



## Conflict Management in Urbanised Forestry

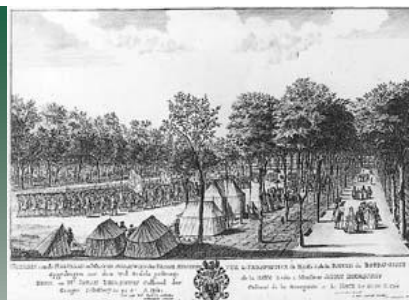
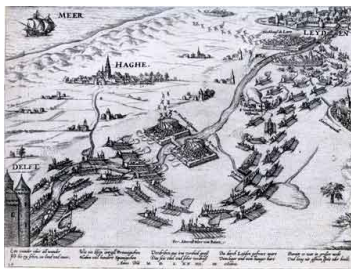


*"A tree on your doorstep is a forest in your mind!"*

## Contents

- A bit of city forestry history...
- What are forest conflicts?
- Why are conflicts so common in urbanised forestry?
- Types of conflicts
- Conflict management





## Haagsche Bosch, The Hague Netherlands

Pictures: historical material, city of The Hague



## Conflicts

- People perceive incompatible goals and interference from others in achieving these goals
- Appear at interplay of values, policies and (forest) resources
- Conflicts can be:
  - Content-based
  - Procedural
  - Personal



## Why conflicts in urbanised forestry?

- Many interests, many different views, but often rather small areas
- Urban pressures, such as development of housing, roads, etc.
- Urban forestry as 'contact sport'
  - *Era of People and the Environment*. Citizens want louder voice (Fazio and Gilbert 2000).
  - Urban environments: greater emphasis on exchange of knowledge and development of ideas through communication with relevant stakeholders (Van Herzele et al., 2005)
- Management interventions can evoke protests



# Types of conflicts

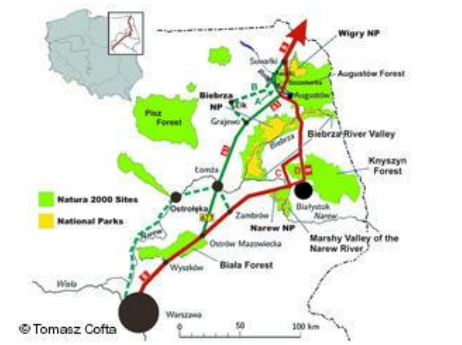
- **Urban development versus the forest**
- **Conflicting views of forest management and conservation**
- **Recreational conflicts**
- **Conflicts related to 'wild nature' in/near the city**
- **Illegal uses and abuse of forests**



Picture: Moshe Shaler







## Rospudy river valley, Augustow Forest, Poland

Pictures: Damien Moran / Indymedia; Bankwatch network; AFP; Deutsche Welle



ment

The revenues and benefits from preserving the forest are shared by society instead of a handful of developers. — Dr Awang Nurul Chani, UPM

TUESDAY 5 April 2005

# Better *intact* than fallen

are creeping ever closer to the lush green slopes of the Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve in Selangor. — Picture by Lim Yew Ken

ing wildlife refuge and as a of genetic material is respon- it provides the benefits and alternative land use." the reserve had been slowly and greedily for a long time. landfills and housing, its boundaries from 12,500 to 13,750 ha today, with the land given out for a brutal

ists want Ayer Hitam to be used because it is one of three big lowland (below 200m) rain forests in Selangor. The low, the Bukit Cendana and Bukit forests, are similarly used by housing develop-

There is reason to conserve it. It is one of the last remaining lowland rainforest in the region, the last remaining

Research Institute Malaysia (RIM), points out. She says forests can and social gratification. Source of its story word in Facts.

### THE WORTH OF AYER HITAM FOREST RESERVE

Project for residential development	RM
Trunk	65,000,000
Housing development	926,000,000
Total	991,000,000

### IF kept as a forest reserve

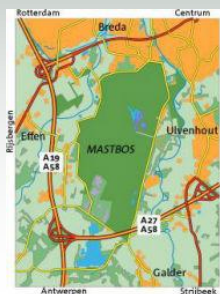
Wild game and forest produce collected by orang asli	770,000
Recreation	2,048,423
Medicinal plants	6,836,560
Conservation	2,300,000,000
Total	2,309,644,983

Source: UPM

### Why the Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve should be preserved

- One of three lowland forests in Selangor
- Provides a green lung for urban areas
- A site for research and education for UPM
- Role in public environmental education programme
- For wildlife habitat and in situ conservation
- An orang asli cultural site
- Role in recreation and tourism
- Role in micro-climate regulation
- Role in carbon sequestration
- A water catchment



[illegible]

## Mastbos, Breda, Netherlands

*Pictures: Vrienden van het Mastbos et al.*





Pictures: Wikimedia



## Wild nature in/near the city

### In Berlin, There Are Piggish Eaters On the Lawns

By RICHARD BERNSTEIN

BERLIN — Consultants rang out late the other night near Altestrasse, a street of imposing other houses and gardens alongside the Grunewald, the large forested park on the western edge of Berlin.

There was no other way to deal with the marauders than to kill them.

It is not the usual way of handling disturbances in this city of low crime, but the people whose lawns and gardens were being mutilated had been given the cellphone numbers of specially trained marksmen available any time their properties were threatened.

When the marksmen arrived in the wee hours, they imposed the maximum penalty on a few of the wild boars, whose numbers, and garden invasions, have shown an inconvenient increase lately.

"The situation for wild boars is perfect in Berlin," said Marc Frammich, a forest ranger and spokesman for the Berlin Forestry Office.

He was showing a visitor the areas affected by the proliferation of scary-looking, fast and usually hungry wild animals that can weigh more than 300 pounds and be found a mile or so from the Kurfürstendamm, one of Europe's most fashionable avenues.



Berlin reportedly has 3,000 wild boars, which can weigh 300 pounds. They are not aggressive but are usually hungry.

### When the wall fell, wild boars headed for the city.

The reasons so many wild boars are infesting the numerous parks and forest areas of the German capital are many, including the fact, obvious in the Grunewald, that most of the trees are oaks, and acorns are a wild boar's favorite food.

In addition, the fall of the Berlin Wall 14 years ago eliminated the main physical barrier between Berlin and the surrounding countryside, so many wild boars migrated into the city.

Newspapers here are reporting that there are 3,000 wild boars in Berlin, though Mr. Frammich did not know if that figure was correct. In the past year, 2,383 boars have been killed within the city limits.

"If there's no food in the forest, there are lots of alternatives for them in the city," Mr. Frammich said, for example looking for garbage or digging for worms

in somebody's back garden.

The boars' habit of turning over soil in search of underground delicacies is the main problem, according to Mr. Frammich.

"They're not dangerous," he said, "they don't bring diseases like, say, foot-and-mouth."

But the damage is terrible," he said. "People always ask, 'Who will pay?' But the answer is, 'Nobody,' because the wild boars are not anybody's pets; they don't belong to anybody, and there's no government office responsible for what they do."



Picture: Jasper Schipperijn

## Conflict management

- Better to speak of conflict *management* than of conflict *resolution*
- Conflict management aims at situation improvement
- 3 main ways of managing/resolving (Ury et al. 1988):
  1. reconciling the disputants' ('fighters') underlying interests
  2. determining who is right
  3. determining who is the most powerful
- Many different ways and methods
  - Negotiation, Facilitation, Arbitration, Litigation, Coercion etc.
  - (Alternative) Dispute Resolution, Collaborative Learning, etc.



## Understanding the close ties between people and forests

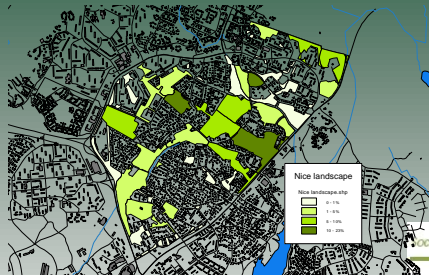
- Environmental psychology: people have close ties with 'their' local forests and trees
  - Place identity (Proshansky et al. 1983)
  - Sense of place (e.g., Ardoin 2005)
  - Social territory, place vs. space
- Role of trees and forests in (cultural) 'place making'
- When forests are threatened, people feel that their very identity and home are threatened





# Social value mapping

Source: Tyrväinen et al. (2006)



Social mapping can provide crucial information about user experiences.

	Green area number, where the quality is found.	Cannot find where my living area	Cannot say
 'BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE' Places or areas that you find beautiful and attractive (beautiful scenes etc.)		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 'VALUABLE NATURE SITE' Valuable nature area or place with a special feeling of nature (e.g. natural vegetation, fauna, fascinating rocks, bedrocks, shorelines).		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 'FOREST FEELING' Area or place that feels like a "real" forest.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 'SPACE AND FREEDOM' Area or place where you can enjoy space and freedom.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 'ATTRACTIVE PARK' Constructed park that is exceptionally beautiful (flower beds, constructions, valuable trees, tree lines, places to stay).		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
 'PEACE AND TRANQUILITY' Area or place that is peaceful and quiet.		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Conflict management: Some general lessons (1)

- *Communication is the key!*
- If necessary, use an independent facilitator
- Public involvement is not easy and costs money, but conflicts can be much more expensive
- Do not underestimate people's knowledge and feelings
- Define the frame and rules for conflict management in advance (how far will you go?)



## Conflict management: Some general lessons (2)

- Start not from the 10% of disagreement, but from the 90% of agreement
- Find out what the conflict is *really* about
- Consider the role of the media
- Be ready for joint learning and (some) sharing of responsibility



## Conclusions

- Conflicts are a reality in urbanised forestry
- Conflicts can be a positive force for change
- Take time to understand the underlying issues, people's feelings, etc.
- Don't be afraid to involve outside experts



**Thank you!**

