

# POLICY BRIEF

## Globally responsible, locally responsive



The current global context is characterized by poly-crises and chronic uncertainty; thus, it is crucial to protect and promote democratic practices and values. We consider responsive and collaborative governance a mean to support these values through the fair and meaningful involvement of various actors in decision making at all levels of governance while promoting environmental management and protection.

We propose the following three policy recommendations, based on our research findings and co-learning with our research partners:

### Environmental citizenship

Citizens' concerns about the state of the environment must be taken into account.

**Environmental citizenship requires intensive, communal and intergenerational learning between youth and adults.** Environmental citizenship promotes pro-environmental behavior of citizens who act and participate in changing societies at national and global scales, through individual and collaborative actions. Environmental citizens value healthy relationships with nature. By creating solidarity and building resilience, citizens aim to solve environmental problems and to create transformative actions towards sustainability. **Environmental citizenship requires understanding the nexus between scientific and local knowledge to inform the creation of sustainable futures.**

### Access to justice

Environmental governance should be guided by principles of justice that support the rights of different generations, genders, indigenous peoples as well as the environment and all its species. **Responding to the loss of biodiversity and climate change impacts requires a deep transformation our societies' basic functioning.** Securing local justice also means empowering communities and local actors to

pursue their visions of sustainable development and to realize their desired well-being and futures. **Accessible and inclusive collaborative platforms for action, information exchange of knowledge and social learning are paramount for protecting and supporting access to justice.**

### Collaborative approaches

Collaborative approaches increase social capital and cohesion and the legitimacy of local and intergenerational knowledge. **Greater collaboration between local communities, women, and youth needs to be prioritized in the governance of natural resources and biodiversity protection.** Collaborative approaches include deliberative and inclusive local processes and co-creation of different forms of knowledge and resource sharing for funding, facilities and information flow. **Collaboration should be clearly defined, mutually agreed upon, and adequately resourced.** Collaboration involves externality costs being borne by the state and private actors that create them rather than by non-governmental organisations or citizens. The costs of collaborative actions must be shared fairly.

# POLICY BRIEF

## Globally responsible, locally responsive



Since 2012, our research group with our global partner institutions has paid particular attention to the relationships and responsiveness between multi-level actors, public participation, and natural resource governance strategies and interventions.

### University of Eastern Finland, Finland

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

### Finnish Environmental Institute (Syke), Finland

Minna Pekkonen

### Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), Finland

Mikko Weckroth

### Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Rijal Ramdani  
Eko Priyo Purnomo

### College of Business Education, Tanzania

Edda Tandilwoga  
Ubaldu J. Tumaini

### The Law School of Tanzania, Tanzania

Aristarik H. Maro

### Kyambogo University, Uganda

Willy Ngaka

### National Policy Consensus Center, USA

Stephen Greenwood  
Rebecca McLain

### University of Toronto, Canada

Nicole Klenk  
Noelle Gadfly Stratton

### ELTE Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

Agustiyara

The Responsive Natural Resources Governance (RNRG) research group is funded by the Academy of Finland, the Finnish Strategic Research Council and the Ministry of Education and Culture in Finland.  
irmeli.mustalahti(at)uef.fi

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

