Resilience assessment in practice: A dialogue to share insights from case studies and evaluate assessment approaches

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Abstract

Resilience assessment offers a framework and approach to conceptualizing place-based issues in the context of integrated social-ecological systems, where thresholds, cross-scale interactions, and other system dynamics can be analyzed to inform management strategies. Since the original resilience assessment workbooks were made available by the Resilience Alliance in 2007, over 10,000 copies have been downloaded and now a number of case studies using the approach have been documented and a network of practitioners is beginning to emerge. There has however, been limited effort to critically reflect on the approach, synthesize findings, and offer general insights. This session will present current efforts to learn from resilience assessment applications and reflect on some of the challenges and opportunities that can inform the approach going forward. Presentations from researchers and practitioners who have implemented the framework in Australia, Sweden, and the Arctic will highlight emerging themes from applying resilience assessment methodologies in different contexts.

A brief summary of current efforts to analyze and synthesize findings from documented cases will be presented by Allyson Quinlan who will also share insights from applying the resilience assessment framework to pre-existing case studies in the Arctic as a contribution to the Arctic Resilience Interim Report. Paul Ryan will draw on his work across 20 regions in Australia and present insights from the Australia Resilience Planning Community of Practice to inform resilience assessment at the regional scale. Building on the theme of implementing resilience practices in Australia, Francesca Andreoni and Chris Norman will present findings from resilience assessment and planning processes in the Namoi catchment and Goulburn Broken Catchment respectively. And for an urban perspective, Louise Hard áf Segerstad and My Sellberg will present an empirical study of how resilience assessment can inform planning processes at the municipal level.

Following the presentations there will be fifteen minutes for a panel discussion that will focus on methodological challenges and also on opportunities for shared learning through developing communities of practice. To guide the dialogue, general questions to be addressed by the panel include: What are some of the key challenges and opportunities in conducting resilience assessments in different contexts and for different purposes? What specific tools and methods seem to be most useful? What are the main barriers to conducting comprehensive resilience assessments? And lastly, can resilience assessment facilitate transformation processes and if so, how?

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**Keywords:** Resilience assessment, Stakeholder engagement, Social, ecological systems, Community engagement