

What does studying the 'Ecosystem Approach' tell us about transformative approaches?

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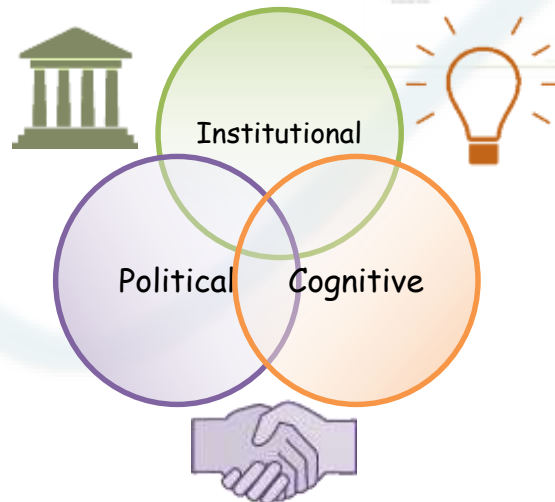
 @KerryWaylen

Overview



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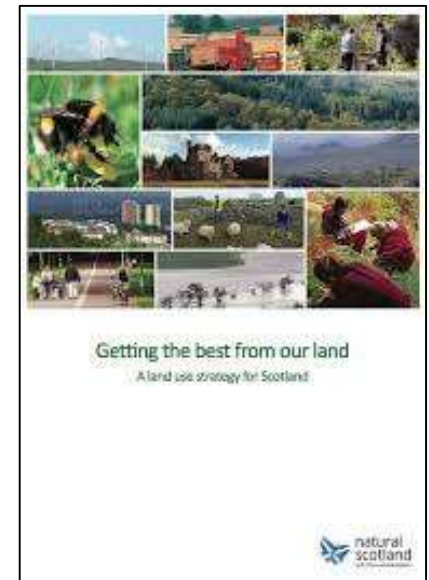
[www.hutton.ac.uk/
EcosystemApproachReview](http://www.hutton.ac.uk/EcosystemApproachReview)





The study

- The challenge: understanding barriers to implementation of the Ecosystem Approach
- Part of ‘Strategic Research Programme’ 2011-2016, funded by the Scottish Government
- Scotland’s Land Use Strategy notes the ‘Ecosystem Approach’ should be used to guide decision-making



The study

- A ‘new’ approach to natural resource management
 - Holistic and participatory approach to management
 - Implemented via 12 “Malawi Principles”
 - <http://www.cbd.int/ecosystem/>



- Incorporates key points of ecosystem-based management, plus arguments for decentralised participatory management
 - Not the same as “ecosystem services approaches” although understanding in terms of ecosystem services can feed in.



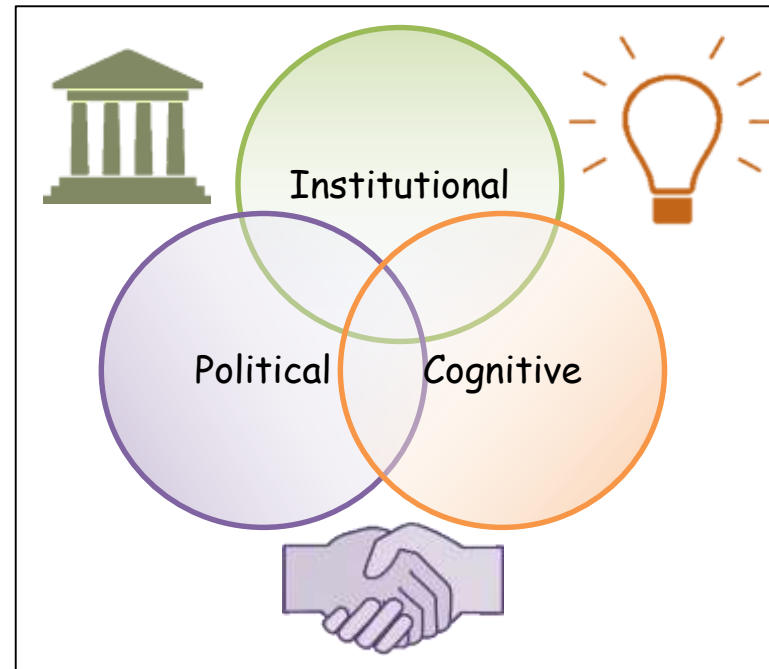
The study

- Focused on understanding project manager accounts and explanations of experiences in project implementation
- 24 projects across UK & Ireland
- Analyse documentary evidence
- Project manager interviews
- Simple follow up email survey



Findings and outputs

- All projects made some progress but many challenges encountered
 - Accounts indicate frustration or constraints from supposedly enabling organisations or policies
 - Individuals' own backgrounds and expectations also shape progress
- Mixture of 'sticking points'
 - From legacy of earlier ways of working, thinking and governing the environment
 - Occur at a variety of levels





Findings and outputs

Conservation Biology

The Need to Disentangle Key Concepts from Ecosystem-Approach Jargon

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Project partners to understand concepts: Kerry Waylen & Kirsty Blackstock, The James Hutton Institute

Jargon-busting: Understanding Ecosystem Approaches, Ecosystem Service Assessments and their mutual interdependence

escom

Eco-what?! The need for clarity and consistency in communication using ecosystem terminology

Introduction
Within the natural resource management sector multiple 'ecosystem' terms are presently in use. This briefing highlights key meanings underlying their terms, and suggests the better recognition of these concepts, together with consistency in use of terminology, will benefit both communication and practice.

Key Points
What is the problem? Across all natural resource management sectors, it is common to use the same terms to describe multiple concepts which therefore 'confuse' or 'obscure' services. Examples of these terms include "ecosystem services approach", "ecosystem services", "ecosystem approach", "ecosystem approach" or "an ecosystem approach". It increases a single document contains multiple terms used with a single meaning. In other cases, different documents use the same term, but with different meanings. This occurs in both formal documents and informal conversations, and across academic, practitioner and policy sectors.

What is the result? This plethora of terms and their uses can act as a barrier to good practice. It can make it harder to reach one audience when multiple terms are used inconsistently, harder for individuals and partners that use these terms to feel confident or at a disadvantage. Using the same terms in different ways – or vice versa – can also cause confusion. It may be difficult to work across disciplines, at least, the differences can go unacknowledged or go unexplained. This hinders people with the same goals from working together.

What is the solution? This briefing offers a range of solutions in which the terminology used in communication is consistent, and the terms used are clear and unambiguous.

What are the next steps? There are two distinctive concepts which underlie most discussions, and have become standard terminology:
Ecosystem Approach (sometimes also called "an ecosystem approach"). This is a holistic approach to natural resource management that reflects the best thinking about ecosystem-based management – and well as the arguments for stakeholder participation, which implementation was supported in 2002.
Service Framework (sometimes also called "the ecosystem services approach"). This is a holistic approach to describing natural and services (ecosystem services) that support human well-being and human development. Ecosystem Assessments in 2005 greatly popularized this way of thinking about ecosystems, though to exploring the relationships between natural and human systems has been often associated with methods such as ecosystem services. In recent years this term has been often associated with methods such as ecosystem services, for example, ecosystem services knowledge can be used to inform policy and practice.

The other concept is a way of understanding and measuring. It is a way of thinking about ecosystems that is designed to implement the Ecosystem Approach. Consistent use of these two concepts can be mutually supportive. Consistent use of these terms will aid attempts to understand and describe ecosystems.

Exploring experiences of the Ecosystem Approach

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The James Hutton Institute

November 2013

- Iteration
- Participant & other peer feedback

Aiding transformation?

- In 2015 invited to host NCI Dialogue event on implementing the Ecosystem Approach across the UK
 - Practitioner and policy-led
 - Aim to identify practical actions
- 2016 recently co-hosted workshop on for policy makers on implementing Scotland's Land Use Strategy



Aiding transformation?

- Sticking points concept judged helpful
- Accounts of project-level experiences judged useful
- Action plan for different sectors agreed by NCI

However ..

Will this result in transformative change?





Conclusions: What does transformative IPA look like?

Not just about validity or quality of research findings

- **What** is studied and why
- **How** it is studied (methods, analytic framing etc)
- **Means of communication** and level of engagement

Conclusions: What does transformative IPA look like?

- Must offer theoretically grounded insights yet be salient & credible to non-academics
- Subject must feel 'safe' to engage yet must stimulate reflection and highlight implications
- Need dialogue with participants & peers in other sectors whilst maintaining critical perspective



Conclusions: What does transformative IPA look like?

- Transformative IPA = the art of juggling tensions!
- Lessons from Action Research and other approaches may help?
- Need more insights as to how to actually target and achieve transformation?

Thank you



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www.hutton.ac.uk/EcosystemApproachReview

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