

# Fundamentals of SECORES

---

*Final version 3 October 2022*

*Based on decision by Steering Committee of 1 June 2022*

## 1. Context

Natural ecosystems around the world are under enormous pressure from degradation, deforestation, conversion, poaching, unsustainable mining, pollution, climate change, etc., jeopardizing social development and economic sustainability. Changes at the global (climate change), regional (watershed management, rain cycles influenced by forests), or local level mainly affect the poorest communities who depend on natural ecosystems and their services. At the same time, these local communities are important actors in the protection and restoration of healthy ecosystems, which also contributes to their adaptation to, as well as reducing the effects of, climate change.

The Thematic Joint Strategic Framework on social-ecological resilience (February 2021) describes key concepts on 'resilient ecosystems', the 'planetary boundaries', 'alternative stable states', and the central concept of 'ecosystem services' and gives an overview of the drivers which provoke biodiversity loss and ecosystem changes. It explains the temporal aspects and the links to human well-being. Finally, it frames in the global processes and institutions on ecosystem change and transversal themes.

## 2. Vision

An integrated and holistic biosphere-based approach is needed. Humans have a direct influence on ecosystem resilience, and vice versa, particularly in a rapidly changing world with a clear link to climate change and transnational challenges. The ethical and ecologically sustainable utilisation of nature are therefore key components of the concept of human well-being.

The ultimate change this network aspires to is robust well-being of local communities in their surrounding ecosystems which, we believe, is brought about by improving social-ecological resilience.

Specifically, this refers to communities (including vulnerable youth) living in landscapes or river catchments as well as more urban residents, who impact or interact with natural and agroecosystems in these landscapes, and whose well-being depends directly and indirectly on the services these ecosystems provide.

## 3. Mission

This network aims to increase the space for exchange and learning and the complementarity, synergy and collaboration in building social-ecological resilience in the partner countries as well as strengthening national and international advocacy and policy in this field.

## 4. Principles

All members of the network agree to undertake participatory and inclusive approaches, explicitly considering gender mainstreaming and adhering to a holistic approach.

## 5. Strategic goals

This network will contribute to 4 strategic goals:

1. Improved rights, policies, and governance of ecosystems and natural resources
2. Improved awareness, knowledge, skills about sustainable ecosystems
3. Strengthened sustainable access to, management and use of ecosystem services
4. Ecosystems are conserved or restored for optimal functioning

## 6. Specific objective and results

The network aims at the following objective and results

- ◆ Objective: The integration of social-ecological resilience in Belgian cooperation is increased.
- ◆ Results
  - R1: The knowledge of Belgian actors on socio-ecological resilience is strengthened.
  - R2: The coherence of Belgian development policy on social-ecological resilience is improved.
  - R3: Synergy on social-ecological resilience is increased.

## 7. Members

SECORES is a network of active members organizing activities on social-ecological resilience in Belgium and partner countries. The network offers a platform for a broad range of actors to participate in these activities.

There are two types of members: (a) core members; and (b) members.

- ◆ Core members are the members of the thematic Joint Strategic Framework (JSF) on resilience of social-ecological systems. They have a financial commitment in the network, manage the network via the Steering Committee and attach at least a part of their program co-financed by DGD to the thematic JSF.
- ◆ Members are Belgian organizations actively involved in exchanging, organising activities, and/or lobby and advocacy on social-ecological resilience. They do not contribute financially and do not participate in decisions on the functioning of the network. Members subscribe to the vision, mission and objectives described in this document. They are research and higher education institutions, governmental actors or actors of civil society having a link and an affinity with social-ecological resilience in the framework of development cooperation.