

Life-Links: resilient supply chains for good

The problem

Supply chains are the veins of the global economy, contributing to 57% of global GDP. But when the weakest link of a supply chain breaks, everyone suffers, especially the most vulnerable. Climate change poses a growing threat, often compounding other disruptions like geopolitical conflicts and pandemics. Logistics infrastructure and operations are particularly vulnerable, with major supply chain disruption risks, and climate-proofing is cost-effective. However, responses by governments and companies tend to be reactive, localized, and isolated based on self-interest, which do not address the problem by strengthening supply chains for the benefit of all.



The momentum to improve resilience is now. Nine out of 10 people want more climate action, giving political and business leaders a mandate to act. Climate policy frameworks and funding discussions are maturing, presenting a critical moment to embed supply chains into climate strategies. Business leaders are reframing supply chains as strategic and ESG as resilience, building the business case to invest in climate-resilient supply chains.

The solution

Supply chains are our lifelines. What if we could turn supply chains into drivers of climate action and local sustainable development – making them truly **resilient supply chains for good**?

By **leveraging shared interest in global supply chains** we can enable stakeholders – companies, governments, development agencies, others – to coordinate and co-invest in actions that increase resilience. In parallel, we seek opportunities for GHG reductions and sustainability improvements.

Life-Links targets **transport and logistics 'links'**, vital parts of trade and supply chains connecting producers with consumers, yet often overlooked in national and corporate plans, and supply chain risk management tools and guidelines.

The integration of adaptation/resilience, GHG mitigation, and finance helps to **deliver on the Paris Agreement**, connect global policy objectives with private sector interests and local development priorities, and bridge the annual climate finance gap of nearly 6 trillion dollars.



Life-Links focus

Develop Life-Links Framework and playbooks

Current supply chain risk tools and guidelines are fragmented – commercial platforms serve multinationals, while agency guidelines focus on infrastructure and climate risks, often neglecting transport and logistics. This siloed approach weakens resilience and slows climate progress. Drawing from existing tools and guidelines, the **Life-Links Framework for Resilient Supply Chains and Logistics** provides a practical and collaborative approach to make supply chains more resilient and sustainable – link by link. A first framework will be ready by COP30, covering three steps (assessment, action measures, implementation plan) and supported with examples and resources such as overviews of hazards, indicators, and resilience measures. Learning from use cases will be used to enrich the framework, and supplement it with playbooks for practical implementation considering different geographies, sectors, products and stakeholders.

Apply the Life-Links Framework to real-world supply chains

Seeing is believing. The framework development will go hand in hand with applying the three steps to transport and logistics in real-world supply chains, together with partners. The Kuehne Climate Center leads the first applications for coffee and avocado supply chains originating in East Africa going to Europe. The approach can extend to diverse supply chains across regions, with priority on essential goods like food and medicines, products tied to economic dependency such as cotton, and resources critical to the energy transition, like copper for batteries.

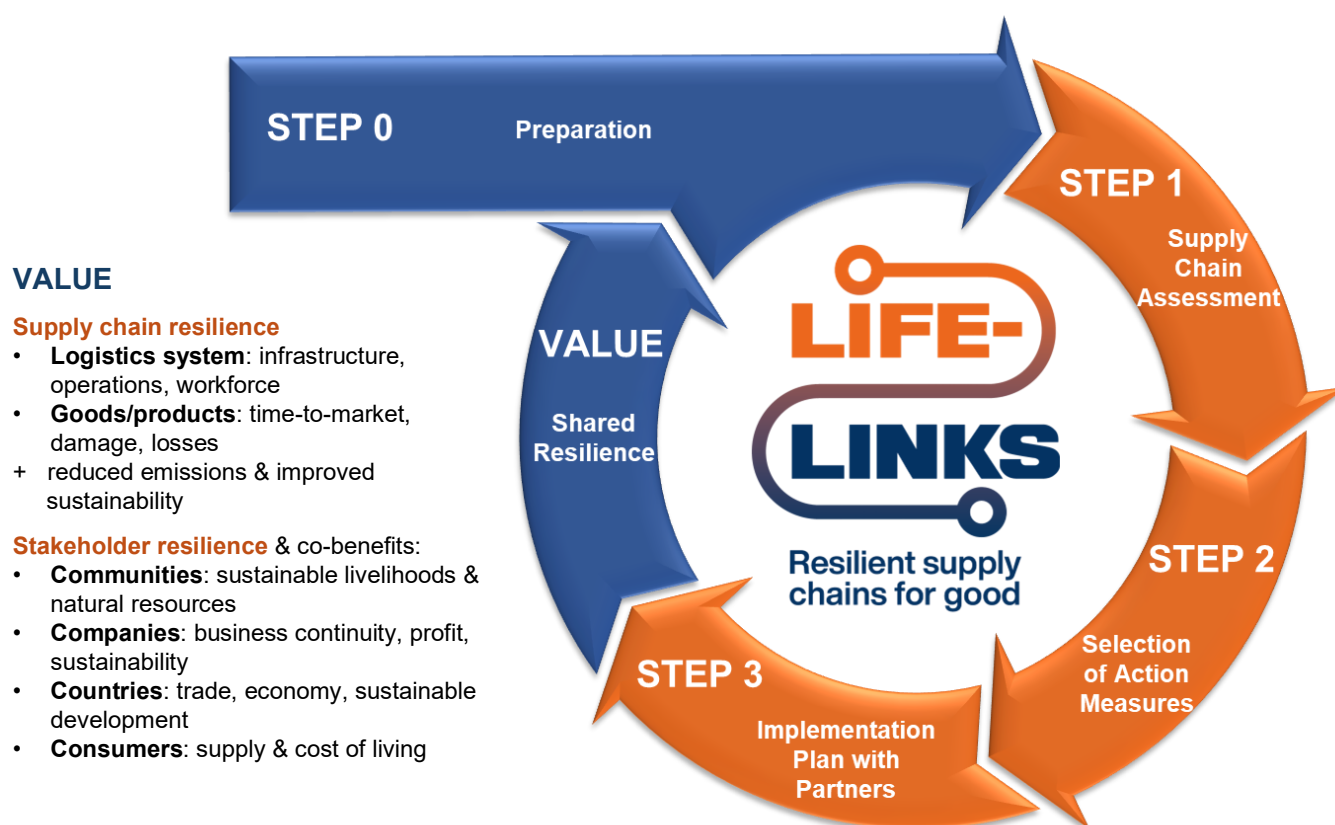
Drive uptake and scale impact

Advocacy and communication focuses on raising supply chain resilience and logistics on the political, corporate and investor agendas. By 2030, our goal is for the Life-Links Framework and its resources to be widely adopted, with active support from policymakers, businesses, and the development community. The best path to scaling impact is to partner with companies, agencies, and solution providers to embed Life-Links into their supply chain and climate strategies and close the logistics gap.

Creating 'Life-Links'

'Life-Links' are created in three steps together with supply chain partners to create shared value:

1. **Supply chain assessment** of critical transport links (e.g. the first mile, railway, port) to determine which and how supply chain stakeholders are impacted by disruptions exacerbated by climate change. For example, a Kenyan farmer and a European food retailer both lose income if vegetables are stuck in a port after a storm.
2. **Selection of action measures** to increase resilience to disruption risks, whilst combining these with opportunities to reduce GHGs and improve sustainability. Examples are flood protection of ports and warehouses, better road infrastructure, cold storage, and emergency alerts for factories or drivers. In parallel, install solar panels, introduce electric vehicles, plant mangroves, educate port operators, or other sustainable development actions.
3. **Implementation plan with partners** with a package of feasible measures and long-term collaboration, with fairly shared costs and benefits – there must also be a business case. This is an opportunity to harness private/corporate capital, assets and expertise that complement national policy, development aid and philanthropy. This may in practice mean coordinated action that involves, for example, the government flood-proofing roads in Kenya that connect vegetable wholesalers to the port of Mombasa, the European food retailer co-investing in cooling facilities, a logistics company making its warehouses available for emergency storage and response, an insurer providing parametric insurance to farmers and drivers.



About Life-Links

Life-Links is a global non-profit organization in The Netherlands, co-founded by the [Kuehne Climate Center](#) and [Sophie Punte](#).

Vision: resilient supply chains around the world as a force for good benefiting all stakeholders whose prosperity depends on supply chains, from local communities to companies, countries and consumers.

Mission: to leverage shared interests in global supply chains by enabling stakeholders to coordinate and co-invest in actions that make critical logistics links more resilient and sustainable.

Life-Links was a finalist in [UNCTAD's Supply Chain Innovation Challenge 2024](#), co-moderated the [COP29 Transport roundtable](#) and an [ITF Summit 2025 side event](#).

A Life-Links Council of 25 experts brings different areas of expertise and perspectives of supply chain actors and solution providers in the Global South and Global North.

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