

Consultation and Public and Stakeholder Engagement (PSE)

Current and Emerging Issues and Improving Practice

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IAIA Update of the International Study of Environmental
Assessment Effectiveness: EIA

Bath, 11th Feb 2010

Current Issues (1)

- Utility of consultation and PSE
- Tokenism and lack of interest
- Different approaches for EIA and SEA
- Consultation at various stages of the EIA and SEA processes (legal vs desirable)

Current Issues (2)

- Increasing complexity of stakeholders involved in consultation and PSE
- Objectives of consultation and PSE - conceptual and practical
- Levels of stakeholder engagement in consultation
- Evidence of good practice
- Consultation and PSE – overkill and fatigue

An NGO's view on public participation in EIA

- Manipulation of hearings
- Hearings organised by promoter
- Exclusion of activities – later submitted for EIA
- Public participation not done before irreversible decisions made
- (Source J Haverkamp – Greenpeace Policy Campaigner. EU Unit 2009)

Improving Practice? (1)

- Research required on utility and effectiveness of consultation as aid to more rational decision-making
- How to make consultation a positive element of the process rather than meeting legal requirements
- Can EIA/SEA benefit from methods/procedures from other environmental/planning PSE approaches?

Improving Practice? (2)

- Aarhus and the EU Directive – opportunity or ‘business as usual’?
- Can we develop more imaginative approaches to consultation and PSE?
- How to overcome cynicism concerning consultation – increase ability to influence or pre-determined realities?
- How to overcome constraints