The Ecosystem Approach of the Convention on Biological Diversity - Between Scientific Concepts and Practical Demands

Landeskulturzentrum Salzau
May 29 - 31, 2006
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Welcome to Salzau Castle!!!
Thanks to the organizing institutions:

German Ecological Society (GfÖ)
Working Group Ecosystem Research

International Association for Landscape Ecology
German Chapter (IALE-D)

Bundesamt für Naturschutz (BfN)

Ecology Centre, University of Kiel (ÖZK)

ZALF, LANU-SH

Ecosystem Approach, Salzau 2006
Organizing Institutions
Salzau Workshops

1995 - PZÖ: Eco Targets and Orientors
1996 - PZÖ: Ecosystem Indicators and Sustainability
1997 - GfÖ: Ecological Risk
1999 - EEF: Modelling and Sustainable Development
2002 - UBA: Synopsis of Ecosystem Approaches
2004 - CCMS: Use of Landscape Sciences for Environmental Assessment

Ecosystem Approach, Salzau 2006
History of Salzau Workshops
Synopsis of Ecosystem Research

• Sustainable development strategies must be based on holistic concepts.
• Ecosystem research has a high potential for application in environmental management.
• Due to several reasons this potential is not exploited sufficiently.
• Scientists should develop further concepts to enhance the application of ecosystem approaches.
• Managers should get ready to integrate complexity.

Ecosystem Approach, Salzau 2006
Motivation to conduct this workshop
Questions (1)

• Which are the political demands of the ecosystem approach of the CBD?
• Which is the potential of ecosystem research and ecosystem theory to be applied in an ecosystem management approach?
• Is there a clear relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem functioning?
• Which concepts and methods are available for a holistic ecosystem evaluation?
• How can the transfer from science to application be improved in the field of ecosystem management?
• Which methodologies can be used to apply this knowledge at the landscape scale?

Ecosystem Approach, Salzau 2006
Questions referring to the workshop call
Workshop objectives

- To illuminate the significance of the ecosystem approach,
- To support the application of ecosystem principles in environmental management,
- To identify the potential of ecosystem ecology,
- To discuss relevant future research questions,
- To develop a "road map" for a better implementation of the ecosystem approach in science and practice.

Ecosystem Approach, Salzau 2006
Basic targets of the workshop
Working group reports

• How can we integrate ecosystem services and human-environmental interactions into environmental evaluation?
• How can the generation and application of scientific methods and concepts be improved in relation to the ecosystem approach?
• Relation between biodiversity and ecosystem function
• Which institutional settings prevent a better implementation of the ecosystem approach?
• Why does it take so much time before international concepts are applied nationally?
• Interactions with other concepts and organizations
• How can the ecosystem approach be combined with ecological risk and environmental security?

Ecosystem Approach, Salzau 2006
Potential questions for working groups
World of Theory

Nothing is as Practical as a Good Theory
Ricardo 1853

World of Practice

Ecosystem Approach, Salzau 2006
Integrate theory and practice
An Experiment

- Students from the Master Course „Environmental Management“ at the Ecology Centre of the Kiel University are participants of the workshop.
- Students are creating thematic web pages about the ecosystem approach which will be discussed during the poster session.
- Students will participate in the documentation of the workshop outcome.
Schedule - Changes

• Otto Fränzle: Monday 16:00 → Tuesday 14:40

Cancellations:
- Axel Klaphake (Monday, 11:40)
- Diana Mortimer (Tuesday 9:40)
- Michael Flitner (Tuesday 14:40)
- Anand Singh (Tuesday 15:00)
- Kurt Jax (Tuesday 15:20)
- Christoph Görk (Tuesday 11:30)

→ Early start of working groups on Tuesday

Ecosystem Approach, Salzau 2006
Programme modifications
Organization

• Has everyone found his room?
• **Meals and coffee breaks:** in the castle, 1st floor
  - Vegetarian food will be provided
  - „Secco time“ today 17:30 o'clock
  - Drinks: Please use the tally chart at the bar (Strichliste), except Tuesday 19:00-21:00 (Happy hour and workshop dinner)
• **Registration and payment** would be nice. Alexandra Lill is waiting for you money.
• **Door code:** 2931
• **Transfers to Kiel/from Kiel:**
  - Monday 14:00 (Salzau-Kiel)
  - Monday evening (Salzau-Kiel)
  - Tuesday morning and evening (Kiel-Salzau-Kiel)
  - Wednesday morning and after 15:00 and 16:15 o'clock (Kiel-Salzau-Kiel)
• E-mail and Internet – sorry.

Ecosystem Approach, Salzau 2006
Organizational items
Final discussion
Provocations

- The ecosystem approach represents a very good, interesting and promising initiative.
- It is necessary to manage environment on a holistic systems based fundament.
- It is extremely positive that there are international agreements on these points.
- **But:**
- Some points in principles and guidances seem to be redundant.
- The order of principles could be improved.
- Many principles remain very vague (which is the appropriate level?)
- The principles might be revised.
Provocations

• The ecosystem approach should explicitly include the nested nature of its components.
• There are many implicit questions for science
  - Scales domains
  - Limits of functioning
  - Balance between conservation and use of diversity
  - .....
Provocations

• The esa should be better known by managers and scientists.
• The esa should be better and more often applied.
• There should be projects that are conceived *basing* on the ecosystem approach
• The ecosystem approach is very general
• There should be more institutional counterparts to realize the ecosystem approach
Road map - what to do?

- use the (political) advantages
- See minutes from group 2
- A philosophical concept? Bring it to action
- Strengthen the guidance aspect
- Spread information and use it (literature)
- Inform ecological scientific societies (GfÖ, IALE)
- Bring the esa to the public
- Enhance ecosystem education → ecosystem & CBD summer school
- Sponsore phd theses
- Labeling activities?
- Scientists should be more pro-active.
- Give scientists money
- Raising awareness
- Improve networking
- Underline the advantages (argumentation pro esa)
- Make the esa more acceptable & attractive for scientists
- Case studies (e.g. to support and revise the esa and prepare implementation guidelines)