



Policy Brief 6: Recommendations

Arctic Governance Institution as Enablers and Barriers for Justice

The implementation of environmental and social justice policy requires governance institutions fit for purpose. As arenas for creating and applying laws, mediating conflict, or in different ways providing representation for the population, institutions can play a key role in promoting justice – or weakening it.

One of the most striking features of the governance framework pertaining to the region is that it makes up a broad and multilayered landscape. This ranges from national governments and supra-national institutions (such as the Arctic Council) to sectoral institutions and indigenous peoples organizations, as well as to global governance mechanisms. Crucially, Arctic governance mediates a broad span of interests and claims that are not seldom opposed to each other.

In what ways and to what extent are existing governance institutions conducive to promoting justice in the Arctic?

Our research shows that the capacity of Arctic governance institutions to represent the interests and values of the region's peoples and actors is, on the whole, relatively good. Still, there are challenges. The fact that many institutions operate in a compartmentalized fashion is one. This can serve as a block to reckoning with the full complexity of justice claims. The perception held by many people in remote and sparsely populated areas that their interests tend to be insufficiently incorporated in national policy, is another challenge.

To strengthen Arctic governance institutions as enablers for justice, the policy brief suggests a number of possible pathways, including efforts to:

- 1 Overcome the compartmentalization in institutions, so that objectives and cultures are better aligned toward more comprehensive and interconnected modes of operation, for instance by setting up regular roundtables for different institutions**
- 2 Foster greater transparency and institutional openness towards society**
- 3 Strengthen institutional capacity in organisations where this is lacking**
- 4 Encourage greater participation in governance by Arctic youth, for instance by appointing an ombudsman for future generations or establishing youth councils**

