

# Chapter 4

## Future and Nature Stakeholder Integration in Climate Deliberation



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### 4.1 Introduction

Traditional participatory approaches are insufficient to handle the complexity of growing climate difficulties and threats to socioecological balance (Darwish et al., 2023). There is an increasing need to broaden climate discourse by including vulnerable and excluded social groups and conceptualizing how to merge nature representatives with future generations. Inclusive discussion increases the effectiveness of solving climate issues by relying on a diverse variety of information, experiences, and expertise, as well as embracing the interests and concerns of all impacted parties, including those who are not currently present (Vidal & Alves, 2024).

We suggest including future generations and nature as stakeholders in climate discussions. This approach acknowledges the agency of these actors and attempts to guarantee that their interests are considered in decision-making processes (Ekeli, 2005). By giving nature and future generations legal standing and a voice, we hope to reshape our understanding of life and rebuild our existence to promote regenerative practices and socioecological harmony.

The participation of nature representatives and future generations as stakeholders is a novel method that has the potential to transform environmental preservation and intergenerational equity. This method entails extending legal rights to nature and evaluating the long-term effects of present policies on future generations. Combining these approaches can promote transdisciplinary conversation and envision socioecological futures that address unexpected difficulties (Pigott, 2018).

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## 4.2 Transformative Potential

The participation of Nature Representatives and Future Generations as stakeholders has emerged as a game-changing method for promoting regenerative change for a flourishing planet. This approach entails giving nature and future generations legal stature and a say in decision-making processes, altering our view of life, and reconstructing human existence (Boyd, 2017). The case of Nature Representatives is inspired by the Rights of Nature framework, which recognizes entities other than humans as rights holders. This recognition of rights implies an understanding that nature has intrinsic value and should be handled as more than mere property or a resource for human use (Alves et al., 2023). Future Generations' strategy is built on intergenerational equity and justice. It acknowledges that our actions now will influence the planet that future generations will inherit. Recognizing intergenerational fairness in socioecological debate entails ensuring that the needs and interests of future generations are effectively represented (Byskov & Hyams, 2022).

Nature Representatives and Future Generations contribute to cultural narratives emphasizing all life forms' interdependence, reinforcing the ethical requirement for conservation and regeneration (Braun, 2015). Their inclusion in climate resilience contributes to a broader opportunity for transdisciplinary conversation, encouraging envisioning socioecological futures that can accept unexpected problems. Thus, incorporating Nature Representatives and Future Generations as stakeholders provides a regenerative approach that addresses climate change from several linked perspectives: promoting regenerative change by including ecological viewpoints, ethical considerations, cultural narratives, and transdisciplinary collaboration, so broadening the circle of climate discourse for a more sustainable and inclusive future.

## 4.3 Application

Including Nature Representatives and Future Generations as stakeholders in the climate discourse is a viable strategy to address environmental concerns' complexities and promote regenerative change. Each step in this process (Table 4.1) is considered critical for ensuring broad representation, improving communication, and encouraging collaboration among varied stakeholders. The approach derives from our experience in the project "Phoenix" (GA: 101037328), which brings together partners from seven different European countries to investigate novel approaches to involvement for an inclusive, sustainable ecological transition.

To ensure a variety of viewpoints, we first identified stakeholders by speaking with youth organizations, environmental organizations, and local communities while ensuring that marginalized groups were adequately represented. Through

**Table 4.1** Steps and considerations for implementing the method of integrating. Nature Representatives and Future Generations as stakeholders in climate deliberation

Step	Description	Considerations for implementation
1	Identifying stakeholders	Consult with local communities, environmental organizations, and youth groups. Ensure comprehensive representation. Consider the diversity of perspectives and interests
2	Establishing legal standing	Advocate for policy changes, support legal initiatives, and raise awareness about the importance of recognizing rights
3	Facilitating communication	Develop innovative approaches. Use socioecological indicators; involve local communities in identifying nature's representatives. Include non-human communication
4	Incorporating future generations	Create platforms and forums for intergenerational dialogue. Organize youth-led initiatives, workshops, and educational programs. Empower young activists through mentorship programs, networking opportunities, online and offline platforms, creating safe spaces for dialogue, and policy engagement training
5	Building transdisciplinary collaboration	Foster collaboration among diverse stakeholder groups. Convene multi-stakeholder workshops. Conduct scenario planning exercises. Integrate diverse perspectives into decision-making processes

legislative modifications, these delegates were given legal standing while spreading awareness of how crucial it is to respect their rights. In this process, it is critical to realize the inherent difficulties in interacting with non-human stakeholders and to devise inclusive and accessible communication approaches, moving beyond human forms and introducing alternative forms to communicate, such as art, emotions, or even experiences. By setting up forums for intergenerational conversation, planning youth-led projects, and providing young activists with training and mentoring opportunities, we engaged future generations. Through encouraging partnerships among stakeholders, hosting multi-stakeholder workshops, running scenario planning exercises, and incorporating various viewpoints into decision-making processes, we developed transdisciplinary collaboration.

Thus, including Nature Representatives and Future Generations as stakeholders in climate discourses provides a promising approach to tackling environmental concerns and promoting regenerative change. By adopting this method, stakeholders can effectively traverse the intricacies of climate discourse and strive toward a more regenerative, emphatic, and inclusive future (Table 4.2).

**Table 4.2** Method overview

<i>Main purpose</i>
This method aims to enhance the inclusivity and comprehensiveness of decision-making processes by incorporating the perspectives and interests of both nature and future generations, ultimately leading to more sustainable and regenerative outcomes.
<i>Gained competences</i>
The method fosters systems thinking, interdisciplinary collaboration, and ethical reasoning. It enhances communication skills, long-term planning, and cultural competence, empowering diverse stakeholders and promoting sustainable decision-making.
<i>Educational setting</i>
The educational setting for this method can be both formal (higher education, undergraduate and graduate courses in environmental science, sustainability, social sciences, arts, humanities, law, and policy) and informal (workshops, seminars, community forums, and youth engagement programs).
<i>Space requirements/restrictions</i>
Classrooms or lecture halls for formal education; meeting rooms for workshops, seminars, and stakeholder dialogues; field sites for ecological observation and participatory environmental assessments; community spaces for engaging with local stakeholders and conducting participatory planning sessions.
<i>Resources and necessary materials</i>
Educational materials such as textbooks, articles, and case studies; computers and projectors for presentations and data analysis; recording equipment for capturing stakeholder dialogues and feedback; communication tools like video conferencing software for remote collaboration.
<i>Number of participants</i>
This should be adapted to the local context specificities, but the ideal group size would be 10–20 participants per group to ensure effective discussion and engagement; multiple groups can be formed depending on the scale of the project and the number of stakeholders involved. The method should accommodate a diverse range of participants, including local community members, youth representatives, environmental scientists, policymakers, and legal experts.
<i>Facilitator competences and skills</i>
Background in social sciences Experience in stakeholder engagement and mediation Strong communication, analytical, and interpersonal skills, coupled with cultural competence and advocacy abilities
<i>Participants' skills/age/competences</i>
Diverse ages and skills, including traditional knowledge and advocacy. Varied educational backgrounds, adept in research and critical thinking. Experienced in governance and decision-making processes. Proficient in scientific inquiry, creative problem-solving, and project implementation. Nature representatives. Future generations representatives.
<i>Duration</i>
This is dependent on the local context specificities, but the workshops or seminars may range from a few hours to several days, depending on the depth of engagement and the number of participants; advocacy efforts and policy development may extend over weeks or months, requiring ongoing collaboration and negotiation; long-term projects, such as community-based initiatives or research studies, may span months or even years, requiring sustained effort and commitment.

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