

Althea Davies' thoughts on the for the SAGES-NABO Meeting March 26th

What are the three most important issues we need to understand about human - environment interactions?

- Complexity - single disciplinary approaches are insufficient as people are often far from the rational beings we tend to assume, especially when working in environmental disciplines
- Time requirements and effort required to ensure that 'the whole is more than the sum of the parts' in interdisciplinary research - I know NABO has an impressive record in this.
- How do we deal adequately with the huge variety of large and subtle differences in environment, responses, interactions when making broad scale comparisons and syntheses? Do we do human-environment interactions an injustice through ironing out the details? I suspect this is my inexperience talking...

What are the biggest obstacles to developing inter-regional comparisons and synthesis?

Lack of comparability - differences in research sources, methods and evidence (both between and within disciplines) between different geographical areas, meaning inevitable gaps and compromises in making comparisons or syntheses.

References

Hanley, N., Davies, A., Angelopoulos, K., Hamilton, A., Ross, A., Tinch, D. & Watson, F. (2008) Economic determinants of biodiversity change over a 400 year period in the Scottish uplands. *Journal of Applied Ecology* **45**, 1557-156