PUBLIC CONSULTATION IN THE NAPA PROCESS

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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, i.e. 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 preceded 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

- 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 straightforward.
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.
Thank you,
Soifua.