

International Climate Councils Network

Plenary Meeting

15 April 2025, 08:30 – 10:00 BST

Agenda – March Plenary (rescheduled to April)

Time (UK)	Item	Speaker(s)	
08:30	1. Introductions/Opening Remarks	➤ Karla	➤ For info
08:40	2. Secretariat update 24/25	➤ Ben	➤ For info
08:50	3. Modifications to the terms of reference	➤ Ben	➤ For approval
09:05	4. Pakistan Climate Change Authority – overview and current challenges	➤ Muhammad Rafiq, Pakistan CCA	➤ For info
09:20	5. Strategy and funding for 25/26	➤ Ben/Tessa/Izzy	➤ For discussion
09:55	6. Next steps	➤ Ben	➤ For info

The ICCN governance framework (agreed Sept 2024)

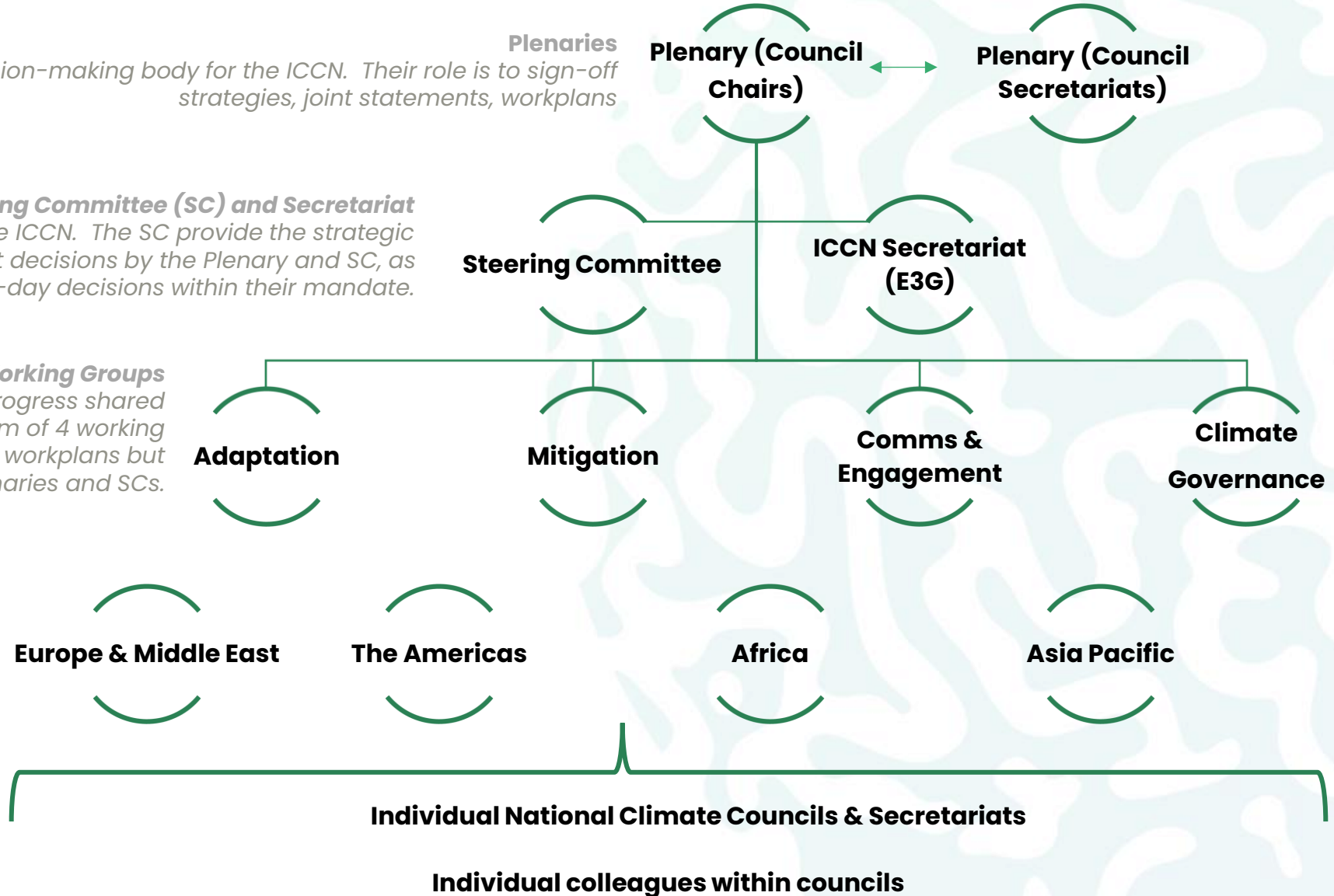
Plenaries
 The primary decision-making body for the ICCN. Their role is to sign-off strategies, joint statements, workplans

The Steering Committee (SC) and Secretariat
 These drive forward the work of the ICCN. The SC provide the strategic oversight. The Secretariat implement decisions by the Plenary and SC, as well as take day-to-day decisions within their mandate.

Working Groups
 Enable experts from within Climate Councils to progress shared areas of interest. We propose limiting to a maximum of 4 working groups as listed. Groups can then decide their own workplans but should report/respond to Plenaries and SCs.

Regional Groups
 Allow Councils to work directly with their closest peers. They can decide their own workplans, but this should include growing membership within their region. They report into Plenaries/SCs.

Members
 Individual Councils can decide how to use the ICCN to further national objectives. But they should consult as appropriate with the SC/Secretariat/Other Members

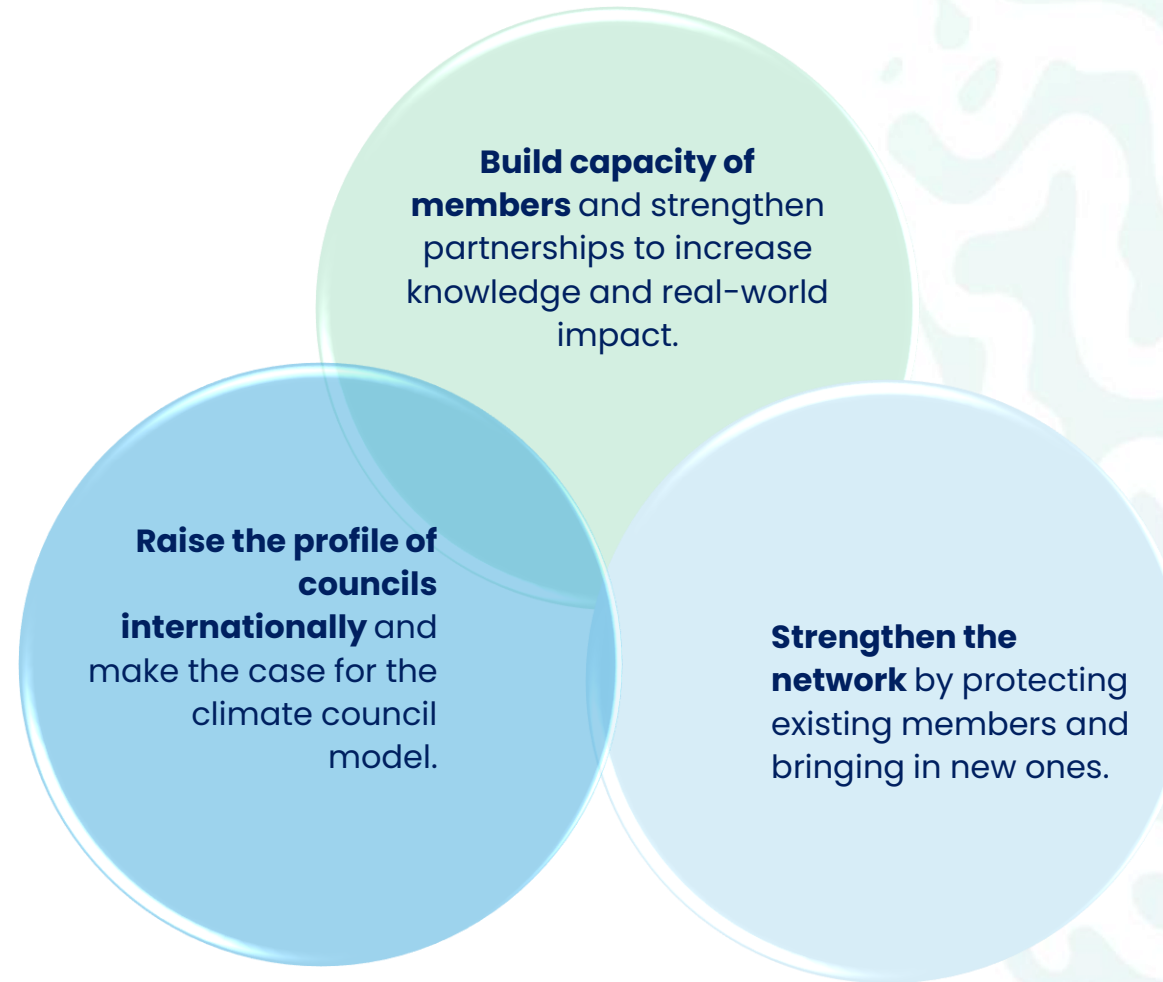


Members are requested to join at least ONE working group and ONE regional group. This does not commit members to specific tasks, nor attendance at all meetings, but will greatly enable effective knowledge transfer across the network

Secretariat Update – April 2025

**Achievements and progress against
the workplan**

We agreed the following three goals at the Nov 2024 plenaries



The Secretariat leads on delivering the goals and supporting ICCN members

The team work flexibly across all areas, but with the following broad responsibilities

Tessa Vincent, Capacity Building Manager

- Leads “Building capacity of members”
- Regional lead for Asia-Pacific & LATAM
- Working Group lead for Mitigation and Adaptation



Build capacity of members.

Raise the profile of councils internationally

Strengthen the network

Ben Rhodes, Head of Secretariat

- Leads “Strengthening the network”, strategy and fundraising
- Regional lead for Europe and the Middle-East
- Working Group lead for Climate Governance



Izzy Page, Secretariat and Engagement Manager

- Leads “Raise the profile of councils internationally”, specifically
- Regional lead for Africa and North America
- Working Group lead for Communications & Engagement



ICCN achievements so far in 24/25

Enhanced the Network mgmt

- Recruited a secretariat
- Established governance
- Improved knowledge-sharing in network and externally (website visits up by 80%)



Published ICCN comms products

- ICCN policy brief launched
- ICCN "Hero" video and Ministerial endorsements
- 'How to Create a Council' toolkit on track for April 2025



Strengthened the network

- Ukraine, Nigeria, Netherlands joined. Mentor scheme offered.
- Pakistan soon to join. Engaging Brazil
- Attended FiCS (Cape Town), strengthening ties between Nigeria & South Africa councils.



Added value to members at COP29

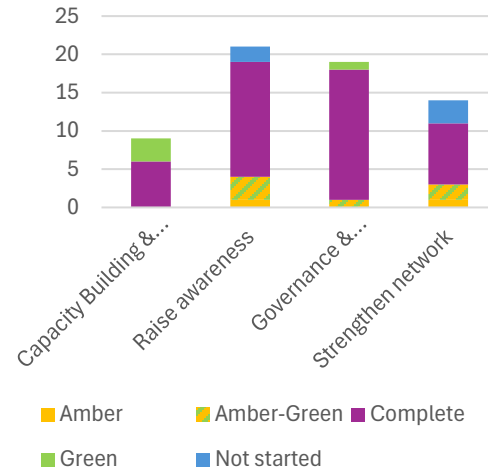
- Hosted ICCN plenary
- Participated in 7 pavilion events
- Helped South Africa & Guatemala attend
- Set up senior meetings with IPCC chair, UNPRI etc



ICCN achievements (2)

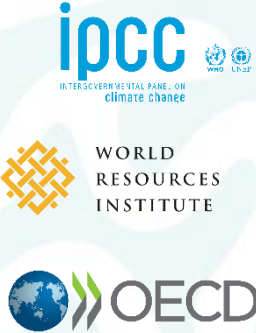
On track to deliver work plan

- Increased agreed workplan ambition from ~37 to ~62 actions.
- On track to deliver this workplan by end April 2025.
- A breakdown of progress is given in the chart.



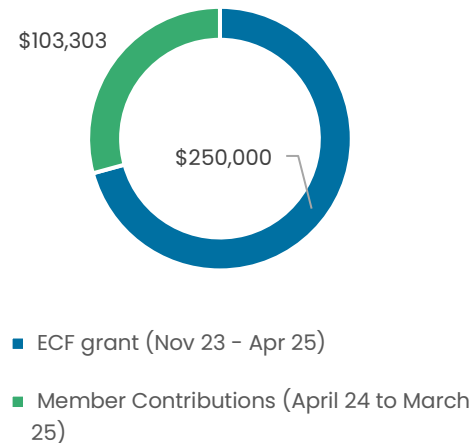
Started to forge strategic partnerships

- Forging partnerships with OECD, IPCC, WRI, UNFCCC.
- Building relations with many more allies who can support ICCN mission.
- Seeking to position ICCN as a thought leader in 2025



On track to make full use of the budget

- ICCN has a total budget of \$353k (ECF grant and member contributions).
- The secretariat is on track to fully use these funds



Launched working groups

- Created four working groups on:
 - * Food/Agri (18 members)
 - * Adaptation (32)
 - * Comms/Engagement (16)
 - * Governance (8) + NDCs/interim targets (~52)
- Launched CEO/Chair group on Institutional Resilience (20)



Modifications to ICCN terms of reference

ICCN terms of reference modifications

- Since its creation in 2021 the ICCN has evolved into a formal network with a full-time secretariat. To ensure its Terms of Reference remain fit-for-purpose we propose undertaking an annual review of the terms and modifying where necessary.
- For 2025, the ICCN Steering Committee and Secretariat recommend the attached updated terms of reference for approval, noting the following key changes.

Modification	Rationale
ICCN co-chairs	As the ICCN grows in size and stature, it feels the right time to discuss and agree a formal role for Chair(s) who are elected by the members. Given the ICCN is a global network, the <u>Secretariat recommends that there are two co-chairs appointed at the same time</u> , one from the Global South and one from the Global North
Tiered member contributions	The ICCN proposes moving to sliding scale contributions from each climate council member of the ICCN, based on the size of their secretariat. This approach is based on member feedback to ensure that a) expected contributions from each member are more equitable and affordable, and b) there is more clarity on funding to reduce the administrative transactional cost of agreeing contributions.
Sub-national associate members	At the November plenaries, members suggested that ICCN “focuses on national level councils but invite sub-national councils in some form”. We recommend creating “associate” member status primarily for sub-nationals who would be invited to some – but not all – “full” member activity. Creating associate membership would strengthen alignment in existing member countries and allow the ICCN to target sub-national members in other countries (e.g. USA, India, Brazil)

- We are seeking agreement in principle to these recommendations at the plenary, with a consultation period running until Friday 11th April to provide detailed comments on the terms of reference.

Pakistan Climate Change Authority – overview and current challenges

PCCA Establishment

- Notified on 18th September, 2024 under Pakistan Climate Change Act 2017
- **PCCA Composition:**
 1. Chairperson (in process of hiring)
 2. Members:
 - Member (Finance)
 - Member (Mitigation)
 - Member (Adaptation) (in process of hiring)
 - Member (Coordination)
 - Provincial Members: one nominated member from each provinces.
 - Co-opted Members: one each from AJK and GB

Progress Update

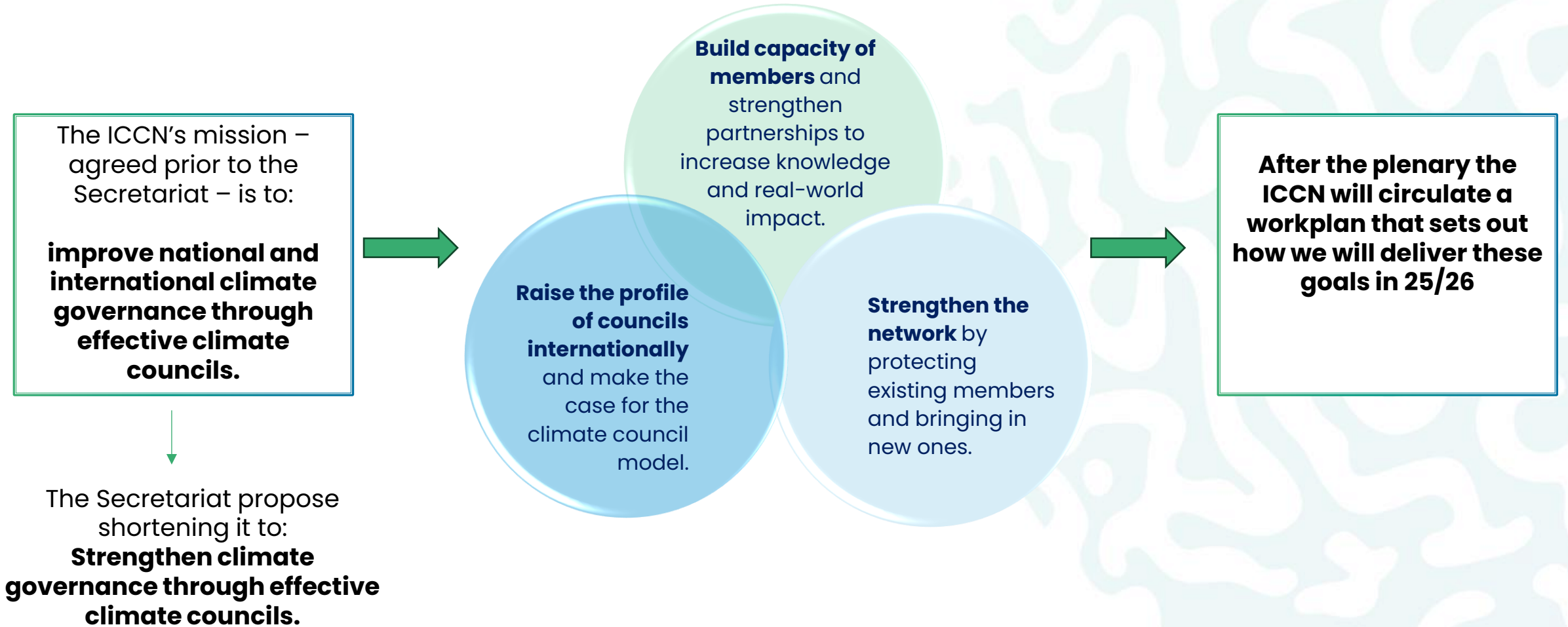
- **Three meetings of PCCA held** on 04 October, 17 October and December 5, 2024, in which national and provincial policies, priorities, and implementation mechanisms and Sectoral WG establishment discussed.
- **Notification of Sectoral Working Groups:** To stock take progress on CC policy implementation, identify future priorities, and develop project concept notes for accessing climate finance.
 - Sectoral WGs notified by Punjab, Sindh and KP. Balochistan, AJK and GB under process.
- **Climate Progress Tracking Template and CN Template** developed.

2025-2026

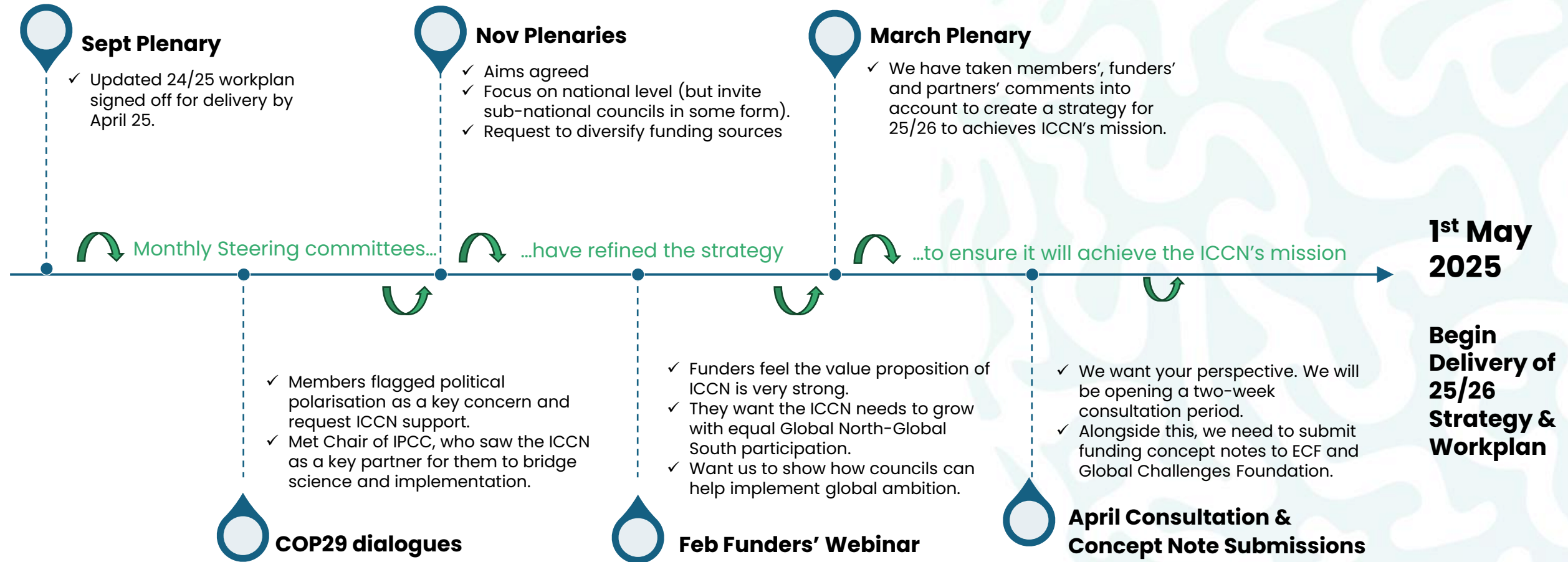
Discussion on the strategy and funding

The ICCN's agreed strategic areas of focus

To deliver the mission the ICCN agreed these goals in 2024



The ICCN journey to agreeing its overall strategy



Important considerations for the 25/26 ICCN workplan

Responds to Members' needs

- The ICCN is a member-led network, and serving the needs of members must be fundamental to our strategy
- Since the inception of the network, some membership growth – particularly in the Global South – has always been identified as a priority.

Aligns with funders' priorities

- The ICCN secretariat cannot survive on member contributions alone. We need external sources that adds value to the network and leverages member contributions for greater impact.
- The ICCN needs to diversify funding sources to survive. We cannot rely on 1-2 core funders due to the significant volatility in the climate philanthropy space.
- Aligning with funders must not compromise the member-led approach. Before entering any new funding agreement, the Steering Committee must approve it aligns with the approved strategy.

Helps create partnerships

- Through successful partnerships, the ICCN can have a greater impact than on its own. We propose our "Tier 1" partners for 25/26 are:
 - IPCC – to show how climate councils are using the science to drive the right policy actions.
 - OECD – to show how climate councils improve governance, investment and results.
 - UNFCCC – to endorse climate councils as best practice for delivery of global ambition at national level.

What have members said they want from the ICCN?

The Secretariat **surveyed** members in autumn 2024 to ensure we fully understand their needs:

The key capacity building requests were:

- Virtual Working Groups
- Discussions at Plenary
- CEO/Chair-level discussion

The key communications requests were:

- Online webinars
- Email Newsletters
- High-profile events

The Secretariat has also **met all 25 member councils** individually. Here are some of the key points of feedback from what members want from the ICCN:

- It is important for COP30 to develop a Latin America agenda and onboard more LatAm climate councils
- We want ICCN help to show all the Ministers why climate fundamentally affects all their portfolios
- We are navigating a complex political landscape and want to share experiences and learn from peers
- Bolstering the ability of the members of the network to provide solid, national advice on climate policy is key

We have ensured that all these priorities are reflected in the 24/25 and 25/26 workplan

We will continue to listen and learn what members want, and balance diverse needs through prioritising and retaining some flex in the workplan

Why stakeholders find the ICCN a unique value proposition, (and what do they want from the ICCN strategy?)

The Secretariat has **prioritised fundraising** in Q1 2025, with the following feedback from funders.

- “We would welcome a concept note focused on climate councils as an internationally recognized model” **Global Challenges Foundation**
- “We are interested in the role councils play in advising on NDCs as well as increasing democratic participation and accountability” **European Climate Foundation**
- “We recognise Climate Councils as unique as they are both science-based and have accountability and authority within governance but need to show the link to health outcomes.” **Wellcome Trust**

We have **met important potential new members**. Below is some of the feedback

- “We want to learn from best practice from the ICCN for our new scientific climate council” **Brazilian Government**
- “In USA around 19 of our member states and territories have some sort of advisory climate council or task force established by law or executive order” **US Climate Alliance**
- “Climate governance is everything in Africa. Without effective governance, action is not taken.” **Dr. Fatima Denton, Ghana** Director of the United Nations University

We have **started forging partnerships** with key institutions who can support ICCN goals

- “We see the ICCN as bridge between science and implementation. We want to use your member work to contextualise the IPCC’s work.” **IPCC**
- “We want to work together to improve climate governance and climate policy, within OECD members and beyond” **OECD**

High-level Summary of 2025–26 ICCN workplan

Aim

Outcomes

Raise the profile of councils

- ICCN **profile** is raised at an international level
- Members & stakeholders find ICCN **communications** clear and compelling
- Key **stakeholders** are mapped and successfully engaged to help make the case for councils.

Build capacity & partnerships

- **Professional development** opportunities and exchange
- **Build capacity** in mitigation (food & ag), adaptation, climate governance and communications and engagement
- **Mentorship** facilitated between new & existing members
- **Partnerships** especially UN recognition and IPCC & OECD
- **Research** strengthened on climate councils & governance
- **Corporate (investor certainty)** case for climate councils

Strengthen and grow the network

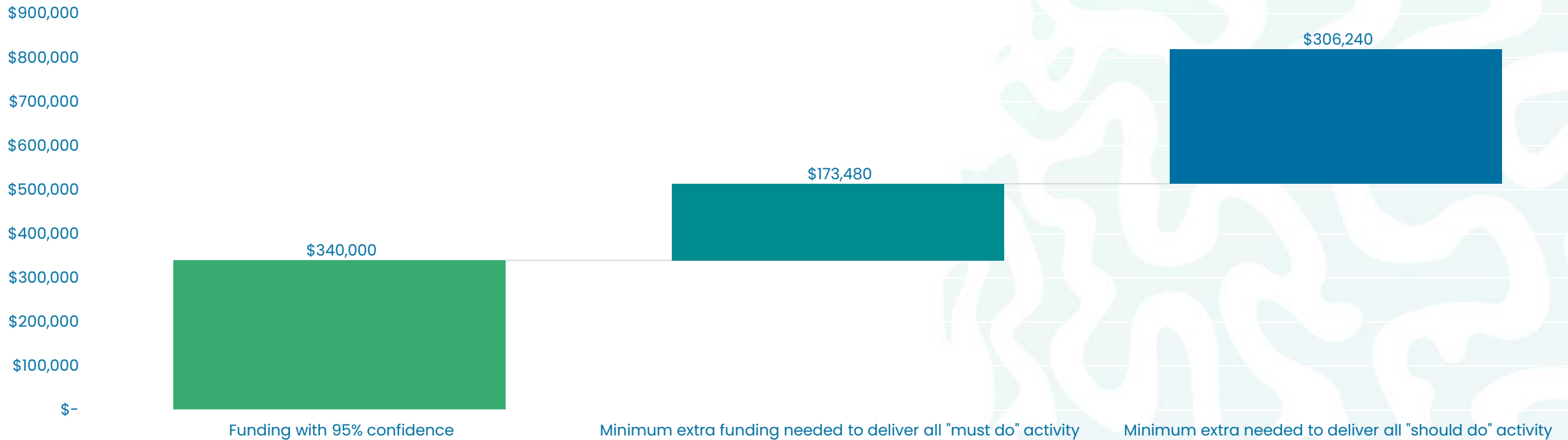
- Provide **institutional resilience** for existing councils
- **Regional engagement** on climate governance strengthened in Africa, LATAM (priority), Asia-Pacific, Europe & Middle East and North America

ICCN Governance

- ICCN **policies and processes** for managing the secretariat continuously improved.
- ICCN is **budgeted sustainably** in short-term and long-term.

We will share the proposed workplan with detailed outputs to deliver these outcomes for consultation after the plenary meeting

To deliver “must dos” of our workplan, the ICCN needs to secure a budget of at least ~\$513k To deliver the “should dos” the ICCN needs a revenue of ~\$820k for 25/26



We are 95% confident of receiving ~\$340k from

- ECF (~\$150k)
- Member Contributions (~\$100k)
- Global Challenges (~\$90k)

This covers core salary costs and provides very limited budget for website/translation/expenses.

Minimum extra funding needed to deliver all "must do" activity

We need an additional \$173k to have adequate budget for travel, events and publications. This is essential to deliver our aims on capacity building, strengthening the network and raising awareness.

Minimum extra needed to deliver all "should do" activity

We want to fund research to strengthen the case for councils (likely focused on economic benefits). This is crucial to protect councils under threat/grow the network.

We would also like to hire regional roles in Africa and LatAm in 25/26 to respond more effectively to demand.

We are in conversations with some potential core funders (CECG, Wellcome, CIFF, UK Gvt) to secure this additional funding. We will also approach regional funders (Africa Climate Foundation).

Item for Consultation until Friday 25th April 2025

Annual work plan – secretariat will circulate annual 2025/26 work plan for consultation by email after the April 2025 plenary. This will translate these strategic discussion slides into concrete outcomes and outputs for the year ahead.

The annual plan will include provisions for further strategy development (building on this discussion and work to date) with aim to have a multi-year strategy for members & adopt ICCN strategy in September 2025.

ICCN Calendar of in-person events 2025

Feb

June

June

June

Sept

Nov

**G20/FICS
(Cape Town)**

**Global
NDC
(Berlin)**

**SB62
(Bonn)**

**LCAW
(London)**

**NYCW
(New York)**

**COP30
(Belem)**

Aims

1. Show the need for strong climate governance for increased finance flows.
2. Target meetings with African governments.
3. Meet South Africa & Nigerian councils to help refine the ICCN offer in Africa.

Outputs

1. Policy Brief in Eng/French
2. Video/Interviews for toolkit

Aims

1. Show how councils have informed NDCs.
2. Learn how to create investable NDCs & report back to members.
3. Seek/announce new partnerships (e.g. NDC partnership)

Outputs

1. Panel events
2. ICCN member statement on NDCs

Aims

1. Seek support for the climate council model from intl climate leaders.
2. Showcase the work of ICCN members.
3. Prepare for COP30

Outputs

1. Side events
2. updated Policy Brief translated

Aims

1. Put ICCN / climate councils central to "governance day"
2. Host European regional meeting.
3. Raise profile of ICCN through toolkit launch.

Outputs

1. Online toolkit
2. High-profile events
3. Media coverage

Aims

1. Announce new ICCN co-chairs
2. Announce new sub-national members.
2. Seek support for the climate council model from intl climate leaders.

Outputs

1. High-profile events
2. Media coverage

Aims

1. Announce new national members
2. Showcase work and partnerships on mitigation/adaptation. Target meetings with Africa/Asia/Lat Am governments.

Outputs

1. Pavilion events
2. Media coverage
3. Working group outputs

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