**Political economy regimes and the decarbonisation challenge**

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Basic introduction

* Political economic conflicts loom large in the transition towards a decarbonised global society.

More detailed background

* Vested interests will seek to avoid stranded assets and foregone revenues from fossil fuel production, such as those extensively implied by a 2oC stabilisation pathway. States with fragile political institutions and limited technocratic capabilities may struggle to implement effective and comprehensive mitigation policies. And societies with deep social fractures bear the risk of exacerbating distributional harms through unjust transitions.

General problem being addressed

* The global distribution of these political economic challenges is poorly understood. Historical circumstances and strong path dependencies of development place some countries in a weaker position than others to overcome them, with major consequences for global bottlenecks in climate mitigation.

Main result

* Here we show that strong vested interests, weak state capacities and low levels of social cohesion are interrelated challenges, critically co-occurring within regions where major fossil reserves are located, and in countries that are rapidly establishing high-carbon infrastructures.

Main result in a broader context

* We find limited evidence for improvements in these underlying political economic conditions and reflect on the organisational structure of the regimes that stabilise them.
* In the context of future scenarios of socio-economic development, our results underline the gulf between the contemporary political economy and pathways predicated on limited fossil fuel growth, effective institutions and socially-inclusive development.
* Research is needed into the enabling conditions that sustain different types of political economic regimes.