

Framework ecbi Phase V

2022-2025

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European Capacity Building Initiative

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

The principal goal of the ecbi is for climate change negotiators to work together more effectively in shaping inclusive – and hence more effective, equitable, and sustainable – global solutions to climate change. It seeks to achieve this through the following outcomes of ecbi events:

- [a] Increased understanding among participating negotiators of each other’s positions.
- [b] Participating negotiators have better information and are more effective in negotiations.
- [c] Participating negotiators have increased negotiation skills.
- [d] Participating national policy makers are better informed about the multilateral climate process and understand better the implications of that process on domestic implementation.

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 sustainable economic development.¹ 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 considered while designing a fair and equitable solution. It is therefore essential that all countries should 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, the ecbi also contributes to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 13 (“Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”) where the ecbi will contribute to all the targets:

- **Target 13.1:** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
- **Target 13.2:** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.
- **Target 13.3:** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

¹ 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.

- **Target 13.a:** Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.
- **Target 13.b:** Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

Capacity building in developing countries is a crosscutting issue in the UNFCCC process and at the heart of our work. It is echoed in the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement as well as a large number of subsequent decisions by the Parties. At COP 17 in Durban, for example, the Durban Forum to share experiences, good practices and lessons learned in building the capacity of developing countries to mitigate and adapt to climate change was established.

In 2012, the COP adopted the Doha Work Programme (DWP) on Article 6 of the Convention (on education, training and public awareness). In the same year, the Capacity Building Portal was launched as an interactive tool that collects, compiles and disseminates country-driven information and allows the display of information by non-Party stakeholders. Now the DWP covers also Art. 12 of the Paris Agreement, and has been christened as Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE).

Art.11 of the Paris Agreement calls for country-driven capacity-building, based on recipient countries' needs and ownership. Developed country Parties are expected to enhance support while developing country Parties can communicate progress on implementing capacity-building plans, policies, actions or measures. Along with the adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP 21, Parties also established the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) to enhance coherence and coordination in capacity-building efforts in the UNFCCC process, and manage and oversee the capacity-building workplan. Ecibi works closely with several members of the Committee.

At COP 25 In Madrid, it was decided that the Paris Committee on Capacity Building (PCCB), created in 2015, shall serve the Paris Agreement in accordance with its mandate and terms of reference. It will report to both the COP and CMA. The priority areas for the PCCB and activities, adopted by COP in a related Decision following the review of the PCCB, include: enhancing coherence and coordination of capacity building; identifying capacity gaps and needs; and promoting awareness raising, knowledge- and information-sharing, and stakeholder engagement.

2. Problem Statement

The international climate change negotiations are a key component in the global quest to protect humanity and the planet from the adverse impacts of anthropogenic climate change. They are also among the most complex multilateral processes ever witnessed. They relate to some key aspects of national development, indeed in some cases of national survival, with diverse and very powerful interests at stake. Accordingly, 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 capacities between the delegations of developed and developing countries, but also significant 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 often 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 these delegations represent countries that have hardly contributed to the problem of climate change, while being most vulnerable to its impacts.

The implementation of the Paris Agreement began in 2020. The first cycle of reviewing global progress toward achieving its aims will take place in 2023. It is critical that throughout this timeframe, poor climate-vulnerable countries actively negotiate for transparent NDCs, a strong review of them via the global stocktake, and a compliance mechanism that is as ambitious as possible. Though large parts of the Paris Agreement’s “Rulebook” were adopted in Katowice in 2018, Parties will continue to fine-tune these review processes in the coming years. COP25 in Madrid also could not resolve the issues under Art.6 of the Paris Agreement.

In order to identify and successfully utilize these 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, is essential. Significant capabilities in the fields of diplomacy, international law, and policy making are required to assess the implications of new ideas, develop practical and meaningful approaches for negotiation, and draft the necessary submissions and texts.

Negotiators from the blocs that represent the poorest and most climate vulnerable countries – the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States – often lack access to this expertise and have other responsibilities that restrict their time to undertake the necessary preparation. Women negotiators are particularly constrained and under-represented in the negotiations process. They account for 37% of overall UNFCCC negotiators, with women making up only 27% of delegates in the Least Developed Countries Group.²

So, there is a critical need for these delegates to be better prepared and equipped, so that they can negotiate on a level playing field with their developed country counterparts. 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 implementation 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’.³

² <https://www.iied.org/women-un-climate-negotiations-are-we-tipping-balance>

³ See www.ecbi.org

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.

In a consensus-based process such as the UNFCCC negotiations, no constructive outcome is possible without a minimum level of trust. Enhancing 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).

2.3. Improving the Nexus between Negotiations and Implementation

Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement in 2015 and large parts of its “Rulebook” in Katowice in 2018, the focus of the international community’s response to climate change is gradually shifting from the diplomatic negotiations under the UNFCCC to domestic implementation. All parties to the Paris Agreement have made international commitments – captured in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – that they now need to translate into action at the national level.

For that reason, the ecbi will seek to improve the two-way nexus between international diplomacy and domestic implementation. While national action needs to be in line with the Paris rules, the decisions on further processes, international collaboration and support under the UNFCCC should be informed by what is needed and what works (or does not) on the ground.

3. Institutional Framework

3.1. Overview

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.⁴ However, the idea 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 can play a very constructive role in the process, provided that they could be made to engage on a more level playing field, and to understand each other better.

The ecbi is a network of institutional members originally managed by the UK-based Oxford Climate Policy (OCP) and the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED), with the support of the London-based Legal Response International and a number of developing country implementing

⁴ See International Institute for Sustainable Development: <https://enb.iisd.org/climate/sb22/enbots/23may.html>

partners. In preparation for Phase V, the management of the ecbi programme has been transferred to two developing country organisations:

- [BVRio](#) (Instituto BVRio), a Brazilian non-profit organisation created in 2011 in Brazil, and now operating internationally, with offices in Brazil, United Kingdom, Switzerland, China, Ghana, and Indonesia, which through its Oxford office and in collaboration with its subsidiary [Oxford Climate Policy](#), will be managing the **Oxford Fellowship Programme**, and
- The Dhaka-based [International Centre for Climate Change and Development](#) (ICCCAD) is one of the leading research and capacity building organisations working on climate change and development in Bangladesh and will be managing the **ecbi Training and Support Programme**.

The ecbi management and governance structure (see Section 3.2) aims to ensure overall quality control and integration, while ensuring that ecbi activities are driven by its stakeholder community.

In 2018, the Phase IV activities were scrutinized in an in-depth [Independent Evaluation](#). The key conclusions for the future of the initiative were the following:

- [1] *The ecbi programme is currently meeting and often surpassing its agreed outcomes, and is also producing unplanned benefits, including networking for participants, informal support to unblock negotiation challenges, and sharing of information with participants' colleagues.*
- [2] *The programme is not without its challenges, but these are recognised and addressed by ecbi staff. The enablers are mostly linked to two key elements, firstly the informal setting of activities, and secondly, the reputation of the programme, particularly in terms of its unbiased approach.*
- [3] *The ecbi also meets a unique need in the negotiations process – the evaluation could identify no other actors that provide a similar service which combines several elements of training, relationship building and provision of information.*
- [4] *The ecbi model of the Training and Support Programme; the Oxford Fellowship Programme; and the production of policy briefs and background papers is still seen to be valid in the changing environment of the negotiations. The adaptation required to meet the changing environment is at content level. The ecbi is also developing new additional initiatives to support its core business, such as a mentoring project for women negotiators. This and other 'add on' options should be further explored.*
- [5] *The ecbi mainstreams gender in all its activities. It is seen by its stakeholders as supporting women's participation in negotiations, mostly through developing women negotiator's confidence and capacity, and modelling good practice. The ecbi is actively working on gender, and is developing more initiatives for future.*

While the main purpose of the ecbi remains as articulated in the Phase IV Framework (“Levelling the playing field through support and training” & “Rebuilding and avoiding further erosion of trust”), Phase V will consequently put more emphasis on the two-way nexus between the negotiations and implementation: The negotiations need to be guided by what implementation requires, and implementation needs to understand what the negotiations imply.

In order to capacitate the participating climate change negotiators the ecbi will be using the following four programmes:

- **Fellowship & Trust-building Programme** (managed by BVRio/OCP): activities include the Oxford Fellowships and Seminar, the Bonn Seminar, and Ad Hoc Seminars

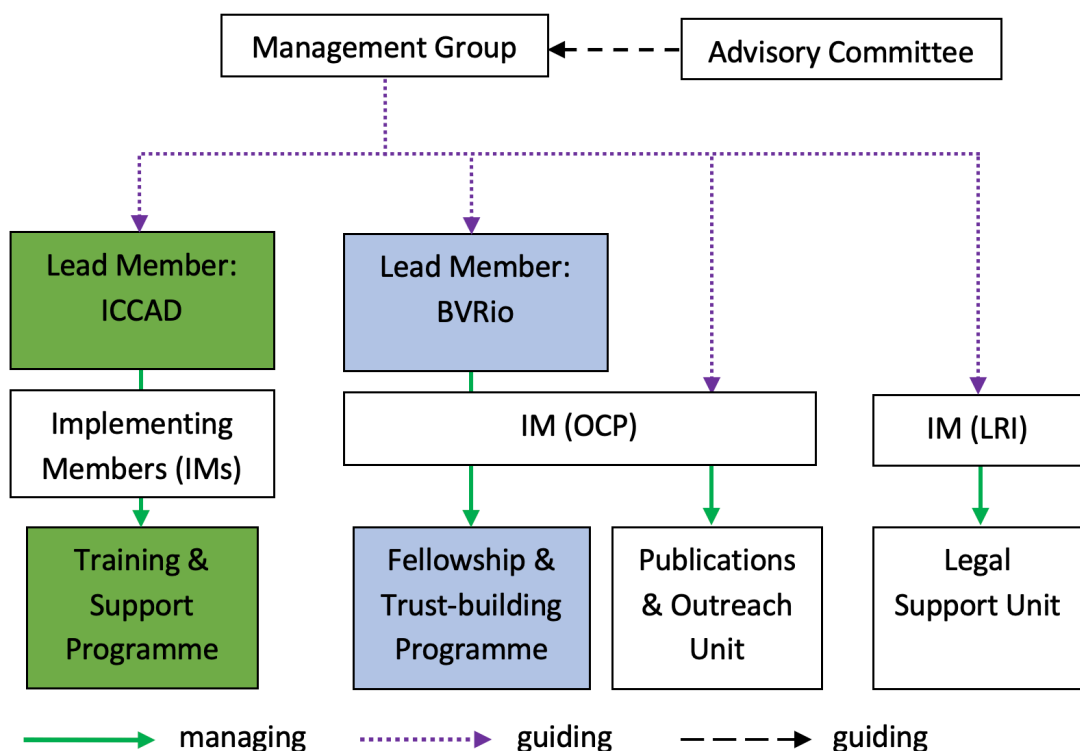
- **Training & Support Programme** (managed by ICCAD) its activities include regional and pre-COP training workshops for junior negotiators, as well as logistical and mentoring support for women negotiators.
- **Legal Support Unit** (managed by LRI): provides legal support during UNFCCC meetings and for national implementation. It will also hold national legal round-table workshops and strengthen legal communities in developing countries.
- **Publications and Outreach Unit** (managed by OCP) replaces the Publications and Policy Analysis Unit. It will produce publications such as Policy Briefs and Pocket Guides on the multilateral climate negotiations, ecbi meeting annual reports, as well as policy briefs on national implementation of the Paris Agreement.

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

3.2 Governance & Management

The ecbi **Advisory Committee** – with at least half developing country members and co-chaired by two eminent people, one from a developing country and the other from Europe – provides strategic advice for the content of the Initiative.

The ecbi **Director** is responsible for the provision of operational support to the two co-Chairs. Membership is tied to the ecbi Phases and can be renewed. Members are appointed by the Management Group. The Advisory Committee and the Management Group meet during UNFCCC sessions where possible.



As a network (without legal personality) of institutional members, the ecbi relies on its member organisations to contract, manage and implement its activities. Each of the four activity streams – the two Programmes and the two Support Units – are managed by a designated ecbi member organisation, namely (for Phase V)

- Fellowship & Trust-building Programme: BVRio, implemented by OCP (a BVRio subsidiary);
- Training and Support Programme: ICCCAD;
- Legal Support Unit: LRI;
- Publications & Outreach Unit: OCP.

Given the two ecbi Programmes, as main ecbi activity streams, are designed to complement but not presuppose each other (they could work independently), the member organisations in charge of managing them are the **Lead Members** of the ecbi with the ultimate responsibility to fund-raise for their Programmes and the Support Units. The Lead Members can sub-contract parts of their activities to other member organisations (**Implementing Members**) – for example to regional members for the regional training workshops of the Training and Support Programme – but as principals, the Lead Members are responsible for the fiduciary management and control for the contracts.

The Heads of the Programmes and Support Units are appointed by their managing member organisations and as such are *ex officio* part of the **Management Group** for the Phase in question. Each *ex officio* member of the Management Group can designate a deputy to stand in for them if they are incapacitated. The Management Group:

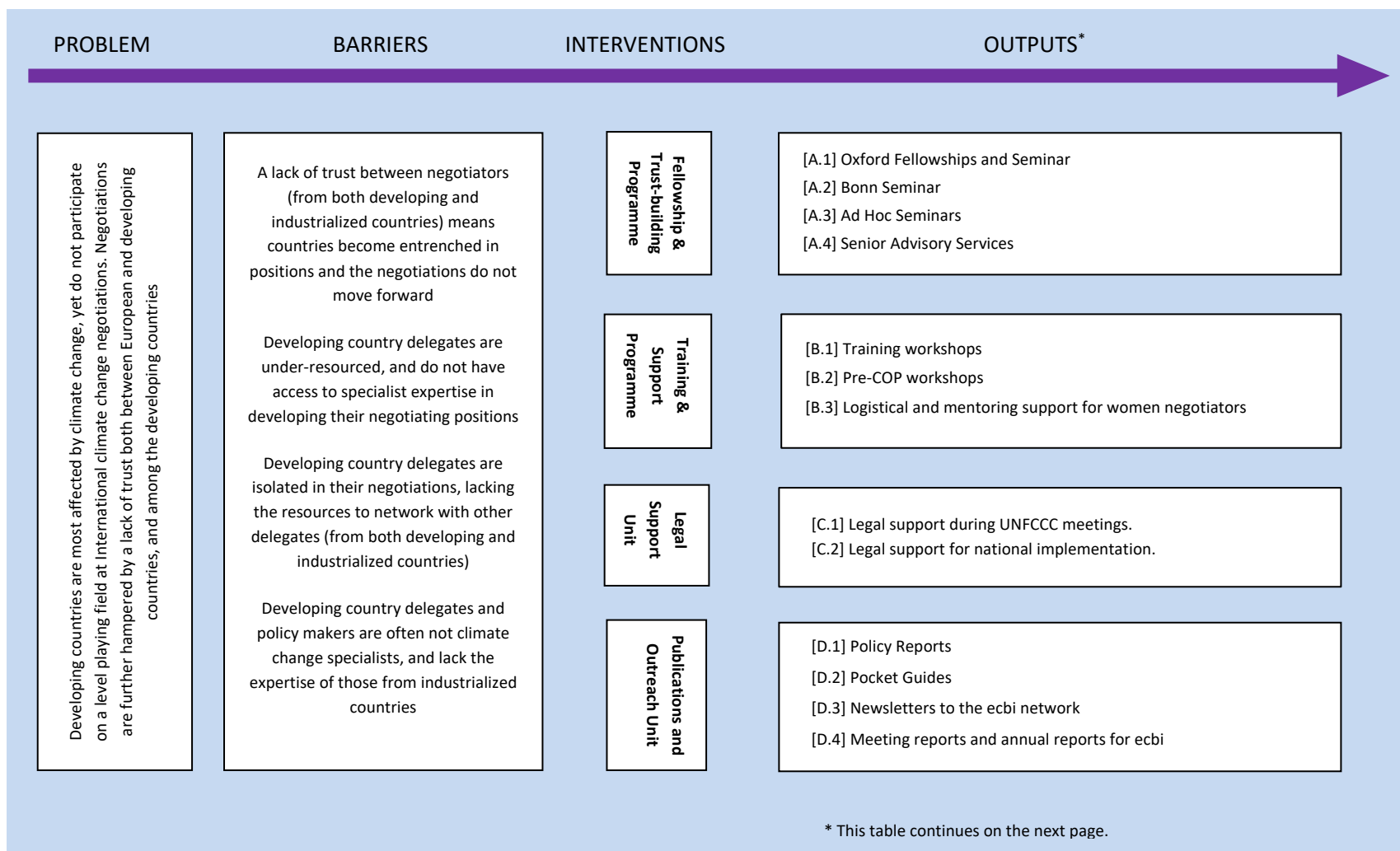
- appoints the ecbi Director, who is *ex officio* chair of the Management Group.
- provides guidance to the Programme and Support Unit Heads for day-to-day management of their activity streams.

The Management Group, with advice from the Advisory Committee, is responsible for the overall management of the ecbi

The Management Group takes decisions by consensus. Where that is not possible, the decision is referred to the Advisory Committee Chairs, who, if necessary, can refer the issue to the full Advisory Committee.

The ecbi Director is responsible for common activities such as the ecbi website, outreach and branding and is *ex officio* participant at Advisory Committee meetings.

4. Logic Model⁵



⁵ The assumptions underpinning this Logic Model are described in Section 10: Risks and Assumptions.

OUTPUTS (cont.)

OUTCOMES (immediate/longer term)

IMPACT

- A. Fellowship & Trust-building Programme**
 [A.1] Oxford Fellowships and Seminar
 [A.2] Bonn Seminar
 [A.3] Ad Hoc Seminars
 [A.4] Senior Advisory Services
- B. Training & Support Programme**
 [B.1] Regional training workshops
 [B.2] Pre-COP workshops
 [B.3] Logistical and mentoring support for women negotiators
- C. Legal Support Unit**
 [C.1] Legal support during UNFCCC meetings.
 [C.2] Legal support for national implementation.
- D. Publications & Outreach Unit**
 [D.1] Policy Reports
 [D.2] Pocket Guides
 [D.3] Newsletters to the ecbi network
 [D.4] Meeting reports and annual reports for ecbi

[a] Increased understanding among participating negotiators of each other's positions.
 [A.1-2]

[b] Participating negotiators have better information and are more effective in the negotiations.
 [A.1-2] [B.2] [C.1] [D.1-4]

[c] Participating negotiators have increased negotiation skills.
 [B.1-3]

[d] Participating national policy makers are better informed about the multilateral climate process and understand better the implications of that process on domestic implementation.
 [B.1] [C.2] [D.1-2]

Increased level of trust within the MLCCP

A more level playing field in the MLCCP

ecbi-facilitated MLCCP outcomes

Enhanced Nexus between Implementation and MLCCP

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

☐ = Outputs associated with the respective Outcome

MLCCP = Multilateral Climate Change Process

5. Outputs/Activities

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

- independence;
- transparency (no hidden agenda);
- Fellow-led/participatory;
- Chatham House rules in discussions;
- rooted in practical experience of negotiations.

***NB:** The list of outputs/activities provided in this Section is **indicative** only. It depends in a first instance on the availability of funding and secondly may be amended depending on demand (some activities may cease to be required, and new ones added on demand).*

5.1. Fellowship & Trust-building Programme

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**, which take place annually, over a week, and are organized by OCP. During the first three days, closed-door discussions take place among the participating Fellows, in the Fellows' Colloquium. This is followed by the Oxford Seminar, which is convened by the Fellows to discuss topics of their choice with European colleagues. The 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

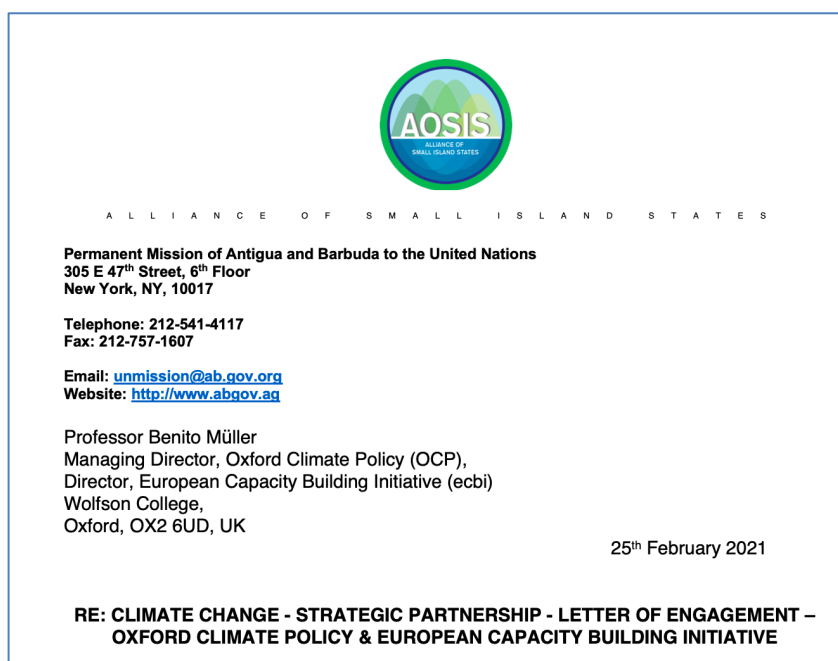
discussions and exploration beyond the boundaries of nationally held positions, without the fear that national positions may be compromised.

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, to bring these to the notice of their European colleagues, 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.

The Fellowship Programme also holds **Ad Hoc Seminars** whenever and wherever 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.

Strategic Partnership with the Alliance of Small Island States



In February 2021, OCP/ecbi became a [Strategic Partner of the Alliance of Small Island States](#) (AOSIS). As such they were “invited to work with and support AOSIS in the thematic area of climate change through the following modalities:

- **Capacity Building** – Conducting training and support activities for the AOSIS Membership on a variety of matters such as, inter alia, negotiating skills, thematic subjects, etc. This will also

involve capacity building and partnerships with OCP/ecbi and regional SIDS academic institutions such as the University of West Indies.

- **Technical Assistance for Implementation** – Provision of technical expert support focused on enhancing the enabling environments of the AOSIS Membership for their implementation of climate actions in line with the Paris Agreement 2015.
- **Technical Assistance for Negotiations** – Provision of technical expert support for the production of: 1) Position Papers – Aimed at advancing our interests in negotiations and providing short summaries of our position in a thematic area; 2) Technical Papers – Aimed at informing us on specific thematic topics to enhance our knowledge. The thematic areas that the Chair would like OCP/ecbi to assist with are:
 - i. Finance
 - ii. Transparency
 - iii. Markets & Non-Market Approaches
 - iv. Just Transition of the Workforce
- **Trust Building Activities** – Conducting trust building activities with our Membership through programmes such as ecbi’s Fellowship Programme and seminars.”

OCP will therefore engage with the AOSIS Chair to provide the requested support, inter alia, as part of the Oxford Fellowship Programme.

5.2. Training & Support Programme

The ecbi Training and Support Programme (TSP) focuses primarily on training negotiators from Vulnerable Developing Countries (VDCs), particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the members of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), in the UN climate change negotiations. The programme aims to improve knowledge to effectively engage in the UNFCCC decision making process and to share learning related to national level implementation. It includes:

1. Regional training workshops
2. Pre-COP training workshops
3. Logistical and mentoring support for women negotiators

The mission of the Training and Support Programme is to:

- i. Increase participants' negotiating skill,
- ii. Increase negotiators' capacity with better information and help them in using that information more effectively,
- iii. Support women negotiators and enable them to actively engage in the negotiations,
- iv. Facilitate lessons sharing and best-practice learning between negotiators on national implementation of UNFCCC decisions, and
- v. Build connections among negotiators which enable them to work together more effectively in the UN climate change negotiations.

Regional training workshops

The ecbi TSP aims to promote a more level playing field between government delegations in the UNFCCC negotiations by providing training and support to junior VDC negotiators.

Regional training workshops are open to all VDCs in the region, as well as a selection of other developing countries important in the region. The three UN regions encompassed by the ecbi TSP are (see Table 1):

- Africa,
- Asia and the Pacific,
- Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC).

Apart from these geographically identified constituencies, Phase V also aims to hold training workshops for Francophone VDCs (see Table 2).

Table 1. Vulnerable Developing Countries by Region (non-francophone, LDCs)

Asia/Pacific		Africa	GRULAC
Afghanistan	Fiji	Angola	Antigua and Barbuda
Bangladesh	Maldives	Eritrea	Bahamas
Bhutan	Marshall Islands	Ethiopia	Barbados
Kiribati	Micronesia	Gambia	Belize
Myanmar	Nauru	Lesotho	Cuba
Nepal	Niue	Liberia	Dominican Republic
Solomon Islands	Palau	Malawi	Grenada
Timor-Leste	Papua New Guinea	Mozambique	Guyana
Tuvalu	Samoa	Sierra Leone	Honduras
Yemen	Singapore	Somalia	Saint Kitts and Nevis
	Tonga	South Sudan	Saint Vincent/Grenadines
		Sudan	Suriname
		Uganda	Trinidad and Tobago
		Tanzania	
		Zambia	

Table 2 Francophone Training Workshop (*= VDC)

Africa		GRULAC
Benin*	Niger*	Haiti*
Burkina Faso*	Rwanda*	Dominica*
Burundi*	São Tomé and Príncipe*	Saint Lucia*
Cabo Verde*	Senegal*	
Central African Rep.*	Seychelles*	Asia/Pacific
Chad*	Togo*	Vanuatu*
Comoros*	Cameroon	Cambodia*
Djibouti*	Congo	Laos*
DRC*	Côte d'Ivoire	Lebanon
Guinea-Bissau*	Egypt	Viet Nam
Guinea*	Equatorial Guinea	
Madagascar**	Gabon	
Mali*	Morocco	
Mauritania*	Tunisia	
Mauritius*		

The workshops bring together senior members of the VDC delegations/regional groupings under the UNFCCC, many of whom are previous participants of the ecbi Training and Support Programme, who act as trainers. Participants experience a combination of substantive sessions on the thematic issues of the negotiations and practical sessions aimed at building

negotiating skill. Facilitated discussions guide participants in exchanging experiences on national implementation, establishing relationships and networking. .

ICCCAD also hosts the LDC Universities' Consortium on Climate Change (LUCCC) as its secretariat. Currently LUCCC has 15 universities of LDCs as its members & now it is an official programme of the 47 LDC governments, which aims to capacitate all the LDCs to address climate change. The TSP will therefore be able to make use of the LUCCC resources and network.

Overall, the regional training workshops:

- Build capacity to participate in, and influence, the UN climate change negotiations,
- Strengthen the understanding of substantive issues on the UNFCCC agenda,
 - Broaden the understanding of climate challenges at the national and regional levels,
 - Sustain the capacity to effectively participate in the UNFCCC negotiations,
 - Strengthen networks and communication structures to improve in-session coordination,
 - Facilitate peer-to-peer learning, lessons sharing and best-practice learning between negotiators on national implementation of the UNFCCC decisions, and
 - Strengthen the link between negotiation and implementation – both by allowing experiences of implementation to feed back into the negotiations, and by improving the dissemination of results of the negotiations.

“After the workshop my level of knowledge of the UNFCCC negotiation process has evolved considerably because it allowed me to be better use the legal instruments; to master the techniques of speaking and engaging; to break the linguistic barrier to be able to dare and speak up”.
Francophone regional workshop participant, April 2019, Addis Ababa

ecbi-supported women negotiators will be invited to the regional workshops whenever possible. The regional workshops are tailored to give time-relevant information to the junior negotiators in a setting conducive to learning. Senior expert negotiators from the region, including when possible the LDC Group Chair, are among the resource people presenting at the workshops, which provides the opportunity for junior negotiators to consult them informally. The practical mock negotiations sessions are of particular importance for negotiators to build their negotiating skills. Legal expertise is provided from partner LRI.

Pre-COP training workshops

The pre-COP training workshops aim to provide a platform for junior VDC negotiators, who often do not have sufficient time to prepare for the UNFCCC negotiations, to gather sufficient information and knowledge about the upcoming COP. Participants will be given information about the session and the key positions of AOSIS, the LDC Group and other Parties, so that they can effectively prepare for the COP. In addition to the participants nominated by their respective UNFCCC Focal Points, all supported women negotiators will be invited to the pre-

COP training workshop. As for the regional workshops, senior negotiators present on the key themes and are available to consult.

ICCCAD has both senior and junior negotiators as its core staff members. So they can serve as resource persons as well as mentors.

On-line Training

Based on the Gobeshona (Research platform on climate change in Bangladesh) international conference held in January 2021, which ran virtual 24/7 for a week covering all the time zones of the world, ICCCAD can organize on-line sessions, both before & after the in-person regional workshops covering all the three regions. Its Master's Programme on Climate Change and Development is also now virtually. So, ICCCAD can contribute greatly in running TSP- activities on-line, where appropriate.

Logistical and mentoring support for women negotiators

Logistics support is to be provided to junior women negotiators who participate in the regional training workshops to attend the UNFCCC sessions. The ecbi Training and Support Programme offers this support to allow junior women negotiators the opportunity to develop their expertise in a subject area of the UNFCCC and negotiate on behalf of their delegation.⁶ Following their participation at UNFCCC sessions, they produce reports which are disseminated to inform other negotiators in their region. They are encouraged to document their experience and learning by authoring blogs.

Supported junior women negotiators are mentored by senior negotiators to ensure a speedy integration into the negotiations. A mentoring scheme, overseen by the ecbi Training and Support Programme encourages and supports junior negotiators to actively participate in the UNFCCC negotiations by connecting them with a senior negotiator who serves as a mentor.

Mentors assume responsibility for guiding, advising and helping to facilitate the development of the junior negotiator. In addition, mentors support mentees in trying new ideas, helping them learn from their experiences and challenging their assumptions. The mentoring partnership provides a non-threatening environment in which the mentee feels able and willing to express their concerns and anxieties, as well as discuss their ideas and aspirations. Mentors can provide guidance and advice to mentees at negotiations and between sessions via meetings, shadowing and email.

5.3. Legal Support Unit

The international climate negotiations are among the most complex multilateral law and policy-making processes ever. Meetings are characterised by technical jargon, carefully crafted wording and references to international legal principles and obligations. In order to meet their national

⁶ See testimonial from junior negotiator Xaysomphone Souvannavong (Laos): <https://www.iied.org/how-i-learnt-make-my-voice-count-un-climate-negotiations>

commitments under the Paris Agreement and to benefit from the provisions of the new agreement many developing countries will also have to review their domestic rules and regulations, and enhance their national governance frameworks.

ecbi's legal programme (lead by LRI), therefore, specifically focuses on strengthening the legal capacity of delegates from developing countries and those – often the same officials – who are tasked to manage its implementation at the national level. The programme operates at two levels (the international negotiations and national implementation) and facilitates the collective learning experience at the nexus through partially - but not only - a legal lens:

Legal support in the international negotiations

A team of LRI lawyers attends the climate 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 further 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.

The advice service is available to all delegates from developing countries. It includes complex research projects (on for example, carbon markets or precedent in other international fora), the interpretation of text, comparing different party positions or drafting. It provides an additional backstop for participants of the ecbi fellowship and training programme who can request further in-depth support if and when required during the course of the negotiations.

Legal support for domestic implementation

To implement their NDCs, parties to the Paris Agreement will have to rely on domestic policy, law and regulations. In general, law locks countries in a policy direction that cannot be easily reversed, provides a degree of certainty for investors and markets as well as state accountability vis-à-vis its citizens. If states have a domestic framework of policies, laws and institutions that works well they can be more ambitious in the international negotiations.

LRI's legal advice service, therefore, supports developing countries in the review of existing and the development of new legislation on and around climate change. For this purpose, LRI has launched the Climate Legislation Advice Portal in collaboration with UN Environment at <https://climatelegislation.org/>. It allows officials from government, parliament or the judiciary to submit their legal questions directly to LRI at any time.

The Legal Support Unit will provide legal advice and support on domestic implementation to the two ecbi Programmes as appropriate.

5.4. Publications and Outreach Unit

In previous ecbi phases, ecbi publications have contributed to the ecbi meta-outcomes of creating a more level playing field and facilitating progress in the UNFCCC process, by: providing targeted

negotiators with better information for use in the negotiations; promoting a better understanding of the positions of other countries, or groups of countries; and helping formulate positions and identify possible routes of compromise.

In the next ecbi phase, it is envisaged that in line with the overall focus of the ecbi, the ecbi Publications and Outreach Unit (POU) will take on two further roles: producing publications on national implementation of the Paris Agreement; and improving networking between the growing ecbi alumni, while communicating ecbi publications to a new, expanded, national (and global) audience. The specific objectives of POU remain as follows:

- Producing timely policy analysis to meet the needs of the other 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.
- Bolstering developing country capacity for policy analysis, by involving developing country representatives in the policy analysis process.
- Maintaining 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 outcomes of ecbi 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, including through the use of social media.
- Updating the ecbi alumni on events, publications, and opportunities.

The POU will continue to produce its range of current products: **Policy Briefs** for senior climate negotiators, aimed mainly at the work of the Fellowship Programme; **Pocket Guides** for junior negotiators, for use in the Training and Support Programme; **newsletters** for the ecbi alumni; **reports** on ecbi meetings; **and the ecbi Annual Report**.

Policy analysis under the ecbi is conducted on a needs basis – it is based on the needs of the ecbi ‘target groups’ (developing country negotiators). The policy analysis function of the ecbi contributes directly to its twin aims of capacity building 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 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).

6. Gender

The ecbi is fully cognizant of the critical role in advancing gender equality as part of effective climate action, as is stated in the Paris Agreement. This includes ensuring equitable representation and participation in all levels of climate change decision-making and implementation. Given historically disproportionate and lower participation of women in climate negotiations from across regions, in particular among LDCs, as well the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, ecbi will prioritize efforts to empower women leaders in climate decision-making and promote gender equality.

As ecbi Fellows and other Seminar participants are selected from the ranks of 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 27% of the Heads of Delegation at Conferences of Parties are women (38% of all Party delegates are currently women).⁷

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 & supporting mentorship activities, with other similar efforts to support the participation of women delegates in the climate negotiations, including via travel support, training in negotiations, media, networking and communications (i.e. the Women Delegates Fund administered by WEDO).
- Inviting gender experts to the Fellowship Programme and ecbi Seminars, to enhance gender-related expertise and underline the importance of ensuring women's equal participation at all levels.
- Ensuring that gender equality 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 efforts to highlight the importance of considering gender at every level and involve women at every stage of policy- and decision-making, planning, implementation, and monitoring of climate-related activities. In addition, the Programme will:

- Continue to strive for gender balance in its regional workshops and maintain gender and climate change as one of the agenda issues for discussion; and

⁷ UNFCCC (2019). [Gender composition: Report by the secretariat](#). UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. FCCC/CP/2019/9

- Provide logistical and mentoring support for women negotiators, particularly those from Least Developed Countries.

The Communications and Policy Analysis Programme 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.

7. 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.

Feedback forms. Participants at the annual workshops and seminars are given feedback forms to complete at the end of the events. Feedback forms ask participants to score the workshop or training activity, and pose questions designed to demonstrate whether the activity met its stated goals. Participants are invited to give examples as to what they found useful, and how they plan to use that knowledge or experience in the UNFCCC process. Responses 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.

Testimonials. ecbi participants frequently provide testimonials on the organization's achievements on an ad hoc basis. These testimonies are collected by the M&E officer

Website statistics Website usage data is captured to analyse information such as which publications are being downloaded and how often.

Annual key stakeholder interviews. A number of key stakeholders are interviewed on an annual basis to feed into ongoing monitoring. The key stakeholders are chosen to represent a cross-section of programme participants, as well as 1-2 external observers – these are senior figures in the negotiations process who may have observed programme participants in action and can comment on any improvements in their skills and knowledge.

Evaluation. The ecbi undertakes regular in-depth evaluations, with four being completed to date⁸. Evaluations use the above data, as well as interviews with participants and relevant stakeholders, and capture examples of influence on the negotiations.

⁸ They can be found here:

<https://ecbi.org/publications/ecbi-phase-i-evaluation>

<https://ecbi.org/publications/ecbi-phase-ii-evaluation>

<https://ecbi.org/publications/ecbi-phase-iii-evaluation>

<https://ecbi.org/publications/ecbi-independent-evaluation-phase-iv>

Key staff in the OCP, IIED and LRI are responsible for the collection of data through feedback forms, and logging event attendance in the database. The Webmaster is responsible for maintaining the ecbi News Chronicle, and uploading news items. The Head of the Communications and Policy Analysis Programme 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.

Annual Outcome Indicators and Means of Verification

Outcomes	Indicators	Means of Verification	Who will collect data	Timeframe
[a] Increased understanding among participating negotiators of each other's positions.	60% of Fellows report increased understanding of other's positions & are able to give examples 40% of Seminar participants report usefulness in increasing understanding of other's positions & are able to give examples	Feedback forms Electronic monitoring system Interviews	OCP Independent monitor Independent evaluator	At the end of each event Throughout Phase V During independent evaluation
[b] Participating negotiators have better information and are more effective in negotiations.	60% of participating negotiators state that they are better informed & are able to give examples	Feedback forms 'Bellwether' comments Interviews with negotiators	OCP/ICCCAD Independent monitor Independent evaluator	At the end of each event Throughout Phase V During independent evaluation
[c] Targeted negotiators have increased negotiation skills	60% of targeted negotiators report increased negotiation skills	Feedback forms Submissions	ICCCAD ICCCAD	At the end of each event Every year
[d] Participating national policy makers are better informed about the multilateral climate process and understand better the implications of that process on domestic implementation	At least 3 targeted national policy makers demonstrate they are better informed about the UNFCCC process	Statements by targeted policy makers in national media, reports, conferences, etc. Interviews with national policy makers	ICCCAD Independent evaluator	Throughout Phase V During independent evaluation

8. 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 (see Section 4: Logic Model), together with the key risks that may prevent us from delivering them.

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.

8.1 Risks and Assumptions at Output level

ASSUMPTIONS				
[A] Targeted negotiators continue in wishing to engage in ecbi activities.				
RISKS				
Outputs	Identified risk	Level of risk	Likelihood	How the risk will be addressed
[A.1-2] [B.1-2]	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. Use quick on-line communications to sort out the risks.
[A.1-2] [B.1-2]	Failure to manage time during sessions, resulting in overly lengthy or technical presentations leaving	1	3	Judicious choice of session chairs, and/or use of external facilitator.

8.2 Risks and Assumptions at Immediate Outcome level

ASSUMPTIONS				
[A] & [B] 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 participating 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 over the past ten years of the programme.
[b] Participating negotiators have increased negotiation skills	The training does not translate into increased skills	3	1	The ecbi training programme is designed not only to improve skills but also to build participants' confidence to use them which was proven in evaluation as above

8.3 Risks and Assumptions at Longer-Term Outcome level

ASSUMPTIONS				
<p>[A] [B] and</p> <p>[C] The UNFCCC process continues in its current form.</p> <p>[D] Targeted negotiators retain the opportunity to influence UNFCCC process outcomes.</p>				
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.