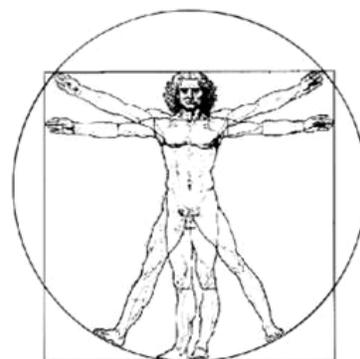


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# european capacity building initiative (ecbi)

for sustained capacity building in support of the  
international climate change negotiations



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## CONCEPT NOTE

A key limitation of the United Nations climate change negotiations is the lack of a level playing field between many delegations, particularly North-South, and South-South. Other major obstacles are mutual misunderstanding and a lack of trust, above all between industrialised and developing countries.

The European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI) aims to reduce and overcome these limitations and obstacles through a number of capacity- and trust-building activities, subsumed under three complementary integrated Programmes:

- a primarily trust-building *Oxford Fellowship Programme* with an informal (senior level) exchange of institutional and procedural knowledge;
- a *Workshop Programme* to enhance negotiating skills; and
- a *Policy Analysis Programme* to enhance analytic capacity.

The core of the ECBI is focused on collaborations with European and developing countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, and South Asia – including the regional leaders South Africa and India – and the Group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Outside these core regions, there is also participation from Brazil and China, as well as from OECD non-Annex B ‘Advanced Developing Countries’ (ADCs), such as Mexico and Turkey.

### The Oxford Fellowship Programme

At the heart of the ECBI is an Oxford-based Fellowship Programme mainly for leading climate negotiators from the participating developing countries. Its primary purpose is to build trust and exchange procedural and institutional knowledge both among the Fellows (‘South-South trust building’), and

between them and their European colleagues (‘North-South trust building’).

The North-South element of this trust-building effort is carried out through *Country Visits* to some of the participating European Partner agencies and an *Oxford Seminar* in the home of the Fellowships. Both activities bring together developing country Fellows and their European counterparts in a structured framework that helps to establish working relationships outside the often guarded context of the official negotiations. They enable the Fellows to find out how climate change issues are managed by European governments, and provide an opportunity to exchange views in an informal and non-confrontational setting. They also enable the European partners to discover and better understand the situation of their developing country colleagues – one of the reasons why the ECBI is not just a capacity-building initiative *by* Europeans, but also *for* Europeans.

South-South relations and trust building – often of at least equal importance in supporting the international negotiations – are carried out during the *Fellowship Colloquium* in Oxford, where the Fellows have the chance to exchange views and experiences among themselves in ‘closed session’. In light of the considerable existing negotiating capacities of the participating regional developing country leaders (Brazil, China, India, South Africa), they are primarily involved in the trust-building activities of the Oxford Fellowship Programme.

To maintain the momentum of these trust-building activities, the Fellowship Programme, funding permitting, also envisages an annual one-day *Bonn Seminar* during the intersessional Subsidiary Bodies meetings in Bonn/Germany.

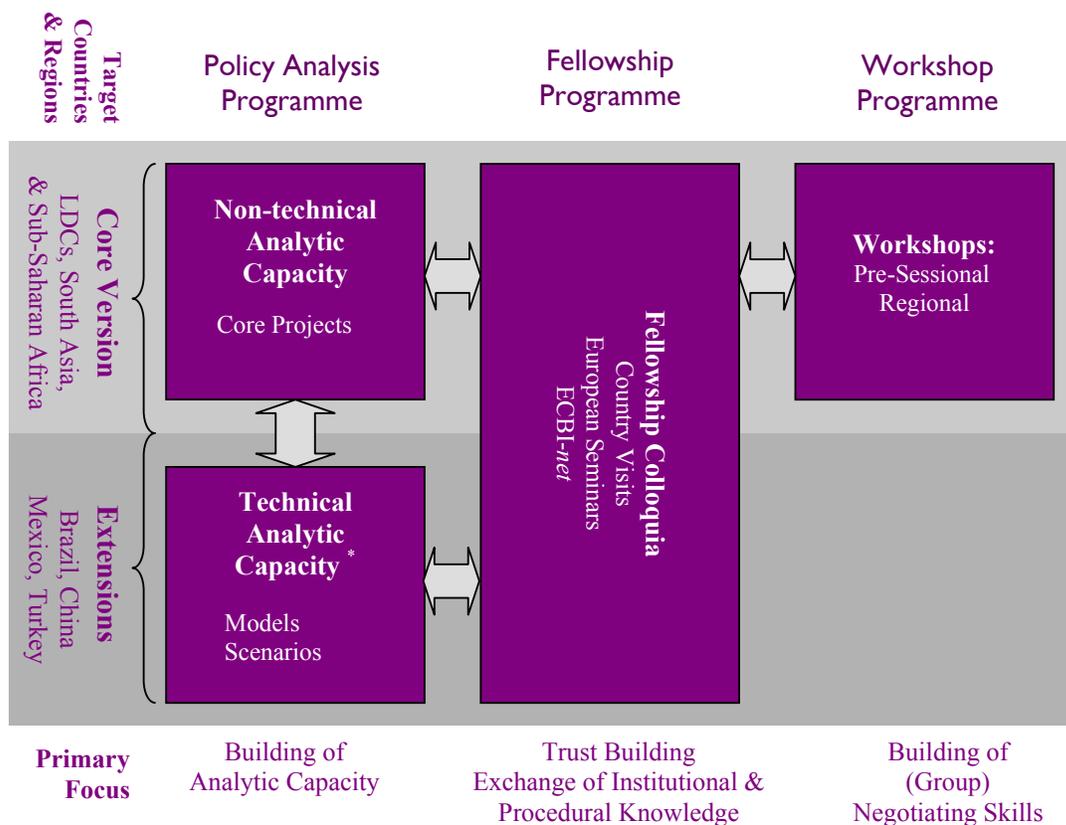
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Concerning logistical support, the Fellowship Programme aims to create a certain number of *Senior Bursaries* to help Fellows and (potential) Fellowship candidates to attend UNFCCC Sessions (Conference of Parties (COP) and, particularly Subsidiary Bodies).

The activities of the Fellowship Programme also include maintenance of the ECBI website ([www.EuroCapacity.org](http://www.EuroCapacity.org)), with a special ‘members only’ electronic network (*ECBI-net*) to assure the sustained long-term nature of the relations established both with their European counterparts and between the Fellows themselves. As a practical extension of this

potential for synergies between them. For this purpose – and generally to help improve the articulation and representation of developing country positions in the climate negotiating *fora* – the Workshop Programme organises annual regional and pre-COP negotiation capacity-building workshops.

The main purpose of the *pre-COP Workshops* is to support selected (junior) negotiators from LDCs in gaining a better understanding of the issues discussed at the COPs, and to build their negotiating skills through role-playing and practice sessions. While not intended to prepare negotiating positions – the



\* = focusing on Mexico, and Turkey;

networking activity, the ECBI has undertaken to make available a number of *mobile phones* during the UNFCCC Sessions for some of its participating members, particularly from the Group of Least Developed Countries.

### The Workshop Programme

Country coalitions can be as much in need of enhancing negotiating capacity as individual countries, especially with respect to effectively functioning as a group. This is particularly true for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), which will only be able to make their voice heard by harnessing the considerable

prerogative of the countries themselves – the pre-COP workshops will aim to help build the skills and capacities to negotiate more effectively. Over time, it is expected that the Workshops will assist LDC negotiators in building expertise over and beyond issues specific to LDCs, enabling them to divide negotiating tasks among the group, rather than all of them following the same negotiating track.

To further enhance the negotiating capacity of the LDC Group, the Workshop Programme has some *Junior Bursaries* available to enable a number (typically 6 to 8) of junior LDC officials to

participate not only in the pre-COP Workshops, but for the duration of the COPs.

Other than these (LDC-only) pre-COP workshops, the Workshop Programme carries out a number of annual *Regional Workshops* that are *not* restricted to LDCs. At present, the regions covered are South/East Africa, West Africa (Francophone), and South/South-East Asia. Participants are junior officials from UNFCCC delegations and mainstream economics/development ministries of the countries in the region. The overall aim of Regional Workshops is threefold:

- To discuss upcoming negotiation issues of regional importance, with a view to facilitating negotiation positions for the subsequent UNFCCC Sessions.
- To introduce the participants from the mainstream ministries to the climate change problem, with particular focus on its regional aspects.
- To facilitate networking, especially between the climate change negotiators and their mainstream colleagues.

In order to achieve the desired sustained effect of its activities, the Workshop Programme carries out post-workshop mentoring and networking of participants, as part of the *ECBI-net*.

### The Policy Analysis Programme

The ECBI's Policy Analysis Programme is to support and enhance analytic capacity in a number of participating developing countries, mainly through training by, and collaboration with domestic and European experts. The qualitative and quantitative analysis of burdens and benefits associated with climate change policies, of climate change impacts, and of adaptation strategies is not only a prerequisite of informed decision making; it is also essential in articulating, explaining and advocating a country's position in the negotiations. And the same holds true for formulation of common positions within country coalitions.

One of the main obstacles to building lasting analytic capacity is the financial plight of many research institutions in developing countries. They are often over-stretched even without addressing climate change, which in many instances is indeed not perceived to be a top analytic priority. This bottleneck in building lasting in-country analytic capacity manifests itself both in the inability to hire analysts and in a lack of access to analytic tools.

The ECBI accordingly plans to provide the funds and the framework for ECBI *Policy Analysts* at its developing country member institutes and at other collaborating developing country research and policy

analysis institutions. The Policy Analysts at member institutes will carry out the function of Country Project Managers. As such they will receive (part of) their salary from the ECBI. The other collaborating Policy Analysts will typically not receive salary contributions, but the ECBI will cover project related training, travel expenses and the cost of project specific software or data needs. While it is expected that the ECBI Analysts will spend some time working with their colleagues at the European ECBI institutions, most of the work is to be undertaken in their home institutions.

Under its core version, the Policy Analysis Programme will carry out a number of different project strands or 'modules', each requested by the developing country participants, either in the Fellowships or the activities of the Workshop Programme. Funding permitting, the initial array of such *Core Policy Analysis Projects* will be:

- *Experience with CDM in Africa and LDCs*: The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is a project-based mechanism under the Kyoto Protocol which allows developing countries to carry out mitigation activities and projects whose Carbon Emission Reduction (CERs) can then be traded to earn foreign exchange in the developing countries. The CDM has been a relative success in supporting mitigation projects in a number of developing countries. However, so far only a small number of developing countries (mainly in Latin America and Asia) have benefited from such projects. The poorer ones (e.g. in Africa and LDCs) have not yet been able to benefit from the CDM. The project will gather experience on CDM promotion in Africa and LDCs and develop recommendations to enhance the opportunities for poorer developing countries to benefit from the CDM.
- *Learning lessons from the NAPAs*: Around forty LDCs are in the process of preparing their respective National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) using a standard methodology. These are expected to be completed and submitted over the next year or so. This project aims to learn from the NAPA process by involving key people from different LDCs who were involved in preparing their respective country's NAPAs. The lessons will be useful for planning the next round of funding for the LDC Fund.
- *Mainstreaming adaptation to climate change into development*: There is an ongoing debate on whether or not – and if so how much – to

‘mainstream’ adaptation to climate change into development in developing countries. This project will attempt to clarify the different ways in which adaptation may be ‘mainstreamed’ and how these activities may be funded.

These Core Projects will be carried out with ECBI member institutions in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. Subsequent topics will again be decided in a participatory manner with developing country partners. Additional (country-by-country) modules could be added as and when funding is secured.

The full version of the Policy Analysis Programme will, in addition, contain a **Technical Capacity Building Project** where quantitative economic questions – particularly those concerning Advanced Developing Countries – are addressed in technical collaboration with the relevant ECBI experts, developing country member institutions and Policy Analysts. Economic modelling capacity in the participating developing countries is built up through the joint development of country specific models and scenarios that will be owned by the involved developing country institutions. The policy makers and negotiators of these countries – and, particularly, their past and present ECBI Fellows – will guide this technical capacity-building process by formulating the questions and issues that are relevant to the developing country partners in the climate change negotiations and decision making.

### Management and Timeframe

The day-to-day running of the Initiative is carried out internally by the Director with the three Programme Heads of the ECBI *Lead Member Institutions* – which collectively form the *Executive Committee* – each responsible for the running of one of the three ECBI Programmes, namely:

- ✦ *Fellowship Programme:*  
**Oxford Climate Policy** (OCP), Oxford, UK.  
*Head and Director ECBI:* Dr Benito Müller
- ✦ *Workshop Programme:*  
**International Institute for Environment and Development** (IIED), London, UK.  
*Head:* Dr Saleemul Huq
- ✦ *Policy Analysis Programme:*  
**Stockholm Environment Institute** (SEI)  
Stockholm, Sweden.  
*Head:* to be nominated

Strategic guidance and quality control are provided from outside the ECBI Membership by the participating government Partners, primarily through their designated *Country Coordinators*. An *Annual*

*General Meeting* – to be held in parallel with the intersessional UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies meetings – is open to all the participating government Partners and is the main quality control instrument for the initiative. Strategic guidance on the content of the Initiative is given by a *Steering Committee* of Country Coordinators, presently co-chaired by

Mr Mama Konate (Mali) and  
Ambassador Bo Kjellen (Sweden).

An initial one-year pilot phase (2005) is to allow for trials of a small number of competing pilot options, followed by a ‘proof-of-concept’ phase (2006–7). It is envisaged that the Initiative will be established as a *long-term* instrument for the *sustained* building of developing country negotiation capacity.

Currently, the ECBI is funded by the Danish Foreign Office (DANIDA), the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), the UK Department for International Development (DfID), the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

For further information on the ECBI activities visit

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or contact

[adm.n.ocp@gmail.com](mailto:adm.n.ocp@gmail.com).