*Making Peace: Transforming Social Conflict Dimensions of Conservation*

# The potential and limits of free prior informed consent

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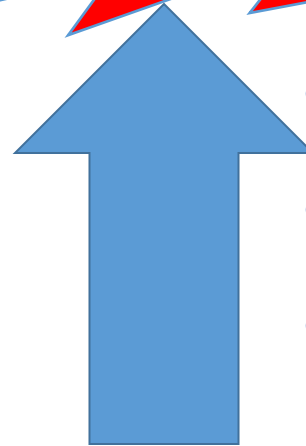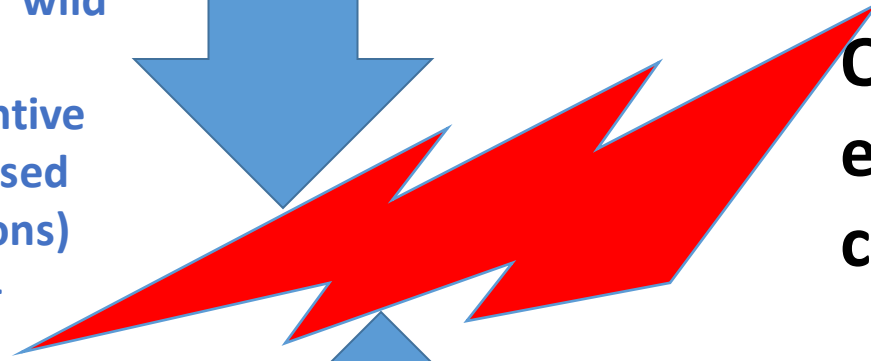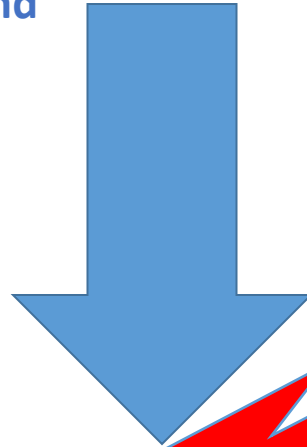**Public Policy, Duke University**

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# mediating two worlds: foundations of social conflict



**Anthropocentrism**

- Top down government and technocratic processes, science driven,
- Instrumental: humans extracted from the 'wild' environment
- Enforcement, incentive and compliance based (external motivations)
- logic of coloniality-modernity' / anthropocentrism

**Ontological and epistemological conflict**

- Grassroots customary/ traditional processes
- Holistic: inseparability of people and environment
- Intrinsic motivations based on world views, cultural norms, values and ethics
- Logic based on relationality/ biocentrism

**Biocentrism**

# Free Prior Informed Consent: frameworks for participation

**FPIC defines leadings practice for participation based on equity and self determination:**

A  framework to  guide negotiation over possible developments affecting Indigenous peoples

- Grounded in International human rights frameworks (CBD , UNDRIP, ILO 169)
- Adopted in conservation sector:  REDD+, International NGOs
- More broadly adopted: eg UN FOA Free Prior and Informed Consent: An indigenous peoples' right and a good practice for local communities - Manual for project practitioners



*Immense Potential but* <u>incongruence between theoretical formulations and definitions vis-à-vis actual implementation.</u>

# pre-conditions for effective FPIC (and conflict resolution)

**Positive peace** as a concept is 'the integration of human society' and the 'creation of just social systems that serve the needs of the whole population.'

Positive peace is the best protection against violence

8 key elements are required as a foundation for positive peace

Source: *John Galtung, founder of Peace Studies*

# Ongoing challenges in resolving social conflicts

- **The challenge of creating sustainable livelihoods**: contextual and no simple recipe for success. Those in extreme material poverty can not put conservation first
- **Information and power asymmetries**: FPIC and participation generally is limited by differential resources and capacities
- **Complexity of social dynamics**: formal vs informal rights and practices, resource users vs resource owners
- **Conservation can generate new inequities**: how far do impacts and benefits extend
- **Engage at the ontological level**: how we inhabit different worlds, view differently  what values we see as most important to conserve