

Conservation Training Week II

Understanding and Managing Environmental Conflicts

13 March 2006

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Small group exercise: Identification of cases and underlying reasons for conflict

1. Participants should briefly share their experiences of conflict and select one of the cases presented as the group's case study for subsequent small group work throughout the day. (In presenting your chosen case to the wider group in plenary, indicate if stakeholder approaches would be used proactively or reactively vis a vis the conflict.)
2. Extract from all group members' experiences cross-cutting, underlying reasons why environmental disputes happen.

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Small group exercise: Stakeholder analysis and conflict mapping

Stakeholders

Who are the main actors/stakeholders?

Who do they represent and what are their interests?

How are they organised and what is their power base?

What are the historical relationships among the groups?

Can the groups work together?

Issues

What are the physical boundaries of the conflict?

How did the conflict come about?

Does the conflict have primary, secondary, tertiary etc issues? Describe all the levels of issues.

Can negative issues be framed positively?

Are the issues negotiable?

Have positions been taken by the various groups? If yes, are there common interests?

What values or interests are challenged?

What information about the conflict, stakeholders, etc. is available and what other information is required?

Management strategy

What conflict management approach (e.g., arbitration, mediation, negotiation etc) might work best in addressing this conflict and why?

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Small group exercise: Pre-negotiation and principles of conflict management

1. Assess all stakeholders' capacity to participate in the negotiation.
2. Identify the actors that may not be able to participate in a multi-stakeholder process and develop strategies to enable them to do so.
3. Are there external constraints or other influences that must be accommodated?
4. What are some of the principles that should underpin a constructive conflict management process?