

MEANINGFUL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR PROJECTS REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

**A guide to effective public participation for developmental
projects in Guyana**



“The public concerned” means the public affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the environmental decision-making...” Aarhus Convention – UNECE 2014 Implementation Guide



Contents

Preface	1
Glossary of Terms	2
Section 1: The Environmental Authorisation Process	
EPA's Mandate.....	5
The Environmental Authorisation Process.....	6
Types of Projects Requiring Environmental Authorisation.....	8
The Public Hearing Process.....	9
The Environmental Protection Act & Public Participation.....	10
Public Participation & EIA Process.....	11
Designing Stakeholder Engagement For EIA Project.....	13
Developing A Scoping Plan.....	16
What Does A Typical Mobilisation Plan Look Like?.....	16
A Closer Look At The Scoping Process.....	18
Consultation During The EIA Process.....	19
Public Disclosure At EIA Report.....	20

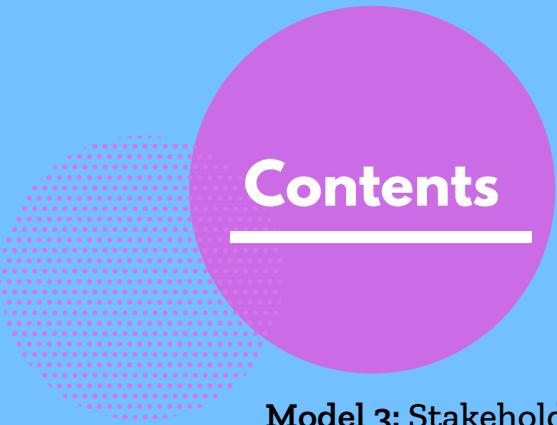
Contents

Section 2: Understanding The Stakeholder Engagement

Why Engage with Stakeholders?.....	22
Important Considerations When Engaging.....	23
Core Values Of Quality Stakeholder Engagement.....	24
Characteristics Of Stakeholder & Community Engagement.....	24
What Stage Should You Engage?.....	25
What Makes Engagement Meaningful?.....	26

Section 3: The Stakeholder Engagement Process

Common Models/Approaches To Identifying Stakeholders.....	30
Model 1: Influence VS Interest Model.....	31
Model 2: AGGENS' Orbits of Public Participation.....	33



Contents

Model 3: Stakeholder Mapping	35
Pay Attention To Some Critical Stakeholders.....	36
What Hinders Stakeholder Participation?.....	36
Determining The Level of Stakeholder Influence.....	37
Mapping The Level Of Influence.....	38
Choosing The Appropriate Medium.....	39
Some Engagement Tools Based On The Level Of Influence.....	40
Use best practices For engagement.....	41
Have A Mechanism For Feedback.....	41
Document Engagements And Provide updates.....	41
Digital Engagement.....	42
Engagement During Crisis.....	42
The Five A's Of Technology Access.....	43
Section 4:	
Engaging Amerindian Communities.....	45
General Considerations For Engaging Amerindian Communities.....	47

Contents

Steps To Be Considered When Conducting Impact Assessments With Amerindian & Local Communities.....	49
Conducting Social Assessment Studies With Amerindian Communities For Environmental Projects.....	50
Free, Prior, Informed, Consent.....	51
Clarify Your Purpose For Engagement.....	52
Tools For Engaging Indigenous Communities.....	53
Section 5: Stakeholder Engagement In Guyana- Looking Ahead!	
Challenges With Stakeholder Engagement In Guyana.....	55
Overcoming Challenges With Stakeholder Engagement In Guyana.....	56
Guyana...	

Appendices

Appendix 1:

Checklist For Public Scoping & Disclosure Meetings For EIA Projects.....	57
---	----

Appendix 2:

How To Apply Elements Of A Stakeholder Engagement Plan Across The Project Cycle.....	59
---	----

Appendix 3:

Sample framework for EIA Stakeholder consultation plan.....	60
---	----

Appendix 4:

Project Summary Checklist.....	62
--------------------------------	----

Appendix 5:

Breakdown Of Mobilisation Framework.....	63
--	----

Appendix 6:

Sample Public Scoping/Disclosure Meeting agenda.....	65
--	----

Appendix 7

Recommended Best Practices From Online Survey.....	66
--	----

References.....	69
-----------------	----

PREFACE

This Stakeholder Engagement Manual was developed for projects requiring Environmental Authorisation in Guyana. Its purpose is to outline the procedure to be followed in the stakeholder consultation process for projects which require Environmental Authorisation from the Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana. This document also aims to ensure that the public is made aware, consulted, and engaged where necessary and is provided with the opportunity to participate in the developmental process on a sustainable basis.

The manual provides guidance for both categories of projects authorised by EPA: Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) required and EIA not required projects. Moreover, the goal of this manual is to stimulate Developers to work in tandem with the EPA, to create a landscape that fosters effective participation, access to information, and inclusivity; one which would engender more equitable and transparent decision-making for sustainable development and evaluation of development projects.

The manual was developed with guidance from the Environmental Protection Act, Cap 20:05, EPA's internal policies governing stakeholder consultation and public participation, as well as several publications on international best practices for stakeholder engagement and public participation such as the United Nations Effective Stakeholder Engagement for the 2030 agenda; Quality Assurance Standards (IPA2); and Inter-American Development Bank, Meaningful Stakeholder engagement. The manual was also refined through stakeholder consultation and an online survey focused on best stakeholder engagement practices in Guyana.

There are five (5) sections in this manual which elaborate the key areas relative to stakeholder engagement for development projects requiring Environmental Authorisation. The applications in this manual can be adjusted and applied where necessary to provide the best results. It is not intended to be a "one size fits all" approach but rather serves as a guide based on what strategies worked well with projects in Guyana as well as internationally.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Amerindian - citizens of Guyana who: (a) belongs to any of the native or aboriginal peoples of Guyana; (b) is a descendant of any person mentioned in (a). They are also referred to as indigenous peoples but Amerindians is the preferred title used in Guyana.

Community of interest - a group of people, wherever and whoever they are, who might have some role to play with the specific project. Typically they are bound by a shared perspective, impact, or interest which can include those from inside an organization (internal stakeholders) and those from outside (external stakeholders), who may be affected directly or indirectly.

Consultant - The independent specialist suitably qualified to carry out the EIA

Councillor - means a member of a Village Council other than the Toshao

Developer - The applicant for Environmental Authorisation for a project of the State initiating a project.

EAB -Environmental Assessment Board - An independent board appointed by the subject Minister to conduct Public Hearings into appeals against the EIA not required decision. The EAB is also responsible for reviewing EIAs and environmental impact statements and make recommendations to the Agency as to whether they are acceptable.

EIA - Environmental Impact Assessment is a decision-making tool that assesses the potential consequences of a particular project which may significantly affect the environment. It is the examination, analysis and assessment of planned activities with the view of ensuring environmentally sound and sustainable development.

EPA - The Environmental Protection Agency is the only regulatory body empowered by the Environmental Protection Act, cap. 20:05, to issue Environmental Authorisation for developmental projects.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ESIA - Environmental and Social Impact Assessment is similar to the Environmental Impact Assessment but is the more modern terminology to emphasize the social impacts of the project.

Indigenous Peoples - same as Amerindians in accordance with the Amerindian Act 2006.

Project - means the execution of construction works or other installations or schemes, any prescribed process or alteration thereof, any interference with any ecosystem or any other activity in the natural surroundings, including public and private projects.

Project summary - A brief description of the proposed project, including site, design, size; possible effects on the environment; the duration of the project; and a non-technical explanation of the project.

Public - "The public concerned" means the public affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the environmental decision-making..."
Aarhus Convention – UNECE 2014 Implementation Guide

Public participation - means any process that involves the public or stakeholder in decision-making and uses that input to help make decisions. (source: the Commonwealth Blue Charter).

Stakeholders - Persons or groups who may be impacted by a project directly or indirectly or who may be interested in a project and can influence its outcome.

Stakeholder engagement - This is a broader more inclusive relation between the company and persons potentially impacted by its operation.

Stakeholder consultation - is a two way dialogue between stakeholders and project company to develop a constructive relationship over time.

SECTION 1

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS



THE EPA'S MANDATE

The Mission of the EPA is to "take measure necessary for the effective protection and management of the natural environment, coordination of conservation programmes, sustainable use of natural resources, assessment of the impact of economic development on the environment, and the integration of appropriate environmental provisions into development planning".

Given its mandate, the primary responsibilities of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) include the issuance of Environmental Authorisation, development of subsidiary legislation, development of enforcement mechanisms, and integration of public concerns into development on a sustainable basis.

Additionally, the EPA is the only Agency in Guyana empowered by law, i.e. the Environmental Protection Act, to issue Environmental Authorisation and invoke the statutory Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process where necessary for particular projects which may significantly impact the environment. The Agency is also required to approve the persons identified to conduct the EIA and set the terms and scope in conjunction with the consultant. Fig. 1 provides a schematic of the Environmental Authorisation process for both EIA required and EIA not required projects

SOME LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK GOVERNING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

- The Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana
- The Amerindian Act 2006
- The National Trust Act 1972
- The Protected Areas Act 2011
- The Forest Act, Cap. 67:01, Laws of Guyana
- Forest Regulations 2018
- The eight (8) Environmental Protection Regulations
- Environmental Protection Guidelines General Rules and Procedure
- Environmental Protection Sector Specific guidelines
- Any other policy which may apply based on the scope and nature of the project

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

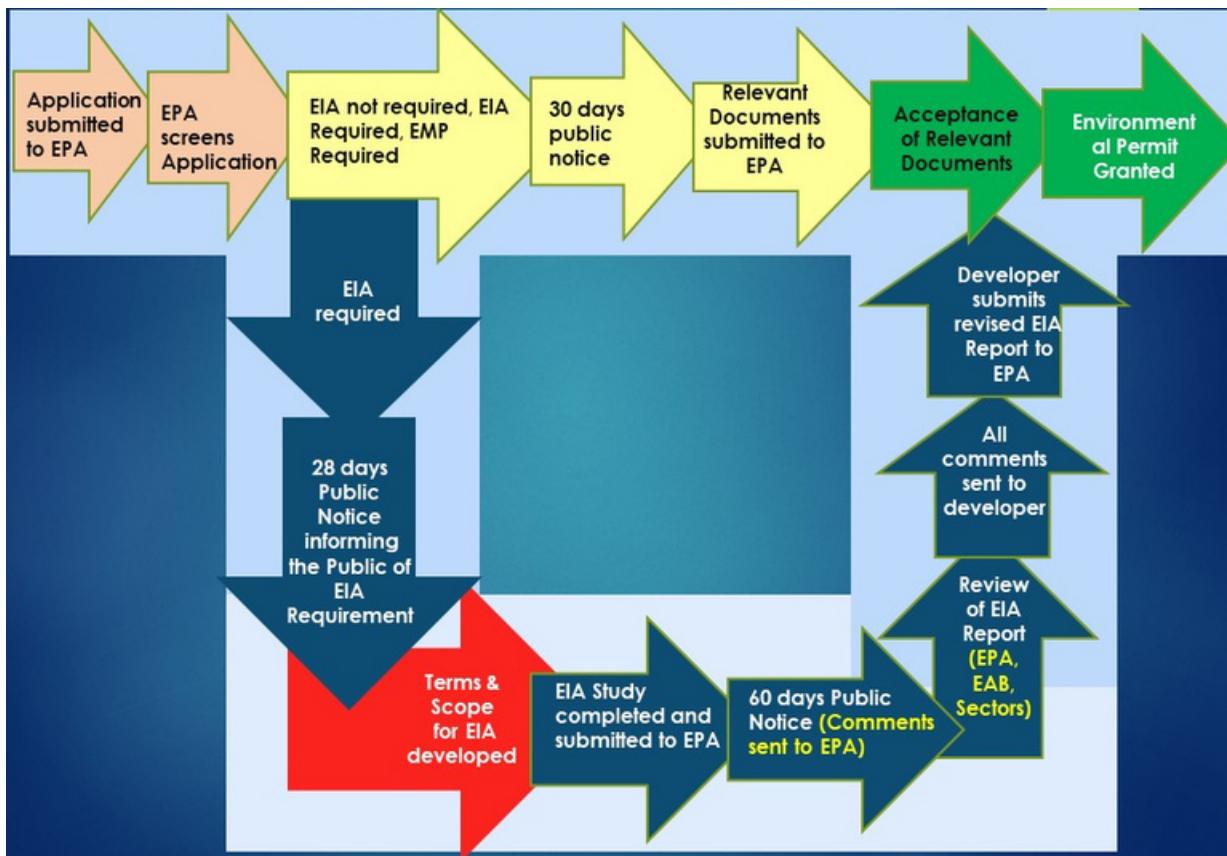
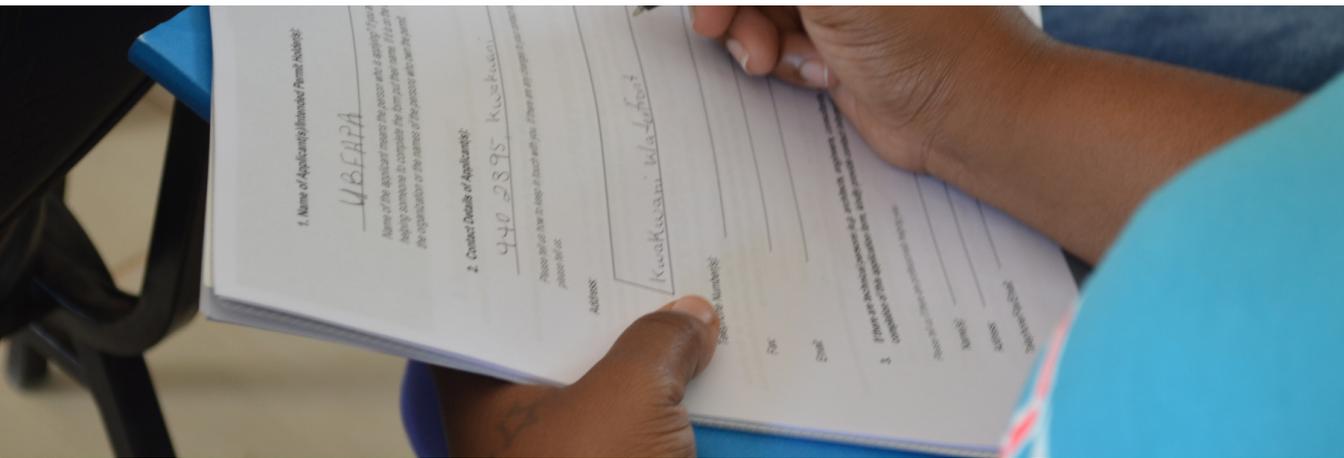


Fig. 1: The Environmental Authorisation Process



THE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION PROCESS

Other important considerations in the Environmental Authorisation Process

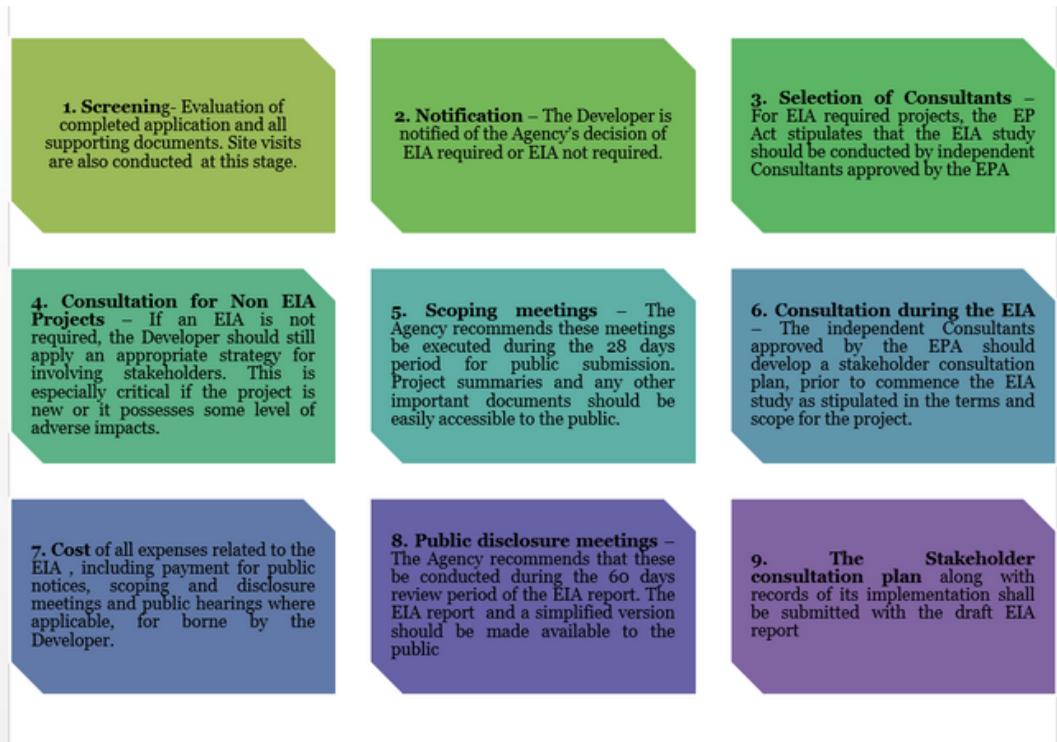


Fig. 2: Important considerations in the Environmental Authorisation Process



TYPES OF PROJECTS REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

The Environmental Protection Agency, Guyana is the only Agency empowered to issue Environmental Authorisations.

In accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, Section 14 "A public authority shall not give development consent in any matter where an Environmental Authorisation is required unless such authorisation has been issued and any development consent given by any public authority shall be subject to the terms of the Environmental Authorisation issued by the Agency".

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, GUYANA
EPA Guyana

PROJECTS REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

A developer of any project as identified in the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, Laws of Guyana, or any other project which may significantly affect the environment, is required to apply to the EPA for an environmental authorisation, provide a project summary and pay the relevant fee.

- INFRASTRUCTURE-**
Port & Harbour Development, Construction of roads and highways, etc.
- SERVICE INDUSTRIES-**
Service/ gas station, Body work/ spray painting operations, etc.
- WASTE HANDLING-**
Recycling activities, landfill, etc.
- MINING/MINERAL PROCESSING**
Metal and mineral processing, mining, etc.
- WOOD PROCESSING-**
Logging, furniture manufacturing, etc.
- AGRICULTURE-**
Rice processing, livestock husbandry and production, etc.
- PLANT PROCESSING-**
Textile mills, oil processing plants, etc.
- OTHER**
Any other project that may have significant impacts on the environment.

APPLYING FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION?

Here's what you will need:

- ▶ Completed application form
- ▶ Identification (National ID card, passport)
- ▶ Proof of land ownership and approval from Central Housing and Planning Authority
- ▶ Map showing surrounding land uses (receiving waters, intake and discharge structures, etc.)
- ▶ Site plan showing the layout of the operation
- ▶ Project description (summary)
- ▶ Business registration/ certificate of corporation

Head Office- Ganges Street, Sophia, Greater Georgetown.
Tel. (592) 225 6044/5472/5468
Fax: 225-5481

Linden Office-LEN Building, Mackenzie, Linden.
Tel. (592) 444-2313

Berbice Office-Plantation Whim, Corentyne.
Tel. (592) 337-2201

Email: epa@epaguyana.org Website: www.epaguyana.org Facebook: [Epa-Guyana](https://www.facebook.com/Epa-Guyana) Instagram: [epagyig](https://www.instagram.com/epagyig)

Fig. 3: Projects requiring Environmental Authorisation

THE PUBLIC HEARING PROCESS

Can the public object to EPA's non EIA required decision?

Yes, in the case of non-EIA projects, the Agency publishes a notice for 30 days as highlighted in fig 1, pursuant to section 11(2) of the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05. The public notice indicates reasons why the proposed project will not significantly affect the environment and is therefore exempt from the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

During this period, any person who may be affected by this project may lodge an appeal against the Agency's decision (EIA not required) within thirty (30) days of the publication of the Notice.

Appeals should be addressed to:
The Environmental Assessment Board
c/o Executive Director -
Environmental Protection Agency
Ganges Street, Sophia, Georgetown,
Guyana.
Phone: 592-225-0506 Fax: 592-225-5481
E-mail epa@epaguyana.org

NB. Public hearings can also be conducted into decisions on EIAs.

Steps in the Public hearing process are highlighted in fig. 4

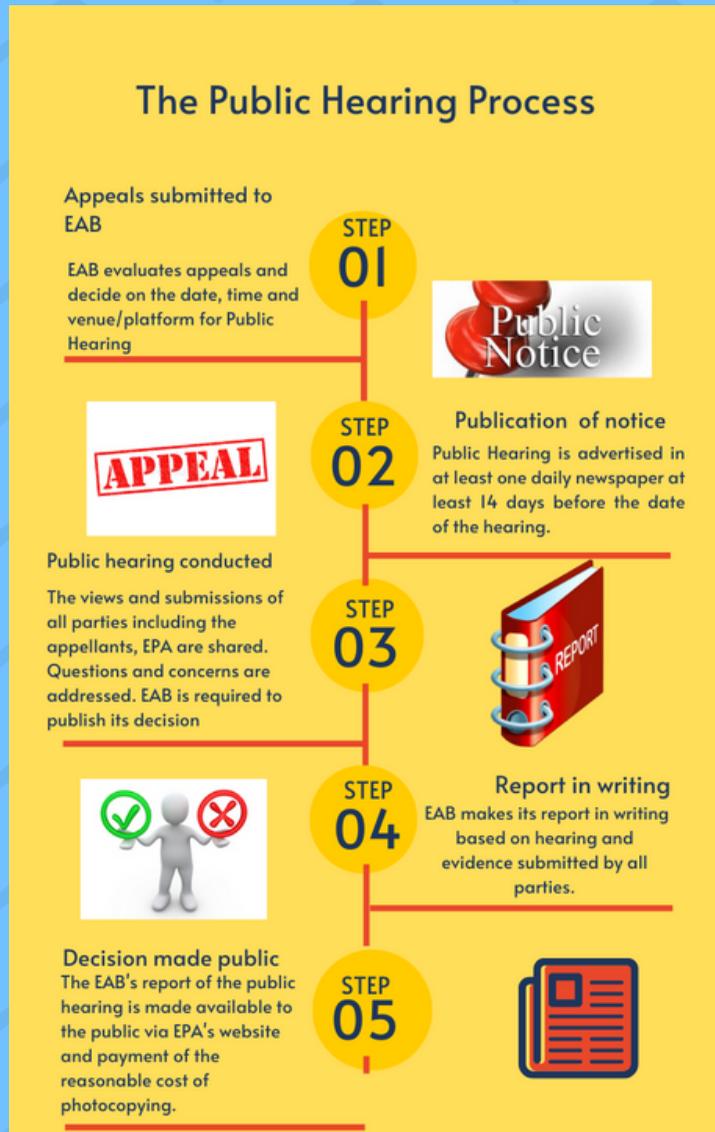


Fig. 4: The Public Hearings Process

THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One function of the Agency under the EP Act, section 4 (1) (b) is the promotion of participation of members of the public in the process of integrating environmental concerns in planning for development on a sustainable basis.

Additionally, section 4 (1) (j) requires the Agency "to promote and encourage a better understanding and appreciation of the natural environment and its role in social and economic development."

The focus on stakeholder consultation in accordance with the EP Act targets projects requiring Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It requires the developer and persons carrying out the EIA (Consultants) to "consult members of the public, interested bodies and organisations". Additionally, members of the public can request, copies of the information relative to the EIA. Section 11 (9) (b)

While the focus is on the EIA process, the EPA given its function to ensure the integration of public concerns , together with the developmental trajectory and modern environmental laws and principles requires some amount of stakeholder engagement for other types of projects which do not require EIA. It is to start the process early and engage stakeholders at all stages of the project.

The level of engagement varies depending on several factors including the type and scale of project and the level of risks.



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND THE EIA PROCESS

The main parties involved in the EIA process are the:

- Environmental Protection Agency - EIA authority responsible for the environment. The EPA has a formal mandate for certain stages of the EIA process.
- Developer - Project proponent
- Independent Consultants - person approved to conduct the EIA
- Line Ministries
- Competent authority - Government authorities/staff that do not have such a formal role in the EIA process can nevertheless contribute to the EIA process through the provision of comments during the scoping period as well as the draft EIA report during the 60 days public review period.
- Local communities and other affected people (directly or indirectly by the proposed project) are an important stakeholder group.

In accordance with the EPA's requirements, there are three (3) distinct stages for which the EIA process requires public participation in keeping with international best practices. These are the scoping stage; the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study; and the review stage (public disclosure meetings may take place at this stage). It should be noted that during the conduct of the EIA, the stakeholder engagement is more strategic and in-depth.

The extent to which the public can influence and control the decision-making process varies at the different stages, the objectives must be clearly defined, and the engagement methods appropriate for the phase.

Some common public participation approaches are described for each phase:

1. Screening: During the screening phase, it can be useful to consult the public to gain a better understanding of the potential impacts of the proposal and of their significance. This early identification of the relevant stakeholders and their main concerns supports public participation at later stages. Screening should be conducted by the Developer as part of their feasibility study. Additionally, the EPA during its screening process consults with stakeholders where necessary in the project area of influence to get their initial feedback on the proposed project.

2. Scoping: At this stage, the Developer is required to inform the public about the proposed project and its potential impacts. This happens during the EPA's 28 days public notice. More information on scoping can be found on page 27. The EPA may consider submissions from the public when developing the terms and scope for the EIA study. While the final terms and scope are not subjected to public consultation, it is a public document which forms part of the EIA report.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND THE EIA PROCESS

3. EIA study: During the conduct of the EIA study, the EP Act (9) (b) requires the developer and independent Consultant to consult with members of the public, interested bodies and organizations. They are also required to make information relative to the EIA available to the public.
4. Review of the draft EIA: The EPA notifies public of its receipt of draft EIA report via a 60 days public notice in accordance with EP Act. The report is made available to the public via the Agency's website and at its offices. During this stage, public disclosure meetings are held. More details on public disclosure are provided on page 31.
5. Decision-making on EIA: The EPA's decision on the EIA's approval or rejection is also made public.
5. EIA follow-up: The follow-up to the EIA is monitored for compliance in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Environmental Permit issued by the Agency. The developer is expected to own the EIA and ensure the monitoring and management plan are implemented in accordance with the EIA.

DESIGNING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR EIA PROJECTS

Components	Sub-components	Design option
Responsibilities for stakeholder engagement	Facilitating stakeholder engagement	<p>Key actors facilitating public participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developer • The Environmental Protection Agency • The person selected to execute the EIA (independent Consultants) • Line ministries • Competent authority • Interested or affected parties
Stakeholder Engagement procedures	Access to EIA information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The information should be published: announced • The information should be available to the public • The information should be available at central points and easily accessible public spaces • The information should be available via print and electronic media • Procedural announcements are made utilizing various media, including email, internet, radio, TV, newspaper, publications etc.
	Consultation on EIA information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The public should be able to comment on the EIA • Government agencies, non governmental organizations, community-based organizations etc. should be able to comment on the EIA • Written comments should be sent to the EPA • Oral and written comments are also taken at public scoping and disclosure meetings

DESIGNING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR EIA PROJECTS

Components	Sub-components	Design option
Stakeholder Engagement procedures	Procedural guidance	Procedural guidance should be available to the public.
	Timeframe for stakeholder engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The statutory time frames in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Cap. 20:05, are 28 days after publication of the project and 60 days for review of the draft EIA project. During the conduct of the EIA, the timeframe for public participation is not defined.
Documentation during stakeholder engagement	Documenting stakeholder engagement results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EPA, developer and independent consultants have responsibility for documenting results during the 28 and 60 days period respectively. The persons carrying out the EIA (independent consultants) should document all engagements during the impact assessment and submit same to the EPA as part of EIA report.

DESIGNING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR EIA PROJECTS

Components	Sub-components	Design option
Fostering stakeholder involvement	Enabling attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use local language, ensure key information is translated in local languages and simplified where necessary. • Non-technical summary of EIA is important. • Mechanisms should be in place to enable easy access of EIA information by the public and the ability to attend stakeholder engagement activities. These may include the provision of transportation where relevant. • Use local people to assist with mobilizing.
Influencing the decision-making process	Taking into account public comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public comments are compiled by the EPA, analyzed and sent for the developer and their consultants to address. • Public comments are considered in the final decision of the EPA, whether to approve or reject the EIA.

Fig 5: Designing Public Participation for EIA projects

DEVELOPING A SCOPING PLAN

Developing a scoping plan is important to executing an effective scoping process including conducting scoping meetings. The Process is one of the most important stages in the project because it provides pertinent information which informs the development of the terms and scope and by extension the quality of the EIA. The scoping plan should seek to engage, involve and inform. The associated actions as highlighted in the matrix below can be tailored for different projects and locations as the process should be iterative.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL SCOPING MOBILISATION PLAN LOOK LIKE?

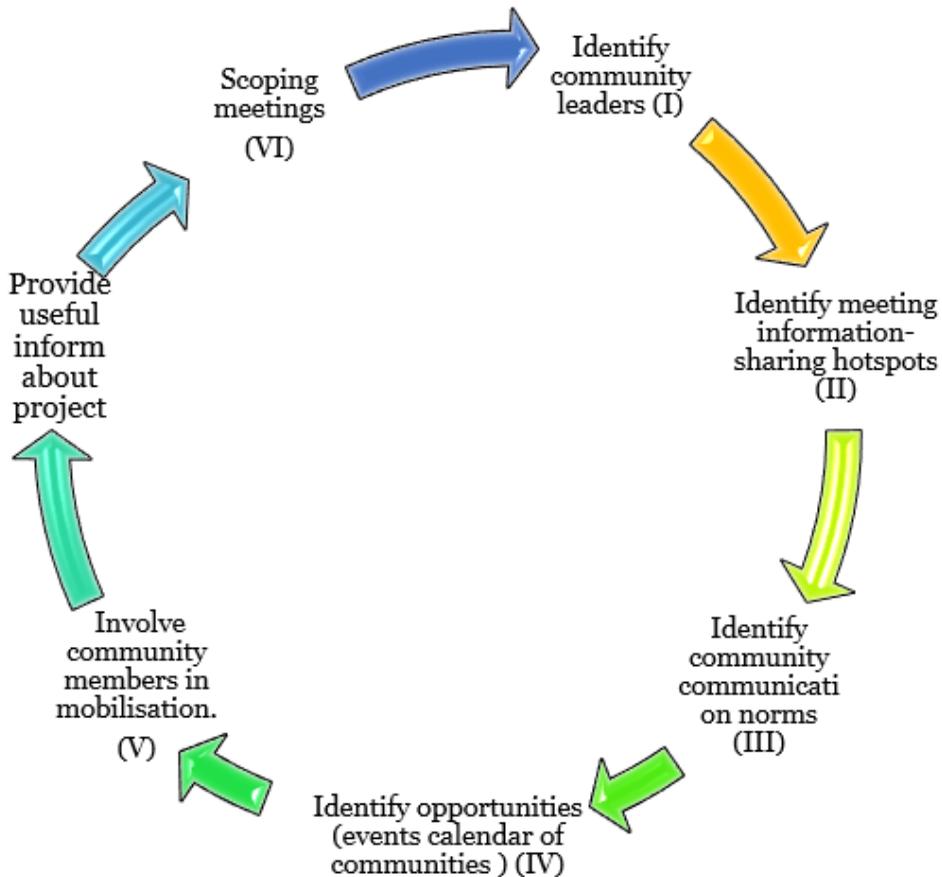


Fig 6: Scoping Mobilization Cycle

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL SCOPING MOBILISATION PLAN LOOK LIKE?

It is imperative that information about the proposed project be shared well in advance of the scoping meetings. Ensure the following:

- The project summary has enough details to inform the public of the project (an outline can be found in Appendix 2.);
- Formulation of key information on the project to be shared by brochures, posters, radio, television, loud hailer, social media and the face to face meetings;
- The scoping plan should be prepared in advance and mobilisation should commence as soon as the 28- days notice is published; see fig. 7 below and appendix 5 for more details.
- The public should have at least one week's (7 days) notice for participation in the scoping meetings; 14 days (2 weeks) is the preferred time period.

Mobilisation steps	Actions	Details	Resources	Budget
Engage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key stakeholder • Discuss scoping meetings via telephone discourse, emails, virtual platforms, face to face, etc. • Conduct meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government • Religious Leaders • Business Groups • Fishermen's Groups • Farmers Groups • Educators • Health Providers 	These include transportation, accommodation, production and dissemination of materials	All costs associated with scoping mobilisation and preparation for scoping meetings
Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with persons of influence in the various communities willing to mobilise • Get the necessary approvals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDC/NDCs • Toshao • Head Teachers • Religious Leaders • Community Development Officers • Chairpersons of established groups • Presidents/heads of Non – governmental organisations 		
Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify community communication norms • Ensure language translation where necessary 	Radio, TV, Loud-hailer, meeting, newspaper, social media, posters/flyers/banners		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select methods and venues for dissemination of information, as well as for the conduct of scoping meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markets/shopping malls/supermarkets • Bus/car parks • Drive-around • Fishermen's landings • Ports • Community activities e.g. cricket games. • Beaches • Academic institutions • Public spaces e.g. Communities Centres 		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create information tools 	Pre-scoping information should include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project and Developer's name • Date, time and venue of meeting • Generics of project's importance (scale; main activities; location). • Call for people/interested groups to attend. 		

Fig 7: Sample Scoping Mobilization Plan

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SCOPING PROCESS

Above we defined scoping, however, let's take a closer look at what it means in the context of the EIA process.

- **It involves you!**
Developers who propose certain kinds of projects must consult with the public. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires that this be done to gather your concerns and views about the project.
- **It gives you the chance to add to what the EIA study should cover.**
Your concerns and questions about the project can be included in the EIA study; the EPA will decide on this with the developer and the independent consultant hired to do the study.
- **Your questions and comments are recorded at the meeting, the EPA records your questions, concerns, and matters and submits them to the Developer and his consultant. The EPA also accepts written comments by email or letter. The public has 28 days after the EPA publishes a Public Notice to send in comments.**
- **The EIA Report will be available for your comments too!**
After the EIA study, the public has 60 days to review it and send comments to the EPA. This is also an opportunity to see how the study addressed your concerns.
- **Developers organize scoping meetings**
The developer is responsible for organizing scoping meetings to involve communities that are close to the proposed project or that may be affected by it. The EPA provides assistance and guidance where necessary to ensure maximum participation. The public submissions during these meetings are also considered when developing the terms and scope for the project.

CONSULTATION DURING THE EIA PROCESS

Consultations during the conduct of the EIA should be guided by a detailed stakeholder analysis and consultation plan developed by the Developer and the person chosen to carry out the EIA. See appendix 3 for an outline of what a typical stakeholder consultation plan should capture.

NB. The Agency recommends this plan be developed early in the process and is guided by IAP 2 model.

1.Guiding documents - The conduct of EIA will be done in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act, Environmental Authorisation Regulations, EIA Guidelines, EPA's procedure for stakeholder engagement documents along with the terms and scope developed for the project.

2.Record-keeping -The stakeholder analysis and consultation plan will form part of the EIA report. This should include all records, minutes of meetings, attendance sheets, main matters discussed, outcomes, and follow-up actions.

3.Submission of EIA -The EIA along with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and stakeholder analysis and consultation plan will be submitted by the Developer to the Agency.

4.Continuous engagement - The Developer should indicate method and frequency for continued engagement during the life of the project based on the level of risk.

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF EIA REPORT

1.60 days Public notice – After the EIA report is submitted, the EPA publishes at the Developer's cost in at least one daily newspaper, confirming that the EIA and EAS have been submitted to the Agency for public review.

2.Public disclosure meetings - public disclosure meetings may be conducted by the Developer and consultants during the 60 days review period and facilitated by the EPA. Stakeholders should be in accordance with the stakeholder analysis and consultation plan. It should strive to ensure the stakeholders who attended the scoping and were consulted in the EIA study, get the opportunity to see whether their questions and matters were addressed in the EIA study.

3.Availability of EIA report - As was mentioned in the section "Public participation and the EIA process", the EIA should be made easily available to affected and concerned stakeholders. The Agency recommends in addition to posting the document on its website and Offices, that it be placed at public spaces such as libraries, local government offices, village councils etc. Notification of EIA report is published via newspaper as well as other communication channels deemed necessary by the EPA. The EIA and Environmental Impact Statement should be available by both the developer and the EIA for the duration of the project and five (5) year after.

4.Review of EIA Report – The EPA, Environmental Assessment Board (EAB) and sector agencies review the EIA report to ensure it is consistent with the terms and scope of the project, relevant plans, guidelines, regulations and codes of practice.

5.Update of EIA Report - The EIA report should be updated by adequately addressing comments and concerns from the public, sector agencies, the EPA, EAB and members of the public prior to its approval.

6.Addressing comments - The consultant (person carrying out the EIA) should clearly indicate how each comment has been addressed. The addendum must be constructed to supersede the relevant sections in the EIA if necessary.

7.Permit conditions – This should capture the need for ongoing stakeholder consultation during project implementation and should be reported upon in the annual reports provided to the EPA by the Developer. The Agency crafts its permit based on findings of the EIA and would monitor the project against the terms and conditions of the Environmental Permit.

SECTION 2

UNDERSTANDING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



WHY ENGAGE WITH STAKEHOLDERS?

Did you know environmental protection is enshrined in Guyana's constitution? Article 25 states: "Every citizen has a duty to improve the environment and protect the health of the nation". Moreover, Guyana has ratified the Escazu` Agreement which seeks to foster regional coordination, cooperation, and capacity building and access to environmental information and justice (United Nations, 2018).

It is in keeping with the requirements under the Environmental Protection Act.	It is a requirement to access project funding from some Financial institutions and it's in keeping with international good practices for sound environmental management.
Helps to identify potential hazards and reduces risks.	Saves cost by enhancing benefits and mitigating adverse impacts.
Identify available skills in the project area.	Project may have to be abandoned due to public opposition and lawsuits. Additionally, controversy is time-consuming and expensive
Provides holistic view of the project to stakeholders.	People have the right to be consulted and the right to be provided with relevant information. Guyana has signed the <u>Escazu</u> Agreement which holds us accountable for this.
Avoids damage to reputation by identifying early warning systems, providing more perspective and more information.	Aid in acquiring baseline data to inform decision-making.
It builds relationships and helps manage single-issue views.	Provides feedback on potential impacts.
Aids in mutual understanding of the project.	Provides greater understanding of the dynamics of the proposed project area.

NB. Also see appendix 7 for submissions from online survey relative to this subject.



IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS WHEN ENGAGING

Before you commence engaging stakeholders, it is important to identify the purpose, need and scope of the engagement. Below are some important things to consider when deciding on whether or not to engage the public, defining your purpose and need and deciding on the most appropriate approach to use.



Be clear on the decision and decision-making process.



Understand who needs to be involved in the process.



Determine the level of stakeholder engagement.



Embrace the core values of stakeholder engagement.



Ensure the process is aligned with the decision-making process and the objectives are clear.



Continuously adapt and evaluate



Source: IAP2 Foundations for Public Participation

CORE VALUES OF QUALITY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Many times the approach to stakeholder engagement for developmental projects is heavily criticized. In Guyana, stakeholders often complain of not being adequately consulted. This is oftentimes refuted by Developers claim they employed all necessary measures to involve the public and consult with the relevant stakeholders. The question is "how do we know when public participation is adequate?" Below are some core values which form the basis of IAP2 members' commitment to quality engagement. There is your checklist when determining whether the engagement was adequate or of quality.

1. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision. In Guyana, this is based on assessment and due consideration in the valuation of the project.
3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision-makers.
4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision

Source: IAP2 Foundations for Public Participation

CHARACTERISTICS OF STAKEHOLDER AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1. **Purposeful:** The process should be deliberate and with a clear objective.
2. **Influential:** There must be opportunities to shape the decisions and actions of stakeholders.
3. **Iterative:** It must acknowledge the interrelationships between the decisions and actions of various categories of stakeholders.
4. **Collaborative:** The rights and responsibilities and roles of stakeholders should be acknowledged.

Source: Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement for the 2030 Agenda; Training Reference material (2018), p. 7

AT WHAT STAGE SHOULD YOU ENGAGE?

The emphasis on stakeholder engagement cannot be overstated, as it relates to what point you engage, the earlier is always better. Research on best practices across the world, were compatible with regards to the time for engagement. The findings revealed congruence that stakeholder engagement should be done at varying degrees at various stages of the process depending on the level of risk. Fig 5 below shows recommended approaches for engagement based on the level of risk and potential for adverse impacts. For some non-EIA projects where the risk is low, information sharing in a transparent and accessible manner is recommended. Additionally, there may be other projects which do not require EIA but the risk may be considered moderate and can be mitigated by an EAMP. EMP projects may require some level of sensitisation and consultation to clarify public perception and reduce the risk of opposition. Most EIA projects may require participation and in-depth consultations, see fig 5 below.

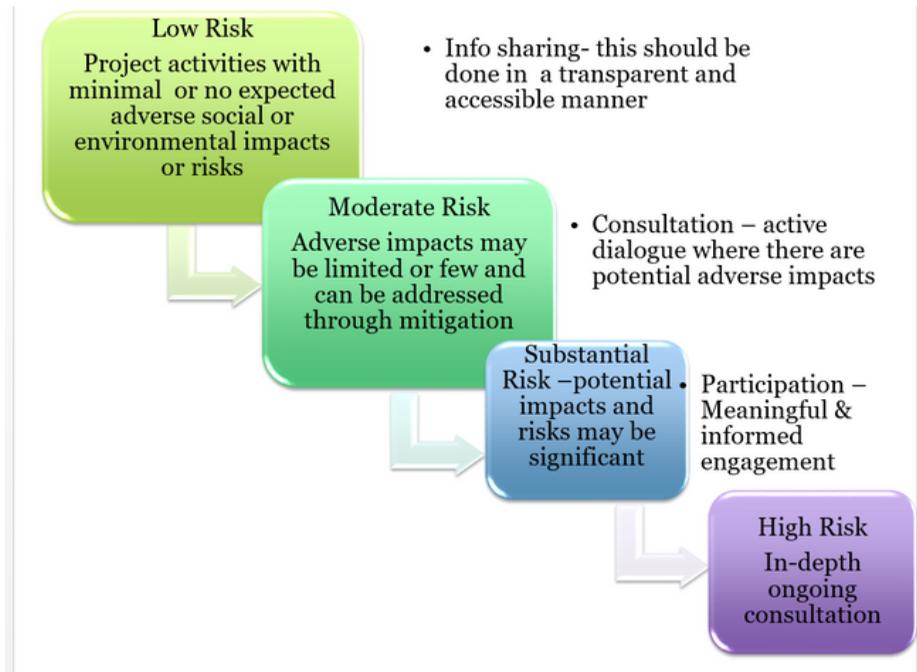


Fig. 8: Public participation based on level of risk

Source: Inter-American Development Bank, 2019. Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement, p.9

Note: According to The Commonwealth Blue Charter (2020). Effective Stakeholder engagement training, when there is little scope for stakeholder influence or the project outcome has already been decided, there is no need to engage. The Amerindian leaders indicated if the project will not affect them in anyway now or in the future, then engagement is not mandatory, however, they would still like to be aware for the purpose of knowledge.

WHAT MAKES ENGAGEMENT MEANINGFUL?

There are a number of international best practices from countries around the world on what constitutes meaningful stakeholder engagement. One recurring theme that cuts across most of the recommended best practices is that it should be deliberate in providing stakeholders with the opportunities to share their views (World Bank, 2017) and be on-going. In this manual, we would utilise characteristics used by IDB (2019), Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement publication, to highlight the ten (10) core principles of Meaningful Stakeholder as elaborated in this section. While this is important for EIA projects in Guyana, non-EIA projects can also avoid project delays, complaints and non-compliances by developing and implementing a stakeholder engagement plan.

Identification of Priority issues

In formulating a stakeholder engagement process, this is one of the first steps. It identifies the likely risks and opportunities arising from the project.

- The approach must be applied on a case by case basis and should take into account the complexity of the project along with the level of risk. It would be useful to the process to look at the direct impacts of the project, indirect and cumulative impacts and contextual risk i.e. those not caused directly by the project but may make worse some project-specific risk e.g. natural disasters, climate change and ethnic tension.

Stakeholder analysis and consultation plan

After the priority issues have been identified, this is the next step in understanding how different groups of people are affected. Careful emphasis should be placed on vulnerable groups in determining how the project risks and benefits will be distributed among stakeholders.

- The stakeholder analysis and consultation plan will be further guided by this document, especially for EIA required projects. This plan should at a minimum group stakeholders according to how the project will impact them and whether it is positive or negative. It should consider key characteristics of the stakeholder group and how the project intends to engage with the different groups or individuals.

Prior Information

Information is provided to the interested stakeholders to provide better understanding and to allow for feedback. This can be done during the feasibility study for the project, during publication of public notices for projects, scoping meetings for non EIA projects, consultation during the EIA process as well as disclosure meetings once the draft EIA has been submitted.

- The non technical summary and all other relevant project related information should be made available. Invitation can be extended via media or formal correspondence.

WHAT MAKES ENGAGEMENT MEANINGFUL?

Appropriate fora and methods for consultation process

The stakeholder analysis and consultation plan should inform the most appropriate way to engage with the various stakeholder groups. This should be tailored to suit the nature and scope of the project.

- The consultation process may require a variety of format and events; it may also require follow up with the same stakeholders. For EIA projects, the EPA recommends public scoping and public disclosure meetings try to capture the same communities and audiences for continuity. Make extra effort to ensure the voices of the poor and vulnerable are heard.

Grievance Redress Mechanisms

Ensure there is a Grievance Redress mechanisms is in place to receive and address concerns. It is especially important if the project is foreseen to have adverse impacts such as displacement or affect indigenous communities.

- The GRM should inform decision –making relative to project design; be able to resolute issues in a timely manner; provide accountability and contribute to institutional learning. The GRM should be tailored to address project risk and complexity. It should start early in the project cycle.

Design and Implementation Decisions considering stakeholder perspective

Incorporate stakeholder inputs in finalization of design and implementation of the project. Additionally, examine how these inputs can increase project benefits; how the adverse impacts can be avoided, minimize or compensated and the available mechanisms to respond to stakeholder needs and concerns.

- Although it doesn't mean unanimity of opinion, people should have the opportunity to contribute to matters affecting them e.g. Development of GRM and Resettlement plan.
- In some cases where the project may be high risk and will potentially affect indigenous community, a formal agreement or written consent is required.

WHAT MAKES ENGAGEMENT MEANINGFUL?

Feedback to stakeholders and transparency in decision-making

Providing relevant feedback to stakeholders in a timely manner not only builds trust but shows respect for people's time and contribution.

- It is imperative to demonstrate to people that the project has considered their views and the consultation is not just a formality. Therefore, a thorough record should be kept of each consultation including time, location date, main issues discussed and agreement reached. Areas of controversy or disagreements should also be highlighted along with possible recourse mechanisms.

Baseline data action plans and management systems

It is important to collect good quality data which can adequately inform the project design and implementation. Baseline data helps the Developer and Regulator to access changes and monitor trends in the project area of influence.

- According to the IDB model, this data should be disaggregated by stakeholder groups (adversely affected and beneficiaries) and further by gender. The socio-economic data should also take into account people's perception of ecosystem value, cultural and spiritual ties, inequalities, trust in local institution among others.

Documentation and disclosure

Proper documentation of how consultations were conducted, issues addressed and decisions made is necessary for developmental projects. It is especially critical, since there are sometimes claims of stakeholders not being adequately consulted.

- It is important to know that for EIA projects, the Developers through their Consultants are required to address all comments posed by stakeholders in a systematic and satisfactory manner before the document is accepted. Moreover, for the public disclosure meetings, the Agency recommends that the presentations highlight the main recommendations from stakeholders which the EIA have considered. Stakeholders should also be informed on concerns not addressed and the reason for such decision.

Ongoing consultation during implementation

It is important to make provisions and budget for stakeholder consultations throughout the life of the project. The frequency and extent of this is dependent on the nature of the project, the level of risks and adverse impacts on stakeholders.

- The approach to on-going consultation should also be influenced by the main issues affecting stakeholders. It has to be targeted to the affected stakeholders. Additionally, Developers should be cognizant that new stakeholders as well as issues may arise during project implementation, therefore the Grievance Redress Mechanism should be accessible throughout the project life.
- Relevant stakeholder groups should be consulted on the various Environmental Management Plan, implementation plans and project changes which would affect them. Another important component of ongoing consultation is catering for unforeseen circumstances and being able to respond efficiently and effectively.

SECTION 3

THE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROCESS



COMMON MODELS/APPROACHES TO IDENTIFYING STAKEHOLDERS

The form of stakeholder engagement is dependent on whether the aim is to inform the public, consult with members of the public or have the public actively participate in the project. Additionally, the method selected is based on the risks associated with the project as well as the legal and institutional framework governing the process. For EIA projects it is also dependent on what stage of the process the project is in.

In Guyana's case, the Environmental Protection Agency is the authority on the EIA process and the only Agency empowered to issue Environmental Authorisation. In this section, we will discuss models of public participation in keeping with international best practices. In Guyana, each of these models can be applied depending on the purpose, scope and the level of engagement required.

As mentioned prior, the identification of stakeholders is very critical to the process of meaningful engagement. Based on an analysis of whom you intend to engage, the platform can be set for appropriate approaches to be utilised. The chosen approach should also capture critical issue of managing stakeholder expectations. There are many models for stakeholder identification, however, this manual will focus on three (3) based on international best practices:

1. Influence vs Interest model
2. Stakeholder mapping
3. Orbits of participation

For the purpose of this manual, we will closely examine what each approach entails.

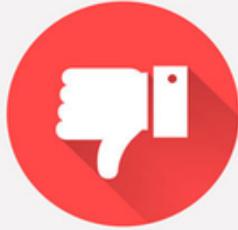
MODEL 1: INFLUENCE VS INTEREST MODEL

This approach looks at strategically identifying stakeholders based on the potential impacts and level of influence. It helps to identify the importance of each stakeholder and the power they have to impact/influence the project outcome.

Key stakeholder groups

Impacts:

Groups affected by the project



Positive:

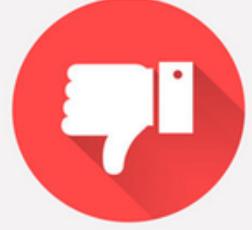
These are the project beneficiaries

Negative:

These are the adversely affected groups

Influence:

Groups who can affect project outcomes



Positive:

Groups favouring the project

Negative:

Groups opposed to the project

Fig 9: Influence vs Interest Model

Source: Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement for the 2030 Agenda; Training Reference material

MODEL 1: INFLUENCE VS INTEREST MODEL

THE STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS GRID

In the analysis of influence versus interest stakeholder analysis approach, the grid below offers suggested approaches based on the level of interest and influence. This grid helps Developers to better categorize stakeholders and the most effective manner of consultation with them. The stakeholder who has high influence and interest would be a priority because it's an indication that the proposed project matters to them and they have the power to influence its outcome.

Stakeholder analysis grid		
INFLUENCE	High power to influence change Satisfy: Medium-priority stakeholders that you will need to work with and engage as opportunities arise to impact Examples: Media, other NGOs and CSOs	Influence: High priority stakeholders that have the ability to impact and take decisions to support your overall advocacy objectives Examples: Policy-makers, local or national decision-makers, high-level officials
	Little power to influence change Monitor: Low priority stakeholders to involve only when resources permit or where there is potential added value to one of your objectives Examples: Local businesses affected by the issues	Inform, consult, and involve: Medium-priority stakeholders that could be most affected by this issue, and would be beneficial to consult with and keep informed of your work Examples: Local communities and stakeholders that are impacted by the issues you cover
	Doesn't matter much to them and/or does not work closely on issues	Matters a lot to them and/or works closely on issues
	INTEREST	

SOURCE: Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit, TAP Network, updated

Fig 10: Stakeholder Analysis Grid

MODEL 2: AGGENS' ORBITS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

This is a model developed by US management consultant, Lorenz Aggens and was extracted from the stakeholder engagement for the 2030 agenda. It assesses stakeholders based on their perception of the impacts of the project on their lives. It engenders a progression of interest based on how closely connected stakeholders are to the project. Fig. 9, provides an illustration of how close stakeholders are to the project, based on their level of interest.

It is important to note that with this model is that some people may only need to be informed while others may want to work collaboratively. When using this model developers have to be cognizant that stakeholder interest may change at various stages of the project. Hence they may move in and out of various orbits during the life of the project.

Deciders - This group of people are usually directly impacted by the project and are extremely concerned about its outcome.

Creators - These are very influential stakeholders who are directly involved in generating ideas and advice that help to shape the project.

Advisors - This group of stakeholders are not very close to the project but are very active during the implementation stage of the project.

Reviewers - these are the stakeholders who actively provide comments especially during the early stages of the project. These are the people for example who would provide comments during the 30 or 28 days public notice period, during the conduct of the EIA and also provide comments on the EIA.

Watchers - These persons may not be known to the Developer, however, they keep watch on the project and can influence the outcome.

Aware - These are the stakeholders in the outer orbit who just want to be informed on what is happening in a transparent manner. They are not concerned with having too much details.

MODEL 2: AGGENS' ORBITS OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

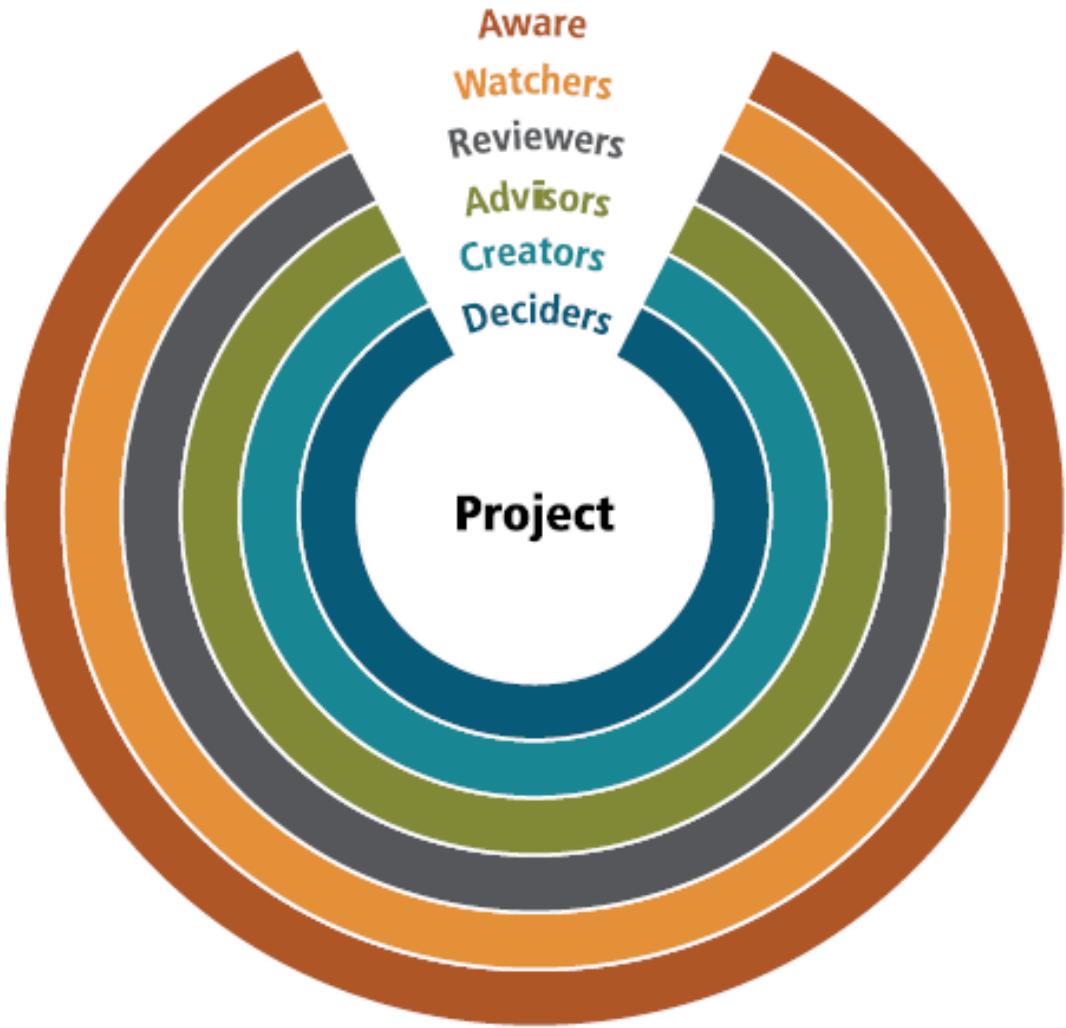


Fig 11: Aggen's Orbits of Pubic Participation

MODEL 3: STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

The approach looks at identifying key stakeholders for the engagement and outlines how they can be engaged based on which group they fall into. The method of engagement will then be crafted to suit the specific group/category of stakeholders. This model as seen in fig. 10, involves four categories of stakeholders: Organisations, cohost, interest groups, and the public ie. persons within the project area of influence.

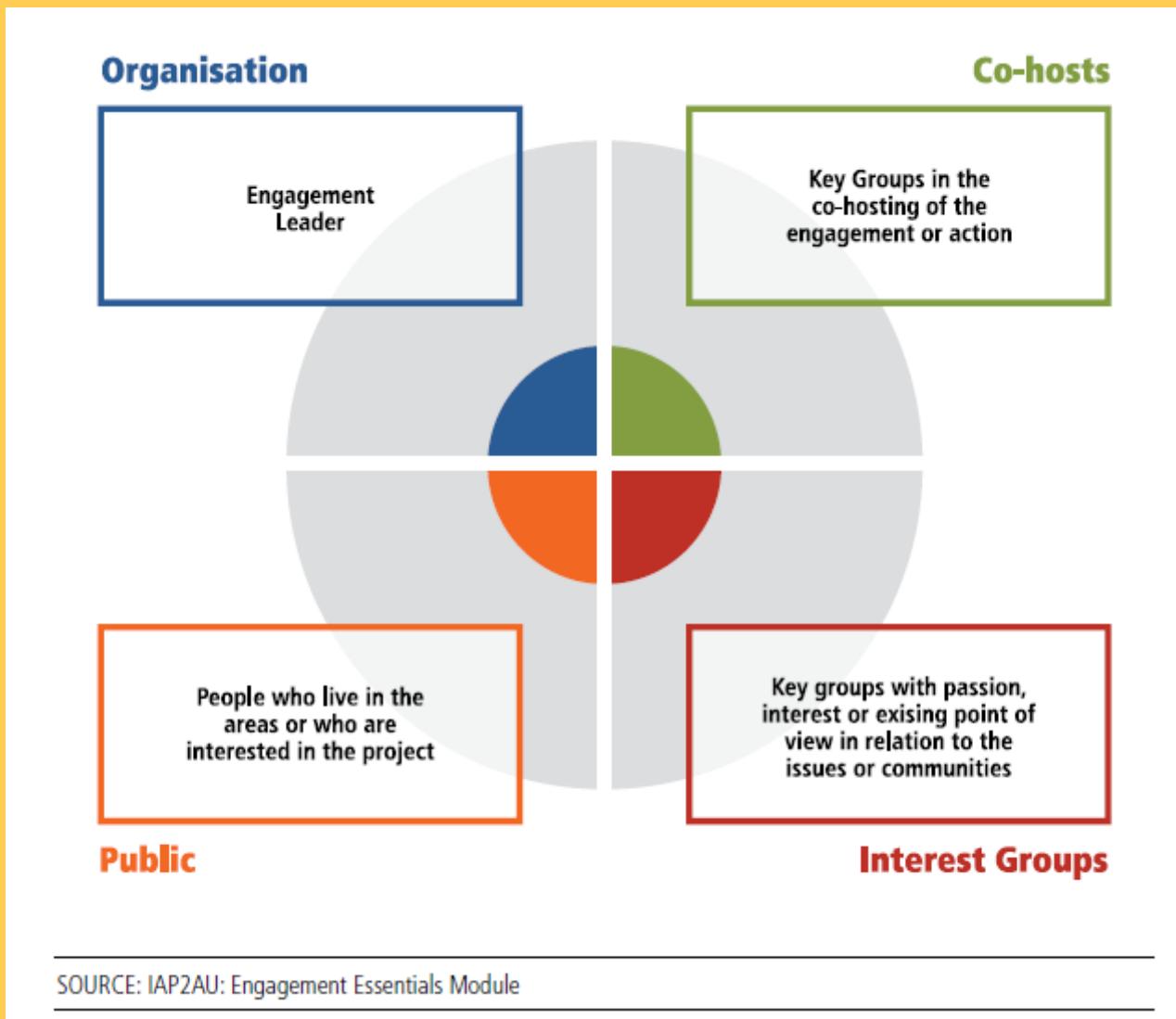


Fig 12: Stakeholder Mapping Model

PAY ATTENTION TO SOME CRITICAL STAKEHOLDERS

In developing your plan for public participation and meaningful stakeholder engagement from the scoping stage right unto the post-EIA ongoing consultation, it's important to consider some key stakeholders whose voices are sometimes missing. These include:

- Women;
- Indigenous communities;
- The Elderly;
- Civil Society Organisations;
- Racial and ethnic minorities;
- People living with disabilities;
- Migrants who speak different languages;
- People with limited education;
- Members of the LGBTQ t community;
- Youth; and
- Academia and researchers.

WHAT HINDERS STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION?

Stakeholder participation in projects, especially those of an environmental nature may vary depending on the nature of the project and the level of interest. However, it should be noted that if not planned and implemented properly, there may be some other inhibiting factors which can prevent persons from participating, these include:

- Inadequate information on the project;
- Limited advertisement on meetings;
- Inadequate information on how the public can get involved;
- They are too busy;
- Are not aware of the opportunity to contribute to the project;
- They do not think anyone would listen;
- Consultation times and venues not appropriate;
- Experiencing other urgent crisis;
- Cultural norms which limits public speaking for certain categories of people;
- Lack of resources such as transportation and finances to access the engagements;
- They do not trust the authority making the decision;
- They don't care.

DETERMINING THE LEVEL OF STAKEHOLDER INFLUENCE

The form of public participation is dependent on the aim is to inform the public, consult with members of the public or have the public actively participate in the project. Additionally, the method selected is based on the risks associated with the project as well as the legal and institutional framework governing the process. For EIA projects it is also dependent on what stage of the process the project is in.

In Guyana's case, the Environmental Protection Agency is the authority on the EIA process and the only Agency empowered to grant Environmental Authorisation. In identifying stakeholders it's important to determine the level of influence.

The IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum highlights how much influence the public can have in a decision-making process. The level of interaction changes as the level of influence grows. Contemporary engagement looks at ways to move this dynamic to more shared leadership and action. **Determining the level of influence is based on assessing the context, purpose, and stakeholders that will be engaged.** In a contemporary sense, this consideration will also be influenced by who will be leading the engagement and have responsibility for the actions.

The IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum is based on a traditional engagement approach, which has a focus on government as the decision-makers and the stakeholders and public having mixed roles ranging from passive receivers of information to decision-makers. IAP2 believes that each level of public participation and the accompanying goal suggests that a commitment is being made to the public. The project sponsor promises to take action that will achieve the goal of the level selected.

It is important to determine the level of public engagement based on the goal whether it is to inform, consult, involve, collaborate or empower. The matrix below shows the IAP2 model based on your goal. This also determines the promise to the public and the recommended techniques. In this regard, some non-EIA projects may require informing the public while others may require consultation for buy-in. On the other hand, EIA projects may require stakeholders in all five stages or may end at the collaborate stage depending on the location, risks, and nature of the project.

MAPPING THE LEVEL OF INFLUENCE

		Increasing level of public impact				
		Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public participation goal		To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
Promises to the public		We will keep you informed	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide
Examples of techniques		Facts sheets, brochures, public notices, website, open houses, mass media. Place project related information at easily accessible public facilities.	Focused groups, surveys, interviews, One on one engagements, public meetings, community engagement.	Workshops, Round table discussions, Public hearings, public disclosure meeting, small group meetings, responsive summaries.	Participatory decision-making, deliberative dialogues, panels, symposia	On-going advisory group

Fig. 11: Determining the level of influence

SOURCE: IAP2 Foundations for Public Participation

CHOOSING THE APPROPRIATE MEDIUM

The matrix above shows IPA's recommendation based on your intended goal and the level of impact you expect from the engagement. As you would notice there are corresponding promises made to stakeholders. Be aware that your goal is clear and stakeholder expectations are managed well. In order for this to happen, the process must be well thought out and budgeted for. In order for public participation to be effective, it should be integrated into the project cycle, planned and budgeted for. It should not be an after thought or a reaction to public objections or concerns about the proposed project.

Fig 6 below shows three (3) key considerations when deciding on the appropriate media, this augments the IPA2 goals listed above.

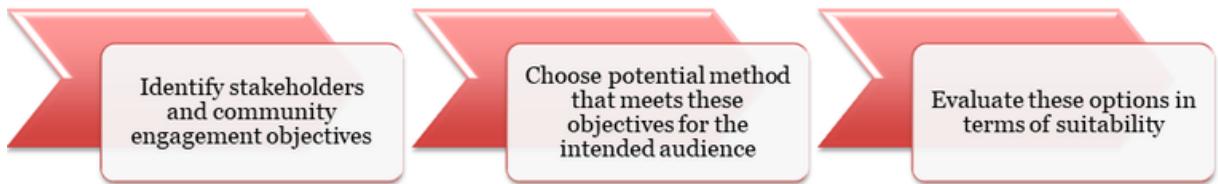


Fig. 13: Considerations when deciding the appropriate media for engagement

Source: IAP2 Foundations for Public Participation

SOME ENGAGEMENT TOOLS BASED ON THE LEVEL OF INFLUENCE

Meaningful stakeholder engagement and consultation requires not only identifying the method but appropriate tools for engagement based on the level of influence in according to the IPA 2 Spectrum. Fig. provides some examples of engagement tools based on the intended level of influence for the category of stakeholder.

Tool	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Briefing					
Community fairs					
Conference					
Displays & Exhibition					
Focus groups					
Information hub					
Media Releases					
Interviews					
Newspaper inserts					
Open house					
Printed information					
Public Conversation					
Questionnaires					
Surveys					
Social media post					
Radio/TV interviews					
Radio/TV Ads/PSAs					
Workshops					
Loud Hailer					
Websites					
Public meeting					
Roundtable					
Virtual stakeholder meetings					
Social media groups					

Fig. 14: Examples of Engagement Tool Classifications

Source: Effective Engagement Book 3 (2014): the engagement toolkit

USE BEST PRACTICES FOR ENGAGEMENT

Given there is no one single approach to stakeholder engagement, ensure you use proven best practices which can be tailored for your context. These include:

- Planning the process early and budgeting for it;
- Selecting appropriate stakeholders through any of the processes identified in figs. 9-12 or any approved stakeholder assessment tool;
- Ensuring the information is shared beforehand in a format easy to understand;
- Providing the opportunity for stakeholders to share their views;
- Ensuring gender inclusivity and participation of vulnerable groups;
- Making it adaptable - it should suit the community, group, organization, or individual in terms of timeframe, context, languages, etc.;
- Ensuring it's free from manipulation and coercion;
- The process should be well documented;
- Providing mechanisms for feedback; and
- The engagement should be on-going.

HAVING A MECHANISM FOR FEEDBACK

Given that important to meaningful stakeholder engagement is having a mechanism in place to not only document stakeholders inputs but also to provide feedback on critical issues raised. Stakeholders would like to know that their views will be considered in the decision-making process. This is important for building a lasting relationship and garnering support.

DOCUMENT ENGAGEMENT AND PROVIDE UPDATES

It is also imperative that stakeholder engagements are accurately documented. This means the task should be assigned to a specific person or persons who will record inputs, time, commitments made, who made the submissions etc. Equally important to the engagement process is providing updates after engagements. Let stakeholders know the outcome, how their submissions were considered and if there has been any change in the project. Stakeholder should know how their submissions influenced the decision-making process. This help to build trust and encourage further participation and support.

DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

In this era of technological advance, digital or virtual engagement has become a popular method of engagement. However, there are some key principles to follow to ensure inclusive digital engagement. Given the COVID 19 pandemic, the need to transition from traditional to more hybrid engagement becomes evident. Additionally, communities sometimes experience crises such as floods, droughts, crimes, etc. and there may be a need for urgent engagement. Developers and Consultants must be mindful and sensitive to these crises. While technology has made provisions for easier access the According to Haas Lyons in her virtual consultation presentation at IDB's Regional Policy Dialogue on Licensing and Environment (2020), understanding communities' ability to respond during a crisis is important, see fig. 15. Additionally, ensure you clarify your purpose, fig 16, apply the right principles to engage indigenous communities and apply the five (5) A's of technology as shown in fig. 17.

ENGAGEMENT DURING CRISIS

Be cognisant that communities are prioritizing the health and safety of families and community members, therefore, their capacity to respond and participate may be limited.

The approach should be flexible and adaptable with consideration for extending timelines where requested, or deferring decisions where. Keep communities informed if there are actions taken that impact key timelines.

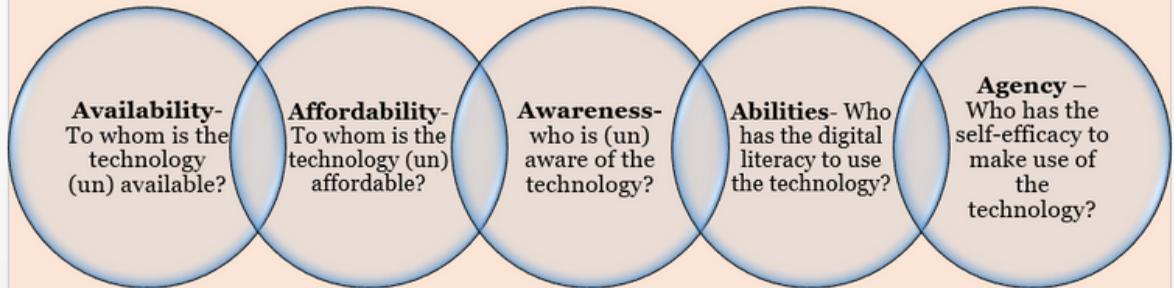
Where there is some urgency, find sensitive ways to engage. Ask how the community is already getting information and communicating with one another.

Continue to assess engagement and respond to current circumstances.

Fig. 14: Engagement during crisis

THE FIVE A'S OF TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

The Five A's of Technology Access



Source: The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries, Volume: 85, Issue: 4, First published: 08 February 2019, DOI: (10.1002/isd2.12084)

Fig. 15: The five A of technology access

SECTION 4

ENGAGING AMERINDIAN COMMUNITIES



ENGAGING AMERINDIAN COMMUNITIES

The rights of Indigenous Peoples and their unique political, economic, social, and cultural structures have been recognized at the global level and confirmed through international and national laws. Key international frameworks and guidance include ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (1989); the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP, 2007).

Engaging Amerindian/indigenous communities in Guyana should be in accordance with the Amerindian Act 2006. According to Part II 5(1), a person other than those on official government business, who wishes to enter village lands shall apply for and obtain the permission of the Village Council. Further, in accordance with part II 5(3), in order to conduct any scientific, anthropological or archaeological research or any other research of study which relates to biological diversity, the environment or natural resources or any use or knowledge within the village lands shall apply for and obtain in advance.

- permission of the Village Council;
- all permits required under any other written law; and
- the permission of the Minister

Additionally, persons who carry out research as highlighted above should provide

- a full written report of his findings
- copy of all recording made; and
- copy of any publication containing material derived from the research

It is also important to note that the use of material from research or study as highlighted above requires permission from the Village Council, the Minister of Culture and the EPA.

When engaging with Amerindian communities the following should be considered:

Relevant information should be made available in the local language(s) as far as possible and public participation activities should be carried out in the local language(s) where feasible and necessary because it:

- enhances the likelihood that all relevant stakeholders can read and understand the EIA information;
- increases the likelihood that relevant stakeholders can provide inputs to the EIA process; and
- makes stakeholders more accountable.

NB. This can make the EIA process more time-consuming and costly and would require staff with specific language skills. Therefore, it is important to factor this into the stakeholder analysis and consultation plan.



The rights of Indigenous Peoples and their unique political, economic, social, and cultural structures have been recognized at the global level and confirmed through international and national laws. Key international frameworks and guidance include ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous consultation.

What are the requirements from Funding Agencies?

It is important for Developers to know what are the international funding requirements/policies for engaging with indigenous communities for projects funded by institutions such as World Bank, IDB, and IFI. They need to ensure this is factored into their stakeholder engagement and consultation plan.

Development Financing Institutions such as IDB usually place emphasis not only on risk management and potential adverse impacts but also on promoting opportunities for Indigenous Peoples.

Meaningful engagement with Indigenous Groups is required: In the section on Promoting Development with Identity, the Policy requires that in projects with potential adverse impacts, "For cases of particularly significant potential adverse impacts that carry a high risk to the physical, territorial or cultural integrity of the affected indigenous peoples or groups, the Bank will further require and verify that the project proponent/Developer demonstrates that it has, through a good faith negotiation process, obtained agreements regarding the operation and measures to address the adverse impacts as necessary to support, in the Bank's judgment, the sociocultural viability of the operation". The IDB requires a minimum of two rounds of consultation with Indigenous Communities regardless of the project category.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ENGAGING AMERINDIAN/INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

- **Ensure they are culturally appropriate** - Consultation Information should be provided in formats and languages that are meaningful to Indigenous Peoples affected by a project.
 - **Translation** - Translating key documents into local languages where necessary is important. If interpreters are to be used, they should be people who know the local context and are trusted by the community. To the extent possible they should be recruited from among local bilingual community members.
 - **Visual Aids & local Media** - making use of visual aids and simple appropriate forms of sharing project information can be effective. This includes the use of local radio and television stations.
- **Consider traditional knowledge** - indigenous communities should be consulted not only about the project, but about relevant issues in the local context, including how traditional beliefs and systems of knowledge may be considered.
- **Developers and consultants should be mindful that project impacts may have different meanings to local people.** They may not only be concerned about the environment but the social, cultural, and spiritual impacts.
- **Establish protocol** - It is recommended that a structured protocol for how the consultation process should proceed be established and documented. This protocol should include agreement on how impacts are to be defined, benefits, and resource sharing, where appropriate.
- **Build Trust** - Such a protocol can be invaluable to strengthening trust in the project and the engagement process. Many local communities fear or distrust people coming from the outside because of past experiences of manipulation, intimidation, or deceit. Indigenous communities will not be open in the consultation process where there is a lack of trust and confidence.

Source: Akwé: Kon Guidelines (2004), Published by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ENGAGING AMERINDIAN/INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

- Involve early, before project commences
- Indigenous laws, worldviews and values are essential to both process and outcome
- Community selects its representatives, in response to convenor requests

Indigenous



- Process advances reconciliation
- No coercion, intimidation or manipulation
- Respect the time requirements of indigenous community's participation

Engagement



- Provide information required for full participation, including impacts and benefits
- Remember communities are different
- Respect the right to self-determination

Principles



Informed by: First Nations Leadership Council (2013) Advancing an Indigenous Framework for Consultation and Accommodation in BC.



STEPS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN CONDUCTING IMPACT ASSESSMENTS WITH AMERINDIAN AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

- **Notify** - The developer/EPA must notify the public of the proposed project and opportunities for public engagement. This should be done using various media such as newspaper, print, email, radio, television, community meetings etc. Project summary, EIAs, and other associated project materials should be distributed well in advance of the scoping meetings, consultations and disclosure meetings (14 days is a reasonable time). This should take into consideration remote communities as well as the literacy level.
- **Identify the indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders** likely to be affected by the proposed development in accordance with the flow chart on page 39.
- **Establish mechanisms for indigenous and local community participation**, including the participation of women, the youth, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups, in the impact assessment processes.
- **Procedure for recording feedback** (views and concerns) of the indigenous or local community who may be impacted by a proposed project.
- **Be open** - establish a process that allows local communities and indigenous communities to accept or oppose a proposed project which may impact them.
- **Allocate resources** - Identification and provision of sufficient human, financial, technical, and legal resources for effective indigenous and local community participation in all phases of impact assessment procedures.
- **Establishment of an environmental management or monitoring plan (EMP)**, including contingency plans regarding possible adverse cultural, environmental, and social impacts resulting from a proposed development.
- **Grievance Redress** - have a grievance redress mechanism in place for issues relative to liability, redress, insurance, and compensation. This should also include a review and appeals procedure.
- **Documentation of engagements and agreements reached**, or action plans, on mutually agreed terms, between the developer of the proposed project and the affected indigenous and local communities, for the implementation of measures to prevent or mitigate any negative impacts of the proposed project.

Source: Akwé: Kon Guidelines (2004), Published by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

CONDUCTING SOCIAL ASSESSMENT STUDIES WITH AMERINDIAN COMMUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

According to the Akwé: Kon Guidelines (2004), social impact assessments with local communities should "take into demographic factors, housing, employment, services, income, and asset distribution, traditional". The document also posited that these assessments should be done in the preliminary phases of the project ie. the screening and scoping phase. The guidelines highlighted that there is need for the assessment of tangible benefits to communities such as "access to markets and diversification of income opportunities" (p. 17). Moreover, evaluation should also capture negative social impacts such as "sexually transmitted diseases, changes in traditional practices and crime" (17).

Additionally, the guidelines recommended that the social assessment covers the following:

Section 41 "Developments involving changes to traditional practices for food production, or involving the introduction of commercial cultivation and harvesting of a particular wild species, should have those changes and introductions assessed" (p. 18).

Section 42. "In social impact assessments, social development indicators consistent with the views of indigenous and local communities should be developed and should include gender, generational considerations, health, safety, food and livelihood security aspects and the possible effects on social cohesion and mobilization" (p.18).

Section 43. In determining the scope of a social impact assessment, the following should be considered:

- (a) Baseline studies;
- (b) Economic considerations;
- (c) Possible impacts on traditional systems of land tenure and other uses of natural resources;
- (d) Gender considerations;
- (e) Generational considerations;
- (f) Health and safety aspects;
- (g) Effects on social cohesion;
- (h) Traditional lifestyles; and
- (i) The possible impact on access to biological resources for livelihoods.

Source:Akwé: Kon Guidelines (2004), Published by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

FREE, PRIOR, INFORMED, CONSENT

In practice, this is equivalent to the principle of FPIC as established in the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. FPIC is required in projects involving involuntary resettlement of Indigenous Peoples; projects that have significant impacts on land and natural resources traditionally used by the community; and significant impacts on critical cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible.

It is unrealistic to expect unanimous support from all community members for a proposed project. The FPIC process should be viewed as a process that is embedded into customary decision making processes, laws and institutions. It should facilitate a process whereby affected communities of Indigenous Peoples build and agree upon a collective position regarding the process.

An agreement, or consent, is a collective expression of support and may be achieved even if some individuals or sub-groups disagree.

It captures and reflects broad agreement not only on the outcome and decisions reached but also on the legitimacy of the engagement process itself. Important to project planning and implementation is engaging in a process of securing the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples is the responsibility of the Developer and their independent consultants.

Documenting the agreement reached is important to ensure all parties understand it and consider it legitimate. Agreements should be recorded in writing to avoid misunderstandings.

Source: Akwé: Kon Guidelines (2004), Published by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

CLARIFY YOUR PURPOSE FOR ENGAGEMENT

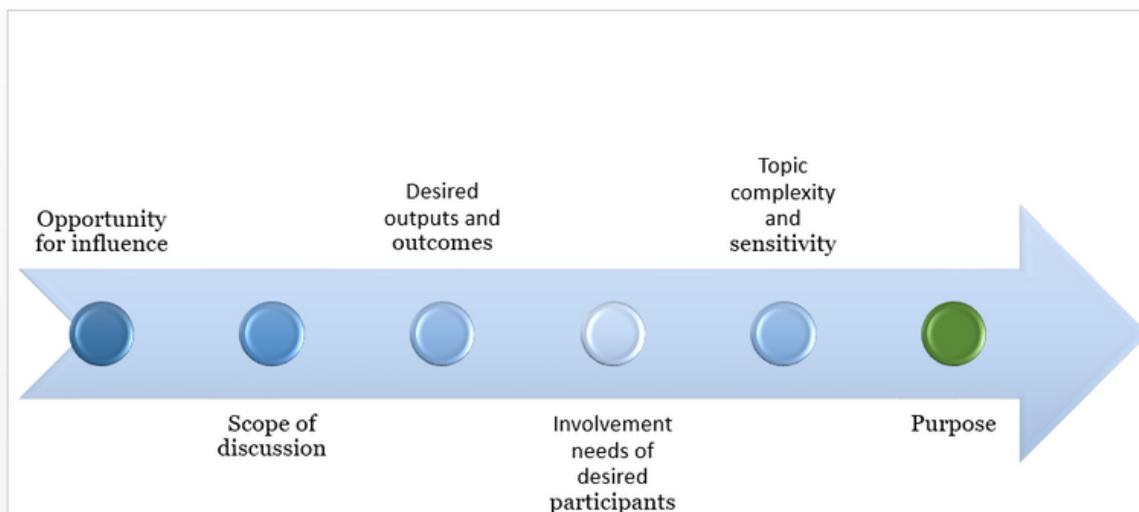


Fig. 16: Steps in clarifying your purpose

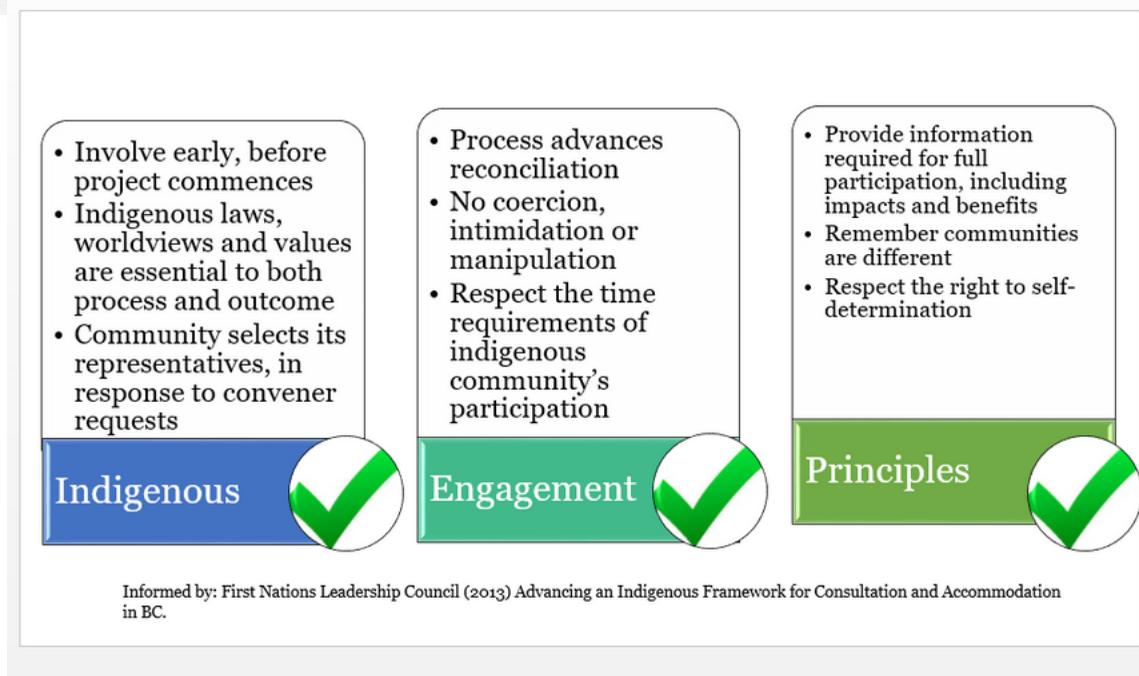


Fig. 17: Indigenous Engagement Principles

TOOLS FOR ENGAGING INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Following consultation with over sixty (60) Tushaos and indigenous leaders on the protocols and most appropriate methods of engaging communities, the following tools were recommended.

Notice of engagement	Given the remoteness of many Amerindian communities at least 14 days notice is required to ensure meaningful participation. Agenda should also be shared before the meeting so communities can be prepared. Transportation and meals should also be catered for where relevant.
Approval	Approval needs to be given by the Tushao and Village Council prior to engagement.
Communication	Communication is a challenge in many Amerindian communities. The most common means of advertising events and activities are through Village Counselors, churches, posters/banners at strategic locations, community meetings, radio, loud hailer, and house to house notification. Consider video mediated dialogue for engagement. Senior citizens don't usually participate in public meetings.
Language	Information should be communicated in a language locals can understand. Use an interpreter where necessary from the community.
Time	Be mindful of the engagement time, not only timings for the meeting but ensure once an engagement is planned, it is executed accordingly. Changing time especially at the last minute can reduce participation. 95% of community representatives prefer weekend for engagement.
Culture	Understand the culture within the various communities. In some communities the women don't talk much. Others select representatives to speak on their behalf. Some matters may be sensitive and community members would not discuss openly.

Fig. 18: Tools for engaging indigenous communities

SECTION 5

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN GUYANA - LOOKING AHEAD!



CHALLENGES WITH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN GUYANA

The challenges to public participation and stakeholder engagement may vary depending on the culture, community dynamics, and extenuating circumstances. Below are some considerations for Developers embarking on public participation activities;

- It can be a costly and time-consuming activity.
- Stimulating public interest in a project requires thoughtful and deliberate efforts.
- There may be language and cultural barriers.
- Identifying appropriate time, venue, and media to allow for effective participation.
- Inability to easily access some key communities.
- Adequate public knowledge of the project to effectively contribute at meetings.
- Everyone would not be interested in the project, so finding the right niche is important.
- Getting a good blend of stakeholders relative to gender, ethnicity, status, religion may be onerous.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES WITH STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN GUYANA

Overcoming challenges with stakeholder engagement requires stakeholder considerations from the conception stage of the project. This requires understanding the scope of your project, who needs to participate in the decision-making, what their expectations are and how you will ensure they contribute to the process?

It also requires analyzing regulatory and other funding requirements in this regard. Therefore, developing a stakeholder engagement plan early in the project cycle will avoid the rush and unnecessary project delays.

- These can be beneficiaries of the project, potentially adversely affected people, or other stakeholders. It is important to inform them timely in the process and to give them sufficient opportunities to express their concerns.
- Their involvement can positively influence the quality of the EIA process considerably, for instance through their contribution of local and traditional knowledge. Also, it should be determined whether all affected people can attend public participation activities or whether merely certain people (e.g. community leaders) can do so.
- Public interest groups such as NGOs can provide a different point of view to the subject and they can take over a negotiating role between the local people and the proponent.
- Other interested groups such as academics, the private sector or donors can have specialized expertise in certain field of relevance. They can contribute considerably to the quality of the study and should thus be able to express their views.
- The more types of stakeholder groups can provide input to the EIA process, the larger is thus the available range of knowledge and expertise that can be used as a contribution to it. Enabling a large range of stakeholder groups to take part in the process also ensures a wide representation of views, making the EIA process more accountable to the public.
- Frequent and consistent follow-up is important. Do not send letters or packages only. Ensure you follow up with the stakeholders to ensure they have received, understand, and actioned the information. Direct follow-up via telephone/email with persons identified to participate is crucial.
- Send reminders close to meeting time and communicate promptly any changes.

APPENDIX 1:

CHECKLIST FOR PUBLIC SCOPING & DISCLOSURE MEETINGS FOR EIA PROJECTS

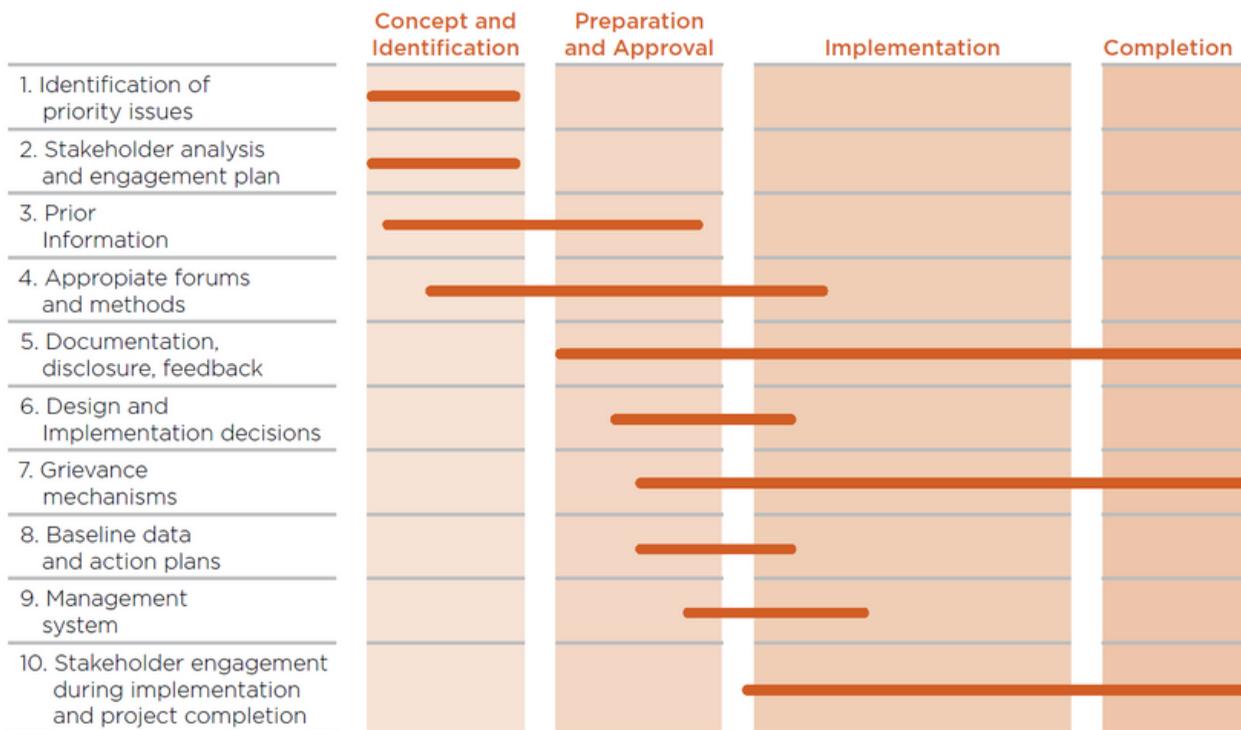
The EPA provides guidance on public participation to Developers/consultants to ensure public concerns are captured and address in the EIA process.

Item	EPA Tasks	Developer Tasks
1. Confirm venue		✓
2. Preparation of Stakeholder list	✓	✓
3. <u>Mobilisation</u> of community		✓
4. Transportation for EPA staff and participants		✓
5. Scoping schedule	✓	✓
6. Project Summary		✓
7. Develop agenda	✓	✓
8. Print agenda		✓
9. Registration forms	✓	✓
10. Provision of water for meeting		✓
11. Refreshments for participants (where necessary)		✓
12. Meals for EPA staff (where applicable)		✓
13. Accommodation for EPA (where applicable)		✓
14. Correspondence for sectors	✓	
15. Chair meeting	✓	✓
Equipment		
1. Laptop		✓
2. Projector		✓
3. UPS		✓
4. Extension cord		✓
5. Screen		✓

CHECKLIST FOR PUBLIC SCOPING & DISCLOSURE MEETINGS FOR EIA PROJECTS

6. PA System		✓
7. Recorders	✓	✓
8. Camera	✓	✓
9. Extra Batteries	✓	✓
10. Flip chart/white board		✓
11. Easel		✓
12. Cordless mikes		✓
Stationery		
1. Note pads		✓
2. Pens		✓
3. Comments box (EPA)	✓	
4. Permanent markers		✓
5. White board markers/Eraser		✓
6. Comments slips	✓	
Other		
1. Ad message if necessary		✓
2. Design Flyer		✓
3. Flyer printing and distribution		✓
4. Banner mounted at strategic location if possible (Developer)		✓
5. Minutes of meeting	✓	✓
6. Printing of Public Notices	✓	

APPENDIX 2: HOW TO APPLY ELEMENTS OF A STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN ACROSS THE PROJECT CYCLE



Source: Inter-American Development Bank, 2019. Meaningful Stakeholder Engagement, p. 5

APPENDIX 3: SAMPLE FRAMEWORK FOR EIA STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PLAN

1.0 Summary of previous stakeholder activities/scoping relative to the proposed project, including the type of information disseminated, formats, times, dates, locations, individuals, groups, and organizations engaged. It should also identify key concerns raised and how they were addressed by the company.

2.0 Define the purpose and scope - imperative to the stakeholder engagement process is clearly defining the purpose and scope of the stakeholder consultation and making that information clear to stakeholders. In determining the purpose and scope, the following should be considered:

(a) Baseline studies such as demographic factors, housing, health, employment, infrastructure;

(b) Land use;

(c) Population and housing;

(b) Economic considerations;

Community services and public finance;

transportation

(c) Possible impacts on traditional systems of land tenure and other uses of natural resources;

(d) Gender considerations;

(e) Generational considerations;

(f) Health and safety aspects;

(g) Effects on social cohesion;

(h) Traditional lifestyles;

(j) Cumulative socio-economic impacts of multiply operations within the Stabroek and surrounding offshore and onshore activities.

(i) The possible impact on access to biological resources for livelihoods.

3.0 Identification of stakeholders – map and categorise stakeholders based on: whether they will be directly or indirectly affected by the project and whether that impact may be positive or negative; Stakeholders who may have an interest in the project; and stakeholders who can influence the project outcome.

3.1 In profiling and mapping stakeholders and methods of engagement, consideration should be given to cultural context, expectations of the engagement, level of influence, capacity to engage (language barriers, disability, gender, etc.)

3.2 Socio-economic status, social diversity, and gender aspects should also be assessed.

APPENDIX 3: SAMPLE FRAMEWORK FOR EIA STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PLAN

3.3 Emphasis should be placed on vulnerable groups in identifying how the project risks and benefits will be distributed among stakeholders.

4.0 Identify the appropriate fora and methods for the consultation with the various categories of stakeholders.

4.1 Clearly state which method will be used for which category of stakeholders based on mapping outcome. Methods can include but are not limited to;

- oInterviews with stakeholder representatives
- oSurveys and polls
- oQuestionnaires
- oPublic meetings
- oWorkshops
- oFocus groups with specific stakeholders
- oParticipatory methods – such as partnerships with locals’ communities, NGOs and other stakeholders.

5.0 Schedule for implementation of the plan – The consultation plan should include a schedule for the implementation highlighting format, dates, locations, and times for various date consultation activities. There may be a need to conduct pre-consultation engagement to ensure the implementation schedule is feasible.

5.0 Resources and Responsibilities – The plan should clearly identify the resources required for the consultation activities and persons who would be managing and implementing the stakeholder engagement component of the project.

6.0 Documentation of consultation activities – The plan should make provision for documentation of the consultation process, including methods used, a record of who participated and who did not, the timeframe of consultation activity, a summary of major concerns, expectations and perceptions, a summary of key discussions and interventions.

7.0 Grievance Redress Mechanism – A grievance redress mechanism should be integrated into the plan which describes how the project will deal with people affected by the project. This should include how grievances can be brought to EEPGL’s attention and what the system for recourse.

8.0 Monitoring and Reporting - Describe any plans to involve project stakeholders (including affected communities) or third-party monitors in the monitoring of project impacts and mitigation programs. Describe how and when the results of stakeholder engagement activities will be reported back to affected stakeholders.

APPENDIX 4: PROJECT SUMMARY CHECKLIST

1. Cover Page – Name of Project, Name of Developer/Company, Contact details, Date prepared and by whom.
2. A description of the site which should include the area of influence (spatial and temporal boundaries), location, land requirements (area occupied), layout, identification of receiving water(s), the present land use of the project area and the areas contiguous to it and the location of any existing or proposed intake and discharge structures and the location of any discharge. This information should also be presented on maps.
3. The project design including: - Activities associated with all development stages from construction to closure: operation and production processes and alternatives considered e.g. provide a guide for all stages of the project from raw material to the finished product. - Source of utility services such as water supply and treatment, energy/electricity and communication, facilities, etc. - Waste management details which should include types of waste and methods of waste disposal/treatment.
4. The project size, e.g. capital investment, number of employees projected for each stage of the project, rates of production, etc.
5. A non-technical explanation of the project (a summary of what the project is about in layman language).
6. The duration of the project (for each phase).
7. Potential effects on the environment which may result from the existence of the project i.e. land, soil, water, air, the use of natural resources, etc. A brief description of each potential effect.
8. Proposed plans to mitigate environmental impacts.

APPENDIX 5: BREAKDOWN OF MOBILISATION FRAMEWORK

Stages	Actions	Specifics	Budget
Engage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify stakeholders i.e. (interested and affected parties) ✓ Schedule meetings ✓ Conduct Meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify groups and categories of local people are expected to be affected by the project. Although persons may be from the same community, a project at affect them differently. ✓ Identify and connect with existing groups organised groups such as: labour unions, community-based organization, youth groups, religious groups etc. ✓ Connect with the people of influence such as religious leaders, <u>Toshaos</u>, Village Council, Community development Officer 	Estimated budget should be developed for each stage of the public engagement process
Involve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Determine those in community willing to <u>mobilise</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Filter and identify groups and types of local people expected to be affected by ✓ the project and the extent to which they may be affected ✓ Consider the literacy level of the stakeholders and the best media to communicate with them. Ensure the language is appropriate? ✓ Identify other organizations such as the Private Sector, Human rights group governmental <u>organisations</u> etc., important to the EIA process. 	
Inform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify and select appropriate techniques ✓ Identify community communication norms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Developer is responsible for public meetings with guidance from the EPA ✓ Highlight where technology is available to stakeholders to first maximum access to EIA information for affected and interested people 	

APPENDIX 5: BREAKDOWN OF MOBILISATION FRAMEWORK

Stages	Actions	Specifics	Budget
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ questionnaires - workshops - scenario simulations - small representatives groups - information office with trained staff - visits to similar sites or installations - PRA-techniques - display/exhibition materials, slide shows - referendum - structured small groups discussions - internet web-sites - or a combination of the above ✓ Select methods and venues ✓ public meetings/hearings - (mass) media - telephone hot lines - advisory panels/committees - printed materials - alternative dispute resolution - open house - opinion survey - citizen juries - interviews - seminars - specific mailbox 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure the public is aware of the time frame available for the public comments. ✓ Ensure the chosen venue and time allows for maximum attendance and freedom of expression. ✓ Considerations should be given to age, religion, culture, gender etc. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure sufficient feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure the feedback mechanism and time are adequate. The public should have access to information at least 14 days prior to the meetings/consultations where necessary. ✓ Ensure systems for resolving conflicts such as a Grievance Redress mechanism are in place. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Set mechanisms to consider outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure inputs from the public are recorded and captured in the decision-making. This should be communicated to the stakeholders. 	

APPENDIX 6: SAMPLE PUBLIC SCOPING/DISCLOSURE MEETING AGENDA

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING AGENDA

Project:
Date:
Time:
Venue:

Opening comments (welcome, introductions)	Chairperson/ Developer	Time
Objectives of meeting	Consultant	Time
Environmental Authorisation process <u>Presentation</u> Project Description: <u>Presentation</u>	Consultant	Time
Comments/ questions and matters for the EIA study	All	Time
Next Steps and Closing	Chairperson/ Developer	Time

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE MEETING ON EIA FOR... (PROJECT TITLE)

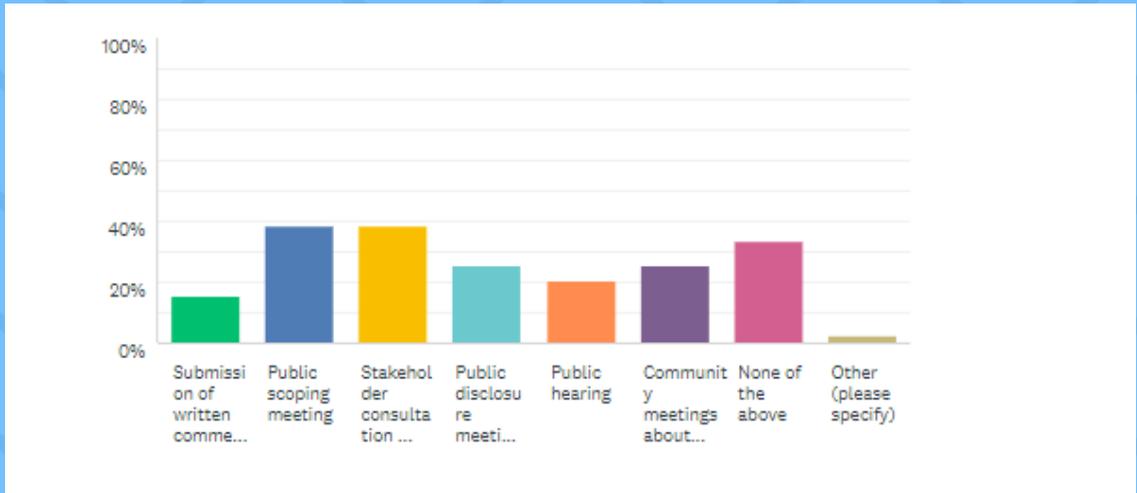
Date:
Time:
Venue:

AGENDA

Opening Comments	Chairperson (Developer's responsibility)	Time
Overview of Project	Developer	Time
Summary of EIA Report	Consultants	Time
Questions/Comments/ Discussion Session	All (Chairperson's responsibility)	Time
Next Steps and Closing	Chairperson/ EPA	Time

APPENDIX 7: RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN GUYANA FROM ONLINE SURVEY

Q. Have you ever participated in any of the following? (Tick all that applies)



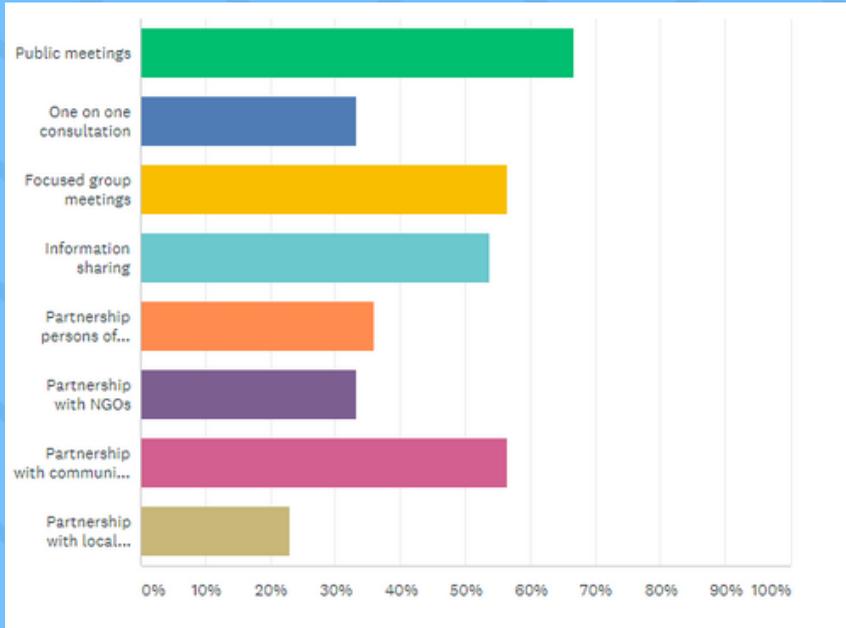
Q. What do you think are some of the benefits of meaningful stakeholder engagement?

Responses received

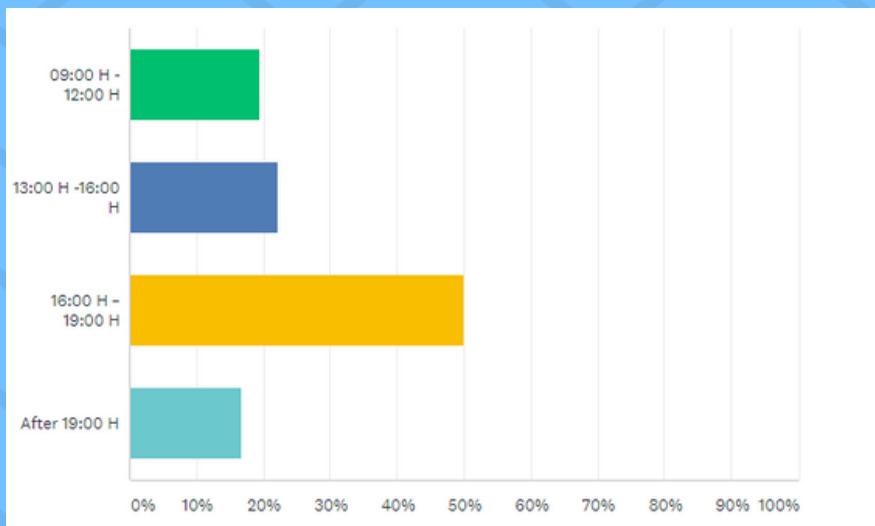
- Public acceptance of the project;
- Everyone will be aware of the project;
- The public will be able to better understand the process;
- Clarity on decision-making will be communicated to the public;
- Stakeholders can contribute solutions to potential impacts;
- Evidence-based decision-making to ensure sustainable development;
- Fosters buy-in and nurtures stewardship;
- Understanding of the stakeholders' rights; sharing of costs and benefits;
- It provides new ideas, awareness raising, accountability for companies, consensus building for needed action and democracy;
- Increases successful intervention and reduce conflicts;
- It allows for greater inclusion and better results;
- It provides opportunity for clarity on misconceptions;
- It reduces risks and uncertainty;
- Allows the public to hold the developer accountable; and
- Allows a broad spectrum of society to participate.

APPENDIX 7: RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN GUYANA FROM ONLINE SURVEY

Q. What are the best ways to get persons involved in projects in your community?

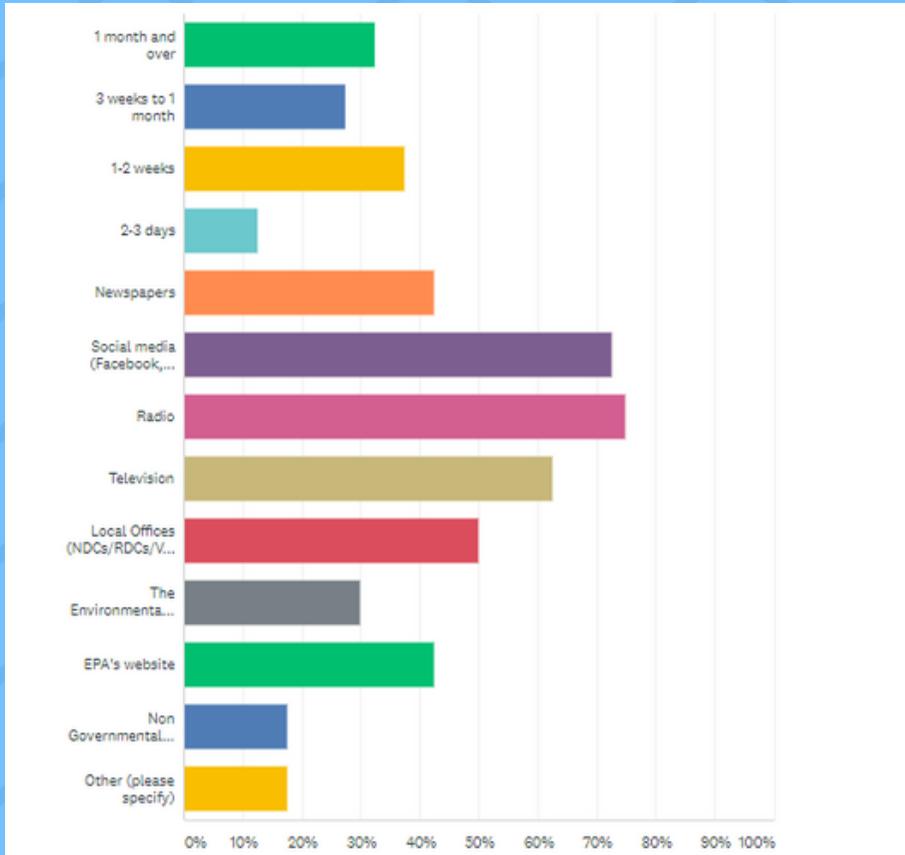


Q. What are the most appropriate times for engaging persons on projects in your area?



APPENDIX 7: RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN GUYANA FROM ONLINE SURVEY

Q. How long before the meeting or consultation should members of the public receive information about the proposed project and what are the recommended media?



REFERENCES

1. Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice, 1996
2. Accountability, 2011, AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement Standard 2011 Final Exposure Draft Inter-American Development Bank, 2017. Meaningful Stakeholder engagement. <https://publications.iadb.org/en/meaningful-stakeholder-consultation>
3. International Finance Institution (IFC), 2007. Stakeholder engagement: A good practice handbook for companies doing business in emerging markets.
4. Inter-American Development Bank, 2018. Social Impact Assessment. <https://publications.iadb.org/en/social-impact-assessment-integrating-social-issues-development-projects>.
5. Inter-American Development Bank, 2010. Operational Policy on Gender Equality in Development (OP-761).
6. Inter-American Development Bank, 2017. Meaningful Stakeholder Consultation. <https://publications.iadb.org/en/meaningful-stakeholder-consultation>
7. International Finance Institution (IFC), 2007. Stakeholder engagement: A good practice handbook for companies doing business in emerging markets.
8. IPA2 (2015). Quality Assurance Standard for community and stakeholder engagement.
9. Lyons, S. (2017). Digital engagement, social media, and public participation.
10. United Nations 2018. Effective stakeholder engagement for the 2030 agenda
11. UNDP (2017), Supplemental guidance, Grievance Redress Mechanism
12. World Bank (2017). Environmental and Social Framework. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework>.
13. World Bank (2016). Evaluating Digital Citizen Engagement

Photo credits for this publication : EPA, Guyana

