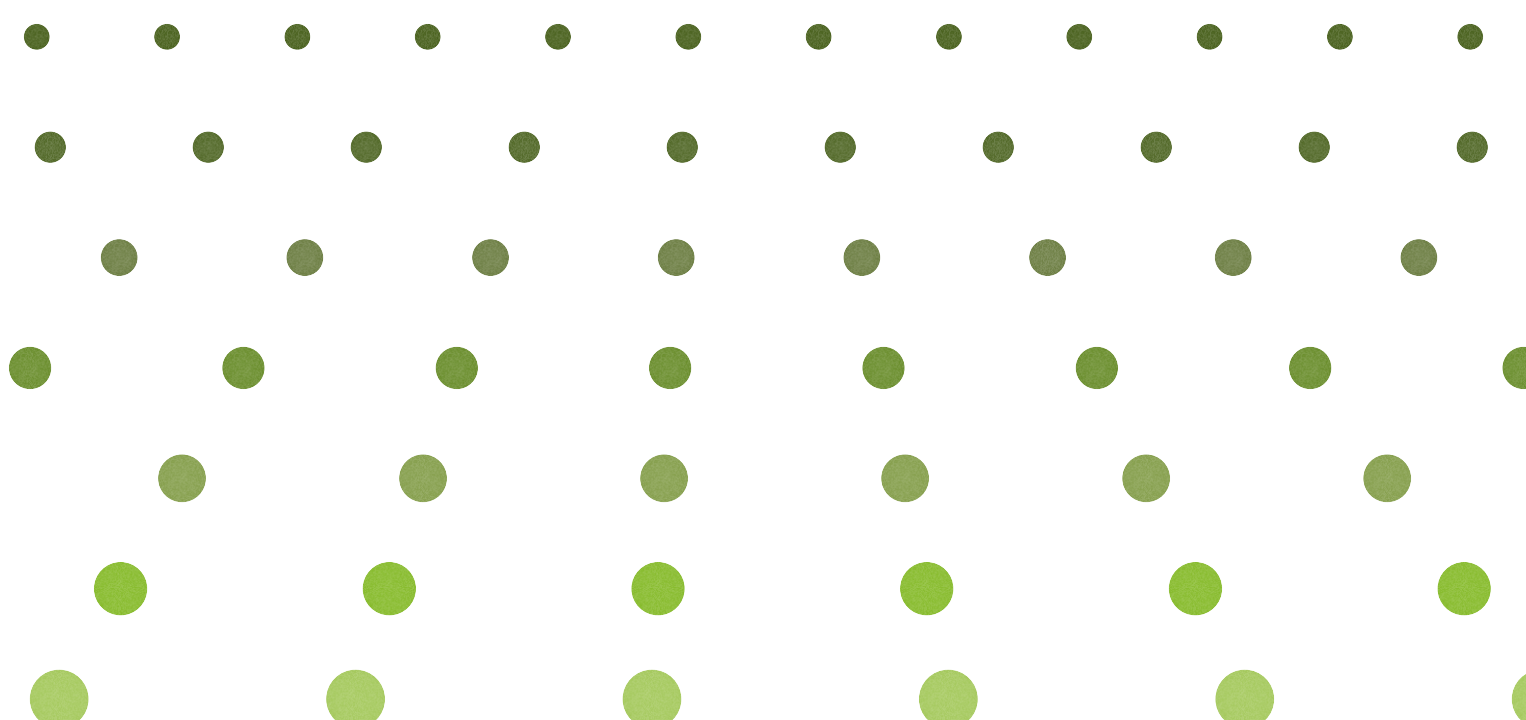


Turning Information into Knowledge and Action for Climate Change

An overview of activities of the
Climate Knowledge Brokers Group
2014 – 2017



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The Climate Knowledge Brokers Group

As the warming of the earth accelerates, the window of opportunity to take action and avoid catastrophic climate change is shrinking. Quick, decisive action on climate change has never been more urgently needed. This action should be based on sound understanding of the causes and impacts of climate change, as well as the options available for mitigation and adaptation. Climate knowledge brokers play a critical role in providing decision makers with the information and evidence basis for this understanding, and the Climate Knowledge Brokers (CKB) Group helps knowledge brokers fulfil this role effectively.

In 2011, representatives of 21 climate change platforms decided that collaboration was a better way forward than competition and established the Climate Knowledge Brokers Group. Six years later, this group has grown into a network of around 400 climate knowledge brokers in 60 countries, working for over 200 different organisations, including governments, international organisations, universities, small NGOs and the media.

Although they work in a variety of different contexts, these climate knowledge brokers are united by a shared vision: **A vision of a world in which people make climate-sensitive decisions fully informed by the best available climate knowledge.**

In 2014 the CKB Coordination Hub was established at the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) in Vienna, Austria. The Hub provides a central contact point for the group, and has organised events, joint projects and other activities with and for climate knowledge brokers all over the world.

The Climate Knowledge Brokers Manifesto, published in 2015, outlines the roles of climate knowledge brokers and the challenges they face, sets out CKB's mission and vision and calls for joint action to meet the enormous and still rapidly growing demand for relevant climate knowledge. The Manifesto was developed as a collaborative project within the CKB network, and following its publication received overwhelming support, with numerous news outlets covering its launch.

CKB offers climate knowledge brokers support in doing their job well, through a multitude of channels and in different formats, both on- and offline. Examples include the popular peer-exchange 'climate knowledge sharing clinics', held during workshops, and publications like introductory videos and books, which were developed by the CKB and are hosted on its website.

Since its establishment, CKB has connected climate knowledge brokers, supported their initiatives, and led the discussion about how to do this work better. Collaboration is at the core of everything CKB does - and it will continue to engage with users of climate knowledge, with current and future supporters of climate knowledge activities, and brokers worldwide.

Over the last three years, CKB has organised 12 events to enable face-to-face networking and peer learning among over 450 participants. During the same period, more than 600 people joined webinars and other online capacity building and discussion events offered by CKB.

The CKB Coordination Hub has produced dozens of videos introducing climate knowledge brokers and different aspects of the role, and has published two major books. Above all, though, CKB has provided a crucial community of practice and peer-support group for the 400 climate knowledge brokers in its network.

Climate knowledge brokers improve the availability of climate change information for decision-making:

“Chains of 'knowledge brokers' act as filters, interfaces and translators between knowledge producers and users, across different disciplines, fields and sectors. They employ a range of methods and communication approaches to meet users' needs.”

— *Climate Knowledge Brokers Manifesto*

How does this work in practice?
Find out more at tiny.cc/i-am-a-ckbroker

The Seven CKB Principles

I

People who are trying to address the impact of a changing climate deserve high quality information to support them in their decision-making.

II

CKB champions the importance of climate knowledge brokers in ensuring high quality climate relevant information is available and accessible to all who need it.

III

We believe that understanding user needs in their multiplicity is the starting point for effective climate knowledge brokering.

IV

We are committed to learn together to improve the effectiveness of climate knowledge brokering.

V

We support climate knowledge brokers in choosing appropriate tools and methods to address their users' needs, including intelligent use of digital technologies.

VI

We apply collaboration as a standard in our work.

VII

We promote open knowledge; meaning we have an open mindset, are actively seeking to share our knowledge and want to work with others who have the same attitude.



400+ Individuals



Workshops and events held on 5 continents



Growth in number of CKB members from Latin America and the Caribbean, 2014–2016: 78%



200+ Organisations



450+ Participants in CKB events



Growth in number of CKB members from Africa, 2014–2016: 144%



600+ Participants in CKB webinars and other online events

Voices about CKB



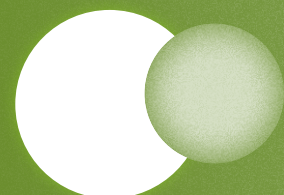
“ Tackling climate change in every country, whether by mitigation or by adaptation, is a long-term effort which needs to be a learning by doing process. Hence the role of knowledge brokers who can share and enable learning from experiential lessons is crucial for successfully tackling the climate change challenge at local, national and global levels. ”

— *Dr Saleemul Huq, Director, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Senior Fellow, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)*



“ As the consequences of global climate change become more frequent and severe, people around the world will respond. Some will be forced to deal with crisis while others will work to prevent it. Either way, people and communities will learn how to live in a changing world. We need to share this knowledge with one another both to adapt to climate change and to keep it from becoming worse. There is no time and no need for any of us to climb this learning curve on our own. We have the ability today to share knowledge instantly around the world. CKB is working to make sure we use it. ”

— *Bill Becker, Executive Director, Presidential Climate Action Project (PCAP)*





“ Through this group, I have entered into a network of vibrant institutions and individuals committed to communicating various aspects of climate change and development for a sustainable world. The opportunity provided to me by the Climate Knowledge Brokers Group to participate in a panel discussion chaired by Mary Robinson at the prestigious Development and Climate Days (D & C days) event held alongside COP20 at Lima and present the India Environment Portal at the climate conference contributed to raising the profile of this web service and the team of information professionals behind it. ”

— *Kiran Pandey, Programme Director, India Environment Portal and Information Management, Centre for Science and Development*



“ Throughout the development of the GGKP web platform, the feedback and advice we received from other CKB members was invaluable. The CKB Group continues to expose us to new and innovative knowledge management tools, facilitates opportunities for us to gather expert advice, and instils in us the confidence to implement ambitious new developments. ”

— *Benjamin Simmons, Head, Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP)*



“ For me, CKB means a Knowledge brokering Think Tank. A world-leading community of interest devoted to high-level debates and fostering exchanges and collaborations among producers and users of climate and development knowledge. ”

— *Moussa Na Abou Mamouda, Africa-Adapt Knowledge Sharing Network Coordinator, ENDA Energy-Environment-Development*



“ The CKB was a transformational idea that revolutionized the ability to interact amongst two community of practices: development practitioners and climate change experts. Through its programs, CKB allowed us to be more effective and innovative in how we share knowledge together. Looking forward to continuing the engagement for many years more! ”

— *Ana Bucher, Senior Climate Change Specialist, The World Bank*

Introduction & History

“Society is only now grasping the full extent to which our lives, jobs and environment are sensitive to a changing climate. Effective decision-making will be needed in many areas if we are to build a climate resilient future.”

So begins the Climate Knowledge Brokers Manifesto. It explains that decisions can only be climate-sensitive and effective if they are based on reliable, relevant climate information. From policy-makers writing disaster response strategies to farmers choosing which crop to plant, all decision makers need to know how climate change is likely to affect their work in the future, and what options they have to overcome the challenges it brings.

Much of the information on climate change currently produced is not directly useful for decision-making. Climate knowledge brokers make it usable by identifying user needs and tailoring, synthesising and translating existing information to match those needs.

Climate knowledge brokering is an emerging field, and there is still a lot to learn about how to carry out this role effectively. At the same time, the window of opportunity to take action to avoid dangerous climate change is small. Collaboration between knowledge brokers and other stakeholders is crucial to ensure that everyone learns from each other’s mistakes and successes, and to prevent duplication of efforts.

In 2011, representatives from 21 leading online climate knowledge platforms met in Eschborn in Germany. Realising they had common goals and faced similar challenges, they founded the Climate Knowledge Brokers Group to enable closer collaboration. The relationships formed in Eschborn also led to seven joint climate information projects, funded through the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) Innovation Fund. In 2014, REEEP, one of the founding organisations of CKB, established the Coordination Hub. The CKB Coordination Hub is the central point of contact for the network, and leads the organisation of events, joint projects and other activities. The CKB Steering Group, as the oversight body of the network, provides input on the strategic direction and sets priorities for the Coordination Hub. It consists of several of the founding members of CKB as well as representatives of major contributors to the network. The steering group is chaired by Geoff Barnard of CDKN.

In the years since the group was founded, CKB has grown into a large Community of Practice with almost 400 members from all continents except Antarctica. It has connected these members and enabled capacity building through peer learning online, through joint projects, webinars and newsletters, and offline, at workshops as well as numerous side events at conferences all over the world.

The Manifesto created a demand for capacity building products, as more people recognised the need for climate knowledge brokers and wanted to know how to perform this role better. To meet this demand, in 2016 the CKB Coordination Hub began developing a series of introductory modules and resources, which can be accessed freely on the CKB website.

Collectively, the CKB Group has made a big difference in the work of climate knowledge brokers everywhere. They are now better connected, better informed and better equipped to face the enormous climate knowledge challenges of the world anno 2017. Still, much remains to be done.

This report celebrates three years of activities and achievements by the Climate Knowledge Brokers Group. It describes the work of the Coordination Hub in support of the three main goals of CKB: to reach out to climate knowledge brokers, to connect and support them in their roles and to provide them with innovative tools and methodologies to help them in their work.

“When we first met in 2011, it immediately became clear that a group like the Climate Knowledge Brokers would have enormous potential to improve the way people and organisations deal with the ever growing body of climate knowledge that is out there. Collaboration, innovation and personal exchange play a crucial part in driving this change. Working with such an engaged group of professionals has been highly rewarding, seeing the network evolve and technologies like the Climate Tagger taken up and extended throughout the community. It has been an honour to host the coordination hub, and we are proud to have played such an important role in bringing this community closer together.”

— Florian Bauer, COO and Director
Open Knowledge, REEEP

Timeline

2014

- July: CKB Coordination Hub established
- October 4–5: CKB Annual Workshop, Brighton, UK
- October 6: CKB Outreach Event, ODI, London: “Creating a ‘Smart Network’ for Climate Knowledge”
- October 16: First edition of the CKB Newsletter
- November 19: www.climateknowledgebrokers.net goes live
- December 1: Side Event at COP20 in Lima, Peru: ‘Innovation and Collaboration for Transforming Knowledge into Climate Action’
- December 5: CKB LAC workshop alongside COP20 in Lima, Peru

2015

- June 23–24: CKB Annual Workshop, UN City, Copenhagen, Denmark
- September 17: Launch of the Climate Knowledge Brokers Manifesto
- October 1: Webinar with the Clean Energy Solutions Center: ‘Decision Making for a Climate Resilient Future: The Climate Knowledge Brokers Manifesto’
- October 12–13: Side Event at the LEDS LAC & LEDS GP Combined Workshop, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
- December 10: Side Event at COP 21 in Paris, France: ‘Decision Making for a Climate Resilient Future: Creating a “Climate Knowledge Grid”’

2016

- March 30–31: Capacity Building Scoping Workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- July 8: Climate Tagger is introduced to the Spanish-speaking world during a webinar with LEDS LAC
- July 28–29: First Online Knowledge Sharing Clinics with UNFCCC’s TT: CLEAR
- August 24: The Spanish translation of the Manifesto is launched during a webinar with CDKN
- September 6: CKB/REEEP Side event at the Global Green Growth Week on Jeju Island, South Korea: ‘Linking Climate Knowledge to Green Growth’
- September 20: Florian Bauer presents the Renewables Tagger at the CKB Outreach Event, NREL, Golden, Colorado, USA
- September 21-22: CKB Annual Workshop, NREL, Golden, Colorado, USA
- September 26: CKB Side Event at the LEDS LAC Regional Workshop, Panama City, Panama
- September 27: RE Tagger is officially launched during a webinar hosted by the Clean Energy Solutions Center
- October: The CKB YouTube Channel goes live
- December 15: Climate Search is launched

2017

- February 7, 8 and 17: Interactive webinars on the CKB Study ‘Climate Knowledge Brokering in Latin America and the Caribbean: Towards a regional agenda for action’
- February 27: Side Event at the Fifth International Conference on Climate Services in Cape Town, South Africa: ‘Co-developing climate services: brokering climate knowledge from scientists to decision makers and back’

Reaching Out

Climate knowledge brokering is an emerging profession, and many people, even some who perform the role themselves, are not yet aware of what it entails. Raising awareness forms an important part of the CKB Coordination Hub's work: to outline the need for climate knowledge brokering, as well as reach out to those unwitting knowledge brokers and to let them know that this community of practice exists to support them.

A major milestone was the publication of the Climate Knowledge Brokers Manifesto in September 2015. The Manifesto explains the role of the climate knowledge broker, why this role is needed and how it can be performed well. It received considerable media attention and overwhelming support from veteran as well as newly self-identified climate knowledge brokers.

In order to make self-identification as a climate knowledge broker easier, CKB has recently produced a series of videos introducing climate knowledge brokers from all over the world. The videos showcase the diversity of roles of climate knowledge brokers, but also the unity of their goals: to make reliable climate change information more readily accessible to decision makers who need it.



82 climate knowledge users and brokers from all over the world were interviewed for the Manifesto, from Belize to Bhutan



75 individuals and organisations have signed the Manifesto, including CDKN, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, Fundación Avina, IDS, REEEP, the Rocky Mountain Institute, and UNDP.

“ I spent some time this weekend reading through the CKB manifesto, and let me tell you— I couldn't put it down! Having worked in environmental/ climate communications for 5 years now, everything I read resonated at a very deep level, as much of the duplication and lack of access to knowledge has also frustrated me to no end! ”

— Maggie Alexander, Energy & Environmental Sustainability Professional

“ The Manifesto is a response to having to keep explaining what knowledge brokering is. Virtually everyone – from donors to our grandmas – asks this question. The Manifesto helps to clarify the role for everyone. ”

— Geoff Barnard, Strategic Knowledge Management Advisor, CDKN



17 Contributors from 10 different countries worked on the Manifesto



2,000 hard copies of the Climate Knowledge Brokers Manifesto have been distributed, and it has been downloaded more than 650 times from the CKB Website

The Climate Knowledge Brokers Manifesto

The Climate Knowledge Brokers Manifesto sets out CKB's mission and vision and calls for joint action to meet the enormous climate knowledge challenges ahead. It also defines the need for and the role of climate knowledge brokers, based on interviews with over 80 climate knowledge users and brokers working in a variety of roles and sectors on five continents. The Manifesto was developed through a collaborative process involving 17 contributors from different countries and organisations.

The Manifesto begins by impressing upon readers the scale of the challenge at hand: in order to build a climate-resilient future, decision-makers at all levels and in all sectors – from farmers to engineers to politicians – have to make sound decisions with the climate in mind. These decisions need to be informed by reliable, relevant and timely information on climate change.

The Manifesto identifies five different types of decision-makers, each with their own information needs (see the graphic on the next page). Climate knowledge brokers help fulfil these needs by working in chains between the producers and the users of climate change information. They function as contact points and filters for information, processing and presenting it in such a way that it is relevant and immediately useful to those who need it. Climate knowledge brokers work across disciplines, areas and sectors; they are generalists who speak the languages of science and of policy making, and can 'translate' between the two. Above all, climate knowledge brokers realise that they will only succeed if they collaborate, and actively search for opportunities to share experiences and learn from each other.

The Manifesto was launched in September 2015. Since the launch, more than 2000 hard copies of the Manifesto have been distributed worldwide. The Manifesto launch was reported in over 35 articles on various websites and blogs, including a wire released article by Reuters that gained reprints from publications as diverse as The Japan Times and the UK's Daily Mail online. A Spanish translation of the Manifesto was launched during a webinar in August 2016.

Climate Knowledge Brokers Address Diverse User Needs

Climate Knowledge Brokers



NO AWARENESS OF ISSUE



OUTREACH



LACK OF QUALITY INFORMATION



FEEDBACK TO PRODUCERS OF INFORMATION



HIDDEN INFORMATION



FINDING & INTERACTING



UNTAILORED INFORMATION



CONTEXTUALISING & SYNTHESISING



TOO MUCH INFORMATION



FILTERING



Informed and aware users of tailored climate knowledge, making better decisions.

“I’m a Climate Knowledge Broker” Videos

In these awareness-raising videos, 15 climate knowledge brokers from all over the world explain what their role entails, and why they see themselves as climate knowledge brokers. The videos serve as a handy tool to demonstrate what climate knowledge brokering means in practice, and can thus help to reach out to those climate knowledge brokers who have never thought of themselves as such.

CKB Outreach at Events

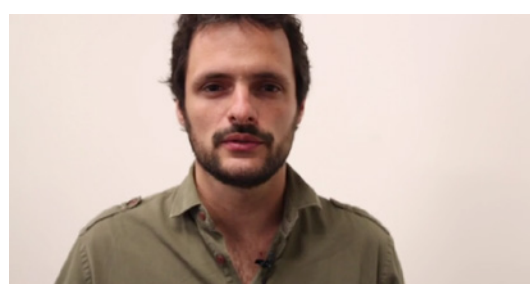
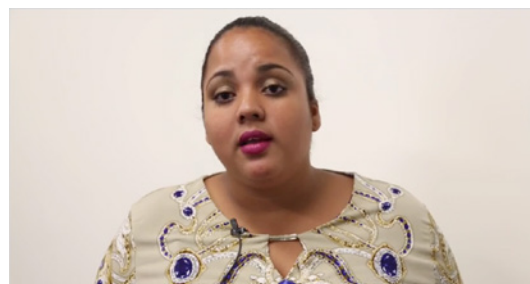
Since its establishment, the CKB Coordination Hub has taken on the task of reaching out to climate knowledge brokers and representing the group at international events and meetings. These events – ranging from the Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNFCCC to the VERGE GreenBiz Conference and the Knowledge Cities World Summit – have brought the group in contact with climate knowledge brokers, other networks and funders, many of whom have become members of the group since.

Website and Online Presence

www.climateknowledgebrokers.net is the central online repository for all things CKB. It contains background information about the group, videos and other capacity building content about climate knowledge brokering, the Manifesto and related promotional materials, an event calendar, reports and recordings from past events and information about and instructions for the use of CKB-developed digital tools. The CKB Coordination Hub also operates the Twitter handle @ckbrokers, as well as a YouTube channel.

Newsletter

The CKB Newsletter is the primary way the Coordination Hub communicates with the CKB network. It is used to share news from the network, as well as interesting publications about climate knowledge brokering and announcements of relevant events, job openings and funding opportunities. The two mailing lists, one for members and the others for interested not-yet members, reach over 750 people. The newsletters are well-read: the average open rate for both lists is 33.6%, well above the industry average of 21.1%.



Voices about CKB



“ I remember asking some of the established players like Eldis, weADAPT, Reegle, UNEP/AKP and others whether climate information people were already talking to each other and collaborating. The answer was no they weren't, but they'd like to. [GIZ] offered to host the first CKB workshop, in Eschborn in June 2011.

The aim of the workshop was to test the appetite for collaboration between climate knowledge players. The response was unequivocal – there was a keen appetite to work together and learn from each other. It was clear that many of those present felt they had been working in isolation and there was a real enthusiasm to compare notes, share experience, and start brainstorming on how they could work together more effectively. Besides that, the ‘knowledge broker’ community, as we called ourselves, turned out to be a great bunch of people. Thus began the CKB Group.

[Since the establishment of the Co-ordination Hub], the conception of climate knowledge brokering has expanded considerably – we're no longer talking just about online knowledge portals, even though that's where many of us started out.

The Group has matured and ‘come of age’ – it's no longer a hypothesis, it's a movement!

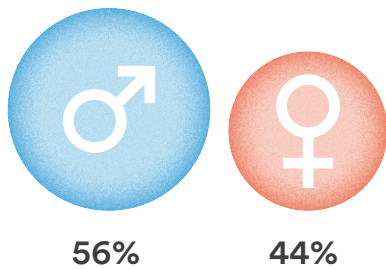
[Over the past three years CKB] has put climate knowledge brokering on the map – especially since the publication of the Manifesto. This has been important personally and professionally for the people involved, who had previously felt quite isolated in their roles, as well as substantively – in giving CKB work a definition and a name and bringing credibility to this field of work.

It has pioneered a collaborative approach to CKB work – in sharp contrast to the competitive nature of many climate domains. The way new initiatives are welcomed to the community at each new workshop is a testament to the strength of this ethos. It has helped a whole series of new climate knowledge initiatives to get off the ground, get connected to other players in the field, and avoid some of the pitfalls involved in reinventing the wheel. ”

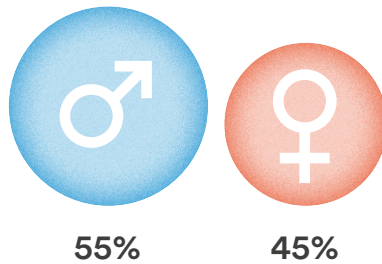
— Geoff Barnard, Strategic Knowledge Management Advisor, CDKN; Co-Founder of CKB and Chair of the CKB Steering Group

Some Numbers about CKB

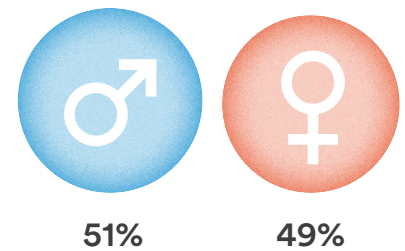
Gender Balance in the CKB Group 2014



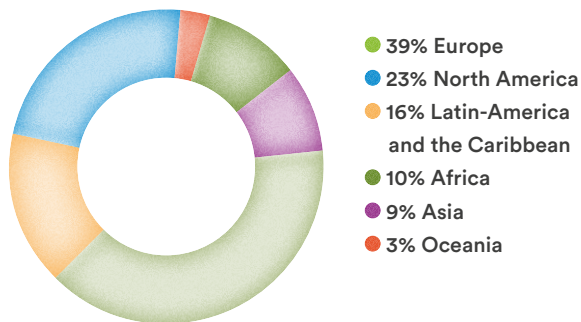
2015



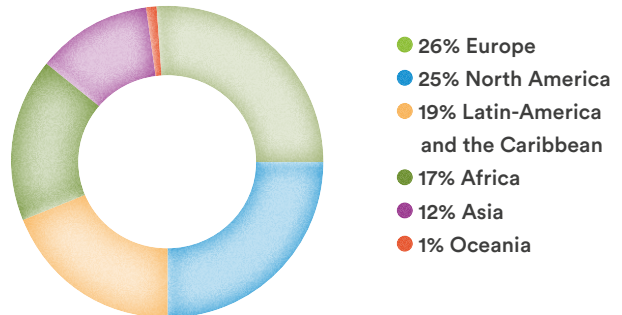
2016



CKB Members per Continent

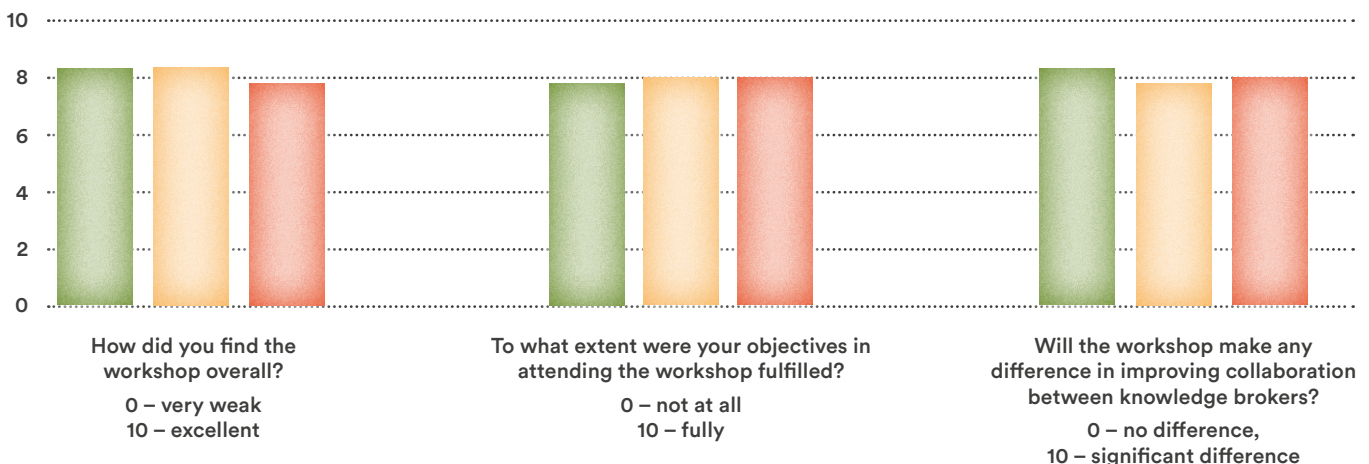


Share of New Members per Continent 2014 – 2016



Participant Satisfaction with CKB Workshops

● 2014 ● 2015 ● 2016



Creating Connections

The CKB Group was founded to enable collaboration and peer learning among climate knowledge brokers. The main occasion for this peer learning is the annual CKB workshop, where participants can share experiences and challenges in both informal and structured settings. The most popular sessions (besides the coffee breaks) have always been the Climate Knowledge Sharing Clinics (see opposite page).

The CKB also employs digital and online tools to enable communication between climate knowledge brokers. Besides managing a dedicated LinkedIn group, the Coordination Hub organizes online Knowledge Sharing Clinics, which are based on the offline format, as well as webinars and facilitated discussions.

To help climate knowledge brokers perform their roles better, the Coordination Hub spearheaded the production of a series of introductory materials, covering topics from the importance of climate knowledge brokering in development to technical advice about online knowledge platforms.

The videos and book in this series are freely available online on the CKB website and YouTube channel.

“ Once again I would like to thank you all, and the CKB Group community, for your help in shaping this website and ensuring that it is effective and relevant. Without your ideas the website would not be what it is today. ”

– Clinic Patient





The Annual CKB Workshops

An annual highlight on the CKB agenda is the workshop, which brings together CKB members from all over the world to network, share challenges and solutions, discuss new developments in climate knowledge brokering and brainstorm about the future direction and activities of the group.

CKB Workshops are interactive events, where slideshows are rare, the focus is on dialogue and peer-learning, and the participants talk more than the organisers. Classic features of the workshops are longer-than-usual coffee and lunch breaks for bilateral exchange and networking, brainstorm sessions about new and innovative ways of climate knowledge brokering with the help of colourful sticky notes to organise ideas, and of course the climate knowledge sharing clinics.

For participants, the workshops offer an opportunity to meet face-to-face with like-minded colleagues, to build new partnerships for collaborative projects, to exchange experiences and learn what is new and who is who in the world of climate knowledge brokering.

Though over the past three years the CKB Group has grown rapidly and its membership has become more diverse, the friendly, collegiate atmosphere at the workshops has not changed. What has also been constant is the 'aha-moment' experienced by most first-time participants: the realisation that they are not alone out there, that many others share their challenges, and most importantly, that those others are willing to offer their collaboration and support.

The fact that this is news to many people every time means that there is still demand for the most basic mission of the CKB: connecting climate knowledge brokers and making them aware of the fact that the group can support them.

“ What is always really striking [about the clinics] – there were a lot of things we had already thought about, but there are always one or two things that make me think ‘why did we not think of that earlier?’ ”

— Sven Egbers, Advisor, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

CKB Workshops: what was the most important thing you learned?

— Excerpts from evaluation forms

“ That there is an enthusiastic community of climate knowledge brokers willing to share and support (2014)

“ We all have exactly the same problems and we could be (are) a great peer-peer learning group (2015)

“ That we seem to be doing OK, and that there are some great colleagues out there that are so willing to help and share good practice (2016)

CKB Methodology: The Climate Knowledge Sharing Clinics

When climate knowledge brokers are dealing with difficult challenges, climate knowledge sharing clinics offer a way to receive support and new insights, either face-to-face or online. ‘Patients’ present their challenges to rotating groups of ‘doctors’, who offer a diagnosis and advice. The patients leave the clinic with many new suggestions and ideas, as do doctors: they can relate to many of the challenges and often apply solutions in their own work.

Over the past three years, more than 30 of the leading climate knowledge initiatives have gone through the process of a climate knowledge sharing clinic in the various CKB events.

Videos

“I know now that I am a climate knowledge broker, but how do I get better at it?” These and similar questions are answered in the videos on the CKB YouTube channel. The videos complement the broad lines and vision for climate knowledge brokering set out in the Manifesto through concrete examples for the need of climate knowledge brokers, with practical advice on how to perform the role well. The videos explain why climate knowledge brokering is important, what the role entails in different situations, but also how technology can play an important part in the profession.

CKB in Africa: Capacity Building Scoping Workshop

Through the participation of African climate knowledge brokers in the annual workshops, it became clear that there was a need and appetite for a workshop in the region. In response, and in line with the CKB Coordination Hub’s commitment to create a capacity building concept, the first ever CKB workshop in Africa was held in Addis Ababa in March 2016. Besides gathering major players in the region in one place, the workshop had two aims: to increase the understanding of participants of the concepts and roles connected to climate knowledge brokering, and to develop potential capacity building interventions that match the needs of climate knowledge brokers in the region.

CKB in Latin America and the Caribbean

In 2014, CKB held a workshop for Latin American climate knowledge brokers during the 20th Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC (COP20) in Lima, Peru. Since 2015, CKB has organised interactive sessions at two workshops of the Low Emission Development Strategies partnership in Latin America and the Caribbean (LEDS LAC) in the Dominican Republic and Panama. In response to the great demand for support for climate knowledge brokers in the region, the Manifesto as well as the CKB website were translated into Spanish, and more Spanish-speaking online events were organised. The Coordination Hub has also carried out a study on the current landscape of climate knowledge brokering in the region, interviewing dozens of climate knowledge users and brokers, as well as funders, to identify the greatest challenges they face and design future activities.

Online Climate Knowledge Sharing Clinics

When a climate knowledge broker needs advice on a challenge but cannot wait until the next CKB Workshop, CKB organises an online climate knowledge sharing clinic. The patient presents the case to a group of doctors from all parts of the world, and receives immediate, actionable feedback. The first, highly successful, online knowledge sharing clinic was held in July 2016.

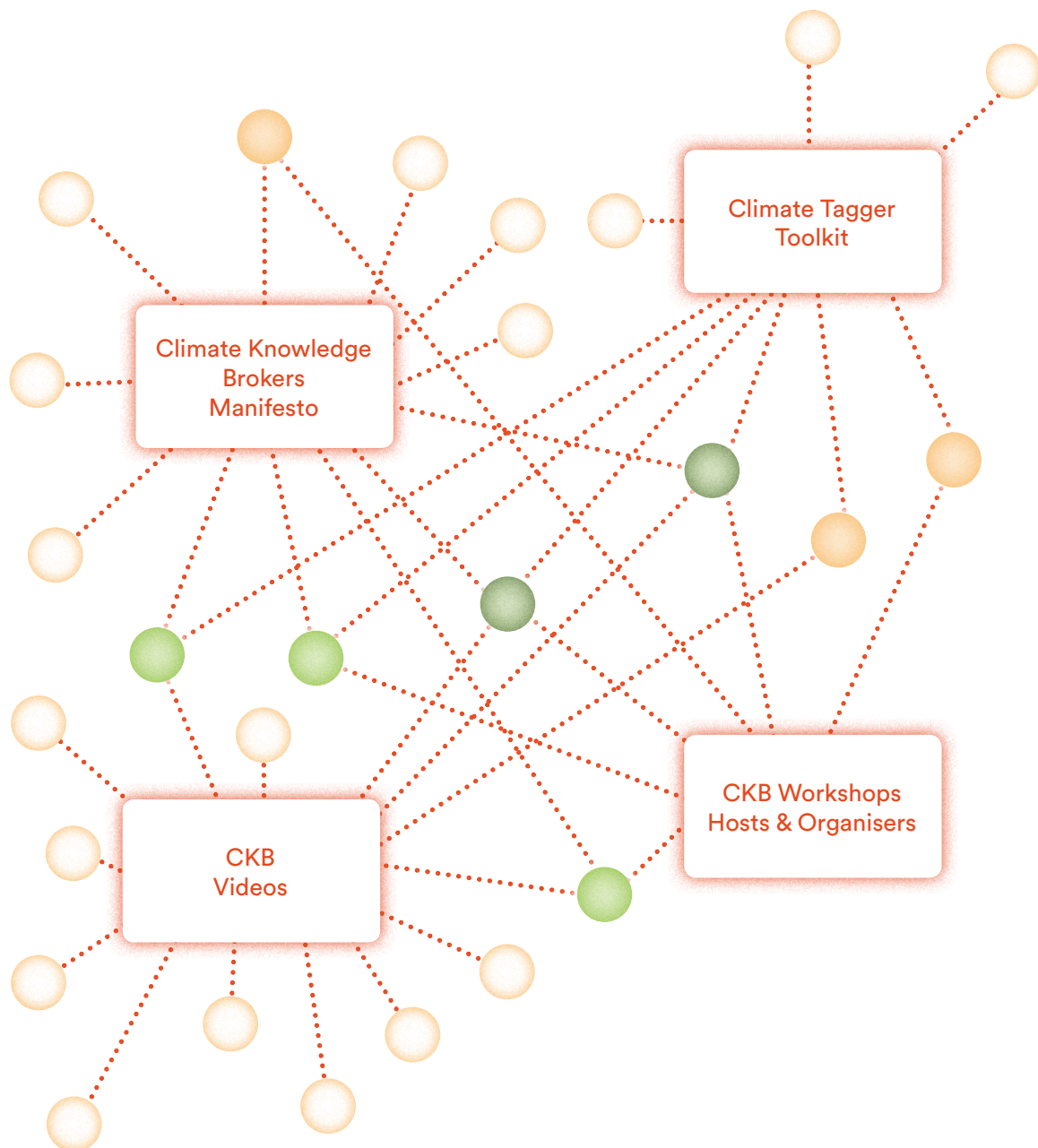
Interactive and Participatory Side Events

CKB has organised side events at many events in the climate change, development and knowledge fields. The goal of all of these side events was, in line with the CKB workshops and overall mission, to forge new connections and facilitate the interactive development of new ideas and collaborative learning from participants’ experiences. Examples of side events include those at the LEDS LAC workshops, at the Global Green Growth Week 2016 and at the Fifth International Conference on Climate Services in 2017.



Cooperation within CKB – Some Examples

The CKB Group connects organisations and individuals to work together in joint projects and activities. The network diagram shows how the various contributors are connected through some examples of collaborative CKB activities.



Voices about CKB



“ By being part of the CKB community I have become more aware of the importance of understanding our audience and how to best satisfy the user’s needs. The Climate Funds Update Website has indeed become more targeted to its audience, its data easier to manipulate and its content clearer and better focused. ”

— *Alice Caravani, Senior Research Officer, Risk and Resilience, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)*



“ I have been a member of the CKB community since its founding. Over that time I’ve seen the network develop from a group focusing predominantly on technical aspects of knowledge brokering (websites, portals, tools, etc.) to one that has become a leading voice for the wider set of issues on knowledge brokering for climate change, including increased awareness to user needs, to translating knowledge into appropriate formats, and more. The CKB manifesto is a clear example of how the coordination hub has helped to bring together a range of perspectives on knowledge brokering and craft a set of clear messages for the wider community. This has had a lot of influence. As countries increasingly move toward implementing integrated climate change policies there is going to be an even greater need for tailored information to guide their actions. As such, the need for ‘honest brokers’ operating through the CKB community is only going to grow. ”

— *Blane Harvey, Research Associate, Overseas Development Institute (ODI)*



“ The Climate Knowledge Brokers group was the first opportunity for me to meet with people working in the same space doing similar work. The platform provided an excellent learning opportunity for me on a professional level, and provided leverage for my projects thanks to seeing what similar initiatives were out there. The group has helped me make connections allowing for collaborative work efforts, reducing potential costs and time. Thanks to the coordination hub, CKB is a well-oiled machine. I’ve been kept in the loop with fellow CKB project and organisation updates, publications, progress and events. It has provided exceptional meeting opportunities - including the annual event which have allowed for ongoing learning and growth. These have become an annual highlight for me. The CKB community is my go-to for climate knowledge and communications challenges and opportunities. ”

— *Claire Mathieson, Knowledge Networks Manager, Africa, CDKN*



“ The CKB workshops have provided a vibrant and solid community of climate knowledge communicators. Direct exchange of ideas, challenges and solutions in these workshops have enabled practical interventions and have been hugely energizing in preparing better for future knowledge brokering. ”

— *Surabhi Goswami, Digital Communications Officer, UNEP DTU Partnership*

Facilitating Innovation

The foundations of the CKB Group rest on two pillars: the community of practice, or the human side of connecting climate knowledge brokers, and technologies and methods, or the tools climate knowledge brokers can use to do their work more effectively. Over the years, the CKB network and Coordination Hub have developed several of these tools, in collaboration with different partners.

Particularly in the context of climate-resilient development, technology is only one side of the equation. CKB is developing innovative methods for the analysis of climate-related information flows, the identification of bottlenecks and the delivery of context-, situation-, culture- and otherwise appropriate interventions, which will bring about significant improvements in the effectiveness of climate knowledge brokers.



Climate Tagger

Climate Tagger was one of the projects funded through the CDKN Innovation Fund for climate knowledge brokers. It was developed by a consortium of organisations that would come to play a crucial role in the network. This consortium was led by REEEP, and since the establishment of the Coordination Hub, CKB has been closely involved with the further development and promotion of the tool.

Climate Tagger is the world's most widely used tagging toolkit for content related to climate change and development. It scans and organises resources, and tags them with keywords taken from the expert-curated Climate Thesaurus in five languages. It can link resources to others on similar topics, also across different platforms. Climate Tagger thus connects organisations to the wider climate knowledge community, breaking open information silos and creating a web of knowledge resources. Users are automatically guided to the most relevant resources on their topic of interest, no matter which platform they were published on.

The tool is free for use, and plugins for WordPress or Drupal, as well as an API key for developers are available. As of November 2016, there were 341 Climate Tagger API key holders, and the plugins had been downloaded over 2600 times. Climate Tagger is used on platforms such as weADAPT and the Green Growth Knowledge Platform.

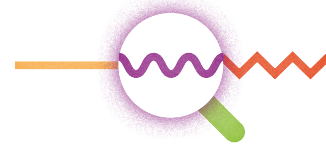
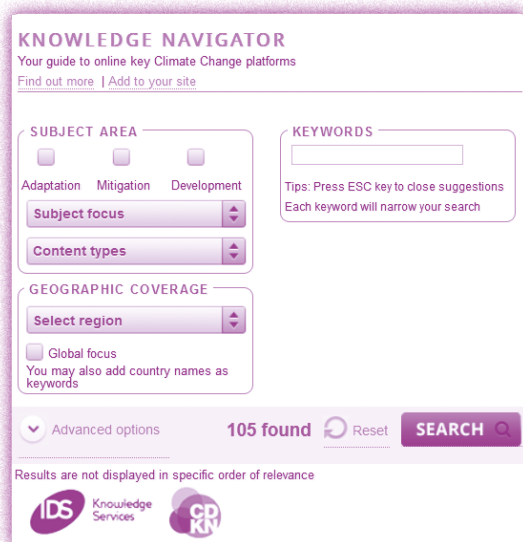
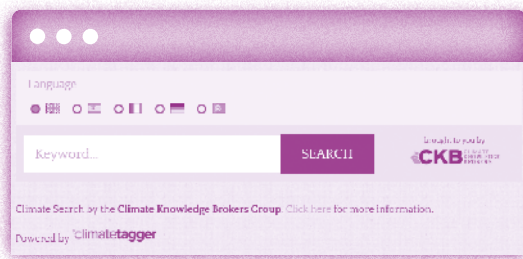
Climate Tagger and the Climate Thesaurus form an excellent example of an ongoing collaborative CKB project: 10 CKB partner organisations have been involved in developing, funding and expanding the toolkit and thesaurus over the years. Through the involvement of these organisations, Climate Tagger has benefited maximally from the varied expertise in the CKB network. Simultaneously, the contributing partners could expand the thesaurus in a way that matched their own needs. For example, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) helped expand the thesaurus with more than 2000 terms connected to renewable energy policy and technology.





Knowledge Navigator and Climate Search

Another project to be initiated after the Eschborn Workshop in 2011 was the Knowledge Navigator, developed by a number of organisations under the leadership of the Institute of Development Studies (IDS). The Knowledge Navigator is a searchable directory of over 100 good-quality climate knowledge platforms, a 'who-is-who' of online climate change information. A unique feature of the Knowledge Navigator is that each platform is assigned a contact person, so that users can easily contact the organisation behind the information. In 2016, the CKB Coordination Hub launched Climate Search, a plugin for WordPress that allows users to search the content of all platforms included in the Knowledge Navigator. Just like Climate Tagger, it is linked to the Climate Thesaurus, and uses terms from the thesaurus to suggest narrower and related searches in five different languages.



The Knowledge Systems Analysis Approach

A methodology currently under development within the CKB is 'Knowledge Systems Analysis'. Inspired by methods for value chain analysis, it aims to discover how climate change knowledge travels between actors in a system, and to identify any bottlenecks. Once these have been found, focused interventions can be implemented to improve the functioning of the system as a whole. With this methodology, CKB will be able to complement its broad network support activities with targeted, results-based projects. The Knowledge Systems Analysis approach is currently being tested on information flows within value chains of goods and services in Senegal and Kenya. Preliminary findings already show the potential of the methodology to uncover new opportunities to improve knowledge flows. Once the methodology has been fine-tuned, it will be released for the use of climate knowledge brokers.

“ The main benefit of using the Climate Tagger is that it allows us to efficiently tag, categorize, and organize the growing body of green growth data and knowledge. [...] The GGKP fully supports the Climate Tagger and would actively encourage other portals to use it going forwards. ”

— Benjamin Simmons, Head,
Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP)

Voices about CKB



“ The CKB community of practice has benefitted my work on a number of levels. Firstly the collective knowledge of the group is invaluable for learning and staying up to date with developments in our sector. Secondly as a network it provides an excellent platform to identify and develop partnerships and collaborations that improve the quality and effectiveness of my work. Finally, its convening power and diverse global membership means that it is in a unique position to advocate for and support the role of knowledge brokers like me in addressing global climate change. ”

— Alan Stanley, Senior Thematic Convenor, Institute of Development Studies (IDS)



“ I have relied on the Climate Knowledge Brokers Group as a bridge between science and practitioner to help inspire climate-relevant decisions AND inform science of practical needs. ”

— Joyce Coffee, President, Climate Resilience Consulting and Senior Sustainability Fellow, Global Institute of Sustainability, Arizona State University



“ I am proud to be part of this climate change information and reflection machine with a transparent and participative production process. CKB is always a question in my mind, helping me to be aware about who is the recipient of the information that I need to catalyse. CKB helps me to find the path to make different messages with the same essence – climate change information – useful not only for journalists, scientists, or researchers, but also for housewives, my car mechanic, or my grandmother. And that ... that is great!!! ”

— Rodolfo Tarraubella, Coordinator, Sustainability and Climate Change Secretariat, CIFAL Argentina

What's next?

We believe that the mission of CKB is far from complete and that the demand for the work of climate knowledge brokers will continue to grow. More decision makers need access to relevant climate information, more producers of climate information need to be aware of user needs and more climate knowledge brokers need to be able to count on the support and expertise of a group of peers.

The CKB network partners will continue to work together, provide support, online and in person, and will keep developing new ideas, tools and methods to improve the flow of information to those who need to take climate-sensitive decisions.

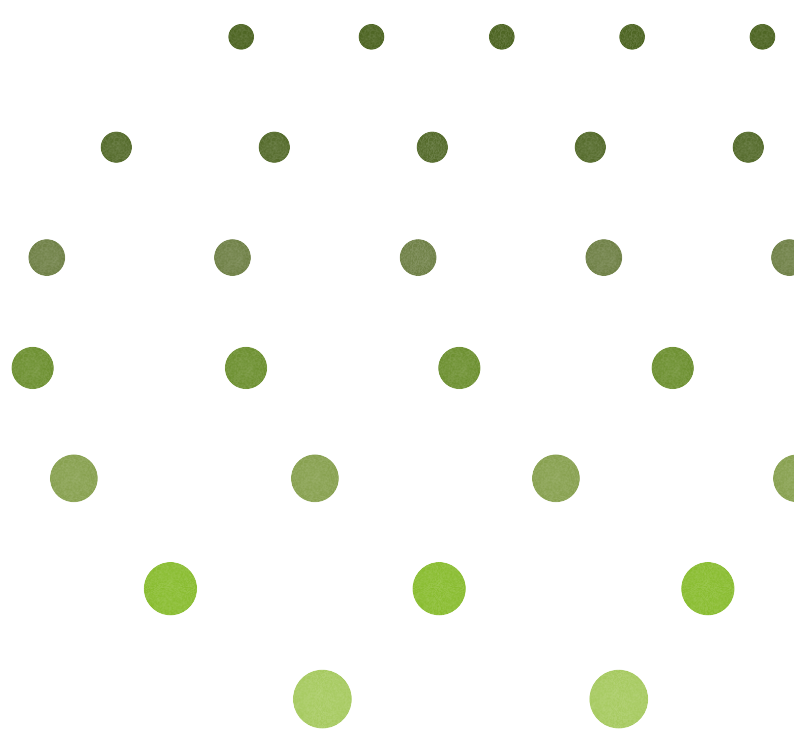
If you would like to be part of this movement, as a decision maker to help us understand more about your information needs, as a climate knowledge broker to help our community of practice grow or as a funder to support our mission, please get in touch at — info@climateknowledgebrokers.net.



Links

Find out more!

- CKB Website: www.climateknowledgebrokers.net
- Twitter: @ckbrokers – twitter.com/ckbrokers
- Join the CKB Group: tiny.cc/ckb-join
- The Climate Knowledge Brokers Manifesto: manifesto.climateknowledgebrokers.net
- The Climate Knowledge Brokers Manifesto in Spanish: www.climateknowledgebrokers.net/es/manifiesto
- Sign up for the newsletter: tiny.cc/ckb-newsletter
- CKB YouTube Channel: tiny.cc/ckb-youtube
- “I’m a Climate Knowledge Broker” videos: tiny.cc/i-am-a-ckbroker
- Video: Why Knowledge Brokering is Key to Climate-Resilient Development: tiny.cc/ckb-resilientdev
- Video: The Climate Knowledge Brokers Manifesto: tiny.cc/ckb-manifestovideo
- Video: Planning a Successful Knowledge Platform: tiny.cc/ckbportals
- Linked Open Data: The Essentials – The Climate Knowledge Brokering Edition: tiny.cc/ckb-lod
- Climate Tagger: www.climatetagger.net
- Climate Search: search.climateknowledgebrokers.net
- Knowledge Navigator: tiny.cc/ckb-kn



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