##

# Assignment: Considering Context

This framework helps you assess the current design of a tech intervention. What political, cultural, and environmental considerations do we need to explore before deploying a tech?

*(Note: Some questions here might not apply to every intervention (e.g. remote sensing). You are free to skip questions if you have a strong rationale for why they’re truly not relevant to your project. For an even more detailed set of questions to consider, explore this* [*Feedback Guide*](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ay6utcYd9GZe_TeKrvErNh5tu8hU7fXv/edit)*.)*

## 1. Who will use the technology?

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| **Write a one-liner** that captures the context in which you imagine your tech being used. Include the location, the people using it, and what they do with it… e.g. "[descriptor of person] in [location] uses [tech name] to [...]"  |

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| **Tip**: Your tech might ultimately scale to many possible use cases. By focusing on just one use case to get started, you'll have the clarity and focus to make that specific application great. This helps avoid the pitfall of designing a mediocre solution that spreads itself too thin by trying to do too much. |

For these questions, consider **who will deploy the tech** and **who will maintain it**:

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| What **skills** do they need? |  | **How do they benefit** from being involved? |  | How will you incorporate their **feedback**? |

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| **In what ways does your tech leverage or include local and traditional knowledge (LEK/TEK), resources, or solutions?** Have you taken the time to explore local knowledge, and if not, what are your questions and learning plan? |

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| **Remember**: A common trap is to build tech to ‘solve’ a problem which local communities have already found effective solutions for, e.g. indigenous methods of [counting fish](http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.514.4499&rep=rep1&type=pdf) in the Amazon or [constructing homes](https://news.mongabay.com/2018/08/indigenous-architecture-saves-lives-in-lombok-quakes/#:~:text=Huge%20earthquakes%20have%20devastated%20the,weeks%2C%20killing%20hundreds%20of%20people.&text=But%20where%20houses%20made%20of,wood%20and%20bamboo%20remained%20standing.) in Indonesia. |

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| How will you give appropriate credit to communities that have contributed to your project, even in informal ways? |

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| + **Checkpoint**: If working with Indigenous or local communities, revisit the “Collaborative Conservation” framework ([here](https://cfn-live-content-bucket-iop-org.s3.amazonaws.com/journals/1748-9326/13/12/123005/2/erlaaf300f1_hr.jpg?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAYDKQL6LTV7YY2HIK&Expires=1618588245&Signature=dv8wN%2B4HD5fpvUwdmoF%2FdTkjrhQ%3D)). Consider where your project falls along the spectrum, and how you feel about this. |

## 2. Political, cultural, and ecological feasibility

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| What about this tech matches with your users' culture and habits?  |  | What behavior change is needed? |

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| Consider: How reasonable and necessary is this behavior change? For instance, an app for fishermen might not help if they’re uncomfortable taking their expensive smartphones out on their boats with them. |

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| What ethical risks might there be? (Recap those identified in the Ethics Canvas, or add others.) |  | What political and legal considerations do you need to account for, or learn more about? |

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| Who will pay for this technology, and what are they willing / able to pay? (Consider the costs at all stages: setup, running costs / maintenance, and retirement / clean-up) |

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| Is there a risk of harming the target ecosystem or species? Or harming a non-target species in the intervention environment?*(e.g. drones deployed for other purposes end up scaring elephants and changing their behavior.)* |

## 3. Physical requirements of deployment

For each of these, consider what materials are needed, and whether they might be locally sourced:

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| To **build** your tech |  | To **deploy** your tech |  | To **repair** / **maintain** your tech |

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| Consider: Does this tech require specialty manufacturing, e.g. new equipment to fabricate it, or specialized assembly for the components? How will this tech get reliably delivered from the manufacturing location to the ultimate user, and are there any special supply chain requirements? |

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| What are the **power, data, and connectivity requirements**? Do these match what's available locally? *(Does the tech require wifi? 3G? 5G? Satellite uplinks? What happens if these are temporarily down?)* |

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| **List out any other physical requirements that you can think of.** *(e.g. it needs to be waterproof to 10m deep and withstand saltwater corrosion, the battery needs to last 6 months, it needs to be readable for those with poor vision, it can’t be destroyed by the target species.)* |