

Appendix for „The potential of models and modelling for social-ecological systems research – the reference frame MODSES”

Section 1: Selection of papers for review of resilience models (from 1998-2011)

We used the "Web of Science" database to identify relevant papers for our review. We searched for process-based modeling studies that dealt with resource management issues of social-ecological systems and were interested in resilience questions. We are aware that modeling studies that do not explicitly mention the term "resilience" but look at for instance "stability", "persistence" etc. may also contribute to resilience research. However in order to have a manageable number of papers we restricted the search to the term "resilience".

The exact query used was: **"TS=(resilience AND model AND ecol* AND (management OR resource OR governance))"**. The search was carried out in April 2009 and repeated for papers from 2009 to 2011 in April 2012. 289 papers were detected by the search algorithm.

After reading the abstracts/the whole papers we eliminated those studies that did not fulfilled our criteria. For instance we did not want to investigate pure conceptual models which present only a system description or model framework without any model solution. Since we were interested in dynamic process-based models we excluded furthermore pure statistical models. Some of the studies presented a purely ecological model without any management or use - a further criterion for exclusion. Finally only 52 papers out of the 289 papers were left over for review (see below for a list of the papers). The years in which articles were published are depicted in Figure A1.

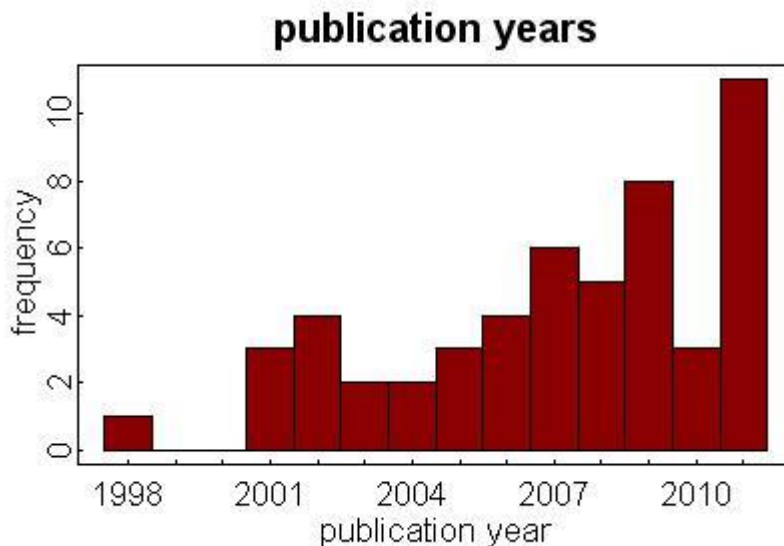


Figure A1: Years of publication

Papers included in review (from 1998-2011)

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Section 2: List of categories used for the analysis of the published models (from 1998-2011)

Criteria describing field of application and model purpose

A Type of Ecosystem

1. rangeland
2. forest
3. coral reef
4. fisheries
5. lake eutrophication
6. agriculture
7. land management (general)
8. water management (general)
9. not specified

B Type of Social System

1. Single manager
2. Several managers not interacting with each other
3. Social manager
4. Network of actors
5. Actors not specified

C Model purpose

1. system understanding
2. forecasting or prediction (in quantitative manner)
3. management or decision support (in specific context, with management recommendations)
4. communication (to management)
5. learning (model used to change mental models)

Criteria describing model formulation, complexity and model solution

E Type of model

1. difference and differential equation model
2. rule-based model
3. state and transition model

F Model complexity

1. general model/conceptual model
2. site/context-specific

G Number of model parameters

1. low (<5)

2. medium ($5 < p < 15$)
3. high (> 15)

M Dynamics

1. deterministic
2. stochastic

Criteria describing space and time

I Spatial Scale

1. local
2. regional
3. global

J Time

1. not dynamic
2. dynamic with continuous time
3. dynamic with discrete time

O Type of disturbance and change

1. variability in environmental variables
 2. shocks in environmental variables (e.g. droughts)
 3. changes in anthropogenic variables, e.g. management
- Note: More in the sense of abrupt shocks*

P Feedbacks between social and ecological system

1. no
2. yes

Criteria which represent the link to real world and the level of integration

R Uncertainty

1. not considered
2. considered

T Model validation

1. no
2. yes

U Sensitivity analysis

1. no
2. yes

Z Model limits

1. discussed
2. not discussed

AA Link to “real world”

1. parameterized with empirical data
2. validated with empirical data / pattern
3. application for management discussed
4. no link

Criteria related to resilience theory

V Resilience concept

1. resilience = return time to equilibrium (“technical resilience”)
2. resilience = capacity of system to maintain structure and function when disturbed
3. other use of resilience term
4. not specified

W Resilience Mechanism

1. buffer in system structure
2. response diversity
3. functional diversity
4. heterogeneity
5. time lags
6. cross scale effect
7. adaptive capacity of management
8. others
9. not specified

X Measures of resilience

1. return time to equilibrium
2. size of basin of attraction
3. position of system in relation to threshold
4. performance indicators (productivity)
5. others
6. not specified

Y Additional considered aspects of resilience

1. adaptive cycle
2. panarchy (cross scale interactions)
3. adaptability
4. transformability
5. slow and fast variables
6. memory effect
7. thresholds

Section 3: Historical use of modeling in resilience research

Table A1: Results of the review of 52 models of resilience from 1998-2011

Study aims	Purpose of the model	# of papers	Key insights
Understanding SES persistence	System understanding Assessment of resilience of a specific system	6	Few models include feedbacks between social and ecological system Social system often not specified (e.g. only represented as variable that drives the ecological system)
	Identification of system characteristics and mechanisms that determine persistence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • buffer • response diversity • governance or network structure • connectivity 	11	
	Development of methods to operationalize and analyze resilience; predict critical transitions	6	
	Development of measures to quantify resilience or indicators of critical transitions	5	
Managing SES persistence	Decision/Management support Evaluation of management strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explorative assessment of alternative management measures • Assessing the tradeoff between resilience and economic productivity 	13	Lack of explicit links with real world (validation, uncertainty analysis, sensitivity analysis) Only few studies look at robust strategies
		10	
		3	
	Development of optimal management strategies	7	
Understanding and managing adaptation and transformation	Model purpose: System understanding Understanding adaptive capacity and traps	4	Only few studies address adaptation of social system to change No study addresses transformation

Detailed results of the review

Social-ecological systems considered and integration of the ecological and social subsystems

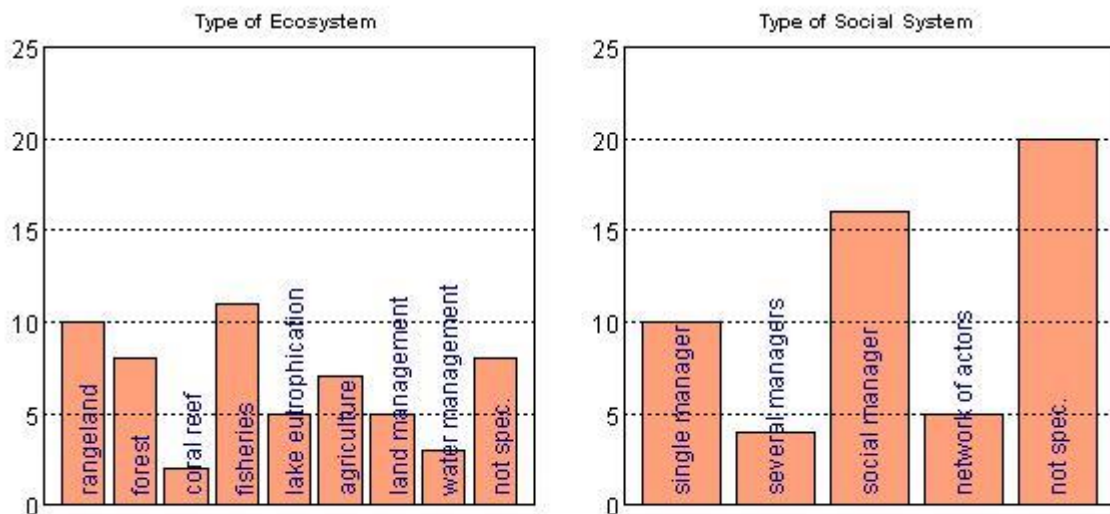


Figure A2: Ecological system/resource system (a) and social systems (b) regarded (Scale: number of papers out of all papers included in review (52))

The investigation shows that modeling studies about resilience have been developed for all different types of ecosystems or resource systems (rangeland, forest, coral reefs, fisheries, lakes, agriculture, land management and water management) (cf. Figure A2a). However, the social system is often not further specified (cf. Figure A2b), but rather represented as a change in a driving variable that is implicitly caused by change in management. Apart from that 31% of the studies assume a social manager and 19% a single one. Only in few cases a network of actors is considered (e.g. Bodin and Norberg (2005)).

The majority of studies (57%) consider feedbacks between social and ecological systems. However it is revealed that the inclusion of feedbacks varies for different model types: Social-ecological feedbacks are more present in the generic models (62%) compared to context-specific models (50%). Furthermore social-ecological feedbacks are more often included in models that apply differential or difference equations (64.0%) compared to rule-based (40%) and state and transition models (45%) (no figure).

Investigating whether disturbance is caused by anthropogenic or ecological variables the following results were depicted. In 25% of the papers disturbance was caused by variability in environmental variables, 35% caused by shocks in environmental variables and 69% caused by changes in anthropogenic variables (cf. Figure A3).

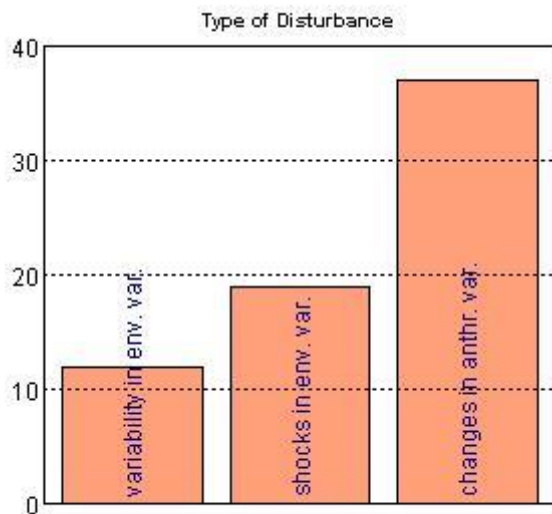


Figure A3: Types of disturbances represented in the models (Scale: number of papers out of all papers included in review (52))

Modelling techniques and system representation

Regarding the model type, the review process revealed that the majority (75%) of the studies used difference and differential equation to formulate the model, 19% used rule based models and 21% state and transition models (multiple answers possible, e.g. Bodin 2005 used differential equation to describe the ecological model and multi-agent simulation for the social system).

46% of the studies are stochastic. All models are formulated in a dynamic manner: 58% with continuous time, 42% with discrete time. From the spatial scale point of view: 67% addressed a local problem and 31% a regional. Two studies addressed a global scale.

Another focus of our review was set on whether the model built is context specific or is rather of general character (generic). The majority of the model studies used a generic model (67%). 35% of the models where context-specific (double entries were possible.) In a first specification, we wanted to investigate, whether a context-specific study uses another model description (rule-based vs. purely analytical) than a general one. Our review showed the following: Most general models were described by difference or differential equations (77%), secondly 18% by state-and transition models and 5% by rule-based models. Context-specific models are priorly formulated by rule-based models (38%) and 43% by equation-based approaches and 19% by state-and-transition models.

In a second specification, we wanted to investigate, if the utilization of context-specific vs. general model approach depends on the model purpose. We revealed the following: Models that address management issues, aim at forecast or support communication are rather context-specific than general and beside from that more complex (via number of parameters) compared to models with purpose understanding (Figures A4b, c). Consequently more than 50% of the management support models have high number of parameters, while most of the system understandings models have

medium numbers. There are only very few models with a low number of parameters (in system understanding) (Fig. A4c).

A further difference in system representation depended on the modeled resource system: In rangeland, forest, fisheries, agriculture, land and water management there are both general and context-specific models. However for lake eutrophication, coral reef and studies where the type of ecosystem is not specified exclusively general models were used. Apart from coral reef, different all model types appear for the resource systems. State and transition models are not as common, mainly used in models about rangelands, forests and in models where the resource system is not specified.

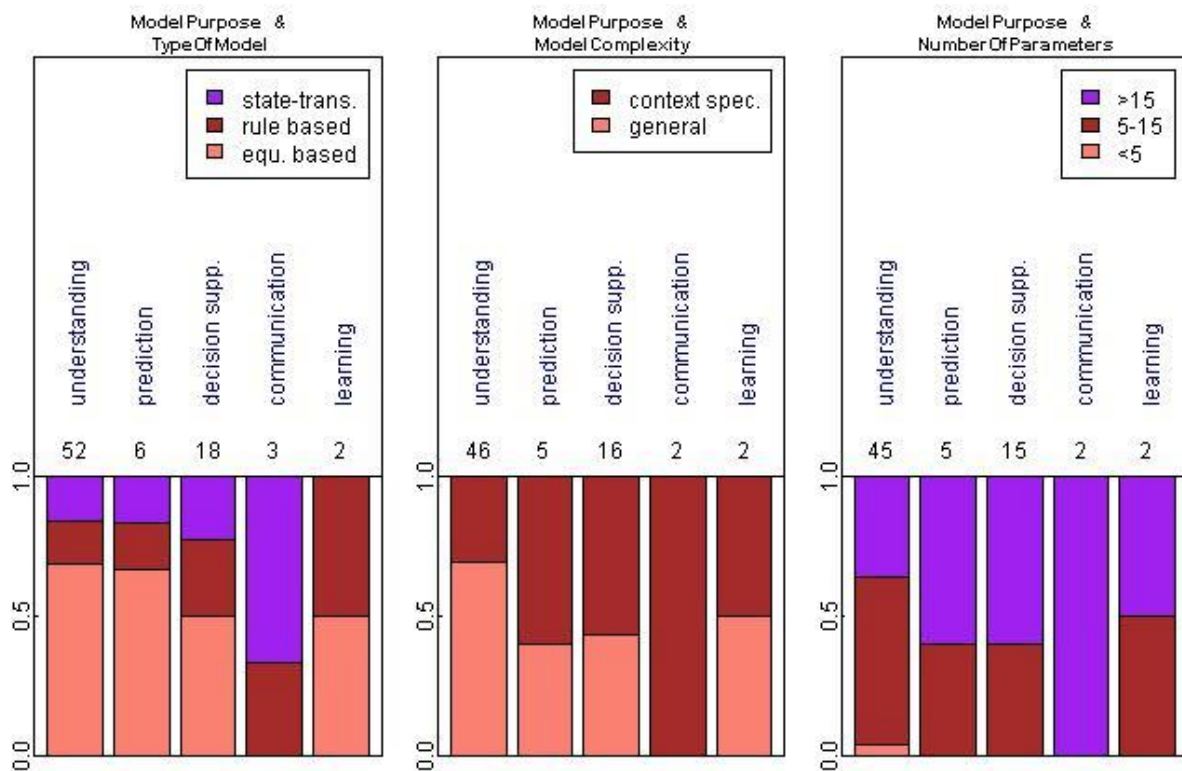


Figure A4: Relationship between model purpose and modeling technique (a) model type, b) model complexity and c) number of parameters used).