

From global to local transition analysis

The next step to unlock climate action

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Introduction

While many parts of the world are suffering from extreme heat and drought, other regions are threatened by devastating floods. To meet ambitious climate targets, we must support efforts to conduct more granular climate transition analysis that leads to actions taken at a local level. During New York Climate Week, Climate Arc (Arc), and ClimateWorks Foundation joined forces with key thematic partners to explore ways of building richer and more context-specific climate transition analysis.



Over 80 participants from across the climate action ecosystem joined the working session to define the future of company transition analysis through the lens of four interconnected challenges:

- The use of country-specific pathways
- Methods based on asset-level and value chain data
- Benchmarking the deployment of climate solutions
- Integration of physical risk, adaptation, and natural capital analysis

We zoomed into key sectors wrestling with all four of these issues, including food, land and agriculture, which was explored through a separate breakout theme.

The interactive discussions, which explored each of these

dimensions separately, were led by experts from partner organizations: <u>ClimateWorks Foundation</u>, <u>Climateworks Centre</u>, <u>Climate TRACE</u>, <u>Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ)</u>, <u>TransitionZero</u>, <u>World Benchmarking Alliance</u>, <u>European Climate Foundation</u>, <u>The Resilient</u> <u>Planet Finance Lab</u>, and <u>United Nations Global Compact</u>.

Participants from philanthropy, non-profits, academia, and financial institutions dug deep into the gaps and challenges involved in localizing analysis, discussing possible solutions, areas for stronger coordination, and the highest impact actions we could achieve together. By the end of the event, we had sparked deep thinking around what's needed to solve these challenges in an integrated way, and the types of capacity and investment needed to make it a reality.

Localizing transition analysis

An Interconnected Challenge

Across the course of the discussions, key themes emerged that presented common challenges and gaps to move local transition analysis forward. While many of these are felt at global levels too, what came through loud and clear was the importance of greater coordination to close these gaps fast.

Common Challenges

- Lack of Standardized Metrics: Difficulty in establishing a common set of metrics across sectors, leading to confusion and misalignment.
- Data Gaps: Insufficient local data, asset-level information, and metrics for assessing risks and outcomes, particularly in developing regions.
- Sector-Specific Ambiguities: Different sectors face unique challenges, such as unclear transition pathways and varying definitions of materiality.
- Investor Engagement: Lack of clarity on what investors should demand from companies regarding sustainability and transitions.
- **Regulatory Hurdles**: Corporate lobbying and existing regulatory frameworks often obstruct necessary transitions.
- **Complex Interdependencies**: The interplay between sectors, such as food, energy, and finance complicate coordinated action.

Solutions

- **Develop Universal and Sector-Specific Metrics**: Create a finite set of decision-relevant metrics that can be applied universally, while allowing for sector-specific adaptations.
- Enhance Data Transparency: Promote transparency and inclusiveness in data reporting and standardization across sectors.
- Foster Collaboration: Encourage partnerships among local actors, financial institutions, and regulatory bodies to streamline processes.
- Engage Stakeholders: Establish consistent engagement practices to build trust and facilitate collaboration.
- Utilize Existing Frameworks: Leverage established resources (e.g. from the International Energy Agency (IEA)) to inform sector-specific pathways and benchmarks.

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What's Needed for Coordination

- Common Language and Standards: Establish shared terminology and coherent engagement standards to improve communication.
- **Regular Dialogue**: Facilitate ongoing conversations among stakeholders to ensure input and collaboration.
- Data Integration: Create centralized repositories for accessible asset-level data and effective decision-making.
- Cross-Sectoral Alignment: Encourage collaboration across different sectors to ensure cohesive actions and strategies.

Priority Actions

- ✓ Host Sector-Specific Discussions: Identify relevant metrics and transition pathways tailored to various sectors.
- ✓ Develop Global Benchmarks: Establish universally accepted benchmarks endorsed by recognized institutions.
- Policy Framework Development: Align regulations with established benchmarks and ensure they support sustainable practices.
- ✓ Empower Investors: Provide tools and knowledge to help investors demand sustainability from companies effectively.

- Standardize Metrics: Develop adaptable metrics for both global and local contexts to ensure clarity and comparability.
- ✓ Enhance Investor Preparedness: Equip investors with benchmarks and actionable insights to drive sustainability.
- Create Local Pathways Database: Compile and maintain a database of localized solutions and benchmarks to guide investments.
- Document and Share Success Stories: Highlight effective climate actions through case studies to inspire broader adoption of best practices.
- Establish Clear ROI Frameworks: Develop frameworks to evaluate the return on investment for sustainable practices and transition efforts.

Working Group Collaboration

To drive the coordination needed to deliver on the priority actions identified, Arc is inviting ecosystem collaborators to join thematic working groups to take this forward.

Interested in learning more about this effort? Sign up to Climate Arc's newsletter <u>here</u> or contact our team via the details at the end of this report.

Breakout Discussion Summaries

In addition to the interconnected challenges, each thematic area has nuanced needs and gaps, as detailed in the topic summaries below, which will inform the starting point of each working group's strategy.

1. Climate Solutions Metrics

Led by ClimateWorks Foundation and World Benchmarking Alliance

To drive positive corporate action, the importance of climate solutions metrics cannot be overstated. These metrics serve as a vital tool for enhancing the richness and relevance of transition analyses across diverse contexts. By focusing on metrics that assess, for example, production capacity of electric vehicles as readiness indicators—rather than focusing solely on greenhouse gas emissions—stakeholders can gain actionable insights that drive effective climate action. Establishing a common set of priorities and benchmarks for each sector facilitates alignment in efforts and resource allocation.

Furthermore, developing region-specific benchmarks allows for a nuanced understanding of how solutions can be tailored to meet the unique challenges faced in different geographies. The group recognized the importance of how both universal metrics and sector specific contexts foster decision-usefulness, enabling policymakers, businesses, and communities to make informed choices that drive sustainable transitions.

Challenges

- Need for Sector-Specific Metrics: Demand for a limited number of decision-relevant metrics, but significant disagreement on priorities, such as productivity versus food loss in agriculture.
- Alignment Issues: Difficulty in determining leaders versus laggards without agreed metrics; essential for investor pressure.
- **Tracking Production Outcomes**: Challenges in identifying where production is directed, such as analyzing revenue streams or broader ESG performance in sectors like mining.
- Lack of Unified Metrics: Difficulty in establishing consistent climate solution metrics across various sectors.
- Sector-Specific Transition Pathways: Different approaches required in sectors with unclear transition pathways, such as oil and gas.
- Balancing Innovation with Standards: Need to define "good" transition pathways while allowing for flexibility and innovation.
- Data Series vs. Process Questions: Tension between continuous benchmarking and binary compliance checks.
- Investment Data Gaps: Persistent need for capex, opex, R&D, and patent data in sectors where capex isn't yet critical.
- Local Data Shortages: Absence of local-level data and benchmarks for solutions in specific contexts (e.g. net zero vehicles).
- Global Constraints: Global companies face local constraints that affect their operations and transition strategies.
- Metric Discrepancies: Lack of alignment in metrics used by financial institutions and investors.

Solutions

- Develop Decision-Relevant Metrics: Create a finite set of universal and sector-specific indicators that capture essential data.
- Focus on Key Metrics: Emphasize Green R&D and green capex, complemented by local specifics and sector outcomes.
- Encourage Transparency and Inclusiveness: Establish stakeholder engagement standards that build trust and facilitate collaboration.
- Leverage Existing Metrics: Use metrics familiar to financial institutions, like return on investment, for better benchmarking.
- Create Local and Regional Benchmarks: Develop tailored metrics to provide context for corporate assessments.
- Foster Local Collaboration: Connect local actors to effectively address climate solutions.
- Utilize Existing Frameworks: Draw from established resources, such as those from the IEA, to inform sectoral pathways.

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What's Needed for Coordination

- Alignment on Engagement Standards: Establish coherent stakeholder engagement processes.
- Continuous Dialogue: Maintain open communication among diverse stakeholders for broad input.
- Framework Development: Create structures for information sharing and collaboration.
- Coalitional Discussions: Engage across companies and financial institutions to identify appropriate metrics.
- Socialize the Process: Encourage agreement on the process, even if not all metrics are universally accepted.
- Adapt to Regulatory Shifts: Recognize and respond to changes in policy and regulatory environments.

Priority Actions

- ✓ Host Sector-Specific Discussions: Identify relevant metrics and pathways in various sectors.
- ✓ Define Stakeholder Consultation Processes: Gather insights and foster collaboration.
- Establish Working Groups: Explore best practices and emerging metrics.
- Monitor Real-World Deployment: Evaluate climate solutions to inform future metrics.
- Build Practical Tools: Develop guidance on metrics to inform decision-making.
- Create Local and Regional Benchmarks: Reflect the unique needs of specific geographies.
- Connect Local Actors: Enhance collaboration on climate solutions through networking.

- ✓ Standardize Stakeholder Engagement: Develop clear engagement standards to build trust.
- ✓ Document Success Stories: Create case studies that illustrate effective climate actions.
- Increase Climate Investments: Mobilize financial resources for climate solutions.
- ✓ Commit to Climate Goals: Align stakeholder pathways and commitments for major events like COP30.
- Develop Adaptable Metrics: Create a comprehensive set of metrics for both global and local contexts.
- Build a Local Pathways Database: Establish a database of local solutions and benchmarks for targeted investments.
- ✓ Framework for ROI Evaluation: Create clear frameworks to evaluate return on investment aligned with climate goals.
- Collaborative Ecosystem: Foster transparency and accountability among stakeholders for effective transition processes.

2. Asset Level and Value Chain Data

Led by Climate TRACE

With advances in technology and data collection, we have the opportunity to assess climate impact and solutions at more granular and localized levels. This could be emissions coming out of a specific utility plant or physical impact of climate change on a factory. Having this vast information, however, is not enough. To discern meaningful insights, we need to better map ownership of different assets and their relation to their supply chain counterparts, i.e. how much does the particular emission from the utility plant contribute to the overall emission profile of its parent company? Or which company is buying electricity from that plant? Without overlaying critical relational information, this rich set of data will not lead to making better decisions on climate implications.

Asset level data is critical in driving analysis of physical risks of climate change and impact on the natural world, going beyond greenhouse gas emission and mitigation risks to more holistic assessment of climate impact.

- **Ownership Tracking**: Difficulty in tracing asset ownership from company to asset and vice versa.
- Data Aggregation: Institutional investors often analyze data at an aggregated level, complicating detailed assessments.
- **Supplier Transparency**: Limited visibility beyond first-tier suppliers hampers comprehensive supply chain data gathering.
- **Definition of Materiality**: Materiality definitions differ significantly by sector, complicating standardization.
- Methodology Clarity: Unclear data sources and methodologies used by ratings agencies hinder reliable assessments.
- Timeliness of Data: Slow disclosures necessitate the need for more real-time data for effective decision-making.
- **Commercial Provider Reliance**: Financial institutions are often dependent on existing commercial data sources, limiting the adoption of new solutions.
- **Physical Risk Exposure**: Limited data available for assessing physical risks and monitoring emissions.
- **GHG Avoidance**: Inadequate metrics for assessing GHG avoidance from green business initiatives.

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Solutions

- Materiality Programs: Companies should implement ongoing programs to identify and report on material risks, supported by banks.
- Centralized Data Aggregation: Create a centralized repository for asset-level data to improve accessibility and integration.
- Leveraging Insurance Data: Collaborate with insurance companies that possess extensive asset-level risk data.
- **Regulatory Frameworks**: Advocate for policies that promote transparency and openness in asset-level data.
- Standardization: Develop standardized data models and formats across sectors for better comparability.
- Incremental Improvements: Focus on gradual enhancements to data quality and availability.
- **Simplify Disclosures**: Streamline disclosures and enhance capacity building within organizations.
- Utility Development: Create APIs for GHG calculations and automated utilities for GHG data.
- Incentivize Asset-Level Disclosure: Encourage independent verification and comparability of data through third-party assessments.
- **Centralized Government Repository**: Establish a government-backed data repository for asset-level information.
- Program with Milestones: Implement strategic milestones for ongoing data improvement.

What's Needed for Coordination

- Foundational Orchestration: Better coordination among groups working on digitizing standards and identifying key information.
- Mapping Standards: Improved mapping of different standards across sectors.
- Advocacy for Mandatory Disclosure: Push for regulations that require disclosure of asset-level data.

Priority Actions

- Engage with Regulators: Collaborate on policies mandating corporate disclosures of material risks and asset-level data.
- Build Demand for Asset-Level Data: Create tools that demonstrate the value of detailed data for investment strategies.
- Enhance Supply Chain Data Quality: Support initiatives to improve the accuracy and availability of supply chain datasets.
- ✓ Establish a Centralized Database: Create a public-private partnership for an open-access asset-level data repository.
- Facilitate Industry Collaboration: Encourage cooperation among financial institutions, regulators, and companies for improved data sharing.
- ✓ Simplification of Value Chain: Implement incentives, regulations, and standards that simplify asset reporting.
- Centralization of Databases: Develop a centralized approach for asset-based databases.

- ✓ Implement Materiality Frameworks: Develop guidelines for consistent identification and reporting of material risks by companies.
- Create a Central Data Utility: Establish a utility for standardized, asset-level data accessible by financial institutions.
- Encourage Open Access: Advocate for regulations that mandate sharing of asset-level data to enhance transparency.
- ✓ Standardize Reporting: Initiate efforts to standardize ESG and risk reporting across sectors for better integration.
- Leverage Existing Datasets: Use asset-level data from insurance companies and research institutions to validate disclosures.
- ✓ Unified Standards: Develop a single model and standard for data aggregation to streamline reporting and analysis.

3. Local Pathways

Led by GFANZ, TransitionZero, European Climate Foundation, Climateworks Centre

Localized, specifically national level, transition pathways are critical for effective climate action that is embedded into local context, instead of pushing a 'global' agenda on different countries. Linking global sector pathways that are aligned to net zero goals with that of local energy and agricultural transition allows for more nuanced discussions on solutions that are meaningful and pertinent to each country. This work aims to provide clarity on localized pathways which allow for tailored solutions that reflect the unique contexts and needs of local communities, enhancing the overall effectiveness of climate initiatives.

- **Policy vs. Technology**: Difficulties in aligning necessary policies with technological advancements.
- Vested Interests: Accounting for entrenched fossil fuel and other interests complicates pathway modeling.
- Implementation Complexity: Local granularity in data and models presents significant challenges, both for development of these tools (at sufficient pace and scale) and how applicable they are at asset level
- Global Consensus: Lack of agreement on effective pathways, principles and practices at a global level.
- Data Quality and Availability: Imperfect or incomplete data hinders accurate predictions, especially in developing regions.
- **Political Cycle Risks**: Political instability and populism can lead to volatility in climate action when localized pathways require global alignment.
- Sustainability of Business Models: How philanthropy can support sustainable transitions remains unclear, and who should be the long-term owners and decision-makers in this space.

Solutions

- **Standardized Pathways**: Development of clear, standardized pathways with consistent credibility principles that can be regionally endorsed.
- Capacity Building: Strengthening local capabilities and knowledge sharing across sectors.
- Flexibility in Tools: Creating adaptable tools for different market conditions and sectors.
- Data Availability: Ensuring greater availability of standardized data from existing models.
- Engagement Platforms: Establishing regular forums for policymakers and investors to facilitate feedback loops.
- International Engagement and Alignment: As well as technical questions, the geopolitical considerations will require international buyin and alignment.

What's Needed for Coordination

- **Common Language and Data Standards**: Establishing a shared terminology for better communication and interoperability among stakeholders.
- Independent Modelling: Advocating for unbiased modeling that supports policy and investment certainty.
- **Regular Convening**: Local and regional ecosystem meetings to foster collaboration and share experiences.
- Legal Frameworks: Embedding climate action principles into local and global law and regulation for long-term stability.
- **Multilateral engagement**: To support the alignment of local pathways at a global level they need to align with NDC processes and carbon budgeting

Priority Actions

- Landscape Scan and Piloting: Map where local pathways already exist, how they are being used and what learnings can be shared
- Test and learn: Pilot approaches for local pathways assessment, across a diverse range of different countries
- ✓ Define Local Pathways: Establish specific pathways tailored to geographical contexts.
- Reward Strong Performance: Implement incentives for countries performing well in their transition efforts.

Priority Actions cont.

- ✓ Target Setting: Set principles-based targets for OECD countries to guide actions.
- Methodology Development: Create practical methodologies for localized, multi-metric analysis.
- Agreement on Principles: Define what counts as a credible local pathway, and identify interim solutions based on common but differentiated responsibilities

- ✓ Establish Guardrails: Create guiding principles to prevent pathway proliferation and ensure focus.
- Capacity Building: Expand training and support for various stakeholders, including academia and civil society organizations.
- ✓ Data Collation: Compile existing data into an open-source platform to enhance accessibility and usability.
- Clarify Sectoral Differences: Differentiate between benchmarks and pathways to avoid confusion and enhance clarity.

4. Physical Risk, Adaption and Natural Capital

Led By Resilient Planet Finance Lab, Oxford University

As we confront increasingly tangible and physical risks of climate change worldwide, the ability to assess its dynamic impact at a local level such as proximity to specific fire or flood risks— has become urgent and critical. We recognize the need to adapt to the changing climate, including shifts in rainfall patterns in agricultural areas, while also building social resilience.

Corporations must understand not only their direct impacts from climate change globally but also the effects on their supply chains and surrounding communities. Moving beyond ad-hoc risk management to focus on long-term resilience is essential, and the vast amounts of data and analytics available today can facilitate this shift.

Additionally, raising awareness about the implications of these risks at both sub-national and macro levels is crucial for empowering stakeholders—including central banks and pension funds—to make informed decisions that promote sustainable and adaptive economic practices.

- **Siloed Approaches**: Issues are often addressed in isolation, hindering comprehensive understanding and action.
- **Defining Success**: Lack of clarity on what constitutes effective risk management and adaptation.
- **Data Gaps**: Inadequate asset-level information regarding supply chains and existing adaptation measures.
- Government Reliance: Overdependence on government agencies for information can lead to delays and inefficiencies.
- **Regulatory Complexities**: Navigating regulatory frameworks and understanding their impact on divestment and just transition is challenging.
- Sovereign Debt Risks: Understanding macroeconomic impacts and the risks associated with government debt is crucial but often overlooked.

Solutions

- Green Products: Promote the development and use of green products to mitigate environmental impacts.
- Systemic Connectivity: Emphasize the connection between direct business impacts and broader macroeconomic effects.
- Sustainable Pathways: Focus on sustainable pathways for businesses, incorporating environmental considerations into supply chains.
- **Investor Awareness**: Launch campaigns to increase transparency and awareness among investors regarding risks associated with financing.
- **Connecting Motivations**: Align communication strategies to resonate with different stakeholders—businesses, government, and citizens.

What's Needed for Coordination

- Global Central Bank Collaboration: Central banks across both the Global North and South need to engage in coordinated efforts.
- Pooling Mechanisms: Establish systems to connect various actors and address shared risks and interdependencies.
- Scientific Scenarios: Develop and communicate scientific scenarios that can effectively inform decision-makers.

Priority Actions

- Empower Financial Institutions: Equip bankers and financial stakeholders with the tools and knowledge to make informed decisions.
- ✓ Data Integration: Connect available data to business practices for enhanced decision-making.
- ✓ Best Practice Showcases: Highlight successful examples of effective risk management and adaptation.
- Layered Data Approaches: Develop sub-national data layering across different geographic levels to enhance granularity.
- ✓ Supply Chain Connections: Strengthen links within supply chains to improve risk management.

5. Food, Land and Agriculture – Sectoral Lens

Led by UN Global Compact

The food, land, and agriculture sector contributes 25% of global greenhouse gas emissions and will need to play a key role in achieving sustainability and climate goals. There is an urgent need to motivate companies and financial institutions to fulfill their commitments in this area, ensuring that actions align with broader environmental objectives. Clear guidance is essential for understanding what constitutes success, as well as the return on investment (ROI) associated with transitions in this sector. Additionally, establishing standardized definitions of solutions and benchmarks will enhance collaboration and accountability among stakeholders. Development of both dynamic national level pathways and matching that with localized information on food production, deforestation and land use opportunities need to be combined to elevate and accelerate positive climate action locally.

- Lack of Direction: Absence of a 'north star' or a clear framework for what effective transition looks like.
- Ambiguity in Scope 3: Uncertainty regarding what Scope 3 emissions entail for the food and agriculture sectors.
- **Regulatory Barriers:** Corporate lobbying efforts are blocking necessary regulatory frameworks for promoting transition.
- **Disparity in Financial Flows:** Financial investments in harmful practices, such as deforestation, significantly overshadow those in sustainable practices.
- Framework Overload: Existing frameworks and methodologies for measuring transitions are either too numerous or inadequate, creating confusion.

Solutions

- Accepted Benchmarks: Develop and adopt globally relevant benchmarks led by international organizations (such as the UN) and reach global consensus.
- **Regulatory Frameworks:** Create regulations that encourage transitions while ensuring costs do not disproportionately impact consumers.
- Materiality Focus: Emphasize outcomes and the materiality of sustainable practices to drive investment decisions.
- **Policy Suite:** Formulate a sample suite of policies with modeled economic outputs to guide transitions.

What's Needed for Coordination

- Investor Engagement: Foster active dialogue between investors and companies to clarify demands and expectations.
- Cross-Sector Collaboration: Encourage alignment across various organizations and sectors to ensure cohesive action.
- Clear Communication: Establish a common language around benchmarks and transition needs.

Priority Actions

- Global Benchmarks: Achieve global recognition and endorsement of benchmarks by institutions like the UN
- Regulatory Alignment: Align regulations and policy instruments with established benchmarks to facilitate transitions.
- ✓ Economic Case Development: Build a clear ROI case for investors regarding the necessity of transitions in the food sector.
- ✓ Consumer Awareness: Elevate consumer understanding as a grassroots driver of demand for sustainable practices.

- ✓ Empowered Investors: Equip investors with knowledge and tools to effectively demand sustainability from companies.
- ✓ Defined Benchmarks: Establish clear targets, materiality guidelines, and actionable pathways for achieving sustainable transitions.
- Informing Policy: Utilize benchmarks to guide government actions and policies that support transition efforts.
- Supply Chain Engagement: Enhance understanding of the importance of supply chain sustainability and its impact on ROI.

Together we can drive localized analysis for global transition

In summary, Arc's New York Climate Week Workshop highlighted that unlocking local transition analysis represents a critical step in accelerating effective global climate solutions.

There are several interconnected challenges and opportunities across various sectors and themes, including climate solutions metrics, asset-level and value chain data, local pathways, physical risk and adaptation, and the food, land, and agriculture sector. Key takeaways include the need for standardized, decision-relevant metrics that can be adapted to local contexts, improved transparency and accessibility of asset-level data, development of localized transition pathways, integration of physical risk and adaptation strategies, and a clear framework for sustainable transitions in the food and agriculture sector.

By addressing the priority actions listed in this report, we can create a more nuanced, context-specific approach to climate action that bridges the gap between global objectives and local realities. Transition finance will be crucial in mobilizing resources, driving innovation, and accelerating progress towards a safe, sustainable, climate-resilient future for all.

To drive the coordination needed to deliver on the priority actions identified, Arc is inviting ecosystem collaborators to join thematic working groups to take this forward. If you would like to learn more about this effort, please follow our progress by signing up to Climate Arc's newsletter <u>here</u> or contacting the Arc team via the details on the next page.

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