

**Coalition formation in climate negotiations: Insights for mountain coalitions**

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This paper investigates coalition formation in climate negotiations. By using the Alliance of Small Island States and the Coalition for Rainforest Nations as case studies, a coalition formation model is created to provide the basis for recommendations for the mountain coalitions. After providing the narratives of the two competing models of the mountain coalitions, the coalition formation model is used to identify gaps. Significant areas of convergence exist between the two coalitions and the primary bottleneck lies in taking the work of the technical experts into the negotiating arena. Problem solving workshops can be used to create a common vision to allow the two coalitions to join their efforts. High-level political commitment can anchor the achievements of such an exercise and instill an atmosphere of trust and purpose to help the parties coalesce. Substantive areas for collaboration, among others, can include expanding research and observation of the cryosphere, recognizing rangelands and agricultural lands as carbon sequestration pools, and the role of black carbon. Political groups like the Group of 77 and China can maintain neutrality over issues of interest to some of its members. Formation of issue based coalitions marks greater participation of countries in the climate negotiations while retaining original political alliances.