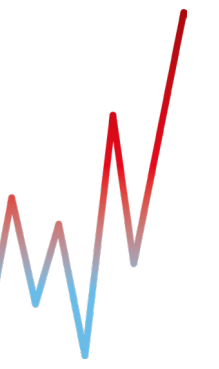




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# Synergies and trade-offs in critical raw materials policies



**area**

**provisions in place**

**not in place**



strategic partnerships



strategic partnerships



securing raw materials



environmental protection



The broader areas and specific measures (on the right) appear in criticism of current policies related to critical raw materials, usually voiced by the civil sector, academia, or the local communities impacted by the extractivist projects. Importantly, these measures are not always directly in the opposition to current design (on the left), but might be complementary. This is especially true in the areas of top-down and bottom-up tools and in supply- and demand-side management where combining different approaches promises more robustness and resilience.

The framing narrative of win-win partnerships is then coming under fire in particular instances where EU economic interests enjoy a more thorough coverage than the interests of partner countries. This materializes even in governance tools; projects on EU soil are subjected to “meaningful participation” of the locals and include civil society organizations, unlike analogous projects in the partner countries. Another area requiring better balancing mechanisms is the trade-off between climate protection and other planetary boundaries. These environmental problems like pollution, biodiversity loss, or freshwater shortage are often more difficult to quantify and compare internationally but can have detrimental impacts on local communities.

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