

Public Consultation in EIA

EIA/GIS Training – SPREP 2024

Public Consultation in the Act

22. Publication of public environmental report and procedure in respect of objections and appeal.

(1) The Director on being satisfied that a public environmental report meets the requirements of this Act , shall cause the public environmental report to be published in such manner as he considers adequate or most effective for the purpose of bringing it to the attention of all public authorities and other persons, whose interests are likely to be affected by the proposed development.

(2) Any public authority or person whose interests are likely to be affected by the proposed development may within thirty days from the date of publication of the notice referred to in subsection (1) make written objections to the Director in respect of the proposed development.

Content of the Report Under the Act

- (s) give any sources and references of information relied on and outline any consultations with any persons made during the preparation of the report;

SI EIA Guideline

- A key aspect of the EIS study that is often done poorly is the public consultation process. Involving the public in the preparation of the EIS is fundamental to increasing the public's understanding and acceptance of the project. Public involvement also enables members of the public to identify and bring forward impacts and issues that are not immediately obvious to the EIS team.

The earlier in the project preparation process the public can be involved, the more likely that a trusting relationship can be built and useful recommendations made.

The EIS Team must undertake a process of consultation with the people who would be affected by the project and the project stakeholders. The developer with the EIS Team must ensure that the public, including affected people, women and vulnerable groups, have the opportunity to participate fully in the consultation process. Consultations should take place on a continuous basis starting as early as possible in the EIS process and continue through even to monitoring and inspection.

Public Consultation

- Best EIA practice involves and engages the public at numerous points throughout the process 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 no consistent rules for public participation among current EIA systems.
- Particular country, there can be variations in the quality and extent of public involvement in the EIA process, depending on the type of project being undertaken

Roles of 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.

Public Participation Techniques

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.