IDENTIFYING ACTIONS THAT TARGET LEVERAGE POINTS

PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION

The purpose of this discussion is to brainstorm around specific actions that target leverage points in your system, "re-wiring" the system to enable a more sustainable, safe and just future. See also linked activity sheet on different kinds of leverage points.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What explains kind of system dynamics explains the dilemmas that you try to address? Are there feedbacks that needs reinforcing, traps that need to be broken, or thresholds that the system must be prevented from crossing?

- Which leverage points can you identify in relation to critical dynamics underpinning the dilemmas?

- How do the system dynamics need to change around these leverage points?

- What specific action(s), at what scales, would influence the leverage point(s) in a desirable way? (think about actions broadly, they could e.g. reflect changes in 1) technology and management practices, 2) formal

institutions, such as laws or regulatory frameworks, 3) economic incentives, such as subsidies or taxes, 4) networks and connections, e.g. diffusion of new technology or information access, or 5) awareness levels, education, behavior, values, and norms.

- To what extent do the actions that you have identified target leverage points of different depth? (see also related activity sheet)

- How would these actions enhance the capacity of the local environment to provide important ecosystem services?

- How would they contribute to wellbeing? For whom and when?

- How would the actions foster a sense of stewardship for the landscape?

- How would the actions contribute to building a sense of reciprocity between people both locally but also from outside the system?

- Why do you think these things will work? Is there evidence that you can point to, such as a report, a scientific study, or someone's experience?

- Is there a 'belief' that it will work? While there may be no direct evidence that you can identify, you might still believe the action will work because of e.g. your knowledge of the system. A belief that something will work is in reality an assumption or set of assumptions. What are the critical assumptions sitting behind the belief that this precise action will work?

- Is there a way of assessing as soon as possible if the action is working or not? What would be the earliest indicators showing whether or not the action does the job?