

IPBES VA Chapter 4. - Review on outcomes in big development projects (mining and dams) / IPBES values assessment (4.9)

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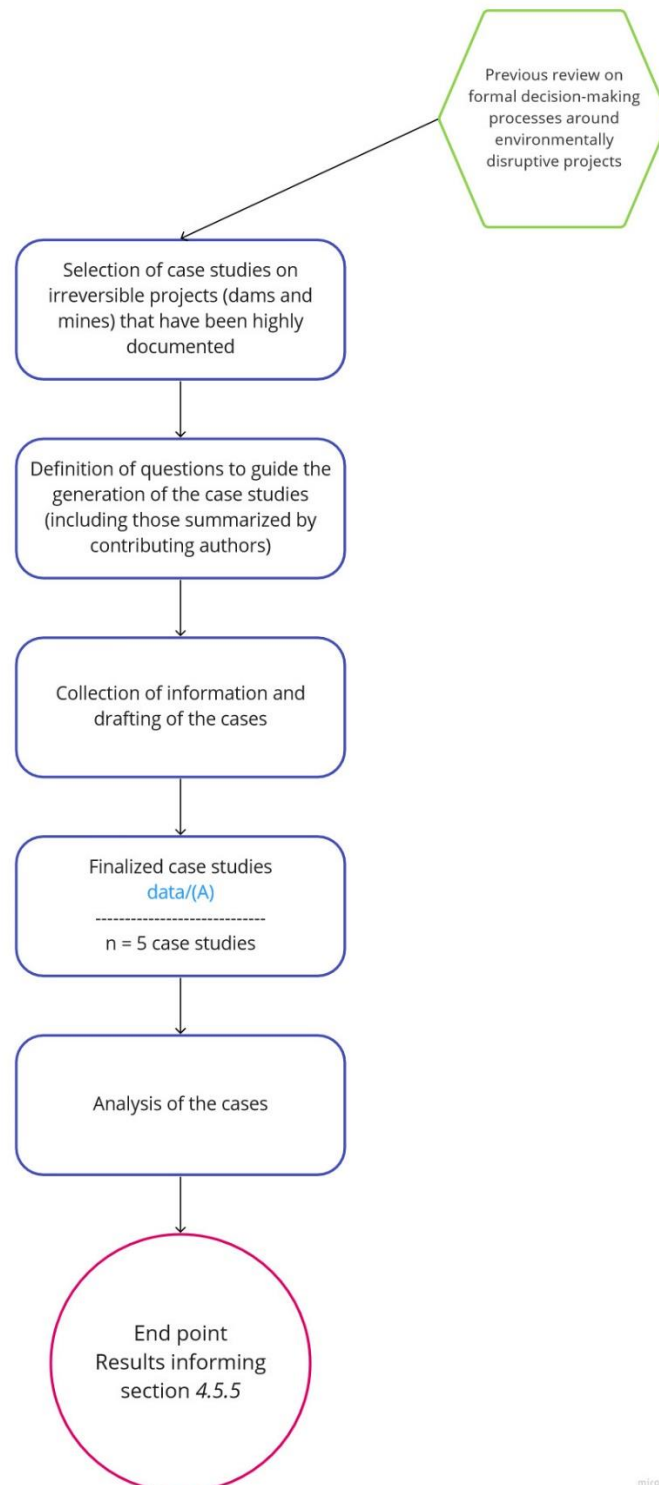
Description

The IPBES Scoping document for the values assessment highlights the need to assess the types of values of nature that have (or have not) been incorporated into decision-making, the types of valuation approaches incorporated into decision-making, the challenges that have hindered the incorporation of diverse conceptualizations of values of nature in a range of decision and policy-making contexts and the implications for different stakeholders. As major environmentally disruptive and irreversible projects, such as large dams and mines, pose a special challenge to decision-making, we ask *whether the inclusion of marginalised values and values of marginalised people, and more inclusive approaches to incorporating knowledge in the design, appraisal and decision-making on such environmentally disruptive projects can lead to a better balance between individual and aggregate well-being, sustainability and justice, across multiple dimensions and scales*. In particular, using large dams and large mines as examples, we ask,

- to what extent and in what manner have plural values (marginalised values for nature and society, and values of marginalised people) and knowledge been recognized and incorporated into appraisals of such “big, environmentally disruptive, irreversible” projects (recognition justice), and to what extent the affected communities themselves were heard in the appraisal and decision-making process (procedural justice),

- whether this led to better decisions, and translated into better long-term outcomes, and if so,
- what might be the factors enabling such plural appraisal and democratic decision-making about environmentally disruptive projects.

Process overview



Protocol:

- **Type of analysis/search/review:** Case study review
- **Contribution languages:** English & Spanish
- **Selection criteria:** Building on the review of the evolution of formal decision-making processes around environmentally disruptive projects, we examined several cases to answer our questions above. For the in-depth understanding of processes and outcomes, we drew upon case studies of controversial dam and mine projects that have a large, published literature, for some of which we were able to get summaries from contributing authors and others on which reviews were already available. These summaries were based on a set of predefined questions, to guide contributing authors in the task of presenting the relevant information for the purposes of this review. Geographically, the discussion is focused more on countries of the Global South, because new large dam projects are almost entirely located in this part of the world, and large mining projects are also largely coming up in this region (with the exception of Canada and Australia).
- **Sample size:** 5 case studies
 - Case Study 1. Hidrosogamoso Dam, Colombia
 - Case Study 2. Piparwar coal mine, North Karanpura coal block, Jharkhand, India
 - Case Study 3. Sardar Sarovar Dam Project, India
 - Case Study 4. Ilisu dam is located on the Tigris River in Southeastern Turkey
 - Case Study 5. Bauxite Mining in Niyamgiri Hills and Local Communities in Odisha, India

Additional inputs were from two dam activists, one part of International Rivers and one who had been a Commissioner on the World Commission on Dams. They were not restricted to a single case but provided an overview of the evolution of policies on decision-making on dams.

Only cases that were approved by the contributing authors to be shared, became part of this data management report in document **(A)**, **although all the information received was analysed to inform the chapter.**

- **Location and format of the data (A):** IPBES_VA_4.9_20-12-2020_(A).pdf

Treatment applied: Analysis of cases. We assessed what kinds of values and knowledge were mobilised in decisions, what or whether alternative decision forums explored and their consequences, and links between decisions and long-term impacts to draw on lessons learnt across contexts. Results were used to inform section 4.5.5.

Definition of files

ID	Name	File type	Size	Description
A	IPBES_VA_4.9_20-12-2020_(A)	pdf	499 KB	Full text of case studies shareable case studies.