



U4-SDC Webinar Series on Climate Change and Corruption

We will begin shortly...

Presenters

Andreas Weber

SDC, Policy Adviser,
Governance and Anti-Corruption

André Wehrli

SDC, Sector Policy Adviser CDE

Aled Williams

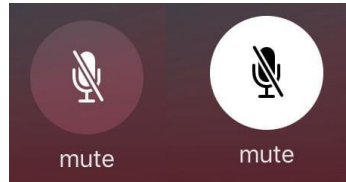
U4 Principal Adviser

Understanding Corruption Risks in Climate Finance

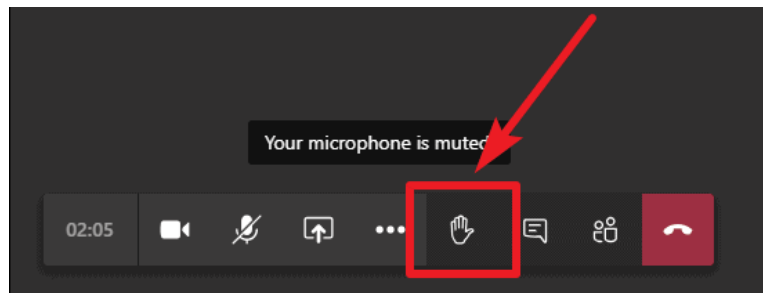
Wednesday 17th June 2026, 1200-1330 CET

TEAMS Dos and Don'ts

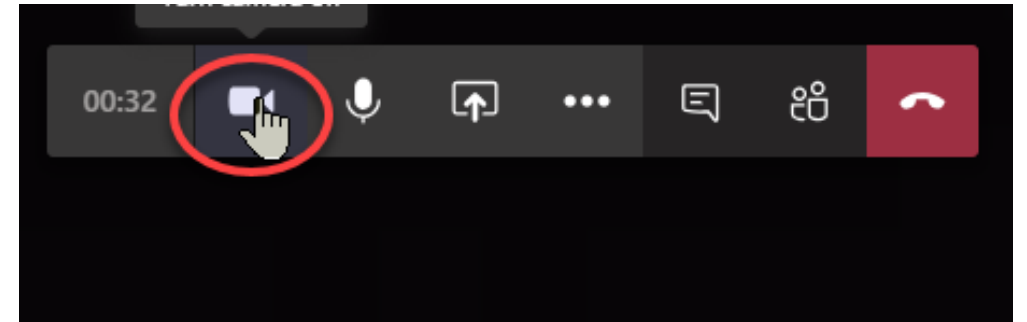
- Mute yourself when not speaking



- Use the “raise your hand” button to indicate the host that you want to speak or share your question on the chat



- Don't forget that you are visible (if you have your camera on).



How to ask for help

During session:

Contact [Priscilla Gonzalez](#) in the chat

Outside of Teams (only if no other options):

Send an email to priscilla.gonzalez@cmi.no

What if you get disconnected?

Click on the joining link and the host will let you rejoin

Why this series – what can you expect?

- Why?
 - Problem:
 - CC with wide-ranging & complex impacts (multiple sectors affected; no simple answer)
 - Speed, extent and scale (incl. financial scale)
 - Potential remedies (tools, approaches, ...)
 - What & how → 3 online sessions
 - 17.6.26: Understanding corruption risks in climate finance
 - 24.9.26: Corruption and multilateral climate funds
 - 4.11.26: Corruption risk management in locally led climate action
- *don't forget to register, more information [here](#)*

Agenda

10 minutes	Welcome and opening remarks	Andreas Weber, SDC André Wehrli, SDC
20 minutes	Corruption risks and patterns in climate finance	Aled Williams, U4
20 minutes	How SDC works on corruption risk mitigation in climate finance	Andreas Weber, SDC
30 minutes	Reflections on SDC experiences on corruption risk mitigation and climate finance	Moderated by Andreas Weber, SDC



Climate finance. What is it about?

A lot of money...

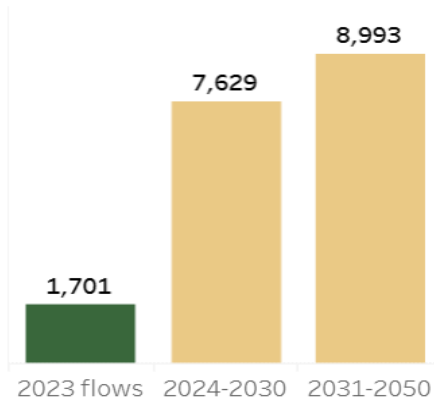
TOTAL NEEDS

Annual average, 2024-2050

8,640
USD billion

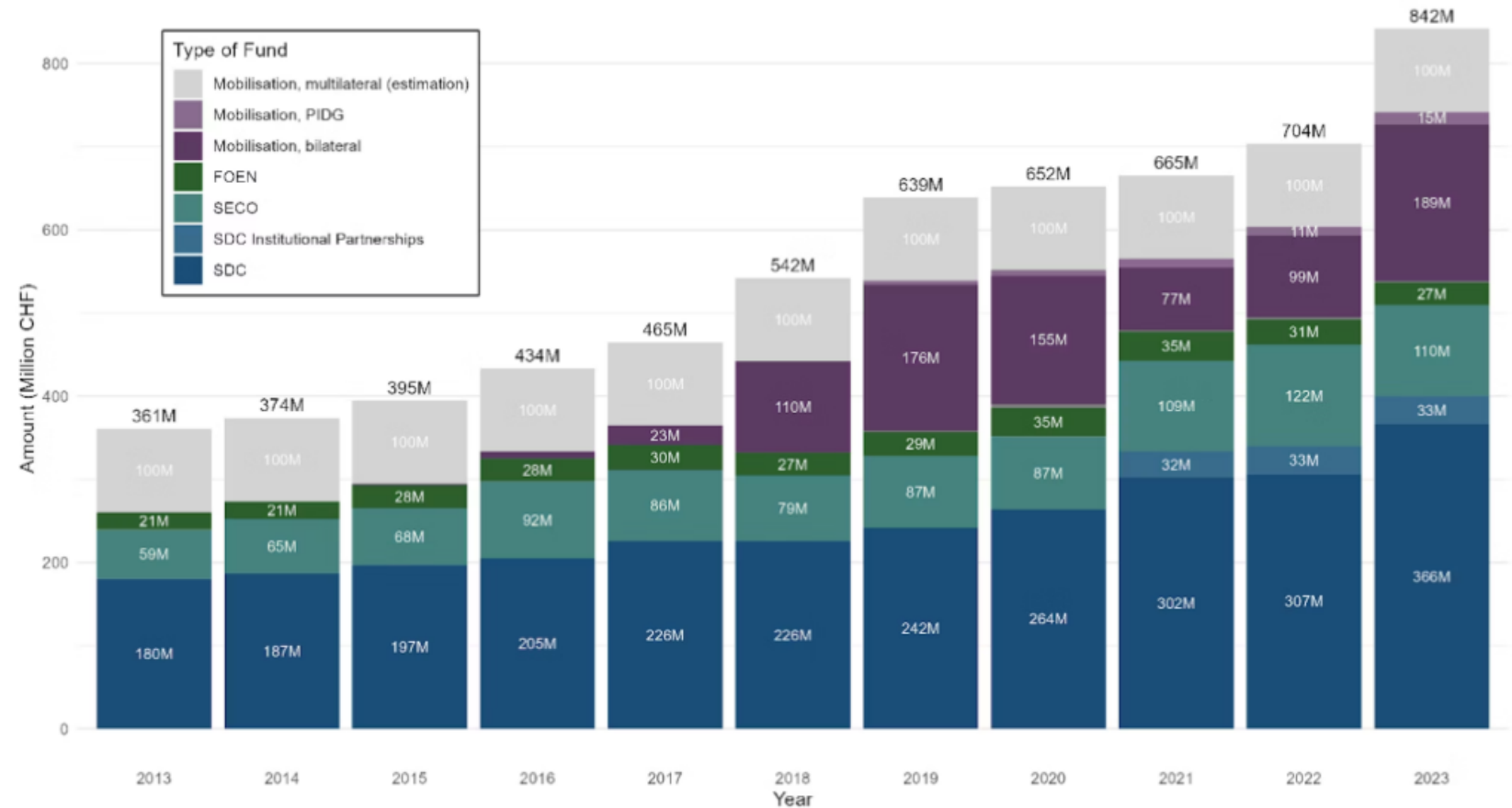
INVESTMENT GAP

Annual averages



<https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/dataviz/top-down-climate-finance-needs-data-dashboard/>

Swiss International Climate Finance (2013-2023)



Stand: February 3, 2025

<https://www.sdc-cde.ch/en/swiss-international-climate-finance>

Climate finance. What is it about?

Different potential sources of funding



Public National



Public International



Private National







Private International

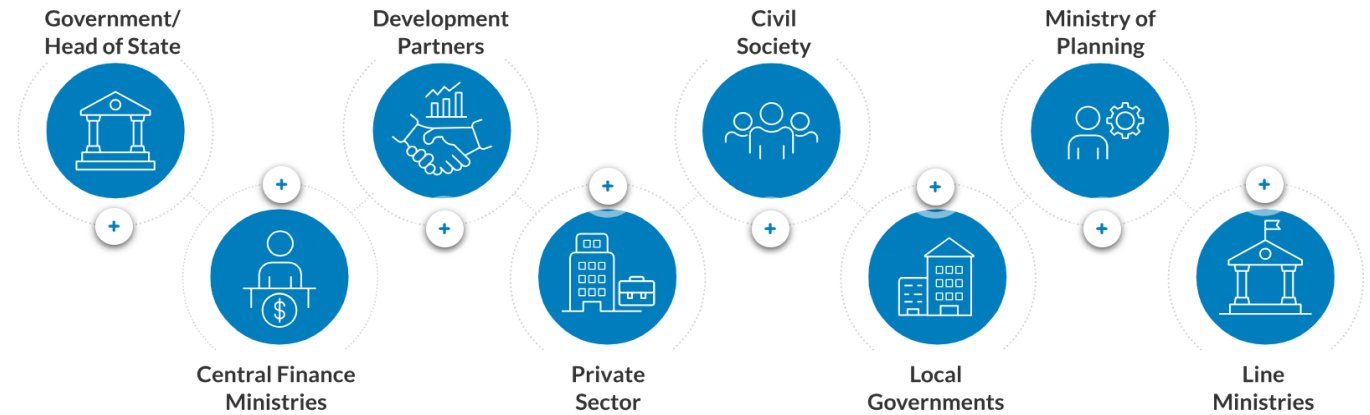
Source: UN:CC Learn course Scaling Climate Finance

Climate finance. What is it about?

It is complex...

National Budget

-  Financing climate action through government budgets
-  Sovereign bonds, carbon pricing
-  Government's 'own money'
-  Governments have limited fiscal space



Source: UN:CC Learn course Scaling Climate Finance

Corruption risks and patterns in climate finance

Aled Williams, U4

Defining corruption in relation to climate

- Corruption definitions continually evolve and are contested
- The definition most frequently used by practitioners is that from Transparency International: *The abuse of entrusted power for private gain*
- Scholar Paul Robbins (2000) defined corruption specifically in renewable resource management as *the use or overuse of community (state, village, city, etc.) natural resources with the consent of a state agent by those not legally entitled*. Robbins argued this leads to inequality in resource distribution
- For a discussion on corruption definitions and their implications for targeting resource corruption, see: <https://www.u4.no/publications/corruption-definitions-and-their-implications-for-targeting-natural-resource-corruption>

Why is climate finance (particularly) vulnerable to corruption risks?



Speed and scale of investments = disbursement pressures and stresses placed on due diligence



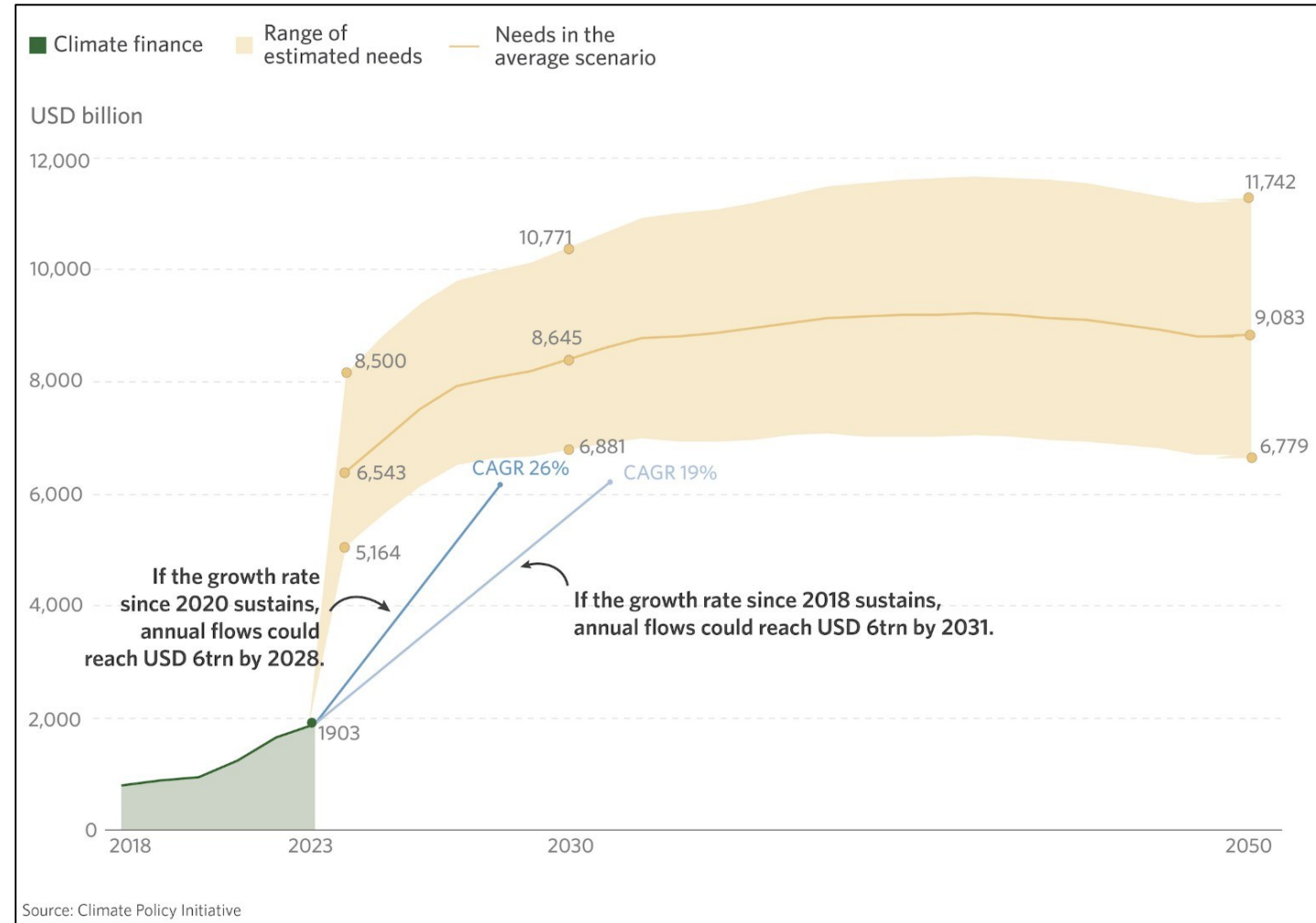
Complexity of climate finance instruments and investments



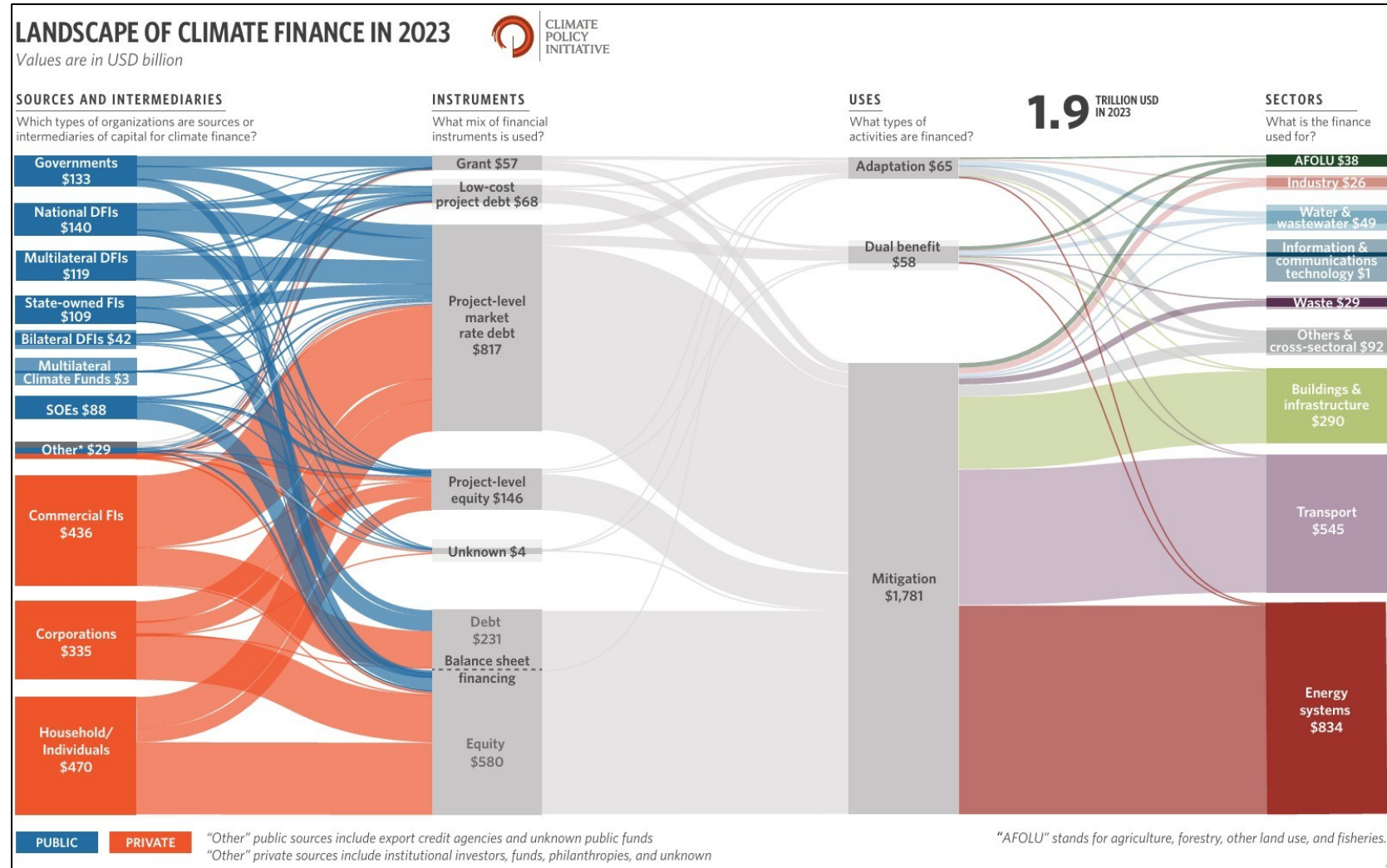
Investments directed towards higher-risk governance jurisdictions

Speed and scale

Global tracked climate finance and estimated annual climate investment needs through 2050



Complexity of the climate finance landscape



Investment in higher-risk jurisdictions

Global Atlas of Environmental Justice

270 cases have been filtered
corruption

The EJAtlas is a work in progress. Newly documented cases and information are continuously added to the platform. However, many are still undocumented and new ones arise. Please note that the absence of data does not indicate the absence of conflict.

Filters

Select fi... Select option Select option

APPLY CLEAR

Legend

Browse Maps

Newly published featured maps

Recently updated conflicts

- Greenstream Pipeline and the Zawiya Refinery, Libya**
Western Libya's extensive web of offshore and onshore gas and oil fields, central to gas and oil exports to Europe via the Greenstream Pipeline and the Zawiya Refinery, drives severe environmental...
- Project Buffalo Data Centers in Zaragoza, Spain**
The Zaragoza region has become a target for companies such as Amazon and Microsoft to construct data centers. Most recently, the Aragon government has approved Project Buffalo, allowing the...
- Willdale Farm mass eviction, Zimbabwe**
Over 7,000 people were forcibly evicted from informal settlements on land owned by Willdale brickmakers. A humanitarian crisis ensued when the displaced people were left stranded by the roadside in heavy rain...
- Adani Ambuja Cement in Gir-Somnath, Gujarat, India**
An ongoing forty year battle against limestone mining and cement plants next to a wildlife sanctuary
- The water crisis in Phumla Mqashi, Lenasia, South Africa**
Johannesburg faces a major water crisis, leaving many residents without water supply every week. At the end of 2024 Joburg Water's water and sanitation utility, decided to cut off illegal water taps in...
- A case for just mining in Villa de La Paz, San Luis Potosí, Mexico**
Villa de La Paz has been severely polluted by the toxins of active and inactive tailing dams (locally known as "lamosos mineros") of the three mines surrounding the mining town. These toxins spread via wind and...
- Artisanal and Illegal Lithium Mining in Kwara, Nigeria**
In Kwara's Bani and Kakanfu communities, due to corruption and lack of

MapTiler Basic ACKNOWLEDGE ejolt ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE icta erc maptiler OpenStreetMap

Primary corruption risk patterns for climate finance

Fund Diversion & Embezzlement

Funds intended for climate mitigation and adaptation being siphoned off through fraudulent procurement or “ghost” projects.

Elite Capture

Local or national elites monopolizing climate benefits or project selection to benefit their own interests or networks.

Greenwashing

Entities providing misleading environmental or climate claims to secure funding and/or avoid regulatory scrutiny.

Land Bribery/Collusion

Payments to (or collusion with) officials to secure land for “green” projects, often leading to land grabbing and/or population displacements.

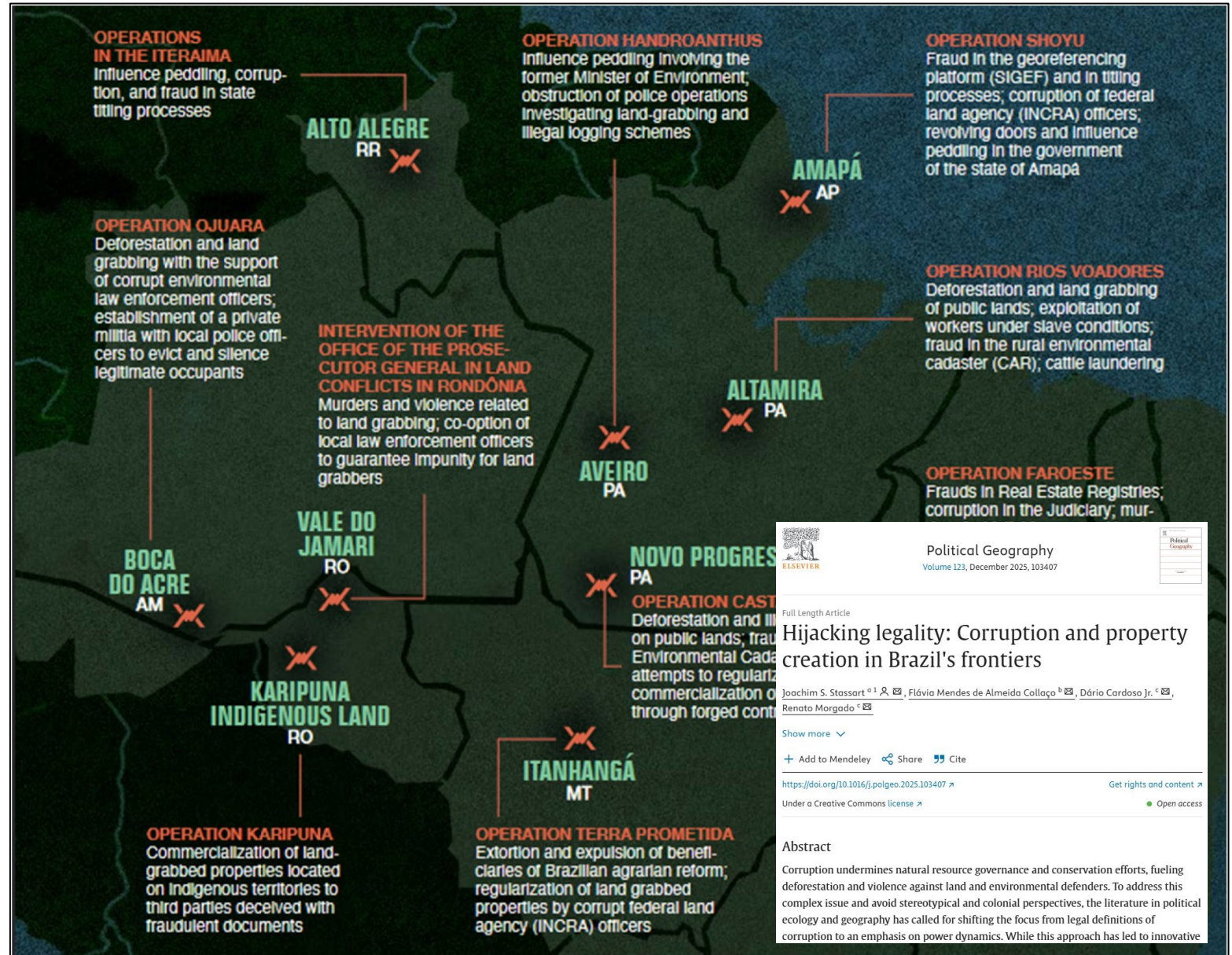
Example 1: Corruption and the Philippines' Flood Controls

- Extensive flooding following 2025 monsoon led to allegations of corruption in flood control systems;
- Members of the public directed anger towards lawmakers and construction firms over "ghost" projects;
- President Marcos Jr acknowledged this as a challenge on a visit to inspect a flood control dam that he found did not exist;
- The economic planning minister said corruption had claimed 70% of public funds allotted for flood control;
- The House Speaker, who has been implicated, has resigned, although he denies wrongdoing;
- The leader of the Senate was ousted after it was found that a contractor who won a government bid was found to have donated money to his 2022 campaign, which is illegal.



Example 2

Corruption, collusion, land grabbing in the Brazilian agricultural frontier



Political Geography
Volume 123, December 2025, 103407

Full Length Article

Hijacking legality: Corruption and property creation in Brazil's frontiers

Joachim S. Stassart ^a, Flávia Mendes de Almeida Collaço ^b, Dário Cardoso Jr. ^c, Renato Morgado ^c

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.polgeo.2025.103407>

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Abstract

Corruption undermines natural resource governance and conservation efforts, fueling deforestation and violence against land and environmental defenders. To address this complex issue and avoid stereotypical and colonial perspectives, the literature in political ecology and geography has called for shifting the focus from legal definitions of corruption to an emphasis on power dynamics. While this approach has led to innovative

Questions practitioners should ask

- **Local political-business networks around land transactions:** How do they operate in practice, and what incentives does this create?
- **Political and election finance related to natural resources:** Are quid pro quo deals occurring related to natural resources? Do transactions over natural resources increase before elections?
- **Do aid-supported governance models** (such as hybrid public-private partnerships) bypass laws and democratic processes, or strengthen them?
- **Civic space** and intimidation (or worse) of environmental and human rights defenders: What are the trends in law and practice?

Any questions for clarification?



How SDC works on corruption risk mitigation in climate finance

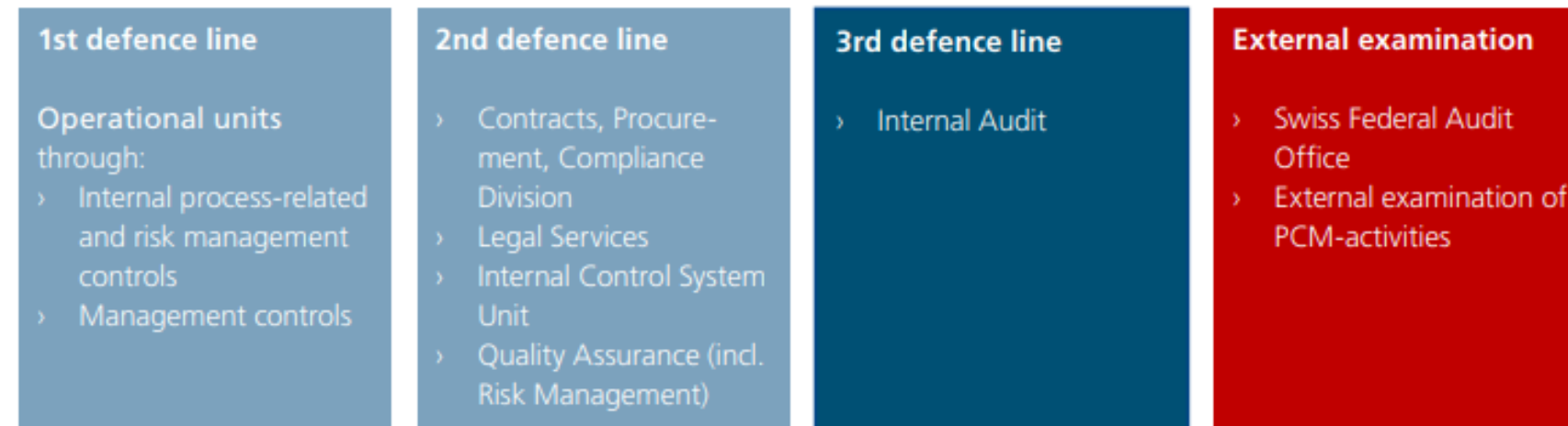
Andreas Weber, SDC

SDC's approach to CRM

SDC's Zero tolerance policy > to be understood as zero tolerance to inaction in case of corruption allegations

[OECD Policy Brief - Unpacking the Zero Tolerance to Corruption Principle](#)

Three-Lines-of-Defence Model at SDC/FDFA



[The SDC's Anti-Corruption Guidance](#)



FDFA/SDC approach to Corruption Risk Management

Legal / Compliance

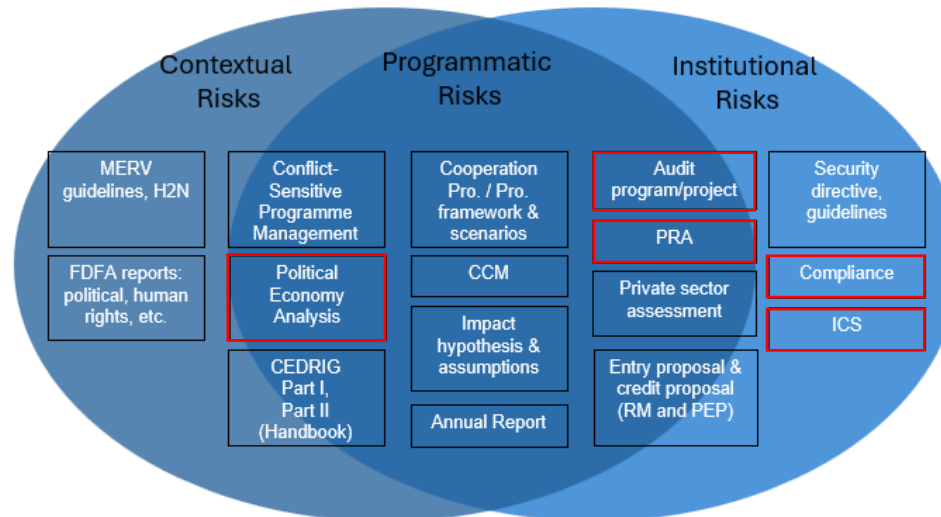
Contracts, Procurement and Compliance Division

- Anti-corruption clause in contracts
- Code of Conduct
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Whistleblowing Platform
- Compliance Cases

Risk Management

Quality and Digitalization

- Risk Management Tools



Promoting good governance in partner country

Peace, Governance and Equality Section (PGE)

- Political Economy Analysis
- Advise on transversal governance and anti-corruption projects

Challenges with regard to climate change

Risk culture: Move beyond tick-the-box risk management

Importance of Political Economy and Thinking and Working Politically

Who wins/who loses from an intervention

Include internal political economy (disbursement pressure vs. actual results)

Tailored training (mandatory) coming

--> HQ can support you (Backstopping, U4 Services etc.)



Reflections on SDC experiences on corruption risk mitigation and climate finance

Moderated by
André Wehrli and Andreas Weber, SDC

Guiding Questions

- What are your experiences or challenges on corruption risk in climate finance?
- What are emerging topics from your viewpoint?

Wrapping-up

- Interconnectedness – broader view of elements involved
- Limitations of audit/due diligence in complex landscape – strengthening civil society as potential remedy but no clear recipe
- Increased pressures: fewer donors, potentially more funding, direct funding to governments, fragility

Wrapping-up

- Don't forget to sign-up to the two forthcoming webinars in this series (links in chat)
 - *Webinar 2: Corruption and multilateral climate funds (12:00 CET, 24th September 2026)*
 - *Webinar 3: Corruption risk management in locally led climate action (12:00 CET, 4th November 2026)*
- More material is available (see QR codes on final slide)
- Please tell us what you thought of this webinar (Teams poll pop-up)



Thank you for your attention!



SDC Network **Climate, DRR & Environment**

