Potential issues & challenges to explore in the
Guide to Working with Communities

Over-arching topics are identified in bold. Individual items from brainstorming at ESA 2012 workshop are listed with bullet points.

1. Defining research questions collaboratively
   - Collaboratively defining research questions that serve community needs and hopes AND advance ecological understanding
   - How to identify community needs and hot button issues with the help of the community

2. Grant writing with communities
   - Grant writing WITH communities and finding funding that supports community research partners
   - How to apply for grants and funding

3. Communication and Conflict Resolution
   - Options for transparent and effective modes of communication with diverse community members (e.g., town hall meetings, home visits, etc.) and when to use them
   - Encouraging people to share their honest opinions (not assume they know what scientists ‘want’ to hear)
   - Permission from communities
   - Cultural interpreter (Liaison)
   - Language translator
   - Open the Lines of Communication – develop Trust- Listen- Clear Mission Statement
   - Protocol for problem solving and conflict resolution
   - Use of jargon -- when to use scientific jargon, when to use common definitions, and when to establish a collaborative definition of commonly used themes/ideas
   - Ways to spread the word/advertise/ define strategies to engage groups & multiple age to groups; include/value all types of knowledge (local, indigenous, traditional, etc)
   - How to effectively initiate and run community meetings
   - Effective ways to unify a divided community and motivate a discouraged, disempowered community to act
   - Communicating what ecology can help with and what it can’t help with

4. Interdisciplinary teams and cultural competency
   - Cultural competency / addressing racial and economic (in)equity

5. Substantial engagement: Avoiding tokenism

6. Data collection to improve practice and inform policy
   - What are methods (including resources and skills) suggested for action ecology research?
   - Institutional Research Board - requirements, etc.

7. Integrating research and education
   - How to design a project that is educational, a valuable experience for the community members participating
8. Broader impacts

9. Dealing with research fatigue

10. Policy implications of community-engaged research
    • Navigating local government and politics

11. Sustaining empowerment: Exit strategies for when the project is complete
    • Sustainable outcomes
    • Establish mechanism for self-sustaining future
    • How to build an effective long term community action science
    • Making sure that new investigators get welcomed

12. Sharing results: Who has access?

13. Creating supportive cultures for community engagement at our institutions

14. Case studies of successful projects
    • Case studies and examples of projects
    • Stories of importance & how action and community participation ‘saved the day/research”
    • Case studies showcasing best practices

15. Developing theory and resources to support community-engaged research practice
    • Resource guide – contact information – network of support
    • Link to literature by category, eg multiple ages; how to have a great meeting; giving good first impression
    • Definitions of action ecology, degrees/ranges of participatory research, etc
    • Clear definition of action ecology research
    • Resources (eg. Literature)