

Public engagement and consultation Tokelau EIA Train the Trainer Virtual Workshop April 2022



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Public Consultation

- Best EIA practice involves and <u>engages the public at</u> <u>numerous points throughout the process</u> with a two-way exchange of information and views.
- Consist of informational meetings, public hearings, and opportunities to provide written comments about a proposed project.
- There are <u>no consistent rules for public participation</u> among current EIA systems.
- There can be variations in the quality and extent of public involvement in the EIA process, depending on the type of project being undertaken







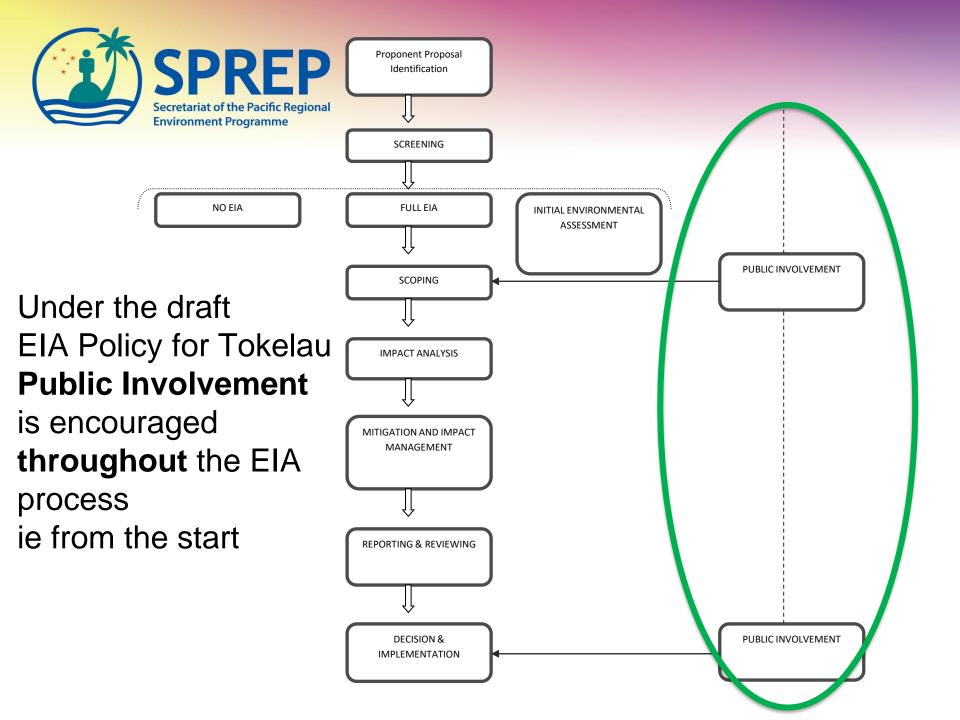
Public engagement & consultation

National legislation, regulations, policies and guidelines



Public awareness / engagement / consultation / participation

Source: Bradley and Swaddling (2016), Marine Policy





Why involve the Public?

- Provide data and information that is essential for the assessment of impacts on the physical and social environment
- Reduce conflicts through the early identification of contentious issues
- Help to identify local citizens and groups with special expertise
- **Provide historical perspective** to current environmental conditions
- Provide criteria for evaluating the significance of identified impacts
- Suggest forms and help organizing mechanisms for public participation
- Help to define the scope of work and schedule for the overall assessment process
- Identify and evaluate potential mitigation measures & Increase public confidence in the EIA process.



- 1. Media techniques: radio, television, newsletters, and advertisements
- 2. Research techniques: sample polls, community profiles
- 3. Political techniques
- 4. Large-group meetings.



Levels and Forms of Public Involvement

- Informing—one way flow of information from the proponent to the public
- **Consulting**—two way flow of information between the proponent and the public with opportunities for the public to express views on the proposal
- **Participating** –interactive exchange between the proponent and the public encompassing shared analysis and agenda setting and the
- **Negotiating**—face to face discussion between the proponent and key stakeholders to build consensus and reach a mutually acceptable resolution of issues, for example on a package of impact mitigation and compensation measures.



Public engagement & consultation

Public engagement should meet 4 objectives:

- Familiarise stakeholders with the project planning & approval process the EIA process
- 2. Obtain constructive input from stakeholders on potential project impacts
- 3. Obtain feedback from stakeholders on project design & impact mitigation measures
- 4. Build & maintain constructive relationships between all parties



Engaging public stakeholders: the CAMEL approach!





Communicate clearly & honestly

Acknowledge different opinions

Map shared interests & goals

*E*ncourage two-way dialogue

Listen to the land & sea



I want you to have a good understanding of the EIA process

Can I provide

input into project

design?

What issues can I influence?

Communicate clearly & honestly



Acknowledge different opinions





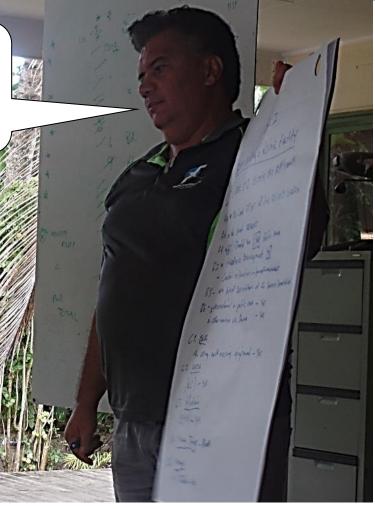
Map shared interests & goals





Encourage two-way dialogue

I want to share my ideas & concerns & hear yours too!





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Public feedback during EIA: top tips

1. Provide evidence-based rather than emotive statements

2. Focus on the **RISKS** to your village, livelihoods, cultural practices/resources or to your local environment

- 3. Include a summary of key concerns upfront in your submission
- 4.Keep it **punchy**, to the point

