

Supplementary Information 1 – Interview guide

Three different interview guides were established for the interviews with decision makers and palaeoclimate scientists. This interview approach followed a semi-structured interview plan which allowed some flexibility in the questioning in response to the interview replies. The three guides were: 1) for decision makers who were familiar with palaeoclimate, 2) for decision makers unfamiliar with palaeoclimate, 3) for paleoclimate scientists. The questions are outlined below:

All decision makers:

1. Do you consent to this being recorded and can I confirm you agree with the interview consent form and have read through the participant handbook to ensure you know how your data is being handled?
2. Can you briefly describe your job role and organisation and how it relates to climate policy?
3. Can you describe your typical approach to finding data sources, information, and evidence to support your policy-relevant tasks?
4. Can you give an example on the types of data you might use?
5. Is there anything that you are looking for with the data or information when searching for this evidence?
6. Are you familiar with the field of palaeoclimate or any palaeoclimate research?

Decision makers who are familiar with palaeoclimate:

7. Have you ever used, thought to use, or heard of other policy officials using palaeoclimate research for policy evidence?
8. What would you consider the advantages for climate policy in using palaeoclimate research?
9. Would you suggest that there are limitations in using palaeoclimate research, and if so, what are they?
10. When looking for palaeoclimate research, where would you go to find the sources evidence?
11. Do you have any suggestions for palaeoclimate scientists on how they could make their research useful for integrating into climate policy?

Decision makers who are not familiar with palaeoclimate:

7. For the most part, the instrumental record of climate began in 1850, do you think that this contains sufficient length to be used to inform policy decisions?
8. (Overview of palaeoclimate given). Given this new information, would you suggest that palaeoclimate could be useful as a form of climate evidence for policy?
9. In your opinion, would you suggest that there are limitations in using palaeoclimate research, and if so, what are they?
10. Based on your experience, do you have any suggestions for palaeoclimate scientists on how to make their research more usable for climate policy?
11. Finally, do you have any suggestions of other people to contact to ask similar questions?

Palaeoclimate scientists:

1. Do you consent to this being recorded and can I confirm you agree with the interview consent form and have read through the participant handbook to ensure you know how your data is being handled?
2. What is your job role and institution?
3. How and when did you become interested in palaeoclimate?
4. Could you briefly describe what palaeoclimate is and why you think that it is important?
5. Can you think of any specific aspects of palaeoclimate which are relevant to climate policy?
6. Have you ever had any experience in interacting with climate policy?
7. Do you have any further thoughts in ways in which palaeoclimate scientists could better integrate their work into policy?