

Appendix 3. Characteristics of a resilient system

List of resilience characteristics developed with the partners and used in the workshops.

This list of “characteristics of a resilient system” was developed together with the partners in Swedish. The list was part of a folder that introduced resilience, and explained and exemplified each of the characteristics. We used the list in the workshops, where the participants filled in existing and suggested future actions related to each of the characteristics. The characteristics were influenced by Biggs et al. (2015)’s resilience principles, the attributes of general resilience in Walker and Salt (2012), and the list of resilience strategies in Appendix 1 in Sellberg (2013).

Table A3.1. Characteristics of a resilient system

Characteristics of resilient systems	Examples of questions for local planning
Diversity	How can we maintain/increase biological diversity? How can we maintain/increase human diversity? (Diversity of cultures, perspectives and lifestyles) How can we maintain/increase diversity of businesses? (Employers and sectors)
Overlap (redundancy)	How can we meet important needs in many different ways, so that others will take over if one fails? What measures could meet several different needs simultaneously?
Self-reliance (modularity)	How can we increase the degree of local self-sufficiency and, at the same time, keep important exchanges with the surrounding world? How do we enable rapid local self-organization and decrease dependence of slow, hierarchical structures?
Slow variables and feedbacks	How do we prepare for global changes, e.g. in the economy, climate and energy supply? What are the gradual trends in our society and in nature that decreases the ability to deal with change? How can we turn them around? How can we strengthen the signals from those who see the effects to those who cause them and can change?
Learning, participation, and ability to innovate	How do we build a local culture characterized by innovative thinking, learning, and desire for experimentation? What attitudes promote this? What meeting forms promote this? Who need to be invited to participate?
Social-ecological memory	How can we use experiences of how people have adapted to crises before? How do we maintain knowledge of low-energy-intensive ways of meeting our needs, if that would be needed in the future?

Buffers and reserves

Have any natural resources (or ecosystem services) decreased significantly lately? Which are plentiful/scarce?
What buffers has the local community towards possible economic instabilities?
