



Conflict Resolution and Public Participation Center of Expertise (CPC-X) – Mission, Roles, and Responsibilities

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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MISSION

The mission of the USACE Conflict-resolution & Public-participation Center of Expertise (CPC-X) is to help USACE staff anticipate, prevent, and manage water conflicts, ensuring that the interests of the public are addressed in USACE decision making. By focusing on its five goals of consultation services, capacity building, information exchange, policy support, and research, the CPC-X supports USACE in expanding the application of effective processes and tools for public engagement, collaboration, and conflict resolution.

The Center provides technical assistance to Districts and Divisions on collaborative process design, conflict assessment and resolution techniques, decision-making methods, interactive modeling and software for field use, and public involvement and teaming in planning. CPC-X services, including training, consultation, and references, help integrate the principles of environmental conflict resolution, collaboration and participation into USACE daily operations.



ROLES

- Increase the success of collaborative and participatory processes for activities conducted by USACE and its partners by providing consultation services;
- Build the capacity of USACE staff and its partners, and strengthen the collaborative capacity of USACE culture, to enable effective convening of, and participation in, collaborative processes;
- Strengthen institutional knowledge and information exchange about conflict resolution and public participation across USACE and with external partners;
- Establish USACE as a thought-leader in the field by conducting research and pilot testing innovative processes, tools and approaches to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future;
- Ensure effective USACE implementation of federal conflict resolution and public engagement policies, domestically and internationally, by providing policy support to USACE leadership.

MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Center's major responsibilities include:

- Serve as the USACE Center of Expertise for public engagement, collaboration, & conflict resolution.
- Provide technical assistance to USACE Districts and Divisions on collaborative process design, conflict assessment and resolution techniques, decision-making methods, interactive modeling and software for field use, and public involvement and teaming.
- Prepare the annual USACE response to the White House Council on Environmental Quality's directive to measure and track the use of collaborative processes to solve environmental problems.



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- Update policies and regulations related to public participation, collaboration, risk communication and environmental conflict resolution.
- Develop and deliver training on public involvement, risk communication & collaborative processes.
- Lead the USACE Collaboration and Public Participation Community of Practice
- Ensure that new tools such as interactive modeling and software for negotiations are effectively integrated into field applications.

SELECTED ACTIVITIES

- CPC-X Goal 1: Increase the success of collaborative and participatory processes for activities conducted by USACE and its partners by providing consultation services.
 - *Provide Sustained Technical Assistance to Districts, Divisions & national USACE programs* including USACE projects and initiatives in Hawaii and Iowa, Shared Vision Planning for Integrated Regional Water Management in California, and Participatory Planning in the Mekong Basin,
 - *Support USG Disaster Recovery efforts* through identifying lessons learned in risk communication and supporting multi-stakeholder visioning as part of Sandy recovery efforts
 - *Identify and Support Public Involvement Specialists* at the District level to provide project-level assistance in public participation and collaborative processes.
- CPC-X Goal 2: Build the capacity of USACE staff and its partners, and strengthen the collaborative capacity of USACE culture, to enable effective convening of and participation in collaborative processes.
 - *Grow the Collaboration and Public Participation Community of Practice (CoP)* through its webinar series, newsletter, and SharePoint site, linking more than 400 members of this cross-stove pipe CoP
 - *Continue In-person, distance, and blended training* for USACE and its partners in Public Involvement, Facilitation, Risk Communication, Conflict Resolution, Shared Vision Planning, and Engaging Socially Vulnerable Communities.
- CPC-X Goal 3: Strengthen institutional knowledge and information exchange about conflict resolution and public participation across USACE and with external partners
 - *Share challenges and successes* in collaborative process across USACE through linked virtual and in-person regional workshops that feed into a new 5-year strategic plan for CPCX.
 - *Disseminate and Expand Database of Case Studies* – Expand and publicize database of case studies and lessons learned with searchable characteristics.
- CPC-X Goal 4: Establish USACE as a thought-leader in collaborative processes, tools and approaches by conducting research and pilots to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.
 - *Support “Public Involvement in Flood Risk Management” Pilots* – Conduct 12 pilot projects in support of ongoing flood risk management activities to test application of public involvement concepts from the Flood Risk Management Public Involvement Framework and Implementation Plan.
 - *Lead national multi-stakeholder efforts on Collaborative Modeling* including publications, symposia and webinars on the Use of Collaborative Modeling for Integrated Water Management.
- CPC-X Goal 5: Ensure effective USACE implementation of federal conflict resolution and public engagement policies, domestically and internationally, by providing policy support to USACE leadership.
 - *Support Watershed-based Budgeting* through assistance in Multi-stakeholder priority setting.
 - *Support Planning Transformation* through charette facilitation and training support.

