

RESILIENCE THINKING: Practitioners meet Researchers



Insights and ideas from the
**3rd International
Science and Policy Conference on the
Resilience of Social & Ecological Systems,
Montpellier, France**
Resilience and Development

Annual international gathering of social & natural scientists



Who was there?

- academics from many Universities
- researchers e.g. from European Commission, French Foreign Ministry, Directors of Aid & Development in Africa, the (big) Business Alliance for Resilience, etc.
- practitioners from Transition Town movement, World Vision & other NGOs



What did we talk about?

1. Resilience

2. Ecosystem services

***3. Adaptation
leadership***

RESILIENCE

- as an increasingly accepted way of thinking, a framework, all over the world for our responses to climate change
- Resilience - rather than learning by shock

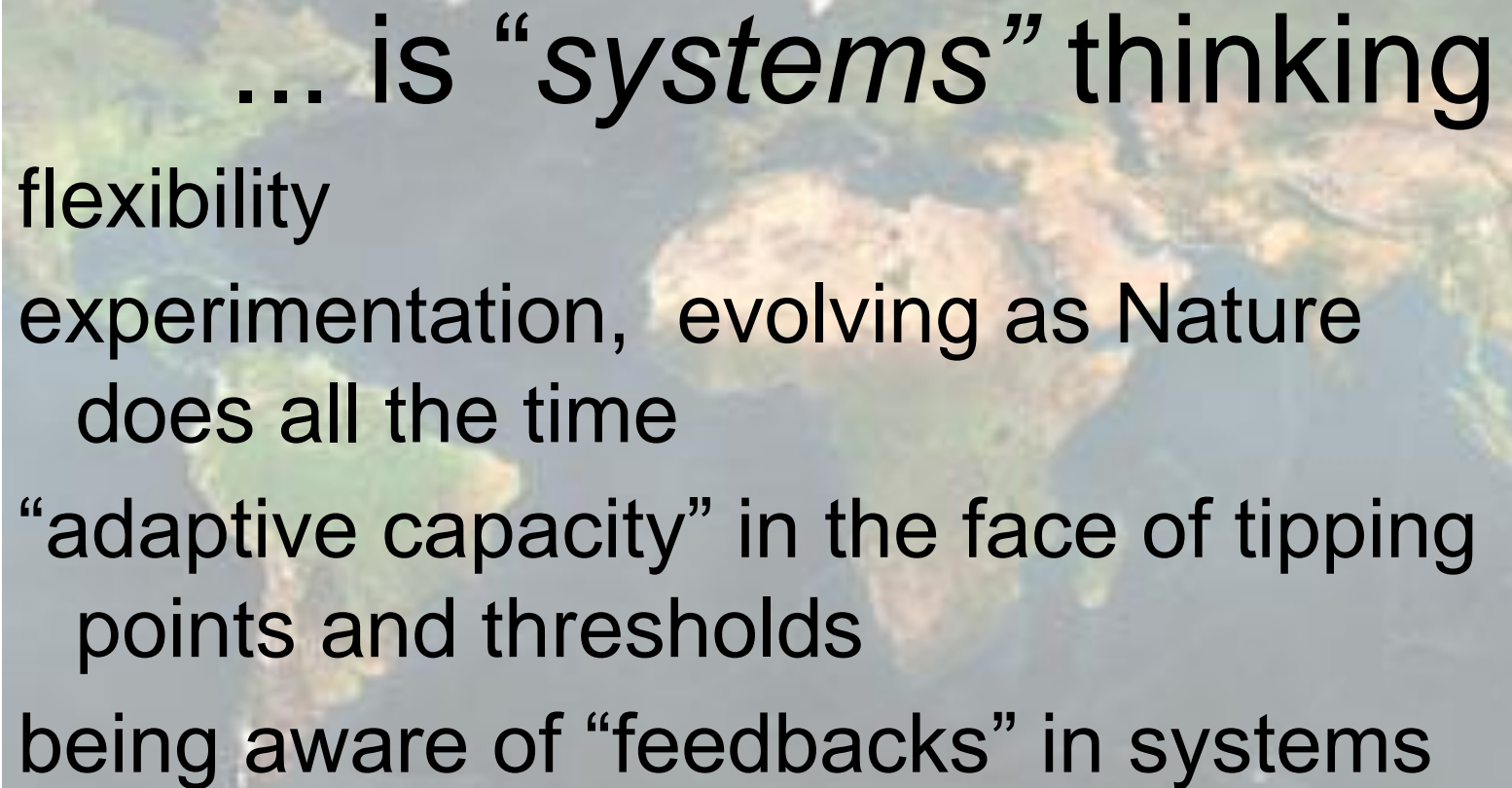
Resilience means...

- the capacity of a system to absorb shocks and to change without collapse or becoming something new and undesirable that we can't live in or with.
- “*bouncing forward*” to a new way of functioning, not back to a way

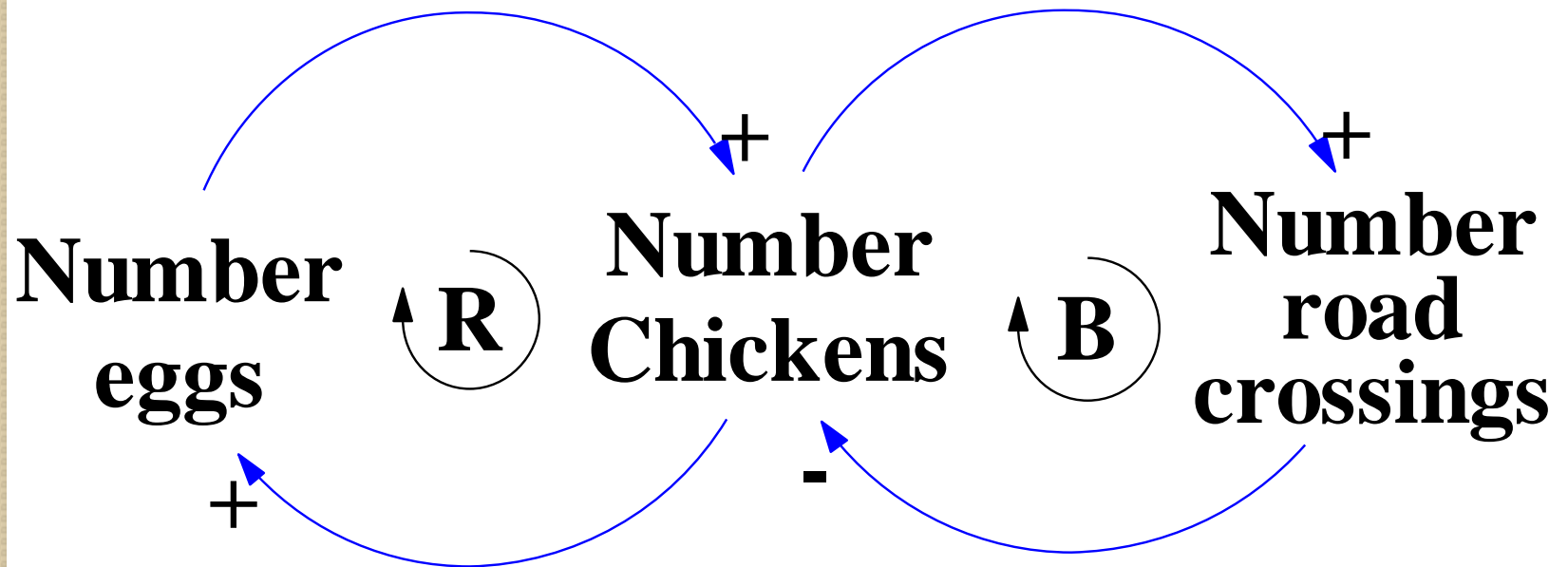




“resilience thinking ...”



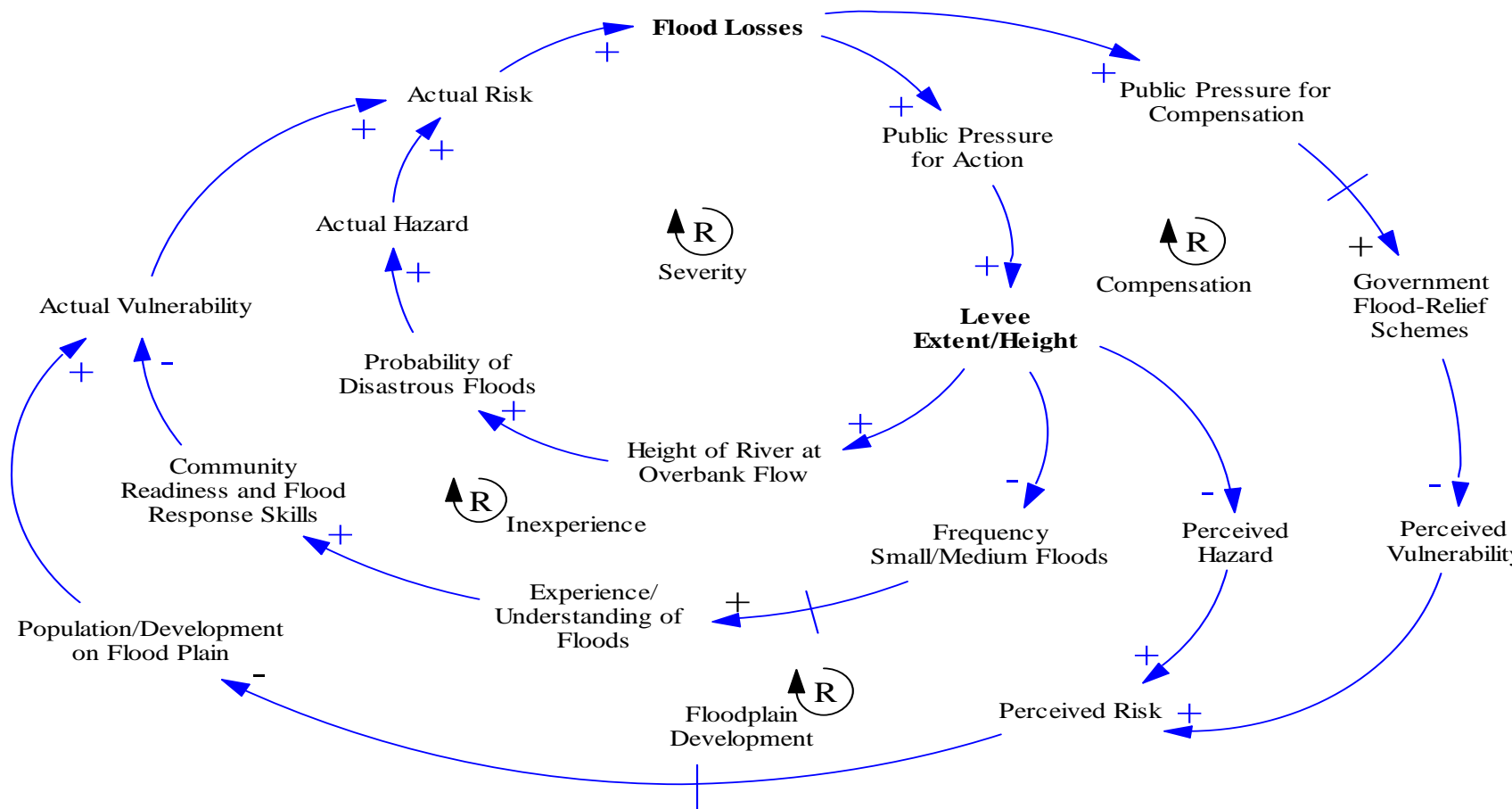
... is “*systems*” thinking
flexibility
experimentation, evolving as Nature
does all the time
“adaptive capacity” in the face of tipping
points and thresholds
being aware of “feedbacks” in systems



**REINFORCING
(POSITIVE)
FEEDBACK**

**BALANCING
(NEGATIVE)
FEEDBACK**

complex systems



Ignoring complex feedbacks: Hurricane Katrina

“Complex adaptive thinking contributes to resilience of a system”

2. Ecosystem Services



Nature's pollination "service" if
lost would cost the economy
\$319B!

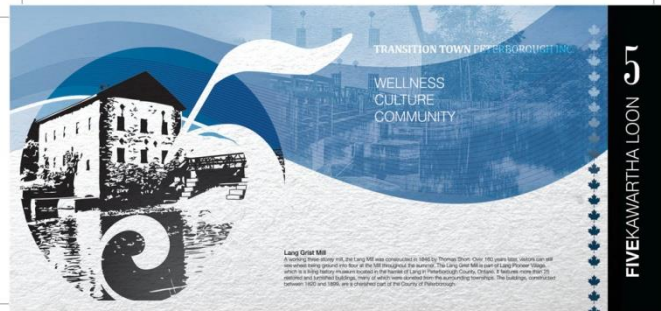


Managing our economy within Nature's limits



for a resilient economic infrastructure

Local Currency the Kawartha Loon (KL)



Locally-controlled, community supported investment & credit

- using local wealth
- seeded initially by the Cdn\$ reserve behind the KL but eventually with municipal & other investments

3. Adaptation

Adaptation is managing the complex systems of interaction of nature & people in ways that ensure that what we depend on for continued life – the “services” of the ecosystems – will always be here.

**⇒ *TRANSFORMATION OF
WORLDVIEW & BEHAVIOURS***

Adaptation leadership

for more proactive local leadership in “adaptation planning” that:

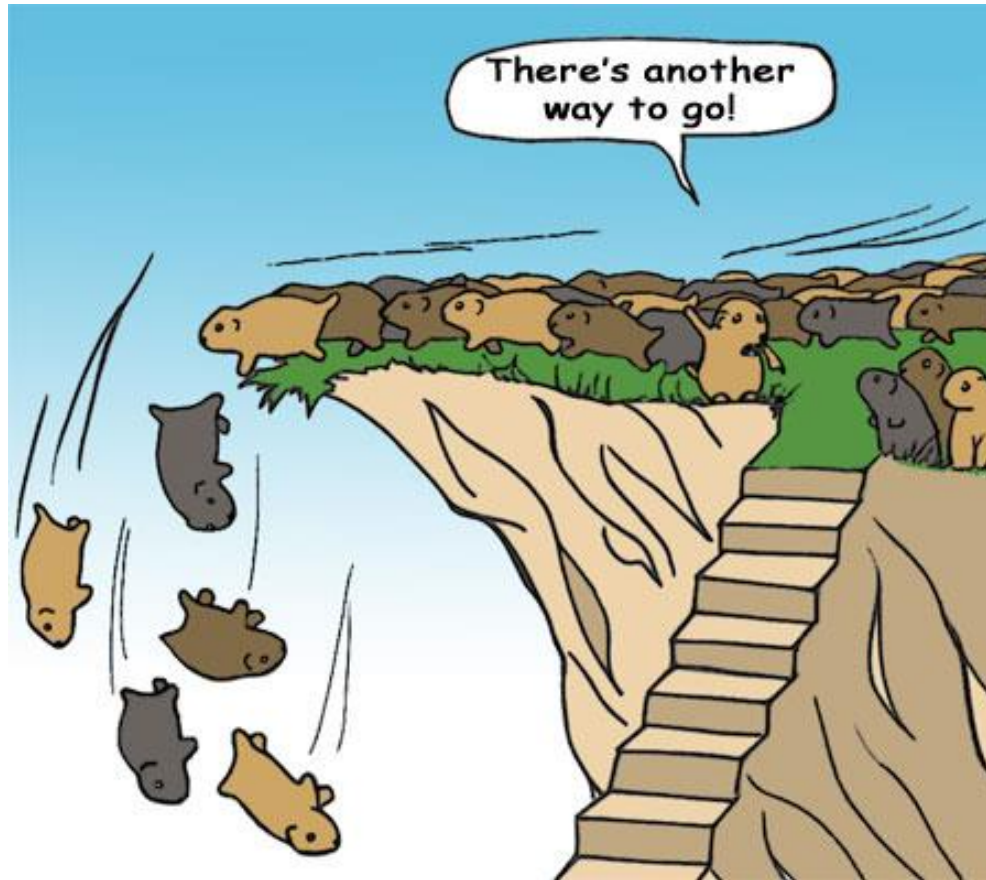
- ✓ takes a resilience approach
- ✓ uses complex adaptive system thinking in local policy & energy descent actions
- ✓ sees adaptation as a *process*, not a set of adjustments to a predicted future



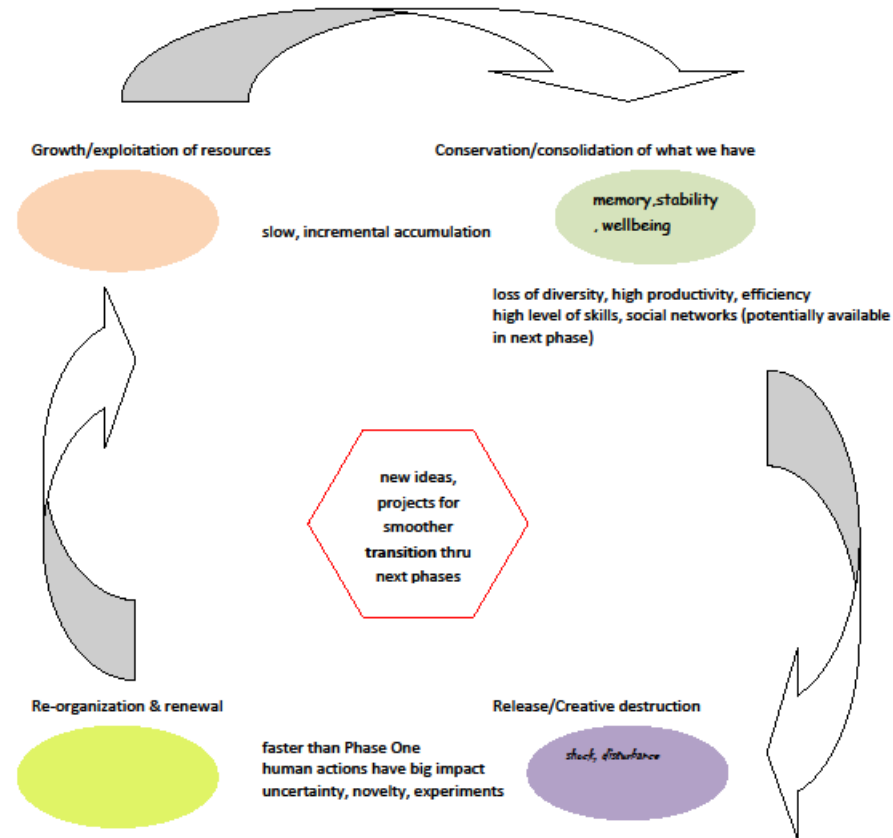
Local Adaptation Leadership

What is the *next level* this Committee can achieve in answer to scientists' call for the community understanding & structural change necessary to adapt ... and keep adapting?

The invitation



PHASE ONE – DEVELOPMENT



PHASE TWO: RELEASE/RE-ORGANIZATION (after disturbance)