Section 3.4.1 Engagement with Local and Indigenous Communities: The Model of Community Based Science

“Community-based science—a model for research in which at every step in a project at least partial control remains with the community—is an approach that has been implemented to various degrees in archaeology, forestry, arctic science, and others. It can serve as an example for a Community Astronomy approach to active, upfront, and sustained engagement with local and Indigenous communities.” [Section 3-33, Figure 3.14]

“The model of community-based science calls for researchers not to insist on exclusive control even in situations where it would be legally permitted to do so” [Section 3-32, Box 3.3] and “…would ensure that local stakeholders have meaningful influence—including through decision-making and governance structures at every stage—and involve local stakeholders in periodic assessments of when to decommission facilities.” [Section 3-35]

“Conclusion: NSF, NASA, DOE, facility managing organizations, project consortia, individual institutions, and other stakeholders can work to build partnerships with Indigenous and local communities that are more functional and sustained through a Community Astronomy approach, and by increasing the modes of engagement and funding for: (i) meaningful, mutually beneficial partnerships with Indigenous and local communities, (ii) culturally supported pathways for the inclusion of Indigenous members within the profession, and (iii) true sustainability, preservation, and restoration of sites.” [Section 3-35]