

**Final Progress Report**  
**Sustainability Science Program, Harvard University**  
**Term: September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2012**  
**Submitted: July 2012**

**Name:** Liliana B. Andonova

**Your field(s):**  
Political Science

**Your degree program, institution and graduation date:**  
Ph.D., Government, Harvard University, 2001

**Faculty host(s) at Harvard name and department:**  
Professors William Clark, Calestous Juma, Merilee Grindle, John Ruggie  
Kennedy School of Government

**Description of SSP-related research activity:**

**Title:** Governance Innovation for Sustainability: Analysis of UNEP and World Bank Public-Private Partnerships

**Abstract:** Addressing sustainability issues requires coordination across multiple jurisdictions and scales to manage the interplay between natural and social systems. Intergovernmental institutions have facilitated collaboration on environmental problems, but with variable success, leaving important global objectives woefully underachieved. In parallel to intergovernmental regimes, numerous studies have noted the rise of innovative institutional mechanisms for sustainability such as global public-private partnerships, transnational governance networks, and voluntary standards and certification. This project focuses on the role of international organizations (IOs) in facilitating the rise of public-private partnerships in the multilateral system as innovative mechanisms to advance environmental governance. The research undertaken as part of the SSP program is one of the first attempts to examine systematically and comparatively across two organizational fields the collective action logic, political dynamics, and governance outcomes of partnerships for sustainability.

**Identification of the problem you address:**

This research focuses on the larger challenge of crafting governance mechanisms to advance the objectives of sustainable development at the international and transnational levels.

**Key question asked about the problem:**

What are the conditions for governance innovation for sustainability such as global partnerships?

What governance instruments do global partnerships bring to bear for advancing sustainability objectives?

**The methods by which you answered that question:**

As part of the SSP fellowship I conducted extensive data collection and interviewing on the portfolio of global partnerships for sustainability facilitated by the World Bank and UNEP. This research will help to illuminate both processes of learning and governance innovation in the multilateral system for sustainable development, as well as some of the outcomes of partnerships as a mode of governance.

**Principle literature upon which the research drew:**

The theoretical framework that I use combines the insights of the principal-agent model of organizations and sociological theories to illuminate processes of governance innovation and change at the global level. I argue that we need to take a more embedded and dynamic interpretation of these models to specify the conditions

under which a cycle of institutional innovation is likely to ensue via agenda setting, experimental implementation, diffusion, and authorization of new instruments of governance.

**Empirical data acquisition description:**

The research involved extensive interviewing, collection and analysis of original documents related to the establishment and outcomes of global partnerships for sustainability, and data collections of the partnerships for sustainability facilitated by UNEP and the World Bank.

**Geographical region studied:**

Global study, no specific geographic focus.

**Recommendations that might be relevant for your problem:**

Establish mechanisms for better coordination between the new instruments of governance mechanisms such as partnerships and broader normative frameworks governing sustainability.

**A description of the final product(s) you have/are aiming to produce:**

SSP Working paper drafted: “Governance Innovation for Sustainability: Comparative Analysis of UNEP and World Bank Public-Private Partnerships”

This paper will serve as a basis for a book chapter and possibly an article elaborating the theoretical argument.

**Description of major other intellectual or professional advancement activity(ies) over the past academic year, including working title(s):**

2012 publications:

Andonova, Liliana and Matthew Hoffmann. 2012. *From Rio to Rio and beyond: Innovation in global environmental governance*. *Journal of Environment and Development* 21(1): 57-61.

Andonova, Liliana and Assia Alexieva. 2012. *Continuity and change in Russia's climate negotiations position and strategy*. *Climate Policy* 12(5): 614-629.

Andonova, Liliana and Manfred Elsig. 2012. Informal international lawmaking: A conceptual view from international relations In Joost Pauwelyn, Ramses Wessel, Jan Wouters, eds. *Informal International Lawmaking*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Andonova, Liliana and Stacy VanDeveer. 2012. EU expansion and the internationalization of environmental politics in Central and Eastern Europe In Paul F. Steinberg and Stacy D. VanDeveer, eds. *Comparative Environmental Politics. Theory, Practice, and Prospects*, Cambridge: MIT Press.

Other professional activities:

Organized book writing workshop Geneva of a co-authored collaborative project on Governing Climate Change Transnationally. The production of a co-authored volume *Governing Climate Change Transnationally* – in process of production

Presentation of working paper “*Boomerangs to Partnerships? Explaining State Participation in Transnational Partnerships for Sustainability*” at the Princeton Conference on Environment Politics, December 2011. The paper is submitted to a journal review

Presentation of working paper “*Local Action for the Global Climate Commons*” at the panel on Scope and Heterogeneity in Local and Global Governance.

Revisiting Keohane and Ostrom, “Local Commons and Global Interdependence”  
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association  
September 1-4, 2011 Seattle, WA

Invited presentation “*Why International Organization Innovate for Sustainability?*” at the Environmental Studies Colloquium, Colby College, December 2011

Invited presentation at the conference on Moral Entrepreneurship, organized by K.Sikkink and R. Keohane, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Oct 1-October 2, 2011

**Citations for reports, papers, publications and presentations that built on your fellowship research:**

Andonova, Liliana and Matthew Hoffmann. 2012. [From Rio to Rio and beyond: Innovation in global environmental governance.](#) *Journal of Environment and Development* 21(1): 57-61.

SSP Working paper drafted: “Governance Innovation for Sustainability: Comparative Analysis of UNEP and World Bank Public-Private Partnerships”

**Principal collaborators outside Harvard (list name and institution):**

Manoela Assaya, Graduate Institute, Geneva  
Michele Betsill, University of Colorado  
Harriett Bulkeley, Durham University, UK  
Matthew Hoffmann, University of Toronto  
Ronald Mitchell, University of Oregon

**List any awards or grants that you have received this year for the current or coming year.**

Grant from the Swiss National Fund for international collaborations

**If you are moving to a new position, please list your contact information there:**

Professor in Political Science, Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, Geneva