

WORKSHOP ON RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Vienna, 21st (13:00-18:00) and 22nd of February, 2011 (9:00-17:00)

Premises of the Austrian Ministry of Science and Research,
1010 Wien, Freyung 3, 2nd floor

Rational:

Resilience is becoming a key issue of sustainable development. By providing for a framework for understanding how to sustain and enhance adaptive capacity in a complex world of rapid transformations it is at the very heart of strategies dealing with adapting socio-ecological systems to environmental pressure, such as climate change. Climate change itself is increasingly becoming a reality which society has to adapt as the environmental setting is already shifting and we cannot evade facing the short to medium-term impacts of climate change. Recently, scientists from different disciplines have started to address climate change mitigation and adaptation challenges using the concept of resilience. Among others, two challenges for research and policy have emerged: The first relates to operationalizing of resilience for matters of supporting policies “on the ground”, and thus shifting the focus from concepts to eventual implementation. The second is related to an apparent tension between the need for transformation as often voiced in discourses on climate change, and the notion of persistence inherent in the concept of resilience. The workshop shall address these challenges, examine demands for interdisciplinary knowledge generation and sharing and develop novel ideas for moving forward.

Purpose:

The purpose of this workshop is to critically examine the usefulness of resilience theories for analyses of critical climate change issues and policies. Taking an interdisciplinary perspective, we bring together scholars and boundary researchers from biological, social and economical disciplines aiming at the adaptability of socio-ecological systems in general and the global issue of climate change in particular. We plan to deliver insights for an interdisciplinary research agenda that advances the implementation of concepts based on resilience and adaptation science for practitioners and policymakers dealing with climate change.

	Monday, Feb. 21
13:00–13:30	Opening and Introduction
13:30–14:30	Emily Boyd: Adapting institutions, governance and complexity
14:40–14:45	Coffee Break
15:00–16:00	Brian Fath: Sustainable development, ecosystems and resilience
16:00–16:15	Coffee Break
16:15–17:15	Jan Sendzimir: Resilience and climate adaptation
17:15–18:00	Questions from the Audience
	Tuesday, Feb 22
9:00–10:30	Karen Sudmeier-Rieux: Resilience, Ecosystems and Disaster Risk Management
10:30–10:45	Coffee Break
10:45–12:15	Reinhard Mechler: Resilience in adaptation to extreme events – Review of opportunities
12:15–13:45	Lunch
13:45–15:15	Reinette Biggs: A future interdisciplinary research agenda (tbc)
15:15–15:30	Coffee Break
15:30–17:00	Synthesis & Final Discussion

Registration necessary until: February 3rd 2011

**If you like to participate in this scientific workshop please contact Ms. Sylvia Biffli:
biffli@oekosozial.at**