

Community Environmental Management: challenges and prospects

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Specialist Science Solutions

Manaaki Tangata Taiao Hoki
protecting people and their environment through science

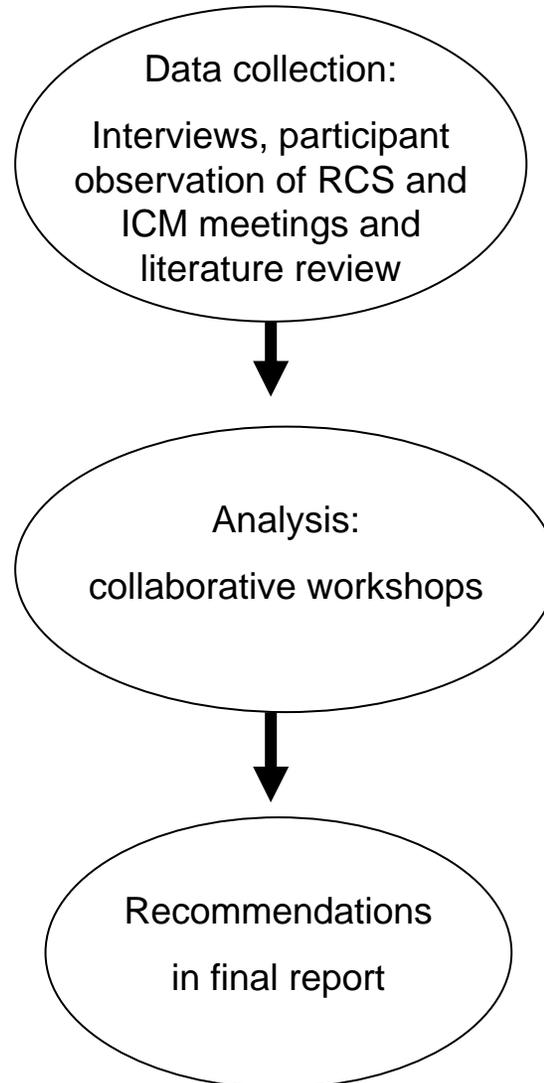
Presentation outline

- Brief description of the ESR's research with the Environment Canterbury's Resource Care Section
- What is Community Environmental Management and what does it aim to achieve?
- Exploration of two challenges and prospects for Resource Care

Resource Care Section research with ESR

- **What was this research about?**
 - The aim of the research was for the Resource Care section to self evaluate their practices (what works, what doesn't and why) by incorporating the perspectives of tangata whenua, stakeholders, and other sections of Environment Canterbury.

Research activities



ECan staff 'workshopping'



Resource Care and Community Environmental Management (CEM)

- **Resource Care – Advocacy and Environmental Education - CEM**
- **CEM is based on idea of participatory environmental management**
- **What does it aim to achieve?**
 - **Environmental change**
 - environmental sustainability and biophysical change or improvement
 - **Social outcome**
 - facilitation to obtain buy-in and community engagement in environmental management
- **Varied application**
 - **Ends vs means**

First challenge: Resource Care purposes and outcomes

- **What is the purpose of Resource Care?**
 - To provide environmental change?
 - To develop relationships with the community?
- **There is difficulty in measuring environmental improvements associated with the RCG work**
- **The literature and other data from interviews also identified this as a challenge to CEM**

First challenge: Resource Care purposes and outcomes

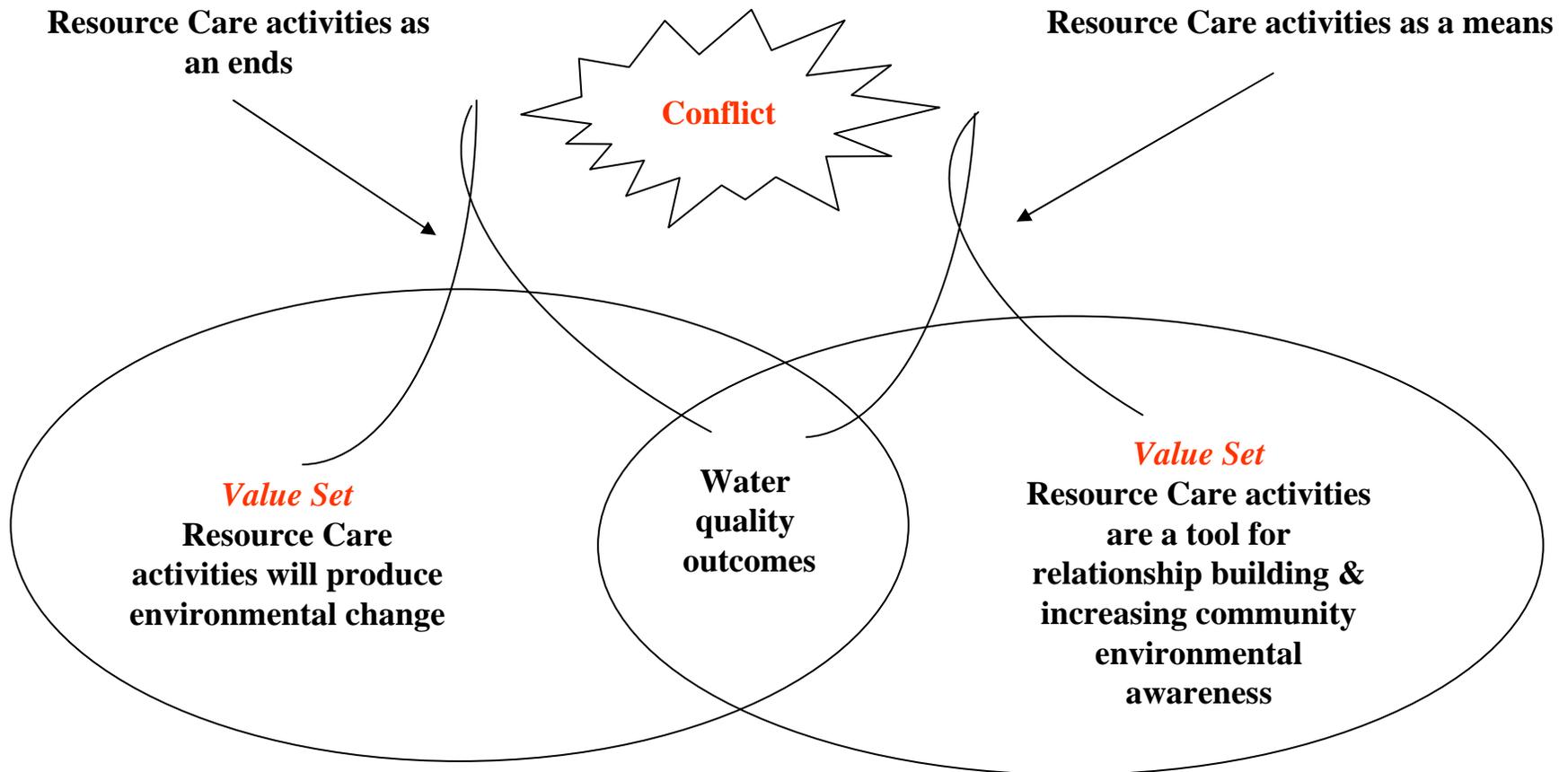
“What the Resource Care section don’t have is a way to measure effectiveness – they rely on the science group to provide that by measuring before and afterwards of the environment. But it is not that simple because it is a lot more complex than that – you would have to measure it all the time etc....”

(Non-Resource Care Section staff member)

“Supporting observations from our other case studies suggest that such disparity between [care] group expectation and biophysical and social processes was common...”

McCallum et al. (2007)

First challenge: Resource Care purposes and outcomes



Resource Care purpose and outcomes

- Building community relationships – key purpose of Resource Care
- Change in attitude through education
- Social change is an outcome of how we do our work (the means) and environmental change is why we do it (the ends) – to succeed we need a balance
- Social evaluation component in work plan – ongoing development of evaluation processes
- Social + Environmental change = SUCCESS

Second challenge: Resource Care stakeholder engagement

- **How does Resource Care achieve its aim?**
 - Building relationships with community stakeholders
 - This worked well with community stakeholders
- **Resource Care activities are not subject to statutory requirements tangata whenua constituted 'just another community stakeholder'**
- **Tangata whenua stated they always see themselves as a Treaty partner and this warranted alternative means of engagement**
- **RCS were not getting optimal participation from tangata whenua**

Second challenge: Resource Care stakeholder engagement

“I haven’t really got my head around it yet because we have got contact from Moeraki who are concerned that they hadn’t been brought into the process and we said “well, we have been sending you all the invites and it has been pretty well documented”, but they are not sending representatives along to the meeting”.

(RCG coordinator)

“I think ... they are just a bit frightened they might tread on bloody toes and upset one group as opposed to another [within the community]. ... [Historically] they communicated, face to face, one on one, instead of [now] sending out things and emailing”.

(Tangata whenua)

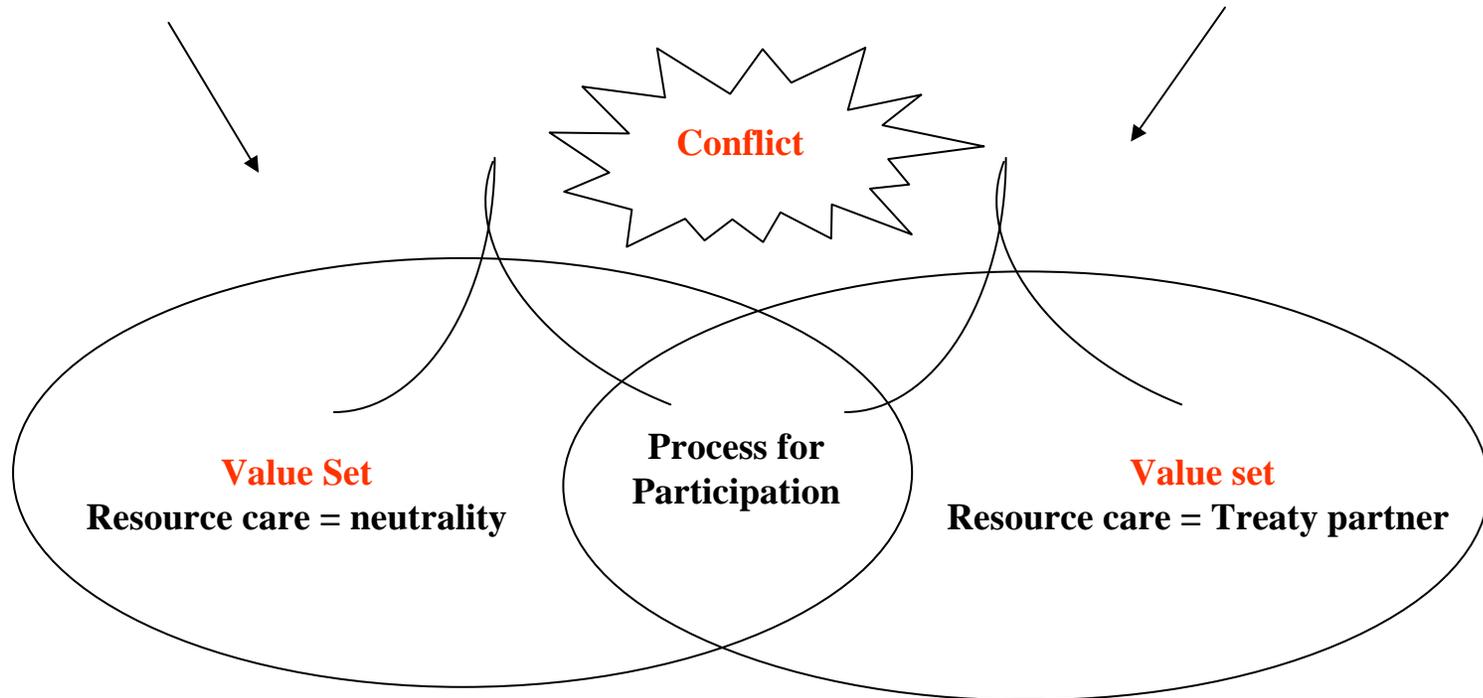
Second challenge: Resource Care stakeholder engagement

“...sometimes people don't like seeing us [tangata whenua] to be having separate meetings from the main open forum process and I think ECan have taken that on board and have decided that they will just lump everyone into one....sometimes you do need to go and say to mana whenua we need to have a meeting, we need to discuss this, if you aren't comfortable sitting in a open forum scenario then we will come and sit down and come and spend some time with you guys”.
(Tangata whenua)

Second challenge: Resource Care stakeholder engagement

Equal opportunity to participate

Allows for different participation needs



Resource Care stakeholder engagement

- Treat everyone as equals vs acknowledging tangata whenua as Treaty partners
- Not engaging in the right manner
- One-size-fits-all model
- Moves to rectify

In conclusion

- CEM is about long-term environmental outcomes and therefore emphasis needs to be placed on the processes for relationship building as part of increasing community environmental awareness to achieve environmental change.
- To gain optimal participation of tangata whenua Treaty status should be recognised, this would result in different processes for participation – however this needs to be balanced by the community's lack of support for tangata whenua Treaty status.

Questions?



Orari River, South Canterbury