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United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Development of National Profiles and Action Plans to Implement Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration With a Focus on Climate Change

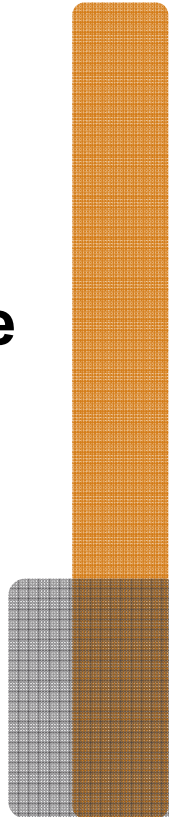
A Contribution to the Implementation of Public Participation Provisions of Article 6 of the UNFCCC

***Regional Workshop on Article 6 of the UNFCCC,
Bali, Indonesia, 14-16 October 2009***

Achim Halpaap, UNITAR

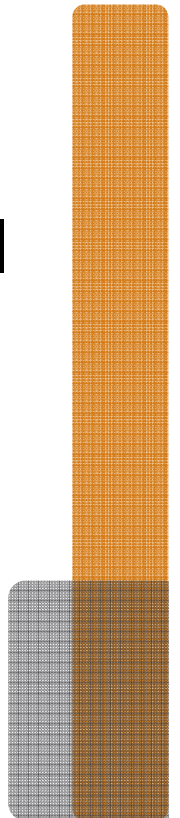
Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration

- Adopted by Heads of State and Government (UNCED, 1992)
- Includes three pillars:
 1. “Each individual shall have appropriate **access to information** concerning the environment that is held by public authorities
 2. “Each individual shall have the opportunity to **participate in decision-making processes**”
 3. “Effective **access to judicial and administrative proceedings** shall be provided”
- Aarhus Convention adopted in 1998 in UNECE Region
- Compatible with Article 6 of the UNFCCC



Interface of Principle 10 and Article 6 of UNFCCC

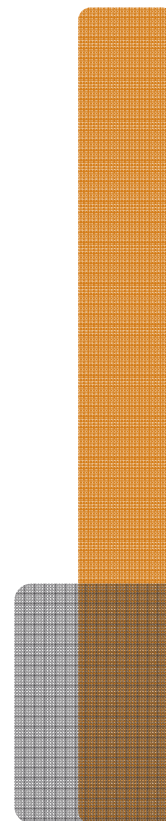
- Public Awareness
- Education
- **Public Access to Information**
- **Public Participation in Decision-making**
- Training of scientific, technical and managerial personnel



Potential Benefits of Public Participation

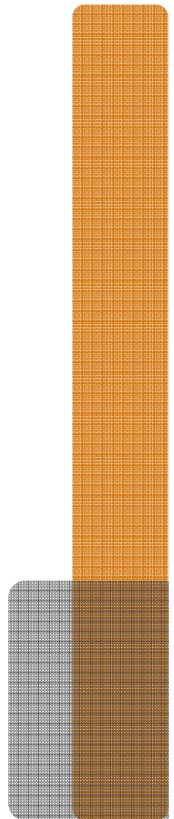
Effective public participation may.....

- bring new important information to the table
- improve quality of decision making and outcomes
- enhance ownership of stakeholders
- foster implementation and enforcement
- promote transparency and accountability
- strengthen public trust in government
- enhance confidence of donors
- Foster environment and development objectives



Participatory Environmental Governance: Questions and Challenges

- What information should be made available to ensure meaningful public participation?
- For which type of environmental decisions is public participation particularly important?
- When, how, and through what channels should the public be engaged?
- How can capacity of civil society for effective participation be strengthened?
- What degree of influence on decision-making should be granted to the public?
- What skills and resources are needed in government to facilitate effective public participation processes?



UNITAR's Environmental Governance Programme: Background and Objectives

- Knowledge generation, methodology development, and training/capacity development activities to strengthen capacities for effective stakeholder engagement in environmental decision-making
- Linked to the implementation of the UNECE Aarhus Convention and Principle 10 the Rio Declaration
- Recognition that a one-size-fits all approach to participatory governance is not suitable
- Ongoing projects in 12 pilot countries to support development of National Profiles and Action Plans to assess and strengthen capacities for participatory environmental governance and Principle 10 implementation
- Project executed by countries with methodological and technical support provided by UNITAR

National Profile Country Projects

Aarhus Convention and

Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration

UNECE (Aarhus Convention)

- Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, and Serbia (completed)

Central America (Principle 10)

- Costa Rica, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Panama, El Salvador, Nicaragua (ongoing)

Africa (Principle 10)

- Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tschad (ongoing)

Asia and the Pacific (Principle 10)

- Currently no projects

National Project Objectives

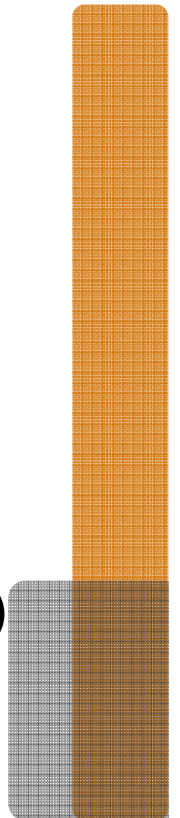
- Raise awareness of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration
- Take stock of existing capacities for participatory environmental governance in the country
- Identify areas for priority action and capacity development
- Strengthen inter-sectoral collaboration concerning public participation in environmental decision-making
- Enhance collaboration and build trust between government and stakeholders

National Profile on Principle 10 Implementation

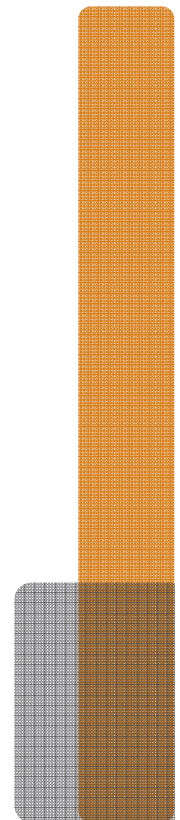
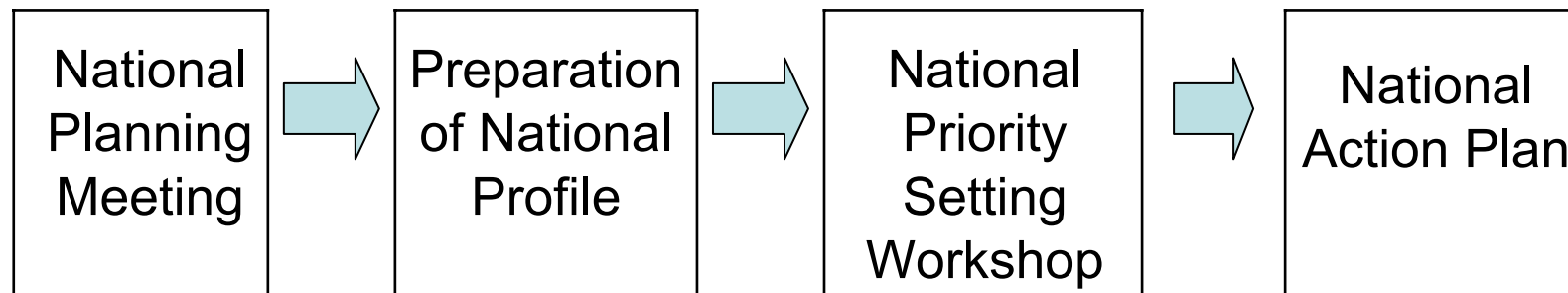
- Provides a comprehensive and systematic baseline document which documents national capacities related to the implementation of Principle 10
- Covers legislation, policies, ministerial responsibilities, activities, public participation practices, etc
- Starting point for priority setting and action plan development to strengthen participatory governance
- Peer-reviewed guidance document available

National Profile Process: Features and Principles

- Country driven process and ownership (“by country-for country”)
- Multi-sectoral approach: engagement of all relevant ministries
- Multi-stakeholder approach: engagement of civil society including environment and community groups, academia, private sector, media, trade unions, etc.
- Foster linkages with and support relevant national environmental policy processes (e.g. MEA implementation)

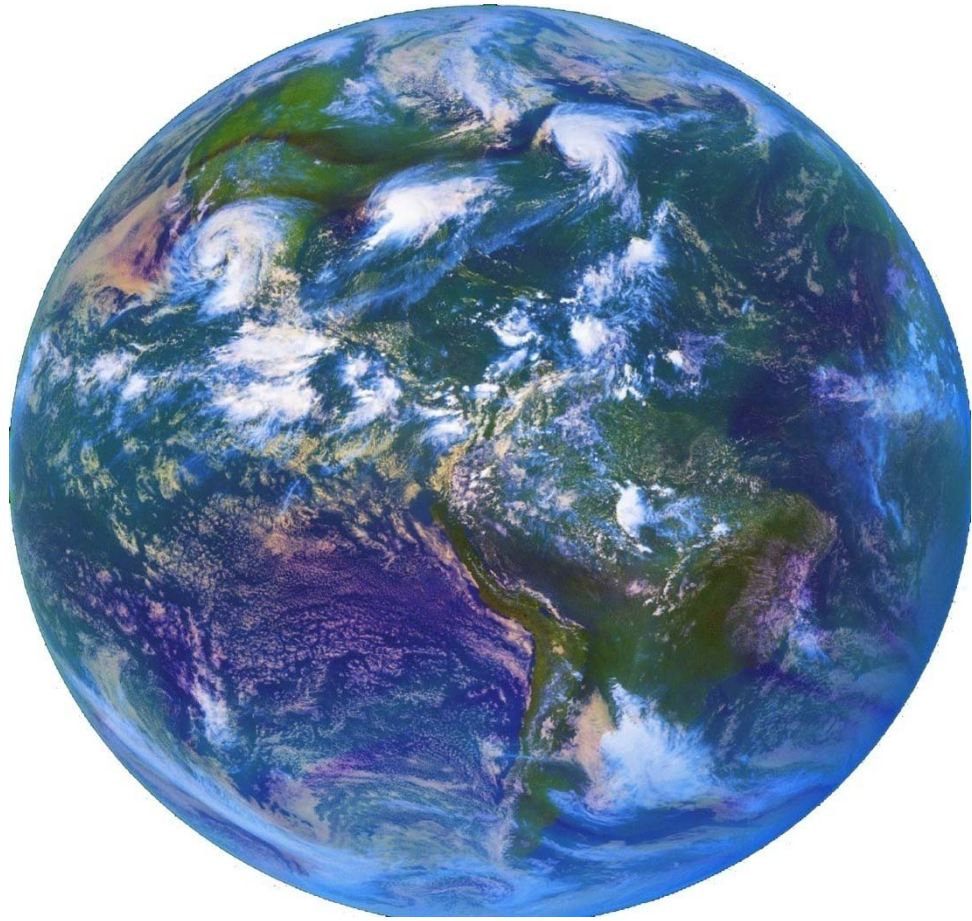


Key Phases of a National Project



Exploring Linkages of Principle 10 and Article 6 of UNFCCC

- Effective public participation and stakeholder engagement in climate change essential to achieve UNFCCC mitigation and adaptation goals
- Many government sectors (e.g. energy, transport, health, agriculture) and multiple levels government (national, sub-national, local) affected
- UNITAR interested in exploring collaboration with countries and UNFCCC Secretariat to support National Profile and Action Plan development with a **special focus on climate change governance**
- Initiative seeks to support information and public participation provisions of Article 6 of the UNFCCC
- Interested countries are encourage to contact UNITAR



**Thank you for your
attention !**