



Participants at the ecbi Asia and Pacific regional training workshop, Kathmandu, July 2019 (Credit: Prakriti Resources Centre)

European Capacity Building Initiative – ecbi Training and Support Programme

The [European Capacity Building Initiative](#) (ecbi), launched in 2005, aims to support the international climate change negotiations by **building and sustaining capacity among developing country negotiators**, and by fostering trust between both developed and developing country negotiators.

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) is a lead partner in ecbi, together with [Oxford Climate Policy](#) and [Legal Response International](#). We deliver the [Training and Support Programme](#), which complements [our work with the Least Developed Countries \(LDC\)](#) in the UNFCCC negotiations.

This Programme aims to provide a level playing field to help negotiators and national policymakers from vulnerable developing countries to **improve their knowledge of the UNFCCC decision-making process** so they can engage in it effectively and translate its outcomes into national level implementation.

Four achievements in the past 4 years

1. Training developing countries delegates to engage in climate negotiations: We hold three regional training workshops for Francophone Africa, Anglophone Africa, and Asia and the Pacific every year. Junior negotiators and national policymakers enhance their understanding of the UNFCCC's key topics, as presented by regional experts and detailed in publications tailored to them – see examples below. Participants engage in simulations designed to increase their negotiating skills. The annual pre-COP training workshops are opened by the LDC Group Chair and focus on issues important to countries particularly vulnerable to climate change.

2. Fostering regional collaboration and lessons sharing: Facilitated discussions between the 15+ countries represented at the regional training workshops guide an exchange of experiences on national implementation. Since 2017, the regional workshops in Africa have taken this a step further and brought together the Anglophone and Francophone workshops to share lessons related to accessing finance and developing climate policies. These events foster collaboration in the targeted regions and help ensure climate change issues become an integral part of thinking across government ministries.

3. Building capacity of our regional partners: Since 2016, we have worked in close collaboration with regional partners including [Enda Energie](#) in Senegal, [Janathakshan](#) in Sri Lanka and the [Prakriti Resources Centre](#) in Nepal to organise regional training workshops. We've seen ENDA Energie successfully expand its capacity to deliver and chair regional training workshops for Francophone and Anglophone Africa in Senegal and Ethiopia. Our regional partners contribute to shaping the future strategy for the ecbi Training and Support Programme.

4. Mentoring junior women to become expert negotiators: We offer bursaries to selected junior negotiators to help them become experts in the negotiating process. Recipients are women from LDCs. We provide logistical support that allows them to attend the UNFCCC negotiations, as well as mentoring that helps them fully understand the process and integrate into the appropriate negotiating blocs. Bursary recipients are encouraged to document their experiences and learning by authoring blogs – see example below.

“After the workshop my level of knowledge of the UNFCCC negotiation process has evolved considerably because it allowed me to 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

Seeking further support for ecbi's next phase

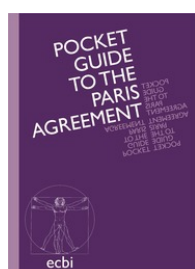
ecbi's fifth phase aims to build on the work done from 2015–2020 and continue levelling the playing field for vulnerable developing countries engaged in the UN climate negotiations. We will continue to address the imbalance between women and men in the negotiations by achieving gender balance at our training workshops and offering direct support to women from the LDCs. Given the post-2020 shift to national implementation, we will also emphasize the two-way nexus between the negotiations and domestic policy – the negotiations must be guided by what implementation requires, and implementation needs to understand what the negotiations imply. In our regional training workshops, we will create more space for lessons sharing and generating key messages to feed into the international process.

As a whole, ecbi will move forward with the following four programmes: the **Fellowship Programme** (managed by OCP) will build trust and exchange knowledge between negotiators; the **Training and Support Programme** (managed by IIED) will run training workshops and support junior negotiators; the **Legal Programme** (managed by LRI) will provide legal support during UNFCCC meetings and for national implementation; and the **Communications and Policy Research Programme** (managed by OCP) will produce publications on climate negotiations and national implementation.

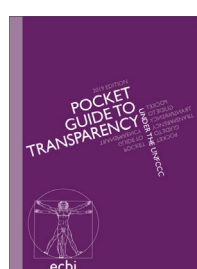
IIED is seeking further support for the Training and Support Programme.

To find out more

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