

Community Visioning and Social Impact Assessment



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Outline

- Concept of community visioning (CV)
- CV and social impact assessment (SIA)
- Example of CV
- Tools and methods used in CV processes
- Practical hints to get the best results from CV
- Technological advances and CV
- Conclusion

Introduction



- Presentation based on a chapter prepared for the

Handbook on Social Impact Assessment and Management

Edited by **Frank Vanclay and Ana Maria Esteves,** *in press.*

- Presentation focuses on community visioning (CV) in relation to Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of social investment projects with significant environmental footprint, (e.g. dams, mining and energy generation) .
- Often, these projects are initiated / facilitated by external stakeholders, (government agencies or NGOs).
- Important to establish alignment between proposed projects and community's view of their future.

Photos: M. Chitakira

Concept of community visioning (CV)

- CV is, “a process by which a community envisions the future it wants and plans how to achieve it” (Green et al. 2000, pp.1-2)
- CV is considered a collective and inclusive (all-encompassing) community planning process aiming to establish goals for the future of a community (Vanclay et al., 2015; Gibson & Clanahan).



<https://www.biospherefutures.net/scenarios/mathenjwa-tribal-authority-ecoagriculture/2012>

CV and social impact assessment (SIA)

- A large-scale project causes significant changes in the local community, including land use changes, local identity and livelihoods.
- CV helps to reveal the alignment or otherwise between the project goals and the community's expectations.
- This helps SIA to determine suitable social investment projects.
- Thus, CV can help to ensure better and more acceptable outcomes from large-scale projects and / or social investment projects.

Example: Usuthu Gorge CCA

- In early 2000's the Usuthu Gorge Community Conservation Area (CCA) was created in South Africa.
- This was done as part of the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Biodiversity Stewardship program.
- CCA goal was to achieve a balance between conservation and sustainable utilisation of natural resources.
- anticipated CCA benefits were job creation, income generation from tourism, controlled and sustainable harvesting of natural resources, like wood, grass and wild fruits.
- A CV facilitated in the local communities established how community vision related to the proposed developments associated with the CCA (Chitakira et al. 2012)
- Outcome was positive alignment - potential buy-in of project.

Tools and methods used in CV processes

- Use of participatory methods suitable for a given local context is important for conducting effective and inclusive CV.
- Examples – refer to table
- Explanation – refer to book chapter

Tool or Method
Annotated diagrams
Art and picture drawing
Conceptual framing (scenario cubes)
Discussions and direct ranking
Focus groups
Future-oriented thinking
Geographic information system
Live streaming, videos and presentations
Participatory diagnosis
Participatory visualisation and community mapping
Photo elicitation and photovoice
Public meetings; multi-stakeholder workshops
Site visits/tours
World café

Some Practical hints to get the best out of CV

- Method and tools – should be appropriate to context
 - Language of communication
 - Facilitation pace
- Nature of concepts and information discussed - should be understandable to participants
 - A fairly-balanced team of participants - inclusivity
 - Check on dominant groups

Technological advances and CV



- Can utilise technological advances to enhance inclusiveness, participation and get the best out of CV.
- E.g. mobile computing technology and online mapping (Gillette & Hurley, 2018).
- Residents can record photo-narrations using mobile devices and store them electronically.
- Digital tools enable participation of larger numbers than can be physically accommodated (Beattie et al., 2020).

<https://unsplash.com/s/photos/advanced-technology>

Conclusion

- CV has its challenges, but it is a potentially important tool for communities affected by projects.
- CV reveals how project goals relate to the community's expectations and helps SIA to determine suitable social investment projects.

Selected References

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Acknowledgement



University of South Africa for funding and logistical support.

Thank You

Comments / Questions?

Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA23 app.



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