

YESA PROJECT PROFILE: Handbook on Public Participation and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

Month/Year Started: May 2001

Month/Year Finished: January 2002

Client: Canadian International Development Agency

Locations

CANADA

Description

Under the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, CIDA is to ensure that project agreements are developed and projects are designed with special attention to the requirements of the Act. One of the requirements of the Act is the provision of opportunities for soliciting the input, particularly of the affected 'publics' in project design and implementation.

The diversity of legal, political and administrative regimes among ODA recipient countries and the cultural-specificity of human-environment relationships demand that the modalities and mechanisms of public consultation undertaken for EA purposes be sensitive to the context.

YESA prepared a handbook that provides a set of principles to guide the different stakeholders seeking meaningful participation in environmental assessment, undertaking the following tasks:

- an intensive review and analysis of printed and electronic-based literature on actual cases of public participation in development and implementation of projects such as water supply and delivery systems, energy supply, forestry management, sanitation and health, food production and security;
- an examination in the literature review of the principles shared by successful cases of public participation and of their consistency with CEAA;
- a translation of the principles into actionable steps for the different stakeholders;

Publications

Yap, Nonita T. 2002. *Public Participation in Environmental Assessment, CIDA and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act: A Handbook*. Guelph: Prepared for the Canadian International Development Agency, under contract with YESA Guelph, ON. 82p.