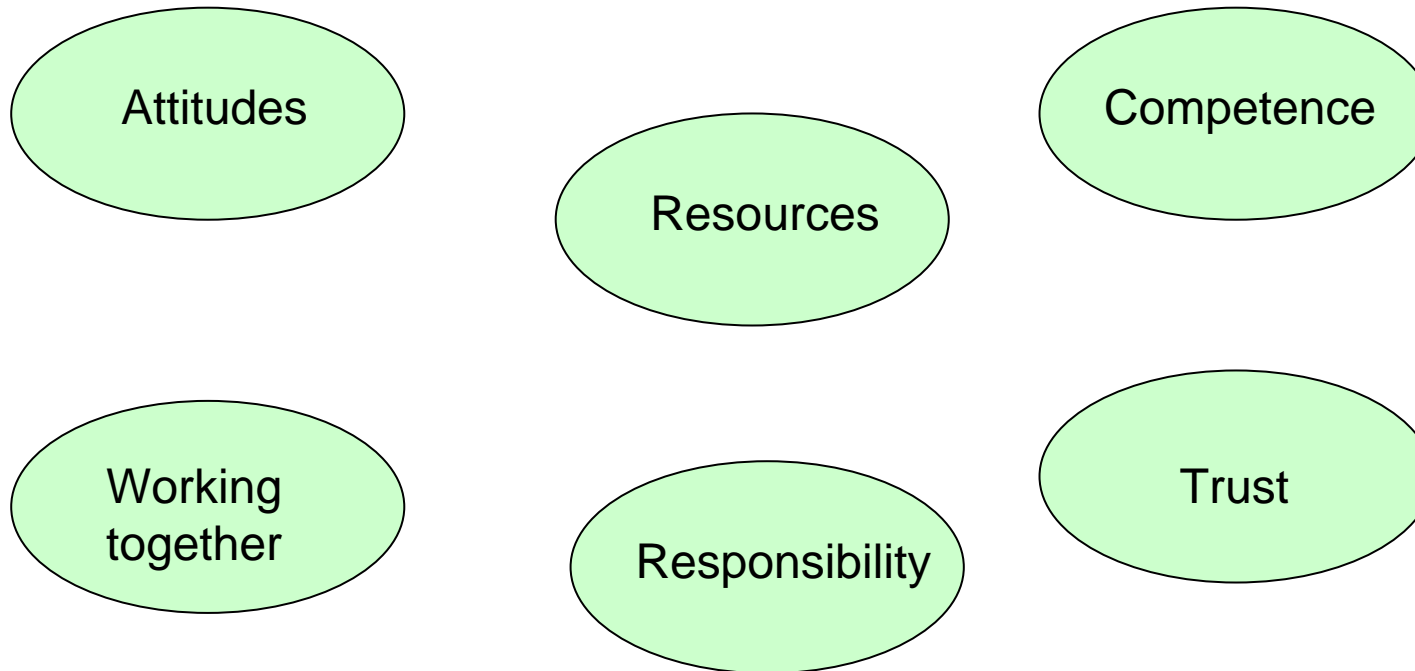


Dialogue for Nature Conservation



Mia Olausson, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Why a skills development programme?





Why a skills development programme?, cont.

The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency was asked by the Swedish government to present a skills development programme for dialogue, local participation and management, and conflict management in 2007.

To realize the ideas presented in "A shared Nature Conservation Policy", issued by the Swedish government in 2001.

Increasing local participation is part of Sweden's commitment to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity.

How was the programme developed?



A project group was formed at the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2006.

A draft programme was produced by the Department of Urban and Rural Development at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

The draft was referred for consideration to a number of internal and external references.

The programme was finalized in 2007 and the first course was held in April 2008.

Who is it for?

The primary target group is officials and directors at the County Administrative Boards and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency



Dialogue for Nature Conservation

Skills development in dialogue, local participation and management, and conflict management within nature conservation and the management of natural resources.

Swedish Environmental
Protection Agency

+

Swedish University of
Agricultural Sciences

=



The objectives of the programme

The participants will

- be aware of the prerequisites and be able to create an appreciation for nature conservation,
- be able to create, lead and participate in democratic discussions,
- be able to initiate, support and lead participatory processes, and
- be able to prevent and manage acute conflicts.



The contents of the programme

Basic course (4-5 days)

**Environmental
Communication for
Nature Conservation
Directors (2 days)**

Advanced courses for specific fields

- Protection and management of protected areas
- Management of large carnivores
- Management of wildlife
- Nature conservation and local development
(2-4 days)

Advanced courses in communication

- Cooperation and learning
- Conflict Management
(2 days)

Goals and results

Goal: Arrange 12 courses a year

Result: 14 courses are arranged in 2008.

Goal: 300 of the 500 people who work with related issues at the County Administrative Boards and the Swedish EPA should complete at least one course by the end of 2009.

Result: By the end of 2008 more than 200 people will have taken at least one course.

Goal: Evaluate every course after completion. The programme will be evaluated and possibly restructured in 2010.

Result: So far two basic courses have been evaluated and the participants have been very pleased.

Challenges

- Can a programme in communication skills really change the way we work?
- Will the "right people" attend the courses?
- Can we accept that this approach is more time consuming?
- Is it enough to target the County Administrative Boards and the Swedish EPA when they are only one part involved in nature conservation?





**More information is available at
www.naturvardsverket.se**

(in Swedish)

Mia.Olausson@naturvardsverket.se