UNFCCC expert meeting on socio-economic information under the Nairobi Work Programme

Integrating socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments

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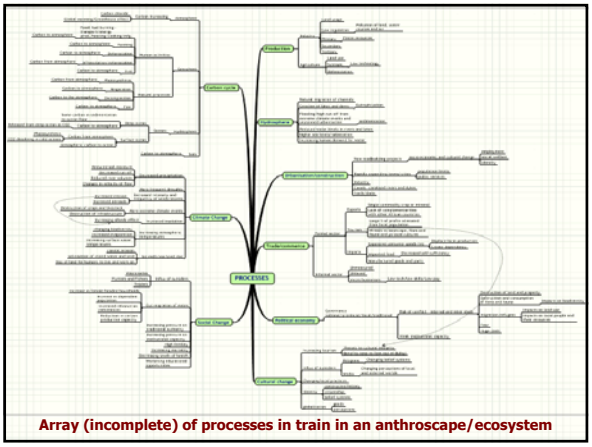
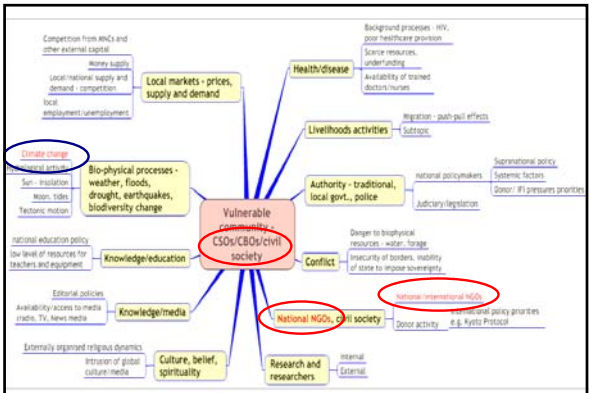
Agenda

- Flows of processes of change and information
- Notions of interdisciplinarity – socio-economic or socio-ecological?
- Typology of information, qualities and limitations
- Fields of vision – knowledge of lack of knowledge
- Integration of information
- Employment and management of information

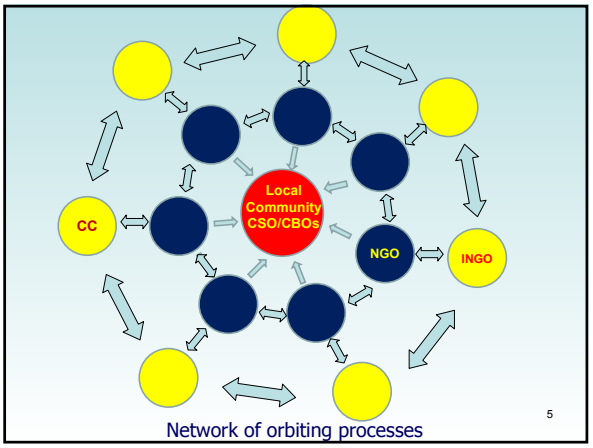
  Info-knowledge-wisdom>>utility-deployment-management



Array (incomplete) of processes in train in an anthroscape/ecosystem



Selection of summarised processes (static and changing) at play around a vulnerable community showing location of climate, donors and INGOs, CSOs



Network of orbiting processes

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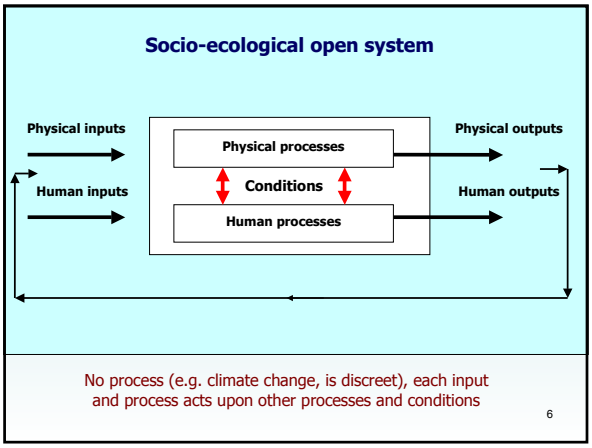

No process (e.g. climate change, is discreet), each input and process acts upon other processes and conditions

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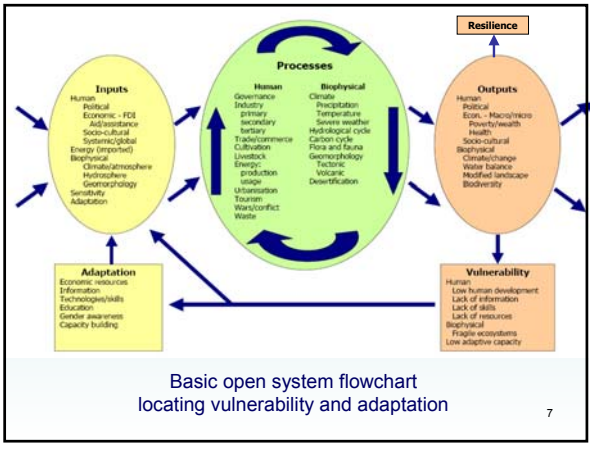

Basic open system flowchart
locating vulnerability and adaptation

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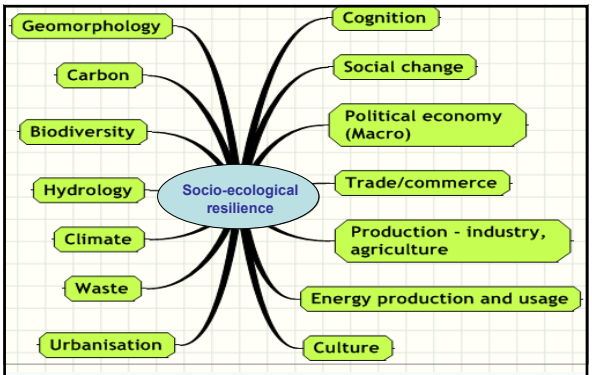

Summary of processes at work in the socio-ecological system

- Each one can involve social and physical dynamics at work concomitantly, in opposition and in integrated manner to produce socio-ecological resilience

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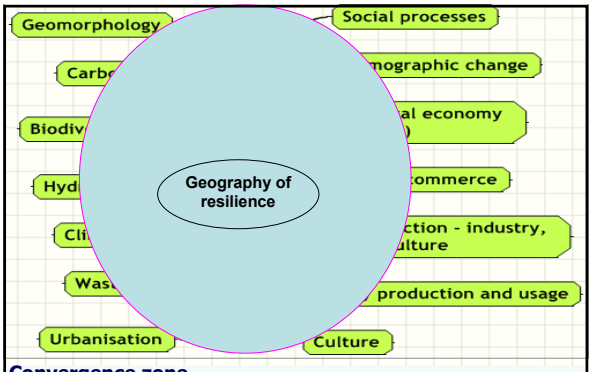

Convergence zone

A geography of socio-ecological processes, of resilience

Integrative academic study - a synthesis – interdisciplinarity

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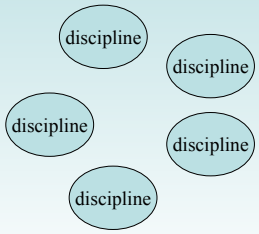
1. Multi-disciplinary research



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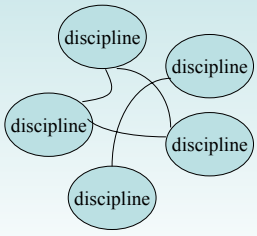
2. Inter-disciplinary research



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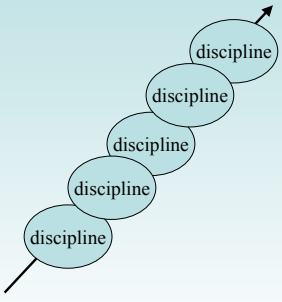
3. Cross-disciplinary research



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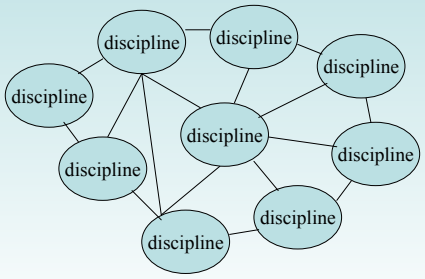
4. Trans-disciplinary research



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Typology of information I - from basic/pure research

Quantitative/qualitative
- Statistical, documented,
- Measured, calibrated
- Relies on available info,
- Partly unreliable
- Partial[1] – agenda of writer
- Partial[2] – only one lens
- Objective
- Static

Examples
- Climate data
- River flows
- Harvests
- Archival info
- Govt. stats on population dynamics, livelihoods, education, health
- Econometric analysis

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Typology of information II - from empirical research

Qualitative/quantitative
- Primary
- Observed
- Physical/metaphysical
- Subjective/objective
- Scientific
- Measured
- Dynamic
- Partly reliable
- Partial[1] – agenda of author
- Partial[2] – only one lens

Examples
- Field research
- Exploration
- Interviews
- Surveys

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Issues concerned with information

- Value different types and sources of information
- Select what is useful from the plethora of information available depending on the user
- How much information is useful?
- Integrate the two types of information
  - Evaluate and analyse – what does it all mean? Lens?
  - Purpose: to develop **knowledge** that will be useful in risk communication, assessing vulnerability/adaptation?
- Utility of information in the process of strategising for adaptation
- Importance of envisioning what information and what mode of information gathering is missing

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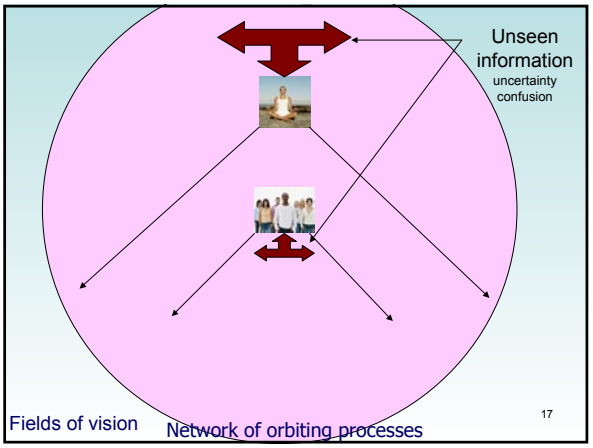
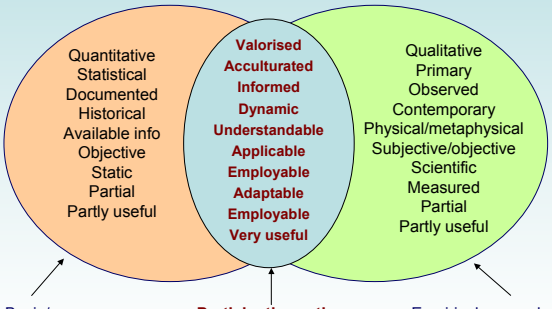


Types of research



Typology of information III - from participative action research

Valorised
- Acculturated
- Informed, holistic
- Dynamic
- Understandable
- Applicable, seeable
- Employable
- Adaptable
- Positivist
- Partial
- Very useful

Examples
- Rationality
- Volition
- Identity, culture
- Gender profile
- Memory, recall
- Role of history
- Belief, indigenous knowl.
- The metaphysical
- Morale, postcoloniality
- Uncertainty, confusion
- Self confidence

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Participative action research

- No one-size-fits-all methodology – prioritises social learning
- A highly flexible socio-ecological approach
  - Creating communicative space
  - Culturally aware
  - Sharing and exchanging knowledge and skills
  - Encouraging sense of local ownership
- Adopting interdisciplinary approach, valuing different scientific research methods
- Seeing action research in the 'bigger picture' - climate adaptation as synonymous with and integrated into sustainable development
- Managing information according to local understandings and aspirations - transferring ownership

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Social Learning

- Two-way (double loop) learning
- Feedback – reaction and counter-reaction – as a conversation
- Receiving information as an enabler to process of imparting
  - Acknowledging receipt of information
  - Respecting information received
  - Valuing
- Transferring scientific knowledge codified for local consumption and deployment
- Participation as practice
- Particularly relevant in people centred development and adaptation work

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Time and Tangibility

- 'Seeing is believing' - vulnerable populations trust what is tangible and in their purview
- Vulnerable populations tend to adopt world views that are articulated by issues affecting survival of lives and livelihoods
- Transcending the barrier between immediacy (the quotidian) and longer-term thinking and planning
- Understanding climate dynamics in vulnerable people's temporal and spatial view requires social skills
- How to make climate (as opposed to weather) visible, bring forward through
  - association
  - memory
  - imagination

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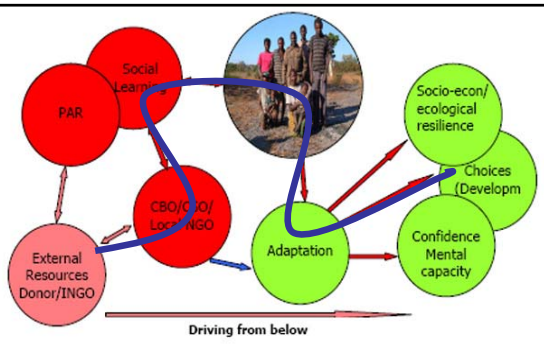

People driven development

– driving from below, empowering those who matter most

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Observations and constraints

- Many vulnerability/sensitivity indexes available, no ideal versions
- No fixed methodology
- Much information is unreliable or involves high degrees of uncertainty esp. socio-economic data
- Not easy to merge different types of data into one impacts and vulnerability analysis
- Increasing pace of climate dynamics requires timely supply of useful and accurate information to adaptation strategists,

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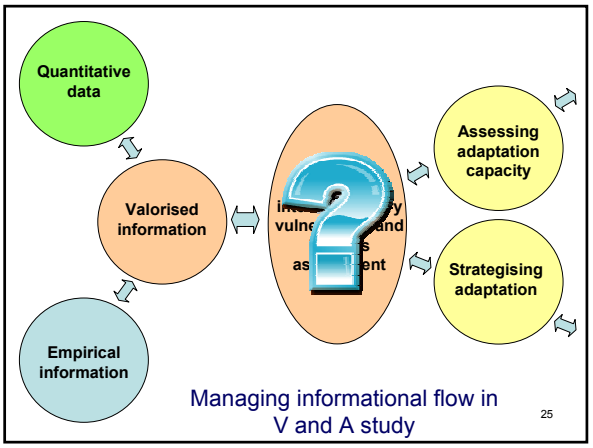

Managing informational flow in V and A study

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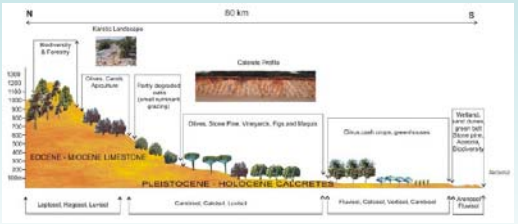
Anthroscape concept



Anthroscape section of the Seyhan Basin, Turkey (Kapur et al. 2004)

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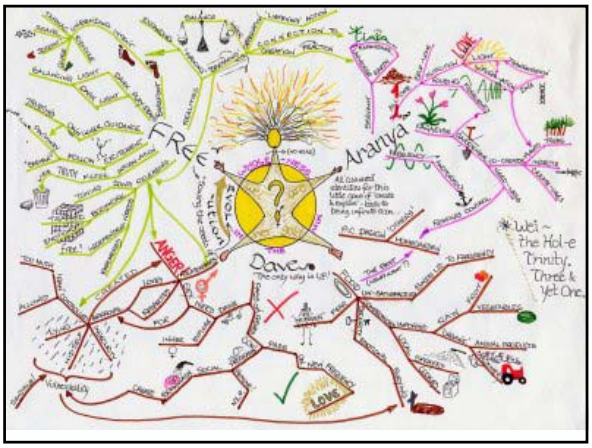

Other ideas for conceptualising integrated V and I assessment

- Charts
- Text – written report
- Visual imagery
- Interactive website – e.g. wikiAdapt?

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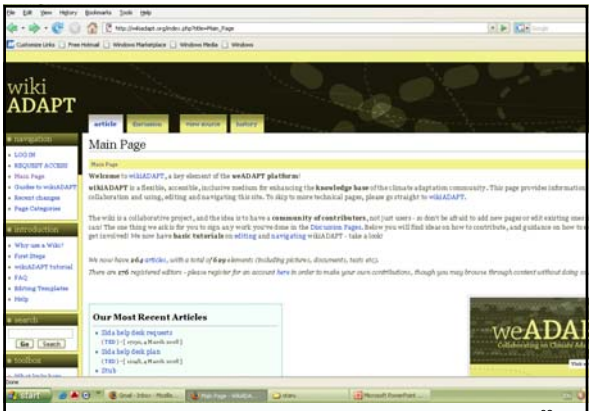

Online multifunctional platform, information, tools, data, advice, experience, case studies…

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Integrated vulnerability and impacts assessment - the Anthroscape?

- ? No perfect single way to display the social information necessary to create an ideal integrated representation of impacts and vulnerability but there may be many
- ? Requirement - factor in case-specific range of relevant biophysical, geophysical, social, economic, political and cultural factors in an integrative assessment driven and certified as useful by the affected community

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