My Name

Video Review

Due:

Video title: Crash - A Tale of Two Species (Full Documentary)

1. What is the central environmental conflict in this video? What is the setting (time and place) of the issue?

**The issue** – the documentary talks about the interconnectedness of the horse shoe crab and the red knot birds in the context of conservation, ecology and the delicate balance of nature they experience. Human interaction with both species is also documented. The population of red knot birds is also dependent on the horseshoe crab population. The reduction in the population of red knots has been attributed to the decline of horseshoe crab eggs in the Bay during the red knot migration.

**The place** – The horse shoe crabs are common in the Atlantic coast of the United States. The red know birds are also found in the eastern side of the United States, both species move along the Atlantic coast and is the place the documentary is based on.

**The time** – The setting of the documentary is during both spring and fall. During the spring the red knots migrate north for breeding. In the fall they migrate southwards to Delaware Bay.

2. Name and describe the interest of stakeholder groups (these are groups of people representing all interests in the issue: those who themselves may be harmed or may benefit, or groups who represent other living things).

**Fishermen and Harvesters** – Fisherman rely on horseshoe crabs as baits when fishing. Harvesting activities therefore have an interest in sustainable population of the horseshoe crab. The horseshoe crab is critical to fishing in the area as they make good bait.

**Pharmaceutical and Medical Companies** – horseshoe crab’s blood is crucial in developing and testing various antibiotics, vaccines and devices. The blue horseshoe crab’s blood is therefore crucial to medical research and development. It’s special property to identify bacteria and resist it is applied to pharmaceutical research and is even recommended by FDA when approving any drug for use in the market.

**Tourism and local communities** – the migration of both species is a point of interest and can be used as a tourist attraction. This promotes ecotourism which eventually benefits the local community. The tourism revenue generated can be used for local community projects.

3. What actions were taken or proposed to resolve the issue, and what were the actual or expected consequences of those actions? How effective was (or would be) each action in dealing with the central conflict?

**Horseshoe crab harvesting regulation programs** – there needs to be a regulation on the harvesting of the horseshoe crab by fishermen and other stakeholders to ensure they do not go extinct. Enforcing a restriction on number of crabs and timing of harvesting will help conserve the species. There is a two year moratorium on harvesting horseshoe crab in the Delaware Bay to enable the population to recover.

**Conservation of critical habitats program** – such a program is aimed at preserving the natural habitat of both the horseshoe crab and red knots. Since the areas are mutual, habitats where the horseshoe crab spawns are where red knots have their stopover during their migration.

**Develop pharmaceutical alternatives** – There needs to be a reduction in the dependency of bacterial endotoxin testing. Alternative methods will ensure the population of horseshoe crab keeps growing.

4. What other approaches or solutions do you think might have been more effective or still might be done to improve the situation? Do you think this situation can be resolved?

**Restoration of habitat** – restoring and protecting critical habitat from damage is essential in ensure continuous survival of both species. The spawning habitats which are also red knots stopover point during migration can be protected by reestablishing native vegetation as well as removing invasives species.

**Research and innovation** – further research into the behavior of both species can shed light on their needs and potential conservation strategies. The horseshoe crab population can also be stimulated through artificial spawning beds.

**Community engagement** – involving local communities as stakeholders is important in the effort of conserving the natural habitat of the two species. This creates a sense of stewardship in the community making them make more effort in the conservation program. It will also help in reducing the overreliance of horseshoe crab use as bait.

This situation can be resolved if each and every stakeholder is involved in the programs recommended.