



# CROSS-SCALE INTERACTIONS: EFFECTS OF EXTERNAL DRIVERS

## PURPOSE OF ACTIVITY

The purpose of this activity is to start examining the effects of external drivers on your system. External drivers linked to for instance global and regional markets and trade, climate, and policies, influence how local social-ecological systems behave. While it is difficult to anticipate the outcomes of these regional and global drivers, and the interactions between them sometimes have produced very surprising results, we must try to grapple with complexity to be able to navigate towards more sustainable futures. Understanding what external drivers that have a strong influence on your system is essential later in the Wayfinder process, both to analyze system dynamics and to design effective strategies for change. See also related discussion guide.

## RESOURCES NEEDED

Required skills: Basic facilitation, technical expertise in the nature and impact of key drivers, systems thinking and broad knowledge of the focal system

Time: 1-2 hours

Materials: recording materials, technical information about drivers relevant to the system

## HOW TO DO IT

### STEP 1

Start by labeling key external drivers in the arrows on the top of the activity sheet. Consider both more distal drivers, such as climate change, global trade and emerging markets, population growth, and consumption patterns, and the more

**Phase 2:** Creating a shared understanding of system identity

**Module B:** System structure and organization

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proximate ones, such as land use change, pressure on natural resources, and disease outbreaks.

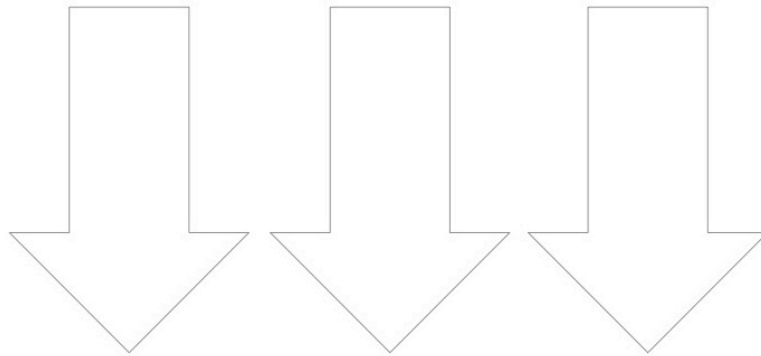
## **STEP 2**

Now discuss how these drivers affect different parts of your focal system, and different groups of people at the sub-system level, adding notes to the diagram as you go along.

## **TIPS**

Be clear about definitions. A driver is pressure or pushing force that originates outside the focal system, it can not be managed directly from within the focal system. Influencing drivers usually involves lobbying higher scales to address the drivers on behalf of those at the focal scale or below.

EXTERNAL  
DRIVERS



SYSTEM  
LEVEL



SUB-SYSTEM  
LEVEL

