

Session 3.6

WCDR

# Stakeholder Processes to Promote Implementation

Joanne Linnerooth-Bayer

IIASA

Laxenburg, Austria

[bayer@iiasa.ac.at](mailto:bayer@iiasa.ac.at)

# Importance of involving stakeholders early on

Inform policy makers of public values and preferences;

Contribute local knowledge;

Legitimate public decisions;

Improve implementation of policies.

# Case 1: Seattle Earthquake 2001 – Citizen initiative with FEMA support

6.8 Richter scale

One death (heart attack)

Only minor injuries

Witt attributed the lack of deaths and injuries mainly to earlier efforts in Seattle to educate and involve the citizens in disaster preparedness.

# Seattle Pre-2001

## FEMA supported locally based initiatives

- Assessing risks,
- Disaster planning;

## Project Impact

- 250 high-risk communities
- 2000 corporate partners

## Seattle: Community/household efforts (Citizen initiatives)

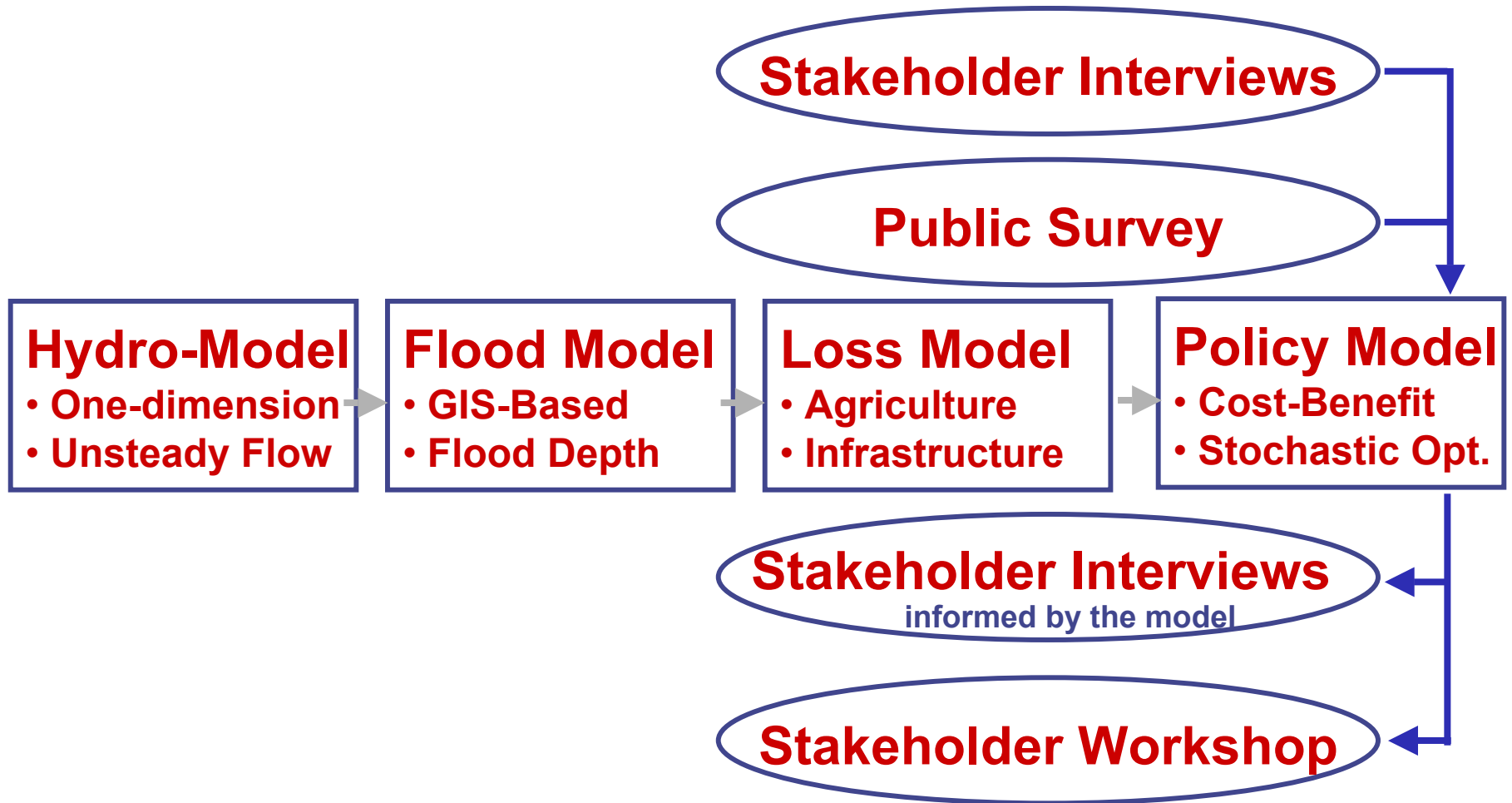
- Fastening furniture
- Involvement of retirees

## **CASE 2: Flood insurance system for Hungary** **Interviews, Survey, Stakeholder workshop**

*A participatory process* including a stakeholder workshop suggested a high degree of solidarity for a Hungarian flood insurance system.

The parliament legislated a system without solidarity – It has failed.

# The Upper Tisza Study



# After a major flood, the government should compensate...

	Chosen by (%)
All victims by a certain percentage of their losses	57
All victims by the same amount, above which they can choose to have insurance	19
Only needy victims, that is, not owners of vacation homes or well-to-do businesses	7
Only victims with flood insurance	3
Only victims who have not built their homes in high-risk areas without a permit	4
Noone	0

# The Tisza Participatory Process



Stakeholders agreed on removing levees in some areas and on a nation-wide insurance program.



Stakeholder  
consensus

Hungarian  
legislation

Private reinsurance

Private Insurance  
*Voluntary*  
*Flat rate*  
*Subsidies for poor households*

Private Insurance  
*Mandatory*  
*Risk based*  
*Small subsidies for poor households*

Government  
Compensation  
*Only for households with insurance*

# Conclusions

Public participation can make the difference between success and failure of government programs and regulations;

Citizens can provide valuable inputs to public policy;

Participation can improve credibility and legitimacy of governing processes;

Participation part of democracy.



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# Key Stakeholders

- ◆ National government
  - Finance ministry
  - Water ministry
- ◆ Local governments
- ◆ Water authorities
- ◆ Public
  - Upper Tisza
  - Downstream
  - Non-risk areas
- ◆ Insurance Companies
- ◆ NGOs