PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN EIA: GHANA’S EXPERIENCE

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NATIONAL POLICIES AND LEGAL FRAMEWORKS & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 (Act 490)**
- **Land Use and Spatial Planning Act, 2016 (Act 925): Section 52 of Act 925**
- **Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936): Section 88 of Act 936**
- **Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2011 (Act 815): Section 56**
- **Health Institutions and Facilities Act, 2011 (Act 829): Section 34 & 57**
- **Biosafety Act, 2011 (Act 831): Section 42 of Act 831**
- **Nuclear Regulatory Authority Act, 2015 (Act 895): Section 6**
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- **National Environmental Policy (2012)**
- **The Environmental Assessment Regulations, 1999 (LI 1652): Regulations 5 & 17 of LI 1652**
- **Natural Gas Pipeline Safety (Construction, Operation and Maintenance) Regulations, 2012 (LI 2189): Section 11.26**
- **Petroleum Revenue Management Act, 2011 (Act 815): Section 56**
- **Lands Commission Act, 2008 (Act 767): Section 5**
- **Electronic Communications Regulations 2011 (LI 1991): Regulation 13**
- **Water Use Regulations, 2001 (LI 1692): Regulation 6 of LI 1692**

**Regulations**
- **Regulation 6 of LI 1692**
- **Regulation 13 of LI 1991**
- **Regulation 11.26 of LI 2189**
- **Regulations 5 & 17 of LI 1652**
- **Sections 34 & 57 of Act 829**
- **Sections 88 & 52 of Act 936 & 925**
- **Sections 42, 6, 56 of Acts 831, 895, 815**
EIA PROCEDURES & PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN GHANA

**EIA Stages**

- Registration
- Screening
- Scoping
- EIA Study
- Draft EIS Review
- Decision Making
- Project Implementation
- Decommissioning

**Approach**

- One-on-One discussions, emails, telephone communications, letters, video conferencing to understand the context and legal framework
- Engagement of immediate neighbours within the project’s area of influence by means of Field visits, One-On-One discussions, Social Media, Notices and Posters
- Extensive public engagement to solicit views and comments. The approaches include; Town Hall Meetings, Durbars, Community Fora, Focus Group Discussions, Public Hearings, Posters and Notices, Publication in the print and electronic media, etc
- Engagement through Town Hall Meeting, One-On-One Discussions, Social Media, Focus Group Discussions, Letters, Electronic and Print Media, Workshop, Seminars, Notices, Key Person Interviews, Library/MMDAs etc.
- Public Hearings, Notices in the Print and Electronic Media, Libraries, Websites, Video Conference, Field Visits, etc
- Public Hearings, Notices in the Print and Electronic Media, Libraries, Websites, Workshops, etc
- Community Meetings, Grievance Redress Mechanisms, Public Disclosure (Akoben), Publication of monitoring results, One-on-One Consultations
- Notices in the Print and Electronic Media, Library, Gazette Notification, websites
CHALLENGES TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Culture & Language Barrier
Stakeholder Apathy
NIMBY Syndrome
Project Area of Influence: definition & extent
Effectiveness of the Participation Process
Cost & Time Consuming Process
Institutional bureaucracies
Political Influence
Media Influence
Digitization
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Proposed Project</th>
<th>Public Objections</th>
<th>Impact on Project</th>
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| 1. | **A Fuel Service Station to be constructed near a sacred site in Accra** | Traditional Authority objections related to the site being a buffer to their sacred pond adjacent to the project site and potential for the site to be desecrated | - Delays in project implementation  
- Redesign of the site layout to prevent pollution of the pond  
- Additional costly safeguards introduced – use of fibre coated underground Storage tanks  
- Stringent Monitoring Requirements |
RESPONSES

- Development of clear public participation guidelines
- Awareness Creation & Capacity building among key Stakeholders
- Involvement of Local CSOs
- Further development of PP tools (modern platforms)
- Review of legal instruments to reflect practice and culture e.g. Use of gazette notices, print media etc
- Documentation of best practices
CONCLUSIONS

• Defining stakeholders and the adequacy of consultations
• Lack of consultations lead to public protest and lawsuits which has the potential to stall a project
• It is important to get the buy-in of all stakeholders during project planning to execution
• Socio-cultural issues must be given priority in project development and implementation
• Selection of the project sites must always involve the beneficiaries/users of the facility
• Stakeholders must be involved in resolution of complaints and decision making.
• Maintaining a balance between sound technical considerations and public concerns
• Developing a more effective feedback system
Thank You for your kind attention

BUILDING AND MAINTAINING RELATIONSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT