The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades, including light lime green, medium green, and dark forest green, creating a modern, layered effect. The shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the page, framing the central text.

Public Participation and EPA's Guide

EPA's Public Participation Guide

<https://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/public-participation-guide>

- ▶ Background
- ▶ Public Participation in the International Arena
- ▶ EPA's Public Participation Guide walk-through



Conflict resolution and Public Participation

WORLD CAFÉ EXCERCISE



PURPOSE

- ▶ To have a shared conversation about key questions for (y)our meeting
- ▶ Will begin to point us toward next steps regarding innovative tools for public participation

GUIDELINES

- ▶ Groups of 4 or 5
 - ▶ Switch Each Round - Find new people
 - ▶ One person stays to report to next group
- ▶ Focus on what matters - on the questions posed
- ▶ Contribute your thinking and speak your mind
- ▶ Listen to understand
- ▶ Link and connect ideas
- ▶ Listen together for insights and deeper questions

Round 1

What kind of tools to **inform** the public have been most effective?

Why?

Tools for informing: social media

Round 2

What tools have you used to **consult** the public?

Have they changed the outcome of your project for the better? Worse?

Consulting the public

Round 3

How do we **involve** the public in a meaningful way?

Polleverywhere.com

Round 4

What are some advantages of **collaborating** with the public?

Are there disadvantages?

Collaborate with the public

Round 5

Do you think government agencies can **empower** communities?

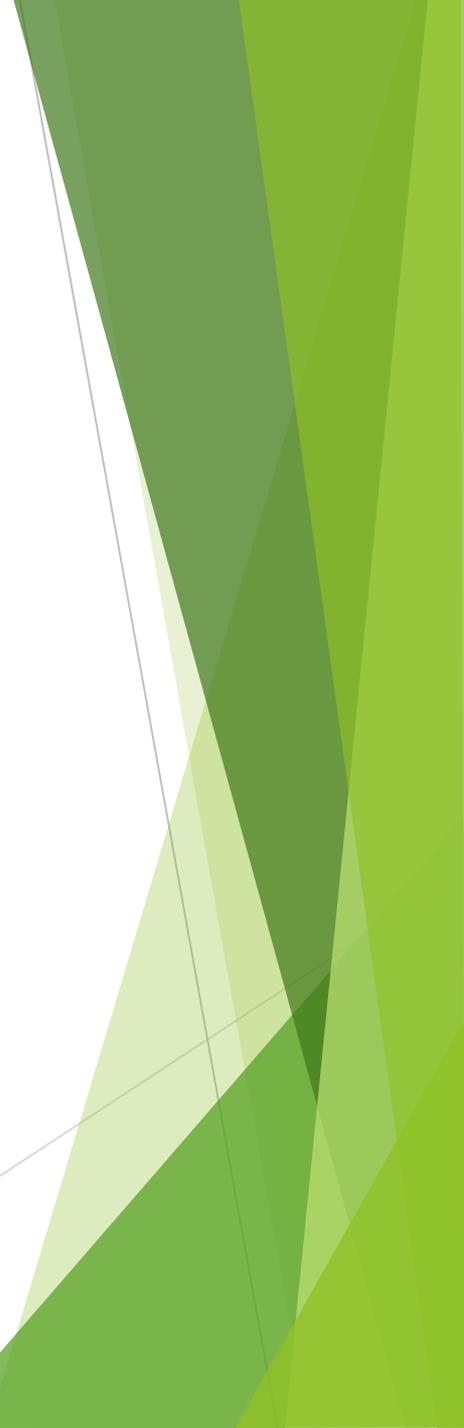
If yes, how? If no, why not?

Empowering the community

Integrating Information From Discussions

- ▶ Popcorn Style
- ▶ Reporters report out
 - ▶ Reporters may stay at table
- ▶ Everyone generates 1 or 2 post-its
 - ▶ Wait and listen to form thoughts
- ▶ Large sheet in middle of table

Internal/External Situation Assessments



Participatory Mapping

- What is a participatory mapping?

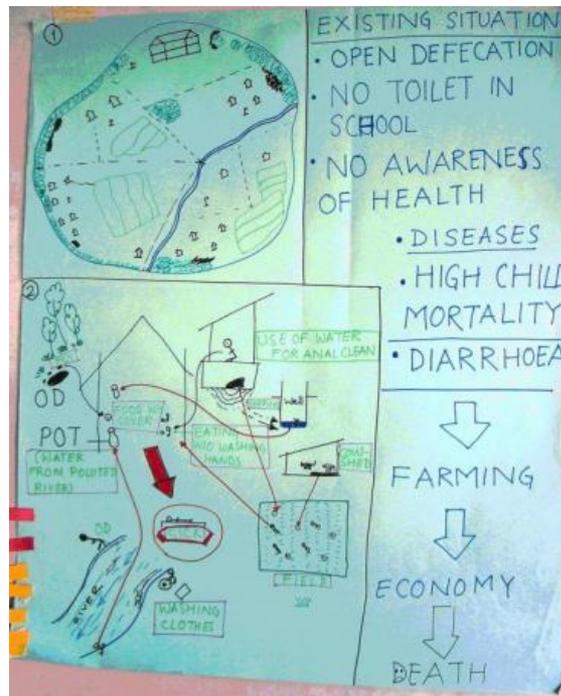


Who does participatory mapping?

- Various members of the community
- Women, men, and children
- People from different social status and background

How can community mappings benefit organizations?

- Provide better services
- Create and improve linkages with government agencies and NGOs
- Advocate on behalf of the community
- Lead to mobilizing community members and other stakeholders to address community needs.



Steps for Participatory Mapping

1. Ask the individual or the group to draw the boundaries of the geographic unit being discussed
2. On whatever medium is chosen, ask the participants to draw the outline of the local area (roads, towns, rivers and property boundaries)
3. Add information either directly or by using sticky notes.
4. Several modifications to the map may be needed before those involved are happy with the final result.
5. Map may be used later to make comparisons.

When Is Participatory Mapping Used?

- Because every situation is different, it is not always clear when participatory mapping should be considered.
- Participatory mapping generally is not appropriate for minor decisions because the process can be time-consuming and requires significant planning.
- More complex situations with far-reaching impacts, however, usually warrant some type of stakeholder involvement.

Advantages

- Easy to conduct and easy to explain
- Integrate local people at a very early stage
- Produces a quick overview of problems
- Foster holistic thinking among participants and may make the relations between different problems more easily understandable to them

Disadvantages

- Can be time consuming and cost intensive
- Can create dissonance and lead to conflicts under the involved stakeholders
- The larger the number of topics to be included, the more complex the maps will be.

Shereen Kandil, *Communications Director and Public Participation Specialist*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of International and Tribal Affairs

202-564-6433

Kandil.Shereen@epa.gov

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