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[00:00 - 00:00] Stuart Cottrell: Being completed

[00:01 - 00:49] Speaker 2: The people in it. And there's more than a million people, Estonians, that don't live in Estonia. So she think the country is starting to disappear. So we really want to give her good support so our country doesn't disappear. It does sound like a good idea. And she's also a specialist in nature based tourism with expertise on island community development in Sarima Island in Estonia. She did her PhD here at CSU in the department that Stu teaches, and she's now an adjunct faculty in that same department. But she also got her masters at Virginia, and that's where the two of them met, as I said before. All right. So we're having a few technical difficulties on the slides. So Stu and Yana are going to do their thing without slides and then eventually they will come online. Thank you for coming today. Appreciate it. And you're welcome. Every other Tuesday.

[00:55 - 00:57] Stuart Cottrell: Well, we'll we'll see how this works.

[00:57 - 00:59] Speaker 2: Oh, great.

[01:01 - 02:01] Stuart Cottrell: Well, once again, my name is Stuart Cottrell and my wife Deanna. And we've been together since 2004, came together to Colorado State, and she finished here a couple of years ago now. This particular project, once he is able to bring that up, deals with collaborative conservation and national parks. [unintelligible]. So the title is Challenges for Sustainable Nature Based Tourism based on the National Park. [indistinct chattering]. Okay. And we're John and I, we're just going to kind of go back and forth on this project that's still ongoing. It's nowhere near

[02:02 - 02:02] Speaker 2: To make

[02:03 - 02:29] Stuart Cottrell: History behind that. We thought we'd give you a little bit of an overview of Estonia itself, post-Soviet society and nature, some of the challenges dealing with nature tourism in Estonia as it pertains to one of the oldest nature reserves or national parks under the former Soviet system. So in terms. Of it's really kind of a story about changing landscape. So Yana, maybe if you want to talk about it.

[02:29 - 05:32] Yana: I can do it better because I have the memory of it. So here's a map of Europe as it appeared in 1940. The world was divided into West and east, and actually the term Eastern Europe and Western Europe happened because of that man. Probably some of you recognize it's Joseph Stalin, who was the leader of Soviet Union at the time. And so Europe was divided by invisible and in some places, visible war that was called the Iron Curtain and the meaning of Iron Curtain that nothing passed through. People were not able to cross all that border so that all the border line from that red country was secured from the evil from the West. So then this man came by and he changed. The world has given lectures here in CO two. That man is Gorbachev. And the world started to change actually that the opening of tourism to the freedom what came to Europe and the Iron Curtain fell And instead of Iron Curtain, now we're talking about the green belt. It's the same border, but why green belt? Because of this some restricted, unpassable or and curtain. All that border was protected from people from development. And basically it was protected so the nature could take over. Of course, it wasn't very well protected from everything. Here is the part of the green belt and nowadays we call it European Green Belt. You can look up on that project on Internet. Um, Gorbachev started it, so he his idea is to keep that border, this green belt undeveloped, create nature protected areas if they're not there already. And as a celebration of freedom. And that was his idea. So this green belt idea has turned into a couple of projects and and this material is available online. But this is the green belt as it was during the Soviet time. All those markets, there are some sort of military objects. And that gray area is in the width of 25km. So how many miles is that?

[05:33 - 05:34] Speaker 1: Sixteen.

[05:34 - 06:52] Yana: Sixteen miles. And those of course, you can't read very well. But these marks are here all the [unintelligible] rocket faces and there were so the basically were taken over by military constructions. And these are still visible in the landscape today. And they are becoming objects of conservation because they are part of the cultural landscape. And they turned into very clever touristic objects today. This is the green belt today. So these some light green and dark, light gray and dark grey or black dots, all our protected areas in Estonia and many of them are on that green belt zone. So what it meant for Sarima. These are the landscapes how they used to be. [inaudible].

[06:54 - 06:56] Questionnaire 1: Do you mind talking a little louder?

[06:58 - 10:21] Yana: Okay. The border was controlled so people couldn't go to the sea, to the coastline. And these are Russian military towers was still there on the landscape. But the landscape has changed. It's open now. People are building the summer homes. And actually the landscape is facing huge challenge because the developmental pressure. And that raises issues for tourism and nature, conservation in general for Estonia and especially for the island where we did our study. This is the island of Samar. [inaudible] it means the land of the island, very clever. And this area here is the fields of the national park. The oldest national park, a protected area in the Baltic States. In 1910, this area was dedicated as a bird sanctuary in Tsarist Russia when Estonia was still on the Tsarist Russian. So the developmental pressure is the same as everywhere in the world. We want to be connected. We want more people to come. And this is the plan to build a bridge to the island. What is right now listed as one of the most environmentally harmful plants in Europe. And European Nature Conservancy agency is very much against it. And why? Because this island, as it once was, created a bird sanctuary. It still is one of the most important bird sanctuaries in Europe because it's on a migration route. So all the birds in Europe are migrating through this island, going up to the north and then going to the south. So this is the plan for the bridge. There are some other challenges with this island and tourism there. Since it has this really well preserved nature because there wasn't any kind of development happening during 50 years, basically. So there is an interest from tourists to come and and experience this really nice pristine nature. But because it's very seasonal, we have really cold winter there right now. It's -36 Celsius so it's really cold. Tourism doesn't happen very much in the winter time. So people trying to make money during summer as much as possible. And there is a pressure to create mass tourism events and-

[10:21 - 10:22] Questionnaire 2: The multiple layers of-

[10:22 - 12:05] Yana: Most morning during the summer months. Plus island , destinationshe lure of the island. People would like to have sanctuary on the island. So there are so many foreign homeowners, a second homeowners who bought coastline for the second homes, and they've created the little pockets of Germany and Denmark and Finland and closed actually the coastline lot from local people in some parts to access the sea. But the sea has very negative, has very negative influence for the cultural memory for the people because sea was accessible, everyone's right to go to the sea. Plus on that, it's only 15 miles from the village on the national park. There was a pressure to build a deep port for the sake of tourism so the cruise ships can come in. But because there wasn't really much demand for that destination, because how the cruise ships usually go, there is a big city every morning to go. But I think when you arrive somewhere, there's just forest. How many tourists would like to embark on the boat? So there isn't really much use for the port. They want to build it as a cargo port and cover it with the pavement. And that's another issue.

[12:10 - 13:22] Stuart Cottrell: Just so that the bridge that Diana showed before that bridge is not built yet. So the way you get to the island is by ferry. And there's 2 or 3 ferries that are constantly running even this time of year. Where that bridge is, is probably is it cold enough for the ice road , nowo people are actually going across that strait between mainland Estonia and the island by car on the ice road, which has some charm to it as as well as this sense of risk. But that cruise port that Diana just mentioned, which is fairly close to the national park, they were estimating something like 14 to 15 of these cruise ships that would come there. And I think last summer of maybe three cruise ships and they were making all these claims about how people on the cruise ships, a couple of hundred to thousand to 1500 would spend so much money in the locality, but they don't have enough time to spend money because it's usually a half day endeavor. So they're driven around by buses on the island and jump out for 15, 20 minutes and back in the bus and off they go. So everything is self contained. So the cruise ship is never really successfully brought economic benefit to locals. Yeah.

[13:22 - 13:25] Questionnaire 3: So these deep water market like

[13:25 - 15:52] Stuart Cottrell: It's already been built and really what it is is one pier out into one of the bays. So if you think of a harbor, it's not large, like it's really one pier that it could accommodate one particular vessel that's maybe 4 or 500ft long. That's it. And it literally is in the forest because you're surrounded by forest and there's some villages every 10 to 15km from each other, but they're very small. You're talking about maybe 100 people that live in the closest village. So so our particular project, if you did it one more time, is really to look at the role of nature based tourism as a catalyst for bringing different stakeholders together, for managing this well over 100 year old National Park

called Villa Someday. The purpose of the project was really, as I just said, is to enhance this capacity to manage conservation collaboratively, enhance sustainable livelihoods among tour operators and via tourism to the park and to enhance the visitor experience. Sounds very academic and very lofty, and we'll talk about the challenges with that. The partners in this, of course, is us, CSU and I took one undergraduate student on a CCC fellowship in Verna, who helped us on site, spent three months there. The Estonian State Forest Service that manages visitors close to the park. Yana and her faculty and students had could have decided a college there on Sama. The Estonian Ministry of Environment and Tourism stakeholders of the different collaborators in our project. Villa [inaudible] National Park. It's the oldest nature protected area in the Baltics, as Yana mentioned, since 1910, 150 islands and islands. So it's an archipelago destination. It's about 58,000 acres with 80% of that being marine coastal area. There's 150 bird species that are listed, and it's one of the most important gray sealss nurseries in Europe. It's a Ramsar site, a Natura 2000 designated protected area. It's part of the Euro parks, which is a federation of parks in Europe, and it's also part of the Man and Biosphere Reserve. And there's 200 endangered plant species and over 500 species of mine. So its ecological, biological significance is really important.

[15:53 - 16:29] Yana: And just to mention, there is that stellar eider this is that particular bird what's nesting there? And this bird is ULCN endangered species is very much threatened by the steep port. If there would be an oil leak, this bird will die in thousands up to distinction. So there's huge environmental pressure from environmentalists all over Europe not to develop anything around that port either.

[16:30 - 18:11] Stuart Cottrell: And in some ways, it's kind of a political ploy because the building of the port was approved because of its focus on tourism with cruise ships. But really, since it hasn't worked for cruise ships with many people, actually said that it wouldn't. But this selling government went ahead anyhow because it's the only ice free port on that part of Estonia which faces the North Sea during the wintertime when all the big waves come in. Now they're expanding that particular port to turn it into a cargo port. And that's the issue, it's going to grow in 5 to 10 times the scale and the environmental repercussions are is the big concern. So here's the national park. Like we said, it's an archipelago. Here's Villa Sandy Island itself, which a lot of private homeowners. After the Soviet fall of the Soviet empire through rights of restitution, they received their land back so they have summer homes on the island. You can only get to that home by the island. But you see that a majority of the land is water with about 20,000 hectares or acres that are landmass. [crosstalk] Oh, we're not. So the park has outstanding quality nature, has a variety of opportunities for nature based tourism, has high visitor satisfaction and the number of visitors that have been surveyed there has a lot of visitors now and that will only increase more visitors means there's a need for visitor management and more

experience zones. And that's part of what our project is sort of talking about on these 5 or 6 different organizations that are responsible for management.

[18:16 - 19:04] Yana: This this picture is taken on the Wilson the island and the people on the picture Stuart's in the center are facing there towards Sweden, across the Baltic Sea. This is the most western, the westernmost point of former Soviet Union or actually right now than Estonia. And those buildings there on the background, this wooden building, this is the oldest building on the island. It's the old boat house where the boats were going out to the sea. And there's a lighthouse that was built in 1930 and there is a Russian military tower. So there are layers on the landscape from different powers and-

[19:04 - 20:11] Stuart Cottrell: Those are students from the summer university. I think the first summer and part of that course is to talk about tourist experience and what the land can tell you in the development of the interaction between nature and the land and cultural aspects of just the multiple layers of these three different buildings symbolically represent. So here are some challenges for the park. It has very decentralized management structure, a disjointed conservation plan, and relatively no conservation plan. Although historically a Soviet designated person who I want to get his name, you may see a picture of him. This is a very good conservation biologist who's always taking care of the park from the conservation and biological diversity aspects. Nor is there a visitor management. Local stakeholders are not actively involved in the process that the Ministry of Environment has taken over and been designated to my answer to.

[20:12 - 20:50] Yana: So currently there is some going on the development of the New Nature Protection plan, including visitor management and as required by the Ministry of Environment, all different stakeholders has to take part of it. So local communities must be involved in nature protection plans for national parks, but it doesn't happen very smoothly. So that was one of our goals, to go there and as a neutral body somehow to

[20:52 - 20:52] Stuart Cottrell: Maneuver

[20:53 - 20:55] Yana: Maneuver and help them to sit together.

[20:59 - 21:35] Stuart Cottrell: Further challenges. In 2009, there was a complete restructuring of the national Park system. So there's a change. So every year, every two, every two years, it seems like there's some major change and shift with the new plan that Yana just mentioned. Uh, management split between a newly created environmental law who's responsible for nature protection. Meanwhile,

the State Forest Service Management Center oversees management and visitor services. And these are actually located in two different locations, not in the same office.

[21:35 - 21:55] Yana: And the state Forest Management Service actually is on a totally different island. So there's no park management, no park administration. It's managed by different entities all over Estonia, so it's very fragmented.

[22:00 - 22:45] Stuart Cottrell: In terms of specific visitor recreational services. There's a woman with her company called Heritage Tours, and that's the person who housed our intern last summer. Who's responsible for information services and leading tours and basically taking care of an old ancient man or called one man that's within the park [inaudible]. So as we said before, different entities are involved with management and the numerous tourism operators there, they're not sure who to communicate with because there are so many that are operating legally, illegally, doing their own thing within the boundaries of the park. And there's no specific guidelines.

[22:45 - 23:03] Yana: And this is not only Estonian tour operators, also international. They come in with their own tour guides. They put together their own packages and they don't have to negotiate or have any sort of communication with the park management.

[23:06 - 23:56] Stuart Cottrell: Okay. So before we actually submitted, what's the CCC fellowship proposal in January of last year, Yana knows the manager who's responsible for [inaudible] National Park. [inaudible] and she gave an approval that this is interesting and there were already plans to create this stakeholder group. So then we submitted, Yana contacted her to get information that we could put in our proposal. We didn't hear from her in time, but the proposal still was approved. Thank goodness. And we got it. But we didn't hear if it was approved until, well, March, about March. And so then we did receive an email in February that if you want to highlight what some of those.

[23:57 - 24:23] Yana: Yeah, and the lady was really welcoming our project and very hopeful towards the process and, and then it was a big silence again and the silence was up to the point when we got there in the summer and we found out that she had a huge stroke and basically she's still not back to work. We don't know. It's it was really bad.

[24:23 - 24:24] Stuart Cottrell: So our primary contact.

[24:24 - 24:51] Yana: But, Stuart received this email in April and this email, this copy paste from the actual email from the local newspaper reporter who wanted to know about this project, what she

prefers here, that she heard about it and wants to know more about it, and then Stuart want to reply to her.

[24:51 - 25:43] Stuart Cottrell: Yeah, I received the email. We just heard that we got the grant maybe a week and a half before. We had not even one found out who the replacement was for colleague with the Ministry of Environment. So we just begun to develop the email link that this project's been funded and set up. And somehow this reporter found out that this that I was coming and they wanted to know and do a story on it. So I wrote and I said, please, please, we haven't even set up our networking and no one even locally knows exactly what it is. Our intention is what we plan to do and what we would like to do. However, the very next day, so I sent that email, I said, please wait, I'm coming in July and my wife will be there in June to start setting things up so please wait. No, no articles in the paper.

[25:44 - 26:10] Yana: So so as you can see, two days went by and this is actual article from the local newspaper. She ignored Stuart's request and she wrote an article but is very here is the translation you can read it and tell me how you feel about it.

[26:12 - 26:29] Stuart Cottrell: Colorado University's assigned me the Professor of natural esources. To come to our island and manage our stakeholder group because we don't know what the fuck's going on with what we're doing. He's going to come there and make everything good. The aim is to jointly develop a plan for visitor management and the United States and Colorado State.

[26:29 - 26:55] Yana: So there's some sort of secret plan and it will be revealed to possible partners and stakeholders. This article, of course, I read it online and I was shocked. And immediately there were if we could link to Internet, you can see there were responses from the general public that it's like imperialist US is coming [inaudible]. And

[26:56 - 27:00] Stuart Cottrell: I'm a nice guy, right? Give me a break.

[27:00 - 27:19] Yana: But that set the tone. We were not approached we're not approached by people from National Park, by nobody. But when we got there, there was an extremely negative vibe that we are coming to tell them what they have to do.

[27:21 - 27:54] Stuart Cottrell: In an already fragmented, disjointed system. So just as a tip, you have to be careful on one of the lessons learned is how they found out sort of some of the details is the reporter did a search and the there was already analysis at CSU that little description of the project lists with all all the ccc fellows. And then you see how printed media can get turned and completely

twisted upside down. It's probably that she didn't mean any harm, it's just more of. But you never know.

[27:54 - 28:04] Yana: But that's also her very limited English how she translated it. She made some complete her use of language and terms and.

[28:05 - 29:02] Stuart Cottrell: As a whole goal of our project. Hey, we're here to help. What can we help to do? And what needs do you have to facilitate further collaboration? We can bring students, we can make linkages. Here's what we can do. And that's what we were hoping for in the beginning. So the basic process it was originally outlined is that Matt are in summer intern went over first and we set him up with Elena Manor within the park with that one tourism entrepreneur who's got got a contract for information services for five months. Yana came 3 or 4 weeks later and hosted a first meeting with the stakeholders that she'll talk about. And then we had a meeting again in August and we did a visitor survey for English speaking visitors. And meanwhile in parallel was another funded study that Yana has been doing second homeowner stuff. So we'll share a little bit of that with you meanwhile keeping an eye on it.

[29:03 - 30:24] Yana: So 4th of July, I was able to arrange the first meeting with the potential stakeholders in that process. And there were I heard about that negative vibe from that article that that was really interesting meeting because that lady who had the stroke and was withdrawn from her duties, there was a new man taking over her duties, but he had worked in the system already many years. Through that meeting, what kind of we put up there, those people met physically, first time. So that tells you something about the collaboration. About park management. And then we found out that there is that need from and a request from the Minister of Environment that the stakeholder groups have to be part of that nature protection management plan. And then we also found during that meeting that State Forest Service did a study visit to study the year before.

[30:25 - 30:26] Stuart Cottrell: No one knew about it.

[30:26 - 32:30] Yana: And no one knew about it. So the Nature protection people didn't know about it. It happened on the backyard. And then the lady who did the survey said, you know, there are really concerns from the visitors that there is a need for different services. And and then the man who is responsible for the nature protection said, but there's so few of those nature based tourists, they they don't contribute anything. They're just few numbers. And then she said, so your guests how many? we counted. Because they also did the visitor flow in one spot only in the national park. This is the crooked lighthouse, the Pisa Tower of Estonia. So the waves and the storms are shifting the peninsula. Literally they are shifting the land. This is sand storms. In one month, they can shift

the whole peninsula to another location, the winter storms. And this this left the picture the count was somewhere there. How many people took the hiking route towards that lighthouse? It's approximately. Yeah. So it's two two miles to hike in. And she asked, what do you think? How many? And those people from the island nature protection people said, maybe 2000. 15,000. So then they start to think, oh, maybe there is a need for some sort of visitor survey really, and how people should know and maybe there is really that local people can do about something can provide some services and can seek some benefits. So that first meeting was really like an eye opening for them, and surprisingly to me really.

[32:37 - 33:13] Stuart Cottrell: So then we were there and based on that meeting. And I was not there, but Matt was with Yana that they asked us to do census survey in 2010 focused on stony and visitors. There was no information about foreigners, the foreigners. So in essence, that's what Map was to do is part of his internship is not only learn about guest services there because that is like a small guest house there with the rest home visitor services. And he interacted with English speaking visitors and did a survey and that's that's how we were. We can offer that. That's something we can do.

[33:14 - 33:35] Yana: The people were the Forest Service was interested, if the results from the foreign tourists would collide with the Estonians, if there's some same problems and and what they emphasized.

[33:38 - 33:51] Stuart Cottrell: So this this the manner we just showed you is over here. And that's what's under contract with a woman who's not from that parish. That's small municipality. And she's now going into a fourth year of the contract.

[33:52 - 33:53] Yana: It's a private entrepreneur.

[33:53 - 34:24] Stuart Cottrell: It's a private entrepreneur. Okay. So this other building is just maybe 100 yards from the lone manor. This is the state forest building and where the visitor center is. These people don't like the woman in her family that runs the other business. They won't communicate with each other. There's no signs in English. What they're doing is, despite what she's doing and vice versa. So and this is where we had our second meeting in August. I don't know if you want to-

[34:26 - 35:05] Yana: And really funny up to that point that during that 4th of July meeting where the need for stakeholder involvement was expressed by all those people for service people and and environmental bore people and and they know that ladies is responsible for the visitor services. And

she has a restaurant there. And I said we have money we'll pay for the rent of the rooms for the meeting and it was a coffee break from the lady. And when we arrived there in August for that meeting. Then those people arranged their own coffee break.

[35:06 - 35:19] Stuart Cottrell: And they paid for it themselves. We had money from our grant to support that, so we held our meeting here. It was a coffee break, but we'd already paid for a coffee break up and [inaudible]. So we had two coffee breaks. Nice for everyone. Yes?

[35:19 - 35:23] Questionnaire 4: Is there a reason why the two don't get along? Or is it just?

[35:24 - 35:26] Stuart Cottrell: Yeah. Um. It's a long story.

[35:26 - 36:01] Yana: It is a very long story. It goes back to, again, some sort of, um, Soviet style leadership because the former former park manager, when there was still park management on the place, used park resources for his own private business. And so all those services were leased out to that private entrepreneur and he he sees there this kind of private issue.

[36:01 - 36:13] Stuart Cottrell: And so he's still there and he's managing this because he's a state government employee. And they just refused to, even though she's doing a very good job. It's just trying to get them to collaborate.

[36:14 - 36:35] Yana: And that was also one of those issues for our students not from here. First of all, he doesn't speak Estonian. He doesn't understand what's going on between there. You know, he can just sense that something is wrong and that influenced his ability to do really all what he wanted to do because. Yeah.

[36:37 - 36:42] Stuart Cottrell: So then we had the August 11th meeting and this is the gentleman we're talking about right here.

[36:43 - 37:28] Yana: And on the left is the environmental board person. So State Forest Service showed the results of the survey from 2010. And then followed by our results. And then we had discussion and to our great surprise, what we didn't expect there, we were expecting more to see local entrepreneurs to find out what kind of services they can offer. But the most vocal group there who showed true interest was second homeowners of the area. Foreigners, Swedish ladies.

[37:32 - 37:39] Stuart Cottrell: I don't think we need to talk too much. Let's get on to that more interesting. This is just the sum of man's research.

[37:40 - 37:41] Yana: So what we did there.

[37:42 - 39:13] Stuart Cottrell: Yeah. So go ahead. Basically, people were highly satisfied and and the predominantly the foreign tourists, just like the locals, nature is primary with birdwatching. So everything around nature based tourism. There's minimal to no facilities there. The biggest complaint is, is come on, have some signs or a folder that's in English. So if that's done, that would be a major benefit to the visitor clientele. That's. Just some highlights of that. Comments from the Estonian Forest Service manager Arvo, who showed you as he was interested in our presentation because there's another shift in management planning where they have to make [inaudible] a national park bring benefits to locals. That's part of why we're doing this collaborative. We think that's important. But now they're being forced to, so they sort of have to. At our meeting, there were no community tourism operator representatives. We had so much in the agenda that we didn't have much time to present because the others were presenting. But we use our session as a way to bring the collaborators together so that was important. We won't talk about that at the moment. But the key aspect was during that meeting is the woman who came up from that local woman, the second home housing group that's right on the edge of the park. Showed the most concern for stewardship and then Yana maybe you can add to it.

[39:14 - 41:58] Yana: Yeah. And parallel to this, this project, I did a second home study that summer on the island. And to my again, great surprise that usually people think, okay, the second home is just there, you know, have vacation, don't really care about much what's happening in the community so that but really the pristine nature was considered the most important thing why they want to have the second home in the area. And again I have to emphasize that in Estonia you can have your home, second home or primary home inside of National Park. People live in the borders within the borders of national parks. But the development is very, very controlled. It must be very controlled development. Um. Second home owners really expressed the interest to participate in nature conservation initiatives, local ones. And the main concern about the what is happening or might happen in the area was about inappropriate management of natural resources or any kind of development. But at the moment not many are participating. So that we try to find out what what where is the reason for that? And they said that they feel that the local municipalities are really not interested in them. It's almost like they ignoring them, trying to avoid them. And again, why it's that because these people are wealthy, they have political power and money, power to change things in in these rural areas. So people really expressed concern about the collaboration, lack of information and even the interest in them. But they could offer. And that's why the group who was there, they they told what they do already in National Park. They clean trails. They put up some signage. They they offer fresh water just to visitors to the park.

[41:59 - 42:14] Stuart Cottrell: They invite them in for coffee. I mean, it's it was a real eye opener to everyone that it's second homeowners from other countries that were probably getting the most value added contribution to visitor experience that no one knows about.

[42:15 - 43:41] Yana: And why they're so important group because in those areas, and especially in the nature reserve areas or the vicinity, they are more than there are like 60% second homeowners at 40% locals or even more in some places, 80 to 20. So one of those concerns from from the second homeowners that they don't want any kind of inappropriate development. And this kind of these pictures from this kind of development, what's happening for some reasons vicinity or just on a border and sometimes even inside the park, when these pristine nature places are divided into those slots, there are mailboxes. So these are prefabricated homes, totally alien architecture, alien materials to locals don't fit the landscape. And when I received the surveys back from the second homeowners, they said, we don't want to have this kind of development. And they used really harsh words when they described it. I will not repeat it. It's not very polite.

[43:41 - 43:41] Stuart Cottrell: And [inaudible]

[43:46 - 44:18] Yana: So this is this is the signage to this lighthouse. So these mailboxes are right there, you know, and those houses are just right there. So you can't even pass through without seeing them. And then they sent me pictures. This is how it should look like. This is my home. Look my home. It's nothing like that one. We don't want it. To whom these are built for, we are also. We came here as tourists. We don't want this.

[44:20 - 46:37] Stuart Cottrell: Okay, so here's. And then we'll have it because I think we only have about ten minutes. Here's what we hope for at the beginning of the project. But the project's not over. It's just the starting point will go on and on and on, definitely until I'm under the ground and hopefully it's still going. We hope to have a set of principles for sustainable tourism and nature conservation of the part we use. We haven't even come close to working on it because it's too big. We wanted to set priorities with regard to funding decisions and implementation, meaning any plans? That's a that's a misnomer. We're far from that. We just got to get people to sit at the table and teach it. We wanted the provision of these guidelines for tourism stakeholders on how they could use the park but use it with under the sustainable guideline principles. That's down the road. Not one year, but probably ten, 15 years next month. And we want to see that for locals to see that there is potential to have a tourism business and how can they expand the nature based tourism to try to show the municipalities that large scale resort tourism is not what that island's all about because it's very nature oriented. That's why people are coming. Plus, the story we don't really have time for is how to connect that park up with this international certification platforms and parks and the protected

area in that. So I think maybe what's the next slide there? So we'll go back to the previous one. We have roughly ten minutes left. So I guess for the audience my question is going into this as a researcher, as past experience and what little I know about collaborative conservation. So I never would have dreamed of the important role of what second home owners could have. In essence, it's been more of a negative association because people coming in allowed to buy property, to have their home in a buffer zone, maybe inside the park. But what is the audience think in terms of that that message, that sort of eye opener, the role of second homes? Yes.

[46:38 - 46:42] Questionnaire 5: That basically care about the conservation just as much as [inaudible].

[46:44 - 46:48] Stuart Cottrell: They seem to care about the cultivation and the nature. Is that a self interest care? You think? Yeah Mason.

[46:54 - 47:02] Mason: They think that they're all financially stable. And they're not really worried about the economic impact of, you know, not allowing any more business growth or helping [inaudible].

[47:03 - 47:05] Stuart Cottrell: Okay. So you think it is some selfish. Yes.

[47:05 - 47:13] Questionnaire 6: Well, I just wonder how much influence, how much [inaudible] or, you know, they get towards the decisions made on the [inaudible]

[47:17 - 47:20] Yana: At the moment? No.

[47:21 - 47:21] Stuart Cottrell: No. Nothing.

[47:22 - 47:22] Yana: Nothing.

[47:22 - 47:25] Questionnaire 6: It's just determined by the environment.

[47:26 - 47:36] Yana: And as a second homeowner, if they if that's not the primary residency, they don't have anything to say what's happened in the local community.

[47:37 - 47:53] Questionnaire 7: It sort of sounds like the second homeowners are doing a whole similar to how Colorado and are where I mean I don't really want other people to come in now. It's pretty. I keep it this way so it is self beneficial.

[47:54 - 48:21] Stuart Cottrell: Yeah. So so that's the issue. Here's the self interest. You go and you build your, you have your own little paradise. And that's happened all throughout for second homes through Colorado. So Mandy, thanks for so there is a linkage. But on the other side of the coin, then you've got in our particular case, they're second homeowners. They're the ones that are doing the work for conservation benefit for the park. Is that a negative or is that a pro and how do you work with it?

[48:25 - 48:27] Questionnaire 8: Yeah. I have a question for you.

[48:27 - 48:27] Stuart Cottrell: Yeah.

[48:27 - 48:48] Questionnaire 8: Do you feel like the work that you did last summer opened up dialogue between the second homeowners and the people there? And like you said, a foundation for the future. And where do you see it going from the interview? All of that, but the conversation between the second homeowners and the politics.

[48:48 - 49:41] Stuart Cottrell: Well, just the two meetings we had got the 4 or 5 different entities sitting at the same table. So in that regard. Yes. And the second with the second homeowners and through Jana's work, which was just presented three weeks ago, the local municipalities are starting to realize that they need to know who the second homeowners are and what kind of benefits through taxation can that bring to the island, because they really should, because a lot of people won't register the second home because they don't want to pay local taxes. But then Bill, then the other is, is we plan to go back and do second home or homeowner surveys within second homeowners close to that part to find out more to tease that out as well as the stakeholder, the the tour operators, which we haven't gotten to. And I don't know if that answers your question. Arin, you had a question?

[49:42 - 50:24] Arin: Yeah, I think we [inaudible]. Maybe you talked about this earlier. [inaudible] possibly not in [inaudible] something that makes them not want to care or not want to participate?

[50:24 - 51:50] Stuart Cottrell: Yeah. Let me see if I can answer that first. In terms of our study and our collaboration. We know which we think that we kind of mended some fences after that initial email dialogue that came out. In some ways, some of the things that we were doing because they're in the high tourist season. So they're busy. The locals, they're they're too busy so the summer season's not really a great season. We have this collaborative stuff. Secondly, from, you've got people who've lived there their whole lives under Soviet regime where they illegal go to the beach. You were shot if you did. Yana's situation with a family and now suddenly every year policy and related to nature conservation is changing. So they don't know what to believe. So here's outside

influence from the Stones themselves. So there's a lot of this mistrust and changing dialogues. But to answer that, I don't know. And that's what we'd like to tease out. But we think that the second homeowners have a powerful voice, whether we like that or not, because they've got the money, they've got the state interest. When you're talking about the benefit or conservation, where are your strengths? The movers and shakers and you've got to try to get the other movers and shakers on board. Otherwise, it's a difficult one. So that's where we're sort of sitting here. I don't know if you want to add to it.

[51:52 - 53:19] Yana: Yeah, maybe I can add a bit because the traditional livelihood was agriculture and that kind of disappeared when Russian markets dropped off. So and with all those different rules and regulations in European Union, where old Europeans United States like France and Italy and their farmers are supported, and those farmers from the new states of European Union are not supported. So you can't really compete with your production. So the traditional livelihood is disappearing. What is there for them is this pristine nature what they can sell to parcels and that's what they're doing. They sell forest timbering companies. They sell coastline to build up those kind of houses there. They want to survive. And they see that, oh, what kind of nature? Protection. You know, I have to survive. They don't see what's happening next. And there is already eye opening there. They've seen some and was at the port because there was a huge promise. Cruise ships come in. There will be jobs for more than 300 people. One person got the job, one.

[53:20 - 53:23] Stuart Cottrell: After three years in tourism [inaudible].

[53:23 - 54:11] Yana: And so locals always are opening to now and they are there against that enlargement of the port together with second homeowners. This is a really good example there what's happening. And talk about the evil cruise ships. Last summer, six ships came in. Actually, only two came to the pier and the others were just out there. And and they dumped on the island four tons of waste. Now, it was just solid waste. And from that, half a ton was, like, extremely dangerous. And where it goes from the island?

[54:15 - 54:33] Stuart Cottrell: I think we have time for one more question. Well, this is a work in progress. We thank you for your attentiveness. We thought we would just kind of tell you our story. Challenges of collaborative conservation. And there's many of them as well. We think it's an interesting case.

[54:34 - 54:35] Speaker 3: Let's give them a hand. [applause]

[54:42 - 54:47] Speaker 4: For my class the write up on this is due on Thursday. Where do we meet on Thursday?

END TRANSCRIPTION