



Professional Behaviour

In the countries in which we work, Blacksmith Institute is a foreign organisation, working with local partners to identify and deal with difficult pollution and health problems. In many countries, the activities of foreign NGOs are often looked upon with suspicion by some groups.

For the success of our work and for the protection of our people and local partners, it is important that we maintain a high level of professional behaviour in all our work.

Principles

Our focus is on helping local people to deal with serious problems that they have identified and which are impacting the health of the local population.

Our approach is to establish a consensus on priorities for action and to support, as far as we can, the implementation of key actions.

We have no political agenda and we do not set out to embarrass or discredit governments or officials at any level.

Our Approach

POLITE in our dealings with authorities and local groups. We may be direct but should never be abusive. It is their country.

RESPECTFUL of local groups and their efforts, even if we are not completely in agreement with their objectives or approaches.

PROFESSIONAL in terms of the methodologies that we use and the analysis that we apply. We have access to world class expertise through the TAB: we must ensure that all our technical work can stand up to scrutiny, allowing for difficulties of collecting data and confirming information.

FOCUSED on achieving real outcomes, not only engaging in a process.

In dealing with Governments

Identify the responsible agencies and personnel; look for potential allies and engage them.

Inform the Government of our activities – ideally through respected local partners – but do not request formal permission as this may be long delayed or refused.

Explain our objectives and method of operation. Try to obtain at least tacit approval and support.

Respect any formal Government directions about the course of our work.