

Exploring multi-stakeholder challenges in the restoration of biodiversity

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Various studies have identified conflict as a recurrent setback in working with community groups on restoration projects. Involving multiple stakeholders has also been shown to be beneficial. Trust is built and communication improves among stakeholders when there is a shared understanding of individuals' values and interests. Oftentimes, local communities might not feel heard and understood; and scientists might not show the needed empathy to understand the perspectives of local communities. Consequently, communication and collaboration among different stakeholders are hampered. This study sought to explore some of the challenges facing diverse stakeholders as they attempt to collaborate on a shared goal of restoring biodiversity within a local community. Affected individuals and organizations were brought together to deliberate on issues hindering collaborative restoration efforts. Analysis of focus group discussions revealed that the major challenging issues facing local communities culminated in the broader themes of "people, nature and cost".