



Securing the Conservation of biodiversity across Administrative Levels and spatial, temporal, and Ecological Scales

Biodiversity – the living world – is all about scale

Why do we go on losing biodiversity?

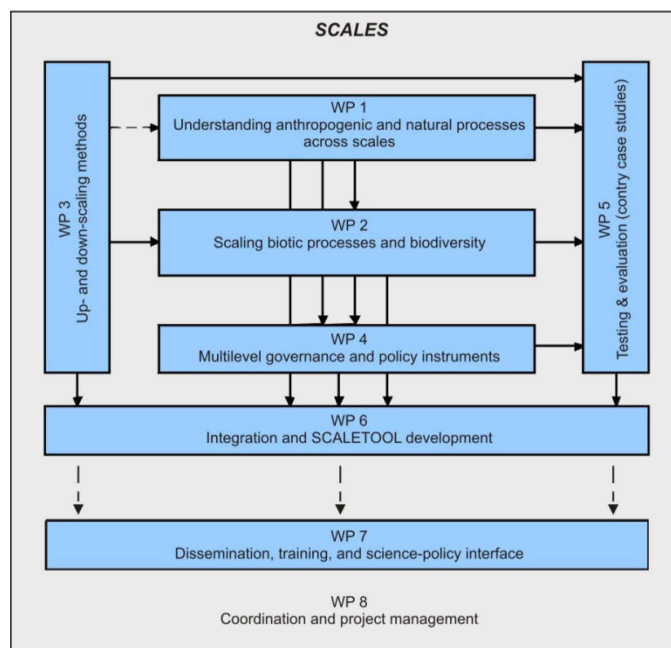
The answer depends on the scale at which you view the world.

At one scale it may be changes in climate, while at another one it may be habitat loss and fragmentation or disturbance.

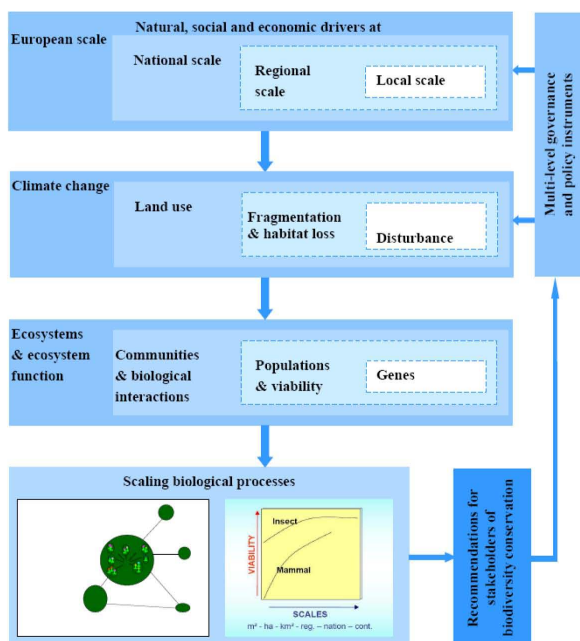
Management of the living world will be effective only if we understand how problems and solutions change with scale.

The SCALES project will seek ways to build the issue of scale into policy and decision making and biodiversity management.

Workpackage interactions



Conceptual framework



Contact SCALES: klaus.henle@ufz.de

Partners

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research-UFZ (Coordinator) University of the Aegean University of Reading Univerzita Karlova v Praze Aristotelio Panepistimo Thessalonikis University of Leeds Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique Uniwersytet Jagiellonski Lunds Universitet Centre for Ecology & Hydrology Suomen Ymparistokeskus Median S.C.P. Universitat Bayreuth	Fundacao da Faculdade de Ciencias e Tecnologia da Universidade Nova de Lisboa The University of Queensland Centre za Kartografijo Favne in Flore Zavod Centre Tecnologic Forestal de Catalunya Institute for European Environmental Policy Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet Vilniaus Universiteto Ekologijos Institutas Stiftelsen Norsk Institutt for Naturforskning Debreceni Egyetem Tartu Ulikool Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle Helsingin Yliopisto
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Objectives

- 1) Assess and model the socio-economic driving forces (e.g. EU policies, large scale economic and demographic trends, etc) and the resulting environmental pressures (e.g. habitat loss and fragmentation, changing climate) affecting European biodiversity under present and projected future conditions across scales.
- 2) Synthesize and improve the methodology for analysing the scale-dependent impacts of these pressures on components of biodiversity ranging from genes to species' populations to biotic communities and ecosystems;
- 3) Develop and evaluate new methods for upscaling and downscaling to facilitate the provision of environmental, ecological, and socio-economic information at relevant and matching scales.
- 4) Assess the effectiveness and efficiency of policy instruments to respond to biodiversity loss, identify innovative policy instruments to address scale-related conservation problems, and improve multilevel biodiversity governance;
- 5) Test and evaluate the practical suitability and matching of methods and policy instruments under applied constraints to deliver effective European biodiversity conservation across scales, using networks of protected areas, regional connectivity, and monitoring of status and trend as a common testing and assessment ground;
- 6) Translate the results into policy and management recommendations and integrate them in a web based support tool kit (SCALETOOL) to assist governmental and non-governmental organisations in ensuring sustainable conservation action across scales.

Duration: May 2009 – April 2014

