
Purpose and objectives of public involvement

- informing stakeholders
- gaining their views, concerns and values
- taking account of public inputs in decision making
- influencing project design
- obtaining local knowledge
- increasing public confidence
- improving transparency and accountability in decision-making
- reducing conflict

Levels of public involvement

- **information**

- one way flow from proponent to public

- **consultation**

- two way exchange of information

- **participation**

- interaction with the public

- **negotiation**

- face to face discussion

Key stakeholders

- **local people affected by a proposal**
- **proponent and project beneficiaries**
- **government agencies**
- **NGOs**
- **others, e.g. donors, the private sector, academics**

Principles of public involvement

The process should be

- inclusive – covers all stakeholders
- open and transparent – steps and activities are understood
- relevant – focused on the issues that matter
- fair – conducted impartially and without bias toward any stakeholder
- responsive – to stakeholder requirements and inputs
- credible – builds confidence and trust

Public involvement in key stages of the EIA process

- **screening**
 - determining the need for, and level, of EIA
- **scoping**
 - identifying the key issues and alternatives
- **impact analysis**
 - identifying the significant impacts and mitigating measures
- **review**
 - commenting on/responding to the EIA report
- **implementation and monitoring**
 - checking EIA follow up

Developing a public involvement program typically involves:

- . determining its scope**
- . identifying interested and affected public**
- . selecting appropriate techniques**
- . considering the relationship to decision-making**
- . providing feedback to stakeholders**
- . undertaking the analysis of stakeholder inputs**
- . keeping to budget and time lines**
- . confidentiality**

Factors affecting the effectiveness of public involvement

- poverty
- remote and rural settings
- illiteracy
- culture/local values
- language
- legal systems override traditional systems
- dominance of interest groups
- proponent confidentiality

Principles for successful application of public involvement techniques

- **provide the right information**
- **allow sufficient time to review and respond**
- **provide appropriate opportunities/means for stakeholder involvement**
- **respond issues and concerns raised**
- **feed back the results of public input**
- **choose venues and times of events to suit stakeholders**

Principles for minimising conflict

- **involve all stakeholders**
- **establish communication channels**
- **describe the proposal and its objectives**
- **listen to the concerns and interests of affected people**
- **treat people fairly and impartially**
- **be empathetic and flexible**
- **mitigate impacts and compensate for loss and damage**
- **acknowledge concerns and provide feed-back**

Common reasons given for avoiding public involvement

- it's too early
- it will take too long and will cost too much
- it will stir up opposition
- we will only hear from the articulate
- we'll raise expectations
- people won't understand