

# Program on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS): an international research strategy for integrated social-ecological systems

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**The Program on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS), a new initiative within the ICSU global change programs, aims to integrate research on the stewardship of social-ecological systems, the services they generate, and the relationships among natural capital, human wellbeing, livelihoods, inequality and poverty.**

**The vision of PECS is a world where human actions have transformed to achieve sustainable stewardship of social-ecological systems.**

**The goal of PECS is to generate the scientific and policy-relevant knowledge of social-ecological dynamics needed to enable such a shift, including mitigation of poverty.**

## Framework

PECS research will build upon and expand the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment framework. PECS will focus on the feedback loops between ecosystem services, human wellbeing and indirect and direct drivers of ecosystem change.

PECS research will recognize that ecosystem services are generated by interdependent social-ecological systems and aims at removing the perceived dichotomy between nature and society.

PECS research will address the complex, non-linear dynamics of social-ecological systems. It recognizes the interplay between the global and the local, the past, present and future. It aims to understand interactions between fast and slow drivers of social and ecological change to identify appropriate operational scales for stewardship.

## Approaches

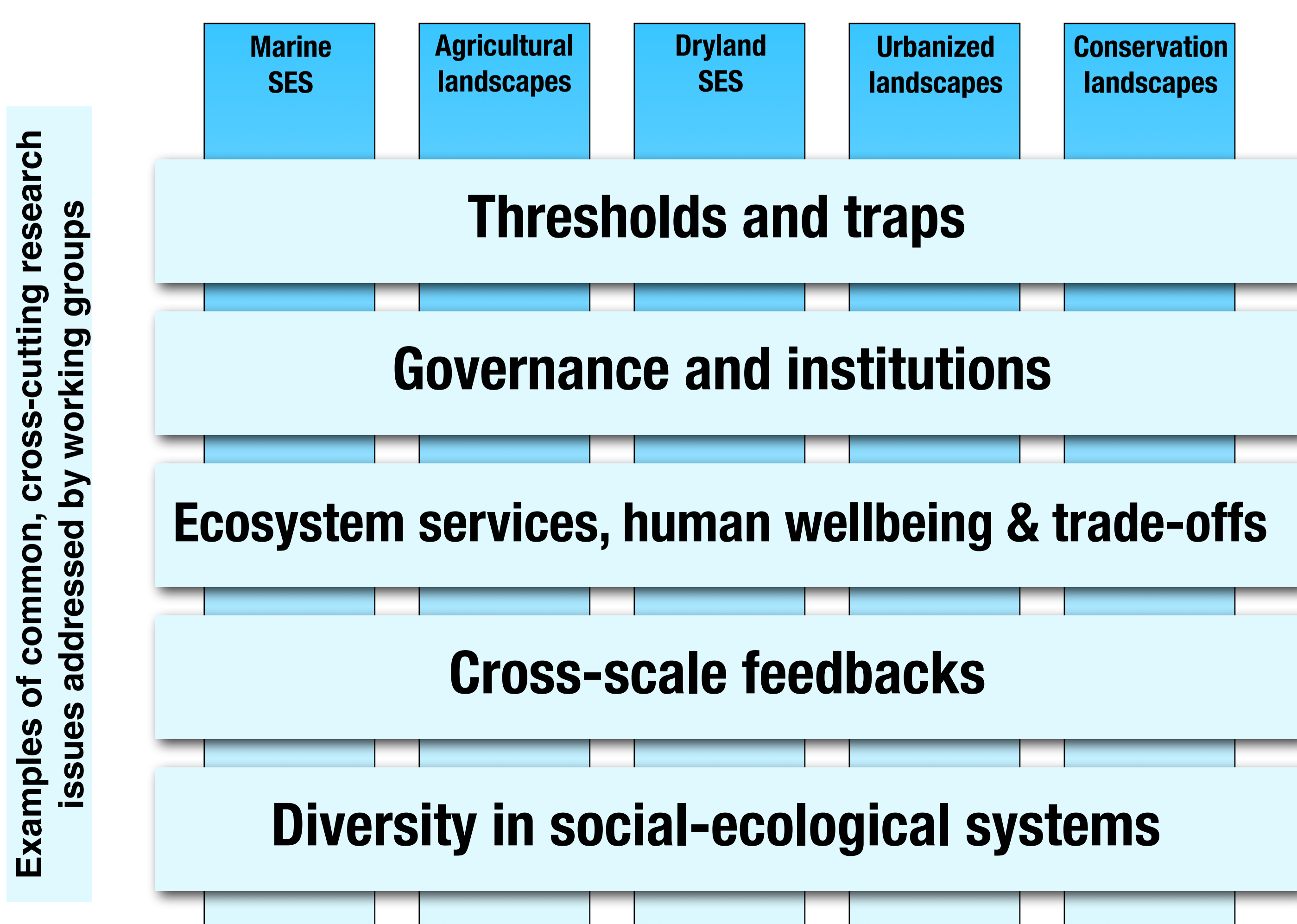
The principal approach of PECS research is comparisons of place-based, long-term social-ecological case studies. Specific case studies will fall into one of the PECS working groups.

PECS research will consider a diverse source of information (including narrative, qualitative and quantitative data, historical records, monitoring data and remote sensing) and employ a wide range of methods.

PECS will contribute to building a central database of the transdisciplinary methods employed in different case studies and the research questions they attempt to answer.

Capacity building strategies will include training workshops on core methods for place-based, long-term social-ecological research.

### Working groups already proposed for PECS



## Linkages

PECS will build upon and complement existing efforts for research, assessment and policy for sustainable development, including the other ICSU global environmental change programs and Earth Systems Science Partnership.

Knowledge generated by PECS will be useful for assessment activities such as IPCC or future assessments from IPBES.

PECS is a coordinating organization, not a funding agency

The PECS International Program Office is hosted by the Stockholm Resilience Centre. For more information on PECS, and research endorsement criteria, visit <http://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/researchprogrammes/>