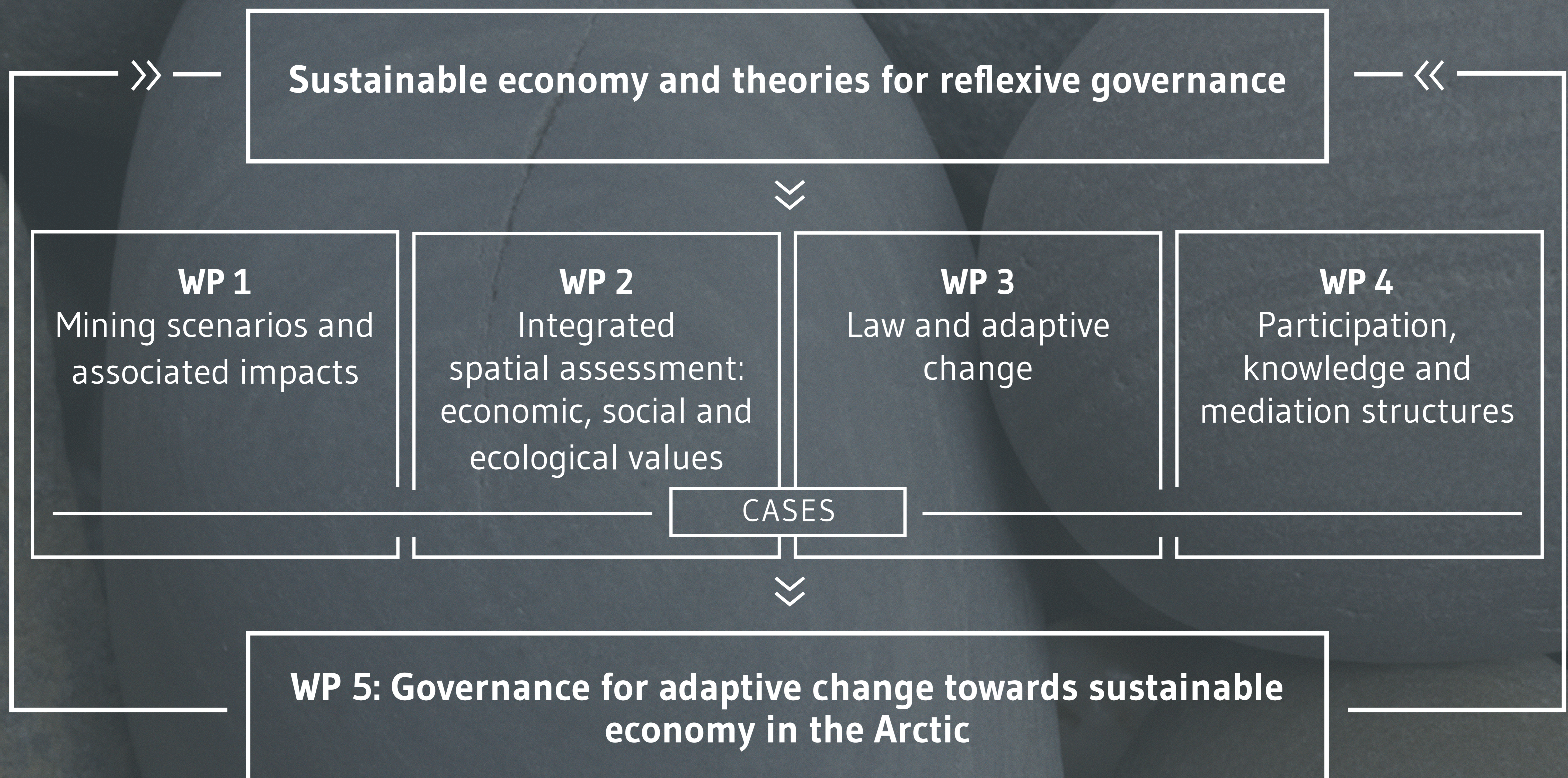


GOVADA

Governing adaptive change towards sustainable economy in the Arctic



University of Lapland - Geological Survey of Finland - Natural Resources Institute Finland

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A key driver of economic transition in the Arctic is the growing importance of extractive industries, like mining. Mineral extraction in the Arctic may, however, adversely affect other livelihoods, especially tourism and forestry. Competing land-use interests related to mining, other livelihoods and environmental protection are likely to increase in the future. The potential conflicts may threaten the sustainable growth of the economy. For achieving balanced development between different land uses and economic branches supporting the needs of both society and business, the strengthening of the reconciliatory capabilities of enterprises as well as governmental and community organizations is needed.

The challenge of a sustainable economy in the Arctic calls for a better knowledge base to inform infrastructure-related decisions and improve social institutions to enable adaptive governance of land resources on which different livelihoods depend. As a response to this challenge, we aim in an iterative and integrated way to:

1. Develop and test scenario methodology for estimating the possible development of the mining industry in the Arctic; and develop methodology of assessing economic, social and environmental impacts associated to scenarios;
2. Develop and test a GIS-based method for the adaptive management of mining environments that gives full consideration to socioeconomic and ecological values of competing land uses;
3. Assess how law supports or suppresses adaptive governance towards sustainable economy and develop law's adaptive capacity;
4. Examine the role of various kinds of knowledge and develop, through action research approaches, mediation structures; and
5. Provide new insights how to improve, in an integrated way, both knowledge base and processes of decision-making.

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