

## **Resilience in Polar Ecosystems**

Manfred Bölter

*Institute für Ecosystem Research, University Kiel, Olshausenstr. 75, 24118 Kiel, Germany*

Polar Ecosystems, Arctic and Antarctic, are subject to rapid changes in environmental processes. These changes influence not only ecosystems, in the Arctic social and economic systems are also under major impact. This implies risks for the welfare of native people and social affairs with feedbacks to ecology. The identification of thresholds in these systems becomes important and integrative studies across scales are needed in order to keep options for sustainable future development. A main task for projects under this frame is the evaluation of thresholds and significant feedbacks in order to find compromises or intervention points for societies and ecosystems and to open the view on risks at local scale with potential global effects. This holds true for both, the Arctic and Antarctic, with respect to decisions on the exploration, mining and industrial complexes, as well as for mitigating conflicts with native people and ecosystem sustainability.