

# POLICY BRIEF

## Globally responsible, locally responsive



Natural resource governance and mitigation of environmental problems require cross-administrative and cross-sectoral collaboration. However, such collaboration is often hampered by the conflicting interests and values of actors and their incompatible claims to natural resources and land. Based on our research findings, we proposed the following three policy recommendations: 1) ensure empowered and accountable representation, 2) recognise actors' diverse worldviews, and 3) secure long-term financial support at the local level. These are conditions for collaborative and responsive natural resource governance.

### **Ensuring empowered and accountable representation**

Effective collaboration requires empowered, deliberative and accountable representation and co-creation of knowledge. Acknowledging ecological boundaries creates a solid foundation for transparent and sustainable natural resources governance, collaborative actions and decision making. A wide range of expertise, actors and resources are needed to execute proper environmental impact assessments and to monitor different land uses, interventions and their outcomes. To make this work, an urgent need exists to invest in open science communication and deliberative ways and forums to communicate between authorities, researchers, elected representatives of the communities and municipalities, and the people who are affected by changes in land and natural resource use. There is a need to be transparent about who is accountable to whom, emphasising not only from the local side but also from the elected representatives' and policymakers' side who must be accountable for the local people.

### **Recognition of actors' diverse worldviews**

Appreciative and respectful attitudes towards all individuals and groups are considered key tools for collaborative and regenerative policy processes. They invite meaningful involvement of diverse actors. Appreciation and respect

are forms of recognition of each actor's diverse worldviews and environment-related meanings, especially from those in charge of natural resource management and governance processes. Recognition is affirming, encouraging and empowering. We emphasise the need to develop empowering platforms to improve information exchange. Moreover, these platforms should recognise, and thus affirm and invite into dialogue, indigenous and local knowledge.

### **Securing long-term financial resources on the local level**

Sustainable and knowledge-based decision-making processes require sufficient and flexible long-term resources on the local level. Long-term funding helps create long-lasting, sustainable practices on a systemic level, unlike short-term support with limited funds that makes it hard to track results. Additionally, we emphasise the need for decentralised resourcing that can empower and improve the inclusion of local-level actors. The administrative and legal boundaries in natural resources and land-use planning and management must be recognised, and structural change in legislation, administration and funding must be supported accordingly.

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