Tackling conflicts over species conservation

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Tackling conservation conflicts

- Background & definitions
- Example from UK
- Understanding & tackling conflict

- Conflicts are between people
- Link science, stakeholders, decision makers and practitioners to find shared solutions
- We need to explore the generalities
- A role for jazz music?
Conservation Conflicts

Situation that arises when: the strongly-held positions of two or more parties differ over conservation objectives and when one of those parties is perceived to assert its interests at the expense of the other.

Redpath et al. (In Press) TREE
Conflict

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Conflict resolution

Conflicts → Shared problem

Hunter outcome vs. Conservationist outcome

- Hunter outcome: lose, win
- Conservationist outcome: lose, win

- Point 1: Conservationist win, Hunter lose
- Point 2: Conservationist lose, Hunter win

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Conservation conflicts – an example
Hen Harrier

- 646 pairs in UK.
- Main threat from illegal killing on grouse moors

Red grouse

- Culturally important
- Generates unsubsidised income
- Up to £20K for one day’s shooting
- Worth ~£192million* to UK economy p.a. and 1140 full-time jobs
  * Estimate very uncertain
- Supports internationally valuable ecosystem and associated biodiversity

38 years of ecology to assess impact
Inference from science

- Harriers breeding at high density can make grouse shooting economically unviable
- Illegal killing limits harrier population on grouse moors
Resolving the problem

Driven by conservation NGOs, policy makers (and scientists)

- Enforcement / Penalties
- Impose a solution
Providing harriers with carrion to reduce predation on grouse.
Diversionary feeding

Problem solved?
Hen Harrier Dialogue

Government agencies

DEFRA | SNH | JNCC

NGO | NE | RSPB | HOT | RF

MA | CA | GWCT | BASC | CLBA

Buccleuch

Independent Facilitators

Grouse Shooting interests

Raptor conservation interests

Academics
Hen Harrier Dialogue

Problem solved?
Why so hard to resolve?

IDENTITY ISSUES
• Different world views

UNDERLYING ISSUES
• Legislation, history, use of media & role of science.

PROCESS ISSUES
• Dialogue process not equal
• Lack of leadership – “talking shop”
• Main conservation NGO now walked away
Finding a solution

Coercion – Dialogue

Which will give most robust outcomes?

Tackling conflicts

- Gather all scientific evidence, together with gaps and uncertainties
- Identify economic, ecological and social impacts
- Understand wider socio-political context (e.g. legislation)
- Identify stakeholders
- Mapping Conflict

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Tackling conflicts

- Identify stakeholders
- Map stakeholder values, attitudes, goals & positions
- Gather all scientific evidence, together with gaps and uncertainties
- Identify economic, ecological and social impacts
- Understand wider socio-political context (e.g. legislation)
- Do stakeholders wish to discuss with other parties?
- Solution imposed
- Is one party silenced?
- Win-lose
- Lose-lose

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Tackling conflicts

Mapping Conflict

Identify stakeholders

Map stakeholder values, attitudes, goals & positions

Gather all scientific evidence, together with gaps and uncertainties

Identify appropriate 3rd party involvement?

Identify economic, ecological and social impacts

Understand wider socio-political context (e.g. legislation)

Do stakeholders wish to discuss with other parties?

Solution imposed

Is one party silenced?

Agree aims of process

Identify appropriate process

3rd party involvement?

Lose-lose

Win-lose

Ecological science

Social science

Stakeholder process

Outcomes

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Tackling conflicts

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Managing Conflict
- Ecological science
- Social science
- Stakeholder process
- Outcomes

Redpath et al. (In Press) TREE
Tackling conflicts

Mapping Conflict

1. Identify stakeholders
2. Map stakeholder values, attitudes, goals & positions
3. Identify economic, ecological and social impacts
4. Understand wider socio-political context (e.g. legislation)
5. Do stakeholders wish to discuss with other parties?
6. Are stakeholders willing to negotiate positions?
7. Identify alternative solutions and trade-offs
8. Identify appropriate process

Managing Conflict

1. Gather all scientific evidence, together with gaps and uncertainties
2. Solution imposed
3. Is one party silenced?
4. If yes, lose-lose
5. If no, win-lose
6. 3rd party involvement?
7. Agree aims of process

Outcomes

- Ecological science
- Social science
- Stakeholder process
- Outcomes

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Tackling conflicts

Mapping Conflict
- Gather all scientific evidence, together with gaps and uncertainties
- Identify stakeholders
- Map stakeholder values, attitudes, goals & positions
- Identify economic, ecological and social impacts
- Understand wider socio-political context (e.g. legislation)
- Do stakeholders wish to discuss with other parties?
- Are stakeholders willing to negotiate positions?
- Agree aims of process
- Identify alternative solutions and trade-offs
- Agree possible solution
- Test mechanism - effective?

Managing Conflict
- Identify appropriate process
- 3rd party involvement?
- Is one party silenced?
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- Lose-lose

Outcomes
- Ecological science
- Social science
- Stakeholder process
- Outcomes

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Tackling conflicts

• Robust independent science to help map out conflict and explore solutions
• Recognise that conflicts are between people and their underlying values
• To tackle conflicts we need to bridge disciplinary boundaries, engage with stakeholders, decision makers and practitioners
• Understand the generalities
Exploring the shared humanity
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Human-wildlife conflicts

Two dimensions:

• Human-wildlife (interactions)
• Human-human (conflicts)

To tackle the conflicts we first need to identify what it is about.
Conservation conflicts

Between conservation and people with different values
Suggested solutions

• Ban grouse shooting
• License grouse shooting
• Increase enforcement
• Move to low intensity management
• Financial compensation
• Intra-guild predation
• Increase grouse numbers – trap & transfer or rear & release
• Alter habitat to reduce harrier numbers or predation rates
• Alter landscape to draw hunting harriers away from grouse
• Plastic heather to draw harriers away from grouse moors
• Chemical aversion therapy to stop harriers eating grouse
• Feed harriers to stop them eating grouse
• Deter harriers from settling using eagles, gas-guns
• Quota or ceiling scheme – move or kill surplus
• Re-introduce elsewhere
• Kill the harriers
Suggested solutions

• Ban grouse shooting
• License grouse shooting
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