

Public participation and Stakeholders Involvement in TWM

General principles

Public participation in water management

- »GEF assist countries to work together to identify and address key concerns to their Trans boundary water systems
- »Key aspect to improve governance and water management
- »Inadequate governance systems have often resulted in inequitable allocation and ecologically unsustainable use of water
- »Critical for reforms is enhanced public participation in water management

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level each individual shall have appropriate access to information – opportunity to participate in decision-making processes, and effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings

Aarhus Convention of the UN/ECE – some of the most detailed and binding provisions for PP



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

»Widely recognized that PP is an integral component of an effective system for managing environment and water resources

»Decisions related to use of water have tremendous impacts on peoples everyday lives, economic well-being and health of eco-systems

»PP is being now being broadly reflected in national and international law

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- » What does PP in water management mean?
- » What is good PP?
- » Who should be involved in what and to what extent?

There are well developed and tested principals, processes and tools

What is a stakeholder – what is public?

A stakeholder is an individual, group or institution (including governments) that has a defined and recognized interest, or “stake” in a decision-making process;

Interest may be economical, cultural, recreational, religious or other;

Stakeholders will be affected by a decision or have some influence on its outcome;

“Public” – is one or more natural or legal persons their associations, organisations or groups;



Main components of Public Participation

- » Access to Information
- » Participation in decision making
- » Access to justice

These three rights operate in synergy and requires a strategic approach and careful planning

Access to Information

- » Accurate, timely and accessible information
- » ensures that stakeholders are able to know the nature of issues related to their waters and
- » how they might be affected by them
- » Access to information is a prerequisite for informed and meaningful public participation

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ensures that the public has opportunities (providing a process) to become actively involved in water-related decision-making

in

policymaking- developing legal and institutional frameworks, planning programmes and projects, development, implementation monitoring and evaluation of water-related activities

and

Means for solving disputes before they escalates



Access to Justice

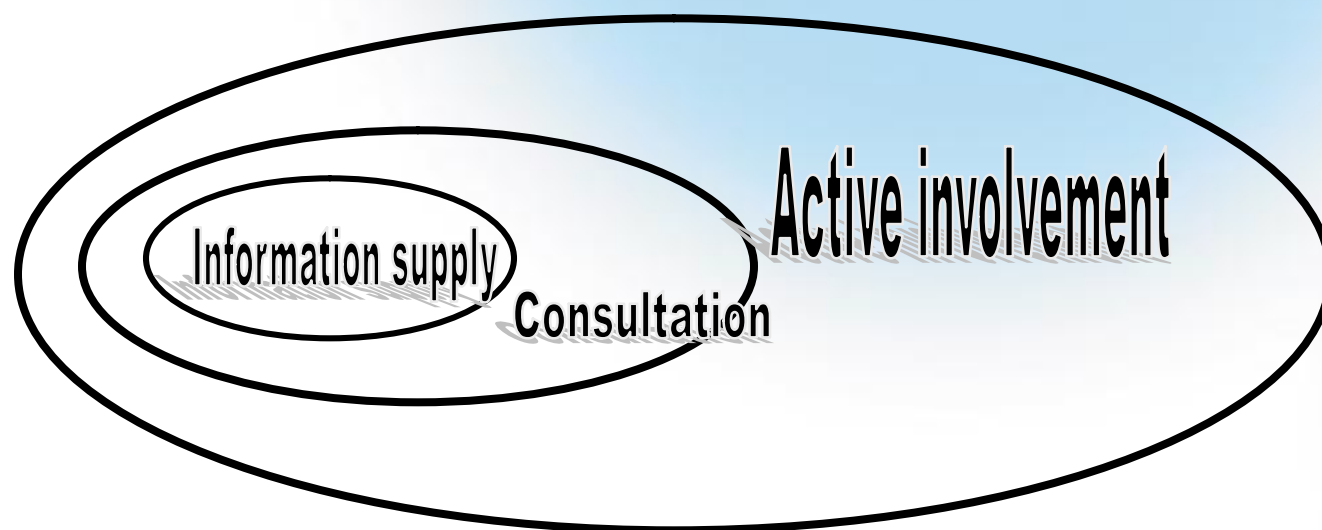
- » Enforces both the information and participation pillars in domestic legal systems, means of seeking redress;
- » Ensures that the public can review when rights of access to information or public participation are affected;
- » Ensures that governments and other decision making bodies respect rights of access to information and PP
- » It is a mechanism to protect rights and interests, such as access to water or related resources
- » Through Courts, arbitral bodies or administrative procedures for appeal



What Public Participation is NOT

- » That everybody agree on everything;
- » A single process or a one-time event;
- » Engagement of all stakeholders at all stages of decisions;
- » That everybody should participate

3 types of Public participation



Public participation – information supply

- » Informing the public;
- » one way flow of information;
- » providing them with information to understand the relevant issues;
- » How issues affect them and;
- » Solutions to those issues.

Public participation - Consultation

- » two way communication
- » Decision-makers ask the public to provide feed-back to proposals or alternatives
- » A chance to comment
- » Surveys or interviews to determine public's views
- » Opinions and values are asked for and considered
- » Can facilitate acceptance of decisions

Public participation – active involvement

- » social learning process;
- » More involvement role for the public;
- » Engaging the public in defining the issues to be considered and how to address them;
- » Formal/informal discussions;
- » Institutionalise public involvement;
- » Highest level of participation – stakeholders become active in the decision-making and implementing stages of water related policies and activities.

Challenges to Public participation

- » Resources and capacity (time, money and skilled personnel)
- » Context – driven – full understanding of political, cultural and institutional setting
- » Language and media
- » Coordination (local, national and international)
- » Representative

Access to information - questions

- » Who should have access? (broad and transboundary)
- » When and how should government / local authority respond to request for information? (timely – 30 days – communication tools)
- » What are legitimate reason for NOT providing access to information? (should be clearly defined and made public)
- » National security, confidential business information, violate individuals privacy)

Informing stakeholders - tools

- » Information materials disseminated;
- » Resource centres;
- » Stakeholder consultations groups;
- » Panels and briefings;
- » Training of government officials and NGOs.

Stakeholder analysis (SHA)

- » Important to know WHO are the most important stakeholders;
- » Understand their role and interest in the activity or decision making process being addressed;
- » It is an approach and set of tools to generate knowledge about individuals or organisations;
- » Interactive tool that can be redefined;

Stakeholder analysis should;

- » Identify the relevant actors that can impact – interest in project;
- » Define the priorities of stakeholders to the issue;
- » Identify information and expertise that is relevant to issue;
- » Detect potential conflicts of interest between stakeholder groups;
- » Also uncover positive relationships and joint interest in issues;

Keys to successful public participation

- » Learn from others experience;
- » Build bridges between information seekers and providers;
- » Prepare manuals for government officials;
- » Centralize information storage;
- » Clear procedures for confidential information;
- » Use and maintain electronic tools;
- » Involve the broad public at all stages;
- » Make the most of opportunities to participate;



Thank you for your attention!

Stakeholder involvement Plan for the Skadar lake basin

How to do a stakeholder analysis

- » Tailor tools to specific needs
- » Maintain flexibility and responsiveness to feed-back during process of 4 major steps:
 1. Define the objectives of the analysis
 2. Identify key stakeholders
 3. Identify relevant stakeholder information
 4. Analyse stakeholder information

Stakeholder analysis

1. Define objective of analysis

- » What purpose should analysis serve?;
- » Close to goals of issue – establish policy or legislation – tool for identifying and analyse stakeholder groups interest in relation to management of the resource (lake, river) etc. in question.
- » Should ideally be defined in the beginning of a process to build ownership;
- » SHA is a participatory process itself;

Stakeholder analysis

2. Identifying key stakeholders

- » List of individuals, groups and institutions that could affect or be affected by the issue;
- » Ideally group to define the stakeholders!
 - » International actors (donors, organisations etc.)
 - » Political actors (national, local government);
 - » Public sector agencies (water and sanitation authorities) ;
 - » Interest groups (fisher's or industry associations);
 - » Private sector and NGOs;
 - » Civil society members; and
 - » General public.

Stakeholder analysis

3. Identify relevant stakeholder information

- » Identify the various interests and priorities of stakeholders identified and
- » Analyse how those interests and priorities relate to the issue in question;
- » Key question: What information do you want to know about your stakeholders?
- » Characteristics, priorities, patterns of interaction, actual and potential conflict of interest, relative importance, power and influence, resources available and knowledge available.

Stakeholder analysis

4. Analyse the Stakeholder information

- » Information gathered can be represented in variety of ways -
- » Need to highlight the most relevant characteristic according to issue in question;
- » Information charts as mechanism for comparing information – what is the most relevant information and how to compare;
- » Power / influence grid;

Public participation Planning

- » Translate the strategic approach and stakeholder analysis into practical activities ready for implementation;
- » Define the type of public involvement that will be required to reach the overall goals and objectives (inform-consult-actively engage)
- » At local, national and regional level;
- » Develop and adapt the activities needed / suggested
- » Develop timeframe and resources;
- » Plan a “Living document” – to be adjusted and developed;

What should be in the stakeholder involvement Plan?

- » The purpose – objective of the Plan;
- » The methodology used;
- » An overview of those consulted or involved in the planning process;
- » A description of key issues that were raised in that process and how they are addressed in the plan;
- » Results of the stakeholder analysis;
- » List of activities that will take place in a certain context;
- » techniques and tools to implement the activities;
- » Timeline, resources, budget and evaluation methods;



Implementation planning

- » For each activity – detailed planning necessary;
- » Establish local consultation structure (local teams, groups to consult);
- » Identifying indicators;
- » Pilot projects;
- » Monitoring and evaluation;

Monitoring and evaluation

- » Critical tool for effective management;
- » Methods for progress and effectiveness;
- » Collect information prior to process – baseline – set indicators;
- » Information gathered through and after process to be compared with base-line;
- » Monitor process and outcomes of action – important for adjustments of procedures, goals and activities needed;
- » Evaluation to be systematic and independent;

