

Session: Mainstreaming at national level: stakeholder participation

Regional Workshop for the Caribbean on updating
National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

Thursday 6 September 2012

Session objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

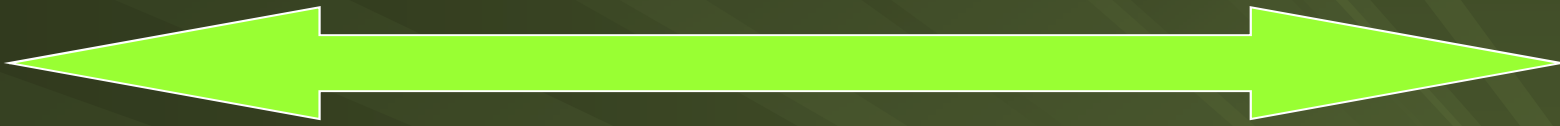
- Explain what is meant by participation in natural resource management
- Identify different types of participation
- Explain the value of participatory approaches
- Understand the types of stakeholders that exist and how decisions are made about their involvement
- Identify issues in their country where participatory approaches would be useful

What is “participation”?

- A process is participatory when...



Spectrum of participation



Top-down decision making – most powerful stakeholders inform some of the other stakeholders of some decisions

Most powerful stakeholders “sell” the decision to some stakeholders

Most powerful stakeholders present tentative decision for discussion

Joint analysis but final decision still with most powerful stakeholders

Inputs, analysis and decisions made with equitable involvement of all stakeholders

Types of participation

1. Manipulative
2. Passive
3. Participation by consultation
4. Participation for material incentives
5. Functional
6. Interactive
7. Self-mobilisation



What are factors that determine type of participation aimed for?

- Purpose of initiative
- Complexity
- Urgency
- Capacity
 - Philosophy of leaders of process
 - Skills and knowledge
 - Available time
 - Available human and financial resources



Challenges of participation

1. Costly in terms of time & resources for all (including stakeholders)
2. Raises stakeholder expectations & can lead to disillusionment if realistic expectations not defined
3. Where capacity lacking, can be counterproductive and result in backlash
4. Danger of consultation burnout

CANARI defines seven elements of capacity: world view/philosophy; culture; adaptive culture and strategies; linkages; skills, knowledge and abilities; and material resources. See CANARI 2011. *Facilitating participatory natural resource management: A toolkit for Caribbean managers*. Laventille: CANARI.

Values of participation

Results in improved management

- Incorporates a wide range of perspectives and ideas and sources of knowledge
- Improves the knowledge and skills of all stakeholders
- Increases the likelihood of stakeholder support through involvement in decision-making



Values of participation

- Can provide a forum for identifying conflicts between users and negotiating solutions to them
- Can contribute to stakeholder empowerment and local institutional development, especially when sharing the responsibility of management



Who is engaged in the process?

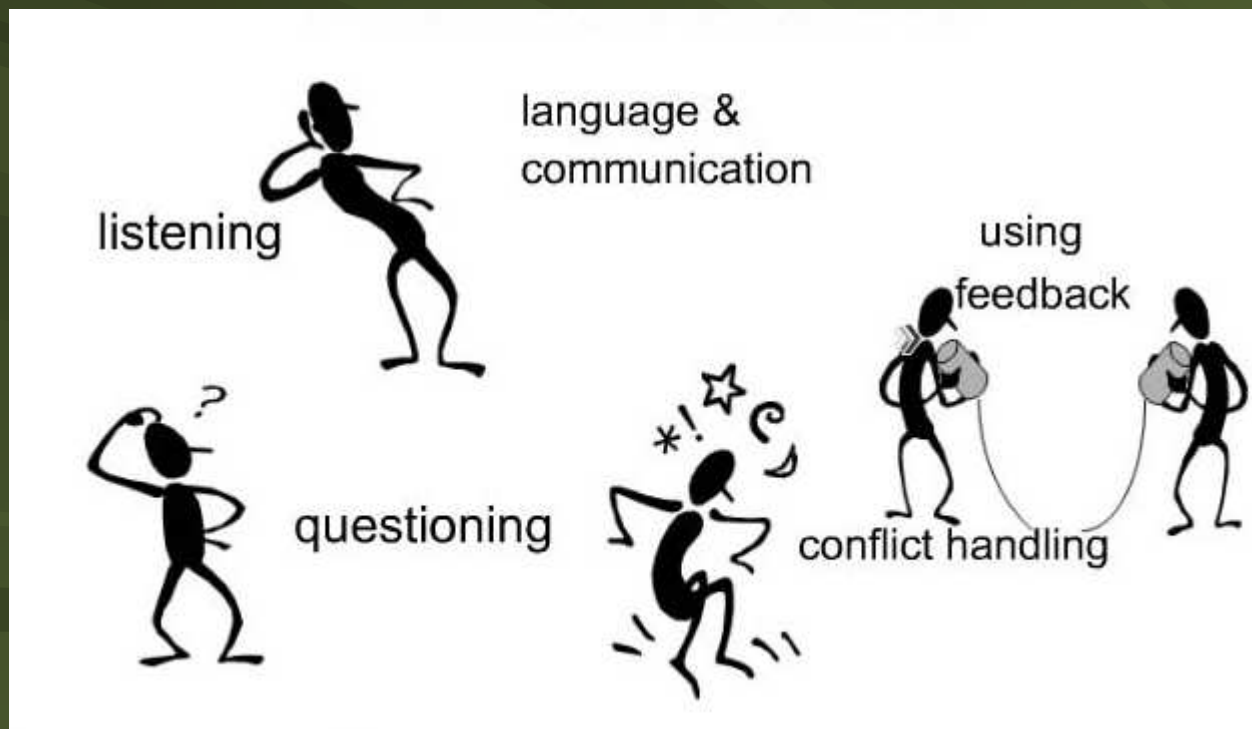
- Stakeholders can be defined as the people who have rights to, responsibilities for and interests in a resource.
- Stakeholders are found at many levels (local, national, regional, international)
- Stakeholders are people directly using or managing a resource as well as people who have an indirect impact on a resource, who are impacted by a resource, or whose activities have an impact on the ecosystem.

Facilitation definitions

- The process of helping groups, or individuals, to learn, find a solution, or reach a consensus, without imposing or dictating an outcome. Facilitation works to empower individuals or groups to learn for themselves or find their own answers to problems without control or manipulation. (<http://www.bnet.com/topics/facilitation>)
- A **facilitator** is someone who helps a group of people understand their common objectives and assists them to plan to achieve them without taking a particular position in the discussion. (Wikipedia)

Facilitation skills

<http://www.authorstream.com/Presentation/aSGuest8784-130603-facilitation-skills-product-training-manuals-ppt-powerpoint/>



Who is engaged in the process?

- Consider all stakeholders that have rights, responsibilities, interests and uses.
- Consider the capacity of each stakeholder to contribute to the process.
- Identify key stakeholders that should be engaged in the process.

Examples of tools and methods

- Stakeholder identification and analysis
- Stakeholder mobilisation
- Building capacity for participation
- Participatory visioning and planning
- Participatory action research and learning
- Conflict management (negotiation)



Moving the engagement forward

- Who are the partners?
- What lessons have been distilled from the engagement?
- Have they been documented?
- What messages have been distilled from the engagement?
- To whom will these messages be addressed?
- How will these messages be conveyed?

Communication products

- Participatory video
- Photojournals
- Oral testimony
- Radio drama
- Using Web 2.0 tools
- Issue papers to initiate discussion



CANARI's Mission

- “Promoting and facilitating equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources critical to development in the Caribbean islands, so that people will have a better quality of life and natural resources will be conserved, through action learning and research, capacity building and fostering partnerships.”
- Website: www.canari.org