A just transition for adaptation: How do we work toward globally just resilience in an interconnected world?

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The impacts of climate change and the outcomes of adaptation action are not equal: they will create ‘winners’ and ‘losers’

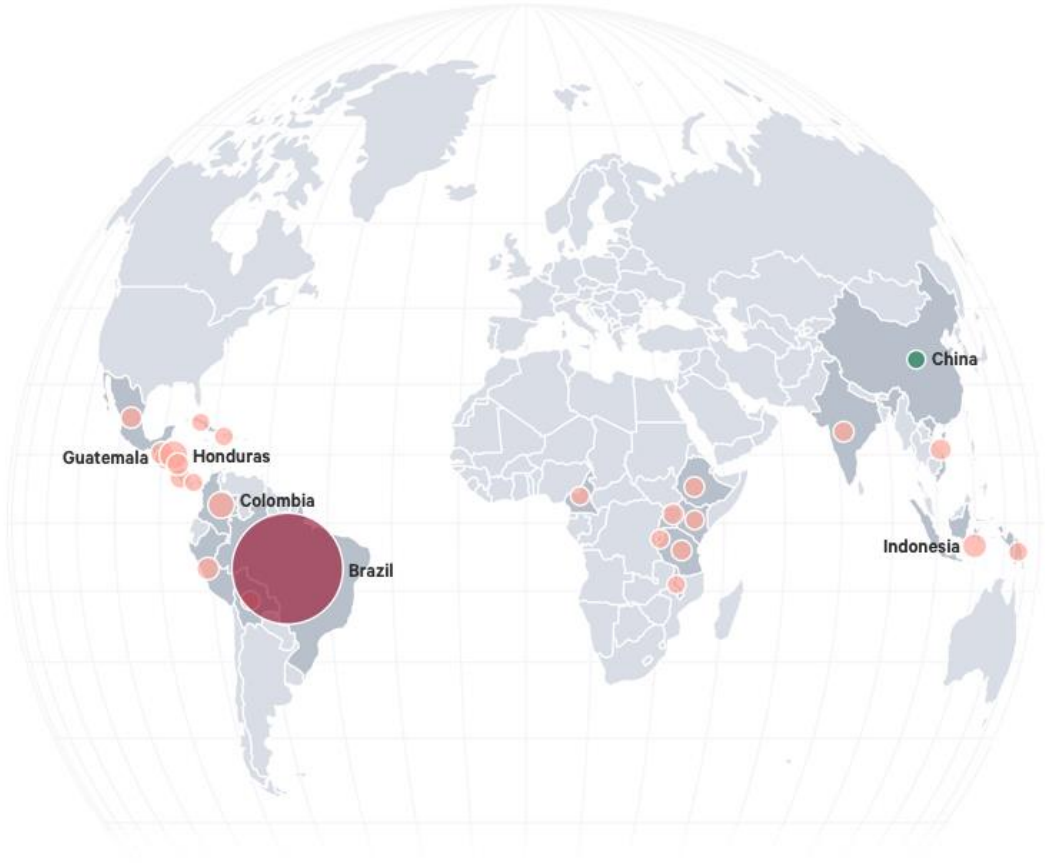
- Three ‘drivers’ of risk
- Justice emerging as a key concern for adaptation action
- How and for whom we do adaptation matters
- Interconnectedness demands increased system understanding

Satellite image of the Nile River. Credit: USGS

- The Blue Nile and the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD): mitigation and adaptation synergies
- Downstream effect: increase irrigation possibilities in Sudan, decreases total flows in Egypt
- Increase political tensions
- Basin-wide approach to adaptation?

Top Global Risk Exporters for Coffee *Arabica*

Visualising the top exporters of climate change risk for global coffee *arabica* trade.



1560:1 RISK TO OPPORTUNITY RATIO

3.7 MN TONNES TOTAL GLOBAL FLOW

-45.2% IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PRODUCTION

#	EXPORTER	TOTAL SHARE OF GLOBAL RISK (%)	TOTAL EXPORTS (60KG BAGS)	IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PRODUCTION
1	Brazil		23407k	-63.7%
2	Honduras		3125k	-62.8%
3	Colombia		9522k	-21.9%
4	Indonesia		1117k	-35.7%
5	Guatemala		3804k	-34.5%
6	Peru		3635k	-24.5%
7	Nicaragua		1318k	-74.2%
8	Viet Nam		261k	-52.5%
9	Costa Rica		1728k	-43.9%
10	El Salvador		1119k	-76.3%
11	Uganda		610k	-58.6%
12	Mexico		1976k	-43.9%
13	India		933k	-18.5%
14	Tanzania		548k	-52.0%
15	Ethiopia		3359k	-9.2%
16	PNG		1023k	-16.6%
17	Haiti		627k	-60.8%
18	Burundi		1203k	-28.7%
19	Kenya		717k	-12.8%
20	Panama		85k	-53.6%
21	Bolivia		142k	-60.1%
22	Cuba		200k	-78.5%
23	Cameroon		84k	-80.6%
24	Malawi		28k	-65.3%
...	...		...	...
1	China		546k	2.2%

Source: Adams et al. 2021: Climate change, trade, and global food security

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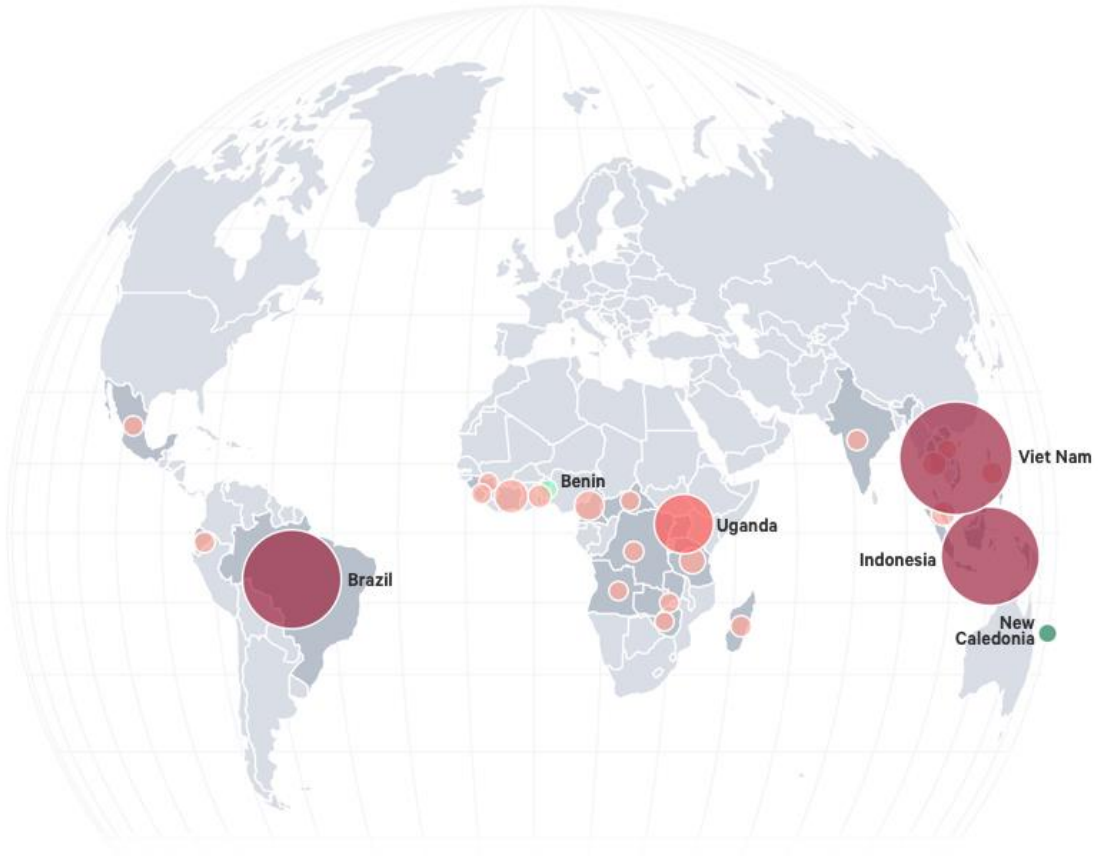
Top Global Risk Exporters for Coffee *Robusta*

Visualising the top exporters of climate change risk for global coffee *robusta* trade.



336772:1 RISK TO OPPORTUNITY RATIO

1.9 MN TONNES TOTAL GLOBAL FLOW

-23.5% IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PRODUCTION

#	EXPORTER	TOTAL SHARE OF GLOBAL RISK (%)	TOTAL EXPORTS (60KG BAGS)	IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PRODUCTION
1	Viet Nam		8434k	-26.0%
2	Brazil		6992k	-19.0%
3	Indonesia		6330k	-21.6%
4	Uganda		2442k	-32.9%
5	Côte d'Ivoire		1662k	-32.0%
6	Cameroon		561k	-47.5%
7	Tanzania		413k	-24.5%
8	Thailand		428k	-25.7%
9	Malaysia		239k	-26.3%
10	Togo		131k	-19.2%
11	Philippines		267k	-24.8%
12	Madagascar		290k	-15.6%
13	Ecuador		85k	-26.3%
14	India		2077k	-1.2%
15	DRC		320k	-51.7%
16	Sierra Leone		436k	-36.6%
17	Mexico		104k	-23.0%
18	Laos		67k	-31.5%
19	CAR		99k	-49.8%
20	Zambia		19k	-13.5%
21	Zimbabwe		8k	-12.5%
22	Guinea		18k	-30.3%
23	Angola		161k	-26.7%
...	...		...	...
2	Benin		<1K	3.4%
1	New Caledonia		<1K	20.4%

Source: Adams et al. 2021: Climate change, trade, and global food security

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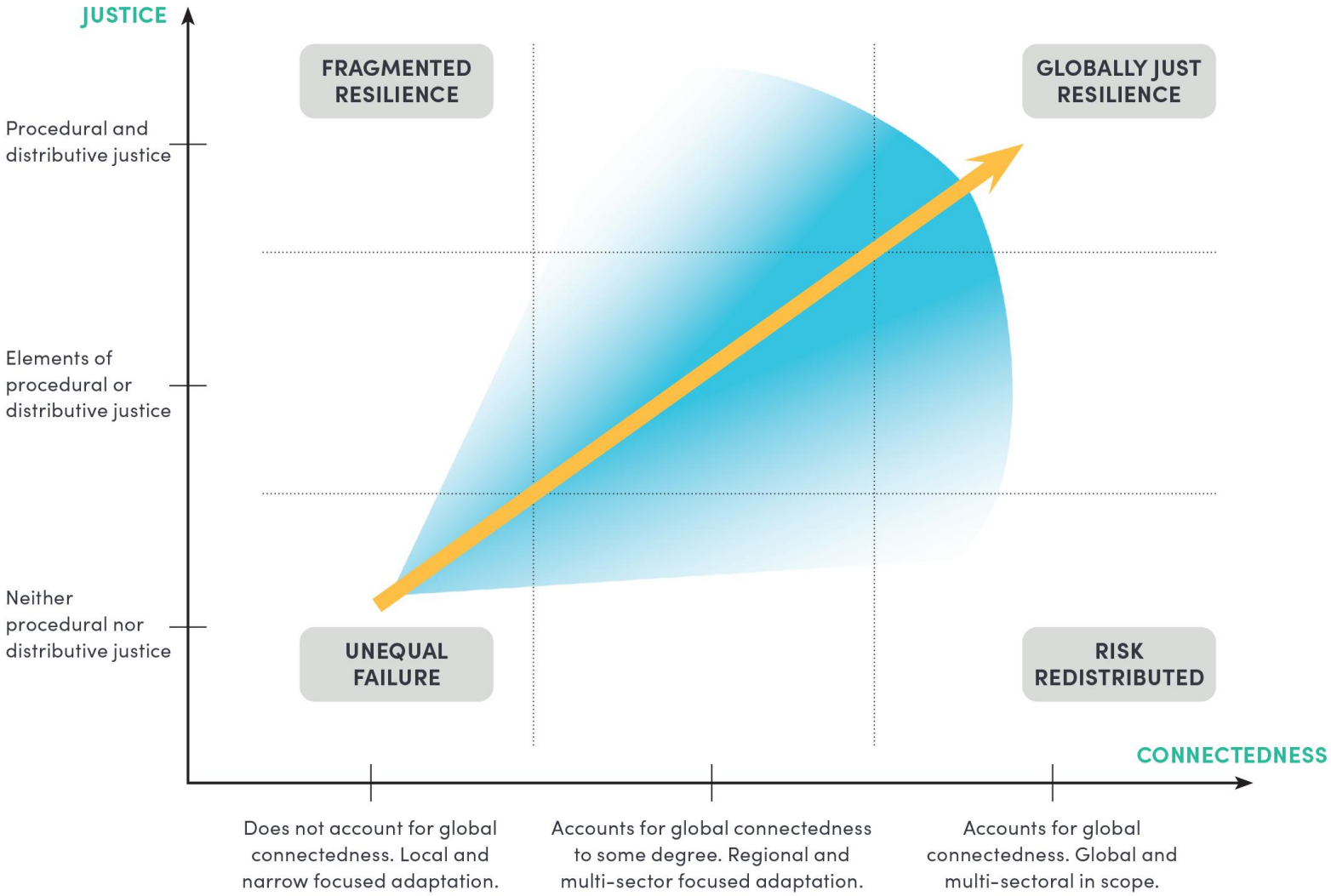
The farmer’s perspective

- 80% of coffee farmers globally are smallholders: < 5 hectares
- Declining yields/loss of income
- Loss of livelihoods
- “Abandonment”

Farmer showing coffee harvest in Minas Gerais, Brazil.
Credit: Vandelino Dias Junior

Framework for a Globally Just Resilience

The yellow arrow shows the movement of just transition for adaptation in a globally connected world within the framework



Source: Lager et al. 2021 - A Just Transition for Climate Change Adaptation: Towards Just Resilience and Security in a Globalising World

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Our work on justice in cross-border adaptation so far …

POLICY BRIEF

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Adaptation Without Borders

A Just Transition for Climate Change Adaptation: Towards Just Resilience and Security in a Globalising World

KEY MESSAGES

- In a globalising world, the impacts of both climate change and adaptation measures are increasingly likely to be felt well beyond the places where they occur – even thousands of kilometres away.
- Ensuring that adaptation is truly just and equitable requires recognising transboundary climate risk and building resilience on a global scale. This involves avoiding actions that simply shift risks to other actors or reinforce existing vulnerabilities.
- We propose a framework for a just transition for climate change adaptation, focused on two dimensions: justice – procedural and distributional – and connectedness. Achieving globally just resilience requires addressing both dimensions together, but neither is all-or-nothing: incremental steps can make adaptation more globally just over time.
- A just transition for adaptation is crucial to ensuring both human well-being and countries' security, as resource scarcity and other stresses caused by climate change or by maladaptation can exacerbate conflict and even indirectly fuel violence.
- Going forward, we recommend that policymakers strengthen multilateral cooperation for globally just resilience; develop agreed principles to move from ambition to action; craft incentives to invest in just transitions for adaptation; and advance research to support decision-making.

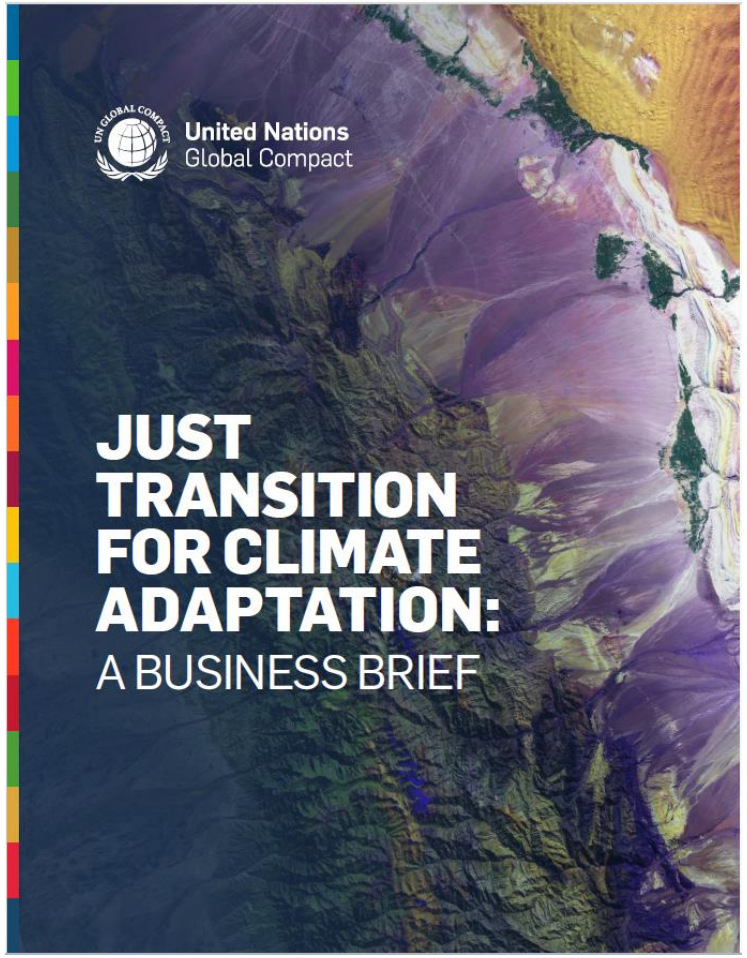
Justice has long been a central element of the international community's approach to climate change, including with regard to financial support for adaptation in developing countries. Yet, even as it has become increasingly clear that climate risks – and adaptation measures – often extend across national borders, a new challenge has emerged: how to ensure globally just resilience.

In a globalising world, countries' economies and the resources they depend on are closely connected through trade, financial flows, the movement of people, and shared biophysical systems such as river basins. That means that shocks or stresses in one country can be felt, and sometimes made worse, in other countries thousands of kilometres away. For example, during the global food price crisis of 2007–2008, multiple factors, including oil prices, extreme weather, changes in food demand, trade policies and government responses to the unfolding crisis, all interacted to generate a surge in global food prices, creating food insecurity for vulnerable communities worldwide.[1]

Situations like this, which climate change is exacerbating, directly affect human security and can fuel latent conflicts. When people are hungry and desperate, especially in the absence of good governance and safety-net programmes, tensions may escalate, and affected communities may also become very vulnerable to exploitation by criminal networks or armed groups.

To be both effective and just, adaptation measures in a globalising world thus need to start by recognising systemic and cascading cross-border effects. Otherwise, actions designed to reduce climate risk and vulnerability can instead reinforce or redistribute them across countries, deepening existing inequality and threatening human security.[2]

This policy brief aims to expand our collective view of justice in adaptation by considering the globally interconnected nature of our economy and society. Building



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Just Resilience for Europe: Towards measuring justice in climate change adaptation

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Thank you!

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