

Integrated research: Linking across multi-inter- and trans-disciplinary collaborations

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Centre for
Wildlife Management
and Conservation

A Lincoln University Research Centre.
New Zealand's specialist land-based university

Our research context

- Centre for Wildlife Management & Conservation (CWMC) at Lincoln University
- The success of research in contributing to integrated wildlife management relies on the participation and involvement of different disciplines and stakeholders
- Our research is also integrated and contributes directly to support management efforts on-the-ground by a range of different stakeholder groups

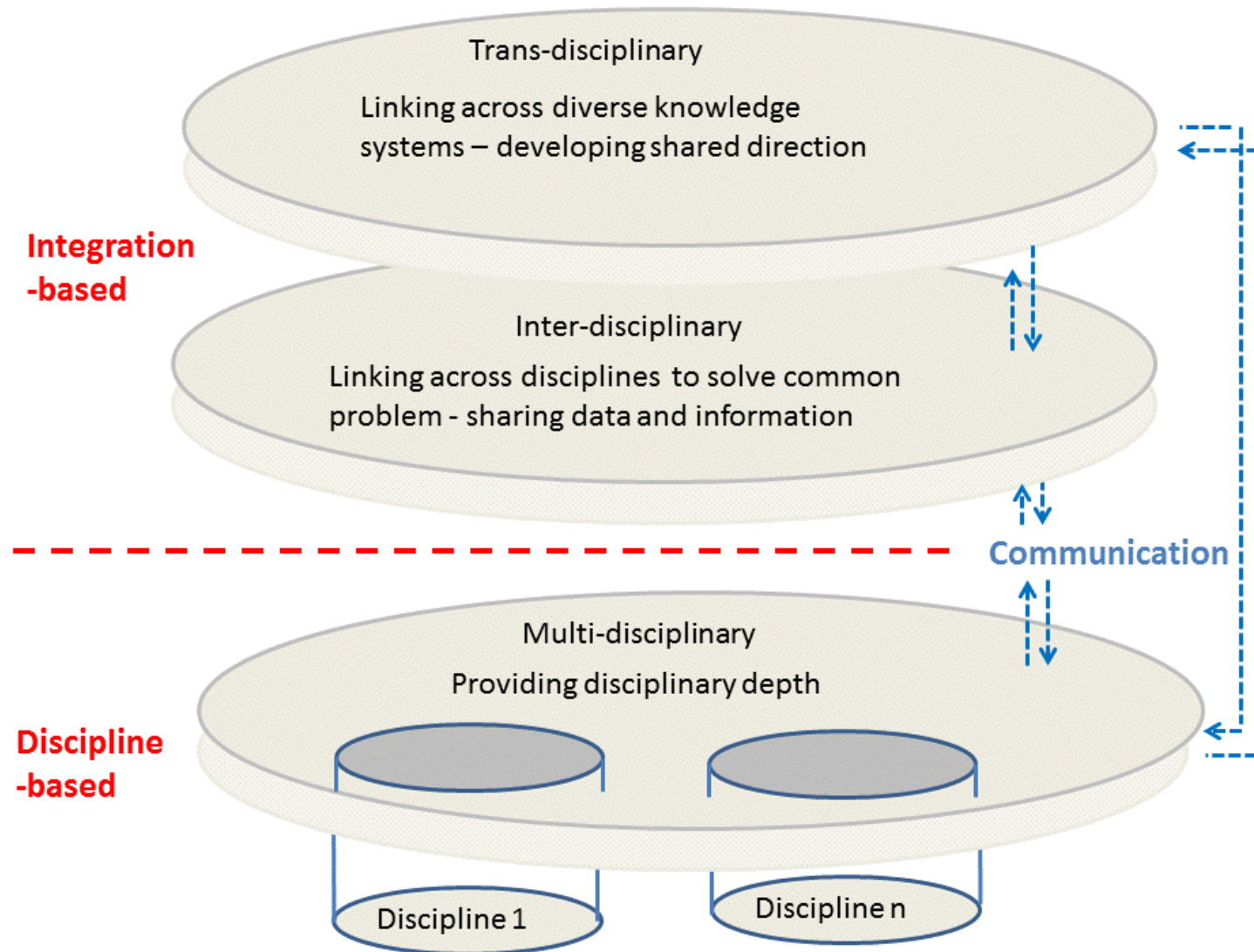


Supporting research integration requires us to:

- Endeavour to understand different stakeholder perspectives and realities to ensure our research is tailored to their needs
- Nurture our own disciplinary expertise, even while we are learning how to work across our disciplines more effectively
- Manage collaborations across the research continuum of multi- inter- and trans-disciplinarity – often within the same research programme



Different types of research oriented engagement



Trans-disciplinary collaborations

- Are where we should (ideally) start, but also need to continue as the project evolves
- Support learning that builds on the experience and worldviews of researchers and other stakeholder groups
- Recognize the validity of multiple (e.g. science, traditional, local and community) knowledge systems
- Require long-term relationships and trust
- Aim to establish key areas for research to help stakeholder groups move towards priority outcomes
- Primarily seek to manage values, ethics, and develop joint research directions

Inter-disciplinary collaborations

- Move towards a unified problem formulation that acknowledges the research task, and how it contributes to the wider pest management system
- Require a good recognition of where different disciplines can contribute
- Encourage sharing of data, information and technologies across disciplines
- Require a good team-building environment



Multi-disciplinary collaborations

- Are often what we are used to
- Are additive and combine the effort of more than one discipline
- Recognize that crossing practice areas requires sound knowledge of one's own (disciplinary) areas, including their limitations (e.g. a toxicologist is not an ecologist)
- Acknowledge the importance of researchers maintaining their own primary discipline skills



Lessons from practice

- All of these approaches may be evident at different times in a project life-cycle, and in different components of a project – depending on the research in question
- Building both inter- and trans-disciplinary collaborations take time, but this is not often built into project budgets
- Managing the contributions of these collaborations requires strong communication and effective leadership skills
- A research funding environment that looks for clear problem solutions must be tempered with sufficient flexibility to respond to ongoing community input through trans-disciplinary collaboration

Related information

- [Centre for Wildlife Management and Conservation](#), Lincoln University
- Allen W et al. 2011. [Building collaboration and learning in integrated catchment management: the importance of social process and multiple engagement approaches](#). NZJMFR, 45(3): 525-539
- Learning for Sustainability: [Trans- and inter-disciplinary science approaches](#)

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