Impacts of climate change – such as droughts, floods, wildfires and sea-level rise – can have knock-on effects that cross borders and continents. These effects can escalate through security relations, international trade, financial markets, international aid operations and migration. In the Cascades project, we consider the risks of cross-border and cascading climate change impacts and possible mitigation and adaptation measures.

At SEI York, we examine trade linkages between the EU and non-EU countries to understand exposure to cascading risks via trade. Working with other partners in the Cascades consortium, we overlay projections of climate change impacts on the production and transport of goods. We focus on three key sectors as case studies: agricultural commodities, minerals and soy.

Using a mix of quantitative and qualitative methods, our research aims to offer policy insights to stakeholders across the supply chain, to help them to adapt to climate change. The Cascades project will support the design of a coherent European policy framework to address these risks.

This work was conducted in the European Commission H2020-funded CASCADES (CASeading Climate risks: towards ADaptive and resilient European Societies) project, number 821010.