

BESS workshop on resilience – 18-19 June 2015, Charles Darwin House, London.

Establishing whether there are critical levels of biodiversity required to enhance the resilience of ecosystems to different drivers is a major goal of BESS. While few projects within BESS are focusing primarily on resilience, it is a cross-cutting theme that is relevant to many of them. However, despite recent advances in theory relating to resilience, there is disagreement in the scientific literature about how it should be defined, measured and predicted. In addition there is currently much debate about the applicability of concepts such as multiple stable states, regime shifts, tipping points and thresholds to real world ecosystems. There is also strong interest in the policy and practitioner communities regarding how best to apply the concept in practice.

The BESS community is in a unique position to examine the definition and application of resilience concepts to biodiversity and ecosystem services in real-world landscapes. However, currently it appears that:

- Different BESS projects are analysing resilience using different methods.
- There is a community of early career BESS researchers who would like to know how to analyse resilience as part of their research.

This 2 day workshop aims to address the needs of the BESS research community. Specifically, it aims to:

- Develop an approach to measuring and defining resilience that is useful to multiple BESS projects
- Form a working group to produce one or more collaborative publications focusing on the definition and assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services in real world landscapes.
- Strengthen the capacity of early career researchers to analyse resilience as part of their own work.
- Provide a forum for dialogue between the BESS research community and the policy community, with the potential for a policy relevant publication.

We are delighted to announce that the workshop will feature plenary talks by a guest speaker, Professor Volker Grimm (Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research – UFZ), on the differing concepts of resilience and how resilience can best be measured in practice. In addition, Volker will contribute to workshops to exploring analysis of resilience in different systems. This provides an outstanding opportunity to learn from one of the leading researchers in this field, in an informal context.

The workshop is only open to individuals working on a BESS project, with a maximum of 3 individuals from each project allowed to attend. We have a limited budget to support travel and accommodation in relation to attending this workshop. If you need such support in order to attend, please contact the meeting organisers for more details.

If you wish to take part in the workshop please email Phil Martin – martinp@bournemouth.ac.uk

Individuals representing BESS projects at the meeting will be required to give a brief (5 minute) overview of their project and what aspects of resilience they would like to address in their work. Attendees are also invited to bring details of data sets being developed by their projects, so that the application of resilience concepts and measures can be explored during the workshop. There will also be opportunities to present research plans, regarding

how individual projects are planning to analyse resilience. In addition, during the workshop we will explore whether different BESS project teams might usefully collaborate on producing one or more publications, which integrate the results obtained by different projects. We are also keen to examine whether there might be scope to produce a collaborative BESS output on resilience, which addresses the needs of the policy and practitioner communities.

The workshop will be held on the 18th and 19th June, at the headquarters of the British Ecological Society, Darwin House, London. Details of the venue are provided here: <http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/contact-us/contact-details/>

Please note that delegates will need to arrange their own accommodation, if staying overnight. However, lunch and refreshments will be provided on both days. On the first evening there will be an opportunity for delegates to meet over dinner in the evening.

Provisional workshop plans

Day 1

Activity	Time
<i>Registration and coffee</i>	09:00-10:00
Welcome and intro to workshop (Adrian Newton and Phil Martin)	10-10:15
Presentations by all BESS projects attending on how they are dealing with resilience, and relevant data sets being collected	10:15-11:30 (5 minutes each + 5 minutes for questions)
Plenary talk on resilience definition and measurement by Prof. Volker Grimm	11:30-12:30 (30-45 mins talk with questions)
<i>Lunch</i>	12:30-13:30
Plenary discussion on how best to define resilience in reference to real-world ecosystems	13:30-14:30
Definition of resilience in relation to BESS projects, collectively and individually	14:30-15:00
<i>Tea break</i>	15:00-15:30
Initial scoping for cross-cutting analysis of resilience in BESS projects	15:30-16:30
Conclusions and formulation of plans for Day 2	16:45-17:30

Day2

Activity	Time
Introduction to session on analysis of resilience	9:00-9:15
Exploration of methods for analysing resilience. This will involve informal presentations of research plans or ideas by participants, with some practical examples presented by Prof. Grimm.	9:15-10:30
<i>Coffee break</i>	10:30-11:00
Group work to determine how resilience might best be analysed in individual BESS projects	11:00-12:00
Workshop presentations and plenary discussion	12:00-12:30
<i>Lunch</i>	12:30-13:30
Plenary discussion on planning collaborative, cross-BESS publication(s) on	13:30-15:00

analysis of resilience	
Plenary discussion on planning collaborative outputs from BESS projects on resilience, aimed at policy / practitioner communities	15:00-15:30
<i>Tea break</i>	15:30-16:00
Wrap up and identification of next steps for publications and future collaboration	16:00-17:00