

PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN THE NAPA PROCESS

BY

Taulealeausumai Laavasa Malua

LEG Workshop on NAPAs

Content of Presentation

- Introduction: NAPA Guidelines requirements for consultation
- Building on Existing Information
- Why consultation is important
- What makes successful consultation
- Why consultation may not work
- Some examples of Public consultation methods
- Summary

2. Objective

- To emphasize the importance of stakeholders consultations in the NAPA process
- To illustrate how public consultation can influence the outcomes previously examined steps in the NAPA process

1. Introduction

- Projects are most likely to be successful when they involve all relevant stakeholders and local communities in project selection, design, implementation and evaluation
- NAPA Guidelines call for a Participatory Rapid Appraisal
- Also calls for Identification of potential ideas for adaptation activities

2. Building on Existing Information

- NAPA Guidelines require review of objectives, goals and strategies of existing national development plans, action plans programmes of actions etc
- LDCs have NDP or SDS, NCS, NEMS etc but most importantly the PRSPs and SES.
- Public consultations for these assessments need to be revisited, Raw data from previous consultation most useful as summaries may be presented to suit the existing documentations

Building on Existing Information

- Adequate information and scope of stakeholders covered – adopt or consultation to confirm priorities
- Inadequate for NAPA development – Public consultation to fill gaps
- Indigenous Knowledge and Coping Strategies

3. Why consultation is important

- First Guiding Principle in NAPA preparation, Good governance
- NAPA must be an outcome of Participatory process
- Secures early engagement of stakeholders at grass root level
- A tool for prioritisation of public concerns ie, provides opportunity to meet and learn of their objectives and concerns/ provision of information



3. Why consultation is important cont'd

- To inform stakeholders about Climate change and its implications on their activities
- Establishes relationships and partnerships
- Ensures equity and gender balance
- Encourages mainstreaming



4. What makes successful consultation

- Appropriating Consultation method in accordance to level of consultation, ie national, divisional, district, community etc
- Use normal decision making procedures of traditional, cultural life of the country or community being consulted
- Decide appropriate media or communication methods proven effective previously



4. What makes successful consultation cont'd

- Establish partnerships
- Awareness
consultation must
precede negotiative
consultation
- Consultation must be
a continuous process
where review is also
an important part



5. Why consultation may not work

- Fast tracked consultation that is dictated by insufficient time and resources
- Central or expert knows it all syndrome
- Lack of basic background knowledge on the subject of consultation on the part of stakeholders
- Quality or inappropriateness of consultation facilitator
- Lack of understanding and appreciation of the stakeholders values and knowledge by consultation facilitator

6. Some Examples of Consultation methods that can be applied;

Eg. 1 - Consultation for a National Coastal Infrastructure Management Strategy and District Management Plan in Samoa.

- Initial contact, preliminary discussions on issues of vulnerabilities and adaptation
- Formal ad hoc meetings leading to a decision to accept or reject message or project
- Group meetings with three main village groups or Chiefs, women committees, untitled and young men to identify issues and options for solutions
- Participatory Survey of environment and relevant resources

Example cont'd

- Consultation with temporary village or district management advisory committee to prepare or plan for district and contribute to national programme and strategy
- Other relevant non village / district stakeholders meetings to solicit their views
- Discussion and final agreement by decision making stakeholders on a formal programme of action and plan
- Formation of permanent management committee to monitor implementation

Eg. 2 - Stakeholder Consultation for Environment Action Plan in the Gambia (1996)


- Working Group established as main facilitation mechanism
- 16 District level consultations (150 – 200 participants each)
- Indication of Coping Strategies by communities
- 6 Divisional Reports from the 16 District consultations

Stakeholder Consultation for Environment Action Plan in the Gambia (1996)

- National level consultation – National report by National Climate Committee
- Policy and Decision making consultative workshop
- Experiences from these consultations however pointed to the understanding that connecting environmental effects to climate variability and change was not always straight forward.

7. Summary

- Methods of Public and/or stakeholder consultation differs between LDCs due to size, formal and informal policy and decision making processes
- Existing consultation approaches proven to succeed must be encouraged
- Consultation should build on existing information, or previous consultation results
- Important to establish partnerships and secure commitment from public
- Designing or planning consultation should ensure sufficient resources are available
- Consultation is an ongoing process

A photograph of a vast blue ocean under a blue sky with wispy clouds. A rainbow is visible on the left side of the image, partially obscured by the text. The text "Thank you, Soifua." is centered in the middle of the image in a bold, orange font with a black outline.

**Thank you,
Soifua.**