

Business, ecosystems and tipping points

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KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION AND SOCIAL-ECOLOGICAL LEARNING

I am a scientist, an academic and citizen. And I am deeply curious. But I do not know much about the structures of business. I know that the adaptive cycle of ecosystems shares properties with the Schumpeterian creative destructions of international business. The causes are essentially the same. And now we experience a constellation of global collapses in financial markets.

Strong lobby groups resist remedial regulations and, in contrast, small groups launch novel experiments. But what does business do to assess the risk of known instabilities and changes and, more, what does business do to organize in the face of unknown tipping points? Such are inherent in ecosystems and they require both business and ecosystem management to assess the evolutionary status of biology or economics.

Could workshops with resilience people and business people provide a way to deal with such fundamental unknowns?