

# Resilience and the cultural landscape: Understanding and managing change in human-shaped environments



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# European Landscape Convention



Landscape as „an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors“

→ mapping, planning, management and protection on a comprehensive basis

→ desirable futures for landscapes?

World Landscape Convention?

# Landscape change: Abandonment of traditional land use practices



(Photo: C. Petit)

# Landscape change: Intensification and simplification of agriculture



(Photo: Agentur für Erneuerbare Energien)

# Landscape change: Urbanization



# Landscape research and resilience



## Core questions of

### landscape research

1. What are the drivers, processes, and effects of landscape change?
2. How can we 'manage' change for desirable outcomes?

### resilience research

1. What are the variables, thresholds, and patterns of change in complex social-ecological systems?
2. How can we cope with change, either in terms of building resilience against change or in constructively adapting to inevitable change?

# Bringing landscapes and resilience together



Workshop  
„Social-Ecological Resilience  
of Cultural Landscapes“  
Berlin, June 2010



T. Plieninger & C. Bieling (eds.):  
„Resilience and the Cultural Landscape: Understanding and  
Managing Change in Human-Shaped Environments“  
(Cambridge University Press, 2012)

# Building resilience through specific land use practices

*E. Oteros et al.: Social-ecological resilience and transhumance landscapes in the Mediterranean: Learning from the past, looking for a future*

*C. Van der Stege et al.: The role of home gardens in strengthening social-ecological resilience*



- connections between resilience and land use practices following the principles of adaptive management
- typical strategies foster the provision of diverse ecosystem services and increase natural, social, and cultural capital at the same time

(Photo: B. Martín López)



# Outlook on the book

- Create space for exchange between the landscape and resilience schools,
- Expand our understanding on how to conceptualize landscapes as social-ecological systems,
- Take a closer look on driving forces of landscape change on various spatial and temporal scales,
- Track long-term landscape change in terms of social-ecological resilience,
- Analyse social capital as a source of resilience and adaptation in landscapes,
- Look for strategies for an adaptive management of cultural landscapes.



**Thank you for your attention!**

(Photo: W.  
Konold)