Governance design for transformation and adaptation in social-ecological systems

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Abstract

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Chair/Facilitator: Ted Lefroy

Format of the session: workshop

Brief presentations:

- 11:30-11:40
  Introduction: Ted Lefroy et al.: Landscapes and policy: integrating science into governance design

- 11:45-11:55
  Tools and techniques: Michael Mitchell et al.: Designing governance interventions in transforming systems: case studies of biodiversity planning for the Australian Alps and Tasmanian Midlands

- 12:00-12:10
  Results: Sarah Clement et al.: Institutional change for landscape-scale biodiversity conservation in the Australian Alps and Tasmanian Midlands

Discussion facilitated by Prof. Peter Davies:

- Do systems undergoing biophysical transformation require transformed governance?

Abstract:

This workshop provides participants with an opportunity to analyse and design governance arrangements for landscape-scale adaptation and transformation. The workshop will feature a research project developed in response to the Australian government’s desire to lift the scale it considers and manages biodiversity from species and communities to landscapes and regions. The workshop will focus on the processes we used to diagnose existing governance arrangements and to propose and test reforms. We will briefly present the multi-stage process used to develop a description of the social-ecological system, present results, and then invite participants to discuss and evaluate the potential usefulness of this approach. The

∗Speaker
project involved two contrasting case studies. The Australian Alps case study is a protected area undergoing transformation due to climate change and other drivers including invasive species, declining public investment and pressure for multiple uses. The Tasmanian Midlands is an extensively modified, predominantly agriculture landscape that is undergoing transformation due to climate change, land use intensification and declining public investment in nature conservation. These contrasting contexts provide a useful basis for participants to discuss transformation as distinct from adaptation, and whether transformed governance arrangements are needed to ensure interventions to improve biodiversity outcomes. The workshop format will comprise three brief presentations followed by a facilitated discussion.

**Keywords:** Governance, Transformability, Adaptability, Social, ecological systems, Scenario analysis, Biodiversity, Resilience assessment