

ALTER-Net



A Long-Term Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Awareness Research Network

www.alter-net.info





ALTER-Net workshop:
Long-term socioecological research
what do we know from science and practice

Helsinki, SYKE
14-17.6.2011



Objective



- To bring together scholars and practitioners engaged with Long-term Socio-ecological Research (LTSER) to discuss the state-of-the-art in terms of science and practice, and to build stronger links between the two



Who?



- Organisers/funders: ALTER-Net (SYKE & IFF), Helsinki University (HENVI & HMA), International Panel for Science Academies (LTER-Europe)
- Participants: altogether 33 persons, Chris Boone from ASU, USA, 14 national LTER networks from LTER-Europe represented, ALTER-Net management board, Finnish scholars



Workshop structure



The workshop structure was designed to allow for sufficient intellectual and creative space while maintaining a balance between:

- **Key note presentations, followed by a critical commentary of an invited commentator (mornings)**
- **Group work with sufficient discussion space for reflection among/between scientists and practitioners (afternoons)**
- **a refreshment talk presenting new ideas useful for LTSER, ideally thought provoking and presented in an light and interactive manner (prior to dinner)**



Dialogue between keynote presentations and commentators



- Michael Mirtl: **Historical trajectory of LTSER, Eisenwurzen experiences** (Martin Forsius)
- Simron Jit Singh: **Challenges and considerations in LTSER research** (Kaisa Korhonen-Kurki)
- Christopher Boone: **Urban sustainability as a guiding framework for long-term socioecological science** (Tarja Söderman)
- Elli Groner with Fares Khoury: **Establishing two new LTSER platforms in the Araba wadi** (Michael Mirtl)
- Helmut Haberl: **Socioecological transitions and LTSER: conceptual considerations** (Christopher Boone)
- Taru Peltola: **Ecology meets citizen. How does biodiversity come to matter?** (Jacques Baudry)
- Bálint Czúcz: **Assessing the vulnerability landscapes to climate change** (Jari Niemelä)
- Zita Izakovičová : **Evaluation of conflicts arising from encounters of interest** (Lasse Peltonen)
- Eeva Furman, Jari Niemelä, Katri Rankinen: **Finnish experience on building national network** (Miklós Kertész)

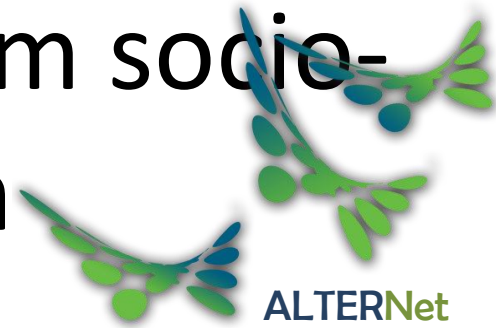


Refreshment talks



- Jan Dick (CEH): The process of analyzing ecosystem services
- Maria Luisa Paracchini (JRC): Mapping recreation as an example of cultural ecosystem services
- In addition, we had time for informal discussions along refreshments and dinner

Group work 1: benefits from socio-ecological research



- Two groups discussed the benefits of moving towards socio-ecological research. One considered the question from a disciplinary scientist's perspective, one from an interdisciplinary actor's perspective



Interdisciplinary actors

Who benefit		What is the benefit	
planners		results lead to more sustainable decisions	
platforms		research management, site sustainability	
society		elements of wellbeing, environmental justice	
society		inhabitants' needs are considered in policy involvement	
society		scenarios for planning	
society		exhibition (communication, aducation)	
society, scientists		communication, dissemination of knowlegde, involvement	
society, scientists		recognition of governance	
society, scientists		reasons of degradation and revitalization	
"ecosystem"		health	

Disciplinary scientists

Who benefit		What is the benefit		
scientists		risk and hazard assessment		
scientists		trade-off analysis		
scientists		scenarios for modelling		
scintitsts		raise new and better questions		
scientists		defining socially acceptable solutions as research target		
scientists		understanding the results from another point of view		
scientists		R-square (helps explanation)		
scientists		defining ecologically relevant social parameters to monitor		
scientists		better understanding/explanation of the presses		
scientists		understanding system changes / trajectories		
scientists,institutes		helping in cost efficiency		
scientists,institutes		PR		
scientists,institutes		quantity of papers		
scientists,institutes		support for science		
scientists		fun		
scientists		understanding attitudes and values regarding ES		
scientists				
scientists		understanding the results from another point of view		

Group work 2: research ideas



- Starting point:
- How to operationalise in LTER-Europe the outcomes from ALTER-Net on knowledge needs in ecosystem services and governance?
(www.environment.fi/syke/ess)



ESS studies in LTSEs: general ideas



- Focus on Context specificity initiative
- Comparison of two different habitat types: forest, complex terrestrial
- LTSE platforms can provide enough variation of social context
- Ecosystem services to study: biomass, tourism, timber, food + Jan Dick's papers outcomes
- Results for the stakeholders



Joint research ideas for LTSERs



Ideas, that raised interest by more than one LTSER:

- Quantifying (relatively) established ESS indicators over several LT(S)ER sites/platforms.
- Testing biodiversity (diversity metrics of several charismatic and less charismatic species groups + other biodiversity indicators(?)) as indicators for cultural ESS in different cultural settings.
- What is 'the restorative' cascade of ES, how people's current appreciation of ES can lead to restoration of other lost ES?
- Spatial distribution of ES vs. valuation and appreciation of those services (when service is delivered from distant area)
- How do we use and manage ES: influence of tradition, policies, etc.?
- Rules to relate BD to ES, is relationship specific for biogeographical region?
- Indicators



Excursion

- to Helsinki Metropolitan Area LTSER sites in Pasila, Pihlajamäki and Viikki
 - Agriculture, biodiversity, stormwater quality, environmental education, participation...



Signals for the future



- The workshop structure and content was found useful
- Social scientists still a minority: dialogue between disciplines needed when research questions are discussed on all levels from platform to national network and LTER-Europe
 - Socioeconomic parameters are important factors affecting biodiversity
 - More socio-economists/ecologists should be involved in forthcoming workshops (best two persons from LTSER platforms from both disciplines)



Signals for the future



- LTSER workshops should be built on the foregoing ones: recognized gaps in knowledge should be considered as a basis for the following workshop
- The raised research ideas should be prioritised and initiated asap at latest at the next LTSER venue





All presentations, group discussion outcomes and other material available on

LTER-Europe website:

<http://www.lter-europe.net/members-area/ep/ep-ltser/documents>

