

Checklist for a free, initial assessment for mediation with elmauer institute

Efficient and effective mediation builds on the systematic analysis of the conflict and its environment. Therefore, we will start to analyze the conflict in our first conversation (free of charge).

We will discuss the following questions:

- In your view, what is the conflict about?*
- Who is involved in the conflict?*
- Do all parties see this as a conflict?*
- How would the parties know that the conflict has been resolved?*
- What is the goal of the mediation? (e.g. are we discussing how something is to be done / distributed / resolved, or are we talking about whether a project is launched at all?)*
- From your perspective, is there some basic willingness of the parties to arrive at a fair solution?*
- What ideas exist for resourcing the mediation? (We'd like to understand whether there is sufficient and transparent resourcing that does not create a dependency for the mediators or may allow a party to exert undue pressure on to the mediation process.)*

In addition, there are some basic success factors for which we, the mediators, will be responsible. We briefly list those conditions for your information. Please feel free to discuss any questions at our initial, free of charge meeting.

- Mediators need to properly understand the parties, even if technical terms are used in the conversation. (We offer professional mediation services and solid expertise in the fields of nature conservation, wildlife management, protected areas management, hunting and fishing, forestry and agriculture, sustainable energy, public transportation systems and infrastructure, science, municipal administration and community well-being initiatives.)*
- Everyone understands the rules of engagement. (There are few, clear and enforced rules of engagement. There is a clear process for the mediation. Both will be discussed with all parties.)*
- Mediators are equally responsible for all parties, and will always be open to discuss and protect all parties' interests. (We make sure the roles in the procedure are clear and there are no conflicts of interest).*
- Agreements are clear and binding, and will be implemented. (This can be a challenging task when an agreement seems close, because it has to go through the internal review of interest groups. When delegates have to represent their groups, clarity is needed so the internal communication process within the interest group can work. For example, it is critical to highlight if we talk about some idea ("Would this or something similar work for you?"), a specific final proposal ("Would you agree with this proposal?"), or do we inform them about something already agreed upon ("This is the agreement."). Our expertise will help delegates to successfully accomplish this important task.)*