



*Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP)  
Climate Change Governance Priority Theme*

## **The Politics of Formulating and Implementing Climate Policies**

Concept Note and Call for Letters of Interest

May 2023

EGAP launched the Climate Change Governance Priority Theme in 2022 to organize research on strategies for moving climate policy formulation and implementation processes forward. The priority theme steering committee includes EGAP members Evan Lieberman, Melina Platas, Tara Slough, and Linda Stern, and EGAP Executive Director Cyrus Samii. The work is supported by EGAP Methods Manager, Matt Lisiecki. The steering committee has engaged in discussions with researcher and practitioner stakeholders, including a February 2023 workshop at University College London.

Based on these discussions, the focus of the work will be *the politics of climate policy*, with special emphasis on the factors that influence the decisions of leaders and officials in a position to formulate or implement climate adaptation or mitigation policies.

### **Priority Topics**

The steering committee identified the following as topics for further research:

- Ways that electoral incentives affect, and possibly interfere, with elected leaders' **commitment to long-term** climate policy planning and implementation (in the context of either international or domestic frameworks), and strategies to reinforce such commitment in democratic contexts;
- Beyond elections, other institutional or organizational reasons for heavily lagged or incomplete **implementation** toward mitigation or adaptation goals (again, defined in terms of international or domestic frameworks), and strategies for sustaining officials' commitment to implementation;

- How political leaders respond to special interests and in particular, how those with a vested interest in limiting mitigation or adaptation might **capture** policy processes and strategies to limit the potential of such capture;
- Reasons that some communities may be marginalized in mitigation or adaptation policies, and strategies to limit the extent to which **inequalities** are exacerbated by such policies.

## Priority Countries

The topics listed above could be pursued fruitfully with reference to either mitigation or adaptation. A research emphasis on adaptation is well-motivated in settings where vulnerability is substantial. A research emphasis on mitigation is especially well-motivated in contexts of globally significant greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or globally significant GHG sinks like tropical forests. As it happens, many countries in the world simultaneously face challenges on both sets of issues simultaneously. It is in such settings that the tradeoffs that we witness at the global level are playing out domestically.

Based on this observation, the steering committee has identified *priority countries* using greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions data from [Climate Watch](#) and an aggregate measure of “sensitivity” and “exposure” to climate change risks from the [Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative](#). We list the priority countries here, focusing only on countries with populations of at least 10 million people:

Low Income	Lower Middle Income	Upper Middle Income	High Income
Afghanistan Burkina Faso Burundi Chad Democratic Republic of Congo Ethiopia Madagascar Mali Mozambique Niger Somalia Sudan Uganda	Bangladesh Benin Egypt India Kenya Myanmar Nepal Nigeria Pakistan Philippines Senegal Tanzania Uzbekistan Vietnam Zambia Zimbabwe	Brazil China Indonesia Iraq Mexico Thailand	Japan Netherlands South Korea United States

## Case Study Components

The steering committee is commissioning a set of case studies to offer insight into the priority topics listed above. The case studies could highlight patterns of within-case variation in politics and policy-making over time. Topics that the case studies must address include the following:

1. *Locations*: Identify the top sources of GHG emissions and climate-related threats (with reference to appropriate data), and identify at least one location within the country that is a source of major GHG emissions (places where mitigation is a major issue) and one that is a major climate risk area (places where adaptation is a major issue).
2. *Actors*: For each location, list the governing authorities that determine policies that affect mitigation or adaptation decisions and comment on their roles and to whom they are accountable. List the broader array of actors involved in shaping policy and their main interests. These actors could be at the local, national, or even international level, and they could include actors from government, industry, or civil society.
3. *Policies*: Define the range of policies that interested stakeholders actually care about and are plausibly on the political agenda in addressing the mitigation or adaptation challenges in these locations. List the local, domestic, or international frameworks that are active in these locations for limiting emissions, funding energy transitions, or offering protection for risks for these locations.
4. *Explanations and Illustrations of Mechanisms that Bring About Stagnation or Change*: What do conventional wisdom, journalistic accounts, and any relevant scholarly literature propose as drivers or barriers to more aggressive climate action in these locations? Are there exciting and promising examples of political movements, initiatives that are successfully driving forward climate agendas which may hold more general lessons?
5. *Data*: What data could one use to track progress in addressing progress toward mitigation or adaptation goals in these locations? Do governments release information about climate-related spending, for example? Are there easily identifiable “Green parties” or climate-related NGOs that compile information that would cover these locations?

The case studies should run approximately 3500-5000 words. They should reference appropriate data and reports from governmental and non-governmental sources, and all analyses and quoted figures should be easy to fact-check or reproduce.

The goal is for the case study papers to serve as background papers for a synthetic academic article — and the authors of the case studies will be invited to participate as coauthors. We anticipate that the case studies will eventually be published as part of an online supplementary appendix along with the synthetic paper. The case studies will also inform an EGAP climate change governance workshop scheduled for February 2024 in Washington, DC. Selected case study authors will be considered for participation at the February 2024 meeting.

### **Instructions for Applicants**

To apply for a case study grant, you will submit a letter of interest that indicates (i) the country in which you would like to do the case study, (ii) why you have selected that country, (iii) how you would go about researching the five Case Study Components listed above, including an indication of data or qualitative sources that you would consult, and (iv) your qualifications for performing the research in this case and topic. The letter of interest should be 2-3 pages long. The research could be entirely desk-based or, if possible, could include interviews with key informants, scholars, or officials. The steering committee aims to fund a total of 6 case studies, drawing from the following list of countries:

- 2 countries from the Low-Income country list
- 2 countries from Middle-Income countries (either the Lower-Middle and Upper-Middle-Income country lists)
- 2 countries from the High-Income country list

You are welcome to select any country from the list of options above. Only countries listed in one of the four categories above are eligible for selection. We recognize that many Global South-based scholars work in countries not included in the above list. The listed countries were selected for a combination of their vulnerability to adverse climate effects, their high level of GHG emissions, and their population size. If a country is not included, it is only because it does not meet at least one of those criteria.

In addition, your letter of interest should include a project timeline summary. Completed case studies must be returned to EGAP via email by **October 15, 2023**.

### **Grant Size and Eligibility**

- EGAP will award up to USD 32,000 in total to successful proposals and expects to select 6 award winners. The funds will be allocated as follows:

- Up to USD 6,000 per study for 4 studies conducted by Global South scholars. This includes scholars from all Global South countries, not merely the countries listed above. This refers to individuals who (a) currently hold a Ph.D. and are employed or at a university or research institute in the Global South; (b) currently study at the doctoral level at a university or research institute in the Global South, (c) received an undergraduate or graduate university degree from a Global South university and are currently a graduate student, postdoc, or faculty elsewhere, or (d) currently teach at a Global South university or research institute and received their Ph.D. no more than five years ago.
  - *Note:* Collaborations between Global South scholars and other researchers (including US-based collaborators) are eligible for this grant; however a Global South-based scholar must clearly lead the research, and if funds are awarded, the funds will be transferred directly to the Global South-based applicant and not the non-Global South researchers.
  - *Note:* Applications from unaffiliated researchers are not eligible (i.e., those who do not study, teach, or conduct research at a university, international institution, formally accredited research center, or government department).
- Up to USD 4,000 for 2 studies conducted by scholars from any background or location, including in the Global North.
  - Funding can be used to support the investigators' time, travel, lodging, and data acquisition associated with research.
  - Interested scholars may apply to write a case study on their home country, country of residence, or another country. If you are applying to write a case study on a country that is not your home country or country of residence, please describe your qualifications for covering that country in your proposal.

## Timeline

To apply, please submit your letter of interest and CV (along with the CV of any co-authors) to [admin@egap.org](mailto:admin@egap.org) by 11:59 pm, US Pacific Time on **Thursday, June 15, 2023**.

Please contact [admin@egap.org](mailto:admin@egap.org) with any questions regarding eligibility, application requirements, or project timelines.