

# Understanding institutional lock-ins in order to design adaptation incentives

- examples from the forestry sector in Sweden

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Forest use in Sweden can be seen as an institutionalised system that has developed over time, and that illustrates the role of different developed relations between organisations and the established understandings that are encased in legislation and practice. It can thereby be seen as a basis for discussing mechanisms that may be relevant in multiple cases, such as governmental logics or institutional path dependency-related features.

The presentation draws on part of a newly published monograph (a “critical textbook” *The Social Aspects of Environmental and Climate Change. Institutional Dynamics beyond the Linear Model* (Routledge: London and New York).

# Understanding the factors that impact forestry in Sweden

- The significant economic role of forestry in Sweden
- A historically rural connection – institutionalising production thinking among forest owners
  - The role of forest owners' associations
  - The role of available forest, population statistics, and support organisations
  - The role of the "Swedish forest model"
- Tracing institutional paths
  - Legislative development in context
  - Voluntary instruments and what they imply

# Consequences for adaptation (and mitigation)

- Business-as-usual?
- Measures taken based on existing patterns
  - Maximize growth (coping)
  - Voluntary
  - Beneficial to industry

# Conclusion: Decision paths and deviations

- Comparison with other countries: "passive adaptation"
- Economic role
- Lock-in? At least logics, institutional inertia
- Not necessarily seeing this situation as a "problem" but as a condition: in order to design for instance incentives for adaptation
- The need to understand the case – to understand adaptation you need to not just understand adaptation (as adaptation specifically to climate change will be very limited) but the system ("double" or "multiple" impact, "context based")