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# Keynote
# POWER UP Final Event

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# Eco-social risks: Direct & Indirect

## Direct (disaster, extreme weather)

- Economic impacts (asset destruction, income loss, poverty)
- Health risks (injuries, heat illnesses, respiratory diseases)
- Infrastructural damage
- Cascading effect (infrastructure, logistics, recession, inflation, migration...)

## Indirect (policies)

- Economic impacts (asset or skills devaluation, job loss, poverty)
- Maladaptation (unequal adaptation, limited insurance)

# Eco-social risks – risk factors

Risk = Threat x Exposure x Vulnerability

**Environmental problems**

- Deforestation
- Loss of biodiversity

**Biophysical impact of climate change**

- Direct (temp...)
- Indirect (drought...)

**Contextual aspects (macro/meso level)**

- **Location** (variation in threat, exposure, impact)
- **System aspects** (pol + econ system)
- **Dynamic aspects** (e.g. demography)
- **Public policy & institutions** (e.g. climate & social policies, critical infrastructure and services, alerting systems**, energy systems**)
- Existing levels of socio-economic inequalities

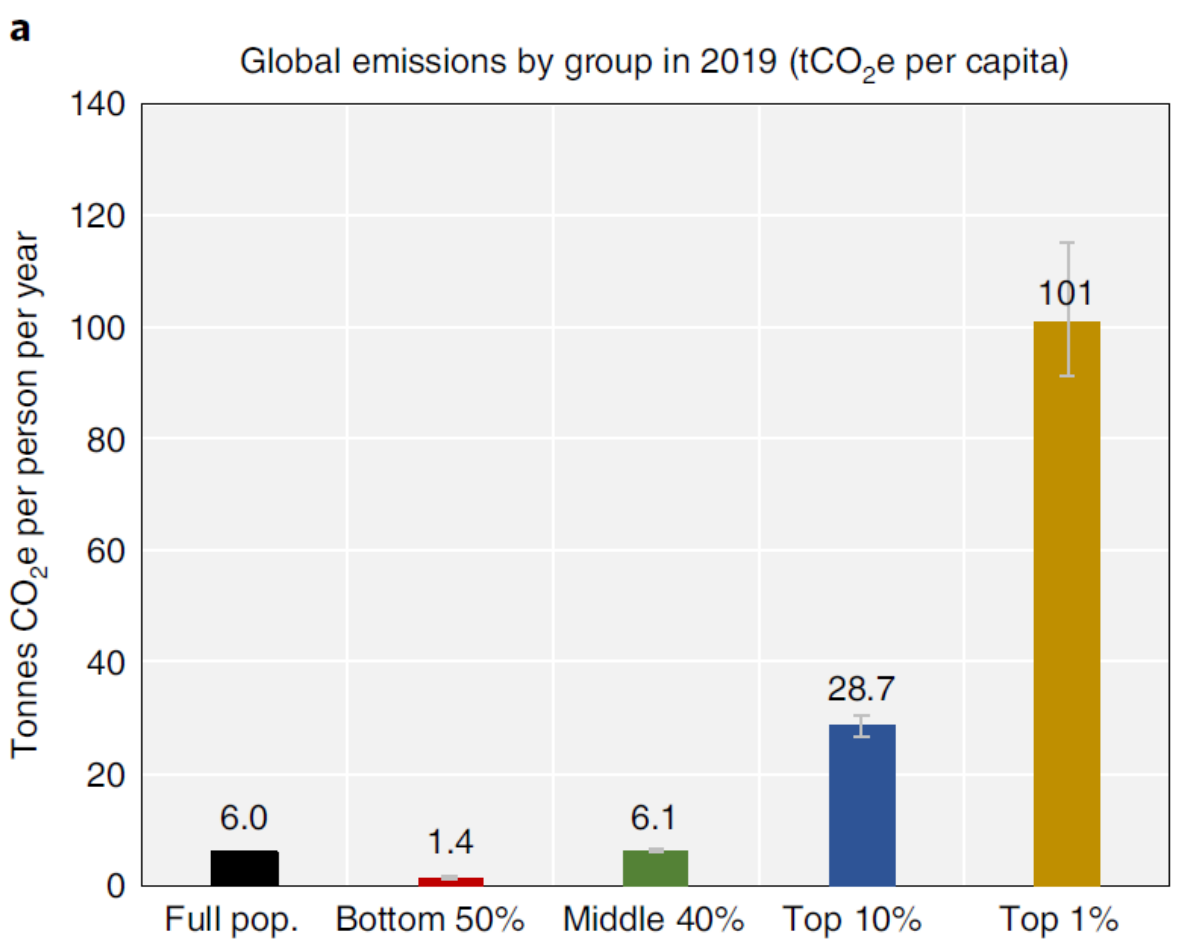
**Diverse vulnerability factors (micro level)**

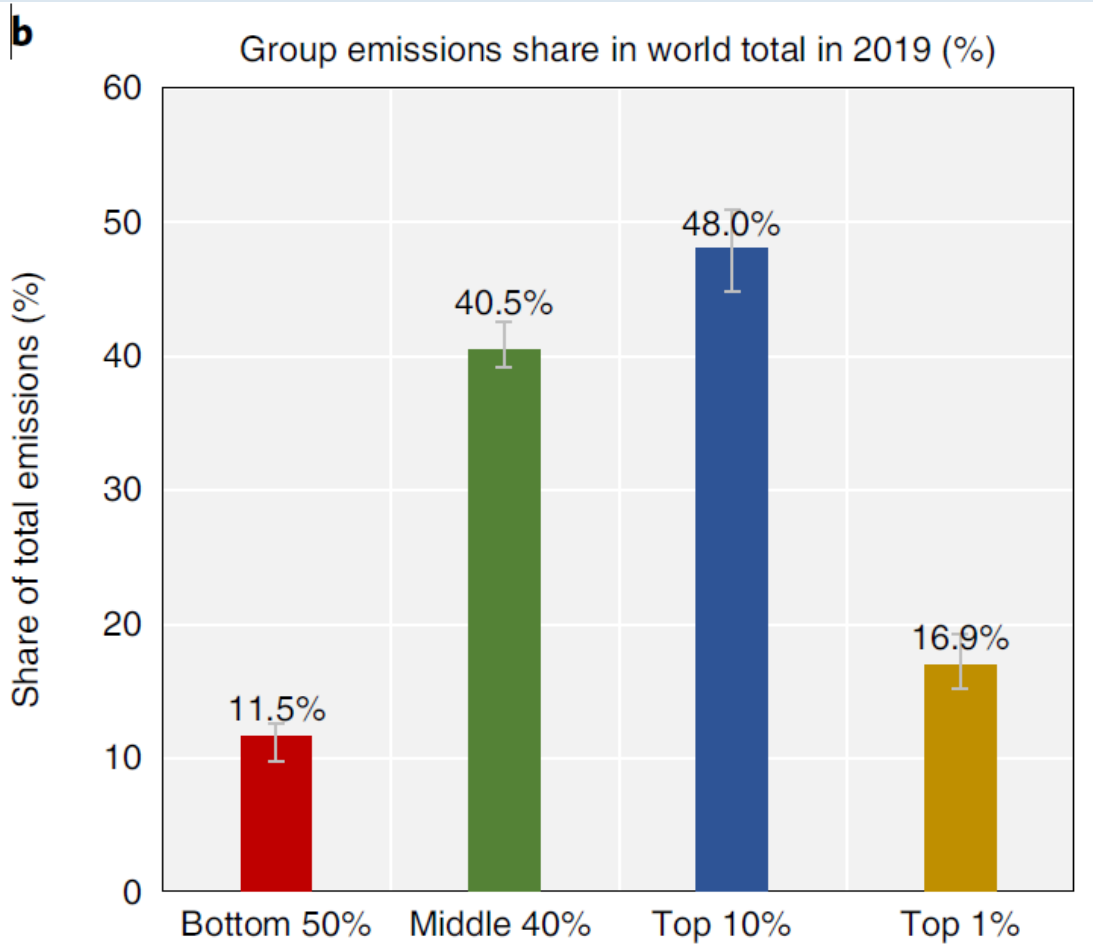
- Income
- Physical condition (objective and subjective) & sensitivity
- Language proficiency
- Social network & capital
- Ethnicity & Culture
- Gender
- Household composition
- Property (real estate)
- Age...
- **Energy affordability & access**

# Climate injustices?

| | Rich & privileged | Poor, disadvantaged & socially vulnerable; Future generations |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Responsibility<br>2. Adaptive capacity<br>3. Influence on policymaking | ↑ | ↓ |
| 4. Impacts<br>5. Cost of mitigation | ↓ | ↑ |

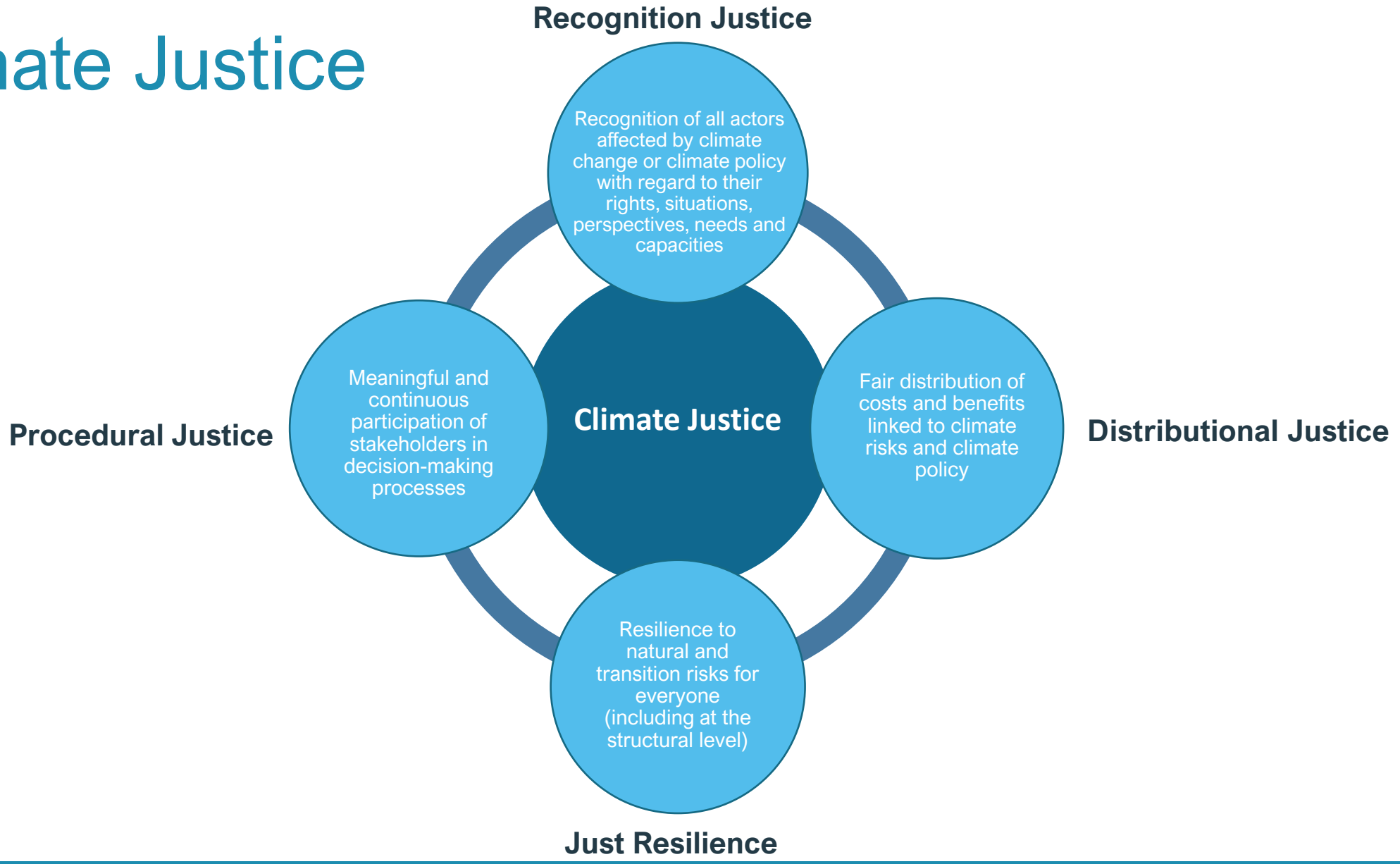
# Responsibility: rich, richer, CO2-emitter?




Bron: Chancel, 2022.

# Climate Justice




*Source: based on Fransolet & Vanhille, 2023*

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# What is a just distribution of the costs and benefits of climate protection?

# Why do you think we need climate justice?

# Climate action & Social Equity: Two Sides of the Same Coin

| ASPECT | RISKS WITHOUT EQUITY | BENEFITS WITH EQUITY |
|---|---|---|
| **Economic Impact** | Lower productivity, reduced tax revenues, financial instability | Stronger resilience, sustainable growth |
| **Social Stability** | Loss of cohesion, unrest, political instability | Enhanced cohesion, long-term prosperity |
| **Health & Education** | Poorer health, lower life expectancy, fewer opportunities | Improved health outcomes, better education access |
| **Climate Action** | Ineffective adaptation and mitigation | More effective, inclusive measures (IPCC, 2022) |

# Barriers at the macro level

- **Lack of legal frameworks or guidelines** :
  - no binding legal obligation to ensure fairness in climate action
  - no fixed benchmark in policy
- **Structural incapacity**: lack of data, knowledge, resources & staff
  - Insufficiently detailed and accessible data on ecological and social risk factors
  - Insufficient knowledge about how to approach justice in climate policies
- **Policy framework and approach**: discrepancy between policy approach and emphasis on individual responsibility; individual rather than structural and collective solutions

# Barriers at the meso level

- **Governance problems**:
  - Compartmentalised policy structures; lack of an integrated approach
  - Participation often instrumental and symbolic (tokenism)
  - Insufficient institutionalised dialogue with all stakeholders; strong focus on scientific or technological expertise
- **Interest representation:** often in traditional structures and power relations of the work-welfare nexus
- **Unequal access to funding and resources for civil society:** Grassroots organisations often lack the capacity to get involved

# Barriers at the micro level

- **Unequal access to policy development**: knowledge, skills, self-confidence.
- **Lack of trust in public institutions**: historical exclusion leads to scepticism
- **Cultural conflict**: climate change is distributional AND cultural conflict
  - modernisation sometimes no longer perceived as beneficial; experiences or perceptions of devaluation vs privilege,
  - overlap of various inequalities and vulnerabilities
- **Diversity in perceptions and attitudes** :
  - Different preferences regarding infrastructural decarbonisation & compensatory measures
  - Diversity in value and norms frameworks
- **Political credibility:** citizens may feel disillusioned or disengaged, especially if they perceive climate measures as unfairly distributed or not effective

# Ways forward?

It's not magic!

1. **Explicitly include climate justice** into climate policies

2. Focus on **institutional cooperation and policy integration**

3. Promote narratives and policies stressing **mutuality, collective interest and the common good**

4. Encourage & facilitate **genuine, inclusive and continuous participation**

5. Focus on local, holistic and fully integrated projects that **combine different policy objectives**

6. Address energy poverty and empower communities

7. Recognise & respond to **differences in social vulnerabilities**

8. Combine **individual & collective-oriented, universal & targeted policies**

9. Combine energy **efficiency programmes and inclusive renewable energy schemes**

This is where your activities and research findings have a role to play!



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# Questions?
# Contact?

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