

Case Study Nature Conservation

The scenario:

You live in a small city. Just outside town there is an area of 10 km² that is so far undeveloped. It consists mainly of forests, with a little stream running across it that forms a wetland and a small lake at the southern part of the area.

The biodiversity is very high. There are lots of interesting plant and animal species.

But the area is being threatened. A developer has planned to create lake-view villas and cottages. The local government is planning to give the go-ahead because the cottages will attract rich tourists that will help to stimulate the local economy.

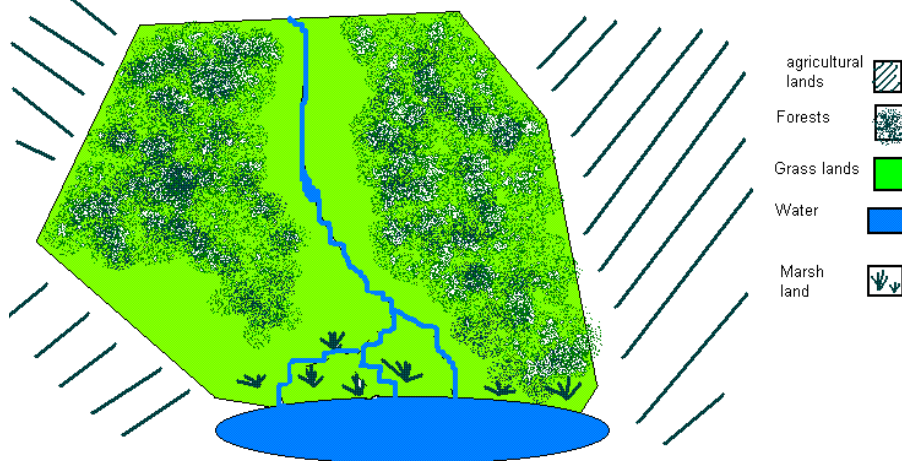
Some biologists from the nearby university have discovered that a rare turtle species lives in this wetland; the spotted turtle. Also they found the forest-wetland to be the home of a rare bird; the Prothonotary warbler.

They argue that if this area is developed, these already endangered species might disappear from the area.

Besides the developer and biologists, recreational users (both the people who would perhaps buy or rent the cottages and local people) have a say in this. They want to use this area for recreational purposes.

All 3 interest groups agree on 1 thing; the rare species and the ecosystem should be preserved. However, they also want their interest group to benefit from the area, so their plans for the area can turn out to be quite different!

The area:



The local government organizes a meeting in which each interest group can suggest ways to use this land. With the map, each interest group should make a clear proposal on how they plan to develop the land (or not). Indicate on the map what you want to do with the area, and write a 1 page proposal explaining what should be done and why.

Each interest group gets 20 minutes to make a proposal. When you are making your proposal keep in mind that it has to cover certain factors:

- 1) **Economic** (you have to make money or give people jobs)
- 2) **Social/community** (it has to be beneficial for the people)
- 3) **Environmental** (has to be good for the environment).

Think about short term and long term benefits!

Each group also has to discuss and list the reasons why they think nature is important for their interest group and why endangered animals and habitats should be protected (from the interest group's point of view).

Every group should present their proposal in max. 5 minutes. After each presentation the other groups can ask critical questions. After each presentation the class should decide what the 2 best aspects of the proposal were.

After the presentations the groups should discuss the outcomes and come up with a final solution how to use the land.