



Enabling transformative biodiversity governance to translate global biodiversity targets to local actions

The call for transformative governance in biodiversity conservation is growing. The shift in global biodiversity governance focuses on scrutinizing and facilitating more involvement of non-traditional actors and interactions between public and private entities in intergovernmental processes from bottom-up, rather than just legal regimes and state practices.

This `whole society approach` is being globally adopted as central to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). According to the CBD Action Agenda Pledges for Nature and People, not just state members and international organizations, but more and more sub-national authorities, businesses, indigenous people and local communities, and other middle-out actors such as NGOs and researchers are participating in intergovernmental processes and taking actions to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

The challenges are there, including translating the approach into local practice, dealing with unintended consequences (such as greenwashing or cross-sectoral leakages), linking and reorganizing coexisting institutions at different levels, and fostering innovation in governance and policy solutions. We argue that a whole society approach can also be a "nobody" approach. To enable actors to work together, it is necessary to distribute 'governance capacity' among them in three domains: enabling rules of the game, converging discourses, and facilitating essential resources. This will enable biodiversity conservation actors to work in an environment of polycentricity, accountability, transparency, justice, equity, and sustainability.

The session aims to outline the ongoing theoretical debates, conceptual innovation in biodiversity governance, as well as empirical evidence on how this approach is being adopted in different contexts, while understanding the role of different actors, especially non-state actors, their interaction within their social networks, and their agency in co-designing solutions.

We invite experts from various disciplines and sectors to present research, share experiences, discuss policy implications, and discuss how to move the GBF forward in practice. This will foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing to build a coalition for change.

Organizers

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As we attend the Open Science Meeting, we would like to make a contribution by offering, within our available budget, a few scholarships for non-academic partners and also for academics from the Global South: especially from Southeast Asia, East Africa and South America.

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