

Workshop: Environmental and Human Health in a Changing World

Eaton et al., 2002, and Khasnis and Nettleman, 2005 provide different perspectives on human health. Imagine you were to develop a presentation on the role of human health in environmental studies for:

- A group of mayors from cities in Oregon and Washington (Assume that they have a mix of understanding of technical issues but, for the most part, are laypeople relative to both Darwinian medicine and climate change. While they have the political clout to affect public policy on a local level, their interest in environmental issues is variable.)
- A group of Nature Conservancy members (...who have variable understanding of technical issues but, for the most part are again laypeople. Some may have political aspirations which would put them in a position with political clout, all have an interest in environmental issues but interest may be aimed primarily at wildlands conservation.)
- A group of 4th year Bachelors of Science students at the University of Nairobi (...who have a thorough background in many aspects of environmental science, especially as it pertains to Sub Saharan Africa, less in social science than in biology. Some may have political aspirations, all have interest in a variety of environmental issues, particularly those that affect local communities.)
- A group of people from the Washington State Department of Health (...who have a good understanding of (non-evolutionary) health science and issues, not much background in climate change, some political clout to influence public policy and the implementation of policy, and variable interest in environmental issues)

Break up into groups of 4. Choose one of the four audiences described above. Discuss and answer the following questions:

1. What key points do you want to get across?
2. How would you capture your audience's attention?
3. How would you integrate technical concepts to match the level of understanding of your audience?
4. What input would you want from the audience, if any?
5. What, if anything, do you want your audience to do with the information you have given them?

We will regroup as a class to discuss what you learned and how you addressed the questions above.