Beyond insights for managers and toward resolving conflicts and creating conservation





Dr. Alistair Bath Memorial University Salaspils, Latvia 2017

On the need to quantify the benefits from conservation

"One of the fundamental causes underlying the loss of biodiversity throughout the planet resides in the fact that societies have failed to value the environment and its resources" (Global Biodiversity Strategy, WRI, IUCN, UNEP, 1992)

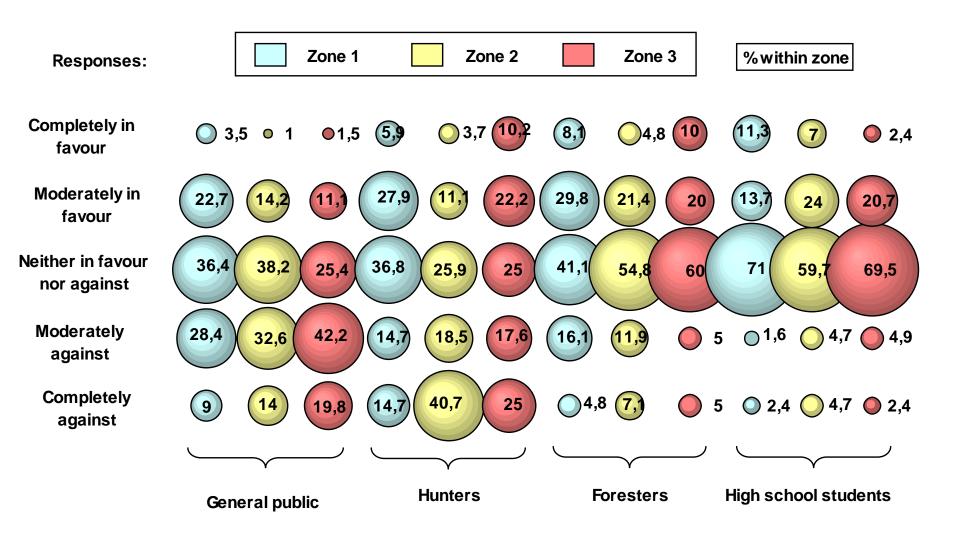
Biodiversity conservation is not only about collecting ecological information, it is also about understanding people's values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviour.



Human Dimensions Research

Understanding public attitudes toward wildlife species.

Which of the following best describes your feelings toward wolves?



Whether or not I would get to see these species it is important to me that they exist.

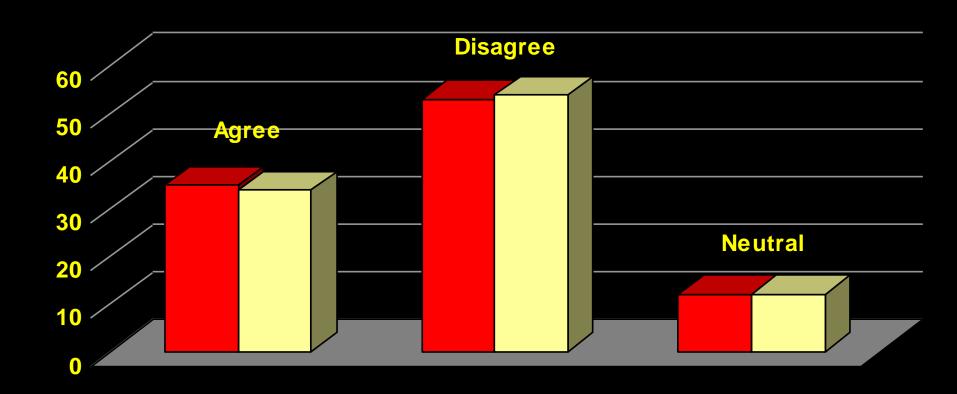


Human Dimensions Research

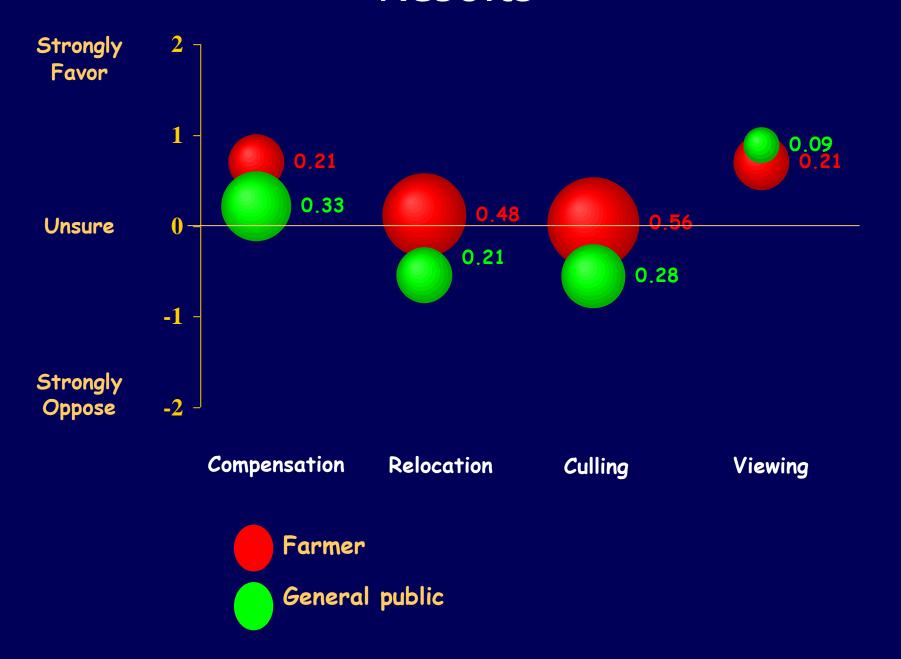
- Understanding public attitudes toward wildlife species.
- Understanding public attitudes toward possible management approaches

In Savoie/Des Alpes Maritimes, we should be authorized to hunt wolves during the legal hunting season.

■ Savoie ■ Des Alpes Maritimes



Results



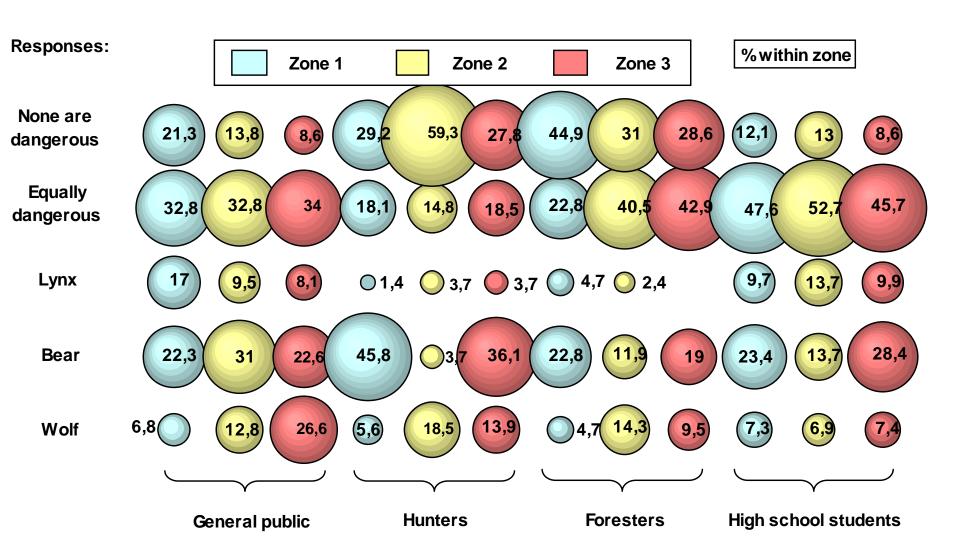
Human Dimensions Research

- Understanding public attitudes toward wildlife species.
- Understanding public attitudes toward possible management approaches;
- Targeting educational programs on key beliefs affecting attitudes

Fear of wolves



In your opinion, which animal is most dangerous to humans?



Human Dimensions Research

- Understanding public attitudes toward wildlife species.
- Understanding public attitudes toward possible management approaches;
- Targeting educational programs on key beliefs affecting attitudes and behavior.
- Identifying the nature of conflict in wildlife management issues;

Types of Conflict

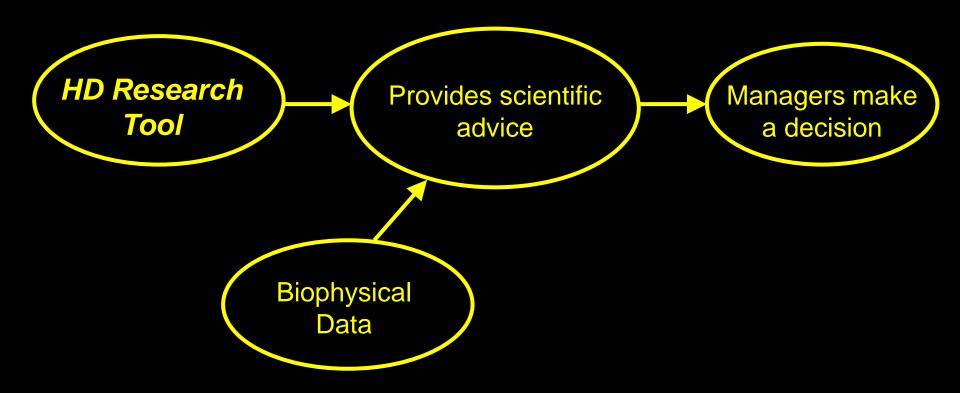
- Cognitive
- Value
- Cost / Benefits
- Behavioral

Assessing Credibility of the Messenger

Behavioural Conflicts

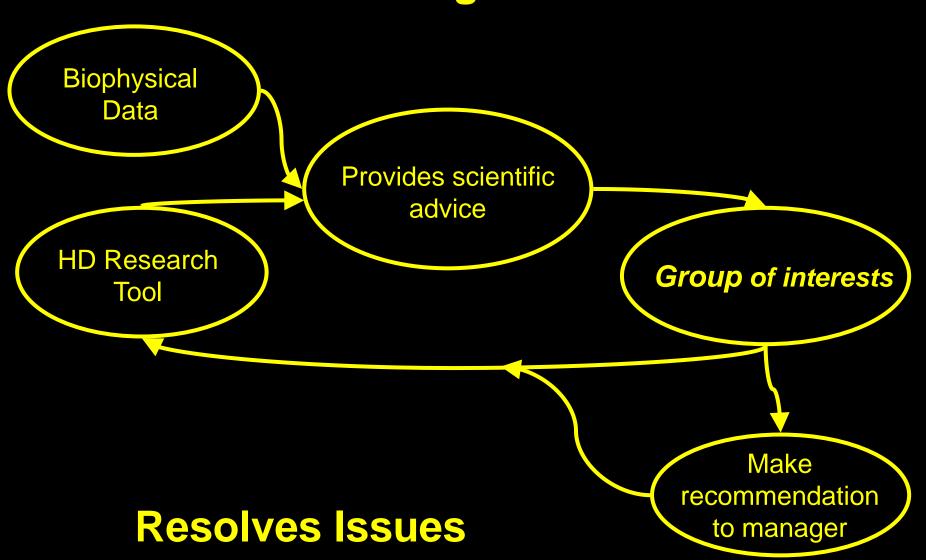


Human Dimensions as a Traditional Research Tool



Provides Insights to Issues

Human Dimensions as an Approach to Management





Who? Identifying the Publics

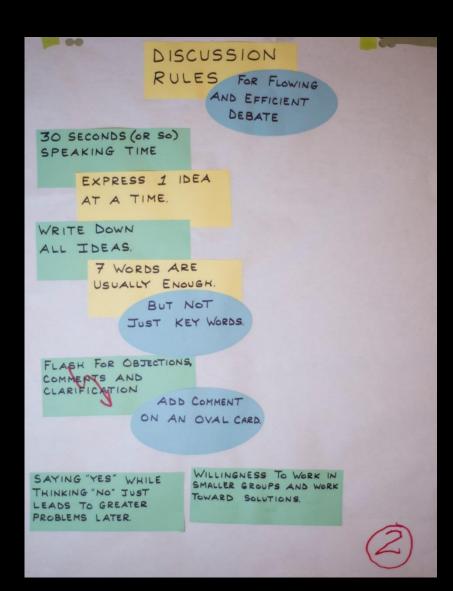
- Define attitudinal spectrum (extreme interest groups)
- Identify key lobby groups (vocal, active, affected groups)
- Representative general public (in affected and/or adjacent area)
- Representative general public (at political decision-making unit level)

The Applied Human Dimensions Facilitated Workshop Approach



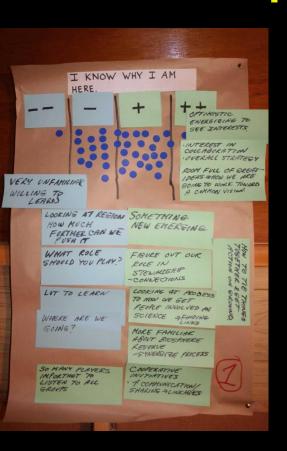
Characteristics of the AHDFWA

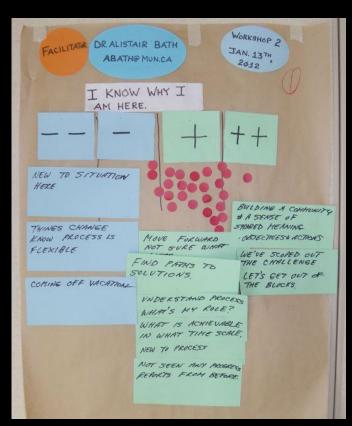
- Clear discussion rules that give everyone an opportunity to be heard but not dominate discussion.
- No interpretation of the minutes of the meeting or workshop.
- Build feedback between workshops if involved with groups working in a process.
- The fine line between facilitation and manipulation.
- Trust the group to always work hard.

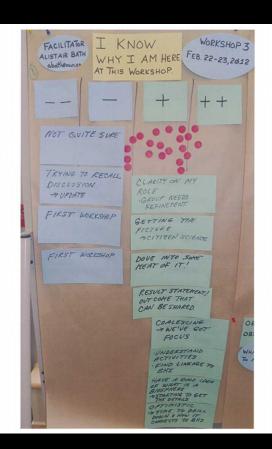




Human Dimensions Facilitated Workshops







From Engaging Society in Conservation to staying Happily Married for 30Years!









Engagement – Dating is Fun!

Slovakia

- 5 workshops and still going out

- Measure of success?

Just Married – Honeymoon is Great!

Bulgaria

- 9 workshops over 2 years bear
- 10 workshops over 4 years wolf

СЪЗДАВАНЕ НА ПЛАН ЗА ДЕЙСТВИЕ В РАБОТНИ ГРУПИ



Pre-Workshop 7 Workshop 8 workshop **Public** Workshop 1 Workshop 6 Consultation Workshop 2 Workshop 5 Workshop 9 Workshop 3 Workshop 4

Preworkshop

- Behind the scenes
- Setting the stage

Workshop 1

- Making the room safe
- Process issues

Workshop 2

- Homework gets done
- Getting into the issues

The Planning Pyramid



Workshop 3

- Science in the room
- Everyone's facts heard

Workshop 4

- Tackling tough issues
- Lots of feedback

Workshop 5

- Revisiting values
- Assign writing tasks



Workshop 6

- From cards to screen
- Agreement on wording

Workshop 7

- Working on the details
- Working in the field

Workshop 8

- Ready for public review
- Ready to defend



Public Consultation

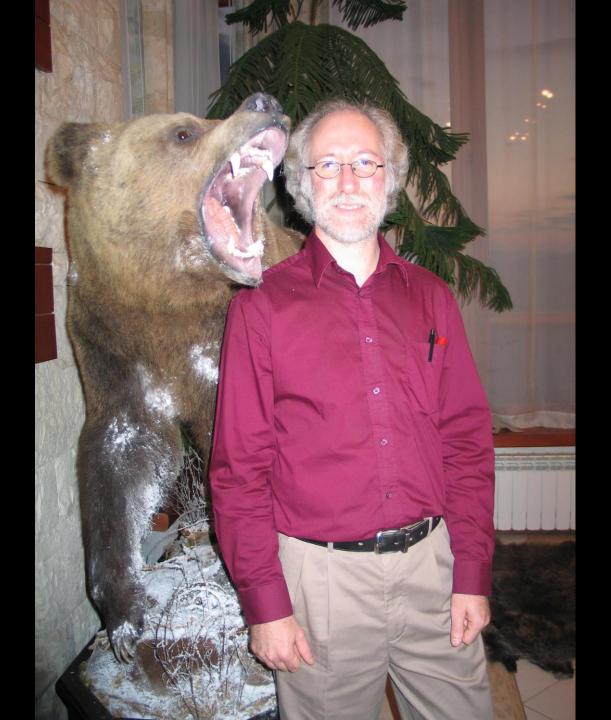
- Visiting communities
- Team works the room

Workshop 9

- Discuss comments
- Celebrate consensus

Continuing the Relationship

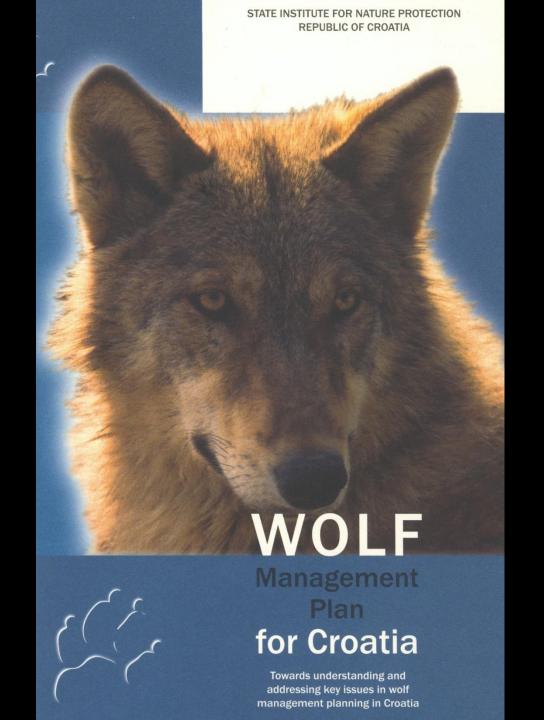
- How are things going?
- Do we need changes?



Building a lasting marriage?

Croatia

- 9 workshops over 2 years wolf
- 2 years later still talking to each other
- 5 years time to check base again







What do we know?

- Research alone whether solely HD or biological work doesn't necessarily achieve conservation,
- Applied HD work, community engagement alone also doesn't necessarily work,
- Need every project to integrate biological and HD research as well as applied HD work and community engagement

LION GUARDIANS

A participatory approach to carnivore conservation

