

Pathways to effective conservation? The centrality of land and resource tenure and policy oversight as persistent injustice

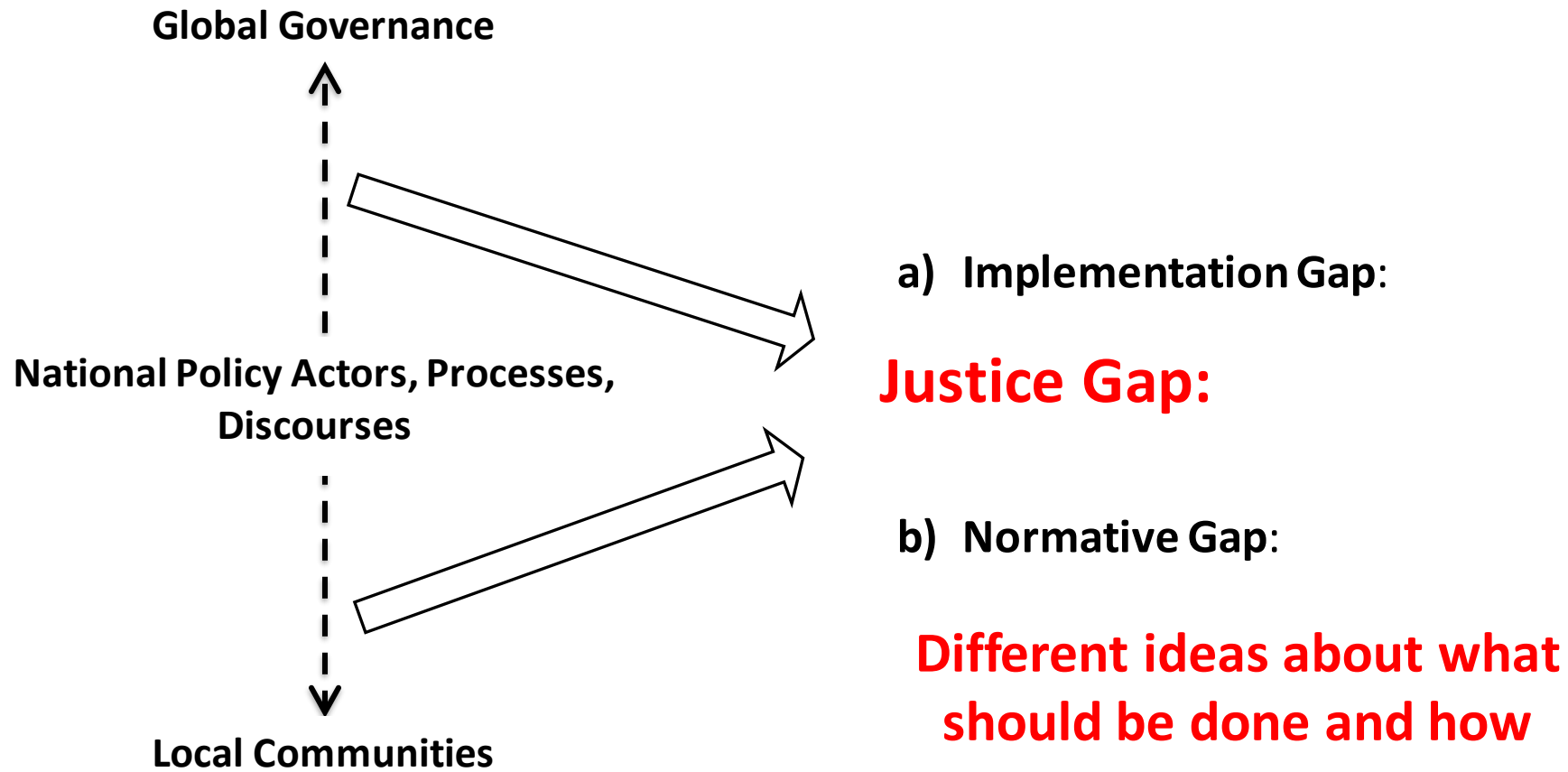
Neil Dawson, University of East Anglia/ Aberdeen/ IUCN CEESP

Email: Neil.Dawson@uea.ac.uk

Twitter: [@drndawson](https://twitter.com/drndawson)



The justice gap



Dawson, N., Coolsaet, B., & Martin, A. (2018). Justice and equity: Emerging research and policy approaches to address ecosystem service trade-offs. In *Ecosystem Services and Poverty Alleviation (OPEN ACCESS BOOK)* (pp. 22-38). Routledge.

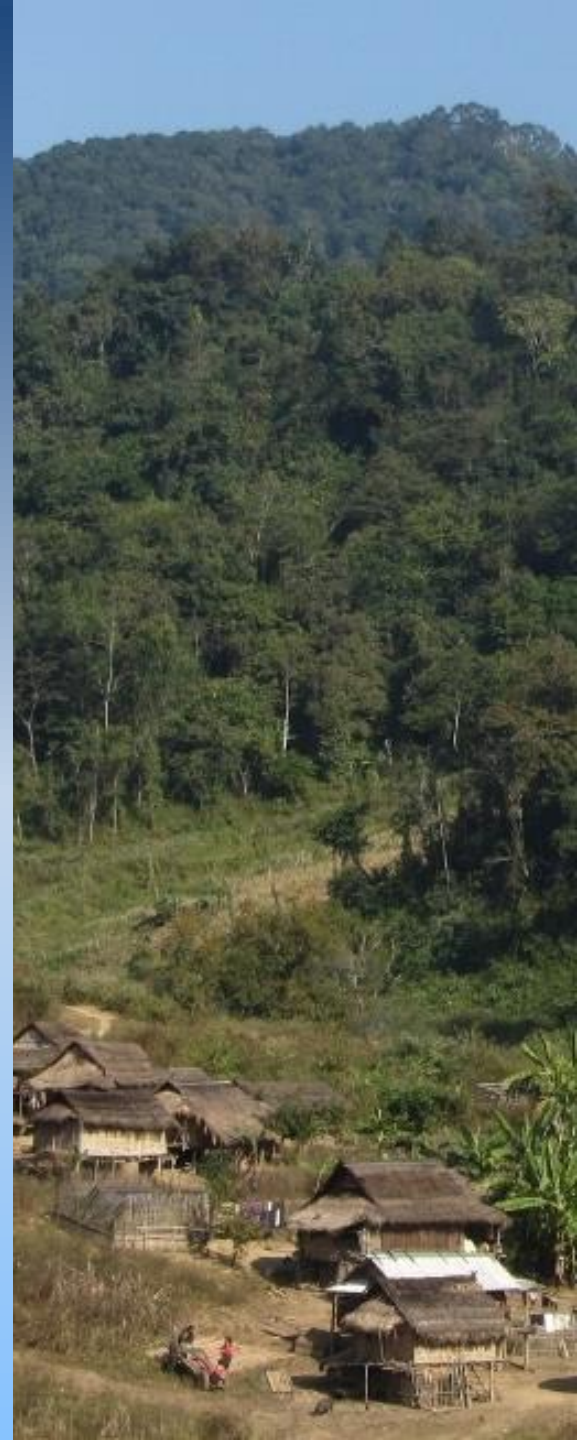
Tenure & tenure security central to wellbeing & justice

Definition: Tenure not only formal - customary, communal

Not only user rights, but control and authoritative

Tenure security - perceived potential impact, trust-related

- Both central to wellbeing – subsistence, cultural practice, social relations and ability to practice them
- Disaggregation - women, marginal grps, cultural minorities
- Affected by many drivers of change beyond conservation



Tenure & tenure security central to the justice gap

- Key impact pathway for local communities
 1. Imposition of conservation structures – no local tenure
 2. Granting individual legal property rights overriding local systems
Parallel systems may develop, elite capture, bad for conservation
 3. User rights granted but without any control rights
 4. Local institutions embedded in conservation structures
- Overlooked effects of place and value detachment
- Driver of local perceptions & relationship with conservation



The policy narrative, framings & frameworks

- Emerging narrative: Tenure underpins conservation success
- Associated discourse – livelihood development, land sparing
- Framed as legal, formal property rights, monetary terms
- Frameworks that gain policy traction sideline tenure issues
- Harms rendered invisible, limited solutions considered
- CBD Aichi Targets, also PA, SDGs at a crossroads – Equity & tenure goals may fail to address injustice

Dawson *et al.* 2018. Norm Entrepreneurs Sidestep REDD+ in Pursuit of Just and Sustainable Forest Governance, *Sustainability*, 10 (6), 1726



Conclusions - tenure security & conservation

- Tenure central to local wellbeing, justice and to conservation outcomes
- “Recovering a narrative of place” & place-based solutions
 - not overriding local systems but embedding in governance
- Making tenure a pillar of social conservation objectives
 - not a panacea but addressing key element of justice gap
 - other measures such as equity easily weakened in scope
- Moving towards national, subnational, PA level assessments of tenure and tenure security – why not?



Thanks! - feedback appreciated

Neil Dawson, University of East Anglia/ Aberdeen/ IUCN CEESP

Email: Neil.Dawson@uea.ac.uk

Twitter: [@drndawson](https://twitter.com/drndawson)

