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.