***DO INDIVIDUALS’ PERCEPTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE POLICY AFFECT THEIR CLIMATE-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES?***

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## Overview

A substantial body of economic literature has carved out potential explanations for individual voluntary contributions to public goods, focusing on the roles of social norms and feelings of warm glow or responsibility. To augment this literature, this paper provides theoretical insights and empirical evidence on the effect of people’s perceptions of international climate policy on the public good climate protection. The empirical analysis refers to three countries, which – in terms of emissions and political clout – are considered to play a key role for the success of future climate policy: China, Germany, and the US. We distinguish between perceptions on aspects of perceived justification, procedural justice, and trust in international climate negotiations and agreements.

We extend the conventional model of allocating resources among public good and private consumption by individuals. Based on this theoretical modeling, we econometrically examine the interrelation between individuals’ perception of international climate policy and their stated willingness to engage in eight domestic individual climate-friendly activities. Our explorative studies are based on surveys, which were conducted simultaneously in the three countries in May and June 2013. Our findings provide new insights into the individual decision-making process concerning voluntary efforts for climate protection and the role of the perception of international climate policy.

The paper is organised as follows: After the introduction the second section develops a model for extending the conventional problem of allocating resources among public good and private consumption. The third section introduces the empirical methodology and the forth section presents the estimation results. In the final section policy implications are derived.

## Methods

Microeconometric analysis with univariate and multivariate descrete choice models

## Results

Our empirical results on individuals’ stated future and also past adoption of a wide range of climate-friendly activities in China, Germany, and the US suggest that especially the perceived justification of international climate policy motivates future climate protection efforts. In a broader interpretation, the propensity to contribute to a public good is higher the more efficient the public good providing process. In addition, a perceived lack of procedural trust is compensated by a higher stated willingness to engage in climate-friendly activities in Germany, while in the US citizens appear to offset a perceived lack of procedural justice by a higher stated willingness to engage in climate-friendly measures. In other words, citizens differ across countries in their stated willingness to compensate for others’ lack of performance in providing a public good.

## Conclusions

Understanding the role of citizens’ perceptions of international climate policy is crucial for policy makers, stakeholders in international climate policy such as non-governmental organizations (NGO), as well as providers of carbon offsetting, and may not only help to gather domestic support for the execution of international policy but also stimulate voluntary efforts to climate protection.