

Sustainability as a guiding framework for long term socio-ecological science - commentary note

ALTER-Net workshop: Long-term socioecological research:
What do we know from science?

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Tarja Söderman, Head of Unit of Built Environment

Urban sustainability

- Sustainability in urban context
- What is sustainability?
 - a series of societal states – society to decide what is sustainability – reflect urban development against this
 - States defined by whom and how?
- Where is urban?
 - urban core, peri-urban-rural gradient
 - multi-sectoral, poly-centric/ mono-centric urban structures, regional –local
 - functional urban areas – functional boundaries by human actions (e.g. commuting) or ecological (e.g. watersheds) integration
 - multi-value

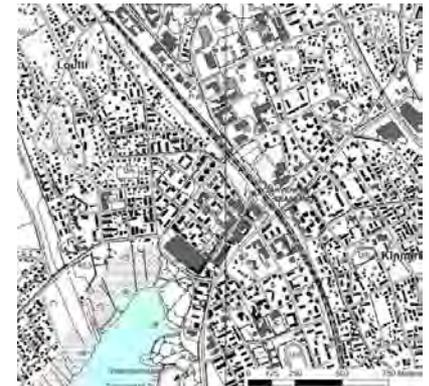
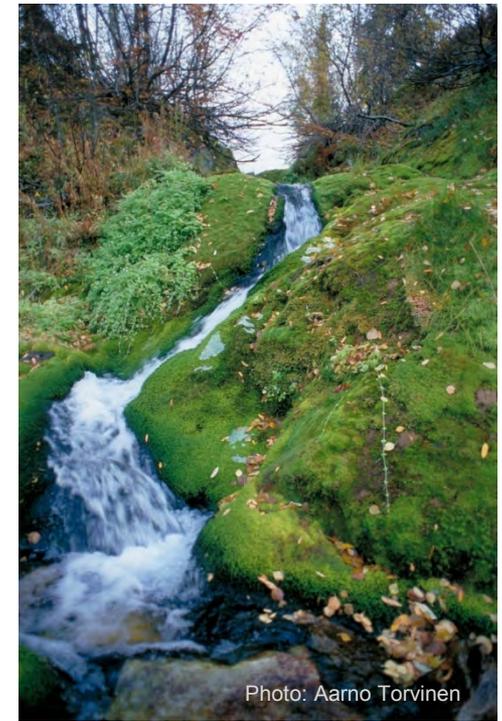


Photo Tarja Söderman

Ecosystem services

- What is original and novel in LTER conceptual approach vs. other systemic approaches? vs. MA, DPSIR
- Ecosystem services: spatiality – linking ecosystem generating units (ecosystems/habitats) to ecosystem services used by direct and indirect beneficiaries – distant and absent (future) stakeholders in multi-level and multi-dimensional context
- Trade-offs between ecosystem services -> hard choices (conscious or not) which services to prioritize
- Multifunctionality and changing urban infrastructure without losing services?



Urban scales?



Photo: Maria Hyövähti



Photo: Tarja Söderman



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From evidence to knowledge

- Problem driven science – supply driven or demand driven science or both? Relationship to planners, stakeholders and policy-makers
- Communication – when? Knowledge brokerage strategies/ interface -between science and practice: from problem framing to monitoring
- Transdisciplinary research
- Dissemination strategy
 - grey vs. peer-reviewed urban research publishing – red?

Stakeholder priorities

- All stakeholders value the services equally
- Spatial distribution of ecosystem services is not equal – high income and low income areas - > social equity perspective – which human groups can and cannot have certain services (noise production, shading, recreation, scenery, nearby access to recreational areas)
- How to use locational policy measures to enhance both ecological functionality and social equity?



Photo: Pirjo Koistinen