

Call for abstracts and papers

## The emerging complexity of climate adaptation governance in a globalising world

International scientific workshop, 23–24 May 2017, Stockholm, Sweden

**Keynote speakers:** Diana Liverman, Tiffany Morrison and Frank Biermann.

As the dust from Paris has settled, it is clearer than ever that global climate policy is not only about mitigation. Climate adaptation is also now defined as a global challenge, with a global goal, potentially requiring global governance arrangements. The UNFCCC has started a process to track the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation planning and implementation, including the provision of dedicated financial support. In addition, all Parties are to regularly submit adaptation communications, suggesting a desire to share knowledge, enable a better overview of activities, and encourage all Parties to engage more actively in adaptation.

Outside of the negotiation context, academics and other observers are discussing to what extent climate adaptation does indeed require global collective action, and whether or not adaptation can be considered a global public good. Some argue that the prevalence of transnational climate impacts, cascading across borders and along global supply chains, shows that a predominantly local emphasis on climate impacts and adaptation is not sufficient, or could even be maladaptive. Others see international and transnational governance initiatives for adaptation, and in particular funding schemes, as nothing but side payments aimed at generating stronger interest and involvement in climate change mitigation from low-emitting and vulnerable developing countries.

This scholarly debate on the problem structure and scale of climate adaptation coincides with the emergence of a growing number of global, regional and transnational initiatives for governing, planning and implementing adaptation in practice. These initiatives and as-

sociated partnerships have not been adequately theorised and empirically analysed, for example with respect to the role of state and non-state actors, their focus and characteristics and underlying motives. The literature on transnational climate governance is rich in examples related to mitigation, but there is much less knowledge about, for example, the extent, nature and impact of adaptation governance.

### Workshop aim and focus

The aim of the scientific workshop is to explore governance of climate adaptation beyond the national level (*i.e.*, international and transnational). Workshop participants will analyse, among other things, new forms of adaptation governance, its consequences for adaptation action on the ground, and the adequacy of existing institutions.

We seek contributions from a diverse group of early-career and senior researchers interested in climate adaptation from the perspectives of political science, international relations, human geography, law, economics, sociology and related fields. Theoretical, empirical, normative and critical contributions are all welcome. Participants are encouraged to discuss implications for the post-Paris adaptation agenda and associated research needs. Non-academic experts representing governmental and international organisations, civil society and the private sector wishing to present at the workshop are also encouraged to contact us.

We invite abstracts and papers addressing the issues outlined above, and specifically on the following topics:

- » *Problem structure and scale*—What geographical scale is relevant for governing adaptation? Should adaptation be considered as a global public good requiring collective action? Based on what evidence and theoretical reasoning? From an empirical perspective, is adaptation being framed as a global public good, and what are the implications?
- » *Modes of governance*—What are, or ought to be, key elements of climate adaptation governance beyond the national level? Does and should it go beyond the provision and allocation of adaptation finance? How is adaptation governance manifested, performed and legitimised? Is it transparent, and how can it be evaluated?
- » *State and non-state actors*—Who are involved in adaptation governance and what are their main motives, interests and accountability relationships? What is transnational governance of climate adaptation, and how could it be analysed (*e.g.*, initiatives self-identifying as doing adaptation or initiatives functionally doing adaptation)? Which non-state actors would be involved and why? How do state and non-state actors interact?
- » *Institutional complexity, diversity and coherence*—To what extent does global adaptation governance rely on the UNFCCC? Is adaptation governance polycentric and connecting with a

range of international and global regimes? What are the pros and cons of institutional complexity in governing adaptation? What issue linkages are pursued, and by whom and why? How does adaptation governance intersect with competing governance goals (*e.g.*, conservation, development)?

### **Workshop venue, format and deliverables**

The workshop will take place at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) premises or a nearby venue in the Stockholm area, Sweden. Some funding is available to support travel and accommodation, subject to confirmation.

The workshop will be an intimate two-day event, with themed sessions discussing research papers and policymaker perspectives. Senior international policymakers, from institutions such as the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee, the OECD and the Green Climate Fund, will be invited to share their views and experiences, outline knowledge needs, and participate in the discussion of research papers.

We envisage that the research papers will be compiled in a journal special issue or edited book volume. Initial contacts have already been made with publishers. We also envisage developing joint products for non-academic dialogue and outreach, such as policy briefs and blogs. To this end we will enlist professional expertise from SEI's communications department.

### **Abstract and paper submissions**

- » If you wish to participate in the workshop, please send an abstract (of no more than 300 words), a short biographical note (of no more than 100 words) and full contact details to [adaptationworkshop2017@sei-international.org](mailto:adaptationworkshop2017@sei-international.org) by **28 October 2016**.
- » Notifications of acceptance will be sent out by **25 November 2016**.
- » Full workshop papers (of around 6,000 words) must be submitted by **21 April 2017**.
- » To be part of the joint publication, revised papers are due on **1 November 2017**.

### **Workshop organisation**

The workshop is co-organised by SEI and Stockholm University (Department of Political Science), funded by research grants from the Swedish Research Council Formas. It is endorsed by the Earth System Governance project. The organising committee consists of Åsa Persson (SEI), Richard Klein (SEI), Adis Dzebo (SEI and Utrecht University) and Karin Bäckstrand (Stockholm University).