

Post-COP21 analysis: What does COP21 mean for the Pacific?



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Remarks & Acknowledgements

- **Expand** on our brief preliminary analysis of COP21, “**21 Observations from COP21**” <http://ilea.co.nz/News.php> (published on 13 December 2015), incorporating observations from two of LeA international partners’ detailed analysis of the Paris Agreement;
 - **Wuppertal Institute (WI) for Climate, Environment and Energy, Germany.** “Phoenix from the Ashes — An Analysis of the Paris Agreement to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change”, Obergassel et al., 2015. <http://wupperinst.org/en/info/details/wi/a/s/ad/3362/>
 - **Carbon Tracker Initiative, Solar Aid, Solar Century UK.** “The Winning of the Carbon War”, by Dr Jeremy Leggett, <http://www.jeremyleggett.net/latestbook/>
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The Key Steps

- 1979 World Climate Conference (WCC) -1
- 1988 IPCC established
- 1990 IPCC FAR
- 1990 WCC-2
- 1991 INC/UNFCCC
- 1995 IPCC SAR
- 1992 The UNFCCC, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 1997 The Kyoto Protocol (KP), Japan
- 2001 IPCC TAR
- 2007 (COP13/CMP3) The Bali Road Map
IPCC AR4
- 2008 (COP14/CMP4, Poznan, Poland
- 2009 (COP15/CMP5) (Copenhagen Accord)
- 2009 WCC-3
- 2010 (COP16/CMP6) (Cancun Agreement), Mexico
- 2011 (COP17/CMP7) (The Durban Platform (DP) for Enhanced Action, South Africa
- 2012 (COP18/CMP8) (The Doha Amendment to the KP (Doha Climate Getaway)), Qatar
- 2013 COP19 (Warsaw Outcomes), Warsaw, Poland
IPCC AR5
- 2014 COP20 Lima Call for Action, Peru, Lima
- 2015 COP21 Paris Agreement (2012 to 2015 AWG-DP (ADP)





COP21: Key Issues for Pacific Islands

- Special “consideration”(Art. 4.8 FCCC)
- Legally Binding Treaty
- Purpose: CBDR-RC
- Mitigation
 - Ambitions LTTG: 1.5°C/2°C
 - National Contributions (INDCs)
 - Bunker Fuels (ICAO, IMO)
 - Cooperative Mechanisms (ETS, etc)
- Adaptation: strengthened role.
- Loss and Damage
- Finance
- [REDD+]



Post-COP21 Analysis



The world's governments have for the first time in history negotiated an agreement that envisages climate action by ALL countries.

The Parties to the UNFCCC were able to reach an agreement [not a treaty?] under international law, with an innovative legal approach in order to satisfy the constitutional peculiarities of the USA.





Post-COP21 Analysis

The agreement's ambition of limiting global warming to “well below 2 °C and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels“ represents a quantitative increase compared to the previous wording and a re-interpretation of the Convention's ultimate purpose.

Furthermore, countries agreed that the temperature limit is to be reached by, first, a peaking of GHG emissions “as soon as possible” and, second, “a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century”.





Post-COP21 Analysis

- Shortcomings include:
 - The lack of legal bindingness as far as national contributions relating to mitigation, adaptation and finance are concerned.
 - Those contributions that countries have submitted fall far short of the stipulated global ambition.
 - Even if fully implemented, global mean temperature would most likely still increase in the range of 2.7°C to 3.5°C.





Post-COP21 Analysis

- The finance part of the Paris Agreement is weak. It does not contain any compulsory language to scale up climate finance. Only the accompanying decision text reiterates that the goal of mobilising an annual USD 100 billion of North-South financial flows in 2020 and beyond, promised already in Copenhagen, is still valid.
- Furthermore, Parties agreed to set a new, collective financing target by 2025. In this context, the USD 100 billion figure is now considered the floor of financial contributions – rather than the ceiling as before Paris.





Post-COP21 Analysis : Increasing ambitious over time

- The Paris Agreement relies on a mechanism of ‘naming and shaming’ to ensure implementation: it creates a reputational risk through the establishment of mandatory transparency and review provisions.
- This innovative review mechanism (“ratchet”) aims for Parties to enhance their contributions every five years. Starting in 2018, these “stocktakes” will create moments of concentrated political attention every five years that may be used for fostering the dynamic of the process.





Post-COP21 Analysis : Increasing ambitious over time

- It will be crucial for the success of the regular stocktakings that countries transparently report the implementation of their contributions, and subject their efforts to review.
- The agreement defines a “**transparency framework**”, which has yet to be fleshed out. Apart from increasing the level of ambition, the details of the transparency framework will be the most relevant field of work in the coming years.



Post-COP21 Analysis: Reasons for developing countries support for the Paris Agreement

(1) It elevates the standing of adaptation in the international climate regime. Crucially, action on adaptation is to be reviewed and accelerated every five years in parallel to the contribution cycles for mitigation. However, while the need for substantial adaptation finance has been recognised in the Paris Agreement, it does not include a collective, quantified goal for adaptation finance.

(2) It recognises that there are adverse climate impacts that cannot be adapted to – and that they must be dealt with. This was a crunch issue until the very end, because while developing countries wanted the concept of ‘Loss and Damage’ to be included in the final agreement text, developed countries feared it could be used for compensation and liability claims.

Post COP21: What does COP21 mean for the Pacific?



The Stage Is Set, Waiting for More Action.

- **Differentiation:** An Agreement Applicable to All.
- **Ambitious Global Targets:** Towards Decarbonisation?
- **National Contributions:** Insufficient and Non-legally binding.
- **Ratchet Mechanism:** A Political Pacemaker to Strengthen Ambition.
- **Transparency:** Fine Print to Be Drafted.
- **Promoting a Long-Term Perspective:** New Horizons.
- **Finance:** Vague Language.
- **REDD+:** What Future Role?
- **International Cooperative Approaches:** What Basis for Market Mechanisms?
- **Loss and Damage:** A New Pillar of Climate Policy





Next Steps on a Long Journey towards a decarbonisation, climate resilient & sustainable future?

- The Return of Environmental Multilateralism
- Cultivating Coalitions (e.g. HAC, Climate Clubs)
- What Role for Non-Party Actors?
- The Paris Agreement is not the End but the Beginning.