



ICCN Research Wishlist

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This document outlines potential topics for research to help build the case for climate councils and to develop our understanding on different forms of climate governance around the world. Please email tessa.vincent@e3g.org if you would like to partner on any of these.

On climate councils ...

PRIORITY TOPICS
Climate councils in Africa • Deep dive case studies on climate councils in Africa. • Exploration of new countries where a climate council could be viable – and what conditions are required to take next steps?
Climate councils in subnational governance • What opportunities exist in Indian states and subnationals to develop climate councils? • What opportunities exist in American states and subnationals to develop climate councils? • What opportunities exist in Brazilian states and subnationals to develop climate councils? • Furthermore, how are sub-national councils distinct and are there best practices for cross-national collaboration?
Impact of climate councils on emissions reduction • What are the impacts of climate councils? How can we demonstrate capacity for implementation? Are they contributing to limiting warming to within a 1.5 degree increase? --> <i>Endorsed by Australia Climate Change Authority</i>
Uptake of climate council advice • Are there proven ways or methods for a climate council's advice to be successfully used and implemented by the government? • What are the factors that help allow this? • Can uptake of advice be tracked in any way? --> <i>Endorsed by Icelandic Climate Council</i>
Investor certainty & climate council engagement with the real economy • What is the economic / investment case for climate councils? • What evidence is there that national mandated climate councils lead to greater investment and engagement in low-carbon sectors in that jurisdiction? • Where can we improve private sector interactions with climate councils? • How could we influence country credit ratings to reflect the value of councils for investor certainty?
SECOND-TIER TOPICS

The role of councils in delivering global ambition • What is the positive evidence of councils on NDC ambition and implementation? • Where have they helped deliver other global pledges (e.g. breakthroughs, methane pledge)? • What should be done to improve national delivery of global ambition, alongside business and local government?
Funding models for climate councils • What are the most effective funding models for climate councils, and what models could be explored?
Climate councils and youth • How can climate councils situate youth more clearly in their work? • How can this assist with long-term planning?
National security & energy dependence • How have climate councils improved aspects of national ‘security’ for their jurisdiction? For example through policy recommendations which reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels (energy and economic security).
Climate council vs. not • How do countries with framework climate laws differ in their progress on climate action when they have a climate council versus when they do not?
Best practices [although this is a priority, we feel there is enough existing research to draw from] • What does leadership look like for a climate council e.g., independence, strong mandate from government, enshrined government response in law etc.
Bracing political headwinds • How do independent institutions remain in place and effective after changing political leadership? • How do we strengthen our framework to understand the strength, effectiveness and resilience of climate councils in a wider political governance context?
Gap analysis, especially in Asia • Which countries have the right conditions for a climate council that ICCN should consider prioritising for engagement? • Specifically, what are the potentials in the Asia-region?
Market research study & cost-savings for citizens • How does the public perceive climate councils? • How can we show benefits of climate councils to citizens – and can we quantify cost savings associated with measures supported by councils?

On climate governance more broadly ...

Climate governance mechanisms

- What are mainstream climate governance mechanisms that climate councils could support e.g., climate regulatory impact statements, budgetary processes, etc.?
- What coordination mechanisms are needed within governments for effective climate action?
- How could the mandate of climate councils be strengthened to support wider climate governance improvements?

Strong climate framework laws driving change

- How do climate framework laws drive change?
- What are the key success factors for effective climate governance frameworks and particularly climate framework laws?
- What is the role of climate councils in the above?

Are government departments properly resourced for the climate challenge?

- Study of capacity of government departments at global level
- Assessment of coordination mechanisms across government
- Included assessment of advantages of independent advisory mechanisms versus government departments
- Potential training and capacity-building options for governments e.g., Apolitical – and their impact.