

Values Ranking Workshop Facilitator's Guide

Description

Participants engage in roundtable discussions to surface local values in their region related to resource development activities. Working in small groups, participants brainstorm broad lists of community, health, and environmental values, as well as values that cut across these and other themes. After generating these collections of local values, group discussions shift towards collectively identifying the top two most important values on their list. The workshop concludes with a group discussion and debrief. The intent of these roundtable discussions is to share and learn about the many important values in the region, and to encourage participants to think through the challenges associated with both value identification and decision-making processes around the protection and preservation of those values.

Goals

- Relationship building: To provide a platform to build and strengthen existing relationships with communities throughout the workshop's region.
- Share local knowledge and experiences: To share the approaches of various communities and organizations living and operating in the workshop's region in responding to the issue of cumulative impacts while also creating space to value the lived experience and knowledge of workshop participants.
- Foster conversations that inform a holistic understanding of cumulative impacts: To facilitate discussion around integrating environmental, community, and health values into a broader understanding of cumulative impacts.

Intended Audience

Local and First Nations governments, local decision-makers and service providers, and concerned citizens. For groups of 8-24 participants.

Time Required

Approximately 90 minutes.

Equipment

- Flipchart paper and markers for each table of 4-8 people
- A copy of this facilitation guide for each facilitator

Overview

Timeline

Minutes	Task
10	Welcome, introductions, orientation to cumulative impacts concept and activity
60	Roundtable discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value Generation (20 minutes) • Prioritizing Values (20 minutes) • Report Back (20 minutes)
20	Final group discussion and debrief
90	Total

Orientation to cumulative impacts concept and activity

Cumulative impacts may occur when resource development activities (including forestry, agriculture, oil and gas, mining, etc.) take place on the land in ways that leave lasting consequences for people, their communities, and the broader environments in which those communities are located.

Resource development has both positive and negative impacts, and this region has a long history of [insert relevant resource-based industries here]. Impacts of these activities can combine with those from other projects and activities in the past, present and future. Over time, the effects of multiple projects and resource development activities in one area can **combine** and **interact** to produce long-term changes for people, wildlife and the land. In other words, the sum of these impacts is greater than that of any single project. This makes it important to find ways to harness the positive impacts of resource development to promote health and community wellness, while trying to reduce potential negative impacts.

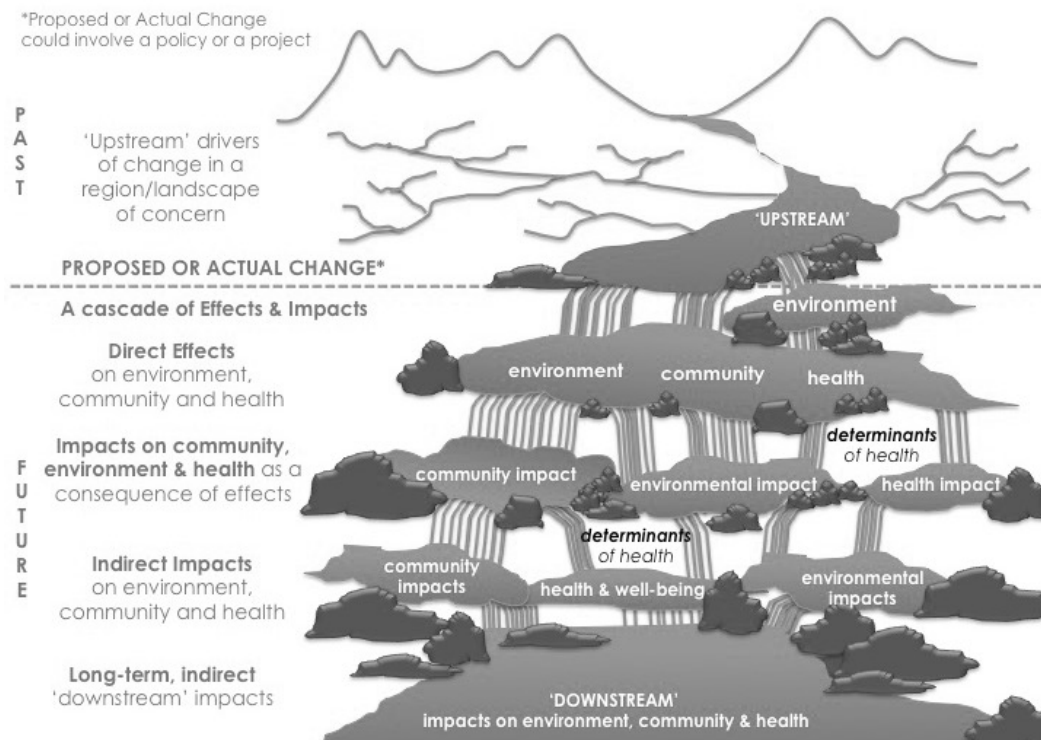
Let's consider the example of a mine to illustrate some of the cumulative impacts to the environment, community, and human health.

- **Environment:** A new mine is developed outside of a small town in an area where forestry activities have taken place for years. There are a series of small creeks and water bodies in the region, as well as a major river that has been significantly changed by a hydroelectric dam. Together, mine construction and operation, past and ongoing forestry activities, and the dam will all interact and put pressure on stream and river function.
- **Community:** When a new mine is developed outside of a small town, the town population increases as new people move to town to take jobs at the mine. This

population has positive and negative impacts for the small community. There are additional high paying jobs for people that live there, and some young people no longer have to move to make a life. There are increased customers for local businesses, but the services offered in the town (e.g. doctors) may no longer be able to support a large and rapid increase in local population. Moreover, housing prices may increase producing fewer affordable options for local residents. Because of these impacts to housing availability, some people in the community may move elsewhere to look for other opportunities. This cascade of impacts will cumulatively affect life in the community.

- Health:** When a new mine is developed outside of a small town, the mining company sponsors a new indoor skating rink. This has positive health benefits for the town, as people have more options for fitness and recreation. At the same time, as workers make more trips to and from the mine, traffic increases resulting in poorer air quality and an increase in traffic accidents causing more challenges for local health care delivery. While opportunities for recreation may improve, the cumulative health impacts of the mine must also be considered.

The image below shows the interactions between the environment, community, and health. The various flows—between upstream and downstream communities, and between the past, present and future decisions—show how environmental impacts (such as impacts to local water sources) might also have health impacts (lack of clean drinking water) and community impacts (town needs to build a new water treatment facility to serve the local community).



Source: Margot Parkes (2016) Chapter 5, *The Integration Imperative*, p. 142.

Roundtable Discussions (Values Ranking Activity)

Participants are divided into groups of 4-8 people, with a facilitator for each group at each table.

Value Generation

Participants gather in roundtable groups to share perspectives around the broad theme of local values. This will be a rapid brainstorm activity. Values are recorded on flipchart paper.

Discussion prompts:

1. What's important to you in this region?
2. What kinds of local landscapes do you feel connected to?
3. What do you need to feel like a health person? For your family and broader community?
4. What are important elements of a community? What is unique about this community?
5. If we were to think about this region in 20 years, what are the important elements? What needs to be maintained? What needs to be improved?

Prioritizing Values

Facilitators then shift the discussion to focus on collectively identifying the top two most important values. This activity is as much about process as about actually identifying values, and in the debrief participants are encouraged to share what that process was like for their table.

In the previous activity, we generated broad lists of locally-important values—we uncovered a lot of information. Based on what you shared and heard, we would now like to encourage your groups to think through the challenges associated with decision-making processes around the protection and preservation of those values. We want to challenge your group to think through what are the two most important indicators/data points that you identified in relation to cumulative impacts.

Discussion prompts:

1. Are there particular values that are especially important to you?
2. Are there things that are representative of broader changes happening?
3. What **two** values are most important to your table and why?

Report Back

Each discussion group is given some intentional time to organize key themes to bring to the broader group (5-10 minutes). Then all groups reconvene in plenary (10-15 minutes). Each table has 2-3 minutes to share and reflect on their discussion to the broader group. Facilitators take notes to ensure this discussion is recorded from various point in the room.

Questions to report on:

1. What values (if any) did your group prioritize and why?
2. What was the process of prioritization like for your group?

Discussion prompts:

1. What themes came up?
2. Are there any common signals from people in the room around the process of coming to shared understanding of what's most important?
3. How do some of those values intersect, if at all?

Final Group Discussion and Debrief

All participants are brought together for a final group discussion and debrief. This debrief is intended to 'close the loop' by integrating information from the cumulative impacts orientation and discussions.

Discussion prompts:

1. In what ways can conversations about what people think is important be used to inform actions addressing the issue of cumulative impacts?
2. How can we do this kind of work better, together?
3. Who isn't in the room today that really needs to be part of this conversation?
4. Is there anything else that we have not discussed today that you think is important to discuss?