

WG 3: Human dimensions

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What is human dimensions?

- Understanding the public opinion
- Information, communication, education and consulting
- Public participation in decision-making
- Public participation in management
- Policies and institutions (the 'rules of the game' (North 1990), formal or informal)

1) Brief review of the state of the art

- Understanding public opinion
 - Only few individual studies (should learn from the Scandinavian countries)
 - Quantitative and qualitative studies targeted at understanding attitudes and perceptions of general public and other stakeholder groups (hunters, farmers).
 - Crossborder cooperation rare.

1) Brief review of the state of the art

- **Information, communication, education and consulting**
 - Usually no clear concept and communication strategy.
 - Seen as secondary activity and few funds are foreseen.
 - Everyone agrees it is important but no professional implementation – everyone does it.
 - Evaluation of efforts is usually missing.
 - In Switzerland organized through stakeholder committees at canton level.

1) Brief review of the state of the art

- Information, communication, education and **consulting**
 - The most effective are individual consultations of the farmers (but costly).
 - Group workshops allow exchange of experiences among the farmers.
 - There is often an agricultural advisory services but usually coordination among sectors (agriculture and conservation) is missing.
 - The goal should be integrated conflict management.

1) Brief review of the state of the art

- Public participation in decision-making
 - Prescribed mechanisms not enough – no good results in conflict resolution (poorly organized processes and lack of political will).
 - Efforts are made in projects to overcome this shortcoming.
 - Processes can be slow but are effective (building trust).
 - Good facilitation can be crucial.

1) Brief review of the state of the art

- Public participation in management
 - Common trend to involve different stakeholders in monitoring, population control, etc.
 - Good for awareness raising.

2) Further activities

- Gaps in our knowledge
 - How to find locally adapted solutions to reach conservation goals (diverse agricultural and hunting traditions).
 - How is urbanization of the Alps changing the attitudes towards nature.
 - Changes in the farming systems which happen because of the changing policies and other changes in the society – how can we integrate LC conservation in the changing system.
 - How does agricultural policy impact nature conservation and wildlife management.
 - The biggest challenge: integration of social sciences in the wildlife management.

2) Further activities

- Where to improve cooperation?
 - How to apply HD approaches to the population level, given that HD is a locally determined discipline?
 - Need for a comparable studies across the Alps.
 - How does the agricultural policy impacts nature conservation across the countries?
- How?
 - Joint projects.
 - WISO platform

For the WISO

- Additional tasks:
 - Evaluate impacts of current policies and propose eventual changes of the common agricultural policy.

For the WISO

- MAVA project:
 - Objective 2, point 1: Instead of „acceptance levels“ analysis of tolerance mechanisms (review of previous studies – development of conceptual qualitative model).
 - Objective 3 – concerned about the integration of „Ke“ and „Ka“ into a spatially explicit model. Propose to focus on discussing „scenarios“ with stakeholders.

Thank you from the HD group!

