

RESILIENCE AND WELLBEING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Szaboova, L¹., Brown, K.², Chaigneau, T.¹, Coulthard, S.³, Daw, T.⁴,
and James, T¹.

¹ Environment and Sustainability Institute, University of Exeter, Penryn, UK

² Department of Geography, University of Exeter, Exeter, UK

³ Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK

⁴ Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Sweden

Principal Aims

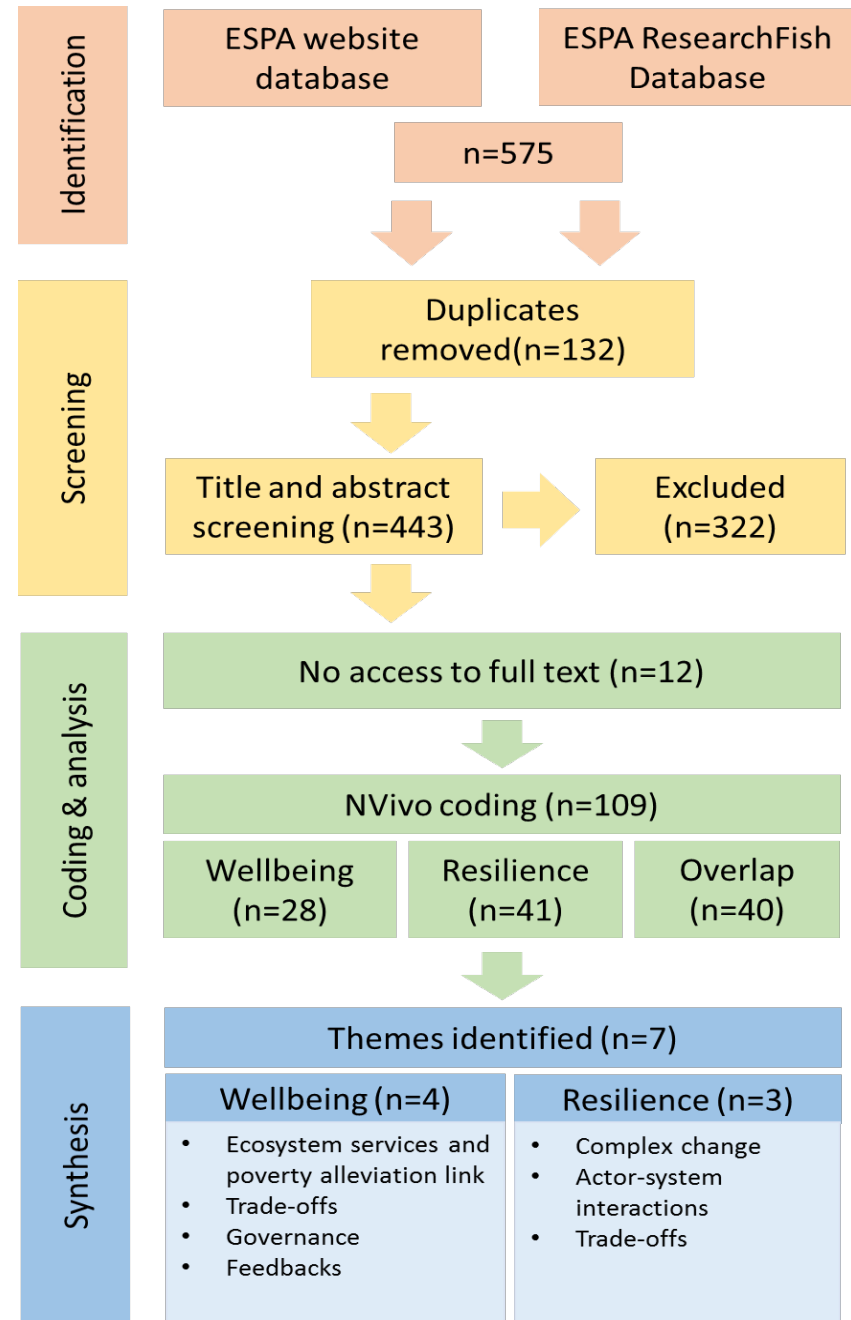
“This chapter analyses how ESPA research engages with concepts of resilience and wellbeing”

What does ESPA science add to understanding these?

How might this inform sustainable development?

Scoping for insights

- Two step approach:
 - Scoping review
 - Inductive thematic coding of relevant ESPA outputs



Emerging themes 1 – Power, politics and representation

- **ESPA explores how resilience concepts of persistence, adaptation and transformation interact with issues of agency, capability, freedom and power**
 - **Power to participate**
- **ESPA highlights the importance of disaggregation**
 - To understand access
 - To understand disaggregated impacts of interventions

Emerging themes 2 – Multiple dimensions of ecosystem services and wellbeing

ESPA acknowledges the multidimensional nature of ecosystem services and their contributions to multiple aspects of wellbeing by means of multiple mechanisms

- Need to pay attention to the role of non-ecosystem service sources
- Need to consider ecosystem disservices which may hinder or harm wellbeing
- Assuming a positive relationship between ecosystem services and wellbeing is overly simplistic

Emerging themes 3 – Feedbacks between natural and human systems

- Feedbacks between ecosystem services and wellbeing
 - E.g. Food security
- Non-linearities
 - Ecological and social tipping points

Emerging themes 4 – Importance of scale and change in ecosystem services for poverty alleviation

- Importance of change
 - ESPA focuses on mechanisms linking ecosystem services and wellbeing
- Importance of scale
 - Recognition that decisions often driven by external stakeholders
- Interactions between spatial and temporal scale
 - Emphasis on the temporal and spatial dimensions of change

ESPA therefore makes an important contribution towards understanding of cross scale dynamics of change that shape peoples' relationships with ecosystem services.

In Summary: From a static to dynamic notion of wellbeing

- Departure from a linear framing of the ecosystem service and poverty alleviation relationship
 - Acknowledgement that wellbeing is not derived from a single ecosystem service in isolation
 - Emphasis of role of feedbacks
 - Emphasis of scale
 - Emphasis of mechanisms through which ecosystem services contribute to wellbeing

“Integrating resilience concepts into existing ecosystem services wellbeing frameworks could support a transition towards a more dynamic approach that conceptualises wellbeing as a process rather than a static normative goal”

In Summary: Bringing social theories into resilience

- Socialising resilience
 - Agency
 - Power
 - Emphasis on how social difference shapes resilience at specific scales.

This helps establish practical ways of integrating diverse needs, wants and assumptions into decision making processes for sustainable development.

Thanks!