



FOUNDATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DIALOGUE AND FACILITATION

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Introducing dialogue

- With the support of a neutral and impartial third-party facilitator, dialogue helps parties to understand the other's point of view and build trust.
- “The main goal of dialogue is to change the nature of conflict interaction between conflicting parties, affecting how individuals understand and react to situations they find themselves in, and allowing groups to deal with their differences in a non-violent way”
- Objectives include to:
 - Support open and safe interaction between conflicting parties
 - Engage different groups to participate in shared analysis
 - Encourage joint exploration of the different options and possible solutions, ideas, and initiatives that the conflicting parties can take forward
- Do you agree with this definition? What would you change?

Establishing dialogue

- To facilitate a dialogue, several steps must be taken. What is the process that you all use to set up facilitation?
 - How do you select the conflict?
 - How do you identify participants?
 - How do you recruit participants?
 - What do you do within the dialogue?

Steps of conducting a dialogue

1. Start with an analysis of the conflict, context, and stakeholders
2. Establishing relationships and work with the different conflict parties to set up the dialogue plan
3. Build capacity of facilitators
4. Form dialogue groups of the parties
5. Remember the logistics and risk management to monitor the dialogue process

Using systems analysis and causal loop diagrams

Implementing lessons from water diplomacy to create a positive dynamic in the room

Facilitation supports

- **Dialogue:** Helps parties to understand the other's point of view and build relationships in a way that can “change the nature of conflict interaction... affecting how individuals understand and react to situations they find themselves in, and allowing groups to deal with their differences in a non-violent way.” Dialogue is process-oriented.
- **Mediation:** Helps parties to reach a mutually agreed upon decision or outcome to settle a dispute. Mediation is output oriented.
- Both dialogue and mediation require:
 - A neutral and impartial third-party facilitator who all parties accept and are comfortable with
 - Ownership of the parties to work through and resolve the issues. It is not the responsibility of the facilitator who instead helps the discussion to continue.

Other things to consider

- The process should be
 - Inclusive – accounting for all parties and addressing an power asymmetries in the room. If not all parties are ready to meet together at first, meetings can be held separately until trust is built
 - Transparent – it is important that the process has clear goals and a facilitator who is seen as neutral and accepted by the parties
 - Safe – all should agree to establish a space where everyone feels safe to speak. As well, the location should be on a neutral ground

Training overview within the dialogue process

