

Public and Stakeholder Participation for Managing and Reducing Risks

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History and Motivation

- How to involve the **public**, particularly those individuals and organizations that are strongly interested and affected – the “**stakeholders**” ?
- Subject of much discussion at the federal government level and previous National Academy of Sciences reports.

This 1996 report is available online at:
http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=5138

Understanding **RISK**

*Informing
Decisions
in a
Democratic
Society*

How can we combine **good science** and a **good process** for participation by citizens and local communities ?

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Stakeholder Involvement



- | Many people have interpreted recommendations for stakeholder involvement as letting stakeholders speak, letting them write comments, and (perhaps) letting them have seats at the negotiating table.
- | The main *Understanding Risk* recommendation is for involving stakeholders in an **analytic-deliberative process**. This means going beyond words and political negotiation. It means giving stakeholders opportunities to **observe, learn, and comment in an iterative process of analysis and deliberation on policy alternatives**.

Process Diagram from *Understanding Risk*

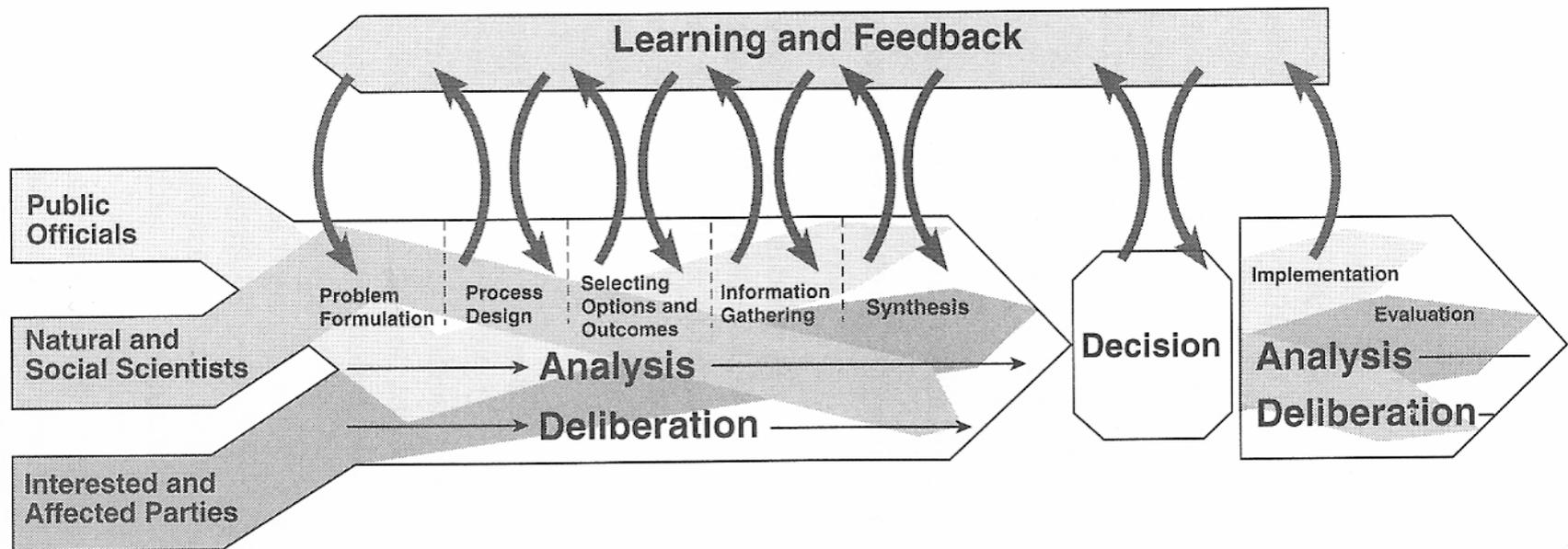


FIGURE 1-2. A schematic representation of the risk decision process.

Five Key Bullet Points

- Getting the **science right**
- Getting the **right science**
- Getting the **right participation**
- Getting the **participation right**
- Developing an **accurate, balanced, and informative synthesis.**

Source: 1996 report, pages 6-7.

This 2008 report is available online at:
www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12434

How can we set up a
participation process that can
build trust and implement the
ideas in the 1996 report?



**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
IN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
AND DECISION MAKING**

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Goals of PP: Improve quality, legitimacy, capacity

- **Quality:** properly include (1) values, interests, concerns; (2) range of actions; (3) consequences of actions and their uncertainties (4) best available knowledge and methods (5) improved knowledge and methods as these emerge.
- **Legitimacy:** process perceived as fair and competent, consistent with laws and regulations.
- **Capacity:** for all participants, (1) become better informed and more skilled in participation; (2) become better able to engage scientific knowledge and values/concerns; (3) develop shared understanding, ability to communicate it, mutual trust.

condensed and paraphrased from 2008 report, pages 1-2

Conclusion #1

When done well, **public participation improves the quality and legitimacy of a decision and builds the capacity of all involved to engage in the policy process.**

It can lead to better results in terms of environmental quality and other social objectives. It can also **enhance trust and understanding** among parties. Achieving these results depends on using practices that address difficulties that specific aspects of the context can present.

2008 report, page 2

California Example

- California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

California Department of Fish and Game website:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/>

This site has a video archive of all meetings:

Blue Ribbon Task Force, Stakeholder Group, and Science Advisory Team.

For more information, see :

Designing a network of Marine Protected Areas on the Central California Coast:

<http://bakerstreetpublishing.com/publications/designing-a-network-of-marine-protected-areas-for-california>

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1 fish! I vote!

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MARKET REPORT
Yankees stung by herring cut

Wash. builder beefs up new 48-footer
Safety improving, but more can be done



After gazillions of meetings, umpteen “decisions,” and lots of wasted time and money --- this is the norm.

Does it have to be this way?

Insanity: doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”
Attributed to Albert Einstein.

(This slide and the previous one courtesy of Steve Barrager, Baker Street Publishing, San Francisco, CA)