

Governing the bioeconomy transition: actors, values and trade-offs

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Details zum Projekt:

Governing the bioeconomy transition: actors, values and trade-offs

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In the transition to a biobased economy, the forest sector has been appointed a central role as a provider of renewable energy, carbon sequestration and employment in rural areas. In a forest rich country like Sweden, the transition to a bioeconomy is expected to influence the future development of the forest sector. Yet, an increased demand on biomass also necessitates trade-offs between different interests and values in forests. So far, little research has focused on the political and social dimensions of a bioeconomy transition. The aim of this project is consequently to investigate how different stakeholders in the Swedish forest sector perceive the bioeconomy transition, and how different bioeconomy pathways affect different stakeholders. Gaining this knowledge facilitates a more legitimate governing of the bioeconomy transition, where different forest values and interests are balanced in inclusive and transparent decision-making processes. Empirically the project departs from non-governmental organisations (association of Swedish Sami, Swedish Society for Nature Conservation, Swedish Forest Industries Federation); forestry scientists (Umeå Plant Science Centre); and the State (government and forest administration). This in order to contrast different understandings and highlight how different ways of governing the bioeconomy transition affect different stakeholders. Methodologically the project draws on qualitative methods and include stakeholders in the research process.