

Participant Information Sheet – Supply Chain Partners

Date Information Sheet Produced:

11 December 2023

Project Title

The reciprocal relationship between supply chain resilience and climate change: A Complex Adaptive Systems perspective.

An Invitation

My name is Mackenzie Freeman, and this research is being carried out as part of my doctoral degree at Auckland University of Technology (AUT). This research aims to explore the nature of the reciprocal relationship between supply chain resilience and climate change. As part of this project, I invite you to take part in a one-on-one interview about your experience and perspective on your organisation's awareness and response to the increasing risk of climate-related disruptions on your supply chain. I really hope that you will agree to take part in this research, as your responses will help us contribute to the theory and practice of global supply chain resilience strategy in the face of an increasingly disruptive environment.

What is the purpose of this research?

The purpose of this research is to explore the interrelationship between supply chain resilience and climate change, using Complex Adaptive Systems (CAS) as a theoretical perspective. I aim to answer three research questions, these are:

1. How can supply chains adapt and transform to build resilience in the face of increasing climate change-related disruptions?
2. How are existing supply chain resilience strategies designed to cope with climate change-related challenges?
3. What is the nature of the mutual relationship between climate change and supply chain resilience?

The findings of this research may be used for academic publications and presentations, and the research is part of the requirements for completing my doctoral degree. Participants will also have an opportunity to discuss how to share the findings with non-academic audiences.

Background information informing the research:

Globalisation has enabled modern supply chains to expand significantly, developing complexities where relationships, structure and role dynamics are continuously changing. Supply chains are no longer linear; they instead make up a network of interconnected and overlapping global suppliers. At the same time, climate change has become one of, if not the greatest challenge of the modern world, materialised by increasing temperatures and sea levels, changing weather patterns, and frequent and intensified extreme weather events. This era of increased turbulence needs new ways of thinking to build resilience strategies in the face of such disruptions. The goal can no longer be to return to a pre-disruption state or even a better state but to continuously adapt and transform to the evolving environment.

How was I identified and why am I being invited to participate in this research?

I aim to recruit organisations that operate within a global supply network. These organisations will then assist in facilitating communication and the recruitment of 4-5 of their supply chain partners and 1-2 regulatory stakeholders. This assistance in the recruitment will likely involve a process of suggesting and initiating communication with relevant supply chain partners and regulatory stakeholders and then providing these parties

with an information sheet. You were identified and invited to participate in this research as you work in a relevant leadership role within an organisation that operates within the same supply chain as one of the organisations that has already agreed to take part in the research.

How do I agree to participate in this research?

If you are interested in taking part in this research, please contact myself, Mackenzie Freeman, at mackenzie.freeman@autuni.ac.nz. I will be able to answer any questions you may have and provide you with a consent form which will need to be completed before the interview takes place.

Your participation in this research is voluntary and whether or not you choose to participate will neither advantage nor disadvantage you. You are able to withdraw from the study at any time. If you choose to withdraw from the study, then you will be offered the choice between having any data that is identifiable as belonging to you removed or allowing it to continue to be used. However, once the findings have been produced, removal of your data may not be possible.

What will happen in this research?

Participation in this research will include three main activities:

- Providing any documentation that you feel could be relevant to the research topic (this is completely at your discretion and should only include information that you and the organisation feel comfortable sharing).
- An individual interview.
- You may be asked to participate in a focus group discussion between yourself and other participants from organisations within your supply network. During this discussion, the group will be provided with prompts, but it is up to the group to guide the direction of conversation.

The interview will take place either in person (if you are in New Zealand) or via online video conferencing depending on which you would prefer. The focus group discussion will take place online at an agreeable time, to allow for participants outside of New Zealand to take part.

What are the discomforts and risks?

We acknowledge that there is some risk in sharing company information, however, it is at your discretion as to what information you chose to share and you do not need to answer any questions or discuss anything that you do not feel comfortable with.

What are the benefits?

This research intends to progress the literature and industry knowledge surrounding the development and use of supply chain resilience strategies, specifically during this time of increased frequency and intensity of climate-related disruptions. This research may provide benefits to participating organisations and supply chains by highlighting key aspects of the supply chain that are most resilient and identifying areas where progression is needed. All participants will be provided with a summary of the research and its outcomes, including a conceptual model which will support in paving the way forward to design and operationalise more resilient supply chain strategies.

How will my privacy be protected?

All interviews and focus groups will be audio-recorded and transcribed for the purpose of data analysis. All data will be kept confidential; these will only be accessible to myself, my research supervisors and a professional transcriber.

Data from the research and information such as your consent form will be stored at AUT for six years following data analysis. It will then be destroyed and permanently erased using secure destruction services provided by AUT.

The utmost effort will be used to ensure no identifiable information about you, your organisation, or your supply chain is included in the research findings or any outputs from the research. You will have the opportunity to review your interview transcript so that you can remove any information that could make you identifiable. If you indicate on your consent form that you would like to do this, the transcript will be emailed to you, and you will have two weeks to review and make any changes.

What are the costs of participating in this research?

Participation in this research project will involve approximately 2 hours of your time.

- Time to read and complete the consent form.
- Assistance in facilitating the communication and recruitment of any relevant supply chain partners

- Time spent gathering internal company documents that are not publicly available and may be useful for the research (at your discretion).
- Approximately one-hour individual interview.

Will I receive feedback on the results of this research?

You will be provided with a summary of the research and its outcomes, and you are welcome to access my final thesis after it is completed, by searching <https://tuwhera.aut.ac.nz/research-repository>.

What do I do if I have concerns about this research?

Any concerns regarding the nature of this project should be notified in the first instance to the Project Supervisor, Benjamin Dehe, benjamin.dehe@aut.ac.nz

Concerns regarding the conduct of the research should be notified to the Executive Secretary of ATEC, ethics@aut.ac.nz, (+649) 921 9999 ext 6038.

Whom do I contact for further information about this research?

Please keep this Information Sheet and a copy of the Consent Form for your future reference. You are also able to contact the research team as follows:

Researcher Contact Details:

Mackenzie Freeman, mackenzie.freeman@autuni.ac.nz

Project Supervisor Contact Details:

Dr Benjamin Dehe, benjamin.dehe@aut.ac.nz

Approved by the Auckland University of Technology Ethics Committee on 13 February 2024, ATEC Reference number 23/327