



## Principles for Community Groups to Form Strong Research Collaborations <sup>i</sup>

1. **Community Needs in the Lead:** Community groups need to identify their own top information needs and questions, and seek research collaborations to meet those needs.
2. **Protect and Respect Community Knowledge and Cultural Values:** Partner with researchers who seek to respect the intellectual property rights of community partners. These include distinctive and original ideas, traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, stories, information, designs, or processes that have been created or discovered by an individual or a group, as well as local cultural values and norms.
3. **Needs and Interests Differ:** Recognize that research and community partners have distinct motivations and interests in conducting research, however, the project and relationship can fulfil mutual goals and outcomes, so long as both partners are transparent about their interests.
4. **Co-management:** Remember that the submerged lands and coastal waters out to three miles are under the management jurisdiction of the State of Hawaii and the appropriate State agency should be consulted in any resources management and research activities and to obtain any required permits.
5. **Strong Partnerships:** In creating alliances with research partners, community groups need to have an agreed upon mission, values, goals, measureable outcomes and accountability, so that there is mutual trust, respect and commitment.
6. **Create an Agreement:** Co-develop an agreement early in the research process with finite start and end dates, and ask for Network leadership to provide template and to review and advise. Formalize the agreement by signing it, revisit it at regular intervals and update as needed. Upon request, the Network can provide review and guidance of the draft agreement.
7. **Acknowledgement, Co-authorship, and Equitable Benefits:** Know that if community members have contributed to at least two of the following six steps, then they should be considered for co-authorship: 1) Initiating the original idea, concept or design; 2) Obtaining funding; 3) Provision of resources, labor or time; 4) Collecting or processing data or contributing information; 5) Analysing data; 6) Literature search, writing and publishing the paper. If the person contributed to one step, they should be included in acknowledgements and/or a detailed list of author contributions. If community groups/members are contributing the study, they could receive payment for their time. Discuss this in advance with your partners.
8. **Communication of Research Design and Results:** Request for research design and research results to be presented to the community group for feedback in a timely manner, and time for all collaborators to review and comment on the manuscript prior to submission to the publisher. Understand that until a study is conducted, results are unknown, and once completed, the community may not agree with the results.
9. **Educational and Not for Profit:** Ensure that research partnerships with which you are engaged will lead to mutual learning among researchers and collaborating individuals, communities and institutions. Ensure that the research is strictly for non-profit purposes that are aligned with each organization/agency mission, including advocating for conservation measures and practices.
10. **Sharing is Power:** Research collaborations should support and empower community groups with capacity building and knowledge for improving management. Recognize that when research is community-driven and culturally appropriate, concerns are properly addressed, proper attribution is given, and sensitive information

protected, then broadly sharing the information generated from research promotes learning and improved community management locally and around the world. In addition, researchers are generally required to submit data or reports to public databases by funding agencies and publishers, and this should be part of conversations around data sharing and project agreements.

### **Best Practices for Researcher Partners Working in Collaboration with Community Groups<sup>ii</sup>**

#### **1. Create an Agreement:**

- a. With the community group, co-create an agreement that includes the purpose of the proposed research, duration, the geographic area, and research methods. See MNMN template.
- b. Understand, document and address community concerns about the foreseeable consequences of the research for resources and people including potential commercial value, and any social and cultural risks.
- c. Explain the potential non-commercial values, such as academic recognition and advancement for the researcher.
- d. Explain the guidelines that the research is following, as well as previous similar research projects.
- e. Co-create a data management plan that includes where the data will be housed, and legal and ethical requirements to protect confidentiality, and what can be shared. Typically, biological results are delinked from the geographic location.
- f. Discuss the intended and desired written products that will be produced from the research, and foreseeable future opportunities to use the information.

#### **2. Communication of Research Design and Results:**

- a. Provide copies of relevant project proposal documentation, or summaries to inform community partners about the nature of the research, rationale and supporting information.
- b. Work with the community group to notify the community at large about the proposed research (e.g. a public meeting, several smaller stakeholder meetings, newspaper article).
- c. Share findings at different stages if applicable, and discuss the results with the community prior to submission to publishers or funders. If the research results are on-going or periodic, report at least annually to the community.
- d. A draft of any substantive work such as final report, dissertation, and journal papers should be sent to community for feedback, prior to submission to publisher or granting agency. The onus is on the researcher to ensure that community collaborators understand the way the data is included and represented.
- e. Provide publications (including final papers and reports) and presentations arising out of the work to the community group contacts. If applicable, also be willing to share electronic copies of literature (mainstream and grey literature) pertaining to the research for the purpose of expanding and updating the community group's literature database.

#### **3. Acknowledgement, Co-authorship, and Equitable Benefits:**

- a. Agree on a protocol of acknowledgements, citations, authorship, and inventories, either citing local innovators or conservators, and giving attribution where due, or respecting request for anonymity.
- b. Research costs should be born by the researcher and associated institutions or partners.
- c. If applicable, researcher should plan to pay the costs of community members in the research, to be paid at an acceptable rate.

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<sup>i</sup> Paige Backlund Jarquin, MPH. *Data Sharing: Creating Agreements In Support of Community-Academic Partnerships*. Email: [Paige.Backlund@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Paige.Backlund@ucdenver.edu); Paoakalani Declaration; FLMMA Intellectual Property Rights Statement; FLMMA Research Protocol Letter of Agreement; Conservation Partnership Center; Manuel Mejia September 2014. MNMN Session 2: Data management and Agreements.

<sup>ii</sup> This information on this page is adapted with permission from Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA) Research Protocol Letter of Agreement.

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