

Resilience and Protected Areas

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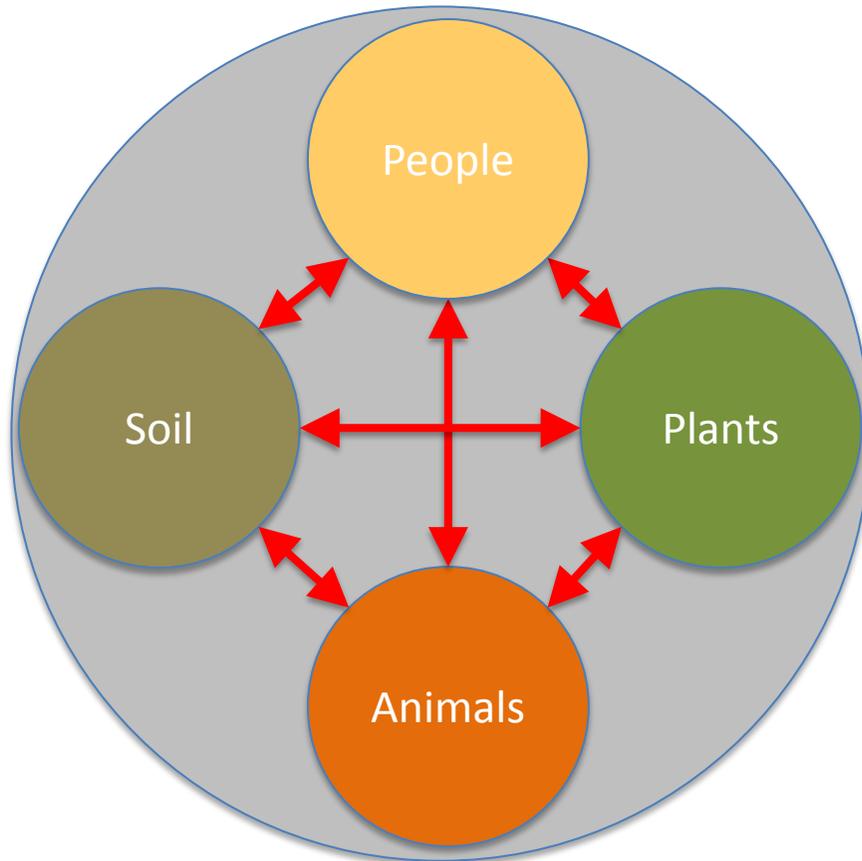
What is Protected Area Resilience?

Resilience is about the ability of a protected area to **survive shocks and disturbances**.

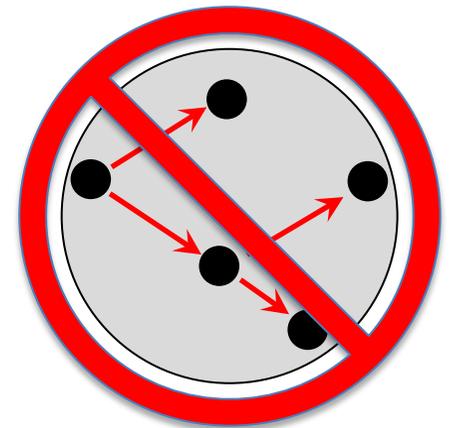


What is Protected Area Resilience?

Resilience comes from the **complex interactions** between the components of a protected area (soil, plants, animals and people).

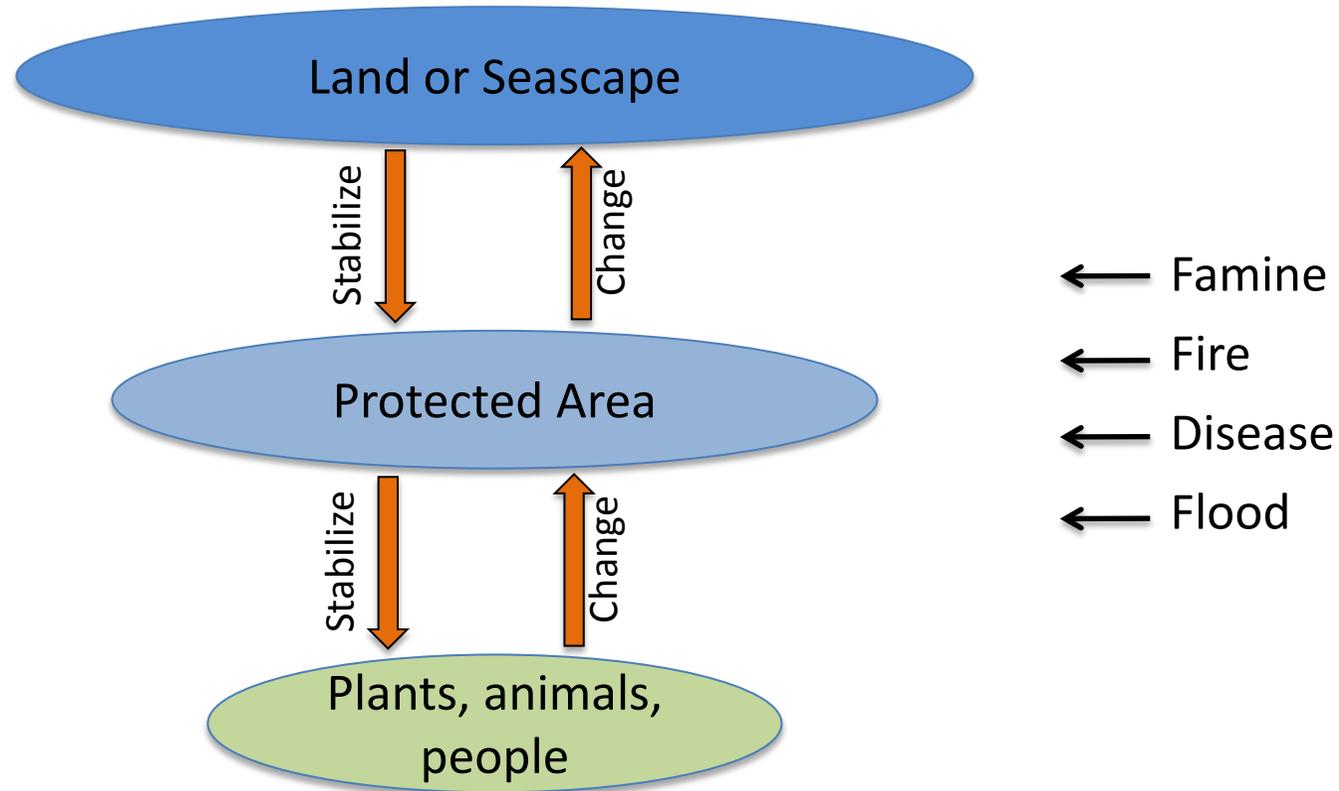


Simple
cause/effect



What is Protected Area Resilience?

Resilience changes over time as an **outcome of the interactions** between internal components of the protected area; the larger land or seascapes within which it is embedded; **and the disturbances** it experiences.



What is Protected Area Resilience?



Resistance to change comes from the large components that change relatively slowly (soils, water catchments, forests and wetlands).



Evolutionary change comes from the small components of a protected area (grasses, flowers, insects, small mammals) that change relatively quickly.



Evolution (and development) is a bottom up process.

Resilience Assessment

The key question is: do we enhance the ability of the protected area to **survive in its current state**; or do we change some parts and the relationships between them so that **the protected area can evolve** as the larger land or seascape changes?

Transform



Current state

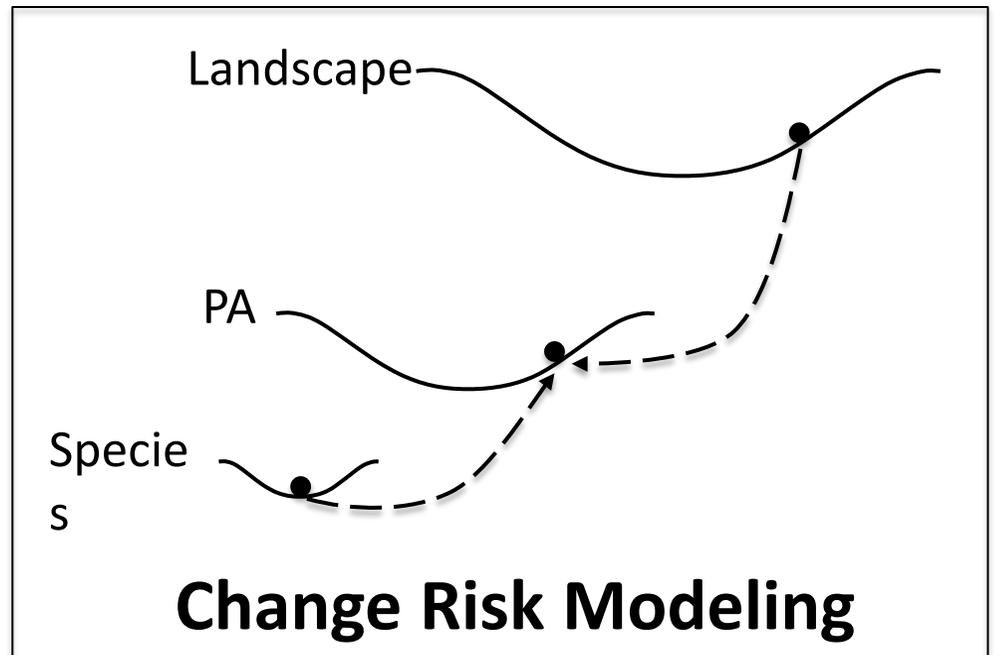
Resilience Assessment



This question is answered through a **participatory process** that develops a mental model of changes at work in the protected area and **assesses the risk of undesirable change in those things that bring long term stability** (e.g., soils, water catchments, forests, or “keystone species” (e.g., wolves or elephants) whose presence has major consequences for habitats of other species.

Resilience Assessment

What is driving the change and is **the direction of change desirable or not?**
What are the **risks that the protected area will enter into an undesirable condition?** How can the protected area be managed to **prevent undesirable change** ?



Decision Making

Decision-making is participatory and based on scenarios for alternative future states of the protected area.

Noah's Ark	Survival United
Titanic	Same Old Rut

Monitor, learn, adapt and revise decisions together



Recommendations

- Prepare to navigate social and ecological turbulence – hope for the best but plan for the worst;
- Devolve full authority to PA managers;
- Develop collaborative networks of protected area management, municipal and local government;
- Develop leadership skills for collaboration and conflict resolution;
- Focus on the health of soil, water catchments, woodlands, etc.



Flexibility : Diversity : Strength