CAPin GHG (2022-2024)

Climate action plans inventories: policies to reduce GHG emissions at the city level

The CAPinGHG research consortium brings together researchers from the IES LKY National University of Singapore and from LIEPP environmental policies research group, in Paris. The main goal is to provide a comparative framework of analysis for environmental transitions building on a cross-regional comparison of local climate action plans. The study of GHG inventories was privileged in its local metropolitan expression, in order to identify commonalities in the policy process, blindsights and specific issues pertaining to the interaction of local, national and supranational expertise in the enactment of these. By looking into the stabilization of these processes and the institutionalization of policy fields and procedures this research objective equally points to how environmental-based local responses have the potential to stabilize the overall production of environmental responses at the national level and potentially contribute to stabilize in a « thermostatic » fashion the global challenge of climate change.

Three main objectives

1. Assess **the disconnect** between ambitious environmental policy objectives and the way they are made material through local climate plans and the selection of GHG inventories.

2. Account for **the disruptive impact resulting from the setup of new services** (e.g., distributed energy)**, technologies** (e.g., H2, electric mobilities) **and stakeholders of these new services** (e.g., global platforms, development entities such as AIIB) and the extent to which GHG inventories account for it.

3. Examine **evolving environmental policy capacities** (whereas national or local) in relation to setting local climate action plans and select and adjust GHG inventories.

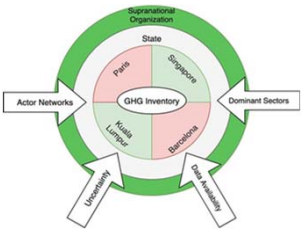
Main assumption

GHG inventories operate as public policy instruments and as such, have effects of their own. Often introduced as part of local climate action plans, they contribute to assigning policy priorities, targeting sectors considered instrumental to much needed environmental change, and to the sidelining of those deemed less prominent in this endeavor.

Exploratory literature review

An extensive literature review was conducted prior to the first field research missions. It comprised research on scope determining mechanisms pertaining to GHG emissions and air pollution in international peer-reviewed journals, as well as more targeted reports by the WMO (World Meteorological Organization) and UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). The overall objective was to narrow down the perimeter of inventories, to streamline analytical categories and ponder the importance of key variables for the research.

Analytical framwork and comparative research design



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In order to contribute to current debates about regional policy styles, the CAPin GHG project examines four main case studies: **in Western Europe (Paris, Barcelona), and South East Asia, (Singapore, Kuala Lumpur)**. Each case contributes to the understanding of a specific dimension of GHG inventories in the context of local climate action plans.

Main activities in 2024

- Presentation (online), **CNRS@CREATE DesCartes week**, Sept. 30, 2024: Governing climate policies in cities: addressing multiple implementation gaps
- **Stakeholders workshops** in Singapore in sept. & oct. 2024:

- Contributions to Merlion workshop (see below) by A. Artigas, B. Cashore, C. Halpern, S. Swerin.
- Visiting fellow (TIERED project): David Gordon (University of California, Santa Cruz), 1 month (Nov. 2024).

Project spin-offs: Urban warming, implementation gaps and adaptation challenges

- Set up the **NUS-Paris interdisciplinary working group on urban warming** together with researchers NERI, IES, LIEPP, LIED and CPT, to extend the analysis on adaptation and mitigation in local climate action plans and their operationalization to urban heat island. and to strengthen the team's interdisciplinary dimension.
- **Merlion programme funding recipient:** NERI-LIEPP workshop "Urban warming and critical environmental thresholds: measuring, discarding and designing policy responses" in Paris, **25-27 sept. 2024** co-hosted by L.W. Chew and C. Halpern, including 20 speakers.
- **Joint position paper (LIEPP policy brief):** A. Artigas, C. Halpern, L.W. Chew, S. Swarup, A. Gelabert, et al.. Urban Heat and critical environmental thresholds: new bridges between science and policy?. *LIEPP Policy Brief n°74*, 2024, 7p.

- **Collaborative research agenda:** Established a foundation for ongoing interdisciplinary collaboration between NUS and LIEPP, focusing on understanding and addressing UHI through both scientific and policy lenses in Europe and South-East Asian cities.

- **Adaptation policies in cities:** comparison between Lyon and Paris with **R. Rodriguez and A. Mercier**. Document analysis and about 25 interviews in each city to understand what cities do under adaptation policies (policy priorities, actions, governing resources and effects.

Environmental policies research group

Charlotte HALPERN

Researcher in political science at Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics (Sciences Po). Her research focuses on the transformations of public policy in a comparative perspective, mainly in Europe and South America. She is a member of the board of the Earth Politics Center.

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Li Ka Shing Professor in Public Managementat the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public policy (NUS) and Director of the Public Policy Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (PPIES). His research specialises in global and multi-level environmental governance, comparative public policy and administration, and transnational business regulation/corporate social responsibility. His geographic focus includes Southeast Asia, North America, Latin America and Europe

Research team:

Alvaro ARTIGAS

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His research specializes in sustainable public services and infrastructure promotion programs.

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