

IAIA
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BEST PRACTICE
PRINCIPLES
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A Definition of PP

- Within a decision-making process, the involvement of individuals and groups that are both positively or negatively affected by a planned intervention or are interested in it.

Different levels for different EA steps.

Contributes to better projects, better development and collaborative governance.

AIMS

Promote the effective practice of public participation

Broad, generic, and non-prescriptive principles

Emphasize PP as a pillar of EA

Intended to be applicable to all levels and types of proposals, in formal and informal contexts.

Objectives of PP in EA

- Invite parties into the decision-making process to foster justice and equity;
- Inform and educate the public;
- Gather data and information from the public about their biophysical and human environment, as well as about the relations they have with it;
- Seek public input on the planned intervention;
- Contribute to better analysis and more creative development, and consequently to a better public acceptance and support.
- Contribute to mutual learning of all parties and to improvement of the PP and EA practice.

PP Principles

- Three levels
 - *Foundation Principles*: General principals to all stages of PP in EA process.
 - *Operating Principles*: application to the EA process.
 - *Development Principles*: identifying key directions for the PP improvement.

Foundation Principles

- Recognize the right to be informed and proactively involved in a meaningful way.
- Recognize the public is heterogeneous.
- Ensure participation or defence of the interests of all parties, incl. vulnerable groups and future generations.
- Follow the rules of effective communication, in respect of all parties, and cooperation.
- Promote cooperation for SD.
- Improve the proposal under study.
- Report to the actors the results of the PP.

Operating Principles

- Initiated very early into the life-cycle of a proposal, and sustained during its entire life;
- Well planned and structured;
- Tiered and optimized;
- Open and transparent;
- Adapted to human context concerned with the proposal;
- *Led by the relevant authority in its formal or traditional sense.*

Development Principles

- Better access to useful and relevant information;
- Higher level of involvement, from passive participation toward more interactive and integrated participation in the decision making;
- Freedom of expression that assures no reprisals ;
- Access to justice and equity.

Conclusion

- Some questions we would like to address today:
 - Do you agree with these principles?
 - Are some principles missing?
 - How can we improve these principles?
 - How should we proceed to insure the dissemination of this document?

Thank you for your collaboration