

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



Assisting the Water Haulers: Using Grassroots Driven Development to Secure Environmental Justice

Strengthening Environmental Justice Research and Decision Making:

A Symposium on the Science of Disproportionate

Environmental Health Impacts

March 17 – 19, 2010 Walter E. Washington Convention Center Washington, DC

Forgotten People CDC

www.forgottennavajopeople.org

Forgottenpeoplecdc@gmail.com

A desert landscape with red rock formations and a blue sky with clouds. The foreground is a sandy, arid plain with sparse, low-lying vegetation. In the background, there are prominent red rock formations, including mesas and buttes, under a sky filled with soft, white clouds.

Roadmap

- The Challenges
- Project Overview
- Introducing the Participatory Approach
- Internal Participation
- External participation
- Conclusions



The Challenges

A wide-angle photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, a dry, rocky stream bed winds through the scene, with some sparse, dry vegetation growing along its edges. The ground is covered in small rocks and patches of dry grass. In the background, the terrain rises into low, rocky hills under a clear, bright blue sky. The overall scene depicts a harsh, arid environment.

Challenges: Abandoned Uranium Mines



**WATER FROM
THIS WELL
IS NOT SAFE
TO DRINK**

This water has been tested and found to exceed Navajo EPA and U.S.EPA human drinking water standards for uranium or other contaminants.

Navajo Nation policy is that livestock-use-only wells are not to be used for human drinking water.

**Challenges: Local water sources
contaminated**

Challenges: The Black Falls Community





**Challenges: Unsafe transportation
and storage of water**



Challenges: The Bennett Freeze

Challenges: Achieving Environmental Justice

“If a fraction of the deadly contamination the Navajos live with every day had been in Beverly Hills or any wealthy community, it would have been cleaned up immediately. But there's a different standard applied to the Navajo land... while time passes, people get sick, people die, people develop kidney disease, children, babies are born with birth defects, bone cancer develops and gets worse, lung cancer, leukemia, while we wait”

US Senator Henry Waxman, 2007

Challenges:

The Government Response

- EPA pressured by Congress to address uranium contamination of water supplies in Navajo Nation
- Plans to address issue were based on extending water pipelines to families near roads
- 3-meter per mile rule: no plans to assist people in remote locations

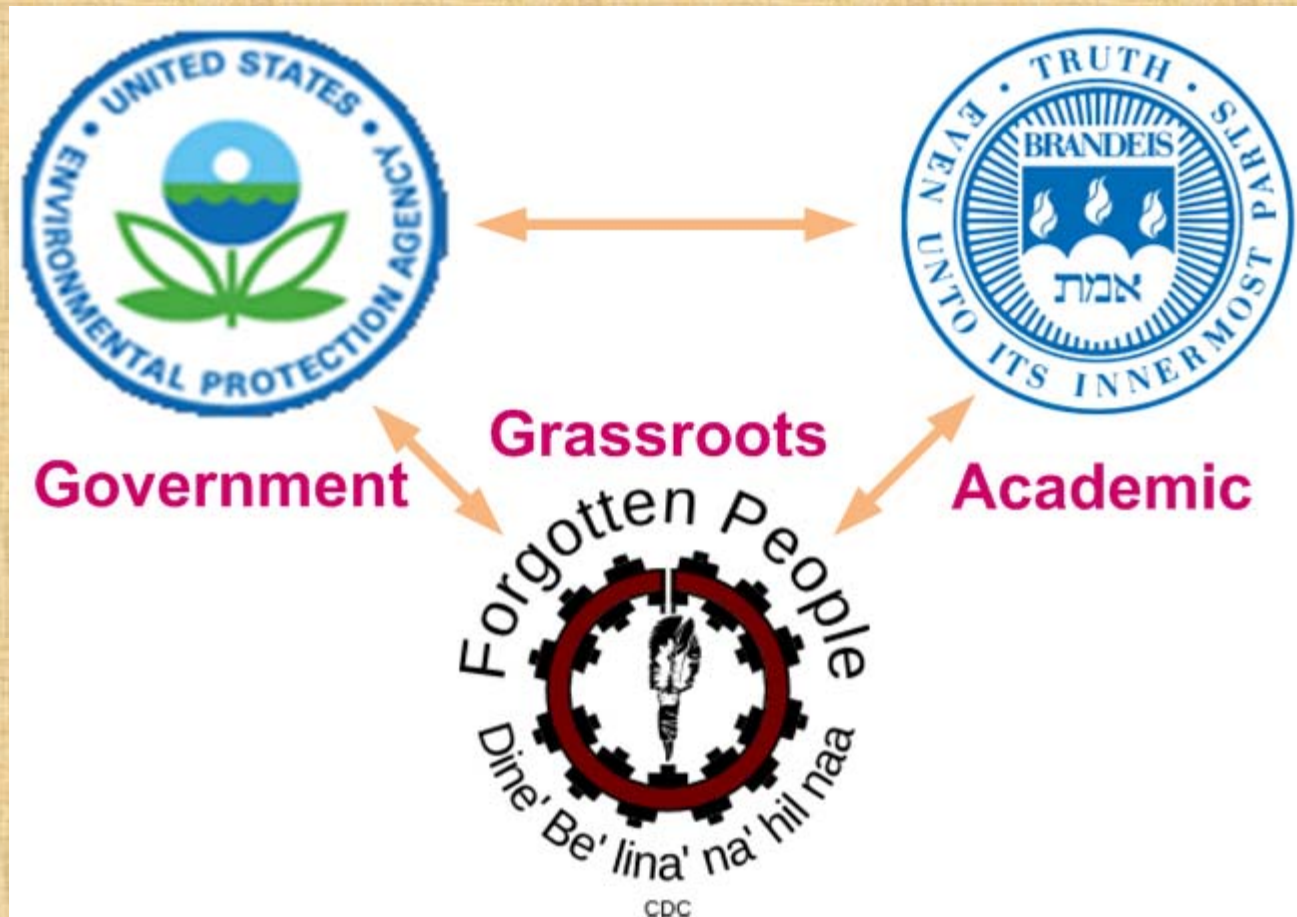
Challenges Addressed by this Project

- Target population: Families too remote for pipeline who will continue to haul water
- Short-term goal: Provide safe way to haul, store, & access water
- Long-term goal: Provide full sanitation system
- Interlinkage: Address health problems and other consequences of uranium contamination



Project Overview

A Collaborative Model to Achieve Environmental Justice





September, 2008: Assess Needs

October, 2008: Develop Goals



Initial prototype storage system



November, 2008: Project Planning





Finished Storage Tank



Sink base for in-home distribution



February, 2009: Implementation -
Coop at work



**February 7, 2009: Implementation -
with Home Depot Partners**



**February 15-21, 2009:
Implementation: w/Brandeis partners**



**February 24, 2009:
Home systems completed**



Transportation system



**Working with partners on
the next step: sanitation**

Blueprints

- I. PRELIMINARIES
 - A. Call to Order/Prayers
 - B. Accepting Agenda
 - C. Reading of Minutes
 - D. Introduction of Guests
 - E. Council Delegate Report
 - F.
- II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - 24-01
 - III. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Resolutions
 - 1. Supporting a Grant to Development Corporation... the community.
 - 2. Requesting Navajo Nation Development Technology for Greater Public access
 - 3. Proper scholarship req...

Partnerships
The Forgotten People
FP CDC's methodology
The Effect of the Participatory
Identifying the Problem: Need
Educational outreach: Unsafe
Black Falls Community's sol
Systems
Development Indicators
Monitoring, Evaluating, and

Addressing interlinkages: Health

Medical Screen

What to Expect:

- Essential Information
 - Type of work
 - Places you lived
 - Health Insurance
- Medical History
 - Current and Past Health History
 - Medications
- Physical Exam
 - Vitals
- Labs/Radiology
 - Urinalysis
 - Blood Work
 - Chest X-ray
 - Fecal Occult

If you have had any of these done in the last year, please bring a copy of the results with you to your appointment.



Monitoring & Evaluation: Tangible results



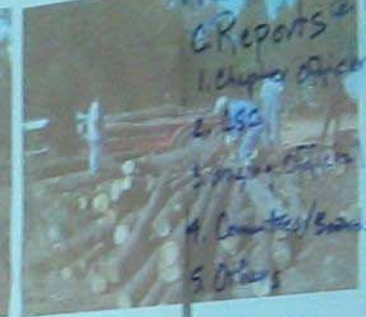
A photograph of a red rock canyon wall, likely in a desert environment. The rock face is characterized by vertical erosion patterns and horizontal sedimentary layers. The foreground shows a sandy, sparsely vegetated slope. The title text is overlaid on the lower portion of the image.

Introducing the Participatory Approach

The Effect of the Participatory Approach

Approach

- Build community
- Empower individuals
- Develop ownership
- Develop leadership
- Develop business

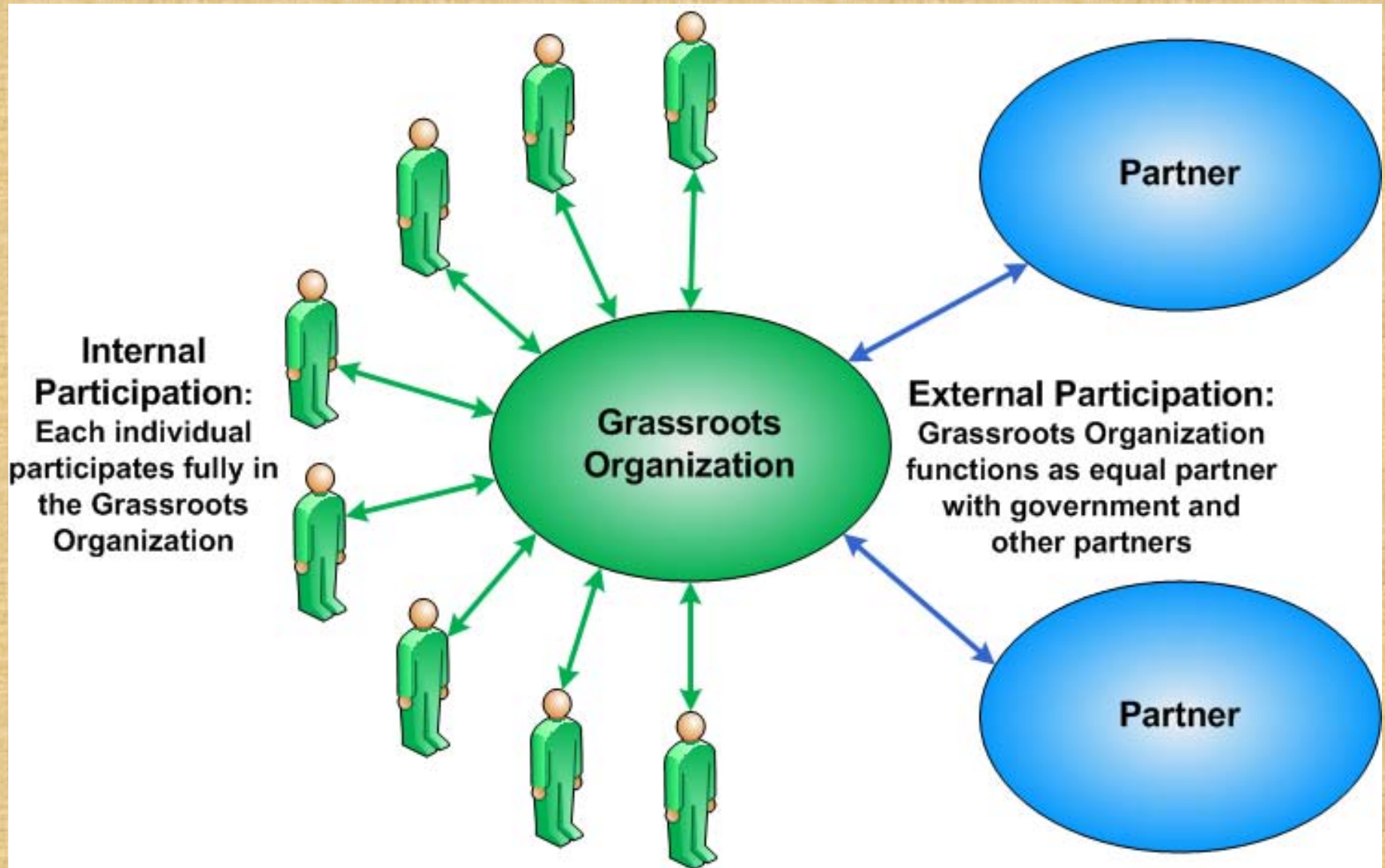


er Meeting -
B: Sunday, Nov. 12, 2000
ing: Oct. 16, 2000 @ 10 AM
Dec Planning Meeting
Friday, Dec. 15, 2000 @ 1 PM
C Reports
1. Chapter Officers
2. ASG
3. Finance Officers
4. Counties/Borers
5. Others

MENT
and evaluate
them

Introducing the Participatory Approach
to Government Partners

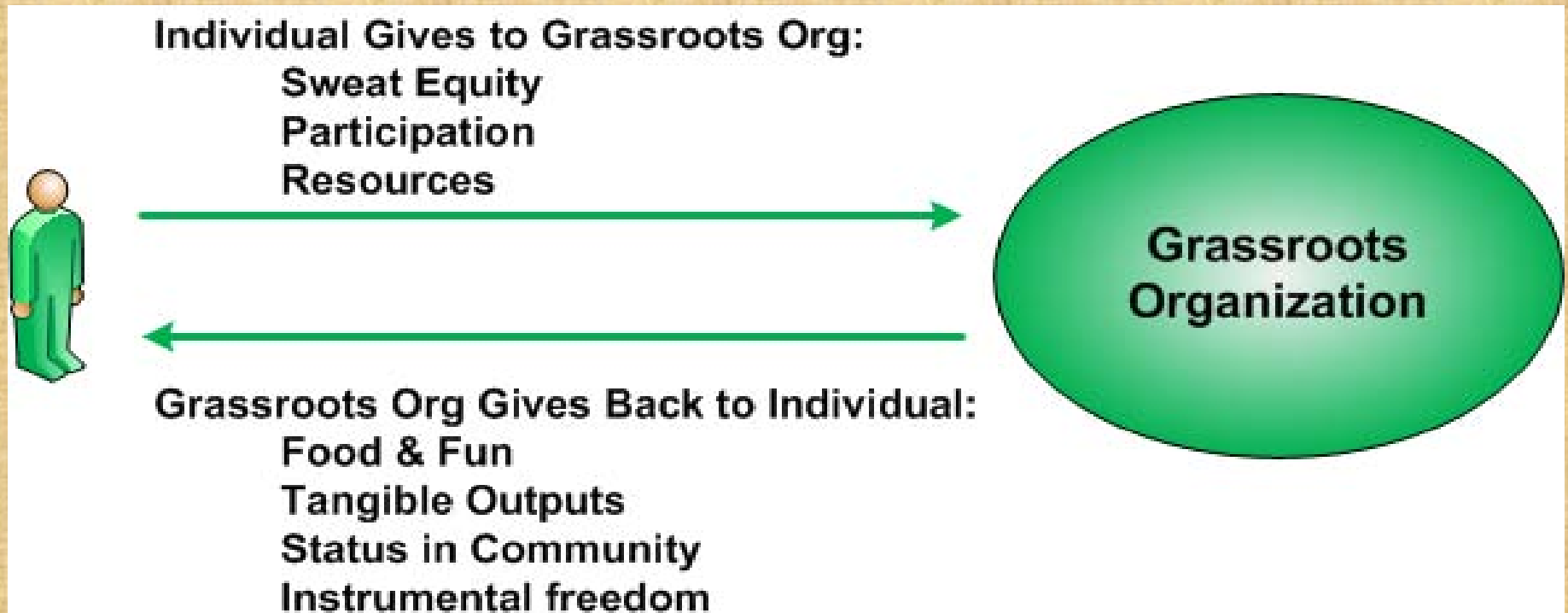
Internal and External Participation in Grassroots Driven Development



A photograph of a desert landscape featuring several sand dunes. The dunes are dark in color, possibly due to shadows or the type of sand. The foreground is a flat, sandy area with some small, dark rocks or pebbles. The sky is a clear blue with scattered white, fluffy clouds. The overall scene is bright and open.

Internal participation

Internal Participation: The exchange



Synergy: When individuals get back more than they give

Internal Participation: Sweat equity



Participation required



Internal Participation: Finding resources in the community





**Internal Participation:
Food & fun**

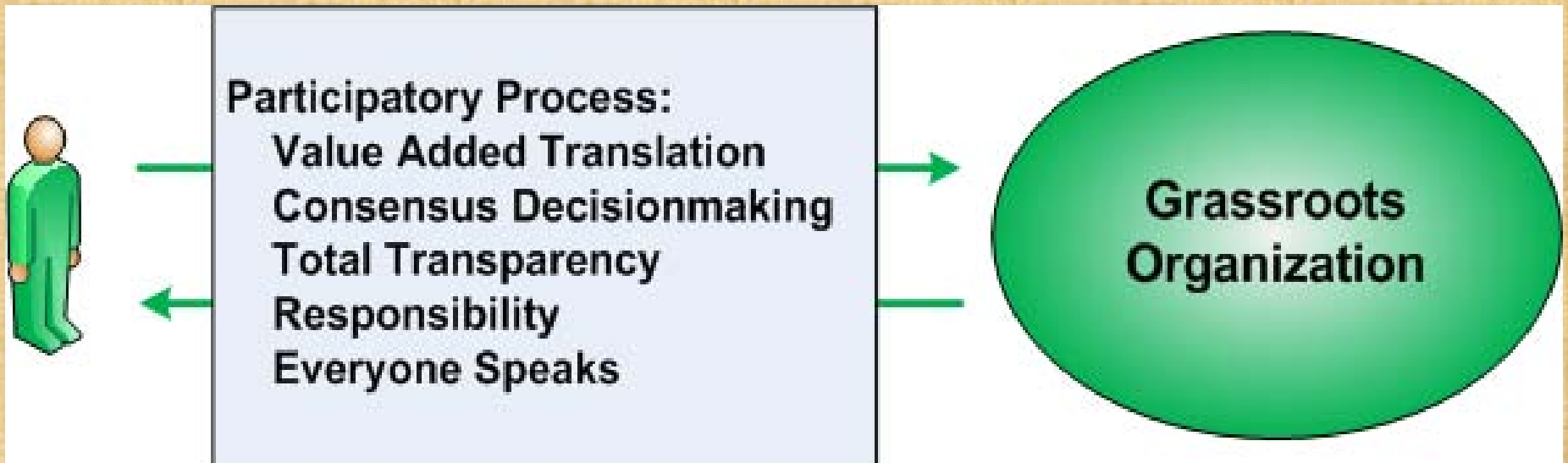
Internal Participation: Provide tangible outputs





**Internal participation:
Intangible benefits**

Internal Participation: How to achieve Synergy



An elderly woman with short, light-colored hair is standing in a kitchen, gesturing with her hands as if explaining something. She is wearing a light blue and white striped short-sleeved shirt. In the background, there is a window with a white lattice pattern. To the left, a wooden cabinet is visible. In the foreground, the head and shoulders of another person with dark hair and glasses are partially visible. The kitchen counter in the background has various items, including a red container, a yellow container, and a silver pot.

**Participation: How was it achieved ?
“Value Added Translation”**

Participation: How was it achieved ?
Consensus decision making



Participation: How was it achieved ?

Total transparency



Internal Participation: Responsibility





**Internal Participatory
Process:
Everyone Speaks**

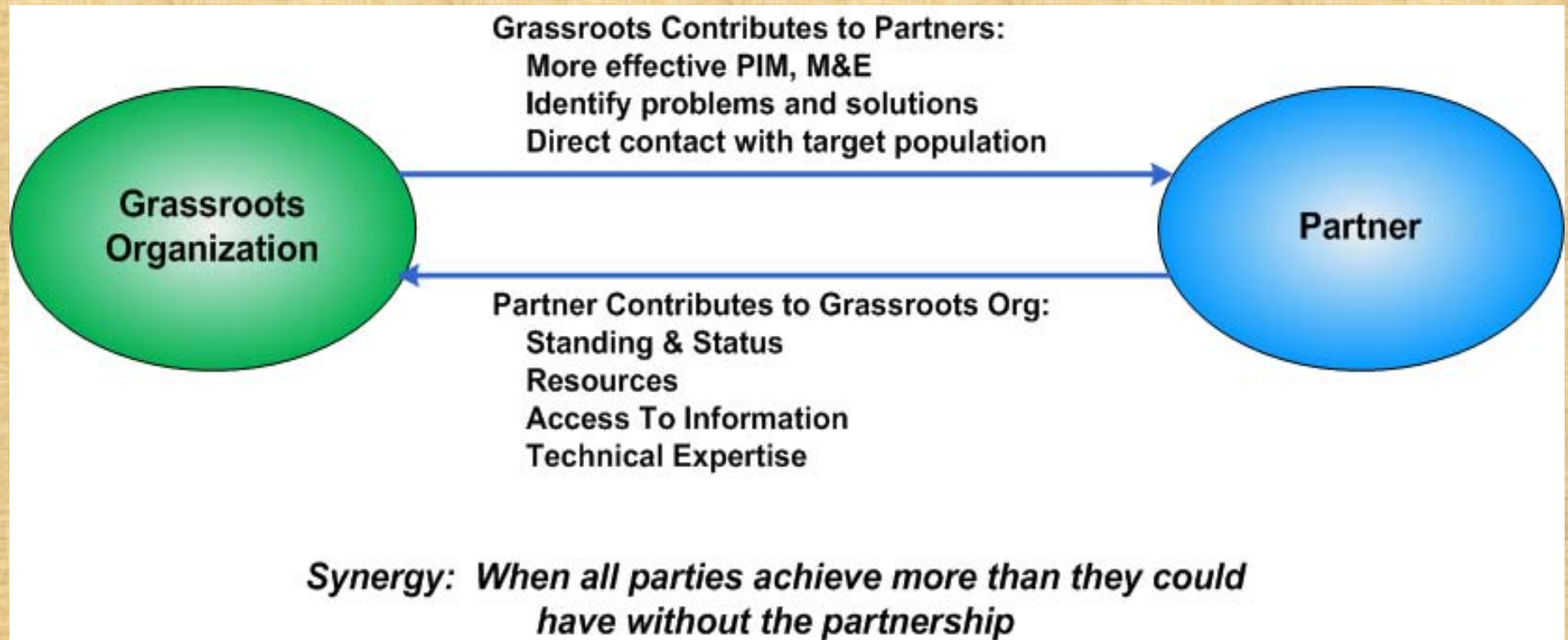
Internal Participation: Key Points

- The true measure of success of a grassroots organization is not whether it accomplishes its mission statement, but rather the extent to which it creates a meaningful participatory experience that enriches the lives of the people.
- This is also the best way to achieve the mission statement.



External Participation

External Participation: The exchange





**Grassroots contribution:
More effective planning, implementation,
monitoring, and evaluation**

Grassroots contribution: Reach Target Population



Time University Students:
Students x \$500 \$ 12,500.00

Time University:
Students x \$ 300 \$ 4,500.00

Time Comm:
Students x \$ 300 9,000.00

Time
000.00

Partner contribution: Standing and status

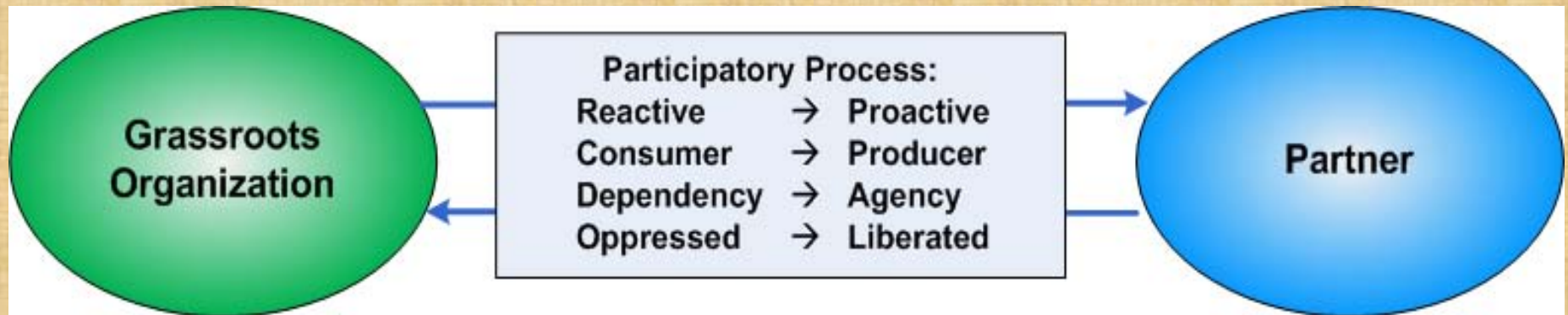


**Partner contribution:
Resources**



**Partner contribution:
Access to information
& expertise**

External Participation: How Synergy is Achieved





Reactive → Proactive

Participation: Oppressed to liberated

“It is essential for the oppressed to realize that when they accept the struggle for humanization they also accept, from that moment, their total responsibility for the struggle” .

Paolo Freire, 1970

Dependency → Agency



External participation: Key points

- The people made the partnerships work effectively by adopting a solutions-based approach instead of needs-based.
- The participatory approach helped our partners achieve their mandates, and helped the community achieve its goals.

“In traditional Navajo society, everyone was equal. In fact, the idea of someone with power and authority making decisions for others is entirely contrary to Navajo morals. We believe in a high degree of freedom, but we call it "freedom with responsibility”

Robert Yazzie, 1997

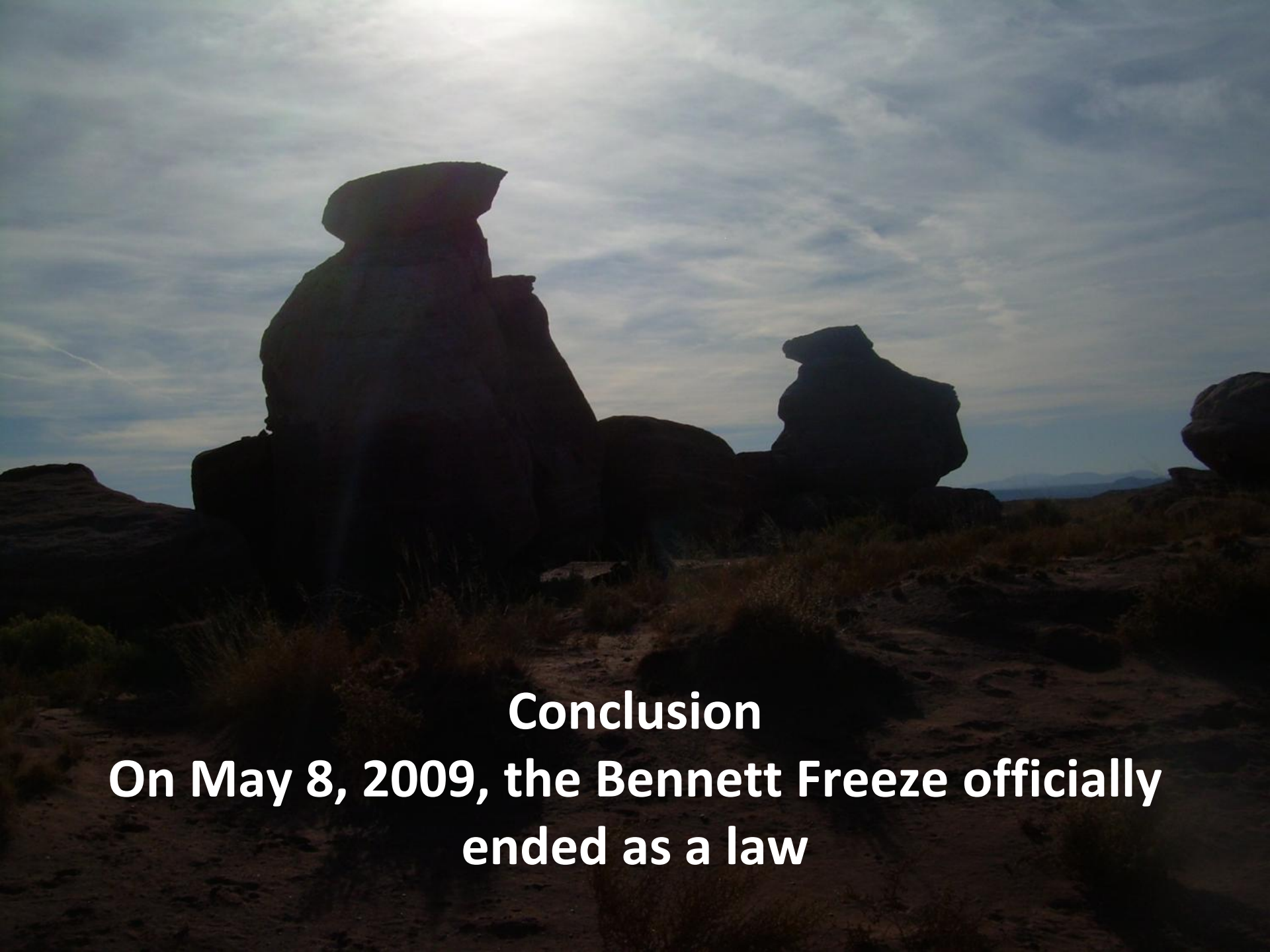




Participation: Lesson learned
The participatory approach works



**The Participatory
Approach:
Taking back the future**



Conclusion

On May 8, 2009, the Bennett Freeze officially ended as a law

Public Education

- Public education and outreach in Black Falls/Box Springs/Grand Falls resulted in finding 100 families drinking uranium and arsenic contaminated water because they have no choice.
- Survey assessments indicators have been completed.

What is the Next Step?

What is the next Step?

- Federal and tribal agency collaboration and partnership with communities.
- Funding to install safe drinking water systems.
- Navajo Nation issue a State of Emergency/Public Health Emergency in Black Falls/Box Springs/Grand Falls.
- US EPA water hauling truck dedicated to Black Falls/Box Springs/Grand Falls.
- Empowering local communities to form a water coop for sustainability.



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