

POLICY BRIEF

Globally responsible, locally responsive



The Glasgow Climate Change Conference (COP26) emphasizes e.g. 1) the urgency of protecting nature, including forests, water landscapes and marine ecosystems and 2) the rights of local communities and indigenous people concerning the knowledge of and living in harmony with nature. In line with COP26 outcomes, we call for collaborative approaches and co-creation of knowledge between state and regional administration, science and technology, local actors, and civil society based on contextual understanding to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Based on our research findings and experience-based evidence, we propose the following three policy recommendations:

1. The collaborative approach of everyday adaptation to climate change should be considered as a pathway to adapt to climate vulnerabilities. Collaborative approaches include deliberative and inclusive local processes, co-creation of knowledge with local communities and resource sharing related to legitimacy, funding, facilities and information flow in societies and local communities. The development of empowering platforms to improve information exchange is needed. These platforms should recognize indigenous knowledge and cultural norms.
2. Voluntary and mandatory sustainability certification schemes of commodities and management practices should be based on collaborative practices between actors and should be supported through formal and informal governance practices. For example, certification standards and environmental impact assessments need to address injustices and how environmental impacts intertwine e.g. with land grabbing, indigenous rights and local needs.
3. The complexity of the problems related to climate change needs a holistic approach towards landscapes, which attempts to reconcile conflicting land-use interests and harmonize the needs of people and nature. The collaborative landscape planning approach should be inclusive through involving actors from different levels, sectors, and institutions (such as governments, corporate sectors, markets, NGOs, religious institutions, local communities) as well as bridging the gap between sectors.

These types of collaborative approaches should be facilitated and need allocation of resources. The decision-making processes should be guided by the principles of justice – including for indigenous and local communities as well as for the environment and non-human species, which all intertwine in the landscape and support of life.

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Since 2012, our research on natural resource governance in Finland, Russia, Portugal, Indonesia, Tanzania and Mexico has paid particular attention to relationships between multi-level actors, public participation, and natural resource governance strategies and interventions.

University of Eastern Finland, Finland

Irmeli Mustalahti
Anna Mustonen
Denis Dobrynin
Ida Herdieckerhoff
Antti Erkkilä
Hanna Laako

Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Rijal Ramdani
Eko Priyo Purnomo
Agustiyara
Aulia Nurkasiwi
Aqil Teguh Fathani

University of Lisbon, Portugal

Rosário Oliveira

Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI), Indonesia

Agam Faturrochman

College of Business Education, Tanzania

Ubaldus J. Tumaini
Edda Tandi Lwoga

Muhammadiyah Environmental Council, Indonesia

Mohammad Nurcholis

The Law School of Tanzania, Dar es Salaam Tanzania

Aristarik H. Maro

George Mason University, United State of America (USA)

Kristina van Dexter

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research group is funded by the Academy of Finland and the Finnish Strategic Research Council
[irmeli.mustalahti\(at\)uef.fi](mailto:irmeli.mustalahti(at)uef.fi)

<https://sites.uef.fi/responsive-natural-resources-governance/>

