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# INVITATION FROM THE CHAIR

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It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Program on Ecosystem Change and Society (PECS), to invite you to attend the PECS 2015 conference on Social-ecological dynamics in the Anthropocene. It will be held from 3 – 5 November 2015 at Spier in Stellenbosch, South Africa, only 20 km from Cape Town.

PECS 2015 will take place in a time where we have clear evidence of our own role in shaping planet Earth at the global scale, and the consequences this may hold for current and future human wellbeing. We have entered a new geological era, the Anthropocene, and are profoundly affecting the ecosystem services that support human societies and economies. Awareness of these changes combined with our expanding understanding of social-ecological systems and our capacity for action offer the hope for effective responses. We seem to be at a crucial juncture where science and technology, communities and policy can begin to work together to sustain favourable planetary conditions, ecosystem services and human wellbeing. The challenge of sustainable development is to grasp this opportunity and transform social-ecological systems toward trajectories where both human well-being and valuable ecosystem services can be sustained.

PECS 2015 will consolidate, present and disseminate research findings on social-ecological systems and resilience amongst practitioners, policy makers and researchers. We will gather scientists from various disciplines, from within and beyond the PECS network, to share cutting-edge research insights on social-ecological dynamics in the Anthropocene. The conference will engage and involve multiple stakeholders concerned with sustainable development and who are interested in developing new solutions and strategies. PECS 2015 is intended to highlight PECS achievements and ambitions, to synthesize and integrate PECS-related research to provide a basis for a future social-ecological research agenda, especially in light of the global research network Future Earth.

We extend a warm welcome and look forward to your presence at what promises to be an unforgettable event.

Kind regards,

Dr. Albert Norström  
Chair  
PECS 2015 Organising Committee