

BECC Annual Meeting 18-19 October 2016

Tuesday 18 October

10.00 Registration, coffee and the BECC Triangle

10.20 Welcome Henrik, coordinator BECC (LU) started the meeting with the news about continued governmental funding (PP-presentation)

10.30-11.00 Håkan, coordinator BECC (GU) presented the new research organization with 3 Themes in BECC followed by an open Q&A between board and audience.

Differences in the BECC Triangle? How are the 3 Themes connected?

They represent different parts of BECC which are connected as well as different. They all have different scales, different approaches and sometimes same and sometimes different researchers.

Work with stakeholders, industry – how does BECC carry out collaborations with different stakeholders? How do you know the plans and mission statements for industries and other stakeholders? How can BECC assist in doing more collaborations and contacts with stakeholders?

We have researchers with a lot of contacts with smaller companies but we need to improve the overall level of knowledge about stakeholder collaboration, current and future policy on national, European and global level as well as on stakeholder interactions. Important to not forget about the role of management of nature e.g forest.

The board has made an analysis of external grants in the BECC research community and can say that we almost completely lack funding from Vinnova but we are good at getting grants from Formas. Maybe we also need to start re-thinking how we package and present our research?

How flexible are you about the name of the Themes?

Names are flexible but it is important that the Themes discuss names and that the name connects to the research it contains. Each Theme will make a strategy document about that Theme.

We have started with three Themes and we can start new Themes if needed and are open for suggestions. Themes have two aims, one is to solve world problems but another is also to make researchers contribute to the work of BECC.

I lack social systems in the Triangle and the name of the Themes. Do not forget the dimension of social and natural scientist. A better integration will help to get funding from Vinnova and likewise!

A triangle can have many different dimensions! Ecosystem services are by definition something that includes human and society. There are different strategies to make research about ecosystem services. We have a bias in BECC where the number of social scientist is low in relation to a high number of natural scientist. We have a small number of social scientists involved in BECC-spread the word to get more people involved.

The Triangle- the idea with the exercise was to start a discussion about the Themes and how we can position ourselves.

How do you find knowledge gaps in BECC?

If you as a researcher find a research knowledge gap, one way is to start an Action Group to try to understand that gap. But it is also important to look into what BECC actually can do. We rely on external grants and have a limited funding resource in BECC. We can co-operate in many different ways but is important that BECC do not fund all activities in our field at our universities.

We have great possibilities to link into international groups, invite guest researchers and organize workshops. We could potentially also assist in creating permanent positions at different departments where knowledge gaps exist due to lack of researchers.

LU has an excellent organization to help to start businesses and probably the same goes for Gothenburg! How can BECC use that organization better? We can use LU Innovation in a better way than we are doing today.

I think these types of discussions are positive. Too highlight areas where we can improve, we as in board, themes and researchers in BECC. Good to have the space to have these discussions!

Use the Themes to have lively discussions! The themes have great possibilities to create meetings, invite people and make new suggestions to the board!

11.00-12.30 Theme “Constraining the carbon cycle to characterise and mitigate climate change”

Edith Hammer introduced herself as head theme leader and deputy leaders Tobias Rütting and Dan Metcalfe. Tobias and Dan could unfortunately not make it to the annual meeting.

Some examples of research in the Themes area were presented:

Anders Tunlid, Lund University: Molecular Interactions Controlling soil Carbon Sequestration

Tobias Rütting, University of Gothenburg presentation presented by Leif Klemedtsson.

Wolfgang Knorr, Lund University: Microbial life: the new frontier in ecosystem modeling

Kim Nicholas, Lund University

Claus Beier, University of Copenhagen

14.00 -15.30 Theme ”Mainstreaming [consideration of] ecosystem services into land use decision-making under global change”

Cecilia Akselsson introduced herself as head theme leader and deputy leaders Jessica Coria and Yann Clough. Yann could unfortunately not make it to the annual meeting.

Some examples of research in the Themes area were presented:

Thomas Sterner, University of Gothenburg: Policy Instruments to deal with Planetary Boundaries

Anna Nordén & Veiko Lehsten, Lund University: Linking economics and ecology and get published in Ecological economics

Mark Brady & Katarina Hedlund, Lund University

15-15.10 Information from the Swedish Infrastructure for Ecosystem Science (SITES) Anders Lindroth Website for SITES: <http://www.fieldsites.se/>

15.10-16 Coffee and poster session

16-17.30 Theme ”Effective strategies for biodiversity conservation under the combined pressures from climate change and land use change”

Johan Ekroos introduced herself as head theme leader and deputy leaders Alexandre Antonelli and Fariborz Zelli. Fari could unfortunately not make it to the annual meeting.

Some examples of research in the Themes area were presented:

Jenny Hodgson, University of Liverpool: Conservation in fragmented landscapes under climate change

Karin Hall, Lund University: Remote sensing in ecology

Alexandre Antonelli, University of Gothenburg: Biodiversity assessment for targeted conservation in a changing world

17.30-19.30 Free time, enjoy the spa if you want to!

19.30 Dinner

WEDNESDAY 19 October

8.30 BECC on the international research and science-policy arena

Ben Smith introduced the session and reminded all about different existing possibilities to be involved on the international arena in different ways. One example is the open nominations to work with IPCC the 6th Assessment Report by the National Focal Point, SMHI.

Different researchers in BECC presented their different international involvement

Paul Caplat, Lund University

Robert Björk, University of Gothenburg

Margareta Johansson, Lund University

Stefan Olin, Lund University

10.10-10.40 Coffee

10.40-12.30 Theme breakouts and discussions

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-14.30 Report back + next steps

Jessica Coria reported back from discussions in Mainstreaming [consideration of] ecosystem services into land use decision-making under global change

- Land use focus is important
- Interdisciplinary team, chance to connect to policy and to other themes
- Goal: link Ecosystem Services with policy and decisions
- Need strategy to collaborate with other BECC theme groups
- Need solutions on different time scales
- Competence focus in group: Ag, forestry, wetland, urban
- How to get started? Action groups and workshops (writing papers together)
- Want to connect with existing initiatives
- Would like a web portal for communication

Kim Nicholas reported back from discussions in Constraining the carbon cycle to characterise and mitigate climate change

Discussed 3 overall themes for constraining climate & carbon:

- **Understanding:** focused on basic/fundamental science
 - Linking biogeochemical cycles (C, N,)
 - Linking terrestrial and aquatic systems
 - Understanding feedbacks
 - Climate impacts on ecosystems
- **Process**
 - Need to link modeling and experiments
 - Methods to study: gradients vs ANOVA
 - Time: understand land use history and also future projections, e.g., for how long will ecosystems be a carbon sink?
 - Space: what ecosystems (globally) are carbon sinks, how can they be managed to increase carbon uptake?
- **Mitigation**
 - BECC should inform and connect with climate policy in Sweden and beyond

- Involve stakeholders from the beginning and throughout the process so research is useful
- Land management is critical for climate mitigation
- Outreach (but avoid pipeline model)

Next steps in the Theme:

- Workshop on biogeochemical cycles
- Anders has workshop upcoming on terrestrial & aquatic carbon
- Communication overall: within and outside of BECC

Wants more contributions from researchers working with policy, impact and mitigation how (need to link fundamental research to management/policy/stakeholders). -Perhaps engage MSc students in thesis writing (idea from Maj-Lena). Maybe Johanna Alkan Olsson and masterprogramme “Tillämpad klimatstrategi” and LUMES Msc students can be engaged?

Johan Ekroos reported back from discussions in Effective strategies for biodiversity conservation under the combined pressures from climate change and land use change

- Identified 3 main themes:
 - green infrastructure (new policy term!)
 - term green infrastructure needs clarification between e.g., ecologists and planners)
 - improving landscape descriptors
 - better knowledge of species-specific habitat dependence
- Work with stakeholders on research proposals – link with existing grant calls
- Need to identify goals for involving stakeholders
- Want workshop using a method or green infrastructure as entry point to identify the Theme

Final discussion

There is a need to coordinate Theme meetings and other activities in BECC. Need for arranging meetings, workshops and activities in the Themes both in Lund, Gothenburg and sometimes maybe also in Halmstad. Possibility to have more web-based meetings e.g Skype for business?

Natural systems – Global systems – Policy

Where to start? Natural vs. social science. There is a need to develop how we work together as well as on what we are working together on. Sometimes maybe a different kind of natural or social scientist than what we have in BECC today is needed and sometimes maybe more people is needed.

How to reframe research to fit social/societal calls in a better way (exemplified by current Mistra call for Sustainable consumption) To be involved in a Horizon 2020 application require knowledge as well as true integration of social science and societal questions.

Start by writing a paper together instead of starting of writing a proposal! Maybe BECC needs clearinghouse? Calls from Mistra and Naturvårdsverket (Swedish EPA) –there is always a need to find the right time to involve researchers at different points e.g. writing papers.

Themes can have inputs to workshops and seminars in BECC- we need to create more meeting places for researchers.

Stakeholder interaction- what does it mean?

- Dissemination of knowledge

- Use stakeholders to collect field data (empirical data)
- Co-production of knowledge

BECC is in a state of re-organising the BECC-MERGE stakeholder reference group.

The Theme leaders need ongoing coordination to avoid duplication, many researchers will be interested in more than one theme. There are many cross-cutting issues (issues that can e.g be solved by initiating an Action Group).

Action groups (AGs), Workshops, Guest Researchers and other initiatives can be discussed in Themes but does not necessarily be initiated or applied for by the Themes. (Themes also have a small amount of funding of activities).

Create a BECC Policy Calender to see what is happening forward (Swedish, European and Global Scale). New stakeholder group will focus more on future activites. We need to make more horizon scanning to the future (e.g. CAP, biomass from forest) - how do we compile, circulate and make action of this work in BECC?

Concluding remarks

This was a positive meeting! It shows how research can benefit by researchers working together and collaborating instead of competing all the time. We need to create new collaborations to move BECC forward!

There might be new recommendations for Strategic Research Areas e.g BECC in the up-coming Research Bill in November...including perhaps stronger ties to societal issues and basic education.

We are considering launching a post-doc programme aiming at younger research leaders. More information about this will come.

Thank you!

15.00 End of meeting and coffee