

## CROSS CULTURAL COMMUNICATION: COMMUNITIES & CONSERVATION

### PART 1. AWARENESS

#### MODULE 3 EXERCISE. Unfamiliar Cultural Lenses

**LEARNING GOAL:** To enhance awareness of unfamiliar perspectives, often associated with tension that defines the cultural boundaries between social groups. By using a resiliency technique, conservation professionals can learn to better understand the beliefs of others. Speaking from the perspective of another can improve cross-cultural communication.

**STEP 1.** After viewing the presentation for this module, think about a personal experience related to conservation, when you felt "this person just does not understand".

**STEP 2.** Practice applying the three steps of resiliency training to the experience you identified above.

- **Feelings:** identify how you felt at the time you experienced a gap in communication
- **Beliefs:** identify the beliefs of the person you were talking with, which may explain why you did not understand each other
- **Event:** identify the specific circumstances that happened immediately prior to the point where you felt a communication gap; what happened, what did the other person say, what did you say?

**STEP 3.** Discuss each of the following questions:

1. Describe a personal experience when you felt "this person just does not understand what I am saying about conservation". What were your feelings?
2. With hindsight, what can you learn from the experience you described above, in terms of the differences in beliefs between you and the other person?
3. In resiliency training, why do coaches recommend using feelings to help identify differences in underlying beliefs, as clues to why two people have different perspectives on the same event?