Table 8.1 Factors determining ecosystem response to disturbance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ecosystem resilience</th>
<th>Robust (e.g. grassland)</th>
<th>Fragile (e.g. island ecosystems)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ecosystem recovery</td>
<td>Elastic (e.g. lakes)</td>
<td>Irreversible (e.g. badland erosion)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Origin of disturbance</td>
<td>Internal/gradual (e.g. soil leaching)</td>
<td>External/abrupt (e.g. first human arrivals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration of disturbance</td>
<td>Short lived (e.g. volcanic eruption)</td>
<td>Sustained (e.g. marine transgression)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuity of disturbance</td>
<td>Episodic (e.g. wildfire events)</td>
<td>Progressive (e.g. eutrophication)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall ecosystem response</td>
<td>Maintenance of stability/recovery</td>
<td>Instability/degradation/collapse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>