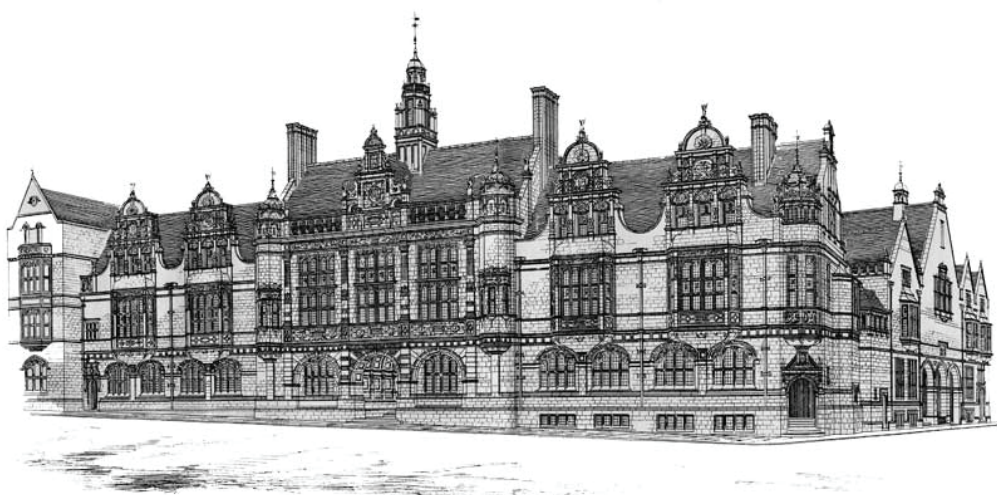


# ecbi Annual Report

## 2017-2018



ecbi

European Capacity Building Initiative  
[www.eurocapacity.org](http://www.eurocapacity.org)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



**Benito Müller**

***Director, European Capacity Building Initiative***

The three ecbi programmes had a particularly busy period this past year, producing nine seminars, four training programmes, eight policy briefs and notes; three pocket guides; and numerous meeting reports. Bursaries were provided to two junior negotiators, and technical support to senior negotiators from vulnerable countries.

In addition to the usual Oxford and Bonn Seminars, ecbi organised seven ad hoc seminars in 2017-2018. Among them were three seminars convened in an attempt to break the deadlock that has held up progress in the negotiations on issues related to agriculture under the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) for several years now.

At the first seminar in Oxford, negotiators from key countries engaged in the agriculture negotiations were provided an informal space that allowed them to understand each other's views through open discussions. Topics included a more fundamental discussion on the role and mandate of the SBSTA, and the potential areas for synergies with other UNFCCC processes that might facilitate the agriculture negotiations. The seminar resulted in an outcome and significant progress at the next SBSTA session – so much so that the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* reported: “Happy delegates were seen coming out of the negotiations on agriculture... commenting on the positive spirit and constructive discussions”.

SBSTA Chair Carol Fuller, long-time participant in the ecbi Oxford Seminars, wrote: “SBSTA finally delivered a Conclusion on Agriculture at its 46th Session. ...We had never been able to achieve that before. ...In this regard I believe that the Seminar on Agriculture and Climate Change that you organized and facilitated in Oxford earlier in the month brought the Parties closer together and contributed to the results. I am convinced that more of these types of events will further a common understanding that will generate tangible results in the near future.”

A further agriculture seminar was organised by OCP in Bonn in May 2017. Both the Oxford and Bonn seminars were credited by many negotiators for the adoption of the Koronivia Joint Work Programme at COP23. At the behest of the negotiators, OCP continues to engage in the process, and a further seminar was organised in March 2018 in Rome.

The success achieved in the agriculture negotiations is an extension of the goodwill and trust created through the Oxford and Bonn Seminars. Both these events were very well attended in 2017 – perhaps a bit too well attended, as some commented – and appreciated by the participants.

This was also another year that the Training and Support Programme delivered four training workshops for new negotiators from developing countries. Constantly improved on the basis of feedback, the regional training workshops in Anglophone and Francophone Africa and Asia, and the pre-COP workshops were appreciated by the participants, some of whom admitted to being thrown into the deep end of the complex climate negotiations without basic training in the past. Several of the trainees returned to subsequent workshops to improve their skills and understanding further. It was also heartening to see negotiators who had started at these training workshops as newcomers, and are now leaders of national and group delegations, taking on the role of capacity builders and mentors to a younger generation.

Finally, the Publications and Policy Analysis Unit (PPAU) ramped up its support for the two programmes, producing three thematic Pocket Guides in English and in French; eight policy briefs and notes; and six meeting reports. PPAU launched a thematic Pocket Guide series this year, producing four such guides: [Pocket Guide to Transparency Under the UNFCCC](#); [Pocket Guide to Capacity Building for Climate Change](#) under the UNFCCC; [Pocket Guide to Gender Equality under the UNFCCC](#); and [Pocket Guide to Loss and Damage under the UNFCCC](#). While the main target audience for these online Pocket Guides are the aspiring negotiators that ecbi trains through its regional workshops, they were equally aimed at senior negotiators who are unfamiliar with these specific themes. Three of these have been translated into French: [Guide De Poche Sur La Transparence Sous La CCNUCC](#); [Guide De Poche Renforcement Des Capacités et Changement Climatique](#); and [Edition 2018 du Guide de Poche sur l'Egalité de Genre sous la CCNUCC](#). The Pocket Guide series has proven popular – including with the Prime Minister of Fiji, Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, who also presided over UNFCCC COP23. He sent ecbi a letter of appreciation, thanking us for the “excellent” [Pocket Guide to the Paris Agreement](#), which he found very handy for leaders, politicians and experts alike.

ecbi continued to experiment with new ways to bridge divides in the negotiations. For instance, Article 6 of the Paris Agreement on market approaches is developing into a potential area of concern, with strongly held, but not necessarily compatible, positions by the EU and Brazil. Our policy brief on [Article 6: Market Approaches Under the Paris Agreement](#) invited both sides to elaborate their views and concerns, and efforts were made to suggest compromises between the two positions. The extent to which this effort will bear fruit is still to be seen, as negotiations continue on the Paris rulebook this year. Another policy brief, on [Kick-starting ambition under the Paris Agreement: The 2018 "Talanoa" Dialogue](#), however, already proved helpful to the Fijian Presidency in negotiating the final design of the Dialogue.

ecbi also continued its efforts to push for innovative ways of enhancing climate finance, and at the same time exploring ways to ensure greater effectiveness of climate finance at the national and local level. This past year, we have advocated ways to help LDCs enhance their capacity to access available finance, and also identified feasible innovative sources – such as shares of proceeds from sub-national carbon markets, crowdfunding, and voluntary contributions from air passengers. At the national level, meanwhile, Nepal's Local Adaptation Plans of Action process was examined through public meetings, interviews and a policy brief, to better understand the challenges faced at the local level in the efficient and effective use of climate finance.

As the negotiations for the Paris rulebook enter the final stage, ecbi is geared up to provide negotiators the informal spaces and information they need over the next year, to understand each other better and arrive at solutions that address the concerns of both sides to the extent possible.

## MESSAGE FROM THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS



### Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu and Jan Cedergren

Over the past twelve years, the ecbi Oxford Seminars have become an important part of the annual calendar for senior UNFCCC negotiators. Nowhere else in the climate change process do they get the opportunity to sit together at the same table for several days to constructively seek solutions, with key players present. The high-level participation in these Seminars is an indication of the importance that negotiators attach to this informal, out-of-the-box exchange. In 2017, for instance, the Oxford Seminar was attended by representatives of the Fijian COP23 incoming presidency, the Moroccan COP22 Presidency, the French COP21 Presidency, the EU Presidency, the G77 and China Chair, the LDC Chair and the SBSTA Chair, as well as other influential figures in the negotiations.

During these events, ecbi serves not only as a “capacity building” initiative, but also a “confidence building” initiative, helping negotiators build confidence and restore the mutual trust that has in many ways been lacking in the UNFCCC process. There are at least three levels where confidence is built during the Seminars. First, confidence is built between negotiators – representatives of developing countries, on one end, and representatives of European countries on the other – in a unique way which cannot be done in the big rooms or the hallways of the formal negotiations sessions. In Oxford, negotiators are able to take off their national hats and venture beyond usual national red lines. This has helped them discover that, at times, seemingly varied positions are not so far apart.

Confidence has also been built at the personal level for negotiators, strengthening their belief in their own capacity to go home and look for solutions that put us firmly on the pathway of low-emission development and improved climate resilience.

Finally, confidence is built at the collective level, as negotiators talk to each other (instead of “talking past each other”), under the Chatham House Rule. This helps negotiators realise that they can “collectively” resolve this climate change conundrum by working together, hand in hand.

The substantive and technical deliberations on many important issues at the Oxford and Bonn Seminars have produced creative ideas that have ultimately resulted in concrete proposals, and at times real outcomes in the formal UNFCCC process. A few years ago, for instance, the idea of a UNFCCC body to identify all climate finance funds and related flows and to assess their coherence and efficiency was made at the Oxford Seminar. A few years later, UNFCCC Parties adopted the decision to establish the Standing Committee on Finance. ecbi had an important role in the conceptualisation of this institution.

The second ecbi Programme, on Training and Support, fulfils another important need by training junior negotiators, allowing them the opportunity to be mentored by those who have gone before them; providing technical support to negotiators during negotiations; and providing bursaries to a few promising young negotiators to enable them to keep up their capacity and engagement with the process. These young negotiators have already started making an important contribution to their national and regional delegations in some cases, and will no doubt ensure that the concerns of vulnerable developing countries are well represented in future.

Finally, the Publications and Policy Analysis Unit makes an important contribution to help both the ecbi Programmes meet their objectives. The policy briefs help kick-off discussions at the Oxford and Bonn Seminars, and lay the groundwork for creative thinking. The new Pocket Guide series, meanwhile, has been widely appreciated not only by junior negotiators, but also by senior leaders of the negotiations.

As the UNFCCC negotiations approach another important milestone, the groundwork laid by ecbi will be invaluable in promoting the mutual understanding and trust that is necessary for the adoption of the Paris “rulebook” over the coming year.



## ECBI ACTIVITIES

### Fellowship Programme

The Fellowship Programme organised the 2017 Bonn Seminar, the 2017 Oxford Fellowships and Seminar, and six ad hoc Seminars this year.

#### 2017 Bonn Seminar

The 2017 ecbi Bonn Seminar took place on 14 May 2017, at La Redoute, Bonn. It was attended by 55 negotiators from developed and developing countries, including heads of key national and regional delegations; the Chairs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) group, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI); Board members of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund; and Council Members of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Participants discussed climate finance and the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue.

#### Issues regarding the Financial Mechanism

This session started with a presentation by Benito Müller, ecbi Director, who focused on resource mobilisation for the Adaptation Fund and its role in the Financial Mechanism. It was chaired by Jan Cederghren, Co-Chair of the ecbi Advisory Committee.

Müller described the Financial Mechanism of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a “justice and trust weather vane”, with a high ‘trust-intensity’ (trust created/destroyed per dollar contributed/withheld), especially during a time when the US looked set to renege on its climate finance pledge.

He described several efforts to raise climate finance through alternative sources, including a bill in the US State of Massachusetts, calling for a system to give taxpayers the option of contributing their tax refunds to the LDC Fund; philanthropic contributions; and “shares of proceeds” from sub-national emissions trading schemes. He proposed asking the Standing Committee on Finance to develop a workplan on alternative sources of finance, in response to the current global geopolitical situation.

*“I think the Sunday seminar was above expectations both in terms of number of people and content. It really showed the value of ECBI's role in the climate business.”*

He went on to discuss the issues of the Adaptation Fund serving the Paris Agreement and getting accreditation under the Green Climate Fund (GCF), highlighting the important role of the Adaptation Fund as a “retail outlet for micro funds” from the GCF and recommended a link between the GCF and Adaptation Fund as one way to keep the Adaptation Fund resourced. He also described ecbi initiatives to crowdfund from the corporate travel sector for the Adaptation Fund, with the potential to raise US\$ 125 million annually; and raise “shares of proceeds” from national and sub-national trading schemes.

In the discussion that followed, participants discussed, *inter alia*, ways to address the gap in climate funding created by the US’ decision not to deliver its share; sub-national sources of climate finance; resourcing the Adaptation Fund, including through accreditation with the GCF; whether innovative sources of finance could

undermine the multilateral nature of the climate process; the importance of political will in resolving the issue of climate finance; and the challenges faced by the GCF.

## **2018 Facilitative Dialogue**

This session was chaired by Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, Co-Chair of the ecbi Advisory Committee, and kicked off with a presentation by Kaveh Guilanpour.

Guilanpour described the importance of the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue in raising ambition to achieve the long-term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement. He highlighted the need for the Dialogue to be effective, simple and strongly linked to the Paris outcome; generate political momentum to raise ambition; and ensure the effective participation of sub-national/non-state actors. He said the technical element should be mitigation focused, while the parties' concerns on scope need to be addressed, including means of implementation for enhanced mitigation ambition.

Guilanpour listed three critical questions for the Dialogue to address:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we need to be?
- How do we get there?

He further highlighted: the need for a political element including a ministerial gathering at COP24, with ministerial time used effectively; using the 1.5°C report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the UNEP Gap Report long-term strategies of countries as inputs to the dialogue; an effective technical process to feed into the ministerial process; and a clear political signal at the end of the dialogue, for countries to enhance the ambition of their NDCs.

In the discussion that followed, participants discussed: possible inputs; the important role of non-state actors in the dialogue, and of an inclusive process; managing expectations; the need for the Dialogue to address equity, sustainable development, poverty eradication, adaptation and means of implementation as priorities; the inclusion of pre-2020 ambition as an element of the Dialogue; and potential outcomes.

A more detailed report of the 2017 Bonn Seminar is available [here](#).

## **2017 Oxford Fellowship and Seminar**

The European Capacity Building Initiative's 2017 Oxford Seminar took place from 30 August to 1 September, in Oxford Town Hall. It was attended by 24 participants from developing countries (who also participated in the ecbi Fellowship Colloquium that was held from 28 to 30 August 2017, in Merton College), and 24 participants from Europe.

The Seminar was attended by, among others: representatives of the current (Morocco), preceding (France), incoming (Fiji), and future (Poland) Presidencies of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); the Chairs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), G77, and Western European and Others Groups; the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA); the Co-Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF); members of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board; representatives of the current trio of EU Presidencies (Estonia, Bulgaria and Austria), and representatives from the European Commission.



Discussions focused on key concerns relating to the ongoing global negotiations on the rules for implementing the Paris Agreement, including: gender; equity; common timeframes and the ambition cycles; the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue; global stocktakes; adaptation communications; transparency; finance; and the Article 6 mechanisms.

## Gender

The first session on gender was kicked off by presentations by Stella Gama from Malawi, and Geert Fremout from Belgium.

Gama described the evolution of the gender issue under the UNFCCC, and the participation of women in UNFCCC processes. Describing efforts to develop a Gender Action Plan (GAP) under the UNFCCC, she said it aims to translate existing mandates and decisions into concrete actions to ensure that gender balance and gender balanced policies are achieved. She listed key priorities for the upcoming COP23 and beyond, including finalising the GAP, and comprehensively addressing questions related to its governance, implementation, financing arrangements and time frame; addressing gender as part of the Paris Agreement Work Programme; understanding challenges for women participation; ensuring access to climate finance; and designing gender responsive projects with appropriate indicators.

In his presentation, Fremout highlighted the importance of combining efforts to curb emissions, address gender concerns, and promote education; and called for synergies with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). He said that although the UNFCCC Secretariat's compilation of gender-related decisions under the Convention is 44 pages long, there is a sense that implementation remains a challenge. The decision to develop a GAP was taken at COP22 in Marrakech, to support the implementation of gender-related decisions and mandates under the UNFCCC process.

Fremout said 59 countries have references to gender in their NDCs. He noted the need to have specific references to gender in the context of the NDCs, Adaptation Communications, Transparency Framework, and global stocktake in the Paris "rulebook". He invited participants to discuss: how to ensure that climate action is integrated with other aspects of sustainable development; how to enhance effective implementation of the gender mandates under the UNFCCC; and what can/should be done under the Paris work programme to make this happen.

In the discussion that followed, participants discussed, *inter alia*, the need to ensure that women are considered as important agents of change; the GCF's gender policies; targeted interventions for women; the need to disaggregate data to consider regional differences and keep track of how many women are in key positions; and the enhancement of existing frameworks and tools.

*"(The Oxford Seminar) provides a neutral space to discuss issues that are more controversial in the negotiations space, particularly during coffee breaks or the events organised after the seminar."*

## Equity

This discussion started with presentations by Xolisa Ngwadla and Stefan Ruchti.

Ngwadla described on the state of play of equity in the negotiations and equity parameters and considerations post-2020, before proposing a way forward. He said equity parameters are necessary to encourage ambition and as a basis for engaging national constituencies in enhancing contributions, following a global stocktake. He proposed that Parties could choose from a suite of metrics and methodologies that are multilaterally defined, but self-applied, along with a consideration of national circumstances as defined by a party for itself. He noted that a political conversation on equity will be necessary during the global stocktake to take stock of collective efforts, including how it relates to the overall goal of the Agreement; and domestic conversations will be necessary after the stocktake, to consider the equity-related outputs.

Ngwadla said the stocktake should also consider “mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science”. The equity parameters should be self-applied by parties, providing an opportunity to outline national circumstances and political considerations. The metrics, however, should be defined objectively in a multilateral setting in relation to the collective global effort.

He proposed that the metrics could be informed by the INDC synthesis report prepared by the Secretariat, which identifies the metrics used by countries. National considerations of what is equitable can be based on paragraph 14 of Decision 1/CP.20, as well as national circumstances in the INDC synthesis, which include size and geography, dependence on fossil fuels, vulnerability to climate impacts, and other social and economic characteristics, amongst others.

In his presentation, Ruchti noted several attempts to operationalise equity, based on references in Article 3 of the UNFCCC, and negotiations at COP13 in Bali in 2007, COP16 in Cancún in 2010, and COP17 in Durban in 2011. In the Paris Agreement, he said equity found its justified reference in a number of articles referring to its guiding role (preamble paragraphs 3 and 11 [the latter regarding intergenerational equity] and Article 2), but also as a basis to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions in the second half of this century (Article 4) and to serve as measuring stick for the global stocktake (Article 14). With countries communicating their INDCs, he said, the focus of equity (including intergenerational equity) has turned from the country level to the global level.

He called for consideration of, *inter alia*, achieving and implementing global equity considerations without its imminent reference to burden sharing across countries; a notion of global equity when comparing the global mitigation efforts to the goals set in the Paris Agreement, including intergenerational equity; the challenging notion of global equity when comparing the global adaptation efforts to the goals set in the Paris Agreement; and a notion of global equity when comparing the global provision of the means of implementation and of capacity building to the goals set in the Paris Agreement.

In the discussion that followed, participants discussed, *inter alia*, the importance of equity considerations for governments to justify their NDCs to the public; the social and economic aspects of equity; equity in context of the adaptation gap, loss and damage, and means of implementation; and the role of bodies like the IPCC.

## Ambition Cycles

This session was initiated with presentations by Müller and Cristina Carreiras. Müller described the Paris Agreement’s “two-track communication cycle” with paragraph 23 of decision 1/CP.21, which includes the Agreement, describing one track with a timeframe up to 2025 (countries must communicate a new NDC by 2020, and do so every five years thereafter); and paragraph 24 describing a second track, with a timeframe up to 2030 (countries must communicate or update by 2020 these contributions and to do so every five years thereafter). To enhance the chances of increasing ambition in subsequent NDCs, he said, these two tracks should work together.

Currently, he noted that countries on the 2030 (paragraph 24) track are not expected to do anything with their NDCs in 2025. While ten-year horizons may be good from the perspective of long-term planning, this should not mean that they have an “NDC vacation” until 2040 – this will risk locking in low long-term (15 year, from 2025-2040) ambition. If paragraph 24 countries are expected to come up with mid-term updates, there will be some systematic enhancement of medium-term ambition – down to 10 years (2030-2040) instead of 15 – but this would still result in “decadal cliff hangers”, where countries in 2029 will not know what the future vision will be beyond 2030. This will have an impact on stocktaking exercise, if they are meant to be forward looking exercises. Moreover, he said, the current lack of coherence between the paragraph 23 and 24 tracks will make it very difficult to come up with any estimates of aggregate global progress towards meeting the overall goals of the Agreement.

*“Thank you for the great hospitality and what is always a good kick off of the autumn. I found the discussions on the GST, ambition and finance maybe the most interesting.”*

To be as ambitious as possible in their upcoming NDCs, countries will need to have information on what other countries plan to do (to address, for instance, concerns over economic advantage, equity, reciprocity etc.); and aggregate progress towards the overall goal of the Agreement, Müller said. The point at which countries come together will therefore also have to be coordinated with the review cycles.

To resolve the disconnect between the two tracks, which will hamper ambition, Müller described the ecbi proposal for a “dynamic contribution cycle”, developed by the Fellows of a previous Fellowship. In this proposal, all countries have a synchronised process of firming up their short-term NDCs, while announcing “indicative” longer-term NDCs, with the potential to revise the latter, in response to new science, and pressure from civil society. This will result in a rolling process with 10-year horizon and five-year updates.

To achieve this, Müller proposed the following three decisions by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA):

- Urges those Parties whose INDC ... contains a time frame up to 2025 to communicate by 2020 a new nationally determined contribution and to do so every five years thereafter ...;[§ 23]
- Requests those Parties whose INDC ... contains a time frame up to 2030 to communicate or update by 2020 these contributions and to do so every five years thereafter ...;[§ 24]
- Request all Parties in 2025 to update their 2030 NDC, and communicate an indicative 2035 NDC, and to do so every five years thereafter.

In her presentation, Carreiras said the decisions on NDCs are likely to be more political than technical – in the EU, for instance, 28 ministers will decide the NDCs. She said the cycle is wider than setting a timeframe.

In Paris, countries already had a sample of INDCs with different timeframes – Article 14 was created to accommodate these different timeframes, so every five years, countries understand their contributions collectively, and assess challenges in the next round. She said the mechanics are clearer in terms of mitigation, with the specific requests for preparation, communication, updating, progression, information coming from Article 14, etc.

In the current set of 165 NDCs, Carreiras noted, at least 130 have a reference to 2030; 19 have a reference to 2025; one has a reference to 2021; one has a reference to 2033; two have a reference to 2035; and three have a reference to 2050. The variety is wider than five or ten years. Even when the EU started setting targets, she said, it started with a trial period of three years, then five years, and then ten years. One issue that Paris addressed well, she noted, was related to the political pressure and synchronisation, which was solved to some extent in paragraphs 23 and 24, so parties would come together at the same time, and feel the pressure to communicate a new target and update, even if they don't have common time frames.

In the discussion that followed, participants discussed the need, *inter alia*, for: shorter cycles to push ambition and take on board technological breakthroughs; the same levels of pressure on all countries at the same time to improve ambition; synchronisation of cycles; and planning over longer timelines.

## **2018 Facilitative Dialogue**

This session was initiated with presentations by Kaveh Zahedi and Cristina Carreiras.

Zahedi noted that common ground was emerging on the modalities and objectives of the 2018 facilitative dialogue due to the efforts of the Fijian presidency, but a number of issues remained to be resolved on the modalities, scope and outputs.

On modalities, he said the dialogue should be designed to answer the questions of where are we now, where do we need to be, and how do we get there. The dialogue should therefore be conducted in a way that recognises and celebrates efforts already made; informs Parties' preparation to raise the ambition of their NDCs; is effective, simple and not too burdensome; and is strongly linked to Paris outcome, in relation to the long-term temperature goal and achievement of net zero emissions.

The modalities should, he said, help generate the wider political momentum necessary to raise ambition; ensures the effective participation of sub-national/non-state actors; is transparent and promotes the increased transparency of Parties' NDCs; and explores the current state of implementation. Further, he said the modalities should incorporate and builds on the Fijian concept of "talanoa" – the process of inclusive, participatory and transparent dialogue that builds empathy and leads to decision-making for the common good, and on respectful engagement.

Zahedi proposed identifying the mitigation gap to answer the questions of "where are we now and where do we need to be"; and addressing how we close that gap to respond to the question of "how we get there". He noted that the dialogue will have to be creative and innovative to address the question of how we get there. Noting that barriers are often the most significant constrain for developing countries, he said the dialogue will have to address the fact that all countries have to deal with economic, social, technological and other problems/barriers/constrains, that limit their actions.

On the dialogue's political elements, he proposed a ministerial gathering at COP24 should be structured to consider the three questions sequentially, based on the output of the technical elements of the three questions.

He emphasised the importance of making effective use of ministerial time, and being innovative in its format, to avoid ministerial speeches that have been prepared several weeks earlier.

With regard to the scope of the dialogue, Zahedi noted that the mandate is focused on mitigation, and the expansion of this scope risks diluting efforts and the mitigation focus. However, the scope is not cut and dried, and means of implementation in relation to enhanced mitigation will need to be part of the conversation.

On the outputs of the dialogue, Zahedi listed a clear response to the three questions; and a clear signal of political intent to take what has been learned and use it to raise ambition and inform domestic processes to table new or updated NDCs. Ministers should also be ready to give an indication, as part of that political signal, of what the domestic process to receive and act on the output of the dialogue will be. Zahedi emphasised the need to complete the design of the dialogue at COP23, with clear signal and guidelines on what will happen next, including with regard to timetables and deadlines.

In her presentation, Carreiras agreed that the dialogue will be the first political moment to look at existing efforts and increase global ambition; and that it should address the three questions put forward by Zahedi. She said the dialogue should serve to create trust, and inform parties of the context of their future actions. She noted that the IPCC special report on the 1.5°C aspirational goal, due in 2018, will be a key input into the dialogue, and agreed that it will be important to include inputs from non-state actors. She said the Climate Action Summit planned in California in 2018 could also be used to build momentum towards the dialogue. She agreed that ministerial input should not be limited to three-minute speeches, but a more innovative format is necessary, possibly chaired by an outsider. She noted the need to ensure that the ministers have all the information they need for the dialogue, including reports from IPCC, the UN Environment Programme and the International Renewable Energy Agency. She asked participants to consider how non-state actors could also be part of the dialogue with ministers.

In the discussion that followed, participants discussed, *inter alia*, the consideration of the following elements in the Dialogue: the pre-2020 gap and the Cancún pledges; the inclusion of non-state actors; means of implementation; enhancing global ambition; and partnerships and initiatives. They also discussed modalities and outcomes.

## **Global Stocktake**

This session started with a presentation by Ngwadla and Marianne Karlsen. Ngwadla presented on the context of the stocktake; its basic structure; key issues for further clarity; and a proposed process model for the stocktake.

He noted that the stocktake was expected to give Parties a sense of where they are, and where they are going. A first exercise should therefore generate an understanding of, or agreement about, the benchmark, related to the temperature goal of the Agreement. A second should relate to an exercise of estimating the scale, size and nature of the ambition gap, and an understanding how the gap in ambition can be closed, based on equity considerations. A third process should generate an understanding of collective progress, and individual undertakings, to inform activities needed to update and enhance action, support and cooperation.

Ngwadla said that during the Fellowship Colloquium, participants had proposed taking a step back to design a durable stocktake mechanism that provides flexibility to learn, so that process does not have to be renegotiated or micromanaged in future, which will be the case if each aspect becomes too specific.

Listing key issues for further clarity, he noted different views on:

- Assessing collective progress, related to whether the stocktake is about the assessment of targets, or assessing specific aspects of mitigation, adaptation and finance.
- The meaning of long-term goals, and whether they relate to objectives in Article 2.1(a-c) or also the objectives related to specific goals, such as those articulated in Articles 4.1 (global peaking goal), 7.1 (adaptation goal), 10.6, etc.
- How the themes should be organised. Should there be separate workstreams on mitigation, adaptation, finance and other elements, such as loss and damage and response measures; or whether one stream should address all aspects. Moreover, how should crosscutting issues be addressed, such as the intrinsic relationship between adaptation and mitigation?
- How core inputs for the stocktake should be decided, by whom, on what basis, and by when should they be provided.

Presenting the three models under consideration in the negotiations, Ngwadla concluded by saying that another big issue that will have to be resolved is the future of the 2013-2015 review, which is supposed to continue, and take place every seven years. He asked whether the review could still have a purpose and continue, or it should be replaced by the stocktake.

In her presentation, Karlsen presented her personal thoughts on how the global stocktake could fit in with other elements and mandates of the Paris Agreement. She said the stocktake starts with the various communications of countries including the NDCs, adaptation communications, technical needs assessments etc; and national reporting to track progress on the NDCs, adaptation, means of implementation and support. She presented several review questions for the stocktake.

*“Just a quick note to say thank you again for hosting an excellent seminar the other week. The quality of the guests, conversation and locations stimulated a very useful conversation. My highlight was probably the lecture and the meal with the dinosaurs – brilliantly surreal.”*

Karlsen proposed that inputs could include the synthesis reports of the UNFCCC Secretariat on the NDCs, and on their gap report (for mitigation); the Adaptation Committee/LDC Expert Group reports on the “state of adaptation”; the Technology Executive Committee’s report; the Standing Committee on Finance’s report on financial flows, support provided and received; and the Paris Committee on Capacity Building’s report. She noted that these committee’s do not need to be micromanaged for what inputs they should provide, though they should be asked to provide it for the subsidiary bodies meeting in June, in the year of the stocktake.

At the June sessions, she said, Parties can then have a Dialogue and provide recommendations to the CMA/COP based on three workstreams (mitigation, adaptation and finance). For the mitigation workstream, these recommendations should address the barriers, opportunities and possible solutions, in the light of equity, to:

- collectively or individually enhance climate action to the level needed to achieve the mitigation goals;
- identify and address barriers; and
- identify opportunities and good practices to enhance and scale up action, including on technology, capacity building and finance.

On adaptation, the recommendations should address the barriers, opportunities and possible solutions, in the



light of equity, to:

- collectively or individually enhance adaptation to achieve the global goal on adaptation.
- identify and address barriers.
- identify opportunities and good practices to enhance and scale up action.

Karlsen said the financial flows workstream should address what Parties can do, in the light of equity, and collectively or individually, to meet the objectives laid out in Articles 2.1c, 9, 10 and 11, in particular mobilising financial resources for climate action in developing countries, developing and transferring technology, and building capacity in developing countries.

In the discussion that followed, participants discussed, *inter alia*, the consideration of pre-2020 pledges; the need to harmonise the stocktake with the transparency arrangements; the link between the stocktake and NDC timeframes; the role of the IPCC; the scope of the stocktake; and the time lag in inventories and its impact on the stocktake.

## Finance

This session was initiated with presentations by Johanna Lissinger Peitz and Müller.

Peitz discussed the benefits of investing in climate, including for the transformation of financial flows, adaptation finance, the transformation of financial flows, and information relating to financial flows. On adaptation finance, she invited participants to discuss the operating modalities and the sources of funding for the Fund, including from the market mechanisms of the Paris Agreement, innovative sources and voluntary funding. She proposed that the role of private finance in adaptation should be considered in more detail, perhaps by formally including it in the negotiations' agenda. Peitz also invited a discussion on where the Adaptation Fund fits into the larger landscape of climate funds. She said the GCF has already allocated more, or at least as much, to adaptation projects than the Adaptation Fund has over its life-span, although she recognised that the Adaptation Fund has attractive characteristics, such as easier access and country ownership. She further said a discussion on the effectiveness of adaptation finance is an important issue for consideration.

On Article 2.1c (making climate finance flows consistent with reducing greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development), Peitz said changes are already taking place in many countries, for instance with pension funds, fiscal systems, bond, carbon pricing, and linkages with the 2030 Agenda, which also considers development pathways. She highlighted the need to consider how different elements of the Paris Agreement, such as the global stocktake, can help to deliver Article 2.1c; and to consider how recommendations from various reports can help to transform financial flows.

On information for climate finance flows, she asked if the recent in-session workshop on long-term climate finance, held in Bonn in May 2017, was considered a constructive start.

Müller also addressed the role of the Adaptation Fund, and resource mobilisation for adaptation. He focused mainly on the operating modalities relating to the role of the Fund; sources of funding; and linkages with other bodies and institutions.

On the role of the Adaptation Fund, Müller proposed “rationalising the funding streams” to also address the issue of administrative overheads and enhance the efficiency of the climate finance architecture. He proposed a structure that is “wholesale and retail”, saying the GCF should be the wholesale agent, and not have to deal

with micro and “nano” projects. Instead, he said, the retailing should be “outsourced” to a specialised fund like the Adaptation Fund, particularly until all countries are able to have national retail agents. Müller noted that by serving as a GCF retail outlet at the multilateral level, the Adaptation Fund could solve its funding problems, as even the share of proceeds from the Article 6 market mechanisms are unlikely to be sufficient to ensure its long-term sustainability.

On the issue of resource mobilisation, he described efforts by ecbi to encourage sub-national contributions, including support for: a bill currently under consideration in Massachusetts, to create a Massachusetts LDC Fund based on taxpayer donations; sub-national carbon trading mechanisms in raising funds for adaptation; and crowdfunding, for instance by asking corporate air passengers to donate one percent of their ticket price to the Adaptation Fund. He called for consideration of other sources, in addition to national budgetary contributions – not as a substitute, but as a way of increasing flows for adaptation. As the issue appeared not to be a redline for countries, he proposed its consideration by the SCF, and/or other workstreams.

Finally, Müller listed the following three finance-related elements raised by the Fellows during the colloquium for discussion, in addition to the role of the Adaptation Fund, and the proposed SCF work programme on alternative and innovative sources of finance:

- Article 9.5, on the biennial communication of indicative information related to projected levels of public financial resources.
- Article 2.1.c. on making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.
- The role of microfinancing as a tool to meet environmental, social and gender safeguards (which could also be a topic for the 2018 in-session workshops on long-term climate finance).

In the discussion that followed, participants discussed, *inter alia*, the need for, and mobilisation of, climate finance; the untapped potential of alternative sources of funding; the role of the SCF; the important role of the Adaptation Fund; and national implementation challenges.

*“The discussion on transparency/finance gave participants the opportunity to share experiences to explain positions. Very useful.”*

## **Adaptation Communications**

This session started with presentations by Alejandra López Carbajal, also on behalf of Sven Harmeling and Irene Suárez; and by Jake Werksman.

López Carbajal described the Paris Agreement provisions on the Adaptation Communications; addressed key issues related to the communications, including linkages with other provisions of the Agreement and the implementation timeline; and listed issues to be addressed by COP23.

She highlighted the importance of taking into account how adaptation relates to other parts of the Paris Agreement, in particular the global stocktake and transparency arrangements; listed possible vehicles for the communications and described the advantages and disadvantages of each; and proposed possible elements for the Communications. Noting that COP23 should consider the added value of Adaptation Communications; how they can be preserved independently of the vehicle; and consideration of interlinkages while defining guidance, she said agreement on a negotiation basis for 2018 could facilitate a decision at COP24.

In his presentation, Werksman agreed that the Paris Agreement provides a common set of elements, along with a lot of flexibility to both developed and developing countries, and a balance between the two will have to be sought. He said the Adaptation Communications will serve to enhance transparency on adaptation action at the national level, and global accountability, through mechanisms such as the global stocktake and transparency framework. He highlighted the need to: ensure that domestic policy is not constructed to cater to the different timescales of the international process; and to learn from the most vulnerable countries, which have been developing national adaptation plans for many years, on how to use those plans to promote international cooperation.

During the discussion, participants discussed, *inter alia*, the role of Adaptation Communications in: communicating real needs to facilitate collaboration and support; serving as an educational tool for international institutions to understand adaptation; strengthening links with insurance mechanisms; estimating adaptation costs; and communicating capacity needs.

## **Transparency**

This session was initiated with a presentation by Achala Abeysinghe, followed by brief inputs from Outi Honkatukia and Werksman.

Abeysinghe said the transparency system of the Paris Agreement is an important element that should, for instance, inform the global stocktake, and be an important consideration for developing the guidelines for NDCs, accounting of finance, Article 6 mechanisms, and compliance.

She noted key areas of divergence between countries, including, for instance, on: operationalising flexibility; tracking progress of implementation and achieving NDCs; scope of information on climate change impacts and adaptation; transparency of support provided and needed/ received; and modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for technical expert reviews and the “facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress” (FMCP). She listed key concerns, including: the avoidance of undue burdens on developing countries; the operationalisation of flexibility in a way that still allows the transparency framework to provide an accurate picture of global efforts; the timeline for developing the framework, like what needs to be completed by 2018; and how to address linkages.

Abeysinghe listed mandatory and optional reporting requirements for the framework, and timelines for other reporting requirements. She noted that the transparency arrangements could place an additional reporting burden on developing countries, and the outcomes and usefulness of state-to-state multilateral review processes established under the Cancún Agreements is still questionable. She then presented some options for operationalising flexibility for developing countries in the transparency framework; listed challenges in determining what information will be necessary to track progress on the NDCs; and also listed finance-related issues that are relevant for the transparency discussion.

Honkatukia focused on the transparency of support, saying there are two main workstreams related to this topic – ex ante information under Article 9.7 and accounting modalities – which are being addressed under SBSTA, COP, and the SCF. On the question of matching figures on support received and support provided, she said the figures are unlikely to match for various reasons, including because not all climate finance goes through national focal points. While it would be interesting to see how many agencies climate finance goes through in countries, and how much money trickles down, it would not necessarily be reliable as an accounting exercise to match funds received and provided.

She expressed surprise that the focus was on how information should be provided, saying that instead it should be on what information should be provided, before considering a suitable vehicle. Reiterating the difficulties in providing advance information on climate finance, which relies on annual budget cycles, she said it would be useful to hear how *ex ante* information will be useful for countries in their planning processes; and whether they would rather have uncertain information on possible amounts of climate finance, or want more certain figures. She emphasised that it is important to make sure that flexibility and voluntary reporting doesn't hinder reporting by other Parties. On the accounting modalities, she said it should build on existing arrangements and the technical work that already exists. She noted that further sessions on tracking finance will take place before the COP, which will help the process move forward at COP.

Addressing issues related to compliance in Article 15 of the Paris Agreement, Werksman said the Article complements the *ad hoc* role of expert review teams and peer review by governments as part of the multilateral consideration process under the Article 13 transparency framework. He said agreement has already been reached on several elements, including the composition and size of compliance committee; scope and mandate; and the basic governing principles. Issues that still remains to be resolved include: how issues will be referred to the compliance committee; the tools available to facilitate implementation and promote compliance; and the possibilities of duplication or interference with mandates of other institutions. For instance, he said, the compliance committee cannot instruct the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to provide funding to a Party, or seek to influence the GEF Governing Council, although it can draw attention to the GEF. Nor, he said, can the committee change the underlying content or provisions of the Paris Agreement – for instance, it cannot convert a collective commitment into an individual commitment, or a binding commitment into a non-binding one.

In the discussion that followed, participants discussed, *inter alia*, the need to invest in national institutions responsible for reporting, integrating and implementation; flexibility of formats and improving reporting over time; understanding gaps in figures of support provided and received; prior informed consent for climate finance; and the importance of capacity building.

## **Article 6 mechanisms**

This session started with a presentation by Túlio Andrade, followed by comments from Martin Hession.

Andrade focused on the provisions on the guidance on 6.2 (cooperative approaches) and the modalities, procedures and guidelines of 6.4 (sustainable development mechanism, or SDM).

He said cooperative approaches under Article 6.2 are specifically about the use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) towards NDCs, in a way that promotes sustainable development; ensures environmental integrity and transparency, including in governance; and applies robust accounting, to avoid double counting. Article 6.3 calls for the transfer of ITMOs to be voluntary and authorised by participating countries.

To ensure environmental integrity, Andrade said comparability and prevention of double counting will be necessary for the reputation of the regime. He then described two options for operationalising Article 6.2 being discussed in the negotiations: the imposition of multilaterally agreed rules and governance on existing non-multilateral schemes; and an accounting framework – a more rigid and top-down approach where engagement by Parties would remain voluntary, and those wishing to engage would have to apply an additional layer to what would be mandated to all Parties under Articles 4.13 (accounting for NDCs) and 13 (transparency

framework). He noted that a new infrastructure will be needed to, for instance, prevent double counting and track transfers.

On Article 6.4, he said the language reflects that of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol; allows host Parties to benefit from emission reductions that are used by another Party to fulfil its NDC; and provides a share of proceeds for adaptation like CDM. However, differences from the CDM include the intent of the new mechanism to incentivise and engage public and private non-state actors, and the fact that CERs used towards a host country's NDC cannot be re-used again. Andrade said a high priority for the negotiations is to ensure a smooth transition from the CDM to the SDM, with four dimensions: the conversion of CDM CERs to SDM CERs; continued validity of CDM methodologies; transfer of CDM-registered project activities to the SDM governance structure for ultimate issuance of SDM credits; and transposition of the CDM accreditation system to the SDM.

Andrade then described three technical issues, which he said the negotiators have barely scratched in the negotiations: additionality; the SDM registry; and the lack of “corresponding adjustments” for 6.4 transfers. Finally, he noted that corresponding adjustments are not applicable to 6.4 transfers but only to those under 6.2 according to the Paris Agreement and decision (paragraph 37), and there are technical and environmental considerations that will need to be discussed in this regard, specifically related to the differences between emissions accounting and national inventories.

*“Please know that Australia is very supportive of your efforts to bring together the agriculture negotiators to enhance mutual understanding and progress negotiations in the UNFCCC. The Oxford Seminar was extremely valuable, and assisted us to make progress at the May Bonn meeting, and I was very pleased to be able to participate in that meeting.”*

In his response, Hession said, Article 6 must be placed in the context of the Paris Agreement. He disagreed with Andrade that units generated under the mechanisms should not be accounted for by the host under Article 6.2, as this would mean that some units that are accounted for by hosts and users, and other units are accounted for only by the user, allowing for double counting. He noted challenges in designing an accounting system given the diversity of NDCs that countries have – non-quantified, absolute, business and usual (BAU), etc. – which cannot be translated into absolute equivalent budgets without practical and political difficulties. He said the EU has proposed adding, subtracting or counterbalancing a number that is derived from a country's current level of emissions (or removals) covered by the NDC, which every country has, and which are comparable.

On Article 6.4, he said the SDM cannot be a carbon copy of the CDM because the Paris Agreement now has the objective of promoting mitigation for all Parties (i.e. both user and host). The CDM credits emissions reductions against historic emissions, or projections/BAU, but this is difficult in a world where all NDCs are set at “BAU minus” – i.e. it commits hosts to levels of crediting over and above those that are implied by its NDC. CDM projects that are registered and are credited on the basis of reduction from BAU will have to be re-considered, and in future, baselines will need to be set at a level to allow some credits to be retained by the host towards its NDC, and some by the buyer towards its NDC.

Summing up, he said the minimal requirements for Article 6 will be a common metric for what is transferred and a balance, to add and subtract from. The EU proposes it should be a running total based on emissions – so

if a Party buys a tonne, it can reduce a tonne from its total, but the corresponding seller would add a tonne in all cases to their accounting balance. The SDM, meanwhile, will have to reflect the change from a world where only the buyers had targets, to one where all countries have targets.

In the discussion that followed, participants discussed, *inter alia*, the application of the polluter pays principle in the context of the mechanisms; cases where the market activity does not have anything to do with the NDC; the additionality of technological and other benefits that markets can deliver; the likelihood of enhancing ambition through the market mechanisms; the share of proceeds provision; safeguards to protect host governments; and the potential demand for the markets.

## **Who will fill the gap? California's pledge for being in**

The Seminar ended with a brief presentation updating participants on ecbi's work on promoting sub-national markets to contribute to the LDC Fund. Emilie Parry, Oxford Centre for the Environment, presented on the feasibility of financial contributions from California to make up the international gap in climate finance.

A detailed report of the 2017 Oxford Fellowship and Seminar is available [here](#).

## **Ad hoc and other Seminars**

### **Oxford Climate & Agriculture Seminar**

On 1-2 May 2017, a number of climate negotiators and resource persons from technical organisations came together at Wolfson College, Oxford, for an informal exchange of views around the consideration of issues relating to agriculture by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the UNFCCC. The informal arrangement of the meeting provided a space allowing to enhance the understanding of each other's views through open discussions of issues of interest to the participants.

The exchange of views was facilitated by means of guiding questions including: what could be major concerns affecting the progress in the SBSTA consideration of issues relating to agriculture? In view of moderate progress achieved during the five-year consideration of issues relating to agriculture as a sectoral approach under the SBSTA, should SBSTA continue its consideration of this matter? What are advantages and disadvantages of the continuation of consideration of issues relating to agriculture as sectoral approach under the SBSTA? What would be specific features of agriculture that make it different from other sectors identified in climate negotiations? What do we mean when we talk about mitigation in agriculture? What is the difference (if any) between mitigation in agriculture and mitigation in other sectors? What are the potential areas for synergies among various processes under the Convention that might facilitate the consideration of issues relating to agriculture as sectoral approach under the SBSTA?

All participants engaged in an open dialogue, touching on the broad range of issues related to the questions, resulting in an enhanced understanding of participants' respective viewpoints.

On Saturday 13 May, the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* (ENB), Volume 12 Number 696, reported from the 46 session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on the negotiations related to issues on agriculture: "All parties welcomed the positive progress made in informal informals on agriculture, indicating their optimism about reaching agreement on substantive conclusions at this session and on a COP 23 decision. Informal informals will continue. ... Happy delegates were seen coming out of the negotiations on



*agriculture ..., commenting on the positive spirit and constructive discussions.”*

SBSTA Chair Mr Carlos Fuller, after the Session, wrote: “Dear Benito, as you may be aware, SBSTA finally delivered a Conclusion on Agriculture at its 46th Session. While it was generally factual and procedural, the Informal Note appended to it contained very useful information that will inform the next sessions. We had never been able to achieve that before. This issue requires a lot of time and space and different formats to enable the Parties to explore the various aspects of agriculture. In this regard I believe that the Seminar on Agriculture and Climate Change that you organized and facilitated in Oxford earlier in the month brought the Parties closer together and contributed to the results. I am convinced that more of these types of events will further a common understanding that will generate tangible results in the near future. Keep up the good work. Sincerely yours, Carlos”

### **Promoting Enhanced Direct Access in India**

As part of the activities to encourage transformational proposals to the Green Climate Fund’s Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) modality, Anju Sharma held a series of meeting with staff the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, GCF National Implementing Entity for India, on 7 August 2017. NABARD Deputy Managing Director HR Dave supported the development of an ambitious proposal for EDA in India, aimed at building systems to deliver climate finance to local governments, or Panchayat Raj Institutions as they are called in India. An initial planning then followed with NABARD staff, followed by a video conference with NABARD Regional Offices in some states of India.

On the following day, a state-level consultation was held in Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh, where the proposal is expected to be piloted. It was chaired by the Principal Secretary to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in charge of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, and Vijay Kumar, Advisor to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Participants included representatives of the state departments for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development; Heads (Sarpanches) of PRIs in Andhra Pradesh; civil society representatives; and representatives from the NABARD Regional Office in Andhra Pradesh.

Kuldeep Singh, Deputy General Manager, NABARD, introduced the GCF and the EDA modality, and described NABARD’s existing proposals that have been submitted to the Fund. Anju Sharma then presented a proposal for an EDA project that focuses on systems to deliver funds to PRIs, and to leverage development finance. The proposal was well received, and considered integral to the needs of the state. A small group was formed to develop the proposal further.

### **“We Meet Again!” A special event at the 2017 ecbi Oxford Seminar**

On Thursday 31 August 2017, Oxford Climate Policy, on behalf of the European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi) and the Oxford University Natural History Museum, hosted a special event for the participants of the ecbi Oxford Seminar.

The Natural History Museum was the venue of a historic evolution debate on 30 June 1860, seven months after the publication of Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*, involving Samuel Wilberforce, then Bishop of Oxford, and Thomas Henry Huxley, a biologist who defended Darwin’s theory of evolution and had earned the epithet of “Darwin’s bulldog”.

The event, named *We Meet Again!* in reference to the historic debate, brought together the current Bishop of Oxford, the Rt. Revd. Dr. Steven Croft, and Professor Sir Brian Hoskins, Director of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change at Imperial College, London, and Professor of Meteorology at Reading University, to discuss the question: “What can we do to support the fight against global warming in the current climate?”

Professor Paul Smith, director of the Museum of Natural History, welcomed participants and described the ‘Oxford evolution debate’, best remembered today for a heated exchange in which Bishop Wilberforce supposedly asked Huxley whether he claimed his descent from a monkey through his grandfather or his grandmother. Huxley allegedly retorted that he would rather have descended from a monkey than be connected with a man who used his great gifts to obscure the truth. Professor Smith, who has recently been awarded the prestigious Polar Medal by Her Majesty the Queen in recognition of his outstanding achievement in the field of Arctic research, also shared his first-hand experiences with climate change from his research in Greenland.

The Rt. Revd. Dr. Steven Croft took the floor to discuss how faith-based communities can support the fight against climate change. Describing ongoing efforts by the Church, he said it is vital that all involved in climate change negotiations understand and take seriously the different faith communities in the world which have significant influence, a care for the Earth, a sense of being a global community, and are natural allies in working together to reduce carbon emissions and for a more sustainable future.

Professor Sir Brian Hoskins turned to the issue of how scientists can join faith-based communities in this fight. He called on fellow scientists to perform their science well; take it to a wide audience, including politicians and ordinary people, without exaggeration or understatement; and recognise that how their message is received is influenced by the values and beliefs of their audiences. He noted that climate deniers, who must be confronted, tend to start from a vested interest or political creed and work backwards to try to muddy the scientific waters. In view of the background and context of the dinner event, he reflected that evolution does not necessarily lead us to have the altruism and sense of equity required to deal with a global issue like climate change.

Professor Benito Müller, member of Oxford University’s Philosophy Faculty, Director of the ecbi, and organiser of the event, reflected on the role of philosophers in the fight against global climate change in the current political climate. He said John Alexander Smith, Oxford University Waynflete Professor of Moral and Metaphysical Philosophy, opened his lecture course in 1914 by telling the students that apart from the few who would become teachers or dons, “[n]othing that you will learn in the course of your studies will be of the slightest possible use to you in after life, save only this, that if you work hard and intelligently you should be able to detect when a man is talking rot...”. Philosophers, Müller concluded, have the duty to stand up for critical thought and the truth, to counter the current tide of “alternative facts” and “post-truth” politics.

*“Oxford and Bonn were key to improve the level of discussion and build trust among us. The result talks by itself.”*

### ***The emerging role of sub-national contributions to multilateral climate finance***

On behalf of ecbi, Oxford Climate Policy, ecbi organised a seminar on the emerging role of sub-national contributions to multilateral climate finance at the Climate Chance Summit that took place in Agadir, Morocco, from 11-13 September 2017. The Seminar, which took place on 11 September, aimed to further promote sub-national contributions to multilateral climate funds, in particular the UN Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and Adaptation Fund, among sub-national actors (governments, corporations, individuals). It was addressed by Ambassador Aziz Mekouar, Chief Negotiator for the Moroccan Presidency to the UN climate negotiations and Massachusetts State Senator Mike Barrett, among others. For further details, read [\*A Day in Agadir – Sub-National Contributions to Multilateral Climate Finance\*](#).

The workshop was opened by H.E. Ambassador Aziz Mekouar, Chief Negotiator for the COP22/CMP12/CMA1 Presidency, and facilitated by Mr Ayman Cherkaoui, Special Advisor for Climate Change and Negotiations to the COP22/CMP12/CMA1 Presidency.

The following presentations were made:

- “CSR Crowdfunding for the Adaptation Fund”, presented by Professor Benito Müller, Oxford Climate Policy and University of Oxford.
- “Canadian sub-national contributions to multilateral finance”, presented by Mr Philip Gass, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).
- “Legislation enabling donations from U.S. taxpayers in the state of Massachusetts to the LDCF,” presented by State Senator Mike Barrett, Co-Chair, Committee on Utilities & Energy, Massachusetts Legislature.
- “The potential of sub-national contributions to multilateral finance from California”, presented by Ms Emilie Parry, Oxford Climate Policy (OCP) and University of Oxford.

## ***Second OCP/ecbi Climate and Agriculture Seminar***

On 21 and 22 September 2017, 27 climate negotiators from across the globe (14 from developing countries and the rest from the developed world) met at La Redoute in Bonn Bad Godesberg to discuss the negotiations on ‘matters relating to agriculture’ under the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA).

Following the model of the ecbi Oxford Fellowships, the Seminar was preceded by a couple of preparatory sessions for developing country participants, essentially focusing on advantages and disadvantages of continuing the consideration of issues relating to agriculture under the SBSTA.

These deliberations suggested that what might be useful is a mapping of UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement bodies with respect to their functions and remits, the information flows and governance relationships between them, and the activities related to architecture undertaken by and under them, and to publish the outcome by 31 March 2018, for discussion at SBSTA 48 (May 2018), in order to provide input for further work on issues related to agriculture under SBSTA.

This institutional mapping idea was received warmly in the Seminar itself, where another idea also came to fruition, namely to hold in-depth technical expert meetings on topics identified at its 40th session in June 2014 (see [SBSTA40 Report](#), §§ 83-9), namely:

- a) developing early warning systems in relation to extreme weather events;
- b) assessing risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change scenarios;
- c) identifying agriculture adaptation measures; and
- d) identifying and assessing agricultural practices and technologies to enhance productivity sustainably.

The aim of these technical expert meetings is to finalise the SBSTA deliberations of these topics in accordance with the SBSTA mandate as laid down in Article 9.2 of the UNFCCC.

## ***Sub-national action on adaptation in and for LDCs: The role of the LDCF***

On 11 November 2017, a special event on the role of the UN [Least Developed Countries Fund](#) (LDCF) in promoting sub-national action on adaptation in and for LDCs was convened in Bonn, during COP23, by Oxford Climate Policy/ecbi and the Environmental Change Institute, with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The event focused on action on the ground and financial support for adaptation, and the role of sub-national actors in providing both.

Following a welcome by Professor Benito Müller on behalf of the conveners, Emani Kumar, Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI, shared some keynote reflections on how ICLEI helps 1500 member cities to understand climate change and plan responses, through tools, awareness programmes and general capacity building. He also highlighted the gap between available finance and the financial needs of sub-national entities, saying they lack capacity to access climate finance, and to generate fundable project proposals

In the following opening panel on perspectives on catalysing adaptation action in LDCs, Lamin Dibba, Minister of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources of The Gambia, outlined how adaptation is dealt with in his country. He referred to a decentralisation strategy for dealing with The Gambia's top priority of building resilience to adverse impacts of climate change; and the lack of capacity at all levels of decision making. He also described the establishment of a Ministerial Council on Climate Change and the Gambian Climate Change Fund (recommended in an Independent Institutional Assessment with contributions Anju Sharma, Head of the ecbi Publications and Policy Analysis Unit, that fed into the [National Climate Change Policy](#) of The Gambia).

Jozef Buys, LDCF Council Member and EU lead climate finance negotiator from Belgium, reminded the audience that the LDCF was actually established in Bonn 16 years ago ([COP6 bis](#)) together with the Special Climate Change Fund. Belgium, Buys admitted, was initially reluctant to contribute to the new funds. This has changed, said Buys, and now, it is not only the Federal government, but also the Belgian region of Wallonia which in 2017 made its first contribution of €3.25 million to the LDCF. He then read out a letter by Jean-Luc Crucke, Walloon Minister of the Budget, Finance, Energy, and Climate addressed to the meeting, indicating that the region will also contribute in 2018. A [formal announcement](#) will be made in the second week of the COP, he said, highlighting that the government of the Walloon region considers the role of the LDCF to be essential in the Paris Agreement architecture, and in increasing support to both LDCs and adaptation.

Gustavo Fonseca, Director of Programs, GEF rounded off the opening panel with a brief account of what the LDCF has achieved since its inception in 2001, including US\$ 1.2 billion that have been awarded through the LDCF. He said the livelihoods of over 20 million people have been positively influenced by the funded projects, by reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience.

This was followed by a first thematic panel discussion, facilitated by Müller, on the provision of sub-national support for the LDCF. Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu, former LDC Group Chair and Co-Chair of the ecbi Advisory Committee, focussed on the importance of the Financial Mechanism in general, and of the LDCF in particular. He said one of the reasons multilateral funds such as the LDCF are important is that they can provide positive discrimination of funding areas such as adaptation, which are otherwise left behind in bilateral flows. As a long-time supporter of sub-national contributions to the LDCF from the beginning, he made an appeal to sub-nationals to follow the examples set by the Wallonia, Quebec, and Massachusetts.

Jean Lemire, Envoy for Climate Change and Arctic Affairs, Quebec then talked about the [contribution to the LDCF from his government at COP 21 in Paris](#). Asked what the reason was for this contribution, Lemire answered that Quebec wanted to send a strong signal that sub-nationals can be part of the solution, and can play a key role in the global efforts to combat climate change. He said it is important for sub-nationals to show leadership, in the way in which Quebec and California did when they created the first carbon market between sub-nationals across national borders – a carbon market which incidentally provided the funds for the Quebec LDCF contribution. He concluded by expressing the hope that more and more sub-nationals would follow Quebec's signal and contribute to the LDCF.

*“I fully agree that the initiative of Prof. Benito Muller had given us a platform where the key negotiators agreed to have progress in agriculture. This contributed to flexibility with major Parties especially the developed countries that resulted to the COP decision on agriculture. I hope Oxford Climate Policy will continue supporting this initiative ....”*

Jim Cantwell, State Representative, Massachusetts, concluded the panel by explaining a recent piece of [legislation in the Massachusetts State Senate](#) that would enable individual donations to the LDCF. The Bill makes use of the fact that the majority of states (41), including Massachusetts, allow tax payers to earmark ('check-off') a share of any tax refunds on their personal income tax form as contribution to certain state programmes. These funds would be used to create a Massachusetts UN Least Developed Countries Fund (MLDCF) to be replenished through such tax refund 'check-offs', and any other public and private sector contributions for the benefit of the LDCF. Senator Barrett highlighted the ground-breaking aspect of the check-off programme proposed in his bill, namely that it would be the first time that American tax payers would be given the option to express solidarity with a global concern through such a scheme. In essence, the MLDCF is a government-led crowdfunding instrument with a very special type of marketing tool: income tax forms. When asked how this idea could be promoted across the US, he said that the best way is to lead by example and to show that it can be done for other states to replicate the success.

The second thematic panel discussion, facilitated by Achala C. Abeysinghe, Legal & Strategy Advisor to the Chair of the LDC Group and Head of the ecbi Training and Support Programme, showcased sub-national adaptation action in LDCs, particularly through LDCF funded activities and focused on three questions:

- What are the concrete resilience challenges you are facing at the city or district level in your country?
- What can cities take leadership in adaptation?
- What are the sub-national adaptation priorities that can be best addressed through multilateral funds such as the LDCF?

Gebru Jember Endalew, Chair of the LDC Group, provided a broader overview on building resilience in LDCs, focussing on three challenges: planning, implementation, and reporting. He stressed the need for an integrated and coordinated approach, moving away from project-based to programmatic approaches.

The Chair's overview was followed by a presentation of two LDCF funded projects. Clara Mvogo, Mayor of Monrovia, Liberia and Owen Moses Chimphepo, District Commissioner of Mangochi, Malawi, described LDCF-funded projects in their regions. Finally, Hastings Chikoko, Regional Director for Africa, C40, shared a number of experiences from the over 90 member cities of the C40 network, focussing on Africa.

The event closed with a keynote address by Deo Saran, Climate Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the European Union, Fiji (COP23 Presidency). He noted that the need for funding considerably exceeds



available resources, while commending the increasing interest of sub-national governments to contribute to the LDCE. He said this is an important signal that the poorest and most vulnerable communities of the planet are not to be left behind.

He also expressed the COP Presidency's support and encouragement for other national and sub-national governments to make further contributions to the fund, because of its important role in the financial architecture, which is to focus on innovative adaptation projects, piloting and demonstrating adaptation technologies, techniques and practices and to lay the foundation for upscaling proven approaches by larger financial entities such as the GCF.

### **Koronivia Joint Work Negotiator Seminar**

On March 8 and 9 2018, Oxford Climate Policy facilitated a Seminar for agriculture negotiators as part of the Koronivia Dialogue hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN in Rome, Italy. The Seminar built on seminars for agriculture negotiators hosted by OCP/ecbi in Bad Godesberg, Germany, and Oxford, UK, in September and May 2017.

*“I just wanted to express my thanks and gratitude for the support we have had in the last 12 months on the journey to getting this agriculture outcome... . This is fundamental to helping us really set aside differences and think outside of the box for moving this forward quickly, and in a fair, transparent and robust manner.”*

The aim of the Rome seminar was to take stock and discuss next steps after the adoption of the Koronivia Joint Work (KJW) on matters relating to agriculture under the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). It was attended by 54 negotiators from 43 countries, as well as the SBI and SBSTA Chairs and the Climate Champion of the incoming Polish COP Presidency.

Guided by a set of questions proposed by some of the participants, the Seminar started by inviting participants to share their views on the submissions on the views of Parties on elements to be included in the KJW. This was followed by a substantive discussion on what exactly the KJW could and should do with the six topical areas listed in paragraph 2 of the KJW Decision. It soon became clear that a significant number of participants were keen to proceed to some form of implementation, but it was equally clear that the six items listed in the said paragraph are not really implementable. In particular, apart from one, none of them contain action points – without which there is nothing to be implemented. A number of participants suggested that the Party submissions should focus on suggesting such activities to enable the KJW to identify implementable actions at its inaugural session at SB48 (in May 2018 in Bonn, Germany).

The third and final set of questions related to what should happen at SB48. The first of the KJW work areas listed in paragraph 2, [(a) *modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture*], does contain an action point. The reports of two of the in-session workshops referred to suggest “*developing a web platform for exchanging information on, inter alia, experiences gained guidelines, decision support tools and models, databases and lessons learned*”. This could be a start up activity for the KJW, for which implementation could be launched by adopting an implementation road map at SB48.



## Training and Support Programme

The Training and Support Programme (TSP) conducted one Pre-COP Training Workshop and three regional workshops, in addition to funding bursaries and producing background papers in 2016.

### Training

#### Regional Training Workshop for South and South East Asia

The 2017 Asia Regional Training Workshop took place on 6 & 7 September 2017 in Negombo, Sri Lanka. The workshop, hosted by Janathakshan, was attended by over 30 “new” negotiators and national policymakers from countries in the region, appointed by national focal points to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In addition to training on key thematic areas of the UNFCCC negotiations and on the ongoing negotiations on the ongoing negotiations on the rules to implement the Paris Agreement, participants engaged in mock “negotiations” and formulating of group positions during the two days.

Speaking at the opening of the event, Anju Sharma, head of the ecbi Publications and Policy Analysis Unit, noted that ecbi training workshops not only emphasise knowledge-sharing, but also the importance of social engagement to help negotiators step across defined national boundaries and positions, and work cooperatively to achieve common – and critical – goals.

The workshop report is available [here](#).

*“Thanks for the mail and the info.this is michae samuel baimba from Sierra leone,one of the participant from this just concluded ECBI training in senegal. let me us this opportunity to say thanks to the team for a wonderful work during the training.the materials were excellent, and the training was important for us as the first time attending such training.the material are great and useful.”*

#### Regional Training Workshop for Anglophone Africa

The 2017 ecbi Regional Training Workshop for Anglophone Africa took place on 5 & 6 June 2017 in Dakar, Senegal. The workshop, organised in collaboration with ecbi’s regional partner Energie Environnement Développement (ENDA), was attended by 24 negotiators from the region. The workshop report is available [here](#).

#### Regional Training Workshop for Francophone Africa

The 2017 ecbi Regional Training Workshop for Francophone Africa took place on 8 & 9 June 2017 in Dakar, Senegal. The workshop, organised in collaboration with ecbi’s regional partner Energie Environnement Développement (ENDA), was attended by 27 negotiators from the region. The workshop report is available [here](#).

## Pre-COP Training Workshop

The 2017 ecbi Pre-COP Training Workshop took place on 4 November 2017, in Derag Livinghotel Kanzler, Bonn. It was attended by 39 participants. The Workshop was addressed by Ambassador Luke Daunivalu, Deputy Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations; Gebru Jember Endalew, Chair of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group; Pa Ousman, Director of Country Programming of the Green Climate Fund; Benito Müller, Director of ecbi; and Achala Abeyasinghe, Head of the ecbi Training and Support Programme. Training sessions followed, on: priorities for the Bonn Climate Change Conference; the COP23 agenda; gender ; climate finance; negotiating effectively and mock negotiations; and the transparency framework. The workshop report is available [here](#).

*“Let me us this opportunity to say thanks to the team for a wonderful work during the training. The materials were excellent, and the training was important for us as the first time attending such training. The material are great and useful.”*

## Support

The ecbi team continued its support for developing country negotiators to enable them to fully access and participate in the UNFCCC negotiations. The ecbi has supported four bursary holders to attend UNFCCC negotiating sessions during the reporting period. Logistical support, as well as technical advice and capacity building were provided to each. In addition, they provided research support and advice to the LDC Technology Co-ordinator, and supported the LDC group generally on technology items.

The ecbi organised an informal networking event at the May 2016 Bonn Climate Change Conference for past workshop participants and partners who were attending the negotiations. Similarly, a reception was held following the ecbi pre-COP training workshop in Marrakech before COP22. These events allowed the alumni present to meet and exchange ideas.

## Publications and Policy Analysis Unit

This year PPAU produced three thematic Pocket Guides in English and in French; eight policy briefs and notes (including a two-page version of a policy brief for COP); and six meetings reports, in addition to the ecbi Annual Report for 2016-2017. In addition, work on improving the new OCP and ecbi websites continued throughout the year.

### Pocket Guides

PPAU launched a thematic Pocket Guide series this year. Four thematic guides were produced: [Pocket Guide to Transparency Under the UNFCCC](#); [Pocket Guide to Capacity Building for Climate Change under the UNFCCC](#); [Pocket Guide to Gender Equality under the UNFCCC](#); and [Pocket Guide to Loss and Damage under the UNFCCC](#). While the main target audience for these online Pocket Guides were the aspiring negotiators that ecbi trains through regional workshops, the three Guides were equally aimed at senior negotiators who were unfamiliar with these specific themes.

The Pocket Guides have proven to be popular – in addition to many positive comments received vocally from negotiators, the Prime Minister of Fiji, Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama, who also presided over UNFCCC COP23, wrote to ecbi for the “excellent” [Pocket Guide to the Paris Agreement](#), which he found very handy for leaders, politicians and experts alike (see letter).

Responding to demand, ecbi also translated three Guides into French: [Guide De Poche Sur La Transparence Sous La CCNUCC](#), [Guide De Poche Renforcement Des Capacités et Changement Climatique](#), and [Edition 2018 du Guide de Poche sur l'Egalité de Genre sous la CCNUCC](#).

The Guides are now used as training material in the three Regional Training Workshops for junior negotiators organised by ecbi in Anglophone and Francophone Africa, and in Asia. A few hard copies were printed for distribution to areas with limited internet access.

### Policy Briefs and Notes

This year, the policy briefs and notes focused on the negotiations for a Paris Agreement “rulebook” – two briefs were produced related to the negotiations, on [Adaptation Communications: Balancing utility and flexibility](#) and [Article 6: Market Approaches Under the Paris Agreement](#). A discussion note was also produced on [Common Time Frames: What & Why?](#). To make the policy briefs truly responsive to immediate needs in the negotiations, negotiators were involved in writing and reviewing them. So, for instance, the two key regional groups/ parties that take the lead in the Article 6 negotiations (the EU and Brazil) were asked to write their versions of what they expect the operationalisation of the Article 6 approaches to look like. An attempt was then made to bridge gaps between the differences in the two positions. Whether this approach was successful will be clear only as the negotiations progress.

For the policy brief on adaptation communications, a draft was prepared, and first presented to the negotiators who attended the 2017 Oxford Fellowship and Seminar. Their comments were taken on board. Then, a brief version of the paper, [Adaptation Communications: Balancing Utility and Flexibility](#), was circulated at COP23. As two of the authors were closely involved in the negotiations on adaptation communications, they were able to use the brief in the negotiations. The brief was finalised following the COP, taking the COP outcomes into account, to ensure that the brief will continue to be useful as negotiations progress during 2018.



PRIME MINISTER  
SUVA, FIJI

18 December, 2017

Professor Benito Müller  
Managing Director, Oxford Climate Policy  
Convener, International Climate Policy Research  
University of Oxford  
Oxford  
**UNITED KINGDOM**

Dear Professor Müller

**Letter of Appreciation**

I wish to thank you for sharing the *Pocket Guide to the Paris Agreement*, which offers a very practical means to appreciate the key provisions and objectives of the Paris Agreement. It is certainly an excellent guide which was very handy for Leaders, politicians and experts alike.

As you are aware, COP23 has been a success and we left Bonn having notched up several notable achievements, including among others, our Ocean Pathway, the historic agreement on Agriculture, an action plan on Gender and a decision that benefits Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples and of course the first ever Open Dialogue which was a resounding success and which you had facilitated in your very attractive Bula shirt. I highly recommend your Guide to stakeholders at all levels of government, private sector, as well as civil society.

Once again, thank you for your support to the Fijian COP23 Presidency. I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama  
**Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji and President of COP23**

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The topics for publications are decided by the ecbi Advisory Committee, which includes negotiators from both developed and developing countries. Some of the advisory committee members proposed a policy brief on the Talanoa Dialogue, which was in the design stages through 2017. The resulting policy brief, once again with negotiators as co-authors, on [Kick-starting ambition under the Paris Agreement: The 2018 “Talanoa” Dialogue](#), proved helpful to the Fijian Presidency in negotiating the final design of the Dialogue.

To support ecbi’s efforts to draw attention to ways of addressing the climate finance gap, two further notes were published: [The Time is Ripe! Support from US sub-nationals for the Least Developed Countries Fund of the Paris Agreement](#); and [The Jerry Brown International Climate Solidarity Fund: Taking Sub-National Climate Finance Leadership to the Next Level](#).

Finally, based on work carried out in Nepal on national-level challenges for the devolution of climate finance, a policy brief was published on [Devolving Adaptation Finance and Action: Lessons from Nepal’s Local Adaptation Plans for Action](#).

## Meeting Reports

PPAU produced the following six meeting reports in addition the ecbi Annual Report:

- [Bonn Seminar 2017 Report](#)
- [2017 Regional Training Workshop for Anglophone Africa](#)
- [2017 Regional Training Workshop for South and Southeast Asia](#)
- [Oxford Seminar Report 2017](#)
- [2017 Pre-COP Training Workshop](#)
- [2017 Regional Training Workshop for Francophone Africa](#)

## Website and outreach

Throughout this the year, PPAU worked on finalising and improving the new ecbi and OCP websites, and streamlining the process of communicating regularly with the ecbi community of negotiators through newsletters and publication updates. In addition to directly mailing publications to the negotiators, they were shared with the broader climate community through the CAN-Talk and Climate-L lists. The Pocket Books were distributed at our regional workshops, as noted earlier, and integrated into the programme during the mock negotiating session, where participants were expected to read them and use them during the negotiations. The gender guide was also disseminated by the Women’s Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO) on their [website](#). It is now one of the top gender resources [promoted](#) on the gender section of the UNFCCC website. The Pocket Guide on Transparency is also promoted on the websites of the [Partnership on Transparency](#) and [ResearchGate](#). The Capacity Building Guide is also being promoted by other sites, such as [UNCCD](#). This year, we also formalised the Newsletters sent to the ecbi community of negotiators to announce publications and events using Mail Chimp and an online database.