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
- Communitcating 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)