



Working with Stakeholders to Create a Vision for Estero Bay, FL

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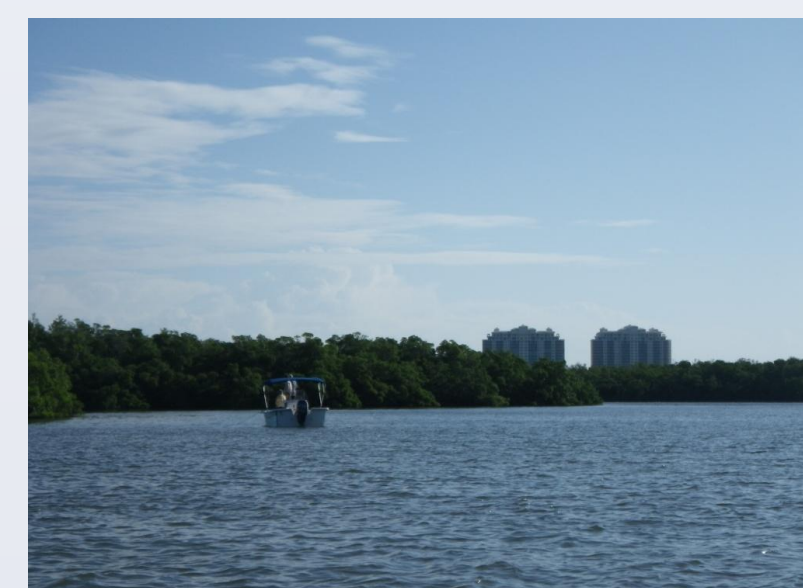


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Introduction

Workshop Purpose

1. Provide a one-day forum for representatives of Estero Bay stakeholder groups to meet, get to know each other, share perspectives and information about submerged aquatic habitats in Estero Bay, begin to build collaborative capacity, and provide input on management of submerged aquatic habitats in Estero Bay.
2. Determine stakeholder interest in continuation of similar collaborative management workshops with the goal of developing a stakeholder-driven plan for sustainable use, protection and restoration of submerged aquatic habitats in Estero Bay.



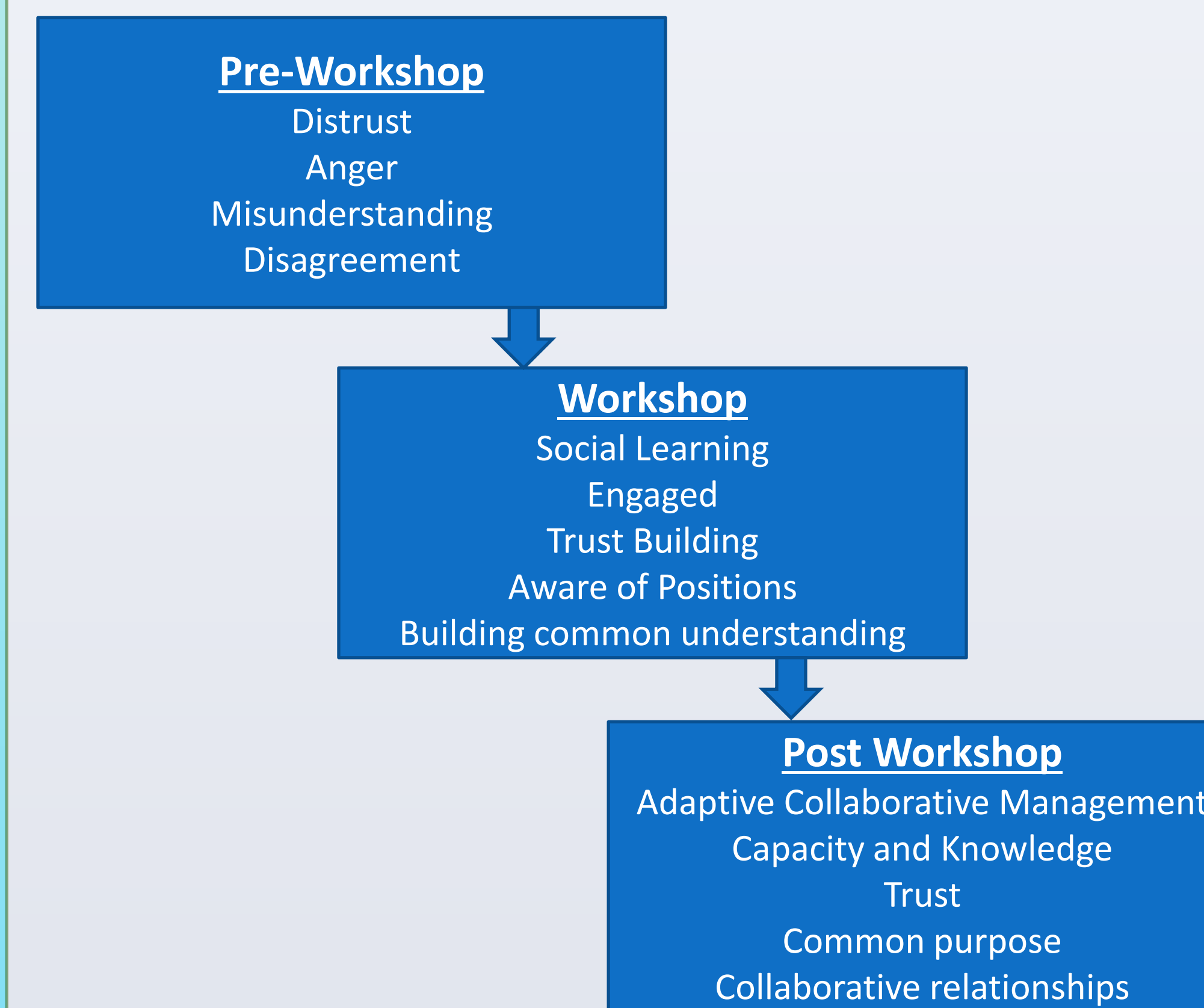
Workshop Products

- Participants have improved awareness of other stakeholders interests in Estero Bay
- Enhanced communication and trust among stakeholders
- Increased understanding of the value and condition of submerged aquatic habitats in Estero Bay, impacts to submerged aquatic habitats related to use of Estero Bay, and management & restoration activities for submerged aquatic habitats in Estero Bay
- List of action items (next steps) gathered during the workshop



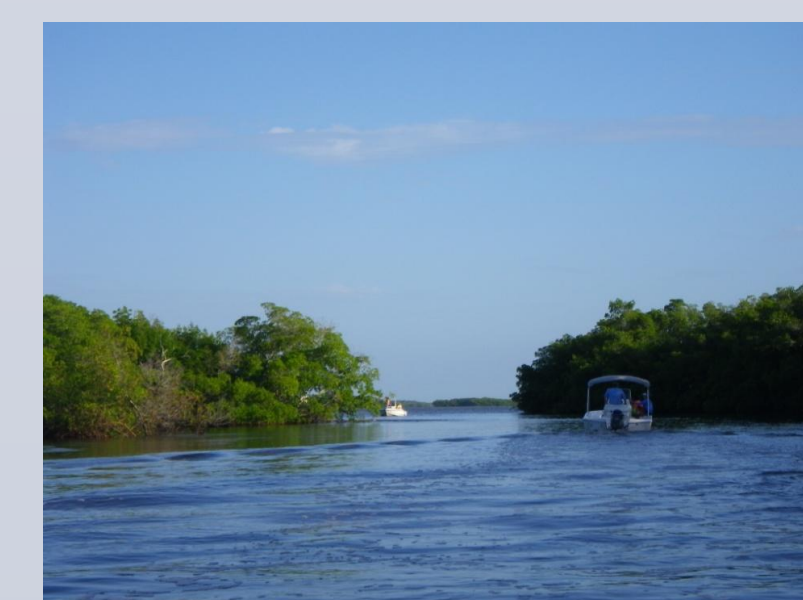
Workshop

In order to facilitate social learning and create the building blocks of adaptive collaborative management, the workshop will have a democratic structure, open communication, diverse participation, multiple sources of knowledge, extended engagement, and unrestrained thinking (Schusler et al. 2003). A neutral and experienced moderator will help to create and maintain an atmosphere conducive to this work.

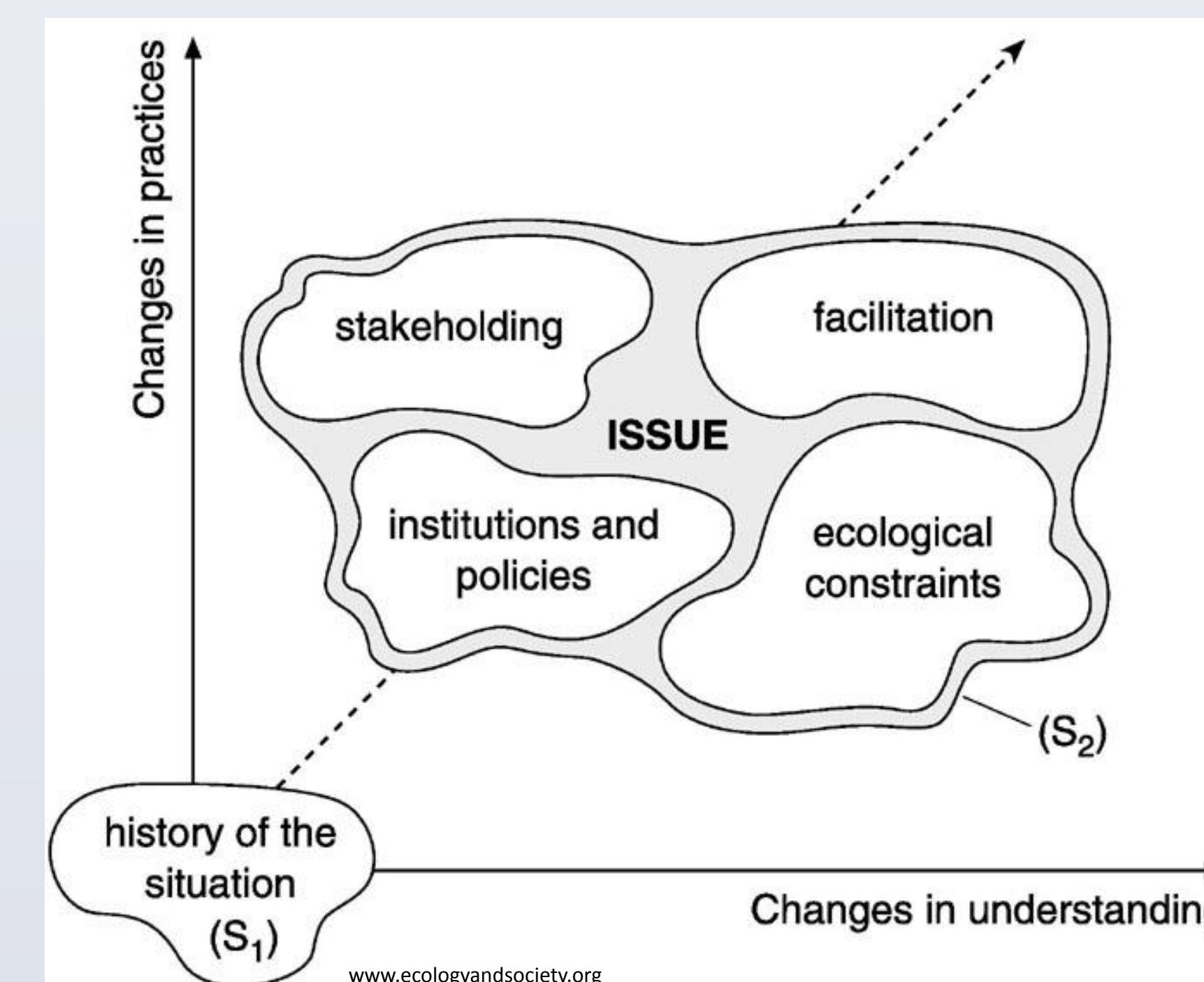
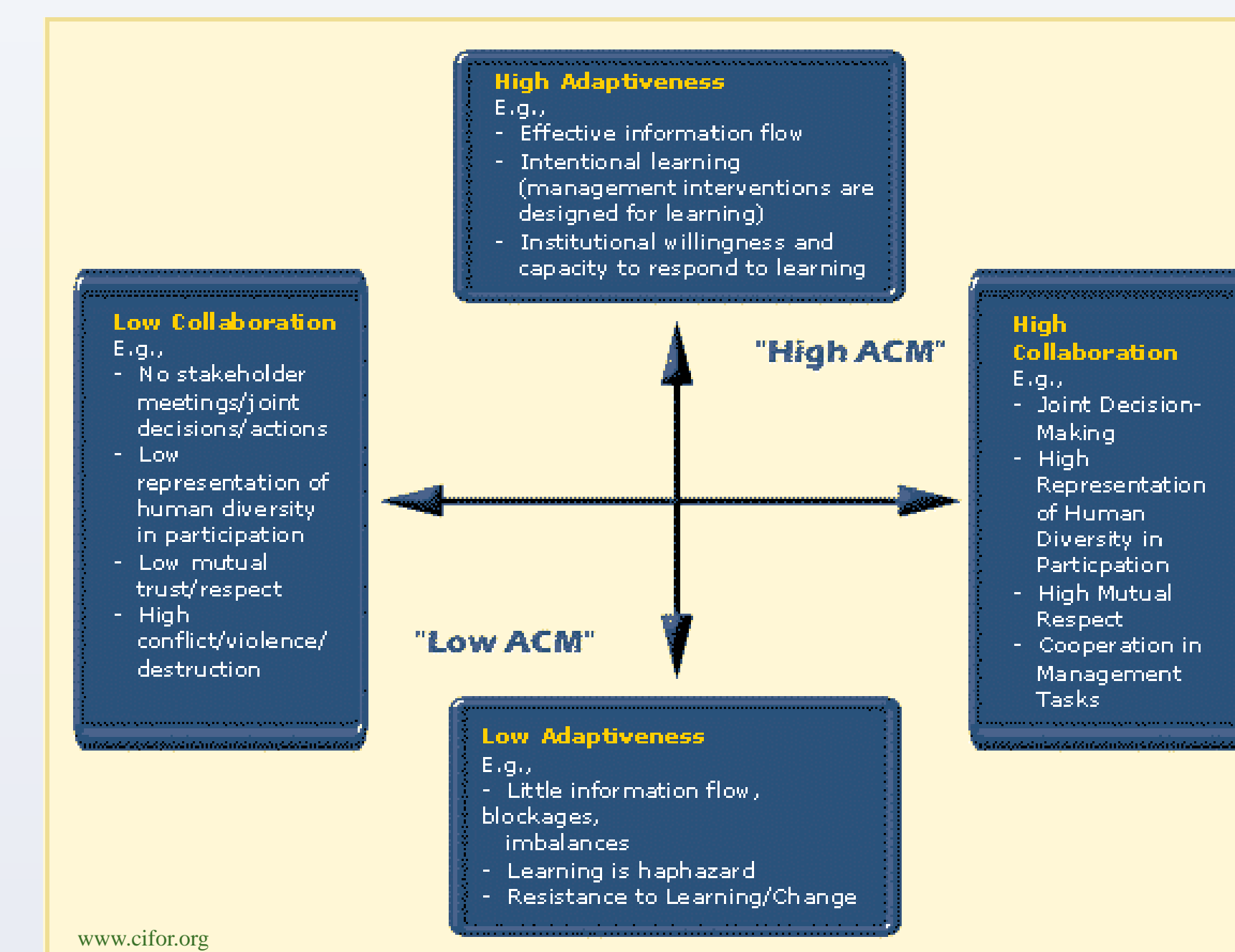


Participants

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission
- South Florida Water Management District
- University of Florida Extension
- Florida Gulf Coast University
- West Coast Inland Navigation District
- Lee County Marine Services
- Ft. Myers Beach Civic Association
- Responsible Growth Management Coalition
- Sea to Shore Alliance
- The Nature Conservancy
- Snook Foundation
- Audubon of Florida
- Florida Sierra Club
- Save the Manatee Club
- Marinas
- Guides



Theoretical Models



Methods

To measure social learning that occurs as a result of attending the workshop we will conduct interviews with members of the 21 invited stakeholder groups prior to the workshop and again one month after the workshop. On the day of the workshop attendees will also be asked to fill out a survey before going home.

Questions for Phone Interview Prior to Workshop

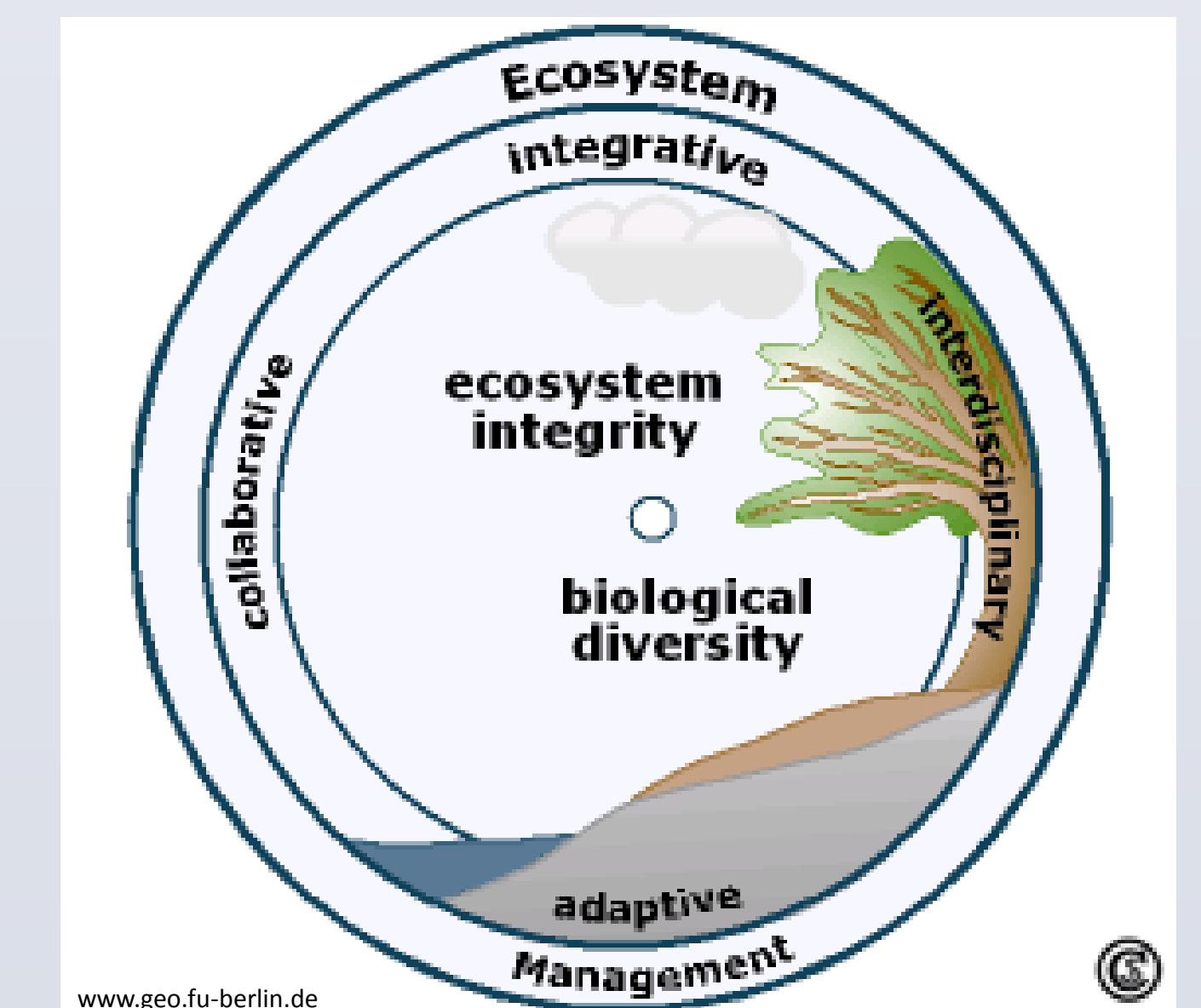
1. How long have you lived/worked in the Estero Bay area?
2. Why are you interested in the submerged aquatic habitat of Estero Bay?
3. Who do you think has similar interests to you and what do you think those interests are?
4. Which groups have different views or interests from you and why?
5. What is hindering or helping you to pursue your interests in Estero Bay?
6. What other organizations do you work with and why? Is trust an issue?
7. Are you satisfied with the current situation or state of submerged aquatic habitats in Estero Bay? Why or why not? Do you think they need to be restored?
8. What are the most important issues facing submerged aquatic habitats in Estero Bay?
9. Are you currently working on any projects related to submerged aquatic habitats in Estero Bay?

Post Workshop

Survey (Day of Workshop)

At the end of the workshop, participants will be given a survey to determine if some of the indicators of adaptive collaborative management and social learning have occurred.

1. Did your knowledge of the social issues surrounding submerged aquatic habitats in the bay increase?
2. How much did you increase your knowledge about the positions of _(see participants list)_ other stakeholders?
3. Did your knowledge of the ecological issues related to submerged aquatic habitat in the bay increase?
a. None b. small amount c. moderate d. a lot
4. How did participating alter your own concerns related to management of submerged aquatic habitat in Estero Bay?
a. Broadened b. focused c. heightened d. no change
5. How many potential projects for collaboration were you able to identify?
6. Do you think this workshop helped you to be more engaged in the management of Estero bay?
7. Do you trust other stakeholders in Estero Bay more now than you did before the workshop? (See stakeholder list following question 3 above.)
a. No b. small amount c. moderate d. a lot



Interview (One month post Workshop)

1. Did you learn about the concerns and interests of other participants? How much? Examples?
2. Did your ideas about which groups have similar or different views from you change as a result of the workshop?
3. How much did participating alter your own concerns related to submerged aquatic habitat management in the area? Examples?
4. Did your interactions at the workshop influence your relationships with other people? Did you meet new people? Were old relationships reconnected? Examples?
5. Did you learn about problems or opportunities that you were not aware of prior to the workshop? Examples?
6. Did participating in the workshop increase your knowledge about submerged aquatic habitats in the bay?
7. Do you intend to remain involved in the actions that were identified at the workshops? Why will or won't you remain involved?
8. Would you recommend a workshop like this to other groups of stakeholders?