

Stakeholder Engagement Charter Template

Global Governance Framework Tool

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Introduction

The Stakeholder Engagement Charter Template provides a comprehensive framework for designing inclusive, effective, and transparent stakeholder participation in governance processes. It serves as a foundational tool for establishing clear agreements about how diverse stakeholders will engage in decision-making, implementation, and evaluation of governance initiatives.

This charter template is designed to be adaptable across different governance contexts while maintaining core principles of inclusivity, transparency, and meaningful participation. By establishing clear processes and standards at the outset, it helps prevent misunderstandings, build trust, and create conditions for genuine collaboration among diverse stakeholders.

The template includes both universal elements applicable across frameworks and specialized modules for specific frameworks such as Environmental Stewardship, Food Systems & Agriculture, Nested Sovereignty, and Religious & Spiritual Dialogue. Through this modular approach, it supports both consistency in stakeholder engagement practices and appropriate customization for different governance contexts.

Core Charter Elements

A complete Stakeholder Engagement Charter includes the following core elements, each of which should be developed through a collaborative process involving key stakeholders.

Charter Purpose

What to Include:

- Clear statement of why the charter exists
- Scope of engagement covered by the charter
- Intended outcomes of the engagement process
- Relationship to broader governance frameworks

- Duration and review timeline for the charter

Example:

This Stakeholder Engagement Charter establishes the principles, processes, and standards

Vision Statement

What to Include:

- Shared vision for the engagement process
- Aspirational description of participation quality
- Long-term relationship goals among stakeholders
- Connection to broader governance outcomes
- Values underpinning the engagement vision

Example:

We envision an engagement process where diverse perspectives are genuinely valued, po

Governance Context

What to Include:

- Description of the broader governance initiative
- Relevant policy and regulatory frameworks
- Historical context of stakeholder relationships
- Existing governance structures and decision rights
- Current challenges and opportunities in the context

Example:

This charter operates within the Municipal Water Resource Management Plan (2023-2028)

Governance Principles

The charter should clearly articulate the principles that will guide stakeholder engagement, with concrete descriptions of how each principle will be implemented in practice.

Inclusivity

Principle Definition: All affected stakeholders have opportunity and capacity to meaningfully participate regardless of resources, social position, or traditional power.

Implementation Commitments:

- Multiple engagement formats accessible to diverse participants
- Proactive outreach to historically marginalized groups
- Resource provision to enable participation (e.g., transportation, childcare)
- Scheduling that accommodates different stakeholder constraints
- Adaptation of processes to address barriers as they are identified
- Regular review of participation patterns with corrective action when needed

Transparency

Principle Definition: Information about decisions, processes, and outcomes is clearly communicated and readily accessible to all stakeholders in understandable formats.

Implementation Commitments:

- Public documentation of all major decisions and their rationales
- Clear information about decision-making processes and authority
- Regular updates on implementation progress
- Multiple information channels appropriate to different stakeholders
- Plain language communication with minimal technical jargon
- Transparency about limitations and constraints of the process

Balanced Representation

Principle Definition: Governance structures and processes ensure fair representation across stakeholder groups, with particular attention to historically marginalized voices.

Implementation Commitments:

- Demographic targets for governance bodies reflecting stakeholder diversity
- Reserved positions for specific stakeholder categories when needed
- Rotation systems to prevent domination by specific groups
- Representation quality monitoring and adjustment
- Balance between continuity and fresh perspectives
- Power-balancing mechanisms in dialogue and deliberation

Meaningful Participation

Principle Definition: Participation has genuine impact on outcomes rather than being tokenistic or performative, with stakeholder input demonstrably influencing decisions.

Implementation Commitments:

- Early engagement before key decisions are predetermined
- Clear connection between stakeholder input and decisions
- Adequate time for informed deliberation and input
- Capacity building for effective participation
- Documentation of how stakeholder input influenced outcomes
- Honest acknowledgment when stakeholder preferences cannot be accommodated

Accountability

Principle Definition: Stakeholders, facilitators, and decision-makers are answerable for their commitments, actions, and impacts through established feedback mechanisms.

Implementation Commitments:

- Regular reporting on commitment fulfillment
- Clear responsibility assignment for actions
- Feedback channels accessible to all stakeholders
- Consequences for non-compliance with charter commitments
- Independent verification of implementation claims
- Periodic review of charter effectiveness with stakeholder input

Stakeholder Identification

A comprehensive stakeholder analysis is essential for effective engagement. This section details the process for identifying stakeholders and assessing their relationships to the governance initiative.

Stakeholder Categories

Core Stakeholders:

- Directly affected by governance decisions
- Have direct responsibilities in implementation
- Possess significant relevant knowledge or expertise
- Hold formal authority or rights related to the issue
- Required for successful implementation

Secondary Stakeholders:

- Indirectly affected by governance decisions
- Have interest but limited direct involvement
- Possess some relevant knowledge or resources
- May amplify or support implementation
- Represent broader constituency interests

Tertiary Stakeholders:

- Affected by long-term or system-level outcomes
- Include future generations and broader public
- May include non-human entities in some frameworks
- Provide perspective on bigger-picture impacts
- Represent values and long-term considerations

Stakeholder Analysis Process

Step 1: Initial Identification

- Conduct research on potential stakeholders
- Use existing relationships and networks
- Apply snowball technique (asking identified stakeholders who else should be included)
- Consider historical participation patterns
- Analyze potential impacts to identify affected groups

Step 2: Relationship Analysis

- Assess interest level in the governance issue
- Determine influence over outcomes and implementation
- Identify existing relationships between stakeholders
- Map potential conflicts or alliances
- Understand historical context of stakeholder relationships

Step 3: Representation Assessment

- Identify legitimate representatives for stakeholder groups
- Assess representativeness of identified individuals
- Consider internal diversity within stakeholder categories
- Evaluate capacity for effective participation
- Determine appropriate engagement levels for different groups

Step 4: Gap Analysis and Outreach

- Identify missing or underrepresented stakeholders
- Develop targeted outreach strategies
- Address barriers to participation

- Create new channels when needed
- Document outreach efforts and outcomes

Stakeholder Mapping Tools

Stakeholder Matrix: A two-dimensional analysis plotting stakeholders based on interest and influence, helping prioritize engagement approaches.

Interest↓ / Influence→	Low Influence	Medium Influence	High Influence
High Interest	Keep informed	Engage actively	Partner closely
Medium Interest	Monitor	Consult regularly	Involve in key decisions
Low Interest	Minimal engagement	Keep satisfied	Monitor carefully

Relationship Map: Visual representation of relationships, alliances, and tensions between stakeholder groups to inform engagement strategies.

Power Analysis: Assessment of formal and informal power dynamics affecting stakeholder participation and influence.

Engagement Methods

Different contexts and objectives require different engagement approaches. This section outlines various methods and criteria for selecting appropriate approaches.

Engagement Spectrum

Inform:

- Purpose: Provide balanced information to stakeholders
- Promise: "We will keep you informed"
- Methods: Newsletters, websites, fact sheets, open houses
- Appropriate when: Basic awareness is the goal, decisions are technical or predetermined
- Limitations: No opportunity to influence decisions, one-way communication

Consult:

- Purpose: Obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives, or decisions
- Promise: "We will listen to and acknowledge your concerns"
- Methods: Public comment, surveys, focus groups, public meetings
- Appropriate when: Input on specific questions is needed, stakeholder feedback can improve decisions
- Limitations: May not build relationship, feedback may not visibly influence outcomes

Involve:

- Purpose: Work directly with stakeholders throughout the process
- Promise: "We will ensure your concerns are directly reflected in alternatives developed"
- Methods: Workshops, deliberative polling, citizen advisory committees
- Appropriate when: Deep stakeholder input is valuable, relationship-building matters
- Limitations: Final decision authority may remain elsewhere, time-intensive

Collaborate:

- Purpose: Partner with stakeholders in all aspects of decision-making
- Promise: "We will incorporate your advice and recommendations to the maximum extent possible"

- Methods: Consensus-building, participatory decision-making, joint planning
- Appropriate when: Complex issues require diverse perspectives, implementation requires broad buy-in
- Limitations: Requires significant time and resources, may challenge traditional authority

Empower:

- Purpose: Place final decision-making authority with stakeholders
- Promise: "We will implement what you decide"
- Methods: Delegated decisions, citizen juries, ballots, self-governance mechanisms
- Appropriate when: Community ownership is essential, affected communities should control outcomes
- Limitations: May require significant capacity building, challenging for cross-jurisdiction issues

Method Selection Criteria

When selecting engagement methods, consider:

Stakeholder Characteristics:

- Existing knowledge and capacity
- Communication preferences and accessibility needs
- Time and resource constraints
- Cultural appropriateness
- Power dynamics between stakeholders

Decision Context:

- Stage in decision process
- Complexity of the issue
- Timeline constraints
- Legal or regulatory requirements
- Level of controversy or conflict

Engagement Objectives:

- Type of input needed
- Relationship-building goals
- Implementation requirements
- Learning and capacity-building aims
- Trust and legitimacy considerations

Digital and In-Person Integration

Effective engagement often combines digital and in-person approaches:

Digital Engagement Strengths:

- Broader reach across geographic distances
- Flexibility in timing and participation
- Potentially lower barriers to participation for some
- Data collection and analysis capabilities
- Resource efficiency for certain processes

In-Person Engagement Strengths:

- Relationship building and trust development
- Non-verbal communication and deeper dialogue

- Cultural and ceremonial integration
- Accessibility for those with limited digital access
- Community building and solidarity development

Hybrid Approach Design:

- Determine which elements work best in which format
- Create seamless information flow between formats
- Ensure equal value for different participation modes
- Address digital divides and access barriers
- Document both digital and in-person components
- Integrate feedback across formats

Decision-Making Protocols

Clear decision-making protocols are essential for transparent and effective stakeholder engagement. This section establishes how decisions will be made and documented.

Decision Rights Mapping

Authority Levels:

- **Decide:** Has final authority to make the decision
- **Approve:** Must approve before decision is final
- **Recommend:** Provides recommendations that significantly shape decisions
- **Input:** Provides information and perspectives that inform decisions
- **Informed:** Receives information about decisions after they are made

Decision Categories:

- Strategic decisions (fundamental direction)
- Resource allocation decisions
- Implementation method decisions
- Operational decisions
- Evaluation and adjustment decisions

Documentation Format: Create a matrix showing which stakeholders have which authority levels for different decision categories.

Decision-Making Methods

Majority Vote:

- Description: Decisions made when more than half (or specified percentage) support an option
- Appropriate when: Clear choices exist, efficiency is important, strong facilitation is available
- Process steps: Issue framing, deliberation, proposal formulation, voting, documentation
- Variations: Simple majority, super-majority (e.g., 2/3, 3/4), weighted voting

Consensus:

- Description: Decisions all stakeholders can support, even if not their first preference
- Appropriate when: Deep buy-in is essential, complex issues require integration of perspectives
- Process steps: Issue exploration, concern identification, proposal development, testing agreement, finalizing
- Variations: Unanimous consensus, consensus-minus-one, consent-based approaches

Delegation:

- Description: Authority given to individual or subgroup to make decisions within parameters
- Appropriate when: Efficiency needed, specialized expertise required, clear boundaries possible
- Process steps: Delegation scope definition, selection of delegates, reporting requirements, accountability mechanisms
- Variations: Individual delegation, committee delegation, expert delegation

Consultative:

- Description: Input gathered from stakeholders but final decision made by designated authority
- Appropriate when: Multiple perspectives valuable but clear accountability needed
- Process steps: Input gathering, synthesis of perspectives, authority deliberation, decision communication
- Variations: Single authority, management team, nested consultation

Decision Documentation

Documentation Requirements:

- Clear statement of the decision made
- Summary of the process used to reach the decision
- Key factors considered in making the decision
- Stakeholder perspectives incorporated
- Implementation implications
- Timeline for review or adjustment
- Dissenting perspectives when appropriate

Accessibility Considerations:

- Multiple formats for different accessibility needs
- Plain language summaries of complex decisions
- Translation into relevant languages
- Cultural appropriateness in communication
- Proactive distribution to all stakeholders

Documentation Tools:

- Decision registers tracking all formal decisions
- Process documentation templates
- Visualization tools for complex decisions
- Digital platforms with appropriate access controls
- Regular decision summaries for broader distribution

Representation Standards

Ensuring adequate and appropriate representation is critical for legitimate stakeholder engagement. This section establishes standards for both quantitative and qualitative representation.

Demographic Representation

Gender Balance:

- Minimum 40% representation of women in governance bodies
- Gender-balanced leadership roles
- Monitoring of gendered participation patterns

- Supportive mechanisms for gender-diverse participation
- Consideration of gender-specific barriers and impacts

Age Inclusion:

- Minimum 25% youth representation (context-specific definition)
- Intergenerational dialogue mechanisms
- Accommodations for age-specific needs
- Monitoring of age distribution in participation
- Future generation representation mechanisms

Cultural and Ethnic Diversity:

- Representation reflecting the diversity of affected communities
- Culturally appropriate participation mechanisms
- Recognition of historical exclusion patterns
- Monitoring of cultural representation quality
- Support for cross-cultural dialogue and understanding

Geographic Distribution:

- Balanced representation across affected regions
- Attention to remote or isolated community inclusion
- Consideration of geographic impacts in representation
- Documentation of geographic participation patterns
- Accessibility mechanisms for distant stakeholders

Stakeholder Type Representation**Power-Balancing Approaches:**

- Reserved positions for historically marginalized groups
- Stakeholder caucuses for developing collective positions
- Facilitation that equalizes speaking opportunities
- Capacity support for under-resourced stakeholders
- Monitoring of influence patterns in decision-making

Rotation Systems:

- Term limits for governance positions
- Staggered replacement to maintain continuity
- Succession planning and leadership development
- Documentation of rotation history and patterns
- Balance between fresh perspectives and institutional knowledge

Proxy and Delegation Mechanisms:

- Clear protocols for stakeholder delegation
- Accountability mechanisms for representatives
- Communication channels between representatives and constituencies
- Documentation of delegation arrangements
- Support for constituency consultation

Representation Quality**Legitimacy Criteria:**

- Selection or endorsement by represented group
- Accountability mechanisms to constituency
- Regular communication with represented stakeholders
- Demonstrated understanding of constituency needs
- Commitment to representing beyond personal interest

Capacity Considerations:

- Knowledge and information access
- Communication and advocacy skills
- Time and resource availability
- Support needs identification
- Capacity building opportunities

Monitoring Mechanisms:

- Regular assessment of representation quality
- Feedback channels from represented stakeholders
- Corrective measures when representation gaps identified
- Documentation of representation patterns
- Independent verification of representation claims

Implementation Timeline

A clear timeline for implementing the stakeholder engagement process helps set expectations and ensure proper sequencing of activities.

Charter Development Phase

Activities and Timing:

- Initial stakeholder identification (Weeks 1-2)
- Outreach to potential stakeholders (Weeks 2-4)
- Draft charter development with core stakeholders (Weeks 4-6)
- Broader stakeholder review and input (Weeks 6-8)
- Charter refinement based on feedback (Weeks 8-10)
- Formal charter adoption by stakeholders (Week 12)

Participation Considerations:

- Ensuring diverse voices in charter development
- Creating multiple input channels
- Building shared ownership of the process
- Establishing foundation for ongoing collaboration
- Documenting the development process itself

Engagement Implementation Phase

Startup Activities:

- Governance body formation based on charter standards
- Initial capacity building for effective participation
- Establishment of communication channels
- Resource allocation for engagement support
- Baseline assessment for later evaluation

Regular Engagement Cycle:

- Information sharing schedule
- Meeting and workshop calendar
- Decision point identification
- Documentation and reporting timeline
- Feedback and adaptation points

Major Milestone Integration:

- Alignment with broader project or initiative timelines
- Key decision points requiring specific engagement
- Evaluation and learning moments
- Charter review and adaptation schedule
- Celebration and acknowledgment opportunities

Adaptation Mechanisms**Trigger Points for Adaptation:**

- Significant changes in context or stakeholder composition
- Identification of participation barriers or gaps
- Feedback indicating process improvements needed
- Evaluation findings suggesting adjustment
- Changes in broader governance frameworks

Adaptation Process:

- Who can initiate adaptation discussions
- Process for proposing and reviewing changes
- Decision-making for charter amendments
- Documentation of adaptations
- Communication about process changes

Accountability Mechanisms

Mechanisms to ensure all participants fulfill their commitments and remain accountable to each other and the process.

Commitment Tracking**Documentation Approaches:**

- Clear recording of all stakeholder commitments
- Regular status updates on commitment fulfillment
- Public accessibility of commitment tracking
- Celebration of fulfilled commitments
- Support for addressing barriers to fulfillment

Reporting Requirements:

- Regular reporting schedule and format
- Responsibility assignment for reporting
- Verification mechanisms for reported information
- Accessibility considerations for reports
- Distribution protocols to ensure information reach

Correction Processes:

- Protocols for addressing unfulfilled commitments
- Supportive problem-solving approaches
- Escalation pathways when needed
- Documentation of resolution processes
- Learning integration from challenges

Feedback Channels**Regular Feedback Mechanisms:**

- Participant surveys after engagement activities
- Periodic process assessment discussions
- Anonymous feedback options
- Facilitated reflection sessions
- Documentation and response to feedback themes

Grievance Processes:

- Clear procedures for raising concerns
- Multiple channels for submitting grievances
- Timely response requirements
- Documentation of grievances and responses
- Independent review when appropriate
- Appeal mechanisms for unresolved issues

External Accountability:

- Transparency to broader public
- Independent observation or evaluation
- Integration with formal accountability structures
- Regular public reporting
- External advisory mechanisms

Evaluation Framework**Process Evaluation:**

- Participation quality and inclusivity
- Information accessibility and quality
- Meeting effectiveness and efficiency
- Facilitation quality and neutrality
- Documentation comprehensiveness

Outcome Evaluation:

- Decision quality and wisdom
- Stakeholder satisfaction with process
- Implementation effectiveness
- Relationship and trust development
- Problem-solving effectiveness

Impact Evaluation:

- Long-term effects on governance
- Stakeholder capacity development

- System transformation outcomes
- Pattern changes in collaboration
- Sustainability of engagement approaches

Conflict Resolution

Despite best efforts, conflicts may emerge in stakeholder engagement. This section establishes approaches for constructively addressing disagreements.

Prevention Approaches

Trust-Building Activities:

- Relationship development beyond formal engagement
- Transparency about interests and constraints
- Consistent follow-through on commitments
- Recognition of contributions and progress
- Creating space for genuine human connection

Communication Protocols:

- Active listening requirements
- Speaking guidelines for constructive dialogue
- Documentation standards to prevent misunderstanding
- Translation and interpretation when needed
- Multiple channels for different communication styles

Early Intervention:

- Regular temperature-taking on group dynamics
- Space for addressing emerging tensions
- Skilled facilitation to navigate difficult conversations
- Private consultation options for sensitive concerns
- Documentation of concerns and responses

Resolution Processes

Facilitated Dialogue:

- Neutral facilitation by accepted third party
- Structured sharing of perspectives
- Focus on interests rather than positions
- Joint problem-solving approaches
- Documentation of understanding and agreements

Mediation Protocol:

- Selection process for acceptable mediators
- Structured mediation procedure
- Confidentiality guidelines
- Agreement documentation process
- Implementation monitoring mechanisms

Formal Dispute Resolution:

- Trigger points for formal processes
- Procedure for formal dispute handling

- Decision-making authority in disputes
- Appeal mechanisms
- Relationship repair following disputes

Escalation Pathway

Staged Approach:

1. Direct dialogue between affected parties
2. Facilitated conversation with neutral support
3. Structured mediation process
4. Advisory recommendation from governance body
5. Formal decision by designated authority

Documentation Requirements:

- Record of resolution attempts at each stage
- Written agreements resulting from resolution
- Learning integration from conflict experiences
- Pattern identification for systemic improvement
- Status tracking of unresolved issues

Resource Allocation

Effective stakeholder engagement requires adequate resources. This section establishes principles and processes for resource allocation.

Resource Requirements

Financial Resources:

- Engagement event costs (venue, materials, etc.)
- Stakeholder support (transportation, accommodation, etc.)
- Facilitation and technical assistance
- Communication and documentation expenses
- Evaluation and learning activities

Human Resources:

- Coordination and administration
- Facilitation and process design
- Technical expertise and knowledge support
- Documentation and communication
- Evaluation and learning

Knowledge Resources:

- Information access and sharing
- Research and analysis
- Training and capacity building
- Process expertise and guidance
- Learning and adaptation support

Technical Resources:

- Digital platforms and tools
- Data management systems

- Communication infrastructure
- Documentation technology
- Accessibility supports

Allocation Principles

Equity Focus:

- Prioritization of resources to address participation barriers
- Support for historically marginalized stakeholders
- Recognition of differing resource needs among stakeholders
- Attention to resource disparities in process design
- Transparent allocation decision-making

Efficiency Considerations:

- Balancing resource use with engagement quality
- Strategic prioritization of resource allocation
- Resource-sharing and collaboration opportunities
- Cost-effective approach selection
- Return on investment assessment

Sustainability Planning:

- Long-term resource needs anticipation
- Diverse funding source development
- Capacity building for reduced external dependency
- Resource use monitoring and optimization
- Adaptation to changing resource availability

Budget and Resource Plan

Development Process:

- Collaborative budget development with stakeholders
- Transparent needs assessment and prioritization
- Clear connection to engagement objectives
- Regular review and adjustment mechanisms
- Documentation of allocation decisions

Implementation Management:

- Responsibility assignment for resource management
- Tracking systems for resource use
- Regular reporting on resource status
- Adjustment processes for changing needs
- Accountability for resource stewardship

Monitoring and Evaluation

Ongoing assessment of the stakeholder engagement process ensures effectiveness and enables adaptation.

Monitoring Framework

Key Performance Indicators:

- Participation rates and diversity
- Stakeholder satisfaction measures
- Process quality metrics
- Influence on decision-making
- Implementation of stakeholder input
- Relationship and trust development

Data Collection Methods:

- Participant surveys and feedback forms
- Process observation by designated monitors
- Documentation review and analysis
- Interviews with diverse stakeholders
- Focus groups on specific aspects of engagement
- Storytelling and narrative capture

Reporting and Learning Cycle:

- Regular data compilation and analysis
- Participatory interpretation of findings
- Documentation of lessons and insights
- Application of learning to process improvement
- Sharing of lessons beyond immediate context

Evaluation Approaches**Participatory Evaluation:**

- Stakeholder involvement in evaluation design
- Collaborative data collection and analysis
- Multiple perspectives in interpretation
- Joint development of recommendations
- Shared ownership of evaluation findings

Independent Assessment:

- External evaluation at key milestones
- Objective application of quality standards
- Comparison with best practices and benchmarks
- Recommendations from external perspective
- Verification of internal assessment findings

Mixed-Methods Design:

- Combination of quantitative and qualitative data
- Integration of multiple information sources
- Balance between measurable indicators and rich description
- Attention to both process and outcomes
- Consideration of unexpected effects and emergent patterns

Adaptation Process**Using Evaluation Findings:**

- Regular reflection sessions on monitoring data
- Collaborative interpretation of implications

- Action planning based on findings
- Documentation of adaptations made
- Follow-up assessment of adaptation effectiveness

Charter Review Cycle:

- Scheduled comprehensive charter review
- Stakeholder engagement in review process
- Formal amendment procedure
- Documentation of charter evolution
- Communication about charter changes

Framework-Specific Modules

While the core elements apply across contexts, specific governance frameworks may require additional considerations. This section provides specialized modules for different frameworks.

Environmental Stewardship Module

Non-Human Entity Representation:

- Guardian selection for ecosystem and species representation
- Integration of *Dynamic Rights Spectrum* in stakeholder analysis
- Protocols for incorporating non-human interests in decisions
- Documentation standards for guardian advocacy
- Evaluation criteria for effective non-human representation

Indigenous Knowledge Integration:

- Cultural protocols for traditional ecological knowledge
- Requirements for indigenous leadership in environmental decisions
- Protection mechanisms for sacred natural sites
- Consent processes for traditional knowledge use
- Monitoring of indigenous voice in governance

Intergenerational Representation:

- Future generation representation mechanisms
- Long-time horizon considerations in decision processes
- Youth leadership requirements and support
- Elder wisdom integration protocols
- Evaluation of intergenerational equity in outcomes

Example Charter Language:

ECOSYSTEM REPRESENTATION

This charter recognizes ecosystems as stakeholders whose interests must be represented

1. Identification of potential guardians with deep knowledge of and relationship with
2. Assessment of representation capability using the Dynamic Rights Spectrum Guide
3. Selection of at least two guardians per ecosystem to ensure diverse perspectives
4. Training and support for effective guardian advocacy
5. Regular evaluation of representation effectiveness
6. Rotation system to prevent guardian capture

Guardians will participate in all major decisions affecting their ecosystem, with specific responsibilities including:

- Access all relevant information about potential impacts
- Speak for ecosystem interests in deliberations
- Propose alternatives that better serve ecosystem health
- Invoke precautionary principle for potentially harmful actions
- Monitor implementation impacts on the ecosystem
- Participate in adaptation decisions based on outcomes

The DecideTogether Platform will be configured to support guardian participation through the following mechanisms:

Food Systems & Agriculture Module

Producer Representation:

- Balance between different scales and types of producers
- Attention to power dynamics in value chains
- Integration of geographic and cultural diversity
- Mechanisms for small producer collective voice
- Assessment of representation quality and diversity

Consumer Participation:

- Diverse consumer perspective integration
- Particular attention to vulnerable consumers
- Balance between immediate and long-term interests
- Mechanisms for consumer education and capacity
- Integration of food culture and traditions

Food Sovereignty Principles:

- Community determination of food system priorities
- Balance between local and global considerations
- Recognition of food as more than commodity
- Integration of cultural food relationships
- Ecological considerations in food governance

Nested Sovereignty Module

Multi-Level Coordination:

- Clarity on decision rights at different governance levels
- Subsidiarity principle implementation
- Coordination mechanisms across governance scales
- Representation of various governance levels
- Conflict resolution between governance levels

Cross-Boundary Stakeholders:

- Identification of transboundary interests and impacts
- Representation mechanisms for cross-boundary stakeholders
- Coordination with external governance structures
- Documentation across jurisdictional boundaries
- Evaluation of cross-boundary equity and voice

Sovereignty Protection:

- Safeguards for local determination rights

- Balance between coordination and autonomy
- Documentation of sovereignty boundaries
- Consent protocols for shared decisions
- Monitoring of sovereignty respect in practice

Religious & Spiritual Dialogue Module

Faith Tradition Representation:

- Balance among diverse traditions in context
- Internal diversity within traditions
- Selection of legitimate tradition representatives
- Protocols for respectful inter-tradition dialogue
- Sacred space and practice integration

Sacred Knowledge Protection:

- Guidelines for appropriate sharing of spiritual knowledge
- Protection of ceremonial and sacred information
- Consent protocols for spiritual practice integration
- Documentation standards for spiritual perspectives
- Evaluation of sacred knowledge respect

Spiritual-Secular Integration:

- Bridge-building between religious and secular perspectives
- Translation protocols for cross-worldview understanding
- Balance of spiritual and technical considerations
- Recognition of diverse ways of knowing
- Evaluation of respectful integration

Appendix: Templates and Worksheets

Stakeholder Analysis Worksheet

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

Governance Initiative: _____

Analysis Date: _____

Completed By: _____

STAKEHOLDER GROUP IDENTIFICATION

1. Core Stakeholders:

2. Secondary Stakeholders:

3. Tertiary Stakeholders:

4. Potential Missing Stakeholders:

STAKEHOLDER GROUP ANALYSIS

For each identified stakeholder group:

Group Name: _____

Primary Interests: _____

Potential Concerns: _____

Current Engagement Level (1-10): _____

Influence Level (1-10): _____

Impact of Decisions on Group (1-10): _____

Representation Considerations:

- Legitimate representatives: _____
- Internal diversity factors: _____
- Capacity considerations: _____
- Potential barriers to participation: _____

Relationship with Other Stakeholders:

- Potential alliances: _____
- Potential tensions: _____
- Historical relationships: _____
- Power dynamics: _____

Engagement Approach:

- Recommended engagement level: _____
- Specific engagement methods: _____
- Resource needs for engagement: _____
- Success indicators: _____

OVERALL ANALYSIS

Stakeholder Diversity Assessment:

- Geographic distribution: _____
- Gender representation: _____
- Age distribution: _____
- Cultural diversity: _____
- Power balance: _____

Relationship Map Key Points:

Key Engagement Challenges:

Recommended Approach:

Decision Rights Matrix Template

DECISION RIGHTS MATRIX

Governance Initiative: _____

Date Created: _____

Last Updated: _____

AUTHORITY LEVEL DEFINITIONS:

D = Decide: Final decision-making authority

A = Approve: Must approve before implementation

R = Recommend: Provides formal recommendation

I = Input: Provides information and perspective

N = Notify: Receives information after decision

Decision Categories	Stakeholder Groups				
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Strategic Direction					
Resource Allocation					
Implementation Methods					
Operational Decisions					
Monitoring & Evaluation					
Charter Amendments					
Conflict Resolution					

SPECIFIC DECISION PROTOCOLS:

Strategic Decisions:

Resource Allocation:

Implementation Methods:

Operational Decisions:

Evaluation Decisions:

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

Meeting Documentation Template

ENGAGEMENT EVENT DOCUMENTATION

Event Type: _____
Date: _____
Location: _____
Facilitator(s): _____

PARTICIPATION

Stakeholder Groups Represented:

Number of Participants: _____

Participation Demographics:

- Gender distribution: _____
- Age distribution: _____
- Geographic representation: _____
- Other relevant factors: _____

Participation Quality Assessment:

- Balance of voices (1-10): _____
- Depth of engagement (1-10): _____
- Inclusivity (1-10): _____
- Information access (1-10): _____
- Overall participation quality (1-10): _____

PROCESS SUMMARY

Agenda:

Key Discussion Themes:

Methods Used:

OUTCOMES

Decisions Made:

Next Steps:

Action Items:

Action	Responsibility	Timeline	Resources Needed
-----	-----	-----	-----

EVALUATION

Facilitator Observations:

Participant Feedback:

Follow-up Needed:

Documentation Prepared By: _____

Date: _____

Charter Implementation Monitoring Template

CHARTER IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING

Governance Initiative: _____

Monitoring Period: _____ to _____

Completed By: _____

PARTICIPATION METRICS

Stakeholder Engagement:

Stakeholder Group	# Participants	% of Group	Engagement Quality (1-10)
-----	-----	-----	-----

Representation Assessment:

- Gender balance (1-10): _____
- Age diversity (1-10): _____
- Geographic distribution (1-10): _____
- Cultural diversity (1-10): _____
- Power balance (1-10): _____

Participation Barriers Identified:

PROCESS IMPLEMENTATION

Charter Element Implementation:

Charter Element	Implementation Status	Quality Assessment (1-10)	Adaptation Needs
-----	-----	-----	-----

Decision-Making Assessment:

- Transparency (1-10): _____
- Stakeholder influence (1-10): _____
- Process quality (1-10): _____
- Documentation quality (1-10): _____
- Overall decision quality (1-10): _____

Information Sharing Assessment:

- Accessibility (1-10): _____
- Timeliness (1-10): _____
- Comprehensiveness (1-10): _____
- Understandability (1-10): _____
- Balance of perspectives (1-10): _____

OUTCOME ASSESSMENT

Stakeholder Satisfaction:

- Process satisfaction (1-10): _____
- Outcome satisfaction (1-10): _____
- Relationship quality (1-10): _____
- Trust level (1-10): _____
- Commitment to implementation (1-10): _____

Implementation Progress:

- Action item completion rate: _____
- Timeline adherence (1-10): _____
- Resource allocation effectiveness (1-10): _____
- Adaptation responsiveness (1-10): _____
- Overall implementation quality (1-10): _____

Impact Assessment:

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS

Process Improvements:

Participation Enhancements:

Charter Amendments:

NEXT STEPS

Immediate Actions:

Monitoring Focus for Next Period:

Report Shared With:

Stakeholder Feedback Form

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK FORM

Governance Initiative: _____

Feedback Period: _____ to _____

Stakeholder Group: _____

PROCESS FEEDBACK

Meeting/Event Quality:

- Information provided was clear and sufficient (1-5): _____
- My voice was heard and respected (1-5): _____
- Diverse perspectives were included (1-5): _____
- Time was used effectively (1-5): _____
- Facilitation was skillful and fair (1-5): _____

Overall Engagement Process:

- Communication has been clear and timely (1-5): _____
- My participation has been meaningful (1-5): _____
- Decisions reflect stakeholder input (1-5): _____
- Promised follow-up has occurred (1-5): _____
- Charter commitments are being honored (1-5): _____

OUTCOME FEEDBACK

Decision Quality:

- Decisions address core concerns (1-5): _____
- Multiple options were genuinely considered (1-5): _____
- Trade-offs were handled fairly (1-5): _____
- Long-term implications were considered (1-5): _____
- Decision rationale was clearly explained (1-5): _____

Implementation Quality:

- Actions match decisions made (1-5): _____
- Implementation is timely (1-5): _____
- Resources are appropriately allocated (1-5): _____
- Adjustments are made when needed (1-5): _____
- Stakeholders are engaged in implementation (1-5): _____

RELATIONSHIP ASSESSMENT

Trust and Relationship Building:

- Trust has increased during this period (1-5): _____
- Relationships have strengthened (1-5): _____
- Conflict has been constructively addressed (1-5): _____
- Commitment to collaboration has grown (1-5): _____
- I feel valued in this process (1-5): _____

OPEN FEEDBACK

What is working well in the engagement process?

What needs improvement?

Specific suggestions for enhancing the process:

Other comments:

Optional:

Name: _____
Contact: _____
Date: _____

The Stakeholder Engagement Charter Template provides a comprehensive framework for establishing clear, effective, and inclusive stakeholder participation across diverse governance contexts. By adapting this template to specific needs while maintaining core principles, governance initiatives can build legitimate, transparent processes that genuinely engage all relevant stakeholders.

Through thoughtful charter development, implementation, monitoring, and adaptation, stakeholder engagement becomes not just a procedural requirement but a valuable source of wisdom, legitimacy, and collaborative power. The modular approach allows for both consistency across governance frameworks and appropriate customization for specific contexts like Environmental Stewardship, Food Systems & Agriculture, Nested Sovereignty, and Religious & Spiritual Dialogue.

For additional resources, implementation support, and case studies, visit globalgovernanceframework.org/tools/governance/stakeholder-engagement.