KonKoop Fieldwork Note for Working with Spatial Data
(Recording and georeferencing data during fieldwork)

Different types of data can have spatial dimensions: while we primarily think of the geographical positions of places and objects in the environment, you can also map actors, groups, events, movements, memories and so on. This note only refers to examples of collecting and recording spatial data **during fieldwork**. It does not include guidelines on working with spatial data collected through desk research and other methods. So, please don't forget to also consider the spatial dimensions of other types of data that you will be working with, so that we can help you in analysing and visualising those as well.

1. What kind of spatial data can be recorded during fieldwork?

Points: specific locations with addresses (e.g. villages, cities, buildings, facilities, objects, intersections, checkpoints, interview location, fighting site, event)

Lines: lines connecting several points (e.g. paths, borders, routes, roads, coastlines, movement)

Polygons: areas covering a surface between connected points (e.g. land use area, lake, forest, unspecified site, occupied area)

You can note the locations of the above e.g. by marking them on a map, georeferencing them with exact coordinates, or simply noting the name of a site (e.g. village, if you can easily search for exact location later on). Make also a note with the description of the feature or activity that you are mapping (with point coordinates and/or address, and a note on possible uncertainties)

During your fieldwork, try to record as much as spatial data as possible:

- If you're doing an interview, mark the location (point); later you can also map the locations of places mentioned in the interview
- If you're going for a site visit, mark relevant features such as points (village, objects, buildings, checkpoints), lines (walking route, trade route, frontline segment, movement of people), or areas (camp site, contested area, body of water)
- If you're doing participant observation or participatory mapping, you can record movement of people (paths) or their interactions in space (points)
- If you take a photo of a site or an object, mark the coordinates of the point from which you have taken the photo

It is also useful to do a **"working map" in Google maps or QGIS** and locate objects of your research directly on them "on the go".

2. **How can you record this data while doing fieldwork?**

Points:

1) If you're working with smaller scales (e.g. buildings, intersections, crossing points) - record the correct address or coordinates - latitude and longitude (with at least 3 digits in minutes, e.g. via Google Maps 51.34680040800327, 12.472086530153387)
2) Open the Google map or QGIS and place the dot with number directly on the "working map" (match the number of the dot with the number of file with data, if needed)
3) OR If you are working on a larger scale, e.g. with cities and villages, or places with easily identifiable location - note the name/location, if you can find it later (e.g. name of the village, city, checkpoint).

Lines:

1) Record several points (start point, turning points, end point) as above, make a note of the order
2) Draw it directly on the working map (match the number of the dot with the number of file with data, if needed)
3) OR note the name of the object, if you can find it later (e.g. river, street, or road).

Polygons:

1) Record as a series of individual points; make sure you know the order OR identify an area to be studied in advance (e.g. using a preexisting census map).
2) Draw it on site on the working map
3) OR note the name of the object, if It is well known and you are sure you will find it later.

More info:
https://www.rgs.org/CMSPages/GetFile.aspx?nodeguid=882a6e79-5e28-4667-a753-17d26cec8c19&lang=en-GB
https://docs.gbif-uat.org/georeferencing-quick-reference-guide/1.0/en/
https://www.field-studies-council.org/resources/16-18-geography/gis/gis-for-data-collection/