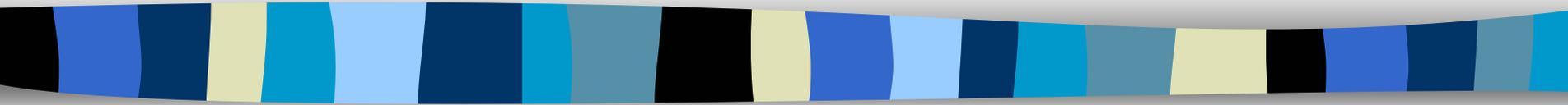
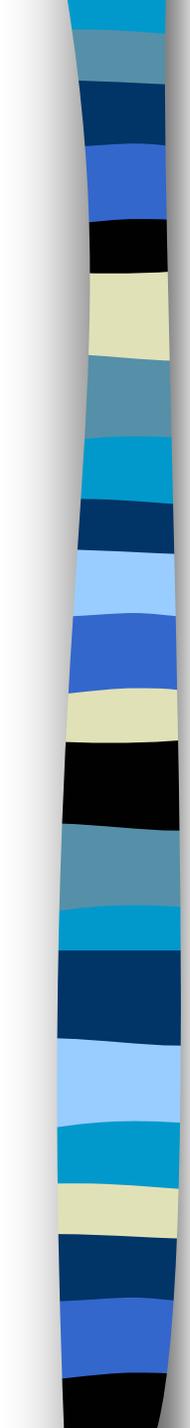


# **Do participation and the use of participatory approaches in development projects and programs really matter?**



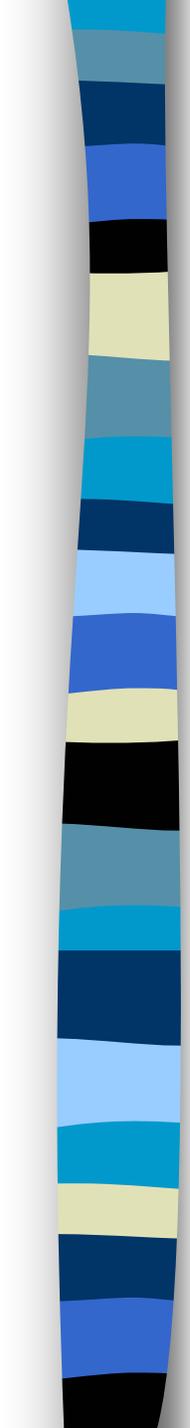
AES International Conference

10 September 2008



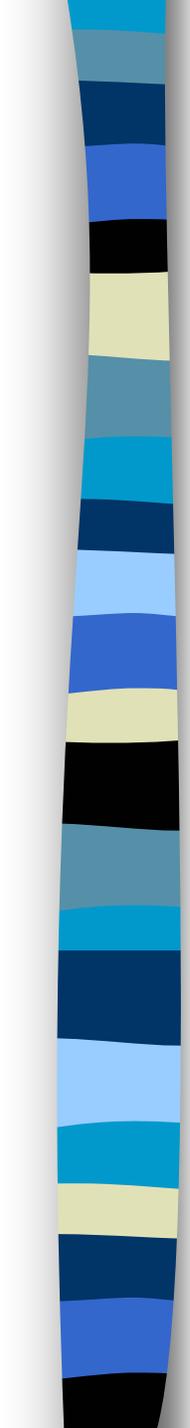
# Introduction

- Does our work really make a difference and, if so, what difference does it make?
- 1. *Participatory projects* – a popular form of aid delivery.
- 2. *Evaluations of participatory projects* -the paper examines and critically review the existing evaluations of *participatory projects*, using project reports from the World Bank.
- 3. *What is needed to be able to answer the question?* Substantially increase investment in performance monitoring and evaluation of participatory projects.



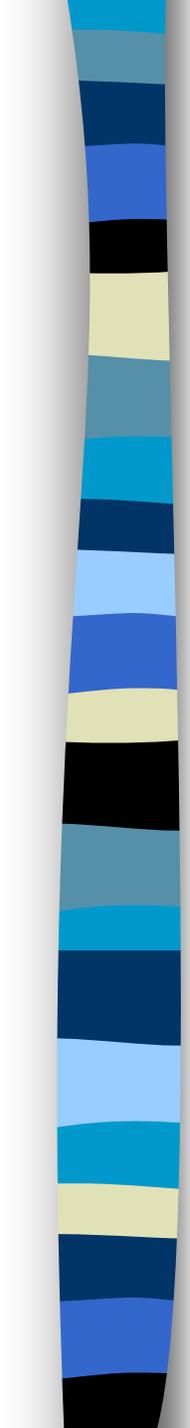
# 1. Participation and Participatory projects

- Late 70s early 80s, limited success of many development initiatives
- Increase in participatory projects in development
  - “participatory development movement”
  - Chambers (1983), applied ideas to small-scale development
  - Sen (1985), move towards “capability approach”
- Scale up of World Bank, AusAID participatory projects



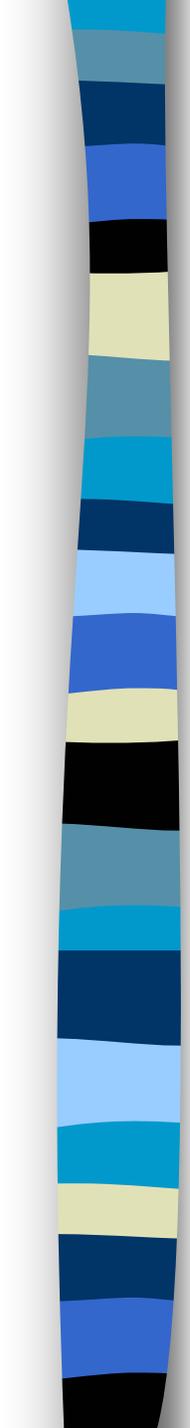
# World Bank, AusAID participatory projects

- **Increase in share of projects that include participatory approaches:**
  - The World Bank 2000/2001 World Development Report: *Attacking Poverty*.
  - The World Bank's CBD/CDD share of projects has grown from 2% in 1989 to 25% in 2003.
  - AusAID "Investing in People" promotes empowering local stakeholders to participate in development.
  - AusAID: PACAP, CEPA, ACCESS, TVETSSP, CDS



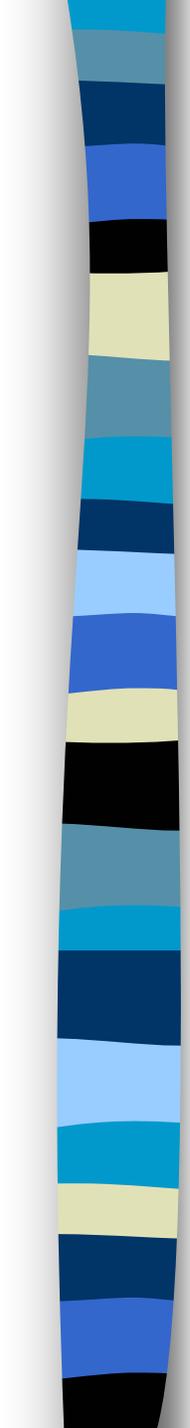
# Does participation matter?..... It matters for whom

- Donors:
  - Achievement of outcomes and impact
- **Ultimate beneficiaries of the participatory projects/ the community**
  - to be empowered/ to increase social capital, and the intensity of participation?
- Or both... and the association between the two.



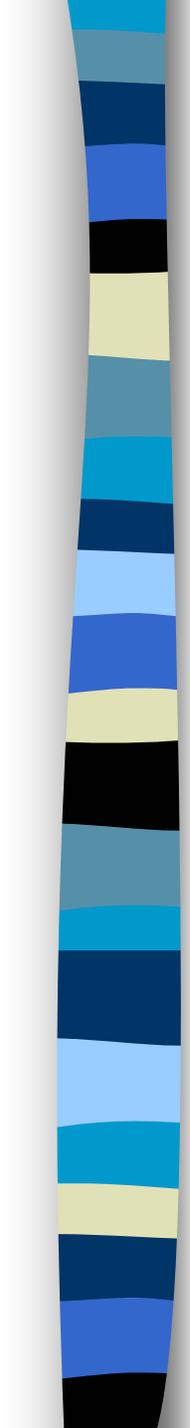
## 2. Donor Evaluation

- Achievement of outcomes and impact which is rarely empowerment
- I found only 1 case, PACAP



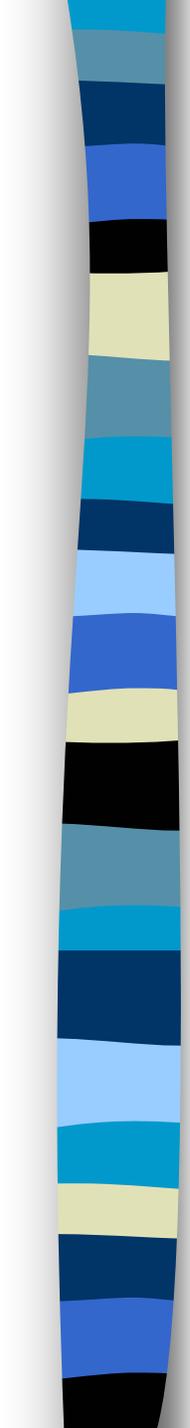
# Ultimate beneficiaries of the participatory projects/the community

- **Change in Social Capital and Empowerment= a means for assessing community participation**
- **Measuring Social Capital**
  - SOCAT (the World Bank): Social Capital Assessment Tool
  - Social Capital: norms and networks to enable collective activity in a community or....definition of the term...
- **Measuring Empowerment**
  - A Good Example: Ways to capture the effects of community development interventions in low income Detroit neighbourhoods.
  - Empowerment: process of increasing the capacity of individuals and groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes...definition of term...
- **Assessing Community Participation: Active Partners Benchmark (COGS); The Well Connected Tool.**



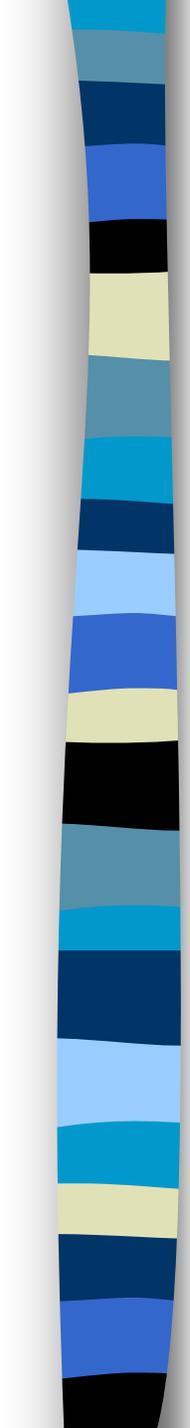
# Or Both: Impact and Process

- Or both... and the association between the two.
- None of the project reports have looked at both



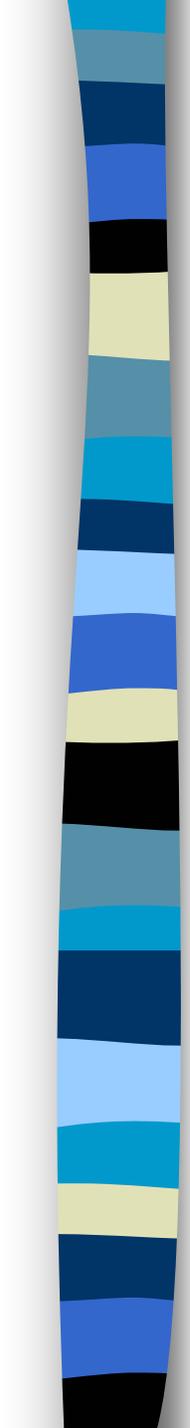
# What problems exist though ...that affect measuring participation

- Definition of the term: often means “different things to different people”
  - Social Capital – “collection of separate constructs” in SOCAT
  - Empowerment – stakeholders have different understanding about empowerment
    - *The Bank view.....vs...*
    - *Local stakeholders view:* activities that help build the capacity of the communities to participate in the development process



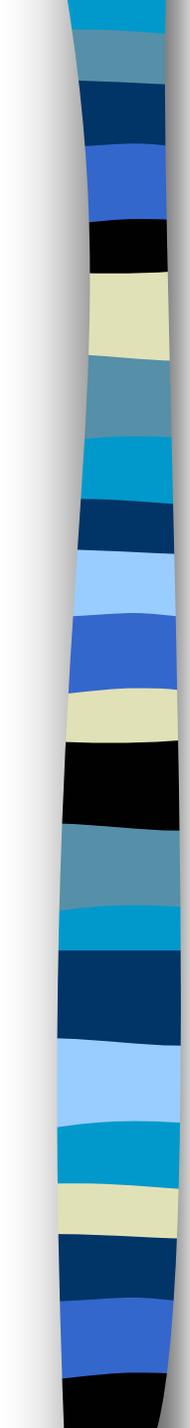
# What problems exist though ...that affect measuring participation

- Participation can occur at many levels
  - Ladder of participation
    - Arnstein 1969, Samuel Paul 1987, Marisa Choguill 1996, and Abad 2004.
    - Paul, 4 levels: information, consultation, decision making, and initiating action
- This aspect is rarely captured in evaluations of participatory projects
- Paul' work (1987): 80% of the projects did not go beyond consultation



### 3. Conclusion and the answer to the Q from the title...

- Probably YES ... for donors, if they achieve the outcomes
- Probably YES... for beneficiaries, if they have been empowered
- To have an informed YES or NO ... it *is a need* for a convincing evaluation to look at BOTH aspects, validate (or invalidate) the participatory model, and look at the correlation between process & impact and quality of the process & impact.



# Questions