



# Practitioner's Guide:

## Participatory Planning



An example from a country in Northern Africa



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## Participatory Planning

### Examples:



In a planning project, participatory planning processes were used successfully on a number of different occasions, including:

#### ► Preliminary planning for a District:\*

In this example the participatory process was used to decide upon the objectives, problems and potential solutions. The participatory process included informal discussions with the communities and formal meetings with decision-makers.



*Photo 1:  
Planners, assisted by external experts, identify and analyze the water problems in one of the villages*



*Photo 2:  
People are consulted to give their view to local experts during the field work*



*Photo 3:  
People are consulted to solve the water problem with local experts of the local water project*



### Participatory Planning

#### ► A protected area:

For the proposed area to be protected, participatory methods were used to define the objectives of the area to be protected, determine the problems and constraints affecting the area and determining the alternative solutions that can be practically implemented. Both formal and informal meetings were used during the participatory process.



*Photo 4:  
Experts are discussing a few  
points with visitors in the  
protected area*

*Photo 5:  
Dialogues with local  
people are conducted in  
order to give their view to  
planners in the protected  
area for the identification  
of problems and solutions*



*Photo 6:  
Dialogues with visitors show  
opinions to local experts  
in the protected area*



### Participatory Planning

#### ► A railway station:

Participatory planning techniques were used in order to plan the area surrounding the proposed railway station in a district. The participants were requested to determine the main land use problems, involved in planning the new station location, determining the objectives of the exercise and appraising the alternatives presented by the planners. Informal discussions were conducted with the people in the area and formal discussions were conducted with the decision-makers.



*Photo 7: A railway station under construction. The new railway tracks will reach the district soon.*



### Participatory Planning

► **A village development plan:**

In order to be able to determine the problems and objectives of the village development in the village a series of discussions and meetings were conducted. The information provided by the participants was subsequently integrated into the village development plan.

► **An un-planned settlement area:**

An area within a district has been developed informally and without any planning permission. This unplanned area (often also referred to as squatter settlements) has become so extensive that some form of planning became necessary. Participatory methods were applied to determine the problems that the residents in the area were experiencing. Jointly with the decision makers solutions to the problems were developed during various participatory meetings



*Photo 8: People participate by answering questions asked by experts in the local administration unit.*