



Un encuentro en la selva y dos historias que convergen y divergen, desde dos orillas del mismo río. Se encuentran, se cuentan, se recuentan y se cambian. Walter es indígena y estudiante. No habita selva adentro junto a sus mayores, pero los lleva consigo, aunque también quiere progresar. Juan Manuel es "blanco" y próximamente, doctor. Habita en la ciudad y pretende enseñar sobre el manejo competitivo de la biodiversidad. ¿Qué habrá por aprender a partir de este encuentro?

La ponencia -narración a dos voces- pretende compartir las preguntas, reflexiones, contradicciones y transformaciones que surgen cuando los actores que intervienen y aquellos "objeto de la intervención" deciden disponerse al diálogo intercultural, lo cual les exige confrontar sus formas de ver el mundo y poner en otras manos su confianza y amistad, para resignificar su quehacer y su estar en el mundo.

*Coffee break*

**16:00-16:20**

**Why is wild-life more important than people? Conservation strategies, perceptions and contradictions in two protected areas from Trás-os-Montes, Portugal**

**Pourquoi la vie sauvage est-elle plus importante que les gens ? Stratégies de conservation, perceptions et contradictions et la gestion des aires protégées de Tras-os-Montes, Portugal**

**¿Por qué la vida silvestre es más importante que la gente? Estrategias de conservación, percepciones y contradicciones en dos áreas protegidas de Trás-os-Montes, Portugal**

*Ana Maria Carvalho, Amélia Frazão-Moreira*

**Abstract:** Portuguese authorities for nature conservation have been engaged in comprehensive resource networks and effective legislation and regulations for protected areas putting together different efforts to sustain biodiversity and to enlist the full range of partners. It appears that the involvement and participation of local communities was the essential basis on which protected areas would build a system of management which has integrity, security and success, particularly those including human settlements. Nevertheless, conservation measures were mostly designed by outsiders who were culturally detached and parks boundaries were mainly based on environmental criteria.

Two important natural protected areas, located in the most north-eastern part of Portugal (Trás-os-Montes), have a great diversity of natural and semi-natural habitats and humanized landscapes which are repositories of nature and cultural heritage. The territories of the Natural Park of Montesinho and the Natural Park of Douro International are the result of many geographical and historical factors and represent harmonious integration of human activity with nature, allowing ecological diversity to be maintained and valued.

Based on key-informants' opinions we explore their personal experience with the parks authorities and their ideas about the management of these protected areas. Key-informants main argument is that national conservation networks and strategies did not take into account regional identity, people background and local beliefs and habits. Moreover, it is perceived that most of the initiatives have never recognized the vital role of human activity in such areas maintenance and the contribution of local knowledge (LK) to the current environment. Many occurrences decreased the intrinsic value of regional landscapes which were considered part of the cultural heritage and had embedded intangible values such as dwelling, spiritual and aesthetical values, local tradition, neighborly and inter-generational relations. Local ideas of nature have determined distinguishable values of plants and animals and outlined different orientations towards predatory actions.