IAIA21

VIRTUAL EVENT

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PERÚ Ministerio del Ambiente

senace
SERVICIO NACIONAL DE CERTIFICACIÓN AMBIENTAL PARA LAS INVERSIONES SOSTENIBLES

Multidisciplinary approach and public participation input in the EIA evaluation process.

Senace experience in Peru

Javier Macera | *Social specialist*
Silvia Feria | *Social specialist*

DEAR - Senace

Peru

jmacera@senace.gob.pe | dear_nomina30@senace.gob.pe
www.linkedin.com/in/silviaferia/

www.senace.gob.pe

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About Senace

- Peruvian national authority in environmental licensing
- Created in 2012. Functioning since 2015.
- Part of the Ministry of the Environment
- Procedures are regulated by national laws and sector-specific rules
- Has 03 line agencies
  - Natural Resources and Productive Projects Evaluation Directorate
  - Infrastructure Projects Evaluation Directorate
  - Strategic Management for Evaluation Process Directorate

National context and balanced decisions

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- Complex context and high levels of conflict (1)
  - 88,6% of conflicts in active phase related to mining, oil and gas sectors
- Financial contribution from mining, oils and gas sectors
  - Mining: 10% GDP | 61% export (1)
  - Oil&Gas: 3% GDP | Reduction in oil production (oil import) (2)
- Stakeholders pressure
  - Actors: Project proponent/affected people/local authorities
- Bio-cultural diversity

(1) Source: Boletín Estadístico Minero N°03-2020-MEM
(2) Source: Anuario Estadístico 2019 Subsector Hidrocarburos-MEM/ Revista Minería & Energía, marzo 2021

How to ensure more balanced decisions?

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EIA evaluation process

- Multidisciplinary approach
  - Matrix organizational structure
  - Specialized technical groups
  - Interdisciplinary assessment
- Public participation input
  - Citizen participation mechanisms
  - Effectiveness approach
  - Tools and guidelines

Multidisciplinary approach

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Matrix organizational structure

- *Adopted in 2017*
- *Teams designed to accomplish a specific project*

Specialized Technical Pools (STG – GTE)

- *Working groups set up comprising experts and specialized professionals*
- *STG-GTE for biological, physical, social and GIS topics*

Interdisciplinary assessment

- *Process carried out by multidisciplinary teams*
- *Spaces in evaluation process: meetings, multi-stepped assessment, continuous coordination.*

Public participation input

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Citizen participation mechanisms

- *Regulated as part of EIA process*
- *Comments, questions and suggestions are attended and incorporated in EIA evaluation process.*

Effective participation approach

- *Comprehensive key information*
- *Accessible channels for public participation*

Tools and guidelines

- *Social management*
- *Intercultural participation*
- *Gender balanced participation*

Emblematic cases

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North Amazonian Oil project (EIA)

- *Main stakeholders: Indigenous People (Achuar and Shuar groups), Indigenous organizations and international NGO*
- *Main concerns: pollution, lost of natural resources and fishing as livelihood*
- *Input in evaluation: Environmental Management Plans improvement*

South Andean Mining Expansion project (MEIA)

- *Main stakeholders: Indigenous People (Quechua group) and local authorities*
- *Main concerns: pollution, displacement and project benefits*
- *Input in evaluation: key issues incorporate in SIA*
- *Key communications needs identified*
- *Multidisciplinary team reviewed citizen comments*

As a result: key issues and local concerns are integrated in Social and Environmental Impact Assessment.

Main achievements (2016-Present)

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Public participation input

- 53 EIA&MEIA approved including public participation input.
- 0 projects approved by Senace involved in active social conflicts.
- 684 formal participation mechanisms implemented.
- Public participation mechanisms adapted to remote mode to COVID-19 pandemic.

Main achievements (2016-Present)

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Multidisciplinary approach

- Public/private confidence in Senace's technical role.
- 39 EIA&MEIA approved since matrix structure implementation.
- Formal and informal multidisciplinary assessment spaces consolidated.
- Criteria alignment in key Social&Environmental issues:
  - Water sources and uses
  - Territory and land use
  - High dependency on natural resources
  - Indigenous People

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Lessons learned

- Multidisciplinary approach is an effective way to carry out the EIA evaluation process, in order to ensure balanced decisions based on technical analysis and people concerns.
- Formal citizen participation mechanisms are the best channels to embody people concerns/ interest into the EIA evaluation process.
- Formal citizen participation mechanisms also lead to dialogue spaces between government, potentially affected people and private investment proponents.
- Communications accessibility are determining factors to allow public participation in the EIA evaluation process.

Challenges

- Citizen concerns/requirements/expectations often exceed the Environmental license scope.
- Lack of communications conditions limit access to public participation mechanisms in COVID-19 context.
- Multidisciplinary evaluation sometimes can not equate measurable topics (air/water quality) and non measurable topics (culture/concerns/perceptions).
- Expanded social and cultural diversity difficult to standardize a SIA criteria applied to diverse local contexts.

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Next steps

- Reinforce multidisciplinary assessment by strengthening criteria alignment in main EIA topics.
- Improve project disclosure tools in order to ensure people's correct understanding of: project technical characteristics, applicable regulations and environmental licensing scope.
- Improve accessibility to citizen participation mechanisms and channels, in order to gather more and better inputs.

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The Nature Conservancy Peru

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¡Thanks for your time!

Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments via chat in the IAIA21 platform.

Silvia Feria & Javier Macera
Senace
Peru

dear_nomina30@senace.gob.pe | jmacera@senace.gob.pe

www.linkedin.com/in/silviaferia

linkedin.com/in/javier-macera-0a433525

www.senace.gob.pe

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