

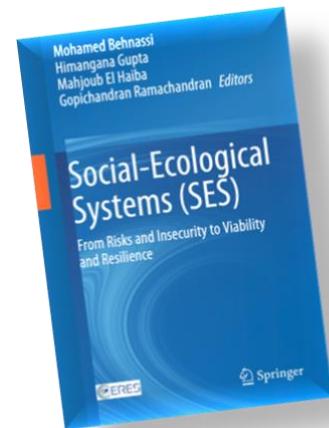
## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

### Viability and Resilience of Social-Ecological Systems in a Context of Risks and Insecurity

**Organizer:** Center for Environment, Human Security and Governance (CERES) & Springer International Publishing

**Date & Time:** October 5, 2021 (tbc)

**Place:** Virtual meeting on Zoom



### Background

One of the most striking dynamics of the current era is the interaction of anthropogenic processes with ecosystems at large scales with increasing complexity and uncertainty. Contemporary human societies, throughout their evolution mainly oriented by fuel-driven industrial model and over-consumerism, have crossed many ecological thresholds, sometimes irreversibly, which have severely altered the trajectory of Earth system at all levels in a context commonly referred to as the Anthropocene. The failure to perceive human societies as integral parts of such a system and the tendency to predate resources accordingly lead to a wide variety of mutually reinforcing and unprecedented complex risks, which tend to destabilize the security, viability, and resilience of social-ecological systems (SES).

Failure to tackle implications of emerging risks, such as climatic ones, tends to spiral consequences of biodiversity loss, man-made environmental disasters, and epidemics. This compound risks to social systems, including economic development and political integration with many implications for livelihoods, well-being, productivity, and even regional and domestic security. In the past, the human–nature harmony fostered the resilience of SES. Such a harmony enabled adaptation through nature-based solutions, conservation and sustainable use of bio-resources through traditional knowledge and practices. Presently, this harmony is being deeply disrupted due to large-scale shifting dynamics. Therefore, the viability and resilience of SES are impossible in a world plagued with significant and growing inequality, insecurity, and risks; hence the need for a transformational change through inclusive unconventional scientific and policy shifts.

In such a perspective, a contributed volume has been recently published by the Center for Environment, Human Security & Governance (CERES), following an international conference held on October 2019, with the objective to stimulate thinking about the nature of interactions between social and ecological systems from alternative perspectives. The volume contributes to the multidisciplinary debate about SES within the perspective of rethinking the nature of interaction between these systems, especially in the Anthropocene Era. Most chapters either deliberate on risk dynamics threatening current SES or stimulate thought processes to manage such risks and related negative implications. After analyzing the main drivers of SES

vulnerability, the volume highlights the shifts to be made to enhance the sustainability and resilience of these systems, mainly the integration and restructuring of governance frameworks, the reorganization of production and consumption systems far from conventional models based on consumerism, the elaboration of mitigation, adaptation, and SDGs implementation measures from a co-benefit perspective, and the consideration of appropriate approaches and paradigms while elaborating and implementing response mechanisms.

### **Objective**

The present conference intends to be an opportunity to widely communicate about the book's approach, scope, and findings. Editors and chapters' authors will be invited to present their publishable research, while some selected discussants from relevant research areas and decision spheres will be invited to comment on such works and findings and explore future research pathways stimulated by the published volume, including future research and publication opportunities.

### **Link to the Volume:**

<https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030762469>