



Simron J. Singh, Helmut Haberl, Marian Chertow, Michael Mirtl, Martin Schmid (2013) (Eds.): Long Term Socio-Ecological Research. Studies in Society-Nature Interactions Across Spatial and Temporal Scales, Springer (Human-Environment Interactions, Vol. 2).

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Over the last half century, exceptional changes in the environment have placed renewed importance on the study of society-nature interactions. Around the globe, ever increasing human demands on ecosystems not only harm the environment, but also induce great potential for social conflict. In this sense sustainability problems are not only "ecological" but "socio-ecological" since the ways societies interact with the environment affects both ecosystems and social systems.

The emerging interdisciplinary field of Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research (LTSER) is primarily concerned with questions of global environmental change and sustainability. It aims to conceptualise, observe, analyse, and model changes in coupled socio-ecological systems over generations. Tracking these changes over extended periods is accomplished in research traditions that include social and human ecology, industrial ecology, environmental history, human geography and anthropology. LTSER aims to provide a knowledge base that helps reorient socioeconomic trajectories towards more sustainable pathways.

The authors of the new volume make a case for LTSER's potential in providing insights, knowledge and experience necessary for a sustainability transition. Contributions from Europe and North America review the development of LTSER since its inception and assess its current state. Through many case studies, this book gives the reader a greater sense of where we are and what needs to be done to engage in and make meaning from long-term, place-based and

cross-disciplinary engagements with socio-ecological systems.

Research in VOLANTE's Work package 4 (module P) directly builds on the LTSER concept and applies it to the long-term analysis of land-system trajectories of several important European countries.