



Session A10: To what extent should communities participate in contaminated land management

Dr. Mpho Tshitangoni

Director: Land Remediation

National Department of Environmental Affairs, RSA

Presentation Outline



Republic of South Africa

What is the community

Why participate in remediation of contaminated land

Should they participate

How should they participate

Conclusion



Map of the Republic of South Africa



Republic of South Africa

- **Size:** a total land area around 1.2-million square kilometres, measures some 1 600km from north to south, and roughly the same from east to west.
- **Coastline:** long coastline stretching more than 2 500 km
- **Population:** Estimated at > 50.5 million
- **Industries:** Mining, Agriculture, Manufacturing, Steel, Petroleum



What is a community

There are many definitions of community, 5 core elements exist:

- ✓ *Locus, a sense of place* – Area where people gather
- ✓ *Sharing, common interests and perspectives* – Common interest and values
- ✓ *Joint action, a sense of coherence and identity* – Common activities such as sharing tasks and helping each other
- ✓ *Social ties (cohesion)* – Consent relationship
- ✓ *Diversity* – Social complexity within communities



What is community participation

- ◆ Community participation is considered as an imperative feature for successful and prosperity project.
- ◆ Although most development agencies agree on the importance of adopting a participatory approaches in rural development initiatives, evidence suggest that participation as a concept and as a methodology is quite complex and its success depends on many interrelated factors (Patel, 1998).
- ◆ Community participation is a process through which stakeholders influence and share control over rural development initiatives, and the decisions and resources which affects them.
- ◆ Community participation is therefore an active engagement of individuals and groups to change problematic conditions and to influence policies and programmes that affect the quality of their lives or the lives of others (Skinner, 1995)



Why participate in remediation of contaminated land

- ◆ In RSA it is a legal requirement to conduct public participation almost in everything
- ◆ Fear
- ◆ Deal with expectations
- ◆ To ensure sustainability of the project



Should they participate

YES



How should they participate

- ◆ Through a formalized/organised structure
- ◆ Use the language they understand
- ◆ Follow protocol

Conclusion

Community must participate to ensure sustainable remediation



Ndo livhuwa

