Action for sustainability through community-based environmental assessment

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Why does environmental impact assessment (EIA) matter?

Team Shocked As Most Water Projects In Marsabit Do Not Have Permits

Private dam ‘leaked’ before it burst killing 48 in night horror

Wily villagers not fooled by EIA claim

EIA 2020: Public consultation without informing the public?

The government’s refusal to make the draft Environmental Impact Assessment accessible in regional languages is a violation of the fundamental rights of Indians and also a violation of India’s international obligations
Community-based environmental assessment (CBEA)
Fulfilling the Promise: Basic Components of Next Generation Environmental Assessment

Robert B. Gibson, Meinhard Doelle & A. John Sinclair

Federal Environmental Assessment Reform Summit Proceedings

Anna Johnston, Staff Counsel, West Coast Environmental Law
August 2016
Research purpose

To develop a framework for CBEA that incorporates key next generation EIA principles including sustainability, meaningful public participation, follow-up and monitoring, and learning and examine the potential of the framework.
Research methods

Phase 1

• Analysis of current CBEA practices in Africa to understand the recent developments

• Development of a next generation CBEA framework

Phase 2

• Examination of the potential of the next generation CBEA framework
  • Pre-CBEA phase
  • CBEA phase

• Identification and documentation of various barriers and enablers
The architecture of the next generation CBEA

- Pre-CBEA
  - Understanding of local context
  - Rapport & trust building
  - Setting the ground for CBEA
  - Capacity building
  - Introduction of concepts

- CBEA (Follow-up meetings)
  - Screening
  - Scoping
  - Impact assessment
  - Mitigation measures
  - Environmental management plan

- Outcome
  - Follow-up & monitoring
  - Decision on project approval (EIA)
  - (Potential) collective action

- Sustainability

- Meaningful public participation
Sustainability criteria in next generation CBEA

• Consideration of local context

• Consideration of project alternatives

• (Avoidance) of trade-offs

• Interconnectedness

• Generic criteria of sustainability (as a complete package)
Phase two: Selection of case studies

GAKAKI small-scale irrigation water project, Murang'ara

MIUKA Irrigation water project, Kirinyaga
Pre-CBEA phase: Defining sustainability in local terms

- Avoiding balancing & pursuing mutually seeking benefits (GAKAKI)
- Resource maintenance & efficiency (GAKAKI & MIUKA)
- Intergenerational equity (GAKAKI & MIUKA)
CBEA phase: Screening

• Consideration of the local environment
  • Identified most-valued ecosystem components:
    • Environmental: Water
    • Social: health
    • Economic: livelihood

• Consideration of Project alternatives
  • Boreholes
  • Rainwater harvesting
CBEA phase: Scoping

Examination of potential project impacts
- Avoidance of trade-offs
- Interconnectedness

Development of mitigation measures
- From sustainability lens
Research findings

Enablers
• Consideration of local context
• Consideration of project alternatives
• (Avoidance) of trade-offs
• Integration of interconnectedness

Barriers
• Integration of the generic criteria of sustainability as a complete package
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- Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA)
- Dr. Frida Mutui (Local supervisor, CUEA)
- Committee members (University of Manitoba)
Asante!!!
Let’s continue the conversation!
Post questions and comments via chat in the IAIA21 platform.

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