



RESILIENCE, COMMUNITY ACTION AND SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION

.....

People, Place,
Practice, Power, Politics
and Possibility in Transition



Edited by
Thomas Henfrey
Gesa Maschkowski
and Gil Penha-Lopes

4.0. The Essence Of A Resilience Approach To Management And Development

BRIAN WALKER

1. Whatever the management or planning/development issue, put it into a whole-system context by developing a conceptual systems model in which the issue is embedded – a linked social (including governance) and environmental model.
2. Especially, consider and approach the issue at multiple scales. Probably the most common mistake made in planning/management is to restrict the analysis to the scale at which the issue is expressed. You cannot resolve the problem by focussing on only one scale. It's essential to consider the scales above and within, and to identify the main connections/influences across those scales.
3. Using the evolving conceptual model, ask the question, "The resilience of what, to what?" to identify what is of most value in and from the system, and the major threats and disturbances the system faces. Use this to start the process of identifying where the system is weak in regard to its coping capacity, or general resilience (again, in terms of both social and environmental variables).
4. What are the most significant, critical limits/thresholds you need to avoid crossing, and what processes are driving the system towards them? This identifies the crucial controlling variables in the system.
5. To manage these dynamics, where is it necessary to: i) use adaptive management to build the resilience of the system; and



Figure 4.0.1 – Brian Walker. Credit: Gesa Maschkowski.

ii) reduce resilience of the existing system to enable transformational change. The latter is needed when the system (or parts of it) has shifted irreversibly into an undesired state, or is about to do so.

6. Consider (again) cross-scale effects and trade-offs. To avoid crossing a threshold at one scale it may require transformational change at another scale.



Figure 4.0.2 – Multilevel Rocks. Credit: Gesa Maschkowski.

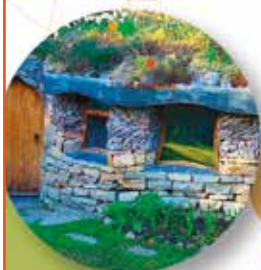


ECOLISE

META NETWORK

A shared platform for learning, action and advocacy,
by and for community-led initiatives on climate change
and sustainability in Europe

**The time has come to work closer together to support
community-led local action for significant change**



www.ecolise.eu



ecolise



@ecolise

Books to empower your head, heart and hands



For our full range of titles, to purchase books
and to sign up to our free newsletter see:

www.permanentpublications.co.uk

also available in North America from:
www.chelseagreen.com/permanentpublications



Resilience has become a familiar buzz word in mainstream politics, most commonly as an excuse for 'business as usual'. Both resilience science and practical experience of community-led action for social change suggest an alternative view, in which resilience implies deep and far-reaching transformation of society.

This collection helps bring that vision into focus through a compelling blend of insights, ideas and action points from community activists, activist-scholars and leading resilience scientists. It includes direct accounts of practical efforts to build resilience at community level, theoretical reflections from a range of academic fields, and calls for collaboration among diverse efforts to create and defend community resilience worldwide.



UK £14.95

US \$24.95

supported by
permaculture magazine
www.permaculture.co.uk

Permanent Publications



www.permanentpublications.co.uk

Distributed in the USA by Chelsea Green