



Applied Research, competent solutions and
best practice in Climate Policy and Carbon
Markets

- Perspectives Climate Research (PCR) helps to tackle climate change by:
 - promoting science and research regarding climate issues
 - promoting environmental protection, and
 - acquiring funds to promote science and research and to promote environmental protection by other tax-exempt private bodies or public corporations.
- For this purpose, PCR conducts its own scientific research projects and events; collection and identification of relevant information, including their analysis and evaluation, as well as the derivation of policy recommendations, in particular at the international level and on the subject of climate policy and market-based climate protection mechanisms; own scientific publications and support for other scientific projects and the transfer of funds to tax-privileged private bodies or public corporations which are dedicated to the aforementioned purposes.



Through cooperation and joint projects with institutions dedicated to the implementation of nature and climate protection, theoretical insights are to be put into practice.

PCR provides technical support and helps different entities with evaluation of carbon finance operations. This analysis is helpful not only for fund level but also specific project performances, which, at the end, helps with the correct operation of funding entities. Also, support regarding carbon pricing instruments was given to different countries and evaluations on negative emission technologies (NETs) in international climate policy were looked in detail as a possible tool in international climate policy for reaching Paris Agreement's global temperature targets.



- As an example, PCR carried out a research project for the Swedish Energy Agency (2016- 2018) where examined political incentive mechanisms for mobilizing private sector funds for mitigation and adaptation projects in Sub-Saharan Africa. The project identified possible synergies between mitigation and adaptation activities and explored the role of the private sector in the implementation of these activities. The project has developed policy briefs to summarize the key lessons learned from assessing the scope of project portfolios in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to a number of objective selection criteria such as mitigation potential, financial volume and focus area, a number of more qualitative criteria such as scalability / reproducibility and relevance in the current / future climate policy regime were applied.



Regarding this research project, some presentations and workshops were carried out:

- UNFCCC Side Event at the 24th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC on Increasing Financing for Adaptation
- Workshop in July 2018: "Private sector financing for the implementation of nationally determined contributions in sub-Saharan Africa: Workshop on Adaptation Financing", Cape Town, South Africa
- Workshop in October 2018: "Private sector financing for the implementation of nationally determined contributions in sub-Saharan Africa: Workshop on Adaptation Financing", Kampala, Uganda



How the topic of our exhibit relates to the goals of COP 26 and/or the full implementation of the Paris Agreement

Regarding the “Secure global net zero by 2050 and keep 1.5 degrees within reach”, PCR elaborated a **IPCC Special Report on 1.5 degrees, which was a joint project: Transformative Ambition Increasing- The Contribution of Effective Climate Policy Instruments (TABEK)**. The objective of this project was to develop contributions to the thematic area of 'transformation paths and climate protection' of the funding measure. In light of the Paris Agreement, the project examined how policy instruments (e.g., crediting mechanisms) for emission reductions in developing countries in relevant sectors can affect the increase in ambition required for the 1.5°C target in the context of national reduction contributions. Therefore, short and medium-term measures for action through the further development of the Kyoto Protocol mechanisms and forest protection were investigated, as well as technologies for negative emissions.



The research results were presented at international conferences and discussed in expert forums such as:

- UNFCCC Side Event during the inter-sessional meeting of the UN Climate Change Conference, 46th meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) (May 2017),
- UNFCCC Side Event for the 23rd Conference of the Parties (COP23) with the event title "Enhancing NDC ambition while ensuring accelerating effective implementation"
- Stephan Hoch (Perspectives Climate Research): Underwriting 1.5°C: Competitive Approaches to Financing Accelerated Climate Change Mitigation,
- Matthias Honegger (Perspectives Climate Research): Considerations on policy instrument design for negative emissions technologies



- UNFCCC Side Event during the Climate Summit in Bonn (COP23, 6.-17.11.17) "Enhancing NDC Ambition and Preparing for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement"
- Utrecht Conference on Earth System Governance, November 2018, Utrecht
- International Climate Engineering Conference (CEC17), October 10, 2017, Berlin

PCR also works together with other actors to accelerate action. For this purpose, Employees of PCR also regularly participated in the Conferences of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as well as other relevant conferences and workshops in order to keep track of current developments in international and national climate protection policies and to exchange views with colleagues from research and politics or to develop opportunities for further development.

The focus is on accelerating climate actions and just transition, aligning export finance with Paris Agreement (PA) and harnessing synergies between carbon markets and climate finance for achieving ambitious NDCs, and Nordic dialogues. Findings in mitigation policy instruments compatible with a 1.5°C emissions pathway, implication on NDC implementation and international climate negotiations are important for a just transition.



Our Team at COP26



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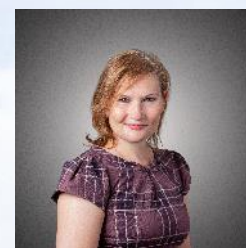
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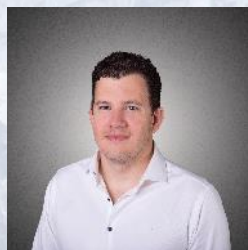
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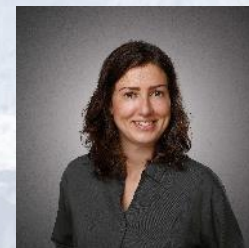
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Solar Radiation Modification - A “Silver Bullet” Climate Policy for Populist and Authoritarian Regimes?

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Who Is Paying for Carbon Dioxide Removal? Designing Policy Instruments for Mobilizing Negative Emissions Technologies

Matthias Honegger^{1,2,3}, Matthias Poralla¹, Axel Michaelowa^{1,4} and Hanna-Mari Ahonen¹*

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CLIMATE CHANGE

06/2021

Urban components under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

Final Report

Article 6 Negotiations Handbook for Eastern Africa

GERMANY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE FOREST AND CLIMATE PROTECTION PROGRAMME REDD+

Synthesis study

2020

Promoting transparency in Article 6

Designing a coherent and robust reporting and review cycle in the context of operationalising Articles 6 and 13 of the Paris Agreement

Axel Michaelowa and Aglaja Espelage (Perspectives)

Lieke 't Gilde and Thiago Chagas (Climate Focus)

Freiburg, Germany, 13.11.2020

Safeguarding integrity of market-based cooperation under Article 6

Additionality determination and baseline setting

06/2021

Background paper

Hanna-Mari Ahonen, Axel Michaelowa, Aglaja Espelage, Juliana Kessler, Johanna Christensen, Sandra Dalfume, Erin Danford



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SYNTHESIS ARTICLE

 OPEN ACCESS

 Check for updates

Potential implications of carbon dioxide removal for the sustainable development goals

Matthias Honegger ^{a,b,c}, Axel Michaelowa ^{a,d} and Joyashree Roy ^{e,f}

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CLIMATE POLICY, 2018
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GUEST EDITORIAL

 Check for updates

Policy instruments for limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C – can humanity rise to the challenge?

Axel Michaelowa^{a,b}, Myles Allen^c and Fu Sha^d

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ABSTRACT

In order to mobilize the volume of mitigation required to reach a global emissions path consistent with 1.5°C, policy instruments need to be much more stringent than they have been to date. They will have to ensure full decarbonization of key economic sectors within one generation, which will require retirement of high-carbon assets



CDM method transformation: updating and transforming CDM methods for use in an Article 6 context

Axel Michaelowa, Dario Brescia, Nikolaus Wohlgemuth, Hilda Galt, Aglaja Espelage, Lorena Moreno

Zürich University
of Applied Sciences



School of
Management and Law



Volumes and types of unused Certified Emission Reductions (CERs)

Lessons learned from CDM transactions under the Kyoto Protocol, transparency gaps and implications for post-2020 international carbon markets

Lead authors: Axel Michaelowa¹, Philipp Censkowsky¹, Aglaja Espelage¹, Aayushi Singh¹
With inputs from and based on a dataset by Regina Betz², Raphaela Kotsch², Tim Dzikowski²

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2020 UPDATE

Negotiating cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

Axel Michaelowa, Aglaja Espelage & Benito Müller
December 2020

COVID-19 impacts on developing countries and links between reco- very policies, climate change miti- gation and international carbon markets

Axel Michaelowa, Matthias Poralla, Juliana Kessler, Anne-Kathrin Weber,
Daniela Laßmann, Johanna Christensen, Simone Schnepf

CIS Working Paper No. 106

December 2020

CLIMATE CHANGE

42/2021

Final report

Development of guidance for non- market approaches in the Paris Agreement

Operationalizing Articles 6.8 and 6.9 of the Paris
Agreement

by:

Axel Michaelowa, Aglaja Espelage, Anne-Kathrin Weber, Juliana Kessler, Stephan Hoch
Perspectives Climate Research gGmbH, Freiburg im Breisgau



Promoting Article 6 readiness in NDCs and NDC implementation plans

Axel Michaelowa, Aglaja Espelage, Lieke 't Gilde, Sandra Dalfiume, Nicole Krämer, Philipp Censkowsky, Sandra Greiner, Hanna-Mari Ahonen, Federico De Lorenzo, Stephan Hoch.

Final report

CLIMATE POLICY
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POLICY ANALYSIS ARTICLE

Catalysing private and public action for climate change mitigation: the World Bank's role in international carbon markets

Axel Michaelowa ^{a,b}, Katharina Michaelowa ^b, Igor Shishlov^a and Dario Brescia^a

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ABSTRACT

This policy analysis examines the role of the World Bank in shaping and stimulating international carbon markets. Adopting a public choice perspective, we argue that its engagement can be understood as a response to the joint goal of reputational and financial benefits. The detailed empirical account of the Bank's activities – from its pioneering role through the Prototype Carbon Fund in the early 2000s, to its initiatives for upscaled crediting subsequent to the 2015 Paris Agreement – is broadly in line with this interpretation. The period between 2005 and 2011 most clearly shows that the Bank was ready to forego some reputational benefits for the sake of financial benefits. During this period, it followed a flourishing privately driven carbon market, mostly competing with, rather than catalysing, private activities. After the Paris Agreement opened the door for a new phase of carbon markets, the Bank again took up a pioneering role, now focusing on the public sector. However, since transparency in relation to its activities is limited – thus reducing reputational risk – these activities may not meet the quality standards, notably with respect to additionality, that are a precondition for carbon markets to be an effective tool for climate change mitigation.

ARTICLE HISTORY

Received 27 January 2020
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KEYWORDS

International carbon markets; carbon credits; World Bank; Paris Agreement; Kyoto Protocol

Best available technology and benchmark baseline setting under the Article 6.4 mechanism

Axel Michaelowa, Juliana Kessler, Aglaja Espelage, Hanna-Mari Ahonen

Discussion paper

Freiburg, Germany, 27.08.2021

Setting crediting baselines under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

February 2021

Discussion Paper

Axel Michaelowa, Hanna-Mari Ahonen, Aglaja Espelage



**Aktueller Stand des
freiwilligen
Treibhausgas-
Kompensationsmarktes
in Deutschland**

CLIMATE POLICY
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SYNTHESIS ARTICLE

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Potential implications of carbon dioxide removal for the sustainable development goals


Matthias Honegger ^{a,b,c}, Axel Michaelowa ^{a,d} and Joyashree Roy ^{e,f}

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Article

Do Multilateral Development Bank Trust Funds Allocate Climate Finance Efficiently?

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External and internal climate change policies for export credit and insurance agencies

Igor Shishlov, Anne-Kathrin Weber, Inna Stepchuk, Laila Darouich,
Axel Michaelowa

CIS Working Paper No. 104

April 2020

Solar Radiation Modification - A “Silver Bullet” Climate Policy for Populist and Authoritarian Regimes?

Axel Michaelowa 

*Perspectives Climate Research, and
University of Zurich*

Climate Change-related Trust Funds at the Multilateral Development Banks

Final Report

Who Is Paying for Carbon Dioxide Removal? Designing Policy Instruments for Mobilizing Negative Emissions Technologies

Matthias Honegger^{1,2,3}, Matthias Poralla¹, Axel Michaelowa^{1,4} and Hanna-Mari Ahonen¹*

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Towards net zero: Dynamic baselines for international market mechanisms

Axel Michaelowa, Katharina Michaelowa, Lukas Hermwille, Aglaja Espelage,

CIS Working Paper No. 107

March 2021



Aligning Export Credit Agencies with the Paris Agreement

Igor Shishlov, Philipp Censkowsky, Laila Darouich

Freiburg, Germany, 06.07.2021





Paris Alignment of Export Credit Agencies: the case of Euler Hermes (Germany)

Laila Darouich, Philipp Censkowsky, Igor Shishlov

Freiburg, Germany, 06.07.2021



Revitalizing Eastern Africa's Institutional Capacity To Engage In Global Carbon Markets

**The Synthesis Report: Article 6
Institutional And Legal Framework
Assessment In Eastern Africa**



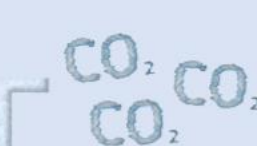
International bulk purchasing as an NMA

Using Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement to reduce
the cost of climate technology

Benito Müller, Axel Michaelowa & Anne-Kathrin Weber
Contributions from Diann Black-Layne, Rene Orellana Halkyer, and Saurabh Kumar



Vermeidung von
Doppelzählung und
Unterstützung der
Gaststaaten im
freiwilligen Markt



A diagram showing a vertical pipe with three CO₂ molecules being removed from the air. The molecules are represented as grey circles with 'CO₂' text. The pipe is a simple vertical line with a horizontal inlet at the top and a horizontal outlet at the bottom.

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climate group

Carbon dioxide removal in climate change mitigation policy planning

- ⇒ Rationale
- ⇒ Opportunities
- ⇒ Challenges
- ⇒ Steps

dena-ANALYSE

Klimaneutralität

Ein Konzept mit weitreichenden
Implikationen



The Doha Amendment: ratification status and implications for credit demand

2 October 2020

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POLICY BRIEF ENSURING THAT COVID-19 RECOVERY POLICIES SUPPORT THE TRANSFORMATION TO A CLIMATE NEUTRAL SOCIETY



Task Force 11
**COVID-19: MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES
TO COMPLEX PROBLEMS**

Authors

AXEL MICHAELOWA, SONJA BUTZENGEIGER, MOHAMMED DABBOOR,
ABDELRAHMAN MUHSEN, NOURA MANSOURI, AMM QUAMRUZZAMAN

A Precautionary Assessment of Systemic Projections and Promises From Sunlight Reflection and Carbon Removal Modeling

Sean Low ^{1,2,*} and Matthias Honegger ^{1,2}

Climate change is a paradigmatic example of systemic risk. Recently, proposals for large-scale interventions—carbon dioxide removal (CDR) and solar radiation management (SRM)—have started to redefine climate governance strategies. We describe how evolving modeling practices are trending toward optimized and “best-case” *projections*—portraying deployment schemes that create both technically slanted and politically sanitized profiles of risk, as well as ideal objectives for CDR and SRM as mitigation-enhancing, time-buying mechanisms for carbon transitions or vulnerable populations. As *promises*, stylized and hopeful projections may selectively reinforce industry and political activities built around the inertia of the carbon economy. Some evidence suggests this is the emerging case for certain kinds of CDR, where the prospect of future carbon capture substitutes for present mitigation. Either of these implications are systemic: explorations of climatic futures may entrench certain carbon infrastructures. We point out efforts and recommendations to forestall this trend in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, by creating more stakeholder input and strengthening political realism in modeling and other assessments, as well as through policy guardrails.

KEY WORDS: Carbon dioxide removal; modeling projections; precautionary measures; solar radiation management; systemic risk



Study on external and internal climate change policies for export credit and insurance agencies

Final Report

Igor Shishlov, Anne-Kathrin Weber, Inna Stepchuk, Laila Darouich, Axel Michaelowa

Freiburg, Germany, 13.03.2020

Research Articles

Mobilising private climate finance for sustainable energy access and climate change mitigation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Axel Michaelowa ✉, Stephan Hoch, Anne-Kathrin Weber, Ruth Kassaye & Tesfaye Hailu

Pages 47-62 | Received 25 Nov 2019, Accepted 13 Jul 2020, Published online: 31 Jul 2020

“ Download citation <https://doi.org/10.1080/14693062.2020.1796568>



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ABSTRACT

Ensuring access to sustainable energy is equally relevant for both sustainable development and climate change mitigation. Mobilising private finance in Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries will, in turn, be of crucial importance for achieving both Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 – which calls for universal energy access – and climate change mitigation goals defined under the Paris Agreement. In this paper, we assess how UNFCCC-backed climate finance instruments have engaged private investment for energy-focused climate mitigation in SSA. Based on this assessment, we develop recommendations for public climate finance institutions. Our work builds on documentary and database analysis and interviews, as well as participatory methodologies applied at a stakeholder workshop conducted in Kampala, Uganda, in 2018. Three case studies from Ethiopia, Madagascar and South Africa illustrate how climate finance interacts with domestic policy instruments, including in relation to the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism, South Africa's domestic renewable energy auctions, and the Green Climate Fund. The paper finds that there is no 'catch all' success model and approaches need to be tailored to local circumstances.

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Axel Michaelowa
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JUL 28, 2020

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Negative Emissionen und Treibhausgas-Zertifikatehandel Potenziale, Kosten und mögliche Handlungsoptionen

Grundlagen zur Erarbeitung der langfristigen Klimastrategie des Kantons Zürich und der Netto-Null-Szenarien für die Stadt Zürich
Zürich, 2. Juni 2020

Teil 1 (Senken): Matthias Honegger, Matthias Poralla, Axel Michaelowa (Perspectives)
Teil 2 (Zertifikatehandel): Jürg Füssler, Stefan Kessler (INFRAS)

COVID-19-TAGEBUCH

19. APRIL 2020

Potenziell tödlich

In Ländern mit niedrigen mittleren Einkommen braucht ein großer Teil der Armen ihr tägliches Einkommen zum Überleben. Ausgangssperren nehmen darauf keine Rücksicht.

Von Axel und Katharina Michaelowa

Um die Ausbreitung des neuen Coronavirus einzudämmen, folgen viele Entwicklungsländer dem Vorbild der Industrienationen und verhängen Ausgangssperren. Menschen müssen zu Hause bleiben und dürfen nicht arbeiten. Leider unterschätzen viele Regierungen, was das bedeutet.

Am 2. April stellte der Generalsekretär der Weltgesundheitsorganisation (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, fest: „In Ländern, in denen ein großer Anteil der Bevölkerung arm ist, sind Restriktionen wie die Anweisung, zu Hause zu bleiben, möglicherweise nicht praktikabel. Viele arme Menschen, Migranten und Geflohene leben dicht gedrängt, ohne Mittel und ohne Zugang zum Gesundheitswesen. Wie überleben Menschen einen Lockdown, wenn sie täglich Geld verdienen müssen, um zu essen?“

Zwar behaupten die Regierungen, sie könnten die Massen der Armen ernähren, aber die Informationen, die wir aus Ländern wie Indien bekommen, legt nahe, dass die Hilfe große Lücken aufweist und keinen Ersatz für den täglichen Verdienst bietet. Zudem ist Distanzhaltung in dicht bevölkerten Elendsvierteln gar nicht möglich.

Tödlich wirkt Covid-19 vor allem in Altersgruppen über 60. Folglich sind die Auswirkungen bei einer vergleichsweise jungen Bevölkerung, wie sie für Entwicklungsländer typisch ist, vermutlich eher begrenzt. Gleichzeitig kostet die Durchsetzung von Ausgangssperren in armen Gesellschaften selbst Menschenleben. Das liegt nicht nur an der Brutalität von Polizeikräften – in Nigeria haben sie Medienberichten zufolge bislang mehr Menschen getötet als das Virus.

Indirekte Folgen reichen viel weiter, denn arme Menschen bekommen nichts zu essen, wenn sie kein Geld verdienen. Wir müssen also nicht einmal eine ethisch problematische Abwägung zwischen ökonomischem Schaden und Menschenleben vornehmen, um zu dem Schluss zu kommen, dass strenge Ausgangssperren in armen Ländern vermutlich falsch sind. In ih-

rer Folge sterben voraussichtlich mehr und nicht weniger Menschen.

Es gibt bei dieser Rechnung aber eine große Unbekannte: Wir haben bislang keine belastbaren Daten darüber, wie sich Covid-19 auf mangelernährte Menschen auswirkt, zumal wenn sie darüber hinaus auch unter massiver Luftverschmutzung leiden. Erste Forschungsergebnisse aus den USA legen nahe, dass Luftverschmutzung die Covid-19-Sterblichkeit erhöht. Diese Nachricht alarmiert, denn sie betrifft viele Menschen in armen Ländern sowohl draußen als auch innerhalb der Wohnstätte. Da es an solidem Wissen mangelt, muss dringend erforscht werden, welche Wechselwirkungen zwischen Corona-Infektionen und Mangelernährung, Luftverschmutzung und anderen für arme Menschen typischen Gesundheitsproblemen existieren. Nur wenn wir das Zusammenspiel der verschiedenen Mortalitätsrisiken besser verstehen, können wir eine wirkungsvolle Politik gestalten!

Bei der Lockerung von Ausgangssperren sollte dann so gut wie möglich für systematischen Schutz und Isolation der verwundbaren Bevölkerungsgruppen gesorgt werden. Alte Menschen und diejenigen, die sie pflegen, sollten beispielsweise so lange unter Quarantäne gestellt werden, bis ein Impfstoff oder eine gute Therapie verfügbar wird.

Das ist eine gewaltige Aufgabe. Bisher hat noch kein Land erfolgreich ein Isola-

COP25

25TH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES TO THE UNFCCC

MADRID, SPAIN

2-15 DECEMBER
2019

Written by
Anju Sharma
Axel Michaelowa
Aglaja Espelage
Jennifer Allan
Benito Müller

With comments and quotes
from the ecpi network of
UNFCCC negotiators

Photos by
IISD/ENB | Kiara Worth

JANUARY 2020

KEY OUTCOMES

Humanity no longer faces climate change. We face a “climate emergency”.

2019 has become the year that the world really woke up to the existential threat of climate change, and the narrative was updated to signal urgency. The global response to the threat, however, was still found lacking. Civil society participants, commentators, and even the UN Secretary-General were disappointed with the results of the Climate Change Conference in Madrid, also known as the 25th Conference of Parties (COP25) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in December 2019. “The international community lost an important opportunity to show increased ambition on mitigation, adaptation, and finance to tackle the climate crisis,” António Guterres said in a statement.

The crunch issues at the Conference – much higher climate ambition to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement, finance for the loss and damage caused by climate impacts, a fail-safe market mechanism that does not compromise environmental integrity, and credible financial contributions to enable action in developing countries – proved too difficult to resolve within the high-pressure, time-deficient confines of a COP, despite a two-day extension and the resilience and staying power of seasoned diplomats.

This was not only because some of the issues were too technical. The political will to treat them with the urgency that they deserve was clearly missing. Tactics to delay progress and prioritise narrow self-interest, increasingly familiar to COP observers, were fully on display. The conference “seems to have turned into some kind of opportunity for countries to negotiate loopholes and to avoid raising their ambition,” noted climate activist Greta Thunberg, with acuity.