



## Episode 5: Equity and transparency in proposal writing



Dr. Natasha Udu-gama

**Summary:** Episode five of the STARTcast features a conversation between START's Sarah Schweizer and Dr. Natasha Udu-gama, Program Manager of International and Community Engagement at AGU's Thriving Earth Exchange. Here, Natasha shares about community science and how scientists and communities can co-write proposals to do science together to advance community priorities.

### Highlights:

- Thriving Earth defines community science as the process by which communities and science do science together to advance one or more community priorities.
- It is important to honor community input in proposal writing processes and to have direct conversations about risk early during proposal development.
- Community knowledge and scientific knowledge should get equal attention at the proposal writing table.
- Need to intentionally create space to allow for all voices to be heard and to support an iterative process in proposal writing to meet community needs.
- By setting communication and planning expectations from the start, proposal writing teams can become more transparent and find themselves in more equitable situations.
- Call for proposals should include time and support for researchers to make community connections and to identify community research priorities.
- Community science encourages a scientific culture that will inherently become more ethical and be faced by harder questions that will help scientists and community members become more open, interested and foster greater trust in working with each other.

### Links:

- [AGU's Thriving Earth Exchange](#)
- [Understanding and managing risk in Thriving Earth Exchange](#)
- [Thriving Earth Exchange Statement on Integrity in Community Science](#)
- [Everyday Ethics in Community-based participatory research](#)
- [Community-based participatory research: A guide to ethical principles and practice](#)



**Opportunity to engage with TEX:** Thriving Earth Exchange's international strategy is to identify institutions, both science and community-based, outside of the United States who may be interested in adapting Thriving Earth Exchange's community science approach for their country. We now have partnerships with such diverse institutions as [Future Earth Australia](#), [Public Lab Mongolia](#), [Instituto de Montana](#) and [Association de Jeune Geologues et Environnementalistes du Senegal \(AJGES\)](#).

If you represent an organization interested in exploring what a community science initiative could look like, please contact Natasha at [nudu-gama@agu.org](mailto:nudu-gama@agu.org). Follow us on Twitter @ThrivingEarth and check out our website for more details ([www.thrivingearthexchange.org](http://www.thrivingearthexchange.org)).



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