

Climate change and conflict risks:

Environmental Collaboration and Soft Security



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Responsive Natural Resources Governance-research group

<https://uefconnect.uef.fi/en/group/responsive-natural-resources-governance-research-group/>

Examples of our research:

Ramcilovic-Suominen, S., and Mustalahti, I. 2022. Village forestry under donor-driven forestry interventions in Laos. In J. Bulkan, J. Palmer, A. M. Larson, & M. Hobley (Eds.), *Handbook of Community Forestry*. Routledge.

Dobrynin, D., Yakusheva Jarlebring, N., Mustalahti, I., Sotirov, M., Kulikova, E., Lopatin, E. 2021. The forest environmental frontier in Russia: Between sustainable forest management discourses and 'wood mining' practice. 2021. *Ambio* 50:2138–2152

Mustalahti, I., Gutiérrez-Zamora V., Hyle M., Prasad Devkota B., Tokola, N. 2020. Responsibilization in natural resources governance: A romantic doxa? *Forest Policy and Economics*, 111:102033

Hyle, M., Devkota, B., and Mustalahti, I. 2019. From Blueprints to Empowerment of Disadvantaged Groups in Natural Resources Governance: Lessons from Nepal and Tanzania. *Journal of Commons*. 13(2), 1062–1078.

Ramcilovic-Suominen, S., Lovric, M., Mustalahti, I. 2019. Mapping policy actor networks and their interests in the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement in Lao PDR. *World Development* 118:128-148

Mustalahti, I. 2018. The responsive bioeconomy: The need for inclusion of citizens and environmental capability in the forest based bioeconomy. *Journal of Cleaner Production* 1-10

Mustalahti, I.; Cramm, M.; Ramcilovic-Suominen, S.; Tegegne, Y.T. 2017. Resources and Rules of the Game: Participation of Civil Society in REDD+ and FLEGT-VPA Processes in Lao PDR. *Forests* 8:50

Hinojosa Flores, I. D., Skutsch, M. and Mustalahti, I. 2016. Impacts of Finnish cooperation in the Mexican policy making process: from the community forest management to the liberalization of forest services. *Forest Policy and Economics* 73:229-238.

Rantala, S., Kontinen, T., Korhonen-Kurki, K., Mustalahti, I. 2015. Equity in REDD+: varying logics in Tanzania. *Journal of Environmental Policy and Governance*. DOI:10.1002/eet.1669.

Mustalahti, I. and Rakotonarivo, S. O. 2014. REDD+ and Empowered Deliberative Democracy: Learning from Tanzania. *World Development* 59:199-211.

In 2021, the edited book called, *Responsibilization in Natural Resources Governance*, which is a compilation of articles and Policy Briefs and constitutes part of the Responsive Natural Resources Governance Research Group's international collaboration since 2018. These articles were published in a special issue of the *Forest Policy and Economics* journal. The edited book with 10 articles and Policy Briefs is available here: <https://erepo.uef.fi/handle/123456789/26111>

Environmental collaboration

While there are various ways to carry out environmental collaboration depending on the context – **e.g. conflict resolution, responsive natural resources governance and collective actions of climate mitigation or adaptation** – there are some definitional norms that describe the approach, such as: public purpose, inclusive, representative, shared decision making, third party facilitation, committed conviners, power balancing, deliberative and collaborative platforms.

Policy Briefs, articles and course reports related to environmental collaboration

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

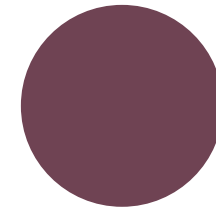
Theorists of collaborative governance call for collaborative decision making,

i.e., to guarantee deliberative democracy (Fung and Wright 2001; Evans 2004), and go on to confirm that the participation capacity of ordinary people to make **reason-based decisions are the foundation of grassroots democracy and of empowered deliberative democracy** (e.g. Evans 2004; Stevenson and Dryzek 2014).



BUT deliberative and participatory processes risks also being undermined by existing governance failures, such as “uneven plying field”, corruption and elite capture. And being “something seemingly naïve and innocent which created symbolic violence”.

Mustalahti et al (2020)





Environmental collaboration and soft security

Soft security is a form of security that strengthens society, stabilizes and promotes democratic inclusion and participation.

The means to strengthen and maintain soft security are diverse. **Civic skills, participation and collaborative approach play an increasingly important role in coping with societal upheavals and resolving conflicts.** All these skills and capabilities are also important for environmental collaboration, which can also be argued to strengthen soft security.

“Climate change, environmental crises and support for the sustainability transformation require a social debate on strengthening the capacities and societal structures of young people and future generations. The debate also promotes soft security, prevents escalation of crises and the polarisation of society.”

The ALL-YOUTH research project examines young people’s participation in environmental collaboration, interaction and decision-making on environmental issues, which links young people’s participation to soft security.

Our last week blog at Strategical Research Council webpages:

[Research-based solutions promote soft security - STN \(aka.fi\)](#)



<http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-281-368-8>



ECCR course series:

2016, Joensuu

2017, Kööpenhamina

2017, Mexico

2018, Joensuu

2020, Web-based course

2021, Tanzania

2022, Joensuu

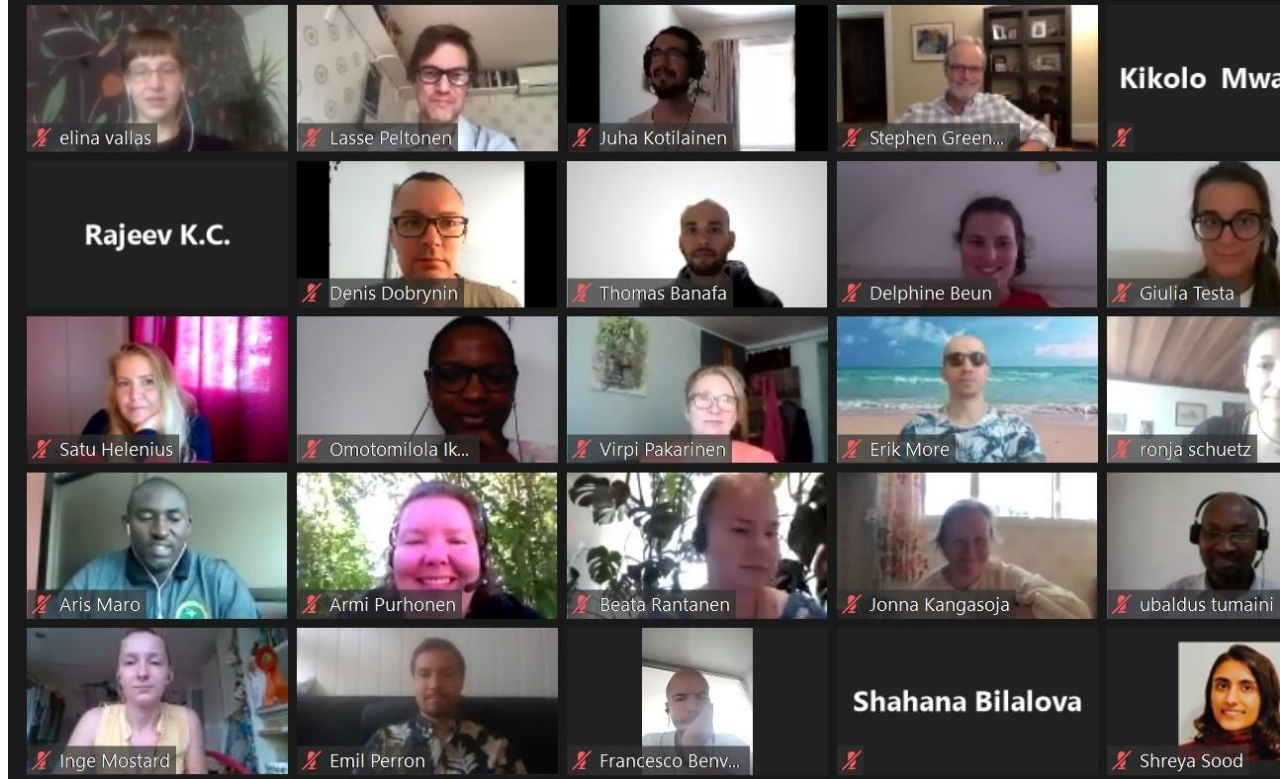
2022, Tanzania



Page 23 Picture from the 2018:



Image 4. An international summer course on environmental mediation held at the Joensuu campus of the University of Eastern Finland in August 2018. Photo: Varpu Heiskanen.



Picture from 2020 course:
 Environmental
 Collaboration and
 Conflict Resolution course series

In 2020, 37 students from 15
 countries on-line
 In 2022, invited 45 students from
 18 countries face to face

Dobson (2007) defines **environmental citizenship** as a **commitment** to a common sustainable future.

Dobson, A. (2007). Environmental citizenship: Towards sustainable development. *Sustainable Development* 15(5), 276-285. <https://10.1002/sd.344>

Intergenerational learning between the generations plays important role in environmental collaboration: the actors do not impose their own ideas and innovations about the aspired state of affairs or desired changes.

Environmental collaboration facilitates the co-creation of social innovations which at the same time will create space for soft security.



Intergenerational learning and knowledge co-creation model

<https://www.allyouthstn.fi/tieto-kiertoon-malli/>



Opintokeskus **Sivis**



Punainen Risti

4H



metsäkeskus

accenture



Environmental collaboration in Tanzania

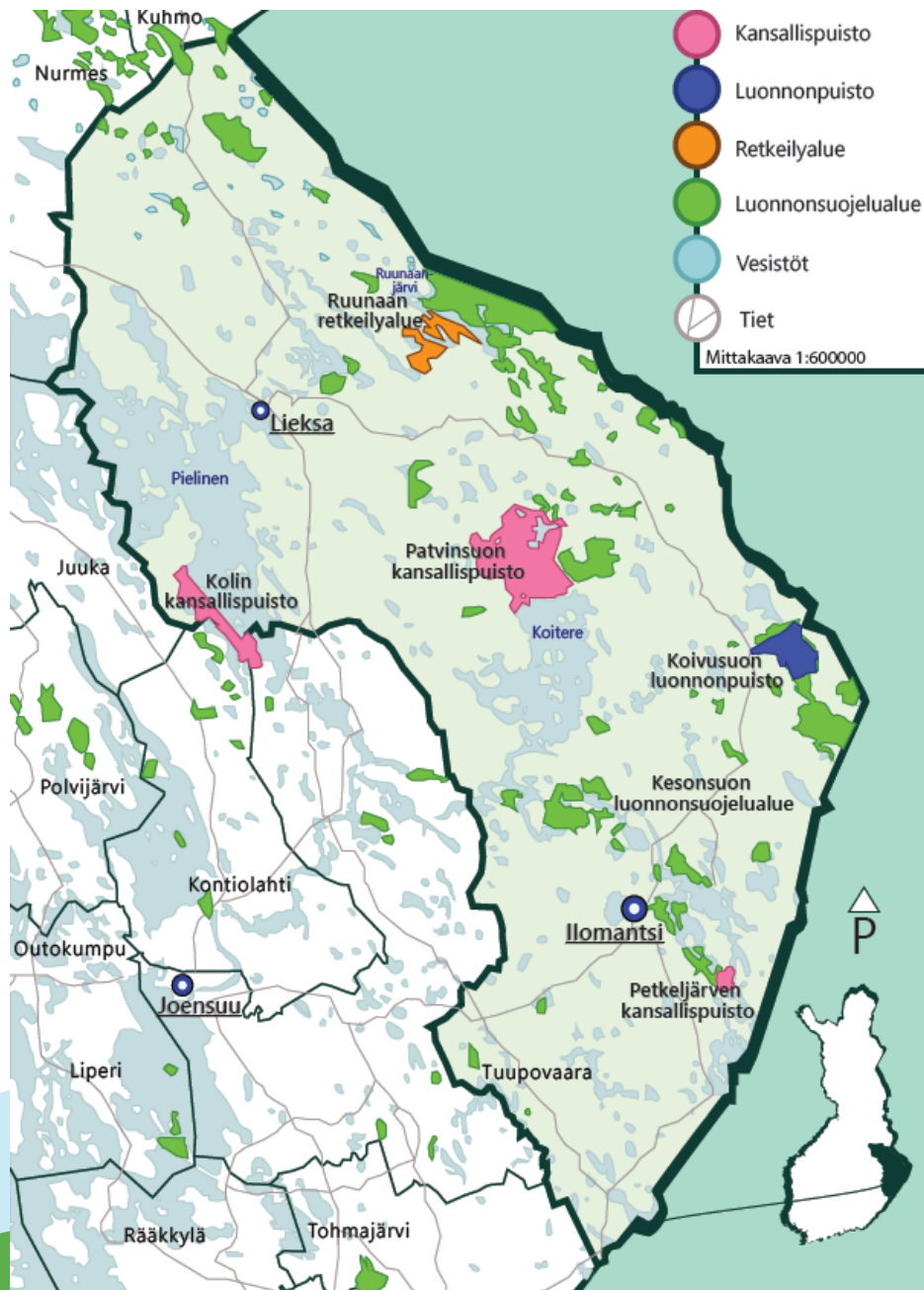
Forest fires and plantation forestry in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania:
Sharing experiences and building collaborations

Report open access:

https://sites.uef.fi/responsive-natural-resources-governance/wp-content/uploads/sites/78/2021/11/Ripoti_ya_Mafinga_AF_Makutano-1.pdf



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Environmental collaboration in Finland

UNESCO Biosphere Reserve



POHJOIS-KARJALAN
BIOSFÄÄRIALUE
North Karelia Biosphere Reserve

Local and global functional platform of environmental collaboration supports the human relationship with nature, the protection of biodiversity and the development of collaborative actions.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Man and
the Biosphere
Programme



greenbelt
of Fennoscandia



EuroMAB Conference DUBLIN 2019
World network of biosphere reserves
Local Actions for Global Challenges



Conclusions

Environmental collaboration: Rhetoric or as a key for soft security?

It might be argued that participatory and collaborative processes and deliberative events often remains "either empty promise or themselves a means to reproduce the existing political order" (Ojha et al. 2009).

Ojha, H. , L. Persha and A. Chhatre. 2009. Seeing forests through the trees: Community forestry in Nepal. In D. Spielman and Rajul Pandya Lorch (eds). Millions Fed: Proven successes in agricultural development, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), USA.

However, I argue that climate change and conflict risks require that skills to facilitate collaborative processes and conflict mediation should be regarded as civic skills, the learning of which should be emphasized in the same way as first aid skills.



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Kiitos paljon!

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