

# An Operational Justice Framework to Inform Climate Debates

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# Helping climate researchers and users of researchers navigate the justice space



- Different notions of climate justice
- Differing terminology across fields and actors
- Not always explicitly connected to justice discourse
- Interconnected systems

# Climate research and policymaking interact with justice

## IPCC 1.5dC Report



*“we must keep the goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius alive. This requires greater ambition on mitigation and immediate concrete action to reduce global emissions by 45 per cent by 2030”*

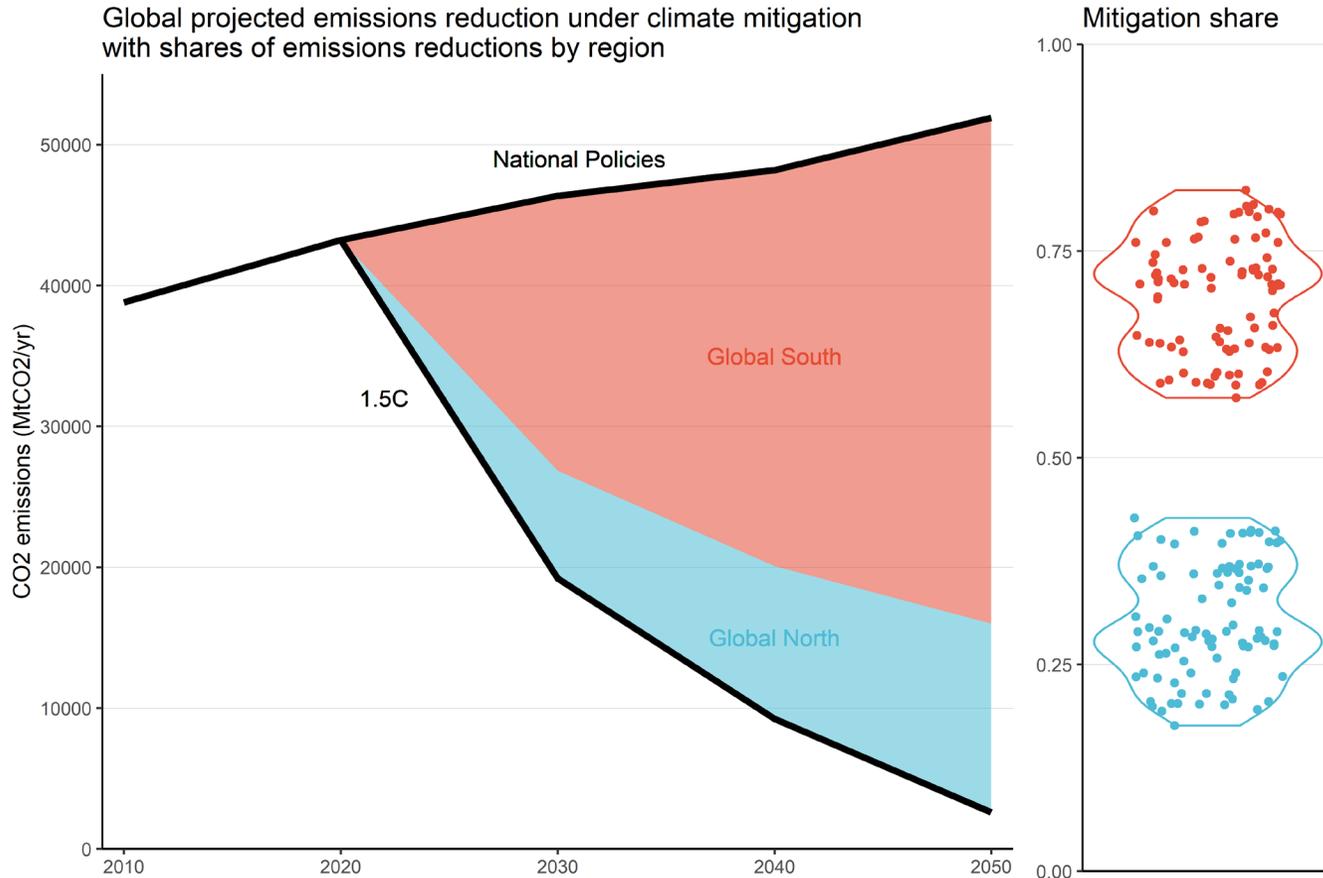
Source: <https://unfccc.int/news/un-secretary-general-cop26-must-keep-15-degrees-celsius-goal-alive>

## BUT

*“Multiple sources involved in the virtual session told Nature that the negotiations to finalize the report were bogged down as government delegates hashed out perennial arguments over climate mitigation. In particular, negotiators for India raised questions about emissions scenarios in the report, arguing that they assume too much action on the part of developing countries and do not adequately reflect questions of equity and responsibility.”*

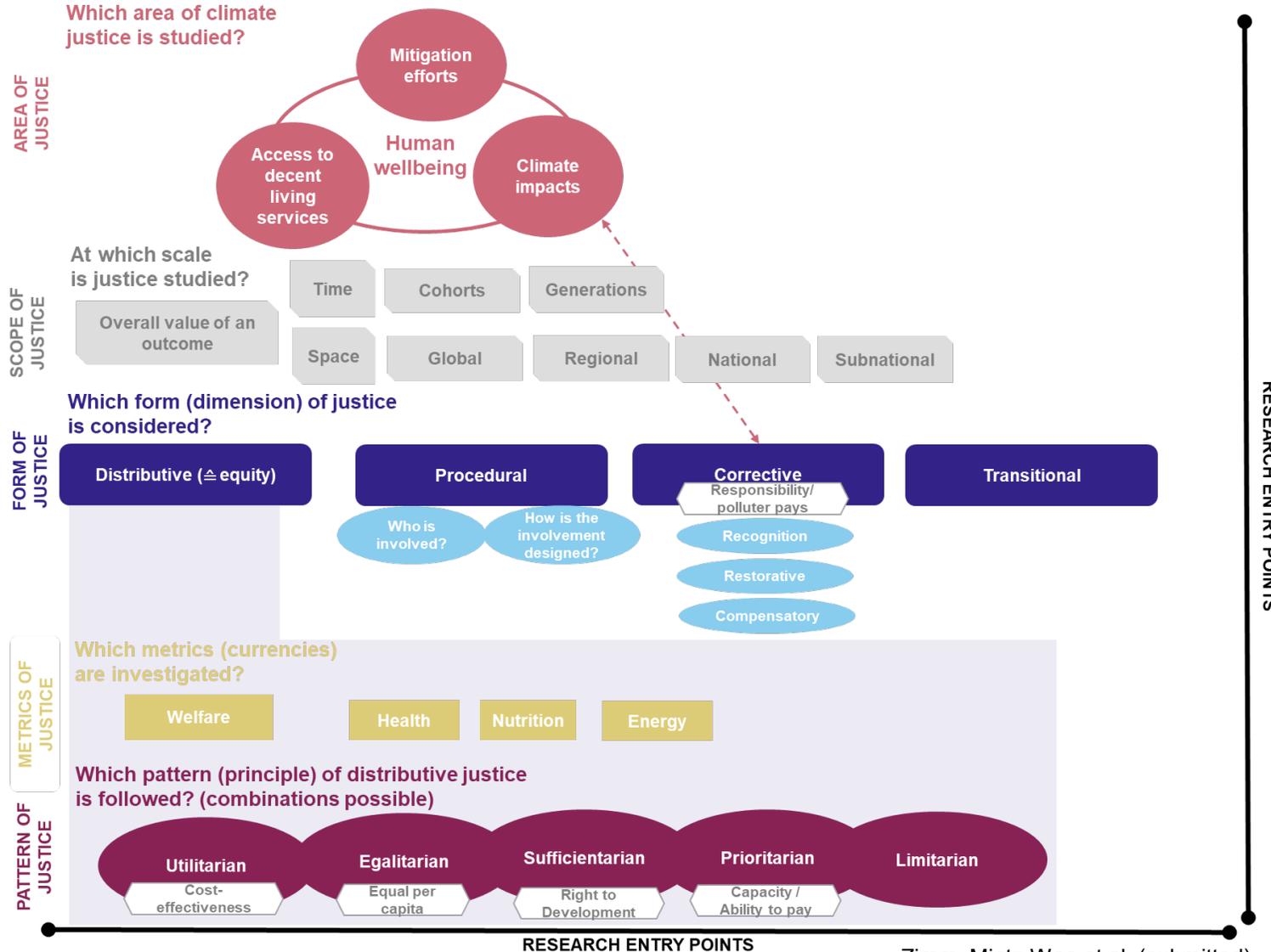
<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-00951-5>

# Mitigation scenarios do not explicitly account for many aspects of climate justice



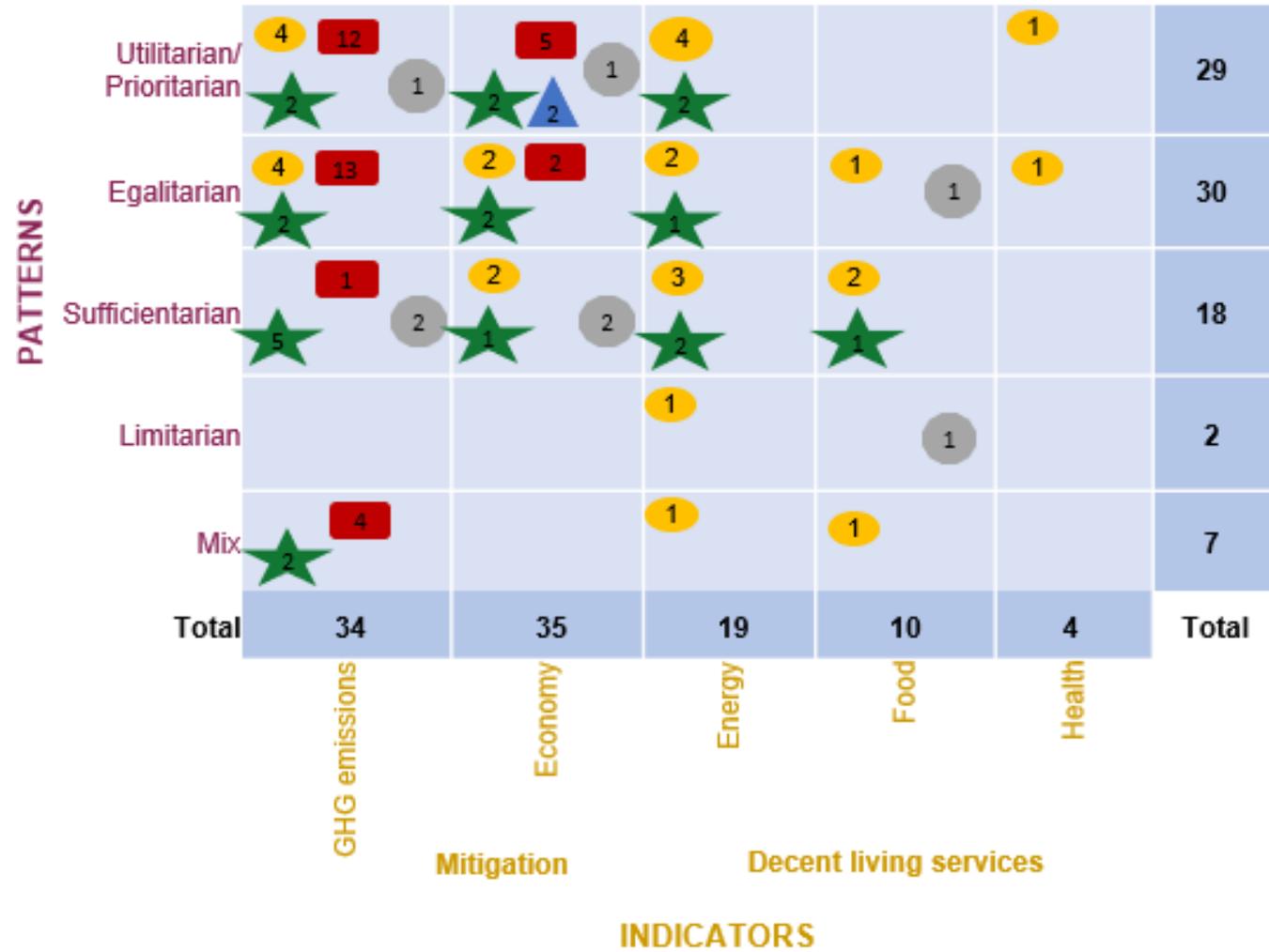
- **Many mitigation options are allocated where it is cheapest to mitigate (at global level)**
- **How just are such scenarios?**
- **No just transition scenarios to net-zero available**
- **Need for framework towards safe and just societies – make justice explicit**
- **Need for operationalization for modelling**

# Which justice considerations do we have to think of and how can we operationalize them in models?

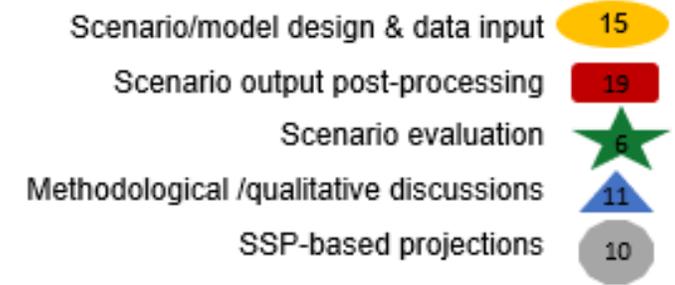


- Operational framework to guide research
- Broaden perspective on justice
- Harmonize terminology
- Increase consistency and comparability
- Identify research gaps
- Reflect on what scenario research already / can / cannot do

# How have mitigation scenario studies tackled justice so far?



## IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH



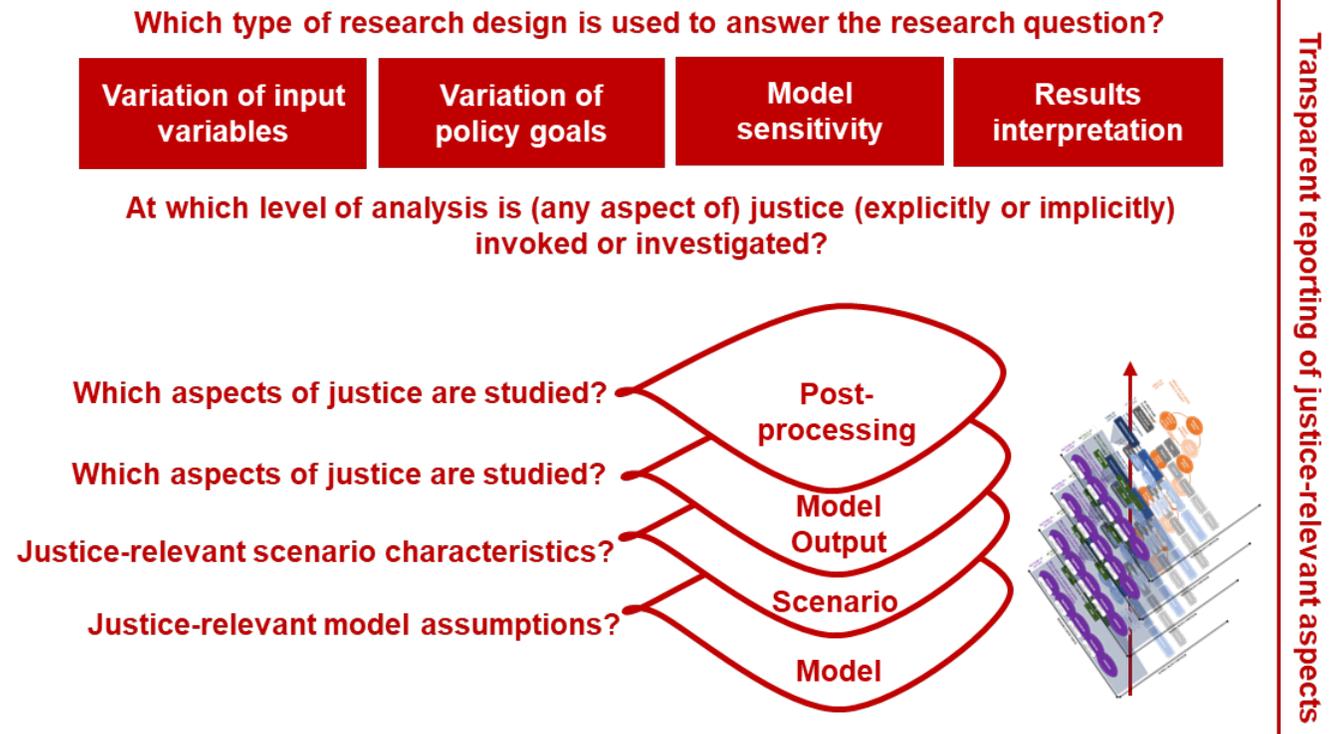
**Few explicit investigations in terms of justice**  
**Distributive justice dominates**  
 → Patterns are mixed  
 → GDP and GHG dominate  
 → Limitarian patterns rarely investigated  
**Limited exploration of procedural justice**

# Avenues for future research to reflect more justice in scenarios

Form of Justice		Options	Exemplary implementation approaches
<b>Distributive</b>	Utilitarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand domain coverage</li> <li>Investigate different patterns and combinations of patterns</li> </ul>	Expand utility/welfare to include different aspects of human wellbeing (e.g., the application of specific social welfare functions by <sup>144</sup> )
	<u>Prioritarian</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For different metrics and indicators</li> </ul>	Different groups being served beyond efficiency considerations
	Egalitarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at more granular scopes and</li> <li>with different regional configurations</li> </ul>	Per capita and Gini coefficient (reductions in <u>Ginis</u> ) of different indicators (beyond GDP, GHG)
	<u>Sufficientarian</u> <u>Limitarian</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>include in narratives</li> </ul>	Minimum levels of different indicators Caps/upper limits of different indicators
<b>Procedural</b>	Model design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transparency about objectives and underlying assumptions</li> </ul>	Share underlying assumption and their potentially different impacts with regards to justice questions
	Scenario development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More and broader stakeholder involvement</li> </ul>	Discuss regional/national choice and preference for metrics and patterns with stakeholders
	Scenario selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater diversity in research teams</li> </ul>	Share of population living in democratic regimes
<b>Corrective</b>	<i>Recognition</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acknowledgement of issue</li> <li>combined with distributive justice (modify patterns considering historical contributions or inclusion of compensatory payments e.g. <sup>141</sup>)</li> </ul>	Include in scenario narrative
	<i>Restorative</i>		
	<i>Compensatory</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion of compensatory payments</li> </ul>	Adjust patterns and metrics reflecting historical responsibility
<b>Transitional</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Different policy sequencing options for different metrics &amp; patterns</li> </ul>	Introducing initial rebate cheques before fully implementing carbon pricing (e.g., <sup>145</sup> )

# What is next?

- 1) Evaluate scenarios, narratives and studies (in progress)
- 2) Develop guidance for modelers (in progress – see image)
- 3) Continue testing with stakeholders
- 4) Justice Model Intercomparison project (JustMIP)
- 5) Develop new scenarios based on stakeholder insights



We look forward to your feedback.

Questions?

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