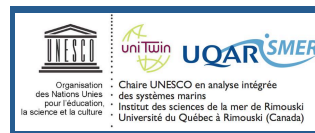IUCN

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Parks, people, planet: inspiring solutions

Classifying social actors in protected areas governance
Enhancing diversity and quality of governance

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Classifying social actors in protected areas governance
- Overview -

What?
- **Grouping** or seeking out common features of different sections of the community
- Eg groups which share similar values, ideas or practices

Why?
- Increase participation and social acceptability
- understand different stakeholders' positions or opinions
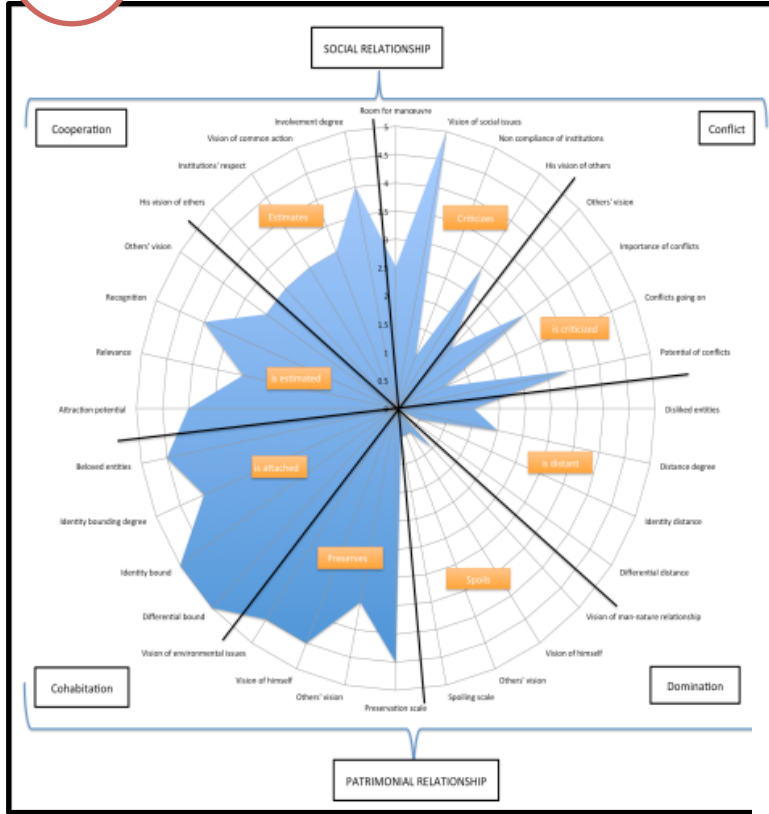- Improve conflict resolution

How?
- **Through**: studies, observations, workshops, discussions, etc.
- Two examples from our research: **The Actor in 4 dimensions** and **Cultural models**

Ex:
A3

The actor in 4 dimensions

- Well known (group -)
- Willing to act
- Knows, preserves
- Pro concertation (f.asso)
- Pro conservation
- Wishes better image / influence (fish. asso.)
- Strong opinions
- ≠ extremism
- Is criticised (corruption)

Ex: A1-20 - To guide Ponta Preta zone's governance

Criticisms	Stakeholders	Desired governance	Seeked actors
Industrial / Illegal fishing	- Mar. inst. (MI) - fishermen	- Participatory MCS - Alternatives info	- MI-fishermen, PRAO - coast guards, GEF
International fishing agreements	- Government	- Onboard observers - catches' control - CBA	- Fishing department - Ruling body
Lack of confidence in management	- Government - powerful actors	- Decentralization	- Government - City hall
	- Fish. asso.	- + democracy; - $	- Fishermen asso.
Lack of community participation	- All Maienses - Government	- Educate, debate - Communicate info.	- PRAO - Local NGOs - State, city hall
Disenchantment and frustration towards big projects	- DGA-P, city hall - Internat. coop. - Government	- Announce PP MPA - Stop sand use - Think local/L.-term	- DGA/DGP - City hall - Central government

Classifying social actors in marine protected area governance
Cultural models

Qualitative fieldwork indicated different prioritization of values (supporters of no-take marine sanctuaries vs. opponents):
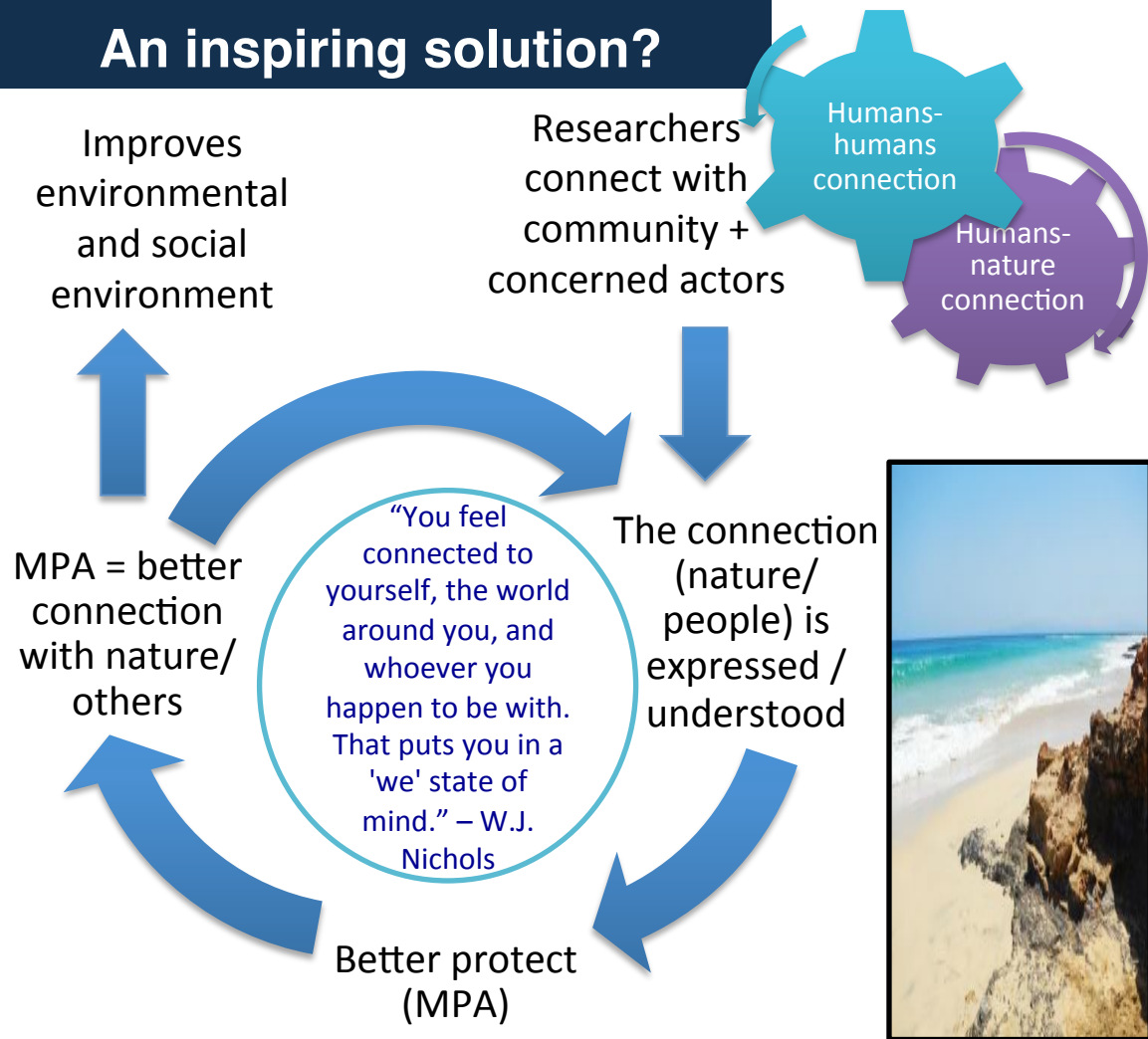
- **Supporters** of no-take zones: **ecological cultural model** which prioritises natural ecosystem functions and personal connections to the natural world.
- **Resistance** to no take zones: **community cultural model** which prioritises connections with people and place, social interactions and health and lifestyle benefits of the coast.

Key points of difference	Support for no take zones	Resistance to no take zones
Image of the coast/nature	Concerned with global (eg climate change) & local threats	Concerned with local threats (eg erosion, localised pollution)
Values	Appreciation of beauty	Freedom
	Ecosystem conservation	Hedonism (fun/enjoyment)
	Guardian	Secure livelihoods
	Benevolence (volunteering)	Personal connections
	Unmediated nature	Health
		Tradition

NB- Values here are not restricted to only one group, however they came up more frequently in the group indicated. Many values were shared across groups providing opportunities for consensus.

An inspiring solution?

Improves environmental and social environment

Researchers connect with community + concerned actors

Humans-humans connection

Humans-nature connection

MPA = better connection with nature/others

"You feel connected to yourself, the world around you, and whoever you happen to be with. That puts you in a 'we' state of mind." – W.J. Nichols

The connection (nature/people) is expressed / understood

Better protect (MPA)

Innovative and effective
- Socio-centered methods
- Identify and protect **our cultural and natural relationships** / identity
- Integrates all actors into governance
- Connecting = impulse to preserve

Evidence of implementation and impact
- Still in process
- **Helps dialogue** and think
- **Consciousness and will-raising** to participate into management.

Applied elsewhere or more broadly
- Concerns locals: **context-adapted**.
- Possibility to simplify to target larger groups / people with less time / interest / capacities.

What makes it work?
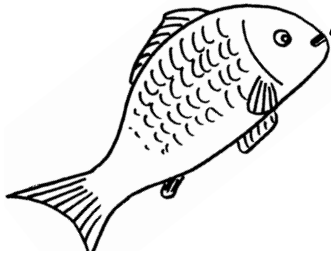
Components that lead to success

- Good access to the field
- Not being afraid to ask questions, being empathetic, review elements of the questionnaire if it does not fit the field.

Enabling factors

- Being open-minded
- Being curious of the inquired reality
- Never forget the final goal: enhancing participative governance
- Accept that social work takes time

Potential benefits of these approaches (& similar) for conservation governance:

- Builds knowledge of the **social** + natural environment

- Supports a **co-management** and/or **participatory** process:
  - target which actors are more inclined to act
  - target actors who are traditionally hard to reach (educate, inform, **learn from**, participate)
  - Gain a broader understanding of the community's visions and objectives

For more details on these methods + social network analysis, etc. and to contribute to our reflections, please join us for a workshop on this topic:
University of Technology Sydney - Building 10, Level 14, Meeting Room 2;
Wednesday 19th November 2-4pm - *For more information or to RSVP contact*
michelle.voyer@uts.edu.au