



Sustainability Analysis, Environmental Awareness and Public Participation within CAMP Cyprus

A Proposal for the extended use of *Imagine* within Cyprus

Final Report



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List of acronyms

AMOEBA	‘general method for ecosystem description and assessment’ (in Dutch)
ASC	The Academy for Sustainable Communities
CAMP	Coastal Area Management Programme
FARN	Fundacion Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
FLAG	Florida Local Assessment Guide
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PRA	Participatory Rural Appraisal
RRA	Rapid Rural Appraisal
SD	Sustainable Development
SI	Sustainability Indicators
UK	United Kingdom
US	United States

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Overview of the use of *Imagine* in Cyprus

Over 2006/ 2007 the *Imagine* methodology was applied in Cyprus as part of the CAMP Cyprus project.

The *Imagine* process is intended to allow local people to assess and present their own perception of sustainability issues. By a gradual process of participatory and inclusive decision-making local stakeholders:

- Gain a shared perception of the major issues which confront them,
- Agree on how these issues can be measured,
- Develop an understanding of the trends concerning these issues,
- Future scape how these issues may be developing into the future,
- Prioritize an action plan to deal with these issues,
- Consider how they can influence and develop policy for a more sustainable future.

1.2. Main Outcome arising from the use of *Imagine*

Imagine was applied in Cyprus over three workshops. The workshops were intended to be demonstrative of the overall *Imagine* process and a means to ascertain the value of the approach.

For the purposes of the Cyprus context groups of stakeholders were invited to explore the use of the methodology, applying simulation and guesstimate data but nevertheless considering issues of real concern to the contemporary context.

Following each workshop the outcomes were reported and are set out here in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

Each workshop produced interesting and valuable material and insights and all three were considered to be useful by those attending.

The main outcome of the application was enthusiasm to see the methodology applied in participatory sustainability analysis but in a more organised and rigorous manner, as an element of civic practice.

To meet this ambition the proposal contained in section 2 of this report was developed.

1.3. Main recommendations

Our proposal for Cyprus is:

1. To establish *Imagine* as a de facto means to improve local participation in sustainability issues;

2. This would require the development of a national centre for promulgation and training,
3. And the development of a Cyprus generic version of *Imagine*;
4. Allowing a cohort of *Imagine* practitioners to service the delivery of *Imagine* facilities,
5. And the effective linkage to other users of *Imagine* across Europe (for example in Slovenia and the UK) in order to share best practice;
6. Such a centre would need to have its remit supported in planning law.

1.4. Introduction to the Proposal

The justification for the recommendation set out above are contained in the following section of this report.

The justification is developed from:

- The experience of the *Imagine* process to-date and as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3;
- The knowledge of Cypriot experts concerning the value of public participation in Cyprus (see Section 2.2 and Appendix 4);
- The known and tested value of *Imagine* as a coherent means to engage the public in a considered view of sustainability.

2. Proposal for *Imagine* to be included as a means to enhance public participation in Sustainable Development issues in Cyprus

2.1. Introduction

There follows a proposal for the use of the *Imagine* approach in Cyprus as a means to develop and enhance local participation in sustainable development contexts.

The *Imagine* approach was applied during three workshops included in the Cyprus Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP). The objectives of the three workshops were as follows:

“WS 1. Introduce and explore sustainability in the past, the present and in the future by the means of indicators, band of equilibrium and scenarios.

WS 2. Taking into account the existing expertise in Cyprus as represented by the contributions of the National Specialist, the second workshop would endeavour to brainstorm how CAMP Cyprus can involve wider stakeholders in reflecting on sustainability. This would involve the brief presentation and examination of experiences drawn from previous CAMPs Algeria and Slovenia; discussion about the tools used and the outcomes reached in each and a subsequent examination of best practice allowing Cypriot stakeholders to consider if it is valuable to apply some of them in Cyprus.

WS 3. Accordingly to the previous steps, investigate and propose how to introduce implementation of public participation based on some of *Imagine*'s elements in the Cyprus government context”¹.

The proposal follows from a review held by the Blue Plan and Cyprus teams at the end of the third workshop held in Larnaca on the 3rd and 4th April 2007.

The main details of the application of *Imagine* is to be found in the three workshop reports in Appendices 1, 2 and 3.

This document comes in five sections:

- Background: Problems with public participation;
- The need for guided and focused local public participation in order to achieve sustainable development;
- The benefits of public inclusion;
- The value of *Imagine* as a means to achieve public participation;
- Outline Proposal: How *Imagine* could be used in Cyprus to achieve local participation.

¹ Plan Bleu 2006.

2.2. Background: Problems with Public Participation

Contrary to the assumptions of many people, public participation is not easily achievable. Robert Chambers, in his seminal work: 'Whose Reality Counts' (Chambers 1997) presented a vast range of problems for development including:

- accelerating rates of change,
- the notion of a global 'overclass',
- blinkered professionalism (the professional prison) and
- self-deception among urban, industrial elites.

More pointedly, over the past seven years, across a range of projects in both the Mediterranean and the UK, a number of problems with public participation, which resonate with Chambers categories, have been observed including:

- Expert-driven change agendas,
- Exclusion of minority 'voices',
- Technical jargon excluding the population majority,
- Cynicism concerning the weight of importance politicians accept from public participation processes,
- Cynicism concerning the ability and willingness of the political class to 'listen',
- Disempowerment of the mass.

It should be noted that these weaknesses have been observed to exist within many public participation programmes.

As an attempt to move the agenda forward and to improve public participation processes Chambers went on to develop Participatory Rural Appraisal or PRA. The ethos of PRA can be said to arise from the following observation:

“As professionals have become more aware of errors and myths, and of the misfit between the reality they construct and the reality others experience, some have sought and developed new approaches and methods in their work. Insights and development in action-reflection research, agro-ecosystem analysis, applied social anthropology, farming systems research, and rapid rural appraisal (RRA) have contributed to the evolution of participatory approaches to learning and action... PRA is a growing family of approaches and methods to enable local people to share, enhance and analyse their knowledge of life and conditions, and to plan, act, monitor and evaluate”².

Many have built off the foundation established by Chambers³ and the *Imagine* approach arises from this need to include local people in decisions concerning their coastline and their lives. Primarily it was used in CAMP Cyprus as a means to develop public participation.

² Chambers, p. 102.

³ As a non-representative sample of these: Slocum and Thomas-Slayter 1995; Acton, Savage et al. 2000; Goodwin 2000; Taket and White 2000; Kumar and Corbridge 2002; Puri and Sahay 2003.

2.3. The need for guided and focused local public participation in order to achieve sustainable development

The case for local participation in sustainable development is now well established. Agenda 21 as revealed in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, set out a blueprint of action to be taken at the global, national and local levels. The Aarhus Convention enshrined the central importance of public participation:

“the Convention requires Parties to guarantee the rights of access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters in order to contribute to the protection of the right of every person of ‘present and future generations’ to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well being”⁴.

Aarhus to some extent built on the earlier work of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) set out in the Bellagio principles where broad participation is seen as central:

“Assessment of progress towards sustainable development should...obtain broad representation of key grass-roots, professional, technical and social groups including youth, women and indigenous people – to ensure recognition of diverse and changing values”⁵.

Hardi and Zdan believed that such representation would ensure the participation of decision-makers to secure a firm link to adopted policies and resulting action.

These principles have found strong support in numerous initiatives in diverse organisations including the Fundacion Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (FARN) in Argentina⁶, the OECD⁷ and the European Union⁸. Guy and Kibert (1998), referring to the Florida Local Assessment Guide (FLAG) in the US, suggest that such community participation can help in SD programmes because:

1. “it can help ensure that local government focuses on areas of concern where money will be wisely spent;
2. it can result in a reduced risk of public opposition when hard choices are made based on limited resources;
3. it is cheaper than employing professionals;
4. citizens feel a sense of worth and make them more willing to make contributions;
5. it personalizes the process, resulting in greater feelings of public ownership and “*greater degrees of care than more objective outside ‘experts’*”;
6. it builds community empowerment and self-accountability, especially relevant at a time of “*downsizing government*”.

As part of FLAG citizens were asked to help identify a future ‘vision’ as to how their ‘system’ should appear at a future date combined with measurable goals to be achieved in fixed time frames.

More recently, the focus on participation has in some countries been prioritised to the point where it has found itself enshrined in civil law (e.g. The Sustainable Development Act of Manitoba), which states:

⁴ Stec, Casey-Lefkowitz et al. 2000.

⁵ Hardi and Zdan 1997.

⁶ See, for the on-line Module on Public Participation and Sustainable Development at <http://www.farn.org.ar/participacion/>.

⁷ OECD 2004.

⁸ Taylor ND.

“Manitobans should acknowledge responsibility for sustaining the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being, with each being accountable for decisions and actions in a spirit of partnership and open cooperation”⁹.

However, in the Cyprus context a range of issues need to be considered. The Team leader of the Coastal Area Management Programme has commented:

“Until recently there were no clear procedures for public participation processes in Cyprus. The single exception is the 1972 Town and Country Planning Law which although does not clearly specify procedures for promoting active public participation in the planning process, it does specify how the public may influence the provisions of a Local Plan or Area Scheme.

Gradually, and particularly since Cyprus has adopted and enforced all the European directives and regulations after joining the European Union in 2004, public participation procedures have become more commonplace.

Cyprus has signed and ratified the Aarhus convention (see section 3), which sets out precise provisions on public participation and for access to information on the environment held by public authorities. In relation to the Aarhus convention, Law N.119(I)/2004 has been published in order to conform with European Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information.

The 1972 Town and Country Planning Law (N.90/72) does not clearly specify procedures for promoting active public participation in the planning process. However, it specifies how the public may influence the provisions of a Local Plan or Area Scheme at two stages. In the first instance, the public is theoretically involved at the plan-making stage. Stakeholders include representatives of the Local Authorities involved, government agencies and public bodies whose policies are affected by the plans under consideration, organised citizens’ groups and NGO’s with an interest in the area under study, as well as persons of special knowledge or expertise in relation to the study area. These Stakeholders form the Joint Board which advises the Planning Board and the Minister of the Interior during the plan making process. This process is essentially consultative and its main objective is to inform the Interior Minister on opinions and suggestions in relation to a Development Plan’s current or proposed policies. Public participation during the plan making/revising stage is thus very weak, because the organisation of public meetings where the proposed new plan policies can be discussed with the wider is not a statutory obligation.

Public participation procedures in the town and country planning process are still weak, ad-hoc and inadequate. This is a major weakness for affecting the desired integrated planning process.”

The desirability of including the public in any setting of a SD agenda, including its meaning, has been broadly accepted. There may be debates over the degree of ‘top down’ and ‘bottom up’ involvement, and clearly there are issues of power at play in all of this. The issue is perhaps no longer about the desirability of such public involvement, but its practicality. How can the public be best involved?

⁹ <http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/statpub/index.html>

2.4. The benefits of public inclusion

Working from the references already cited and the experience of the authors in projects in many parts of the world, the benefits of public inclusion in issues which impact directly on the sustainability of livelihoods are often systemic and conform to a reinforcing cycle as shown in Figure 1 below:

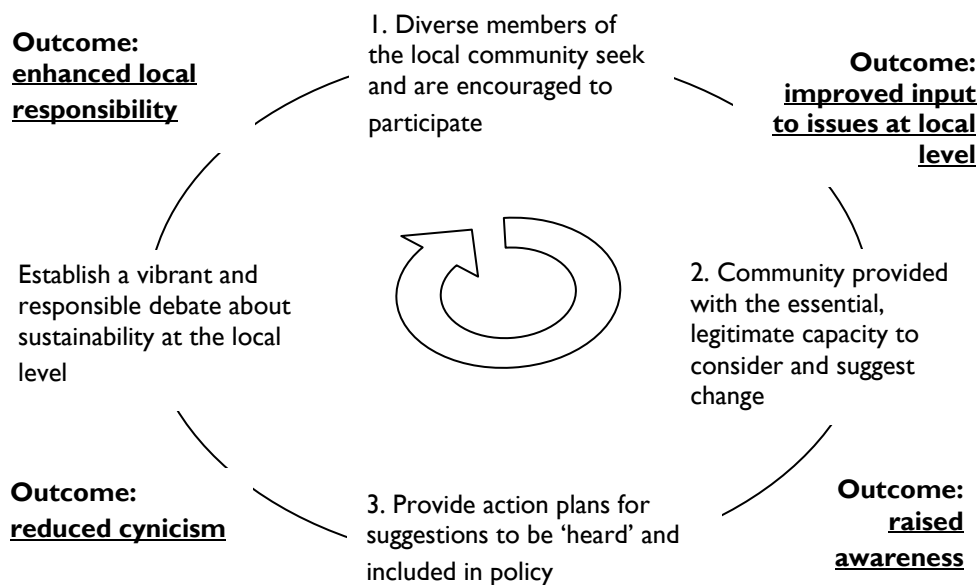


Figure 1. The values benefits of public inclusion

These benefits are referred to in later sections of this proposal.

2.5. The value of *Imagine* as a means to achieve public participation

The four outputs noted in figure 1 above: improved input, raised awareness, reduced cynicism and enhanced local responsibility are all key to the *Imagine* methodology.

The *Imagine* approach has been applied in a variety of contexts across the Mediterranean¹⁰. It has also been applied in the UK and is at present being developed as a Continuous Professional Development generic course for use across the UK by the Academy for Sustainable Communities¹¹.

In terms of the Cyprus experience of *Imagine*, the Team Leader for the Coastal Area Management Programme comments:

“Imagine provides much needed insights into the problems and gaps of the Public Participation process in Cyprus and identified methods for building up an awareness strengthening approach particularly relevant to local coastal (and other) communities. The most salient strength of *Imagine* lies in the interactive process and its success in engaging the ‘imagination’ and activating the perception of participants around current and prospective environmental

¹⁰ See project reports from Malta, Algeria, Lebanon and Slovenia at: <http://www.planbleu.org/publications/littoralUK.html>.

¹¹ For details of this organisation and its activities see <http://www.ascskills.org.uk/pages/home>.

issues (threats, use conflicts and possible opportunities). For CAMP Cyprus, this approach has shown how environmental awareness can be enhanced and a convergence of sectional views for the future can be gradually developed through participatory workshops, both being prerequisites for the development of effective public participation at the local community level as a tool for communicating options and planning objectives.”

The *Imagine* approach proposes a set of tools and methods to describe, assess and examine the level of sustainability of an eco-socio-system in the past, present and future by means of indicators and a participatory process that considers local actors to be experts at their level¹².

Imagine is conceived as comprising of five critical outcomes (these can relate to five, three or one workshop(s) depending on the version of *Imagine* being adopted). The five outcomes are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1. The Main features of *Imagine*

	Workshop or learning event and main content detail.	Correlation to benefits of public participation
1	Understanding the context – gaining insights into locally defined concerns	Improved input to issues at a local level
2	Agreeing Sustainability Indicators to assess their meaning, and agreeing with stakeholders on what is the acceptable, sustainable value	Raised awareness Action plans
3	Developing the graphic Radar/AMOEBAs diagram for representing the Sustainability Indicators (SIs). Scenario Making for reflecting on the SIs future evolution	Responsible debate about sustainability at the local level
4	Review of Scenario Making, sharing this with major stakeholders Developing a meta-scenario	Enhanced local responsibility Reduced cynicism
5	Developing action plan(s), publicity, publicising and Marketing the message	Improved input to issues at local level.

The *Imagine* approach has a proven value in delivering insights into sustainable development at a local level. As one of the stakeholders involved in the Malta CAMP project commented:

“This (the use of the methodology) was one of the interesting aspects of the Malta Project, particularly when stakeholders would discuss their understanding of the concept of Sustainable Development, even though this understanding varied between stakeholders”¹³.

And another stakeholder added:

“The workshop sessions and the direct hands on experience in understanding the various stages of the process has been the success of this project, particularly since groups would

¹² Bell and Coudert 2005, page 6.

¹³ Bell and Morse 2003 page 112.

involve themselves in systemic discussions analysing the issues from different perspectives to come up with a collectively acceptable approach. All teams were unanimous on this”¹⁴.

In the final report on CAMP Malta it was noted that one of the workshops:

“provided an insight into the scope of Sustainability Indicators and ... that SIs are a means to an end and their value is in providing a basis to encourage change and take action where necessary to steer a specific system towards sustainable development”¹⁵.

With its proven track record both in the Mediterranean and its wider use now in the UK, *Imagine* has shown itself to be an approach which can work at a number of levels:

- As the full version of *Imagine*. This is the five workshop version usually recommended as the means to develop a sustainable local view of sustainable development. This version is well documented in both academic publication and practitioner guide¹⁶.
- As *Imagine Display*. This is a shortened version, developed and applied in Cyprus in 2007 as a means to introduce stakeholders to the *Imagine* approach and to develop provocative sustainability simulations.
- As *Imagine Organisation*. This method has been applied in France and the UK as a two day workshop for organisations seeking to better understand their own sustainability¹⁷.

Imagine Display was developed in Cyprus as a means to introduce the method in this specific Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP) country context. Effectively this version of *Imagine* involves a group of stakeholders in assessing local sustainability issues in three workshops.

However, as noted in section 3 above, participation is not a problem free or easy goal. In fact, the achievement of participation is often a goal sought after but rarely achieved.

The *Imagine* approach itself is not a guarantee of participation. *Imagine* is designed to deal with conflict and provocative argument. However, other issues of a more structural kind can be the cause of problems. For example, with CAMP Cyprus the approach suffered at times from:

- A lack of participation for some workshops,
- Irregular attendance of some stakeholders over the workshop sequence.

These two issues will need to be addressed if the proposed extension of the use of *Imagine* in Cyprus is to be successful.

2.6. Outline Proposal: How *Imagine* could be used in Cyprus to achieve local participation

Public participation in any area of civil life is problematic. To achieve consistent and judicious participation on a nation-wide basis requires clear definition of terms and an agreed format for inclusion in national affairs. An excellent example of the rigours of this – in terms of inclusivity and legal completeness are shown in The Sustainable Development Act of Manitoba. This act clearly defines the terms of sustainability, sets out a framework for

¹⁴ Bell and Morse 2003 page 118.

¹⁵ Ellul 2002 , page 17.

¹⁶ Bell and Morse 2004; Bell and Coudert 2005; Bell and Morse 2005; Bell and Morse 2006; Bell and Morse 2007.

¹⁷ Coudert 2006.

implementing sustainable development and indicates the status and responsibilities of public bodies in delivering the sustainability agenda.

In France the ‘Barnier’ Law, originally presented in 1995 and updated in 2002 – Law no. 2002-276, imposed the need for public participation in the process of planning or infrastructure projects.

Similar Laws exist in other European countries including the UK and Denmark.

In elaboration of this, in the UK, as an initial means to improve public participation in sustainable community development issues including planning and construction projects, it has been proposed that the *Imagine* approach be adopted as the primary means. The Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC) was set up in April 2005 by the Department for Communities and Local Government and is a key part of the Governments drive to create local communities fit for the 21st century. The mandate for the ASC is to:

- Create, lead and drive a consensus on the definition on what makes sustainable communities and why they are needed;
- Make a leading contribution to the sustainable communities policy agenda and raise awareness of its importance;
- Drive sustainable communities skills and knowledge policy at national and international level;
- Build capacity and capability in the sustainable communities sector;
- Commission new materials directly; and
- Influence the education and training programmes of others and to improve skills and knowledge on sustainable communities.

The ASC is leading in a process which intends to drive the public participation in sustainability agenda. The key means to operationalise this agenda is to provide *Imagine* as a facilitating device for communities both as an academic form of analysis and as a local means to achieve grass-roots input to issues pertaining to planning and development. The ASC process established in the UK might be a model for the Cyprus context.

As has already been noted, and as re-enforced by Cypriot experts, public participation is very complex and demanding activity. Its effectiveness presupposes three major ‘resources’:

- Broad awareness of the state of the environment and the consequences of degradation through excess or wrong development;
- Specific awareness of present conditions and possible future trends; and,
- Exposure to the perspective, views and objectives held by other involved social, economic and policy-making stakeholders.

Only when these three resources are in place can public participations be effective and produce lasting results. In Cyprus the Public Participation process is superficial and problematic; it becomes a vehicle for the solidification of diverse but non-communicative opinions insisted upon to maximize preconceived claims, thus deepening rather than resolving conflicts and reaching shared solutions. As examples can be cited the long controversy over the Akamas Management Plan and the implementation of the Paralimni Local Plan.

As in the UK with the ASC, the *Imagine* methodology can be usefully applied in Cyprus and most usefully within the framework of the Town and Country Planning Law. Even though that Law provides for and requires a Public Participation process, the basic prerequisites

(awareness, other people's perspectives and interests, and, a common language) are missing. It is proposed that the *Imagine* methodology be introduced into the planning practice in conjunction with the preparation of Development Plans.

Specifically, it is proposed that before the preparation of a Local Plan or a regional type plan (for example coastal community zoning schemes under the Countryside Policy Statement) *Imagine* Workshop should be initiated (preferably limited to three Workshops) to develop through interaction the 'rich picture', the qualitative indicators of sustainability and the main issues-and-why list. Building up this communication and interchanges will allow the development of a common 'planning language' to be used for the formulation of planning goals and objectives to guide the Plans themselves. Otherwise Local Development Plans will continue to be symbols of opinion conflicts and causing delays and possible inaction.

It is further proposed that the *Imagine* methodology should be adopted for all the coastal communities preferably, for practical reasons, groups of adjacent communities, like the Akamas communities, the Peyia, Kissonerga, Khlorka communities, the Pervolia, Kiti, Meneou communities, etc., as well as for the coastal towns.

The application of the *Imagine* methodology should not be confined to Development Plans under the Town and Country Planning Law but used to create common or converging views on major projects such as marinas, golf courses, controversial road schemes, sewerage treatment plants, solid waste landfill sites, etc.

The composition of the *Imagine* awareness group should include a wide spectrum of stakeholders, such as representatives of farmers, property owners and developers, businessmen, environmental NGOs, planners, architects, etc.

Proposal specifics

Our proposal for Cyprus is:

- 1) To establish by Law *Imagine* and related tools and methods as a de facto means to improve local participation in sustainability issues;

The intention of such a legal requirement would be to place the emphasis necessary on public bodies to include participation in sustainable development at the requisite level of priority across national life in Cyprus. Such a legal requirement would both embody participation as a sine qua non for planning and related processes and encourage the adoption of these and related methods in a variety of civic processes.

- 2) This would require the development of a national centre for promulgation and training;

The National Centre would embody the participation ideal and act as a focal point for both Cypriot and wider Mediterranean and EU projects in sustainable development. Such a centre could set Cyprus as a leading innovator in the promulgation of sustainable livelihoods and encourage investment from a variety of international agencies.

- 3) And the development of a Cyprus generic version of *Imagine*;

The versions of *Imagine* described in this document and discussed over the three workshops with Cypriot colleagues have all been innovated in the light of local contingencies. The version of *Imagine* now being developed and rolled out in the UK via the Academy for Sustainable Communities in turn reflects the stringencies of UK planning and built environment concerns. It is envisaged that *Imagine* would evolve and adapt with the innovations which would emerge from the National Centre.

- 4) Allowing a cohort of *Imagine* practitioners to service the delivery of *Imagine* facilities;

Following on from the establishment of the requisite energy to innovate the participatory approach to sustainable development embodied in Law and supported by the National Centre, it is expected that Cypriot professionals would provide a long-term and sustainable cohort of practitioners to provide domestic and international facilitation in the use of the *Imagine* and related approaches.

- 5) And the effective linkage to other users of *Imagine* across Europe (for example in Slovenia and the UK) in order to share best practice;

The National Centre would provide an ideal focus point for the establishment of international links in the wider sustainable development debate. Such a Centre could link domestic and international practice, act as an advocate and champion for best practice, provide leadership in bringing together diverse and well-intended initiatives in a co-learning experience and give guidance in setting standards across Europe.

- 6) Such a centre would need to have its remit supported in planning law.

All the above depends on and to some extent provides additional need for planning laws which establish participatory methods as the basis for civil change. The National Centre would be an element and guardian for such laws.

At a more micro-level, our proposal is for *Imagine Cyprus* to include further strengthening of the pre-project and post-project *Imagine* phases.

In outline we are proposing a three fold development of the methodology. We set this out in brief in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Suggested use of *Imagine Cyprus*

Phase	Content	Outcome
Pre <i>Imagine</i> project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the theme for the application of <i>Imagine</i> • Selection of stakeholders. This should be based on gaining a diverse group which represents the range of views on the given subject for the application of <i>Imagine</i> • Stakeholder briefing on the project including agreement on a timetable for the workshop events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear theme articulated • A committed stakeholder group willing to input time to the process • Agreed calendar of <i>Imagine</i> workshops • Agreement on the mandate of the <i>Imagine</i> workshops • Agreement on what will constitute quorum of the workshops
Project Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three <i>Imagine</i> Workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline of issues • Indicators to measure issues • AMOEBA diagrams of issues • Scenario plans • Publicity and marketing materials
Post project phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement on public briefing • Training in the use of <i>Imagine</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public briefing • Training of Cypriots in the use of <i>Imagine</i> at future events.

An outcome of the *Imagine* approach would not just relate to the empowerment of local people however – important as that is. It could also provide suggestions on policy in planning and sustainable development issues. This could provide gains in many spheres including the:

- Reduction of ignorance in local decision making,
- Cooperative engagement of ‘expert’ and community views,
- Development of a non-cynical attitude to planning and change,
- Democratisation of the planning process.

2.7. Conclusion

Public participation in issues of sustainable development is a key issue. The *Imagine* approach as tested in Cyprus offers one means to enhance and develop such participation. The use of *Imagine* in other areas most significantly of late in Slovenia (Mezek 2007) and the UK (e.g. with the Academy for Sustainable Communities) reinforces its track record and provides evidence of its capacity to help local people engage with their own sustainability.

This report contains a proposal for the wider use of *Imagine* within the Cyprus context. It suggests an ASC-style agency for the deployment of the method and its establishment as a legal requirement in contexts of sustainable development and impact on local community.

By this means it is suggested, greater inclusion can be established and a more sustainable future for the people of Cyprus achieved.

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