



The Opportunity and Challenges of Using Dialogue in Thai Community: Environmental Conflict in Mae Sot, Tak Province, Thailand

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Outline



Is Thailand still the land of smiles?



Where was Conflict took place ?
Who were stakeholders?



Impacts of Cadmium contamination in 2009



Various Solutions



The mining company established fund to purchase contaminated rice and eliminated.

Appointed working group by Tak province

To collect example of soil, water, and rice and test it if it is exceed safety standard score?

To educate local people about the problem and avoid eating contaminated rice

Court of justice



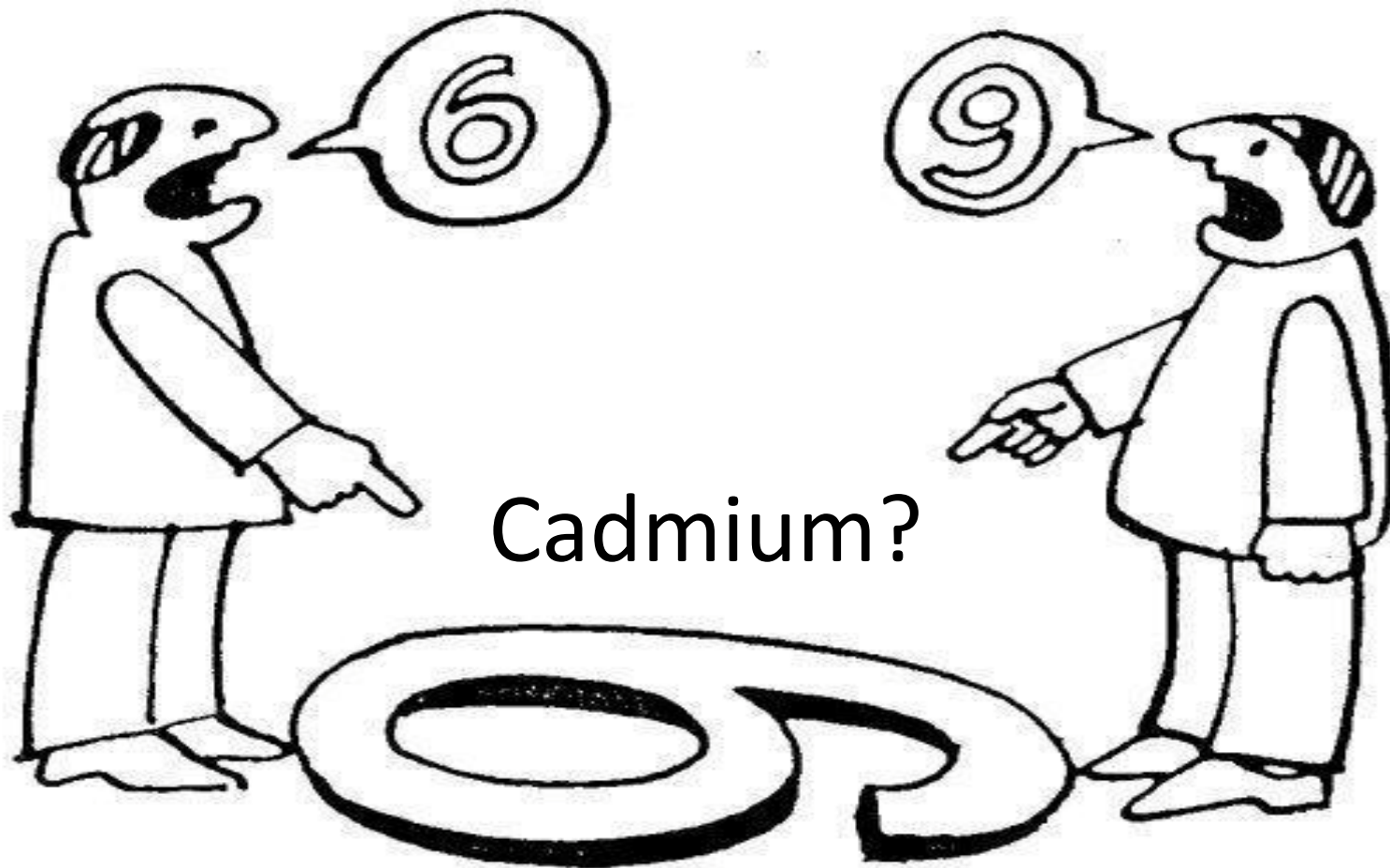
More than 6,000 peoples had impacted on their health; kidney, blood, urine, and so on.



1,000 Rai, or 400 Acres



But...Conflict has been still going on, on, and on...



II. Consensus building process in 10 months



III. Three steps of Lessoned learn

Initiative step

- To obtain the willingness of parties to involve in the consensus building process
- to ensure all parties understanding the objectives and processes
- to build basic trust between research team and stakeholders
- To create good relationships

Before the dialogue

- To analyze stakeholders; direct and indirect
- To educate by training all parties about conflict resolution and consensus building
- To gain more trust among stakeholders
- To conduct separated dialogue
- To find interest of each parties

Consensus building

- Focused on process-based
- Facilitators must understand steps or process well.
- Ground rules must be initiated at the beginning
- Creating balance of power by giving the same time to talk starting from villagers
- Gaining more trust during the consensus building.
- Finding common ground and future

Using “Water”

H₂O= Harmony , (Two) Together, Opportunity

Effective Communication; especially active listening

III. Lessoned learn (cont.)

Initiative step

- To obtain the willingness of parties to get involve in consensus building process
- to ensure all parties to understand the objectives and processes
- to build fundamental trust and relationships between research team and stakeholders

First 3 months



First meeting with Local villagers at their temple

First meeting with Tak Governor and officials



First meeting with Mining company



III. Lessoned learn (Cont.)

Curriculum development



Before the dialogue

- To analyze stakeholders both direct and indirect
- To educate by training all parties about conflict resolution and consensus building
- To gain more trust among stakeholders
- To conduct separated dialogue
- To find interest of each party

During month 4-6

Training each parties



III. Lessoned learn

Consensus building

- Must focused on process-based
- Facilitators must understand steps or process well.
- Ground rules must be initiated at the beginning
- Creating balance of power by giving parties to talk in equal time starting from villagers
- Try to gain more trust during the consensus building.
- Finding common ground and future steps



Round table



III. Lessoned learn (Cont.)

Agreement signed by local villagers, mining company, and Tak province



Consensus building



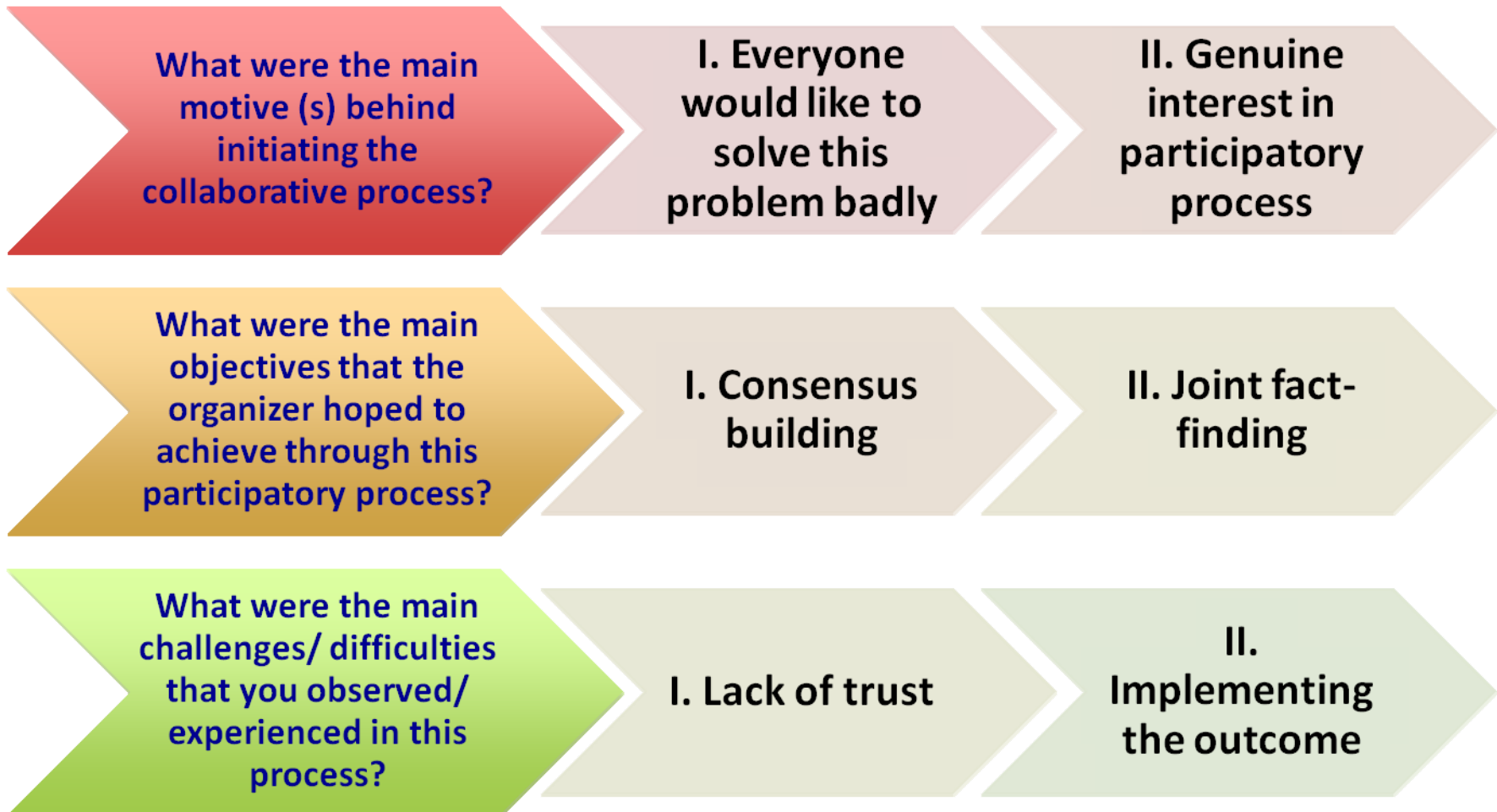
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- Finding common ground and future steps

Last 3-4 months

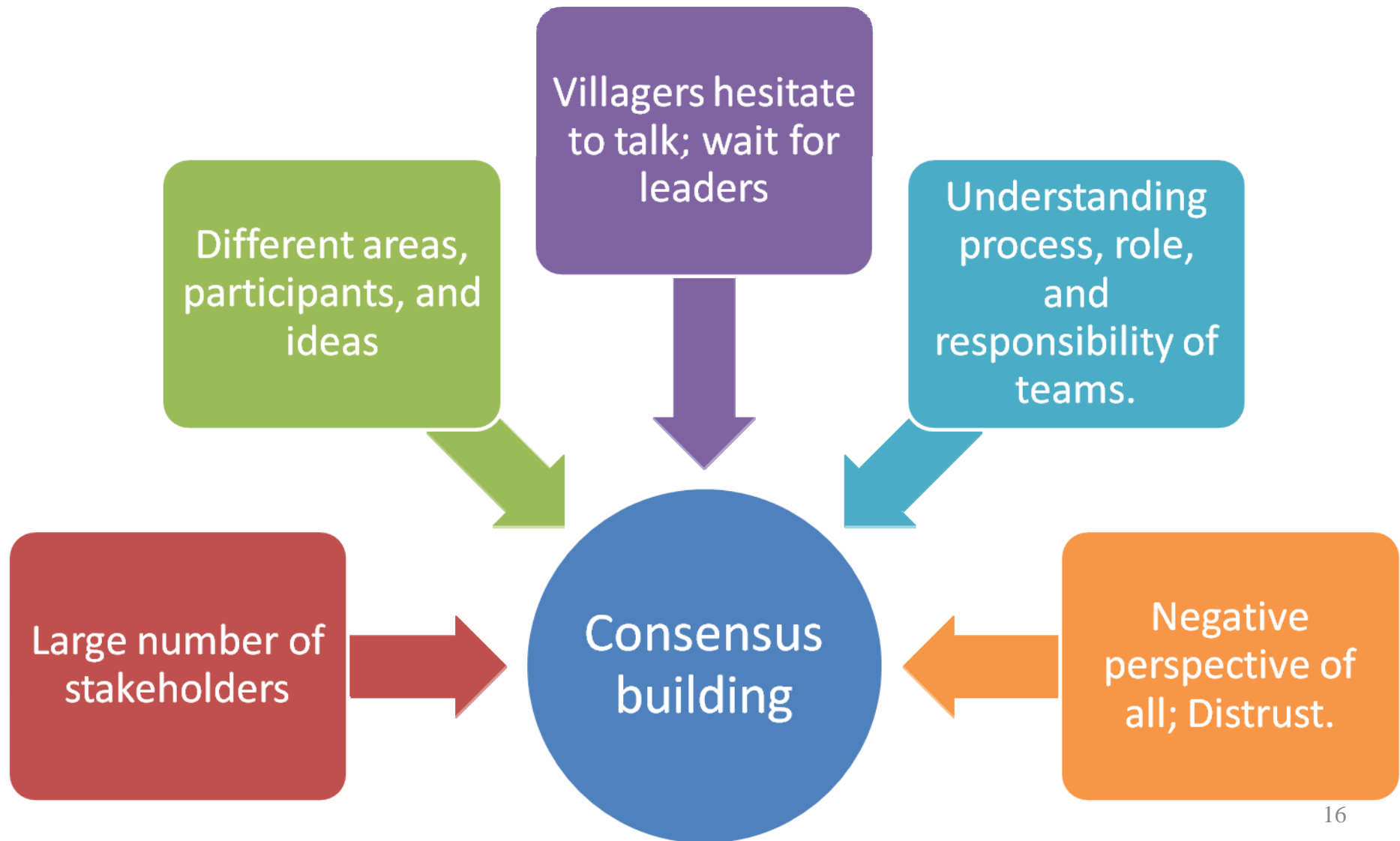
Consensus

1. All participants are willing to take part in the process of resolving health problems from cadmium contamination. For example, inviting specialists or doctors to educate the community about the effect of cadmium contamination and providing continuous treatment for those who got sick
2. The public and private sector (Pa Daeng Company) including other involved organizations agreed to support the education by providing basic knowledge and bringing specialist to train villagers about how to plant sugarcane. A good coordination is required during the preparation process in order to make the process more effective.
3. The public sectors as well as involved organizations must inform and consult with higher authority if farmers will be allowed to grow rice in year 2008 or not. All information must be informed to the villagers as soon as possible.
4. All sectors agreed to form “a council for solving the problem of cadmium contamination”. This council would include the representatives from three sectors:
 - 1) Committees will consists of 15 people from the three Tambon.
 - 2) Three committees from the private sector.
 - 3) The involved public sector must inform and educate people knowledge as well as establishing the information center and service for Mae Tao watershed.
5. All sectors agreed that the process of dialogue is the best method for giving a chance for everyone to freely and creatively express their opinions and share their ideas. Therefore, this process should be applied in other remaining conflicts or problems.

IV. Questions



Challenges of consensus building



IV. Questions (Cont.)

If you overcame one of these challenges, how did you do so?

I. Creating more meaningful public participation

II. Listening, listening, and listening

In retrospect, how do you think the process could have been improved?

I. Trust among parties

II. Gaining commitment

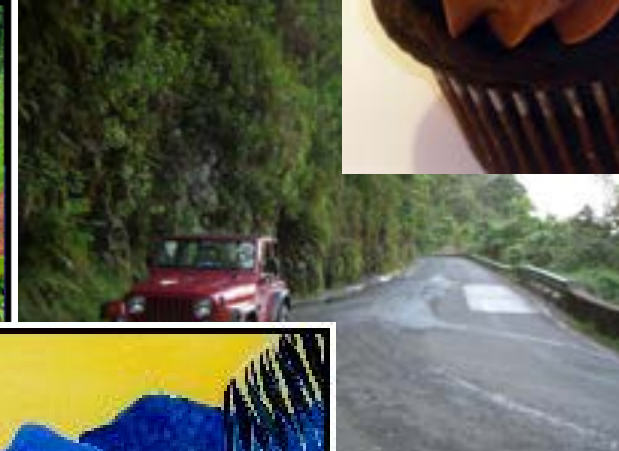
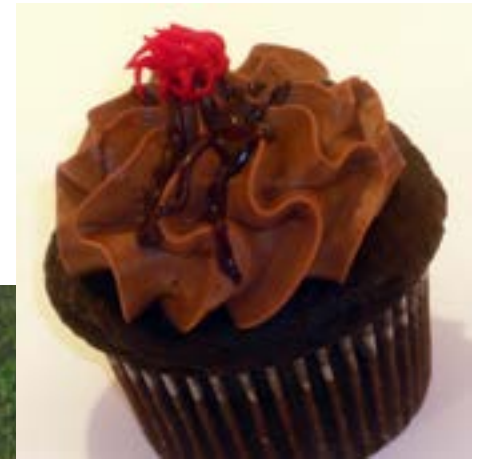
What about this process do you think someone from another country or culture might find interesting, surprising or unusual?

I. Absolutely "YES"

II. Why not?

Drawing a
Conclusion

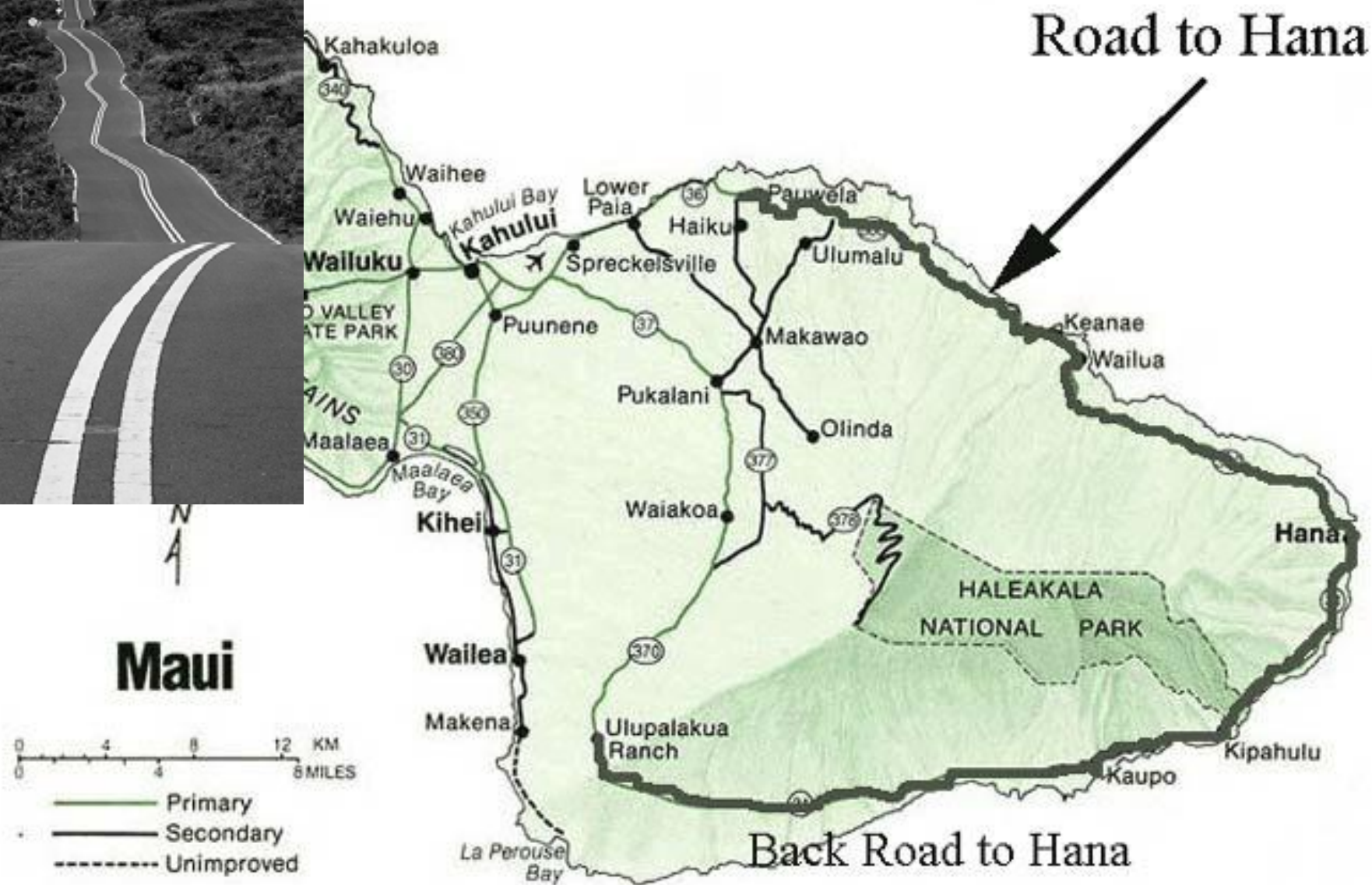
Road to HANA



"Your One Stop
Coffee Shop
on the Road
to Hana"

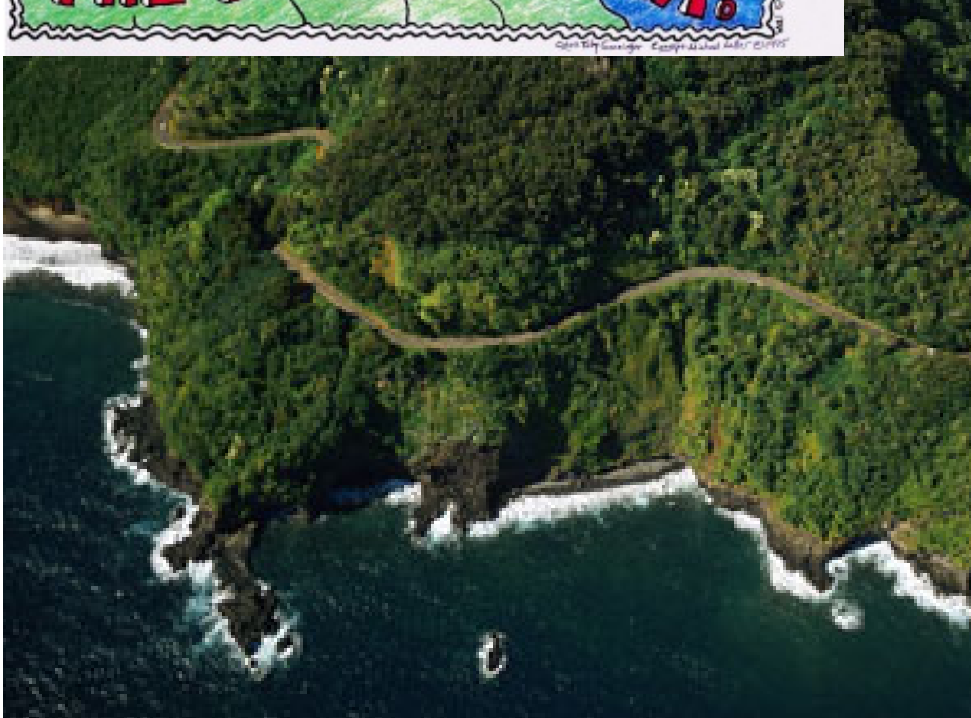
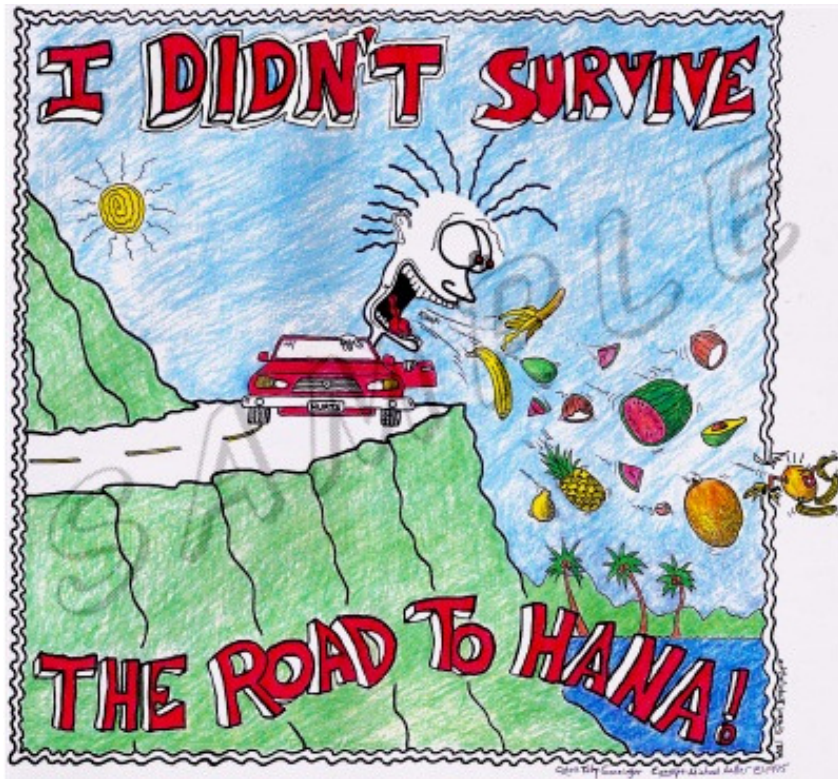
ANTHONY'S COFFEE COMPANY





Road to Hana

- The **Hāna Highway** (also known as the **Hana Road** or **Road To Hana**) is the name given to the 68-mile (109 km) long stretch of Hawaii State Highways 36 and 360 which connect the population center of [Kahului](#) with the town of [Hāna](#) in east [Maui](#). On the east after Kalepa bridge, Hana Highway continues to [Kīpahulu](#) as Hawaii Highway 31 (Piilani Highway), the first section of which is unofficially considered to be part of Hāna Highway. Although **Hāna is only about 52 miles (84 km) from Kahului**, a typical trip to Hāna takes about three hours, as the road is very winding and narrow and passes over 59 bridges, 46 of which are only one-lane bridges, requiring oncoming traffic to yield and occasionally causing brief traffic jams if two vehicles meet head-on. There are approximately 620 curves along Highway 360 from just east of Kahului to Hana, virtually all of it through lush, [tropical rainforest](#). Many of the concrete and steel bridges date back to 1910 and all but one are still in use. That one bridge, badly damaged by erosion, has been replaced by a parallel structure by a portable steel [Bailey bridge](#) erected by the [United States Army Corps of Engineers](#). Signs on the old bridge warn pedestrians to stay off due to imminent collapse



Goal

Output
based

Process

Process
based



(Substance)

(Procedure)

Relationship

Conflict Resolution Progress

Gregg B. Walkers
Oregon State University

Good processes change distrust to trust and become good relationships

