

Stakeholder involvement for the After-Life

How to make that as easy as possible.

Keeping the contact with stakeholders during the project to ensure engagement after life is important.

Don't underestimate the time it takes to deal with stakeholders.

Stakeholder analysis is a useful tool to map the different kinds of stakeholder that could influence the project positively or negatively. The tool is useful to point out ambassadors in the project. The analysis is a joint work between project team members. Often the analysis is used when the application is under preparation.

The After-life issues must be separated because the approach for the stakeholders might be different. The engagement in the planning phase and during the project. What do you have to offer to us = joint ownership to the project. The project makers too often plan too much in advance. Experiences from Læsø that the idea about common fencing was felt like pushing something down on the community.

User group to follow the actions during the project. Strength but also weakness because the group took up a lot of resources to discuss minor problems.

External facilitators in the start of the project to end up with a common understanding. It is important with the right person to chair the group.

Compartmental stakeholder analysis.

Motivation among stakeholders. Giving the ownership to the project to the stakeholders. Pointing out ambassadors. Enhancing awareness about the project. For older landowners it might not only be money that motivates but also how the landscape looked like when they were young.

Health benefits can be a motivator. Involving volunteers in project – experiences with local fishing organisations. This helps creating ownership. Stakeholders change during the project. It is important to follow that change and be aware of engaging the new stakeholder groups.

Communicating through FB can be easy and prevent bad news to come up first.

Use the stakeholder competences/abilities to implement actions in the project like fox regulation

Financing: How do we secure the resources after life?

Most challenging: Engagement and successful implementation of the project needs time and people = finances.

Convincing colleagues to talk with stakeholders can be challenging. It is an important exercise in the organization. All organisations have their traditions and ways to involve stakeholders. It might be needed to change that tradition. As authority we are looked at as the one with the hammer. That might be a barrier and need time to remove that barrier.

Persons from farmers organisations to join working groups to gain the farmers trust.

Opinion leaders as positive stakeholders. We might often only focus on the stakeholders with a negative influence.

it might be needed to re-cast participants in stakeholder groups if someone starts working against the project, but be aware not to leave someone/stakeholder groups out from the beginning.

It is important to be aware of stakeholders with opposite interests (example with slow increasing population of reindeer and predation risk from wolves and with Atlantic Houting with a small population and predation from cormorants and seals).

NGO's as stakeholders that might be against the project. Are they easy or difficult to work with? Strong NGO's with a lot of money and time can have a lot of power and can influence and postpone the implementation of the project. There can be a difference between working with NGO's on a local level or on a national level. They might have to different opinions to a project pointing in different directions. The NGO on a national level might have a bigger influence on politicians. It is important in the after-life that you continue monitoring to document the effect of the project – not just the targeted species but more broad.

Are stakeholders emerging during the project? Is it possible to make connections to funds or commercial industry to ensure financing after life? Example is young city families who through the social media became interested in being part of the grazing association. What could be the alternative to the funding? It is a long process to think innovative in terms of other funding and to evolve new ways of fund project ideas. It is time consuming and uncertain. The difficulty is to keep the engagement in the funding. It might be possible to get a community engaged for 1 or 3 years but then it is over again searching for a new way of funding.

Often our organisations are not geared to consult on alternative funding. We do not have the competences.

During nature conservation organisations are working together with stakeholders but there are not money or time to continue and maintain the contact with stakeholders after the project has ended. In nature conservation carried out by national or local authorities the main stakeholder is the politicians who decide the frame for nature conservation. It is still the authority's task to make nature conservation as a priority.

Can we do more if we involve stakeholders/people with other interests? People like to do volunteer jobs but when it comes to the end they need to benefit from it. Most often it has to be based on some kind of economic benefit (subsidies are most important). In Læsø the organisation is so big that part of the subsidies can pay a manager fee.

Conclusions: We have the organisations who are able to apply for funding, running a project and continuing/ ensuring the nature management after the project has ended.

Benefit from working together.

Idea: brainstorming process with other than biologist/conservationists (marketing, etc.) Functionality of a beetle = unexpected combinations of cooperation.

It is difficult to be completely clear during the preparation of the application about approaching the stakeholders during and after the life project. Flexibility is needed

Stakeholders vary from action to action.