

Title of the paper: Strategic environmental assessment and public participation in agriculture.

Name and affiliation: KISIWU MATADI ROSTAND, program officer of the National Association for Environmental Assessment / DRC ANEE acronym

Summary: Strategic environmental assessment and public participation in agriculture.

The different stages of the strategic environmental assessment in agriculture must be addressed with method and common sense, without putting up heavy devices. This requires a participatory approach and reflection on public consultation and governance. Attention must be paid at the beginning of the process on the participation of a broad category of actors involved in these programs.

In Africa and the Democratic République congolaise DRC in particular, the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in agriculture is now integrated with the services, but it is still very accessible to a lay audience. Public participation in these processes remains limited, sometimes due to the brakes of the developers, but also by lack of citizen engagement. What lessons can we remember a dozen years of experience and how to change practices!

Method

Consideration of the environment, which has priority goal of preserving ecosystems and human health, has become a major concern of our society. This requires a participatory approach and reflection on public consultation and governance. For this, the different stages of the SEA in agriculture must be addressed with method and common sense, without putting up heavy devices.

Briefly summarize this approach in the first place, the profile of sustainable development of the territory of the operation revealed the diagnosis of major components. The issues identified by the description of the initial state and the indicators used for monitoring. Profile established the basis for the panel evaluation. This document, filled with the provisions taken, compliance and

relevance, is the essential tool for the evaluator. Monitoring the operation begins implementation and continues to record based on the dashboard that is the frame:

Step Operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary studies</li> <li>• Local Communications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• technical Records</li> <li>• Administrative records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation</li> <li>• Place of work</li> <li>• Commissioning</li> </ul>
<b>Step of l'évaluation</b>	<b>Step 1</b> Profil de développement soutenable	<b>Step 2</b> Scoreboard	<b>Step 3</b> Profile of sustainable development
Content steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diagnosis</li> <li>• Issues and Directions indicators provided</li> </ul>	informed before the work begins Indicators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of impacts</li> <li>+ Proposals choice</li> <li>+ Reducing measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• informed during and after Indicators</li> <li>Verification of compliance</li> </ul>

Governance is part of the process and involves thinking on consultation and participatory democracy. SEA and help to change the way decisions are made. For the devaluation procedures do not remain the preserve of specialists, a major effort must be made to train his mind and methods in order to mobilize all stakeholders in a simple way. The case of the DRC

In the DRC, consultation, participation and public debate are increasingly present in many decision-making processes. This is particularly true in the field of urban planning, land use territoire de agriculture and the wider environment, where the public inquiry procedure is legal. In this context, when it comes to recurring basis of participatory democracy, it is necessary to question the effectiveness of current procedures. It would be very simplistic to blame the failures of these policies alone, when it is the whole of society should change its behavior. In fact, we find that sometimes the dialogue is "swallowed up" by pressure groups that can confuse personal concerns, albeit legitimate, with general interest. A decree of 2011 significantly alters the rules of participation of associations in the consultative bodies, They will now have to justify their participation in a number of over 2000 members, an effective activity on a significant part of the territory of a diversified funding, etc., many highly selective criteria in relation to the previous situation. But professionals and experts should not be excluded from the consultation process, to the extent that expertise is an essential basis for ensuring based discussions, These are often specialists who put his finger on one or another difficulty or phenomena that are not yet considered. Associations must be able to rewash these opinions and become whistleblowers,

What is lacking in fact, more than financial resources, it is strong to initiate a real change in the way of thinking about development policy impulse. Political leadership is a necessary, but not sufficient, but must be accompanied by a mobilization of citizens, which implies an important educational effort and collective practice to mend ties in a society that loses the sense of collective ,

Very briefly, the history of impact studies on the environment begins, indeed, in France in 1976, well ahead compared to Europe, which adopts

common rules in 1985. Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 of the senate and the DRC, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programs on the environment, helps to integrate environmental considerations into the decision-making process and provide a more consistent and transparent decision-making framework for the citizen. It also provides international harmonization. Therefore, the SEA approach implies continuity of the consideration of the environment in the various stages of the planning of the land since the political Up Projects. It is a real opportunity iterative reflection which to build, for example, a plan or a program at the same time it is evaluated. The evaluation did indeed make sense if it allows a shift of programming in the sense of a greater consideration of the environment. This is what needs to be put into practice in many cases such as the European Structural Funds, project contracts between the state and the regions, regional planning guidelines, planning documents, collective patterns, charters countries regional park, etc.. A personal experience In ten years, we have had the opportunity to be involved in many SEA benefits agriculture. These have focused on infrastructure champetreet various projects and plans and programs of Congolese and African level For projects, we participated ia implementing many concrete cases in DRC. Areas in Bas-Congo and BANDUNDU The method does not regulatory in nature and falls within the initiative of building owner who has the flexibility to adapt: the specific situation. SEA work in agriculture was conducted each time with a group of experts (including technicians and elected), without effective public participation, if not through associations. The results were very encouraging and helped to revise the initial projects in the direction of a broader consideration of environmental issues. In some cases, I SEA in agriculture led i modification of project profondeur. Dans other cases, such as the management of water resources, despite the presence of hundreds of elected officials and associations in working groups, the involvement of non-technical local actors remained low. The case of plans and programs is easier since l'EES in agriculture is required by regulation. At first, these are the methodological difficulties of SEA have been a blocking factor

Over time, things have changed, the rules help, and mandatory public consultation completed the "expert opinions". Nevertheless, the situation remains weak mobilization of citizens. Thus, for an African program for the DRC, despite announcements in the press, websites and easier access to documents, only seven contributions were made to the 11 provincesqui made.

Nevertheless, more than 800 consultations websites show some interest. He had to admit that the very administrative language does not facilitate communication and progress remained to be done in this regard. In other cases, such as the province of the lower congo public participation has been extremely modest.

In some very specific cases, such as energy or nuclear, there are trade offs between cost i, environmental and health risks in the short and long term. The use of referendums may then seem more democratic, silly series can not answer such a complex question with a yes or no. There is a particular need, public debate. To clarify what th citizens are ready in terms of consumption and risk acceptance.

Improvements to

From these experiences, we have learned lessons that we summarize below. SEA in agriculture, when well conducted, in coordination with the development of the operation appears to be a considerable asset, tarnished project quality, cost and time. It also allows a greater acceptance of the transaction by the public.

Public information may include, for example, diffuse documents chiefdoms (plaquettes. brochures, maps, etc..) Or local meetings open all th. Participation is defined as the engagement of civil society in the decision making of an organization. In the DRC, public participation in decision-making is not new and is part of the debates it raises the democratic process. However, there has been an increase in th wish of citizens to participate directly in decision-making. This strong demand does not always leads to ownership of development projects, but often their rejection because they are not considered acceptable in terms of the environment or not compatible with sustainable development.

SEA in agriculture thus not only a technical interest, it must also integrate this participatory approach. The owner must commit early and dialogue with

all actors involved in the development (authority, elected officials, associations and public) to explain the relevance of the program or the project and demonstrate its ability to take account of the proposals they express.

How to involve the public?

The participatory process can begin when a project is planned and throughout its development, without any formal decision is required. The client and is free to initiate a consultation proceeding from a deliberate the different partners before nth implementation of the obligations réglementaires comme the lio bakandajika indicates that soil and subsoil belongs the Congolese state .

The implementation of participation stems from a political will and responsibility of public authorities (élus. administrations) to ensure its implementation. When the client is private, it must keep the authority informed of the project and define how this consultation. Dialogue is one of the tools of participation, it is not looking for a deal, but just a collection of opinion without binding. Its objectives are to:

- involve the public in projects that affect them, with the most complete information, listening to their expectations or fears, exchange and debate.
- improve the content of the projects and facilitate their implementation involving, along with the owner, the greatest number of stakeholders.

The owner must ensure that participation is as open as possible, combining the debate anyone who wants to participate, both "carriers" of the project potential "protesters" whose views should be heard. Participation is not limited to the local population of the project, but extends to all stakeholders and people affected by the positive and negative effects of the project. Also, the participatory approach should it address the relevant actors are bad all on an equal footing before decision and that can be identified in several "colleges" elected, administrative and institutional community associations and public.

How to account for public participation in agriculture?

The evaluation file, in particular the section on reasons for choosing a project, should be preferred to explain the public participation in the

decisions and choices of the project and the conditions in which these decisions are matched. The results of the consultation is necessary to ensure the transparency and objectivity of the consultation. This report will be attached to public inquiry or hearing. Aude and the completion of the project, the client can make a final assessment which will be wider dissemination. More generally, the usefulness of the evaluation will depend on the conditions of ownership of its conclusions. This ability of ownership depends on the participation of different socio-economic actors in the evaluation process and the ability of enabling institutions to communicate evaluation results adequately. Attention must be Reach early in the process on the participation of a broad category of actor involved in the programs concerned and the end of a campaign on the results. These will be subject to production of papers and pamphlets which will be used to develop outreach and training in each institution involved in each network of civil society organizations, professional associations and the provinces, districts, sectors and local communaire.

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