



NNBF

International Guidelines on Natural and Nature-Based Features for Flood Risk Management



Engaging
Communities and
Stakeholders in
Implementing
NNBF



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Engaging Communities and Stakeholders in Implementing NNBF

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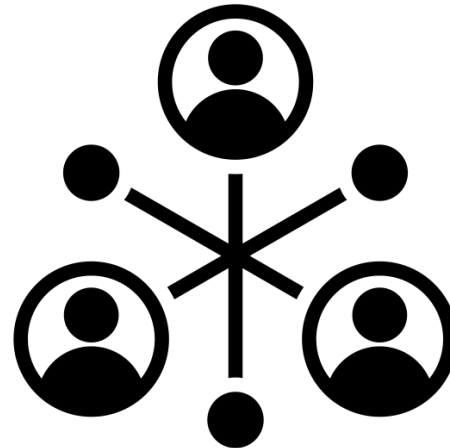
Introduction

- In the *International Guidelines on Natural and Nature-Based Features for Flood Risk Management*, we provide guidance for a simplified process for engagement with NNBF projects and aim to help users navigate the complexity that will likely be encountered.
- This presentation will highlight best practices and examples of engagement with NNBF.



Community engagement

- ...the process of working collaboratively with and through groups of people affiliated by geographic proximity, special interest, or similar situations to address issues affecting the wellbeing of those people
- ...to engage the community to achieve long-term and sustainable outcomes, processes, relationships, discourse, decision-making, or implementation (The Pennsylvania State University)
- **For NNBf: ...*any interaction between the organization or agency responsible for delivering the NNBf project and relevant stakeholders, including communities where NNBf projects may be built***
- ...a powerful vehicle for bringing about environmental and behavioral changes
- ...often involves partnerships and coalitions (Centers for Disease Control)



Identifying the stakeholders

Stakeholders - all those who have an interest in, influence over, or may be impacted by a project

- Society (most broadly)
- Impacted Community
- Specific stakeholder groups
 - Engineers
 - Environmental scientists (ecologists/biologists)
 - Commercial (contractors)

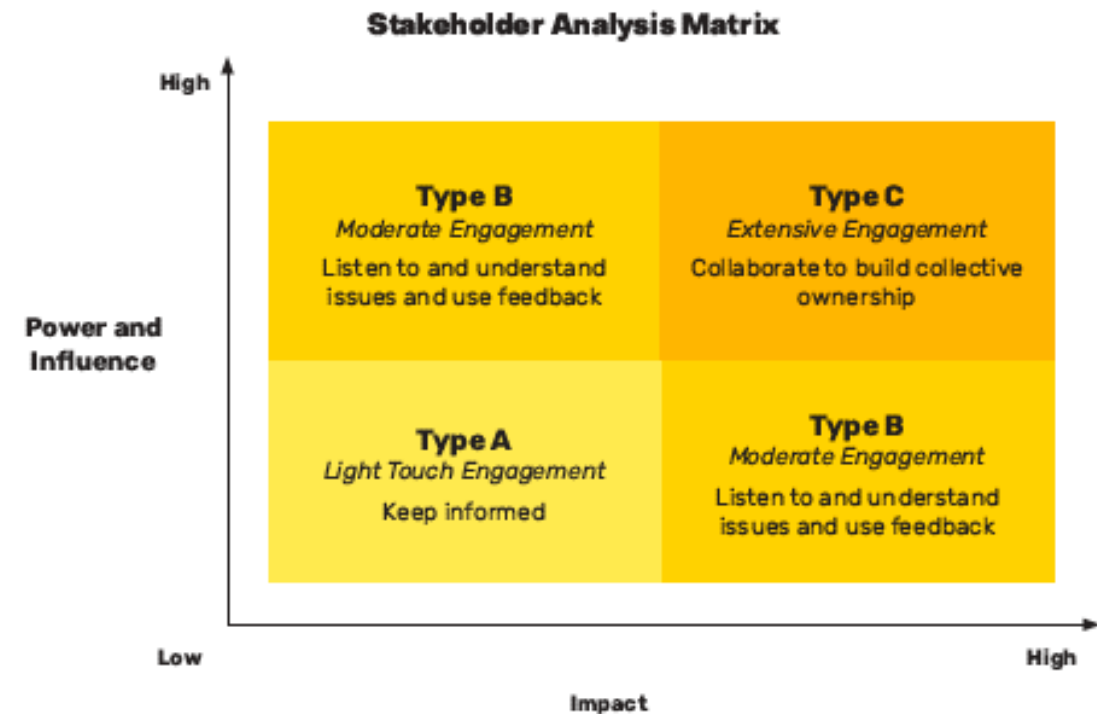
- Decision makers (at multiple levels of gov't)
- Government Agencies
- Non-governmental organizations
- Businesses
- Property owners
- Constituents
- Development banks
- Regional development authorities
- Transportation & Port authorities




Stakeholders expect earlier, broader, and better engagement.

- Early and ongoing engagement with stakeholders during the planning and decision-making process has become a more expected, popular, and successful alternative when compared to traditional decision-making processes such as the Decide, Announce, Defend (DAD) approach.

Figure 3.7. Typical Stakeholder Analysis Matrix, Indicating the Engagement Intensity Likely to Be Required





NNBF provide unique opportunities for engagement.

- The delivery of projects involving NNBF may offer opportunities to involve stakeholders in new ways, such as engaging local volunteers to help with construction or monitoring.
- For example, volunteers in the Gulf of Mexico, United States were engaged in the process of constructing NNBF with a dune restoration project

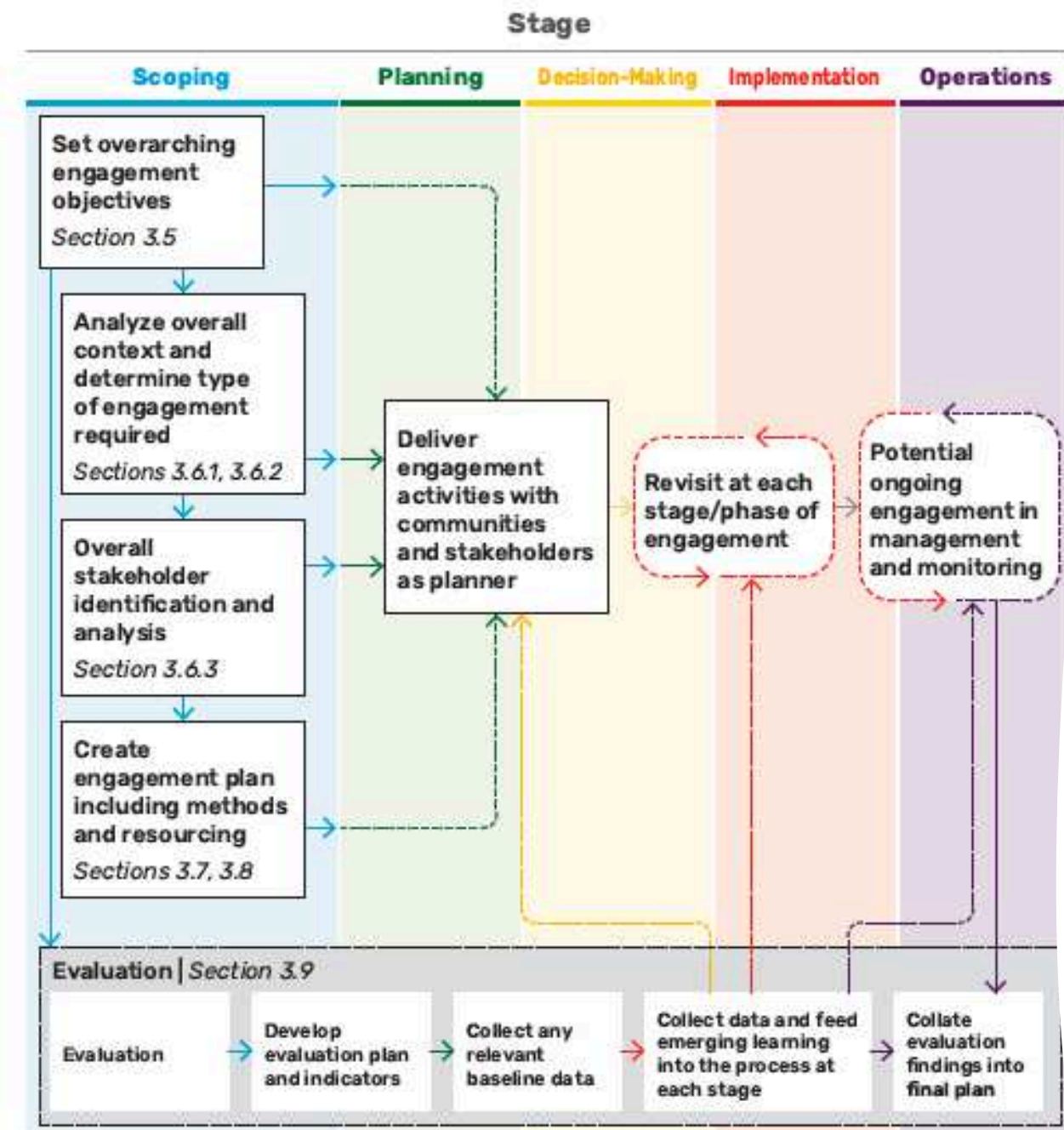


Engagement is important because of the increased likelihood of multiple benefits and beneficiaries with NNBF.

- Multiple benefits:
 - Reduced flood-related impacts
 - Recreation
 - Conservation
 - Aesthetics
 - Environmental health
- Good news: this is an opportunity to engage with stakeholders to identify benefits, increase community resilience, and optimize benefit solutions
- The challenge: different stakeholders will experience different levels of benefit



Figure 3.5. Community Engagement in the Context of the Phases of Project Development



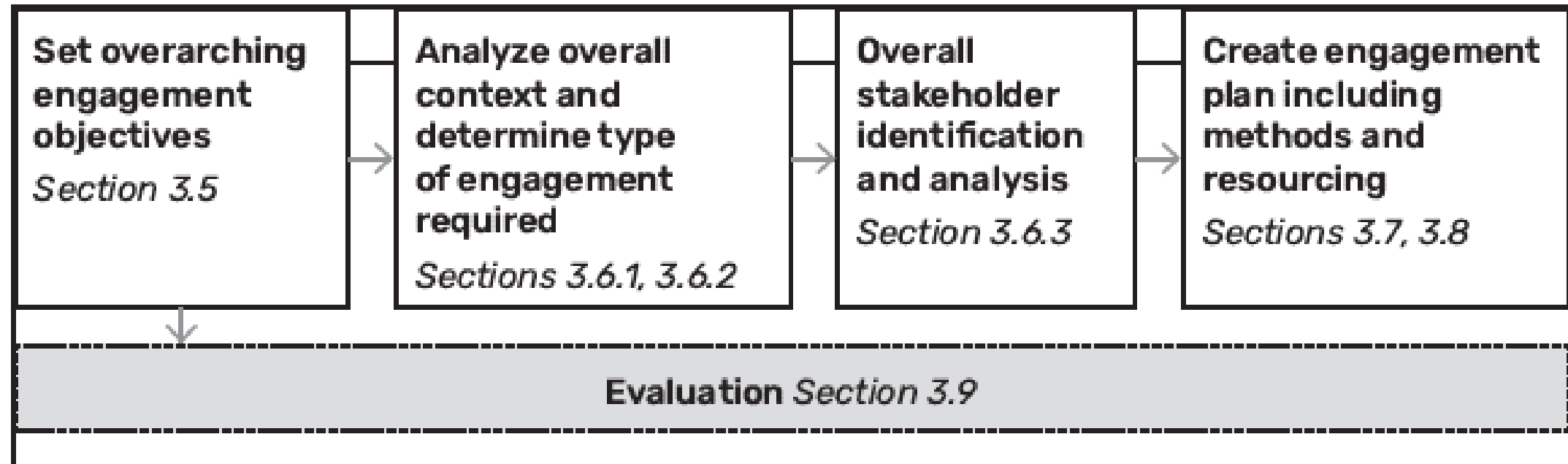
Successful community and stakeholder engagement require that the engagement be integrated in all phases of NNBF projects.


- Engagement is relevant at every stage of NNBF project development (Figure 3.5).
- Clarity of how, when, and by whom decisions will be made at each stage is vital to facilitate shared expectations of the process by all parties involved.



NNBF projects should include an engagement plan and resources to carry it out.

Figure 3.9. Community and Stakeholder Engagement Activities – Quick Reference





The tools and methods for engagement should reflect the type of engagement, either “light touch,” “moderate,” or “extensive” interaction.

- These methods can range from basic information provision through newsletters or e-bulletins, to online surveys or consultations, and many forms of workshops and meetings.
- The guidelines help NNBF teams select the best type of engagement for the objectives, decision type, and stakeholders.
- Each method has different implications in terms of resourcing, coverage (e.g., number of stakeholders involved), aims, outcomes, and pros and cons.



Type A: Light touch
engagement



Type B: Moderate
engagement



Type C: Extensive
engagement



Case: Floodplain Reconnection Areas (Netherlands)



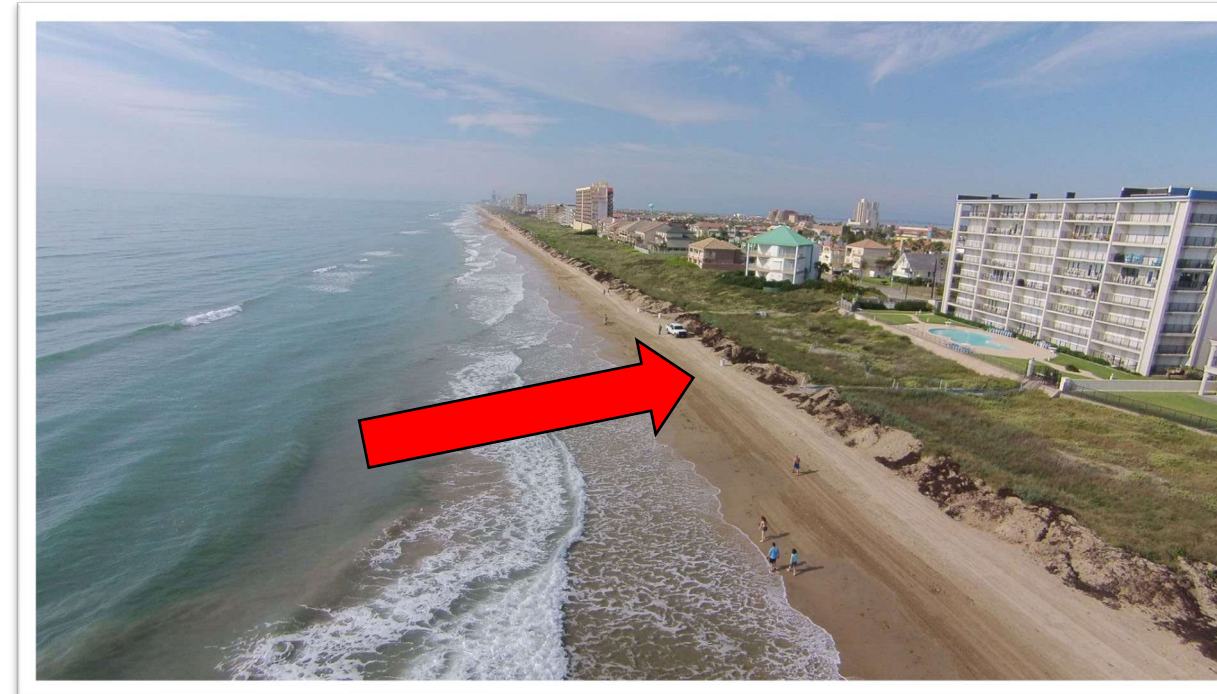
Figure 3.6. Photograph of Noordwaard Project Floodplain Reconnection Area (Netherlands)

- Example of Type C (extensive) engagement
- Room for the River was a Dutch government plan delivered between 2009 and 2016. Its aim was to address flood protection along the Rhine River and its tributaries.
- In some of the projects, construction of floodways through agricultural areas was required to reduce peak discharge water levels upstream. This involved lowering existing levees to the original topography and geography (surveyed circa 1850), allowing the area to flood during very high river discharges.
- Several farms and households had to be relocated (either rebuilt on earth mounds behind a separate levee or relocated entirely).
- Compensation mechanisms had to be developed.



Case: South Padre Island Dune Restoration (United States)

Before (Winter 2008)



After (Spring 2014)





- Example of Type C (extensive) engagement
- The South Padre Island Dune Restoration project aimed to create a continuous dune line along miles of shoreline with goals of storm protection and to create a reservoir of sand to replenish eroded beaches
- This project required City Council support and numerous partnerships (e.g., Local Universities and Schools, Surfrider Foundation, Naturalist organizations)



- The project included opportunities for educating the public via public meetings and information distribution, alongside volunteer participation in the project construction itself



Support for engagement

- Universities
 - Non-governmental organizations
 - Consultants
 - PR Government Agencies
 - Federal Government Agencies
- *The answer depends on who you are and who you need to engage! Please connect with someone who can help you consider these issues carefully.



Concluding thoughts

- It is the hope that NNBF project teams will adopt a new paradigm that includes a deeper commitment to engagement than may have been the norm previously. The guidelines provide teams with the necessary foundation.



Questions?

EngineeringWithNature.org



Download

- Executive Summary (70 pages)
- International Guidelines on NNBF for Flood Risk Management (1,000 pages)

