

## Workshop 2

Interaction of land management agencies and Aborigines

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### Issues discussed:

- What are "nature conservation" and "aboriginal" interests?
- What are the areas of common interest?
- What are the areas of potential conflict?
- What can be done to avoid conflict?
- What can we do to initiate "on ground" action

### Conservation Interests

Maintain biodiversity  
Rehabilitate (restore)  
biodiversity  
Consultation  
Access to land with  
special conservation  
values  
Site protection  
Employment  
Education  
Use of resources (recreation,  
science, etc.)  
Exotic animals and plants

### Aboriginal Interests

Maintain biodiversity  
Rehabilitate (restore)  
biodiversity  
Consultation  
Access to land  
  
Site protection  
Employment  
Education  
Use of resources (bush food,  
medicine, spiritual/cultural)  
Economics (aboriginal  
enterprise)  
Recognition of aboriginal land  
ownership (trad/modern)

Summary: Many common interests, but the recognition of aboriginal ownership and their decision making perogative is fundamental.

## Areas of Common Interest or Conflict

Biodiversity	Aboriginals and conservation agencies both want biodiversity. Potential conflict: feral animals - utilise or eradicate?
Access	Common interest in access, but for different purposes. Potential conflict: control of access?
Employment	Both groups want meaningful employment for local people. Potential conflict: What is meaningful?
Education/training	Both groups want education and training. Aboriginal to Aboriginal Non Aboriginal to Non Aboriginal Non Aboriginal to Aboriginal Aboriginal to Non Aboriginal Potential conflict: What is meaningful education?
Ownership	Both groups need to learn and understand meaning of modern and traditional ownership. Potential conflict: Misunderstanding of the meaning of ownership/control; non acceptance by some.
Resources	Both groups want sustainable use of resources. Potential conflict: Management of rare species and/or localised populations.
Economics	Both groups want Aboriginal people to have a sound economic base. Potential conflict: Some enterprises antagonistic to environmental conservation or visa versa.
Legislation	Both groups recognise the need to legislate or to change some existing legislation. Potential conflict: inadequate consultation or understanding - bad legislation.
Values	Both groups want special sites protected. Potential conflict: differing cultural values and aspirations.

What can be done to overcome or avoid conflict?

1. Effective communication

Education in communication skills (blacks and whites)  
Willingness to communicate  
Adequate resources to facilitate meaningful communication  
Recognise established liaison groups (Ab Liaison Officers) or create them  
Provide training opportunities (languages, cross cultural courses)  
Learn how a bureaucracy operates  
Understand "gate keeping" principles  
Sincerity and honesty in communication  
Personal (social) relationships are important  
Consistency/continuity of personnel  
Recognition of the limitations of participants  
Patience  
Educate the "bosses" (Executives/politicians)

2. Education and Training

Aboriginal to Aboriginal, Non Aboriginal to Non Aboriginal, Aboriginal to Non Aboriginal, Non Aboriginal to Aboriginal  
Operators need to train their bosses  
Record the ethnobotanical knowledge of older people for bilateral use  
Resources should be made available to facilitate education and training  
Provide appropriate educational materials for use in school  
Help schools to develop their own resources  
Provide education/liaison prior to an operation  
Encourage feedback following operation  
Provide feedback on successes and failures

3. Other issues

There needs to be a long term commitment to programmes from funding bodies.

What can be done to initiate "on ground" actions?

Recognise traditional, and where appropriate, legal ownership of land.

Listen to Aboriginal aspirations.

Involve Aboriginal people in meaningful conservation activities.

Facilitate interaction between organisations.

Provide training for conservation organisation personnel in Aboriginal culture and values (understand the process of decision making in Aboriginal society).

Learn how Aboriginals use the environment and what impact this may be having on the sustainability of those uses.

Generation of meaningful and desirable employment relevant to both Aboriginals and Non Aboriginals.

Education - must cover all ages and both sexes.

Joint application for funding - both groups should argue a common case when possible.

Provide support structures for Aboriginals whilst they are training away from home.