

# **Interactions Matter - the challenge of complexity in landscape ecology**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts. To understand the distributions of plants and animals in a landscape you need to understand how they interact with each other, and with their environment. Recent research on complexity and artificial life provides many new insights about patterns and processes in landscapes and ecosystems. Understanding this complexity is crucial in today's globalized and interconnected world. Successful management of the world's ecosystems needs to combine models of ecosystem complexity with biodiversity, environmental, geographic and socioeconomic information.