At the beginning of the 20th century there was much debate about the nature of communities. The driving question was whether the community was a self-organized system of co-occurring species or simply a haphazard collection of populations with minimal functional integration. At that time, David Bowman held a research chair in environmental change biology. His field of inquiry spans ecology, evolution, biogeography, and management of environmental change. Using Australia as a model system, the science policy and practice of nature-based solutions are closely related to the management of the natural environment. Regularly, those working in science policy and practice related to the management of the natural environment encounter new ideas and terminologies.