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!