

Team training session 2: Supp. handout #1

Jones's Facts

You are Dr Alex Jones, a biological research scientist employed by the University of Nottingham. You have recently discovered that the rare plant, *Malus snorkeliana* is not affected by flooding. The plant is a relative of commercial apples. You have discovered that a single compound, floodfiter (a gene product) is responsible for the resistance. It is hoped that it will be possible to spread the floodfiter to other species of apple and hence confer flood resistance and improve food security. Unfortunately *M. snorkeliana* only lives along a single creek in Sherwood Forest, UK and its population is very sensitive and cannot be propagated.

You've demonstrated that the compound can cross into similar species of plant and does confer flooding resistance without secondary complications. You have approval to cross this gene (and it's product) into a large number of apple varieties which can then be released to farmers. Unfortunately, this season has proven to be particularly wet and the commercial apples are under major threat. You have not yet been able to cross enough apples with *M. snorkeliana* and you are still relying on the isolated grove of trees for crossing.

You have recently been informed that Stacey Cardoza, in big business in Nottingham, is planning to build a coffee shop on the land where the main population of *M. snorkeliana* lives. If you could preserve the lower portion of the property you would be able to save the rare species and hundreds of other species and continue your research into apple crosses containing the floodfiter gene product.

S. Cardoza is in big business in Nottingham working for a large development company. Although S. Cardoza is building the coffee shop independently of the development company, you are deeply concerned about the coffee shop. Last year the development company pushed through a development on sensitive salt marsh land and rumours suggest they paid the local council a lot of money to approve the development. Since then several rare fish species that were known to breed in the area have declined significantly. Consequently, you can't trust them any farther than you can throw them, including Cardoza.

You've been authorised by The University of Nottingham to approach Cardoza to preserve the land on which *M. snorkeliana* grows.

Stacey Cardoza's Facts

You are Stacey Cardoza. You work for a development company in Nottingham. Independently of the company, you have decided to build a coffee shop in Sherwood Forest. You enjoy spending your weekends in the forest. Last year your company put a development on the salt marshes which make up the breeding grounds of many fish species and rumour has it that there was a lot of money exchanged with the local council to get the approval. Although this was not your project, you were very unhappy that there did not appear to be enough environmental impact studies done before the development commenced and you feel guilty about being involved in the company that did this. To alleviate part of this guilt you plan to build a coffee shop in the forest to help educate other members of the general public about the local ecosystems.

The block you have purchased includes a higher section, closer to the road where you plan to build a coffee shop and lower section with a stream running through it. You have put in a lot of planning to minimise the impact on the local environment and the Environmental Protection Agency has given you the go-ahead to begin construction.

Recently you found out from local businesses that The University of Nottingham do a lot of work in the area. One of the local businesses also had a bad experience with a professor from an interstate university. The professor demanded that the local business spend a lot of money building a refuge for a local mammal species. The locals were very upset that the researcher had just demanded they spend the money without any discussion about the project and they rightfully refused to cooperate.

Some of the locals have just informed you that a researcher, Dr Jones at The University of Nottingham working on trees wants to block your coffee shop from being built. You are very near the end of planning and ready to begin construction and this worries you very much. You have invested a lot of your own money in the project and don't want to see any ego-driven scientists block what you know will ultimately be a good thing for the natural environment through educating the general public. What's the point in making the general public agree to protecting natural areas if they can never appreciate what they are protecting?!

Because of the bad experience the locals have had with scientists in the area, you don't trust this Dr Jones any further than you can throw her/him!

You've decided to approach Dr Jones to prevent her/him from blocking your educational coffee shop.