

Symposium on the Human Dimension of Biodiversity Conservation and Management
Concordia, University, Montreal
April 4, 2014

Organizers:

Annie Lalancette, PhD Candidate, Individualized Program, Concordia University

Monica Mulrennan, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Planning & Environment, Concordia University

Peter Stoett, Professor & Director of the Loyola Sustainability Research Center, Concordia University

Sponsors:

Quebec Center for Biodiversity Science (QCBS) and Concordia University

Call for Papers

It is now well recognized that even the best science-based conservation and management initiatives will fail without addressing the human dimension. Socially or culturally inappropriate conservation and management interventions lead to poor compliance, requiring more resources to support implementation. Such approaches also reduce opportunities for valuable knowledge inputs from local resource users and other interested stakeholders. Furthermore, management measures that ignore social, economic, political and cultural complexities risk creating perverse incentives that could undermine efforts to conserve and manage biodiversity. Failing to account for disparities in power, capacity and access to resources can also exacerbate conflict and contribute to social inequity. Understanding and taking account of the human dimension in biodiversity conservation and management is thus essential to avoid unintended social impacts, maintain legitimacy and be effective.

We aim to bring together researchers and practitioners from different backgrounds and with relevant experience in dealing with human-environment issues to provide a unique opportunity for those involved in biodiversity research, policy design and management to explore the practical applications of the human dimension approach. It is hoped that this open symposium will offer a forum that will encourage cooperation and learning among a cross-disciplinary group of researchers and contribute to the debate on how to effectively involve people to address and appropriately overcome biodiversity loss.

We welcome papers that draw upon case-studies or critical discussions and provide reflection on the way forward in improving the integration of the human dimension in biodiversity conservation and management. Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- Human-environment issues, challenges and opportunities
- Understanding environmental attitudes, values, interests and drivers of behavior
- Effective environmental communication
- Conflict resolution and consensus building
- Practical methods and tools for engaging with and involving various stakeholders
- Developing meaningful partnerships
- Socially appropriate strategies for biodiversity conservation, management and governance
- Representing and integrating diverse perspectives to inform all phases of conservation projects and management plans

We encourage QCBS members, as well as researchers and practitioners from outside the network, to share their experience and insights.

Instructions: Please forward a title, abstract (max. 250 words), and author information directly to Annie Lalancette (annie.lalancette@gmail.com) prior to January 31, 2014.

The Symposium will be preceded by a facilitation training workshop on April 3rd led by Dr. Alistair Bath (Memorial University). Please consult the following link for more information: <http://qcbs.ca/events/the-human-dimensions-of-biodiversity-conservation-and-management/>