

VALUES AS LEVERAGE POINTS FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE OF WETLANDS.

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Abstract body

Wetlands are biodiversity-rich, multiple-service providing socio-ecosystems (SES), yet fast disappearing due to increasing anthropopressure. Research shows that values (core beliefs and judgements) profoundly affect individual and collective behaviour. The leverage points (places in a system where small intervention can produce systemic change) approach underline the transformational potential of values. Therefore, increasing “value-based” governance and conservation may foster the sustainability of wetland SES. We go beyond existing participatory governance models by proposing ways of practically integrating the leverage points approach, with a particular focus on values, into adaptive governance practice.

This proposal, based on action-oriented participatory research - Emys-R (www.emysr.cnrs.fr) provides a comparative analysis of three Natura 2000 wetland SES: Woerr (France), Neuburg am Rhein (Germany) and Silene (Latvia).

Based on an original SES and Leverage Points approach combined with IPBES' Nature Futures Framework, we provide 1) a transdisciplinary analysis of potentially transformative leverage points, leading to 2) a transformative governance model for the co-existence of humans and non-humans on wetlands and 3) suggest that conservation initiatives in favour of the protected Emys orbicularis - European pond turtle (present on all study sites) may promote the engagement of people in conservation efforts, provided developing value-based rationale to engage.

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