

Nature of Participation	Characteristics of Convener's involvement and control over the process	Role of the Partner
Inform	Convener provides stakeholders with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem and possible solutions. Convener proposes which approaches to pursue, how to do the project, and which results are significant.	Information recipients: "here's what's happening"
Consult	Convener obtains feedback from stakeholders on possible alternatives, decisions, and/or analysis. Convener uses this information to identify constraints and opportunities, set priorities, and for evaluation. Most of the key decisions are kept with the Convener.	Information sources: "here are some options, what do you think?"
Involve	Convener works with partners/stakeholders throughout the process, creating a joint enterprise. Each partner integrates a variety of knowledge sources into collaborative decision-making process, and problems are targeted more effectively and efficiently. The concerns, values, and aspirations of the stakeholders are consistently understood and taken into account. Still, the overall effort is organized and led by the Convener. Funding usually goes to the Convener's organization, and they typically control decisions about what issues to address.	Advisors: "here's a problem, what ideas do you have?"
Collaborate	Partners/stakeholders help identify and address the issue. There is a Convener role, but each partner shares in the leadership and are involved with every aspect of the project, from setting the agenda to identifying and implementing the solution.	Advocates: "Let's work together to solve the problem."
Empower	The project originates with a community concern, which motivates stakeholders to seek the Convener's help – community members help determine the project and research questions based on their needs. There is shared leadership with final decision-making at the community level. Tangible improvements in people's lives are priority outcomes. Community members may share funding and co-design project approaches and research protocols. Community often shares credit for research in any academic publication.	In control: "You care about this issue and are leading the initiative; how can we support you?"

Initiation

- Who initiates?
- Who determines what the motivating issues are?
- Who participates and how?

Planning

- Who participates and how?
- How is knowledge valued and taken into account?
- What does success look like – who decides?

Activities, interventions, & Data Collection

- Who participates and how?
- How is knowledge valued and taken into account?

Outcomes

- How are impacts measured (social, biophysical, economic)?
- With whom - and how - are knowledge and results shared?