

Proposal for ecbi Phase IV

(2015 – 2020)

May 2014

ecbi

European Capacity Building Initiative
www.eurocapacity.org

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May 2014

1. Goal of the European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi)

The overall goal of the ecbi is for climate change negotiators to work together more effectively in shaping an inclusive – and hence more effective and sustainable – global solution to climate change. It seeks to achieve this with the following outcomes:

- [a] Increased understanding among targeted¹ negotiators of each other's positions
- [b] Targeted negotiators have increased negotiation skills
- [c] Targeted negotiators have better information and can use it more effectively
- [d] Targeted negotiators develop positions with the support of ecbi activities
- [e] Targeted woman negotiators are more active in the UNFCCC process
- [f] Targeted national policy makers are better informed about the UNFCCC process

ecbi is an initiative for sustained capacity building in support of international climate change negotiations. The ecbi aims to promote a more level playing field between government delegations to the international climate change negotiations, and to facilitate mutual understanding and trust – both between European and developing countries and among the developing countries.

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The ecbi is committed to the overall goal of the global climate change negotiations, articulated in Article 2 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: to prevent dangerous climate change, without compromising economic development in a sustainable manner.² It also subscribes to the Principles laid out in Article 3 of the Convention, in particular those calling for equity; and full consideration for the specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties, above all those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

The ecbi believes that a workable solution to climate change is only achievable if the interests and concerns of all countries are taken into account while designing a fair and equitable solution. It is therefore essential that all countries have the capacity and opportunity to participate fully in the formulation of global solutions. Only then will they have the necessary ownership and incentive to implement solutions at the national and local level.

In supporting the goals of the UNFCCC, ecbi also contributes to the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which rely on a successful response to climate change – particularly in the regions of sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia, which are considered the most vulnerable to climate change, but which are lagging behind in the achievement of the MDGs.

The need for capacity building in developing countries is a crosscutting issue in many Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the UNFCCC. The different elements of capacity building are articulated in the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building (BSP), adopted by

¹ 'Targeted' here refers to being targeted by the outputs associated with the outcome in question (See Section 7).

² Article 2, setting out the Objectives of the UNFCCC, states that *the ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.*

the Global Ministerial Environment Forum as part of their attempts to improve arrangements for International Environmental Governance.³

The need for capacity building to ensure effective participation of developing countries is echoed in the UNFCCC negotiations, particularly Decision 2/CP.7 of the Marrakech Accords, which adopted a Framework for Capacity Building. The Framework recognizes that capacity building for developing countries is essential to enable them to participate fully in, and to implement effectively, their commitments under the Convention. The framework calls for capacity building for improved decision-making, including assistance for participation in international negotiations; and for the promotion of participation by a wide range of stakeholders, including governments at all levels, national and international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, as appropriate.

The Marrakesh Accords include a specific decision on the capacity building needs of LDCs. Decision 5/CP.7 establishes the LDC Work Programme which includes, inter alia, training on an ongoing basis in negotiating skills and language, where needed, to develop the capacity of negotiators from the least developed countries to participate effectively in the climate change process. In 2003, the LDC Expert Group (LEG) noted that, according to the mandate outlined in Decision 5/CP.7, paragraph 11 (b), and based on feedback from LDC Parties to members of the group, the immediate priority was to enable LDC Parties to participate effectively in the climate change process.

2. Problem Statement

The international negotiations under the UNFCCC are a key component in humanity's quest to protect itself from the adverse impacts of anthropogenic climate change. They are also among the most complex multilateral processes ever seen. Involving over 190 countries, they have to deal with an ever increasing number of country coalitions, more often than not pursuing mutually exclusive objectives on an ever increasing number of issues.

The task of arriving at mutually agreed negotiation outcomes is made even more difficult by the fact that there is not only a significant imbalance in resources and capabilities between the delegations of developed and developing countries, but also mutual distrust.

2.1. Levelling the playing field through support and training

Delegations from developed countries generally include specialized experts, lawyers, and other support staff. Most developing country negotiators do not have the means to obtain similar backing. Delegations from poor climate-vulnerable countries more often than not lack the resources, personnel, skills, and expertise to put forward their positions effectively, to challenge opposing views and to shape the negotiation outcomes. This is regarded as unfair and unjust, particularly as

³ UNEP (2005). International environmental governance: implementation of decisions of the seventh special session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and the World Summit on Sustainable Development on the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance. UNEP/GC.23/6/Add.1. www.unep.org/GC/GC23/documents/GC23-6-add-1.pdf. The Objectives of the BSP include, inter alia, the need to: strengthen the capacity of Governments of developing countries as well as of countries with economies in transition, at all levels; participate fully in the development of coherent international environmental policy; comply with international agreements and implement their obligations at the national level; and provide a framework for capacity-building to ensure the effective participation of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition in negotiations concerning multilateral environmental agreements.

these delegations represent countries that have hardly contributed to the problem at issue and are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

In Durban 2011, governments agreed to work towards a new international agreement to be completed by 2015 and to enter into force from 2020. This provides a clear timeline for the negotiations and a variety of entry points for developing countries to voice their primary concerns. But in order to identify and successfully utilize emerging opportunities in the negotiations with coherent and compelling arguments, a good understanding not only of the substantive and legal issues, but also of the UNFCCC processes and negotiation techniques are essential.

Significant capabilities in the fields of diplomacy, international law, and policy-making are required, in order to assess the implications of new ideas, develop practical and meaningful approaches for their implementation, and draft the necessary submissions and text. There is a critical need for developing country delegations to be better prepared and equipped, so that they can negotiate on a level playing field with their counterparts from the developed country Parties. At present, the inequality of access to resources and technical expertise still undermines their participation in the process, the principles of equity and justice, and ultimately the development of a fair deal on climate.

This is why 'the ecbi aims to promote a more level playing field between government delegations to the international climate change negotiations'.⁴

2.2. Rebuilding and avoiding further erosion of trust

The second aim of the ecbi is 'to facilitate mutual understanding and trust – both between European and developing countries and among the developing countries'.

The UNFCCC negotiations are notoriously afflicted with a crippling lack of trust, not only across the developed/developing country divide, but also (albeit possibly to a lesser degree) within the groupings both in the North and in the South. It is difficult to say why this is more of an issue here than in other multilateral frameworks – possibly because anthropogenic climate change imposes disproportionate harm on some countries. The process is still recovering from what, trust-wise, can only be described as the unmitigated disaster of the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Change Conference.

In a consensus-based process, such as the UNFCCC negotiations, no constructive outcome is possible without a minimum level of trust. Rebuilding this trust, and avoiding further erosion, is not (primarily) a matter of training or of providing technical support. It is a matter of getting the key people in the process to engage with one another in a manner and context that facilitates mutual trust.

The ecbi focus on Europe in its trust-building efforts is part historic legacy, part strategic choice, and reflects the potential leadership role of these countries (see Section 3.1).

⁴ See www.eurocapacity.org/homepage.shtml.

3. Background

3.1. Historical background

The ecbi was officially launched on 23 May 2005 in Bonn at a side event during the Twenty-second Session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies.⁵ However, the concept dates back to the failed Sixth Conference of Parties (COP6) meeting in The Hague in November 2000, and to its continuation (COP6bis) in Bonn in July 2001, following the repudiation of the Kyoto Protocol by President Bush four months earlier. At COP6bis Europe, together with the developing world, saved the Kyoto Protocol, and it became clear that these two groupings could play a very constructive role in the process, provided they could be made to engage on a more level playing field, and to understand each other better. This was the reason why the ecbi was strategically conceived as a capacity building initiative not only by, but also for Europeans.

3.2. Institutional set-up

The ecbi is a network of institutional members led by Oxford Climate Policy (OCP), the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED), and the Legal Response Initiative (LRI), along with a number of regional partners.

OCP was registered in April 2005 for the general purpose of capacity building, in the context of the UN climate change negotiations, and is charged in particular with managing the Oxford Fellowship Programme of the ecbi. Dr Benito Müller (Managing Director, OCP) heads the Fellowship Programme and is, as such, responsible for the ecbi trust-building activities: www.oxfordclimatepolicy.org.

The IIED, founded in 1971, is a development and environment policy research organization. It works through a wide network of partner organizations in developing countries. Dr. Achala C. Abeysinghe is IIED's Team Leader for Global Climate Change Governance and is responsible for the overall management and implementation of the ecbi Training and Support Programme: www.iied.org.

The LRI was set up in 2009 to facilitate the provision of pro bono legal advice to developing countries and non-governmental organizations in connection with international climate change negotiations. LRI works through a network of advisers from law firms, barrister chambers, and universities in different jurisdictions and is headed by Mr Christoph Schwarte: www.legalresponseinitiative.org.

The ecbi management and governance structure (see Annex I) aims to ensure overall quality control and integration, while ensuring that ecbi activities are driven by its stakeholder community.

In order to capacitate the participating climate change negotiators, particularly with respect to the 2015 agreement and its subsequent implementation, the ecbi uses two programmes and a cross cutting analytic unit:

- **The Fellowship Programme** (managed by OCP): activities include the Fellowships and Oxford Seminar; the Bonn Seminar; the Finance Circle; and Ad Hoc Seminars.
- **The Training and Support Programme** (managed by IIED): was previously known as the Workshop Programme. Its activities include Regional Workshops; Pre-COP Workshops;

⁵ See International Institute for Sustainable Development: www.iisd.ca/climate/sb22/enbots/23may.html

Bursaries, background papers, pro bono advice on a rapid response basis, legal briefing papers, and capacity building.

- **Publications and Policy Analysis Unit** (managed by the ecbi Executive Committee): Activities include the publication of Policy Briefs, Background Papers, the LDC Paper Series, ecbi meeting reports, and the ecbi Annual Report.

These three pillars work together to enable the ecbi to meet its stated aims following the Logic Model given in Section 4.

3.3. Fellowship Programme (FSP)

Fellowships and Seminars

The mission of the Oxford-based Fellowship Programme is to build trust and exchange procedural and institutional knowledge both between the Fellows (senior developing country negotiators) and their European colleagues ('North-South trust-building'), and among the Fellows ('South-South trust-building'). Its aim is to help participating negotiators to understand each other's positions, to develop their own positions, to ensure they have better information and can use it more effectively, as well as to support participating woman negotiators to enable them to be more active in the UNFCCC process.

The activities of the Fellowship Programme include the **Oxford Fellowships and Seminar**, which take place annually, over a week, and are organized by OCP. During the first three days, in the Fellowship Colloquium, closed-door discussions take place among the participating Fellows. This is followed by the Oxford Seminar, which is convened by the Fellows to discuss topics of their choice with European colleagues. ecbi meets the accommodation and travel expenses of the Fellows, while European attendees cover their own costs.

Open, informal discussions under the Chatham House rule are encouraged among the negotiators, beyond the boundaries of Group and national positions, to foster compromises that aid progress in the multilateral negotiations. The Programme also aids ecbi Fellows and other senior developing country negotiators in developing workable proposals to the international negotiations, which address their own concerns while proposing a way forward.

The negotiating process itself does not provide many opportunities for negotiators to build a collegiate relationship with each other, although many of them have been part of the negotiations for many years. Negotiators are not often able to step away from entrenched national positions, and hold informal discussions in the hope of coming up with compromises.

The Fellowships aim to encourage personal engagement and familiarity among negotiators from developing countries and their European colleagues, and to provide opportunities for informal discussions and exploration beyond the boundaries of nationally held positions, without the fear that national positions may be compromised.

In addition to building personal relationships and trust between the Fellows and European negotiators, the Oxford Seminars also serve as a capacity building exercise for European negotiators by providing them with an opportunity to understand the basis of G77 positions. This arrangement has worked very well, as it gives an opportunity for the negotiators from developing countries to

identify key areas of common concerns, and to better understand and bridge differences among themselves.

The **Bonn Seminars** are organized annually during the summer sessions of the UNFCCC's Subsidiary Bodies. These Seminars, attended by developing country and European negotiators, help maintain both the momentum created by the Oxford Fellowships, and the continuous contact among the 'ecbi community' of negotiators.

Other Trust-building Activities

The ecbi also holds **ad hoc seminars** when and where a need and opportunity is identified. These provide an opportunity for the ecbi community present at the negotiation session to catch up on the most recent developments, and to discuss issues currently under negotiation.

The **ecbi Finance Circle** was created at the end of ecbi Phase II and has been continued and developed during Phase III, following its success in proposing compromises in the climate finance discussions in Cancun. This is a discussion group which was set up to provide a platform for informal in-depth discussions on the technical aspects of the issues discussed in the international negotiations on financial architecture and governance. It currently has more than 80 members, and includes negotiators on financial issues from key developing and developed countries ranging from Australia, Barbados, and Brazil, to the US, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

A dedicated web portal has been set up (www.eurocapacity.org/finance), and the members of the Finance Circle also meet during sessions of the UNFCCC. Their discussions have yielded several ecbi Policy Briefs, which particularly highlight areas where better mutual understanding or compromise is in sight.

3.4. Training and Support Programme (TSP)

The mission of the TSP is to help negotiators from vulnerable developing countries in the UNFCCC negotiations to:

- (i) increase their negotiating skills,
- (ii) increase their capacity with better information and
- (iii) help them in using that information more effectively,
- (iv) aid them in developing positions, with the support of the ecbi.

The TSP also aims

- (v) to support women delegates from those countries and enabling them to become more active in the negotiations, and
- (vi) help national level policy makers to be better informed about the UNFCCC process.

The ecbi Training and Support Programme is managed by IIED; it focuses primarily on training negotiators from the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and from other developing countries particularly vulnerable to climate change. It includes regional workshops, pre-COP workshops, bursaries, background papers, on demand and real time advice, and online support.

Training

Regional training workshops are open to all developing countries in the region; they offer tailor-made, practical hands-on training and give an opportunity to exchange experiences and establish relationships. They are arranged by a national/regional partner organization, with trainers being primarily recruited from the pool of experienced ecbi-trained negotiators. Their aim is to:

- Build capacity to participate in, and influence, the UNFCCC process.
- Strengthen the understanding of substantive and legal issues on the UNFCCC agenda.
- Sustain the capacity to effectively participate in the UNFCCC negotiations.
- Coordinate and further develop positions.
- Develop and implement effective negotiating strategies.
- Communicate and construct messages for maximum political impact.
- Present arguments and ideas in a compelling and convincing manner.
- Strengthen networks and communication structures to improve in-session coordination of positions, and the preparation of submissions on behalf of their groups.
- Strengthen the link between negotiation and implementation – both by allowing experiences of implementation to feed back into the negotiations, and also by improving the dissemination of the results of the negotiations to those responsible for implementation.

ecbi Bursary holders and supported women delegates will be invited to the regional workshops where possible.

The Pre-COP workshops will aim to provide a platform for the negotiators from vulnerable countries, who are often busy and do not have sufficient time for preparation before the COP to gather sufficient information and knowledge about the upcoming COP. The participants will be given all the key information about the COP and the key positions by their Group (such as G77, LDCs) and other Parties, so that they can better prepare for the COP. In addition to the participants nominated by their respective UNFCCC Focal Points, all the bursary holders and supported women delegates will be invited to the Pre-COP workshop.

Bursaries are available for selected junior negotiators to attend the Training and Support Programme and develop their expertise for a particular subject area of the climate negotiations. Successful applicants are chosen on the basis of recommendations from senior negotiators. Bursary holders produce UNFCCC intercessional and COP reports which are published on the ecbi website, and disseminated to inform the other negotiators in their region.

Following their participation in a workshop, negotiators will be encouraged to complete additional online activities and contribute to further discussion via blogs or forums. In this way, the TSP will also build a community of practice that brings trainees and trainers together, allows them to stay in touch, and strengthens their personal and institutional networks. There will be a designated area for that purpose on the ecbi website. Training materials and lectures will be made available on the web and will possibly be supplemented by additional tools such as short online courses or webinars on specific topics. Priorities and content will build on the TSP and be determined in collaboration with the workshop participants. The TSP also works with Parliamentarians from these countries, together with representatives of related ministries (such as environment, planning, finance, foreign affairs,

and disaster reduction), to increase their understanding and involvement in the UNFCCC process, and to bring them up to speed on the climate change negotiations and implementation.

Support

The training of negotiators is complemented with additional hands on support during the climate negotiations. A team of LRI lawyers attends the negotiation sessions to respond to ad hoc requests for legal advice. If a request cannot be dealt with immediately (because it concerns a specialist area or requires complex analysis and research) they forward the query to the **LRI 'Situation Room'**, in the London offices of the city firm Simmons & Simmons, where it is matched with an available expert adviser. The resulting legal opinion is reviewed and returned to the requester, with LRI providing further explanation and clarification as required.

This ad hoc advice service on law and finance would be available to all training participants to, for example, analyse decision text, draft proposals, or compare the implications of different party positions. It would provide a backstop for negotiators in specific areas of the negotiations where the training could only 'scratch the surface' and additional in depth support would be useful.

In the course of 2013 the ecbi established informal caucuses of LDC and Africa Group members, and alternates and advisers on the Green Climate Fund and the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance. Benito Müller, Director of the ecbi, has been providing advice to these two caucuses from the outset, and has been requested by caucus members to continue to do so in 2014. Typically, support is provided through targeted submissions or discussion notes and annotated documentation prior to meetings, as well as live support during them.

Support is also provided to LDC Group core team members, junior negotiators (in particular women delegates), and negotiators who represent LDC Group interests on various bodies of the UNFCCC. The provision of flights, accommodation, and subsistence funding upon request allows for greater engagement through regular and consistent participation from LDC negotiators in various UNFCCC meetings. Participating negotiators thus familiarize themselves on specialized topics (such as climate finance or loss and damage), and are able to feed up-to-date information back to the Group as well as ensure coherent and coordinated Group positions on each topic across the UNFCCC negotiations. Funding also provides opportunities for junior negotiators to gain experience, build their knowledge base, and develop diplomacy skills by attending sessions and through mentorship from senior negotiators within their delegations or the LDC Group as a whole.

3.5. Publications and Policy Analysis Unit (PPAU)

The PPAU contributes to the ecbi meta-outcomes of creating a more level playing field and facilitating progress in the UNFCCC process. It does so by providing targeted negotiators with better information for use in the negotiations; promoting a better understanding of each other's positions; and helping them formulate positions and identify possible routes of compromise. It also contributes to keeping national policy makers informed of the UNFCCC negotiations, through the Background Papers and the LDC Paper Series.

The ecbi Fellowship and Training and Support Programmes rely on timely and topical policy information and analysis to inform their target audience of the state of international climate

negotiations. This information includes, for instance, the history and background of issues, and of country and regional positions; the possible impacts of negotiation outcomes on their country/region/group; and the implications of their positions on the international negotiations.

The ecbi Publications and Policy Analysis Unit (PPAU), managed by the ecbi Executive Committee through the Head of the PPAU, produces this information in the form of **Policy Briefs** for senior climate negotiators; **Background Papers** for junior negotiators, for use in the Training and Support Programme; **reports on ecbi meetings**; the **ecbi Annual Report**; and, more recently, **the LDC Paper Series**, which is produced in collaboration with the LDC Group for use by LDC negotiators. Finally, the PPAU will be in charge of producing the LRI **Legal Briefing Papers** and **Training Manuals** (see Annex II for a more detailed description of the PPAU outputs).

Policy analysis under the ecbi is conducted on a 'needs basis' – in other words, it is based on the needs of the ecbi 'target groups' (developing country negotiators). The policy analysis function of the ecbi contributes directly to the twin aims of capacity and trust building. The process of carrying out the analysis (for instance, research, writing, and presentation) actively involves Fellows and workshop participants – thus building capacity, while exploring the possibilities for solutions. Meanwhile, the content of the policy analysis helps build trust in the work of the ecbi, by ensuring that the concerns of the target group are consistently taken into account in the analysis (including, for instance, the impacts of international policy on their national/regional/group concerns).

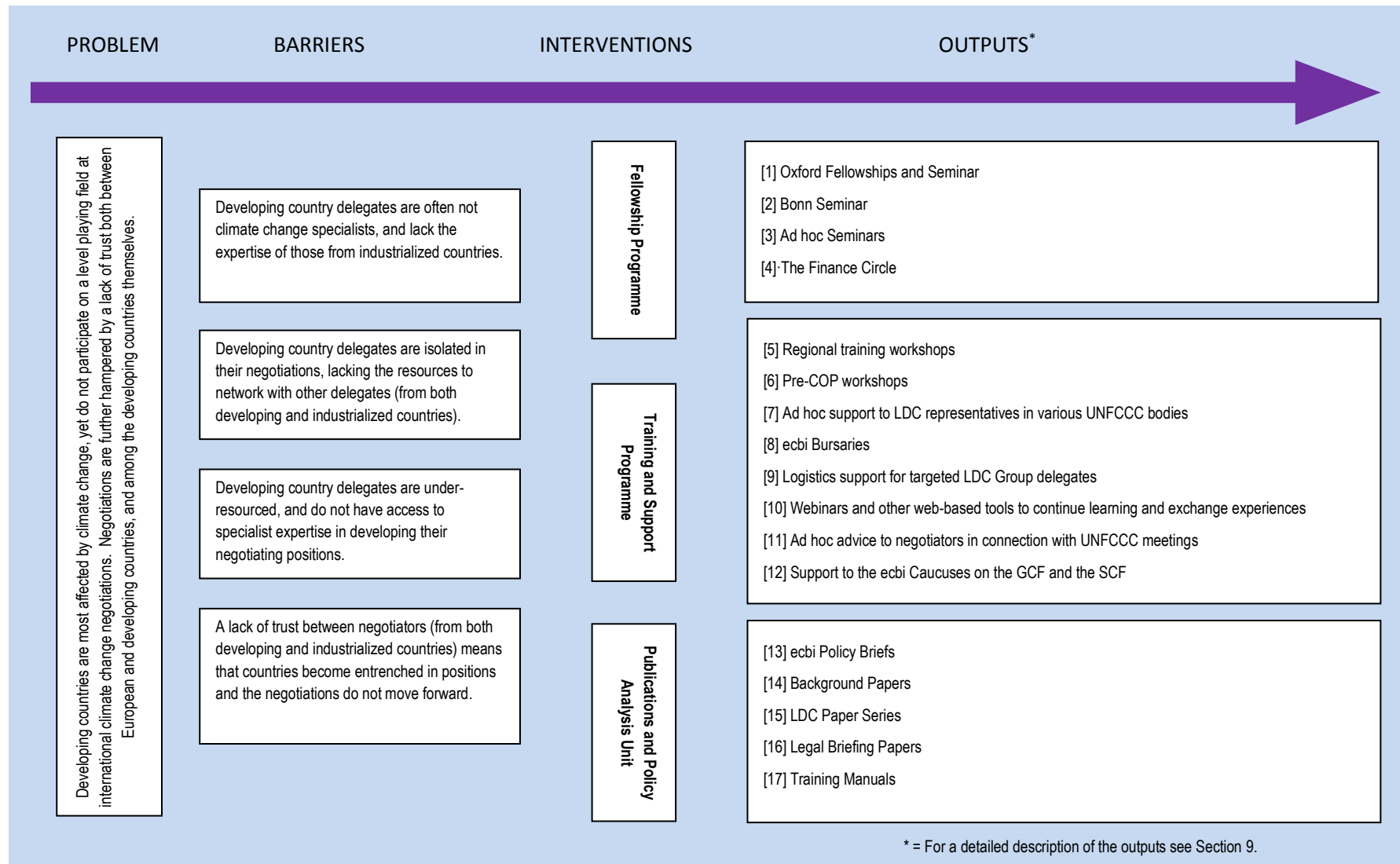
The specific objectives of the Publications and Policy Analysis Unit are as follows:

- Producing timely policy analysis to meet the needs of the two ecbi Programmes, and keeping the ecbi target groups informed on most recent and relevant developments in the international climate negotiations, relevant to issues identified by the group (such as adaptation, Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), climate change finance, etc.).
- Bolstering developing country capacity for policy analysis, by including developing country representatives in the process of analysis.
- Building trust in the policy analysis work of the ecbi, by ensuring that developing country concerns are consistently reflected in the analysis generated.
- Providing a forum in which possibilities for compromise between developing and developed countries can be explored.
- Coordinating between the ecbi Fellowship and Training and Support Programmes, to ensure that policy analysis from one feeds into the other. For instance, analysis that emerges from the national/regional/group level can be interpreted to clarify its relevance to the global negotiators (and vice versa), to engender better mutual understanding.
- Ensuring maximum outreach for policy outputs.

The key principles underpinning the ecbi's approach in all activities are as follows:

- independence;
- no lobbying agenda;
- Fellows-led/participatory;
- Chatham House rules in discussions;
- rooted in practical experience of negotiations.

4. Logic Model⁶

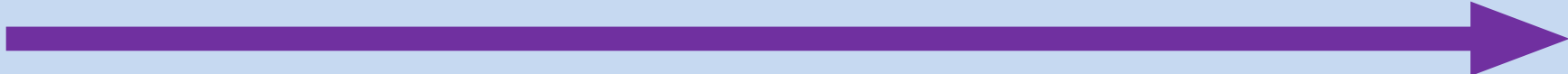


⁶ For assumptions underpinning this Logic Model, see Section 7.

OUTPUTS (cont.)

OUTCOMES (immediate/longer term)

IMPACT



- Fellowship Programme**
- [1] Oxford Fellowships and Seminar
 - [2] Bonn Seminar
 - [3] Ad hoc Seminars
 - [4] The Finance Circle
- Training and Support Programme**
- [5] Regional training workshops
 - [6] Pre-COP workshops
 - [7] Ad hoc support to LDC representatives in various UNFCCC bodies
 - [8] ecbi Bursaries
 - [9] Logistics support for targeted LDC Group delegates
 - [10] Webinars and other web-based tools to continue learning and exchange experiences
 - [11] Ad hoc advice to negotiators in connection with UNFCCC meetings
 - [12] Support to the ecbi Caucuses on the GCF and the SCF
- Publications and Policy Analysis Unit**
- [13] ecbi Policy Briefs
 - [14] Background Papers
 - [15] LDC Paper Series
 - [16] Legal Briefing Papers
 - [17] Training Manuals

- [a] Increased understanding among targeted negotiators of each other's positions
[1] [2] [3]
- [b] Targeted negotiators have increased negotiation skills
[5] [6] [7] [8] [10]
- [c] Targeted negotiators have better information and can use it more effectively
[4] [10] [11] [12] [13] [15] [16] [17]
- [d] Targeted negotiators develop positions with the support of ecbi activities
[1] [10] [11] [12] [13] [15] [16] [17]
- [e] Targeted woman negotiators are more active in the UNFCCC process
[1] [2] [5] [6] [7] [8] [10] [11]
- [f] Targeted national policy makers are better informed about the UNFCCC process
[5] [10] [11] [14] [15] [16] [17]

- Increased level of trust within the UNFCCC process
- A more level playing field in the UNFCCC process
- ecbi facilitated UNFCCC process outcomes

Equitable, effective, inclusive, and sustainable global solutions to climate change

☐ = Outputs associated with the respective Outcome (see also Output–Outcome Matrix) below.

Output–Outcome Matrix							
Outputs		Outcomes					
	Output Lead	[a] Mutual understanding	[b] Increased skills	[c] Better information	[d] Developing positions	[e] Woman negotiators	[f] National policy makers
Fellowship Programme							
[1] Fellowships and Seminar	OCP	X			X	X	
[2] Bonn Seminar	OCP	X				X	
[3] Ad hoc Seminars	OCP	X					
[4] The Finance Circle	OCP			X			
Training and Support Programme							
[5] Regional training workshops	IIED		X			X	X
[6] Pre-COP workshops	IIED		X		X	X	
[7] Ad hoc support to LDC representatives	IIED		X		X	X	
[8] ecbi Bursaries	IIED		X		X	X	
[9] Logistics support for targeted LDC Group delegates	IIED				X		
[10] Webinars and other web-based tools	LRI		X	X		X	X
[11] Ad hoc advice to negotiators	LRI			X		X	X
[12] ecbi Caucuses	OCP			X			
Publications and Policy Analysis Unit							
[13] ecbi Policy Briefs	OCP			X			
[14] Background Papers	OCP						X
[15] LDC Paper Series	IIED			X			X
[16] Legal Briefing Papers	LRI			X			X
[17] Training Manuals	LRI			X			X

5. Evidence base

After ten years of operations, the ecbi is not only tried and tested, but has proven to be a resounding success. Independent evaluations during the life of the initiative⁷ have consistently found that it has met its objectives. The most recent one, carried out in January 2014,⁸ also reaffirmed that the ecbi fulfils a need not met by other initiatives.⁹ This was attributed to the fact that the ecbi does not push a specific agenda, and allows open discussion amongst negotiators in a setting separate from the negotiations process.

Over the ten years of its existence, the ecbi has had a great many success stories.

Supporting negotiators to influence the negotiations

The ecbi's multi-pronged approach to supporting negotiators by combining respected research with participatory support, has led to an impact on the negotiations process. For example, ecbi background research and legal assistance (such as interpreting and drafting text) during different stages of the negotiations, contributed to the establishment of the Warsaw institutional mechanism on loss and damage associated with climate change. There have also been successes in the field of enhanced direct access; ecbi publications and discussions in meetings incubated key concepts on the subject, the concepts were then shared with LDC members of the Transitional Committee (TC), when ecbi helped them to develop text that ultimately became part of the GCF Governing Instrument. ecbi Publications on have also been instrumental in supporting Enhanced Direct Access on the GCF Board.

The ecbi Finance Circle

The Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) under the UNFCCC was established on the basis of an idea generated by ecbi Fellows in 2010. The SCF has had numerous successes, not least the development of arrangements between the GCF and the COP. The Finance Circle worked closely with SCF members during this time, and the ecbi produced publications on the subject.

The Finance circle activities also influenced the UNFCCC Work Programme on Long Term Finance (LTF) – and helped to bring about a COP decision on how the work of the LTF should be taken forward.

High profile alumni

Negotiators supported by the ecbi programme have gone on to undertake high profile roles in the negotiation process. The majority of past ecbi bursary holders have become members of the LDC Core Team, where they advise the LDC Group Chair and Group members in their chosen negotiating themes. In 2012, Ms Sumaya Zakiideen, an ecbi bursary recipient, was nominated for the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee as the sole representative of the LDC Group. Mr Gebru Jember, another bursary recipient and an LDC core team member, has become the LDC Group's key coordinator for the Kyoto Protocol.

⁷ All available at: www.eurocapacity.org/public/pubarchive-arep.shtml

⁸ 'Independent Evaluation of the European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi) Phase III', Lucy Heaven Taylor Consulting, January 2014, www.eurocapacity.org/downloads/ecbievaluation2013.pdf.

⁹ Ibid., Section 4: ecbi Operating Model.

Legal support

The ecbi has taken great steps towards levelling the playing field in the negotiations process by providing legal support to developing country stakeholders. The LRI organized a legal training programme for lawyers on UNFCCC negotiation teams from Bangladesh, Kenya, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe in April 2013. Following the meeting, in London, the participants from Bangladesh, Kenya, and Zambia held further training workshops for colleagues in their home jurisdiction. To date, LRI has deal with over 500 legal queries from developing countries and civil society observer organizations. As a result, poor and climate-vulnerable developing countries have been able to make stronger arguments and have had some success in debates on contentious issues, such as the establishment of a mechanism for loss and damage. Over 130 law- and policy-makers involved in the climate negotiations have attended specialized legal training sessions by LRI experts.

LDC Paper Series

The ecbi's LDC Paper Series has been appreciated by LDC negotiators, who rated the series as 'Very Useful' in a recent survey. According to the feedback, the series helped negotiators to stay updated and guided their thinking. It also helped them in other ways such as: promoting an in-depth understanding of issues, building their capacity, enabling them to make linkages between different streams of the negotiations, and bringing new negotiators up to speed. According to one LDC negotiator, 'Effective negotiation on adaptation calls for evidence-based facts, not sweeping statements. These are obtained from researched work, assembled particularly from referenced (scientific) sources. The LDC Paper Series is very pertinent in this regard.'¹⁰

Official recognition for our work

The work of the ecbi has been recognized by several awards. Most recently, an idea based on an ecbi Policy Brief (Crowdfunding for Climate Change) won the MIT Co-Lab Popular Choice Award, and in March 2014, LRI won the UK Climate Week Award for the best education initiative (www.climateweek.com/awards/climate-week-awards-2014/best-campaign-or-educational-initiative/).

For a more detailed account see the recent ecbi Report on '**The First Ten Years: Testimonials on ecbi's impact and accomplishments**'.¹¹

¹⁰ Chatham House rule feed-back.

¹¹ Forthcoming at www.eurocapacity.org/public/pubarchive-pres.shtml

6. Rationales for Continuation

Capacity and trust building are long-term endeavours, particularly in the context of the international climate change negotiations. They cannot happen at a moment's notice. After ten years of operations, the ecbi has attained sufficient capability and credibility to deliver, and is, with its proven track record, uniquely positioned to do so, as witnessed in the recent Independent Evaluation.¹²

The UNFCCC negotiations have entered a crucial phase, with much riding on the outcomes of the negotiations planned to take place up to 2020. A new climate agreement is to be delivered by 2015, and operationalized by 2020. There have been numerous calls from negotiators for ecbi to step up its efforts during this period, and to provide spaces for trust building during this time. This reflects a recognition of ecbi's unique position to satisfy these demands.

On the capacity building side there will, for the foreseeable future, be a constant if not increasing need for support and training of developing country negotiators, particularly from the poorest and most vulnerable countries. This is not only because of the ever-changing landscape of negotiations, but also the turnover of negotiators.

6.1 Training and Support Rationales

If the views of poor and climate-vulnerable developing countries do not feed into the climate negotiations, the results will be skewed towards the interests of the rich and powerful nations. The Training and Support Programme therefore aims to improve the capacity of developing country negotiators to work more effectively on specialized issues, strategically influence the negotiations, and ensure that their positions are adequately reflected all outcomes. It will train the trainers and strengthen a growing network of expert negotiators from different geographical regions.

In 2015, the UNFCCC negotiations are to deliver a new global climate change agreement that will shape the future of the international climate regime. In order to have their views reflected in this agreement, the LDCs and other developing nations particularly vulnerable to climate change will need to actively engage in the UNFCCC negotiations. In order to do so, many will require training and support. The negotiations surrounding the 2015 agreement make up yet another work stream in the already complex UNFCCC process. As delegations from the LDCs and other vulnerable nations are typically small, every member must be able to make substantive contributions if the nation wishes to be heard in each of the parallel processes in the negotiations.

The Training and Support Programme is uniquely placed to train negotiators from LDCs and other vulnerable nations. For example, our long-standing relationship with the LDCs in the UNFCCC negotiations speaks to our ability to assist delegations in influencing the UNFCCC process.

6.2 Trust-building Rationales

The ecbi is also an initiative for building trust by, for, and between countries in Europe and the developing world. It aims to engender the essential element of trust – between developing countries and European countries (North-South) and among developing countries (South-South). It also aims

¹² 'Independent Evaluation of the European Capacity Building Initiative (ecbi) Phase III', Lucy Heaven Taylor Consulting, January 2014, www.eurocapacity.org/downloads/ecbievaluation2013.pdf.

to foster a better understanding of developing country concerns among negotiators from Europe, enabling Europe to continue providing leadership in efforts towards a global solution to climate change.

The ecbi is uniquely placed to facilitate trust-building among climate change negotiators. The ecbi's reputation enables it to get the most senior and respected climate change negotiators to participate in their trust-building activities. The Independent Evaluation¹³ identified the key factors as being:

- The ecbi does not replicate the work of any other organization.
- It has established climate change expertise rooted in negotiations experience.
- It is independent.
- It does not promote a specific agenda.
- The Fellowship is Fellow-led, and participatory in approach.
- Discussions are conducted under the Chatham House rule, allowing for flexibility, topicality, and openness.
- The breadth of topics covered in events and publications

7. Risks and Assumptions

One of the main advantages of outputs and outcomes that have been tried, tested, and successfully delivered over many years is that the risks involved can be assessed on the basis of concrete evidence.

The ecbi has undertaken an evidence-based analysis to identify the assumptions underpinning our outputs and outcomes, and the key risks that may prevent us from delivering them. This analysis has shown that by far the greatest risk is that of unpredictable funding; this can really only be mitigated through longer-term funding contracts. One of the key assumptions regarding the viability of this proposal is, therefore, that funding (for the core activities) will be contracted for the duration of Phase IV, that is for 2015 to 2020.

Other major risks identified on the basis of the ten years of experience were assessed for level of risk and likelihood on a scale of 1–3, with 1 being lowest and 3 highest. They are listed below, together with the proven risk mitigation strategies.

Where an output or outcome is not listed, no major risks were identified.

¹³ Ibid., Section 4: ecbi Operating Model.

7.1 Risks and Assumptions at Output level

ASSUMPTIONS				
[A] Targeted negotiators continue in wishing to engage in ecbi activities. [B] Predictable funding is available for these activities.				
RISKS				
Outputs	Identified risk	Level of risk	Likelihood	How the risk will be addressed
[1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [10]	Inability of targeted participants to participate due to logistical problems, in particular 'last minute' scheduling conflicts and visa problems.	3	2	Flexible management approach allows for last-minute changes. Use ecbi network to facilitate visa procedure etc.
[1] [2] [4] [5] [6]	Failure to secure appropriate venue(s).	1	2	Early scoping of alternative venues (note: this requires predictable funding [A]).
[1] [2] [5] [6]	Failure to manage time during sessions, resulting in overly lengthy or technical presentations leaving insufficient time for discussion.	1	3	Judicious choice of session chairs, and/or use of external facilitator.

7.2 Risks and Assumptions at Immediate Outcome level

ASSUMPTIONS				
[A] and [B]				
[C] Targeted negotiators are participating in the ecbi programme in good faith.				
RISKS				
Immediate Outcome	Identified risk	Level of risk	Likelihood	How the risk will be addressed
[a] Increased understanding among targeted negotiators of each other's positions	Participating negotiators are not open to understanding each other's positions.	3	1	Use the ecbi's tried and tested trust-building methodology – which has been proven in evaluation to have been successful over Phases I to III of the programme
[c] Targeted negotiators have better information and can use it more effectively	The information provided is not relevant (topical/timely).	3	1	The information provided by the ecbi is constantly tailored and updated in collaboration with the targeted negotiators.
[d] Targeted negotiators develop positions with the support of ecbi activities	Targeted negotiators do not have the opportunity or will to develop positions.	3	2	The ecbi has an holistic approach to support, with ongoing activities such as Seminars, Workshops, and the Finance Circle, thus maximizing the possibility of engaging negotiators to develop positions

7.3 Risks and Assumptions at Longer-Term Outcome level

ASSUMPTIONS				
[A] to [C]				
[D] The UNFCCC process continues in its current form.				
[E] Targeted negotiators retain the opportunity to influence UNFCCC process outcomes.				
RISKS				
Longer-Term Outcome	Identified risk	Level of risk	Likelihood	How the risk will be addressed
Increased level of trust within the UNFCCC process.	Entrenched country positions negate trust built and are a barrier to moving forward.	3	2	Use the ecbi's tried and tested trust-building methodology, which has been proven in evaluation to have been successful over Phases I to III of the programme.
	Turnover of negotiators means that investment in individuals may be lost.	2	3	Experience shows that this can be mitigated through regular series of events.
A more level playing field in the UNFCCC process.	The imbalance of resources remains too great to allow a level playing field.	1	3	The ecbi alone cannot create a completely level playing field. Our aim is to contribute to a <i>more</i> level playing field by using the skills and experience we have to increase negotiator capacity to greatest effect.

8. Gender

The ecbi is fully cognizant of the importance of the participation of both men and women in every stage of the climate change negotiations and during implementation. Although traditionally excluded from much of the debate on the subject, women have a greater vulnerability to climate impacts, and their diversity of perspectives will inform any effort related to sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

As ecbi Fellows and other Seminar participants are chosen from among senior developing country negotiators, the gender ratio in these events depends on the gender ratio in national delegations. Of the total number of ecbi Fellows in the last five years, 28 per cent were women; this compares well with the UNFCCC baseline, where only 12–15 per cent of the Heads of Delegation at Conferences of Parties are women. Only 30 per cent of all Party delegates are currently women.

As part of its gender strategy, the ecbi Fellowship Programme will contribute towards improving the participation of women in the international negotiations by continuing to increase the proportion of women participating in its events, and by:

- Initiating collaborations with other similar efforts such as the Women Delegates' Fund (a project of the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme and administered by the Women's Environment and Development Organization), which funds the participation of women delegates in the climate negotiations and provides training in negotiations, media, and communications.
- Inviting gender experts to the Fellowship Programme and ecbi Seminars, to underline the importance of including women at every stage.
- Ensuring that the gender element is sufficiently highlighted in its policy discussions and briefs, particularly when advocating on issues such as the formulation of expert committees and groups related to the climate negotiations; and on the disbursement of climate finance for implementation.

The Training and Support Programme will continue its attempts to highlight the importance of involving women at every stage of policy- and decision-making, planning, implementation, and monitoring of climate related activities. In addition, the Programme will:

- involve more women policy makers in its Regional Workshops, Bursaries, and Legal Residencies;
- introduce gender and climate change as one of the agenda issues for discussion, particularly at Regional Workshops; and
- provide a bursary for a negotiator to follow gender issues at the UNFCCC negotiations, and to become the ecbi subject specialist on gender issues.

The PPAU will contribute towards increasing the participation, knowledge, and skills of women in climate negotiations by ensuring that gender perspectives are included in ecbi Policy Briefs and Background Papers, and involving gender experts and women writers, analysts, and reviewers where possible.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The ecbi is committed to continual improvement. We undertake stringent monitoring and evaluation processes to demonstrate impact, and learn from our experiences. Throughout the programme cycle we will be monitoring progress against outputs and outcomes using the following methodologies.

Online monitoring. For key ecbi events such as workshops, seminars, GCF meetings etc., the ecbi maintains an online monitoring system. Participants are invited to submit feedback through an online monitoring form. The form allows them to score their experience, and input information on whether the ecbi is meeting its proposed outcomes. Participants are also given the option to submit anonymous feedback if they prefer. The feedback form is then routed to an independent evaluator, who logs all feedback on to an online database. Anonymous feedback is randomized so it cannot be traced back to the respondent. The ecbi then uses this data to analyse its performance, and feed into monitoring and evaluation processes.

Feedback forms. Participants at workshops and seminars are given feedback forms to complete at the end of the events. These are then transcribed on to a central database and analysed as above.

Annual Reports. ecbi members use their respective Annual Reports to reflect on the performance of that year, and to report on output indicators.

Testimony. ecbi participants frequently provide testimony on the organization's achievements on an ad hoc basis.

Evidence of influence on UNFCCC decisions. Language used in UNFCCC and other relevant decisions is mapped against ecbi publications to attribute ecbi influence.

Tracking use of legal advice. Use of legal advice provided during negotiations is tracked by requesting feedback from end users and logging this feedback in a Google document/online tool.

Website statistics. Website usage data is captured to analyse information such as which publications are being downloaded and how often. The growth in ecbi membership, including whether new members are from government, intergovernmental or NGOs, is also monitored.

Evaluation. In the third year of Phase IV, a more in-depth Independent Evaluation will be undertaken; this will use the above data, as well as interviews with participants and relevant stakeholders, and will capture examples of influence on the negotiations.

The Administrator is responsible for the collection of data through feedback forms, and for logging event attendance in the database. The Webmaster is responsible for maintaining the ecbi News Chronicle, and for uploading news items. The Head of PPAU is responsible for producing meeting reports. All this data is used on an ongoing basis to feed back into ecbi decision-making processes. The results of the internal monitoring will be discussed and acted upon by the Executive Committee, which will be responsible for taking corrective action and improving implementation where necessary, in consultation with the Advisory Committee and other relevant stakeholders.

The ecbi's indicators, means of verification, and schedule of data collection is shown in Annexes III and IV.