

Worksheet: Scoping, Building, and Evaluating Scientist-Community Partnerships

Each scientist-community partnership will be slightly different—there is no one-size-fits all model. However, below are some questions that it may be helpful to answer with your partner to help guide your collaboration.

Scoping a Partnership

1. What issues interest you?
2. Are there people working on those issues in your area? If so, who are they?

Building a Partnership

1. Describe what each partner wants to accomplish in this collaboration: what do you hope to take away from this? If there are deliverables, how will they be used?
2. What roles will community members and scientists play in this partnership?
3. Will you or your partner need financial support for this work? How can you access that support?
4. What is the timeline for this partnership, and what are the milestones along the way?
5. What are the deliverables for this partnership?
6. How will you stay in touch, and how often?
7. How will you communicate the results and share data? (In what accessible format will this information be made available?)
8. Do you honestly have the time and capacity to take on this work?

Evaluating a Partnership

1. Did this collaboration meet your expectations? Why or why not?
2. What worked well in your collaboration? Did you and your partner accomplish your initial goals?
3. What, if anything, would you change in how you approach future collaborations?
4. What are the next steps for the community members?
5. How will your future work be informed by this partnership? Have you identified new research questions, learned about new ways to communicate or share scientific information?
6. How would you like to keep in touch about future opportunities, updates, connections?
7. How much time would you like to spend staying involved moving forward?