. Remember that a portrait goes beyond a landscape or a map, a portrait expresses physical features but also the emotional state (the "soul") of a place.*

*You have 30 minutes to create the first portrait.*

*You may begin now!*

Intervene as little as possible during the construction process.

Monitor the time and inform participants when there is 10 minutes left.

If one of the groups finishes before the time is up, ask them to continue with Portrait 2.

### Portrait 2

*You have 30 minutes to depict how you perceive the territory "now" on the second board.*

*You may add new meanings to the Meanings Format.*

If the same piece means different things in each board, record both meanings in the same format.

Monitor the time and inform participants when there is 10 minutes left.

To continue with the next step, both groups must have finished both portraits.

Take pictures of the boards and the Meanings Format.

## 3. Narrative 40 min

Request permission from the participants to record audio from the narrative so that you can write a report.

Ask each group to present their portraits to the rest of the participants.

Make notes of the main transformations and/or conflicts and other important elements.

*Now we are going to socialize each group's work.*

*Please tell all of us what your portraits mean.*

*Each group has 20 minutes to present.*

Make sure all of the participants in the group intervene. Half of the group can explain the "before" portrait and the other half the "now portrait.

Allow participants to craft their own narrative, but ask questions when you think it's important to clarify or elaborate. Here are some question ideas:

> - What does X element on the board mean? Look for the meaning recorded in the Meanings Format.
> - What transformations have taken place?
> - What conflicts appeared through time? When and for what reason id they arise?
> - Which actors have appeared? Which have disappeared? How have relationships between them changed?

We suggest the following questions to guide the conversation:

> Regarding this conflict:
> - What can we do?
> - With what allies can we collaborate?
> - What are possible steps we can follow?

Summarize the participant's interventions in the Proposals and Alternatives column.

Ask them if they would like to add, correct, or eliminate something.

Take pictures of the Conflicts, Proposals, and Alternatives Table.

Thank the participants and end the meeting.

After the exercise: Write a report and share it with the community.

## 4. Socialization 10 min

Gather the groups together and show them your notes.

Ask them if they would like to add, correct, or eliminate something.

If the purpose of the exercise is to generate dialogue about transformations of a specific territory and identify its conflicts, you can end the exercise here. In this case, thank the participants and end the meeting.

After the exercise: Write a report and share it with the community.

If the objective includes promoting dialogue about proposals and alternatives, proceed to step 5.

## 5. Proposals and alternatives (optional) 40 min

Place the blackboard or poster board in a central spot.

We suggest the following table format, but you may adopt another one according to the objectives of your exercise.

| Conflicts, Proposals, and Alternatives Table | |
| --- | --- |
| Conflicts | Proposals and Alternatives |
| | |

Based on your notes, make a list of the most relevant conflicts in the conflict column.

Confirm with the participants that the list summarizes the most relevant conflicts.

Promote dialogue in order to find proposals and alternatives that may help resolve the conflicts, as well as possible allies and steps to follow.

**In the Selva y Conflicto webpage you can find more information regarding the tool and access additional resources, such as a geographical viewer with information of conflicts and land use in the Amazon. You can access it using this QR code (resources in Spanish):**



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