



United Nations Symposium on Hydropower and Sustainable Development

Enhancing Public Participation for Sustainable Development Projects

**Hongpeng Liu**  
**Energy Resources Section**  
**Environment and Sustainable Development Division**  
**Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**  
**United Nations (ESCAP)**

# Structure of presentation

- **Principles and approaches**
- **Examples and activities at ESCAP**
- **Pros and cons of Public Participation**



# Principles and approaches

- **Public involvement** is a process through which the views of all interested parties (stakeholders) are integrated into project decision-making.
- It **aims** at creating openness and dialogues from the outset of the project.

# Benefits of public involvement

- Increased level of **commitment** of all stakeholders to make decisions
- Improved public **understanding** of development projects, their objectives and impacts
- Improved a sense of **social responsibility** among stakeholders towards projects
- Increased **equity** within society
- Increased the **effectiveness** of project design and implementation to meet the needs of the targets
- Improved **sustainability** of the projects
- Increased government **credibility and legitimacy** through transparent decision-making

# Levels of public involvement



# Public involvement cycle

- ① Information Gathering Cycle    ② Information Dissemination Cycle    ③ Consultation Cycle    ④ Participation Cycle

Analyse and report  
On results

Develop specific  
objectives

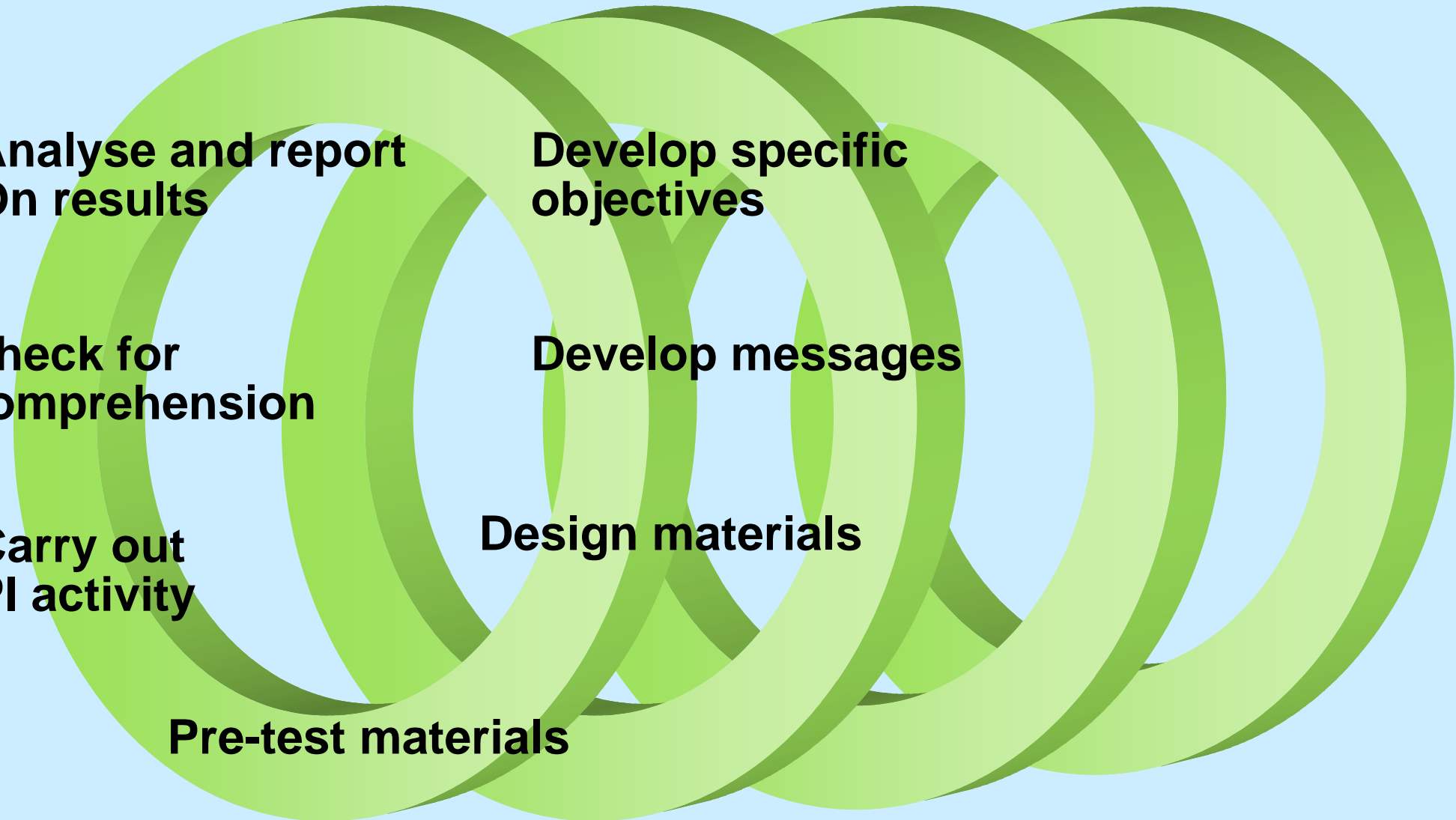
Check for  
comprehension

Develop messages

Carry out  
PI activity

Design materials

Pre-test materials



# Stages of public involvement

## Initial design

Early consultation

Detailed planning

Prepare for implementation

## Feasibility

Implement public involvement plan

## Negotiation

Inform public

## Construction/ Operation

Post-decision public involvement

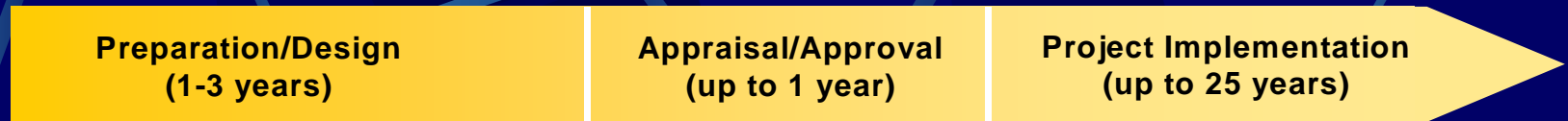
## Evaluation

Evaluation



The Project  
Cycle

## The Project Cycle



## The Public Involvement Process

### Planning for public involvement

- Establish institutional arrangements
- Recruit PI manager and team
- Research key issues
- Research decision-making process
- Identify and group stakeholders
- Develop PI objectives
- Develop communication strategy
- Draft and agree PI plan

### Implement a public involvement plan

- Select and train field communicators
- Develop specific objectives
- Design messages
- Develop and test communication materials
- Carry out PI activities
- Check for comprehension
- Report and analyse the results
- Monitor for effectiveness

### Post decision public involvement

- Inform public about decision
- Establish mechanism for continued PI
- Monitor for effectiveness
- Evaluate the results

## Agency Responsibilities

- Negotiation
- Facilitation
- Establishing public involvement centers
- Reviewing
- Ensuring integration with EA process
- Reporting
- Monitor for effectiveness

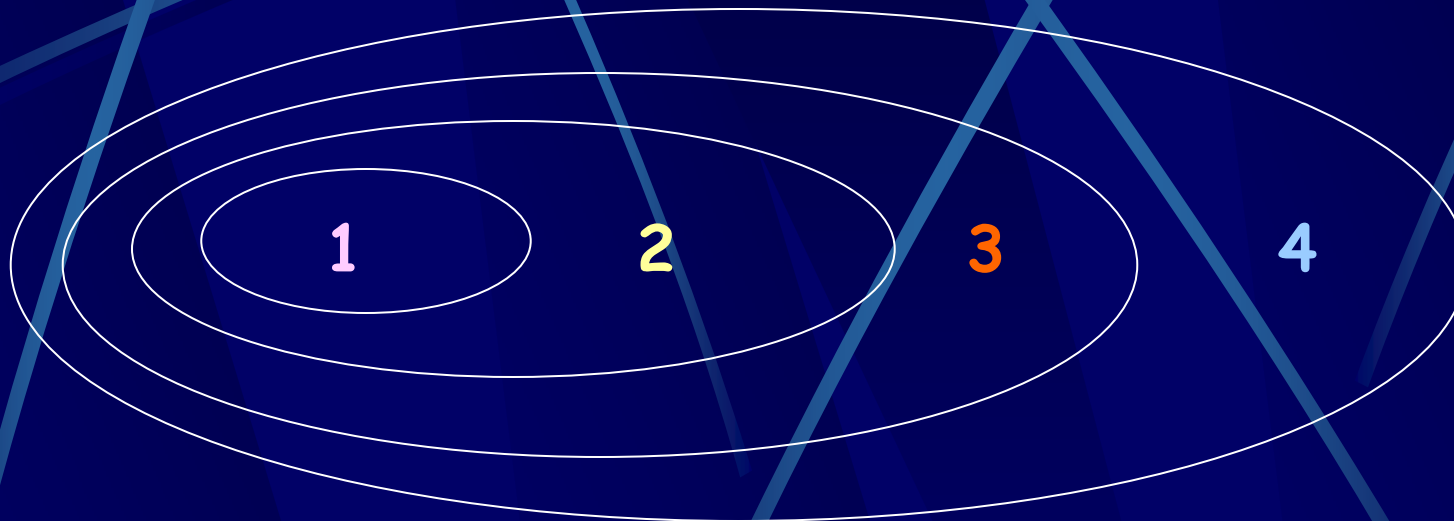
- Reviewing
- Managing information
- Organizing national consultation
- Advising
- Reporting
- Monitoring for effectiveness

- Ensuring continuity
- Monitoring for effectiveness
- Identifying and applying lessons learned

# Planning for public involvement



# Identifying Stakeholders: by Impact & Interest



- 1. Directly affected**
- 2. Indirectly affected**
- 3. Possible interest**
- 4. General interest**

# Guiding questions in identifying stakeholders

- **Who is the project intended to benefit? Who else?**
- **What are some likely negative impacts of the project, and who will feel them?**
- **Who will be responsible for implementing the changes introduced by the project?**
- **Whose cooperation or influence is necessary for the project to be carried out?**
- **Who has special knowledge or experience concerning the project?**
- **Who support or oppose the changes the project will bring?**



# Examples & Activities at ESCAP

## ESCAP's Main Ongoing Projects and Activities

- **Strengthening national capacities in strategic planning and management;**
- **Capacity-building on the integration of energy and rural development ; and**
- **Promotion of pro-poor public-private partnerships for the provision of energy services to rural populations**

**Key implementation strategy: the advocacy and promotion of, and capacity-building for, increased stakeholder involvement at all levels**

# Strategic Planning and Management of Natural Resources Development

Assist selected participating developing countries of the Asian and Pacific region in the strategic planning and management of their natural resources development and in environmental protection

- **A multi-stakeholder entity is established to implement the project activities at the national level.**
- **Stakeholder involvement is placed at the core of formulating policies and managing their implementation.**

# Integration of Energy and Rural Development Planning

To promote rural energy development based on locally available energy resources through the enhanced integration of energy issues into rural development policies and programmes.

- National Team, comprise government officials involved in rural development or energy policy planning and implementation, research institutions, rural developers, rural energy entrepreneurs and NGOs, have been established in each of the project participating countries.

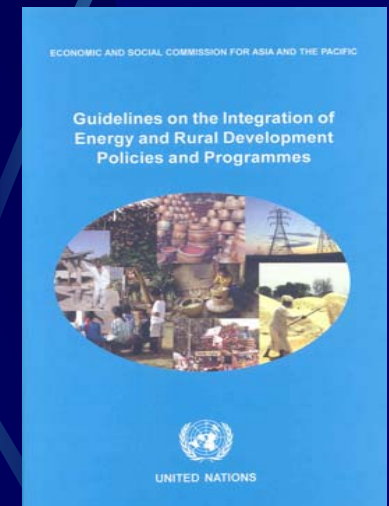
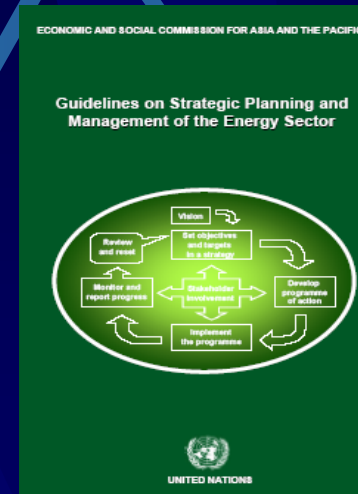
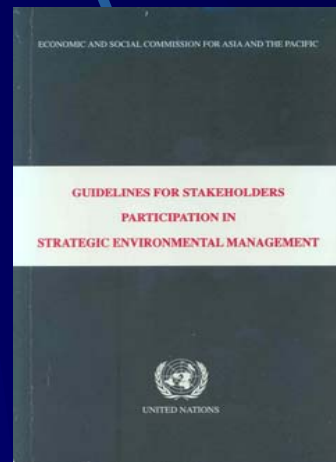
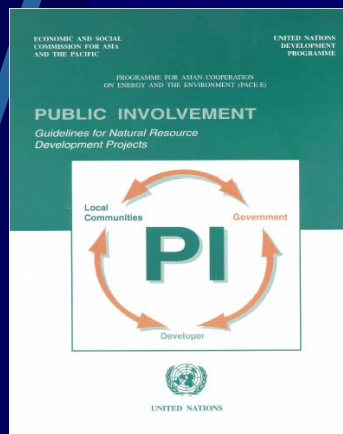
# Promotion of Pro-poor Public-private Partnerships for the Provision of Energy Services to Rural Populations

**Goal:** to provide affordable basic services to the poor in selected countries through public-private partnerships

Focus on establishing a model to promote stakeholder involvement in the form of public-private partnerships

**Four principal partners:** (a) government agencies (the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, the Directorate General of Electricity and Energy Utilization); (b) local community, Cinta Meka; (c) NGO, IBEKA; and (d) private sector company, HIBS

# Publications and Guidelines



<http://www.unescap.org>



# Pros and Cons

# CONS and PROS

- Good Plan and Skills to manage the process
- Costly
- Difficult to implement
- Need skilled facilitator
- Negotiation skills
- Public hearing
- Mutual trust and recognition
- A wider choice of options
- Less monitoring cost and risk of failure
- More cost-effective solutions and predictable outcomes
- Long-term benefits of fair and lasting solutions