A conceptual framework for analysing resilience in livelihoods-related social-ecological research

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In social-ecological research, resilience is conceptualised as having three features, namely, buffer capacity, self-organisation and the capacity for learning. This paper examines the nature of the three features, those that seem to have a rather static and passive nature and those that are rather more dynamic and active. It also explores the inter-linkages between resilience and other concepts such as vulnerability, adaptation, adaptive capacity, livelihoods and sustainability. It identifies various criteria and indicators of resilience in the three dimensions for livelihoods-related social-ecological research. Using smallholder agriculture as an illustrative example, it discusses the synergies and the trade-offs between the three dimensions and the methodological challenges encountered in analysis to capture resilience in livelihoods-related social-ecological research.