



Ecosystem Services Community Scotland

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Stakeholder views on the value of Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research in the Cairngorms National Park

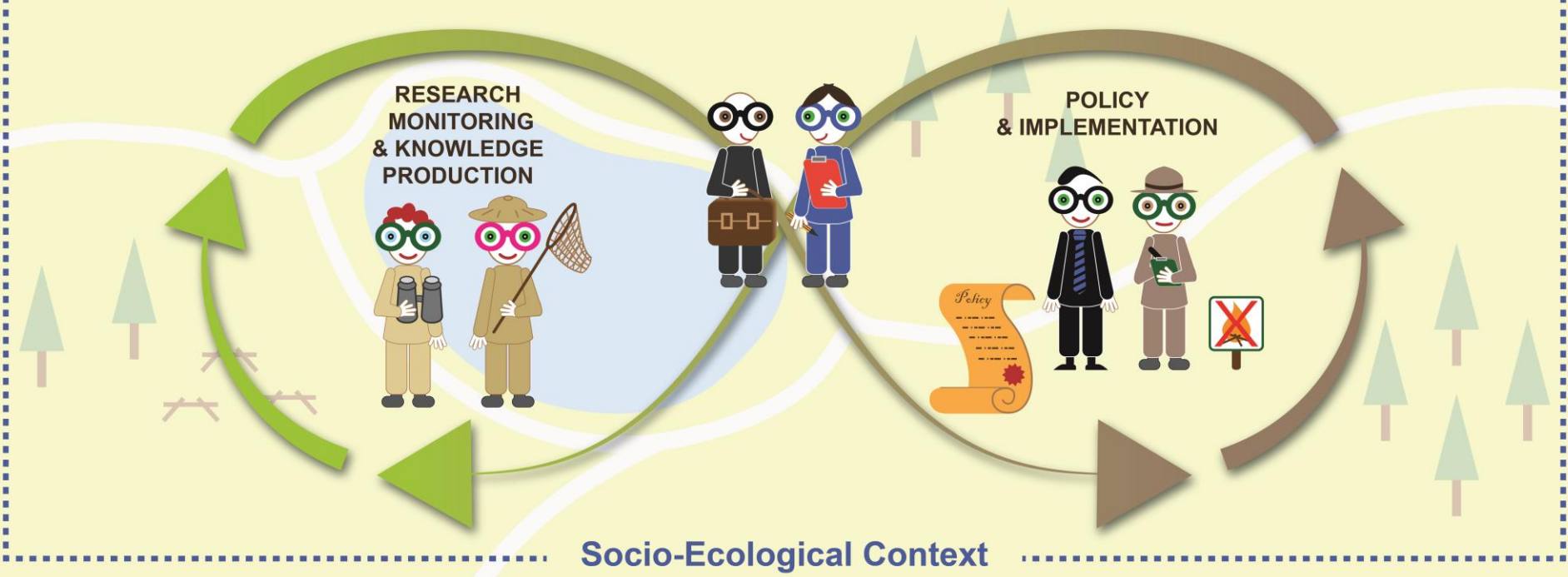
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Cairngorms LTSER has adopted this socio-ecological framework

Transdisciplinary Research on Human-Environment interactions: An Iterative, Reflexive Process



Graphic: Ronit Cohen-Seffer

But is it achieving its aims?

I interviewed 23 stakeholders and this is what I learned...

The Caingorms – as part of an international network - has adopted the socio-ecological systems framework for transdisciplinary, problem-solving science.

But is it working?

We wanted to find out.

Cairngorms Knowledge Nexus

Model Management Structure

- Five LTSER co-directors represent Cairngorms National Park, research, and landowners
- Quarterly meetings
- Research strategy
- Regular knowledge exchange events

On the other hand...

- Lack of awareness about LTSER and what it does
- Interviewees did not articulate the clear mission, goals, and added value of the LTSER
- Dedicated funding and staff have been elusive

LTSER Cairngorms Aims & Benefits

- Aims to integrate ecological and social knowledge for better management of the Cairngorms
- Aims to provide venues and tools to promote knowledge-sharing about Cairngorms-related research
- Is part of a global network
- Formalizes existing work, aligned with National Park's mission
- Brings attention and funding

Insights on research process

- Ecological research is abundant; expressed need for increased socio-economic understanding
- Desire for web-based tool that tracks completed / existing / desired research
- Has been no *systematic* evaluation of research impact
- Challenge of aligning research with policy needs, especially across multiple governance scales
- Geopolitical uncertainty makes funding insecure and obscures research planning

What is Cairngorms Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research (LTSER)?

A network of researchers and practitioners working to **integrate ecological and social knowledge** in order to make better decisions about managing the **Cairngorms National Park**, which is linked into the International Long-Term Ecological Research (ILTER) research infrastructure.

Thank you!

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Cairngorms National Park LTSER

stakeholders who spoke with me

Noa Silver, for transcription services



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