

the process of decentralization can face many obstacles and that outcomes are highly varied. They also find that the promises of enfranchisement and popular participation found in decentralization discourses rarely materialize in practice. Instead of facilitating downward accountability, which is the “substantive essence of democracy” and “the mechanism by which decentralizations are supposed to secure participation” (p. 6), central governments tend to transfer power to upwardly accountable institutions in order to maintain central control over natural resources. The editors infer that the “failure” of decentralizations to work as theories suggest they should is a result of both improper implementation and the influence of external factors (local capacities, incentive structures, ideologies, etc.) that models do not or cannot account for.

As is the case with many edited volumes, in particular those intended as special volumes of journals (this book is published as a special issue of the *European Journal of Development Research*), the flow of the chapters is not always well maintained. In particular, the chapter on user committees seems somewhat out of place, as it does not focus *per se* on natural resources as the other chapters do. The volume also suffers from the absence of a concluding chapter to summarize the case studies and tie them together; this function is instead provided in the introduction, to which the reader is tempted to return at the end of the book. While it may not be advised as a cover-to-cover read, the volume does serve as an important reference for those interested either in natural resource management specifically or in issues of policy and democracy more generally.

Stokke, Olav Schram, Jon Hovi, and Geir Ulfstein, eds. 2005. *Implementing the Climate Regime: International Compliance*. London: Earthscan.

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Although the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol in February 2005 is an important development in international governance on the problem of climate change, it is widely acknowledged that this legal instrument represents only a first step in addressing this complex problem. For a future climate regime to be effective, there must be compliance with the norms agreed upon at the international level. Those countries that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol already face difficulties in implementing their international commitments at the national level. Similar problems will emerge in any follow-up agreement if it is not accompanied by a proper mechanism promoting compliance. *Implementing the Climate Regime: International Compliance* furthers our understanding of the nature of (non-) compliance of states with international climate change commitments and explores ways of increasing the level of compliance.

The book provides a comprehensive examination of the numerous issues related to compliance with the climate regime. It begins with an overview of the compliance system of the Kyoto Protocol, including the historical background

of the agreement, and the evolution of its compliance regime. In contrast with other international environmental regimes, a “soft” managerial approach to compliance is complemented by “hard” sanctions under the Kyoto compliance process. This first section addresses some unresolved controversies as well, about the legal status of findings of non-compliance with Kyoto obligations, the automaticity of the compliance process, and how this process relates to the flexibility mechanisms of the Protocol.

The second part of the volume focuses on the challenges faced by the compliance system. This section argues for enhancing both the short-term and long-term effectiveness of the climate regime through altering the incentive and normative structures actors face. The authors are also concerned that the “regime has not delineated mechanisms to reward overcompliance and innovation” (p. 74). It is unfortunate that the book does not further examine the potential of incentives for those who are willing to “go the next step” (p. 74), which would provide important leadership opportunities for states. There are also difficulties in assessing compliance. Although parties to the Kyoto Protocol receive assistance in reporting their greenhouse gas emissions, the authors draw attention to uncertainties in collecting this data. It may be possible to be in compliance with the strictly legal obligations but not with the underlying purpose of the agreement, what the authors refer to as “scientific compliance.” National reporting, accompanied by independent modeling, could improve scientific compliance. This part of the volume also points out that the punishment of non-compliance is not inherently apolitical. The authors of chapter 4 point to the “significant potential weakness” (p. 117) in the institutional framework of the compliance system that might allow members of the Enforcement Branch of the Kyoto Protocol Compliance Committee to make determinations based on state allegiances rather than, as they are intended to, in their capacity as individuals.

The third part of the book addresses external enforcement, pointing to factors outside the climate regime that may improve compliance, including climate-related trade measures. The authors examine the advantages and disadvantages of these approaches.

The fourth and final part of the book sheds light on the potential role of nonstate actors in the compliance system. This section includes a discussion of ways to increase the influence of environmental nongovernmental organizations in increasing compliance. This section also describes the different strategies of oil companies based in the EU and the United States, and examines possible explanations for these differences. In addition, it compares the Kyoto compliance system with those of other environmental regimes (including the Montreal Protocol) and with EU climate policy, and sums up key lessons to be learned for global climate governance. In this regard, one chapter author emphasizes that “enforcement goes hand in hand with management” (p. 226), implying that the focus should not fully shift to punishing non-compliance. The book’s brief epilogue gives an indication of the coming challenges in designing a compliance system for a post-2012 climate regime, with negotiations on a fol-

low-up agreement to Kyoto already beginning. Negotiators should keep the design of a future compliance system in mind from the earliest stages of the negotiations.

The book provides a concise, yet comprehensive, examination of compliance with international climate commitments. It should be of interest not only for those well-versed in the intricacies of international climate policy, but also for students and scholars interested in international law and governance in general.