



Perspectives of decision-makers on research into climate interventions and ecosystem repair in the Arctic

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Authors

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Project Overview

- Project goal:
 - **To understand the perspectives of scientists, conservation leaders, and policy leaders who are likely to be involved in decision-making related to climate interventions in the Arctic**



Research Process

- Led by Wonder: Strategies for Good
- Conducted between August 2023 and May 2024
- In-depth qualitative interviews with 24 leaders
- Quantitative opinion survey with 117 leaders

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| → Often from a scientific and/or academic background <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ <i>53% had a background in physical/biological sciences</i>◆ <i>36% had a background in policy/social sciences</i> |
| → Experienced in advocacy and community leadership on climate issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ <i>9% were from an Indigenous and/or climate-vulnerable community</i>◆ <i>58% identified as climate activists</i> |



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- Across the spectrum of support, leaders shared similar concerns and reasons to support research
- On this topic, leaders want more information that...
 - Reflects the perspectives of scientists & Indigenous leaders
 - Situates climate intervention as part of a holistic and collaborative approach

Leaders' Support for Research

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0-10 scale; 10 means STRONGLY FAVOR

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Overall Average Response

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Age 50+ (n=51)

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Age <50 (n=59)

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Race: White (n=95)

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Race: Person of Color (n=27)

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Lives in U.S. (n=70)

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Lives Outside U.S. (n=47)

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Leaders’ Support for Research

Baseline support for increasing research into Arctic-relevant climate interventions is surprisingly high.

Particularly strong among those who are younger (under 50 years old), who identify as a person of color (vs. white), and who live outside the U.S

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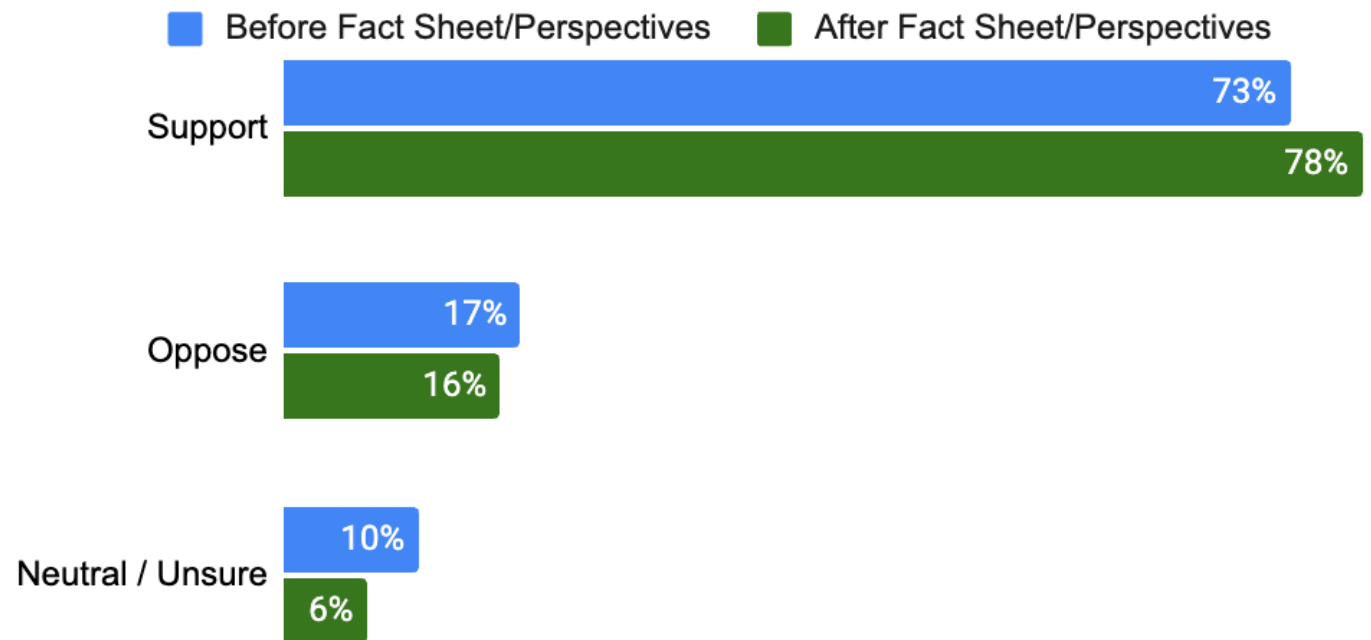
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“[To voice my support publicly, I would need] **proof that the pursuit of climate repair is rooted in authentic engagement with Indigenous people of the Arctic and support of relevant communities, and... clear guidelines for roles and responsibilities of engaged parties, in a code of conduct, along with mechanisms for enforcement.**”

- *Climate Advocate*

Leaders' hold internal conflict on this issue

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"Although I strongly think we should do everything we can to reduce [climate-related] suffering, I'm not sure if the end result will make up for the means. On one hand, [we] cannot risk going over 1.5 degrees of warming. On the other hand... **going deeper into the complexity and practicalities of responsible and collaborative research and policymaking [on climate interventions] makes me pessimistic and exhausted at the same time.**"

- *Climate / Conservation Advocate who rated themselves as strongly supportive of research*

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Value humility and respect for the natural world.	Concern about unintended negative impacts; and whether humans can act responsibly	A desire to take action for impacted ecosystems and communities
Feel the urgency of doing as much as possible on climate change.	Concern about distraction from decarbonization and hasty actions with severe consequences	Interest, curiosity, and desire to research all potential options



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SUMMARY

- 1 There is a spectrum of support for research into climate interventions, and people can move along that spectrum toward greater support.
- 2 The level of support for researching climate interventions may be higher than is visibly evident, because strong supporters are not necessarily vocal supporters.
- 3 Participants hold internal conflict on this issue.
- 4 Hearing from trusted messengers is vitally important, particularly from scientists and Indigenous leaders.

THANK YOU!

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