

Summary Reflection Points

- Important to maintain the momentum
- We are partners and will remain partners
- We should all be Ambassadors of this workshop and of public participation
- Networking, sharing experiences, diverse profile of participants in sectors and geography
 - This diversity is beneficial to all
- Come away with shared principles/definitions/understanding of the tools of public participation
- The workshop was hands-on and very innovative
- The Workshop de-mystified public participation principles
- It is more than public relations but one needs to take the extra step to engage the public in a meaningful way
- There are so many “publics” and it’s necessary to identify and engage all the right groups
- It’s very important to be able to manage expectations and define what you intend to do
- The sponsor organization needs to decide if any public participation is desired
- It’s necessary to carefully select the groups that need to be involved. This needs to be carefully thought through.
- Need to define goals and objectives
- Trust building and confidence building is important
- Need the affected parties to talk to each other as well as to the sponsors
- In many cases, there is fear and reluctance to go to the “empowerment” level
- Need to ensure that promises are met
- It’s very important to create partnerships and networks
- One of the key capacities to build for effective participation is teaching experts and leaders how to understand the knowledge/concerns/ideas of disadvantages and marginalized local populations
- Create a pool of contacts for future references