



In response to mandate: Decision 15/CP.25, paragraph 3

Submission on “recommendations and views on future work to enhance the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement”

February, 2020

The Education, Communication, and Outreach Stakeholders (ECOS) community welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the SBI regarding the Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) agenda, in advance of the 52nd session of the Subsidiary Bodies, 1-11 June, 2020.

This submission presents an collective stance of the ECOS memberships’ perspectives, inputs, and contributions from across our global community, including Asia, Latin America, Africa, Small Island States, Australia, Europe, and the United States.

Relevant background information for this submission is offered in the separate ECOS submission on “steps taken to implement the Doha work programme”, as lessons, observations, and challenges from the past 8 years have informed these recommendations for further work to enhance ACE implementation.

These recommendations are offered with a great sense of urgency, combined with focused attention on the critical role of civic engagement for the objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement to be achieved in time. The [reality of climate change is sinking in across the globe](#), as [mounting human, wildlife, and economic costs of climate change impacts](#) accelerate.

If implemented effectively, Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, will ensure that the bold policy, financial, and technological leadership needed is publicly supported, and that students, educators, families and communities are actively involved in the emerging green, generative economy along with preparing effectively for resilience in the face of the sobering challenges anticipated in the decades ahead.

This submission is organized according to the elements in the Table of Contents (next page).

Table of Contents (hyperlinked)

Executive Summary

1. An Enhanced ACE Work Programme

- [1.1 Proposed Timeline](#)
- [1.2 Alignment with Other Timelines](#)
- [1.3 Reviewing and Enhancing Progress](#)

2. Mechanisms for Effective Progress

- [2.1 Goals, Metrics, and Reporting](#)
- [2.2 An Action Plan for ACE](#)
- [2.3 Enhancing the ACE Dialogues](#)

3. Ensuring Comprehensive and Coherent Action

- [3.1 Participation in the ACE WP](#)
- [3.2 A Global Platform for ACE](#)
- [3.3 A Stakeholder Network for ACE](#)

4. Provision of Financial Resources

- [4.1 A Marketplace for ACE Projects](#)
- [4.2 A Dedicated Global Fund for ACE](#)
- [4.3 An Expanded UNFCCC Budget for ACE](#)

5. Enhancing ACE Implementation

- [5.1 Integrating ACE into the NDCs](#)
- [5.2 Developing ACE National Strategies](#)
- [5.3 Enhancing the Work of ACE NFPs](#)
- [5.4 Linking ACE to Other Work Programmes](#)

6. Stimulating and Coordinating Engagement

- [6.1 Roles for ACE Actors](#)
- [6.2 Campaign: ACE and Climate Learning](#)
- [6.3 ECOS: A Bridge with Parties and CSOs](#)

Annex 1: Examples of specific targets or metrics across the 6 elements of ACE ([here](#))

Annex 2: The learning objectives for SDG 13 from UNESCO ([here](#))

Executive Summary

This year marks a critical moment where Parties must enhance the work of ACE under the Convention and the Paris Agreement beyond the progress made under the DWP. In support of this goal, ECOS offers the following recommendations:

1. **An Enhanced ACE WP:** It is necessary to follow the efforts of the DWP with a new and enhanced WP, which should follow a timeline to 2030 in order to align with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, with milestones aligning to the Global Stocktake and NDC revision;
2. **Mechanisms for Effective Progress:** In order to endure tangible progress, the next ACE WP should include specific common goals/targets, with an annually-assessed Action Plan linked to an enhanced ACE Dialogue for maximum flexibility and up-scaling;
3. **Comprehensive and Coherent Action:** Broad and inclusive participation from all levels and stakeholders will be important to the success of the next ACE WP and can be advanced through a global platform and a stakeholder network for ACE;
4. **Provision of Financial resources:** The next ACE WP must see the closure of the chronic gap in funding for ACE, through mobilization of both public and private sources, facilitated by establishing an ACE project marketplace and a dedicated global ACE fund;
5. **Enhancing Implementation:** Fully realization of ACE also entails integration of ACE into the NDCs, the formation of ACE National Strategies, enhancing the role and support for ACE Focal Points, and harmonizing ACE with other agendas like GAP and LCIPP;
6. **Stimulating and Coordinating Engagement:** All relevant stakeholders should have clear roles for ACE implementation and could be further mobilized through a #Learn4Climate campaign and the expansion of ECOS as a bridge for Parties and NPS.

ECOS aims for these recommendations to support the work of Parties to design a new and enhanced ACE WP which is up to the task of preserving the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations. We shall also continue striving, both collectively as ECOS and in our respective organizational endeavors, to advance these vital efforts, while standing ready to collaborate with Parties in unlocking the full transformative potentiation of ACE.

1. An Enhanced ACE Work Programme

It is crucial to have another work programme (WP) to guide ACE implementation following the conclusion of the Doha Work Programme (DWP). A dedicated WP for ACE is the most effective means for guiding Parties' efforts and for aligning their needs and activities with the myriad efforts of Non-Party Stakeholders (NPS), who are essential partners in realizing ACE goals. The

capacity of a WP is to provide a platform for international cooperation and capacity building to enhance the implementation of the ACE agenda. This WP should promote a systematic integration of education, public awareness, training, access to information and public participation in all activities under the Convention guided by national priorities.

1.1 Proposed Timeline

The next work programme for ACE should adopt a ten-year period from 2020 to 2030 for its mandate, thereby synchronizing with the timelines of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is vital, however, to build a transparent monitoring mechanism of multiple checkpoints and opportunities for revisions and updates in order to ensure progress is actually taking place throughout this long and dynamic period.

1.2 Alignment with Other Timelines

The new ACE WP should align itself with other processes during the proposed time frame. Key moments are the revision of Parties' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for 2025 and 2030, as well as the global stocktakes in 2023 and 2028. For the NDCs, Parties should integrate ACE and utilize their new or updated submissions as an opportunity to assess and enhance the role of ACE in delivering on their NDCs. For the global stocktake, Parties should include a dedicated review of their progress under Article 12 as a crucial "means of implementation" for the Paris Agreement, with a special lens on the role of ACE activities in enhancing both the collective will and capacity for significantly more ambitious climate actions by all Parties.

1.3 Reviewing and Enhancing Progress

The new ACE WP must include robust mechanisms for reviewing and enhancing progress during the course of its 10-year mandate. Besides taking advantage of the key moments aligned with the global stocktake (2023, 2028) and NDC revision (2025, 2030) as noted above, the WP should undertake a review of its own progress at least once (as was done at the midpoint of DWP in 2016). However, only one review of the WP will not drive the needed progress. As such, a more detailed process is needed to ensure ACE remains an annual item on the agenda of the SBI for the first sessional period, so that specific plans, details, and adjustments can be made under the WP.

Potential mechanisms for achieving this, such as specific goals and metrics and an ACE Action Plan are elaborated in the following section. Overall, such an annual approach to reviewing and enhancing progress, combined with the procedural milestones of other timelines, will provide a new WP which is most flexible and responsive to the needs of Parties and NPS as they pursue the best innovations for ACE during the course of this vital decade for climate action.

2. Mechanisms for Effective Progress

2.1 Goals, Metrics, and Reporting

Having clear goals and metrics in the new ACE WP will be important for facilitating and tracking progress, alongside a consistent and accessible structure for reporting on them. These should not only be specific to each of the six elements of ACE, but also include broader targets organized across multiple levels of ACE implementation (e.g., global, national, regional, sub-national and local). In this approach, Parties would adopt a common vision, while leaving room for details to be nationally determined according to circumstances. The UNESCO Learning Goals for SDG13, Climate Action, included in an Annex to this submission, offer an existing framework that a range of shared climate learning metrics can be developed around.

Examples of some common goals might include, *inter alia*:

- Parties have appointed an ACE National Focal Point who has received the adequate training, mandate, and resources to be an effective champion for ACE activities at the national level and to foster meaningful international cooperation on ACE;
- Parties have integrated ACE into their NDCs in a manner consistent with best practices and innovative approaches;
- Parties have established an ACE National Strategy to guide implementation across government departments and in effective partnership with all relevant domestic NPS;
- Parties have mobilized sufficient public and private sector financial resources to fully address the chronic gap in funding for deployment and up-scaling of ACE activities.

Reporting on these common goals and metrics, as well as on any nationally determined ones, should be integrated in the existing National Communications. Parties may also consider additional mechanisms under the new work program and its reviewing process to track progress on them.

2.2 An Action Plan for ACE

The best means to ensure the annual review and enhancement called for above would be through establishing an Action Plan for ACE, as done by the Lima WP on gender with its Gender Action Plan (GAP).

The Action Plan should include two strategic cycles of five years, with the first running between 2020-2025. The midway point of the Work Programme should then be used to draw from the lessons learned from the first cycle to establish the strategy until 2030. During both cycles, the SBI should keep ACE assessment and target-setting on the annual agenda for Parties during the first sessional period, while linking to other in-session activities such as the ACE Dialogue and any specific workshops organized.

Activities under the Action Plan should be categorized according to the 6 elements of ACE in order to ensure that all elements are being equally and fully addressed. Each year, Parties should identify immediate needs or gaps related to ACE implementation and decide upon specific actions to address them, such as the convening of a special workshop, calls for submissions to collect specific feedback or recommendations, or any other measures as appropriate. The timely allocation of action items under the Action Plan should connect to the broader themes under the UNFCCC, especially the Global Stocktake and the NDC cycle.

2.3 Enhancing the ACE Dialogues

Given the demonstrated value of the annual ACE Dialogues, they should be continued during the next ACE WP, while continuing to incorporate feedback on how they can be improved and respond to the evolving needs of Parties and NPS. We recommend that ACE Dialogues should guarantee action-oriented exchanges that provide clear pathways for implementation. ACE Dialogues should be all encompassing and should take the format of regular consultations, roundtable meetings, or strategy development sessions. We suggest that the Dialogues should especially serve as an avenue for NPS, their national ACE leaders, and relevant stakeholders to provide their views and recommendations to Parties, in support of the annual assessment of ACE progress we have suggested Parties should undertake through the Action Plan above.

This function could be performed alongside further work to elevate and promote best practices, while highlighting remaining gaps and needs. The ACE Dialogue might also encourage NPS who participate to commit to taking certain actions, such as suggestions or recommendations generated during breakout sessions, as a means of promoting follow-up and to better track what measurable progress has been made on ACE implementation from one Dialogue to the next. Accordingly, the ACE Dialogues should guarantee action-oriented exchanges that provide clear pathways of implementation, for which it would also be useful to have a robust mechanism for follow up to increase the effectiveness of the knowledge exchange.

3. Ensuring Comprehensive and Coherent Action

3.1 Participation in the ACE WP

Public participation should be not only a theme but one of the main features of the ACE WP. Ongoing, direct engagement of multi-stakeholders in the UNFCCC process helps accelerate concrete action. Inclusive, structured and transparent action-focused networks can help with target recommendations that are responsive to national, subnational, and local contexts. There is a need to strengthen this aspect by the establishment of a multi-stakeholder group; enabling access to information and internet-based tools to promote civic engagement in policies and projects; and leveraging expert contributions.

The inclusion of diverse stakeholders in decision making through the ACE Dialogues and roundtables for strategizing should be at the center of the ACEP WP. We recommend thematic roundtables and consultations that integrate the relevant stakeholder across the globe. We believe civic engagement should nurture knowledge exchange of on-the-ground practices to inform smarter ACE National Strategies. It is imperative to enable physical and virtual spaces for an effective participation process. Therefore we recommend the creation of a Stakeholder Network for ACE that coordinates previous and growing parallel efforts. We suggest to retake the efforts of establishing a *Global ACE platform* to facilitate the knowledge sharing capacity of this Stakeholder Network for ACE.

3.2 A Global Platform for ACE

Establishing a global ACE platform through or in support of the UNFCCC would significantly assist in the deployment of high quality online resources, improve the tracking of progress, and facilitate international cooperation between both Parties and NPS. The CC:iNet, initiated before the DWP but discontinued mid-way through the programme, envisioned such a platform. Input from the 7th ACE Dialogue brought a reminder of the importance of deploying such a platform. The new ACE WP should examine, through a task force or consultancy, how to deploy such a global platform that can provide localized resources and input. This could potentially build on an existing platform, such as CC:Learn, the One UN Climate Change Learning Partnership hosted by UNITAR, leverage another existing or emerging public or private platform, or be a hybrid that could be used by Parties, relevant UN entities, and NPS for accessing resources, sharing information and reporting on ACE implementation.

An effort is underway now with a Spherical.pm, a company based in Bonn, Germany, to develop a demonstration for the 8th ACE Dialogue of a GIS-based tool that could support such a platform. The tool would help characterize communities at a scale of around 100,000 people, providing a general characterization of climate-related challenges and opportunities for such communities, such as renewable energy potential and natural disaster vulnerabilities that could help in local decision-making and related education and engagement. In addition to providing information that local stakeholders can use in their efforts, the tool could also be used for reporting progress, such as toward emission reductions or measured outcomes of achieving specific learning goals, such as those related to SDG13. (See Annex 2).

3.3 A Stakeholder Network for ACE

Ideally integrated with the Global Platform described above, a virtual network for stakeholders is imperative in order to build on the foundation of previous efforts and to help in the coordination of a growing global network and with overlapping and parallel efforts and platforms. Some of the leading platforms include: the [UNESCO SDG Resources](#) and related [learning goals](#) for SDG13 (Climate Action), the One UN Climate Learning Partnership and [CC:Learn](#) hosted by UNITAR, the [Climate Literacy & Energy Awareness Network \(CLEAN\)](#), and other initiatives led by Parties and NPS.

4. Provision of Financial Resources for ACE

ECOS sees decisive action is needed to close the chronic gap in funding for ACE, if any further work to enhance the implementation of Article 6 of the Convention and Article 12 of the Paris Agreement is to succeed. Parties must recognize that ACE is not only a smart investment but also an essential component of realizing their objectives under the UNFCCC. Therefore, it must be prioritized for financial resources accordingly.

While public sources remain indispensable, it is also crucial to actively recruit private sources. Here, Parties can also support NPS in implementing ACE by adopting policies and structures to facilitate their access to both public and private finance. A suite of options are required to address this long neglected challenge.

4.1 A Marketplace for ACE Projects

One specific suggestion is to establish a platform or “marketplace” where both Parties and admitted observer organizations can submit their proposals for ACE projects, thereby providing a hub to facilitate linking these potential initiatives with possible sources of funding, whether public or private (but with a greater emphasis on drawing in the latter). It would then be feasible to direct the attention of corporations, foundations, philanthropists, and others to this centralized portfolio of independent and collaborative ACE project proposals around the world. Likewise, it would be possible to track how much funding was provided via the platform and to which of the 6 elements of ACE or specific types of entities the funding was offered, while also being able to collect reporting on project results and impacts in order to inform further actions.

4.2 A Dedicated Global Fund for ACE

Another concrete proposal is to establish a dedicated, central global fund for providing grants specifically to ACE-related projects, such as professional development for teachers and professionals or localized climate action campaigns. Existing climate funds, such as the Green Climate Fund, could serve as potential models, but none of the existing mechanisms are properly structured to provide the expertise and support necessary. Both public and private sector sources could contribute to the fund, which will require an appropriate infrastructure to provide the robust management, tracking, and accountability needed for successful deployment.

4.3 An Expanded UNFCCC Budget for ACE

Finally, we note that achieving the full potential for ACE implementation would require an increase in the ACE budget of the UNFCCC Secretariat, who already does commendable work

supporting Parties and stakeholders under the existing constraints, and would likely face additional resource requirements in order to deliver on some of the recommendations herein. However, we leave it to colleagues in the Secretariat to advise Parties precisely on their budgetary needs for ACE.

5. Enhancing ACE Implementation

5.1 Integrating ACE into the NDCs

Enhancing action under Article 12 means that Parties should also integrate ACE into their NDCs. Specifically, they could describe the role of ACE in mitigation (e.g., education for behavioural changes, training for renewable energy technicians) and adaptation (e.g., raising public awareness of climate impacts for increased community resilience), as well as the role of ACE more broadly in building both the political will and the social capacity for accelerating the ambition of their climate commitments.

5.2 Developing ACE National Strategies

While the new ACE WP can outline common goals and targets, it is ultimately up to each Party to determine how to best proceed with ACE implementation in their own contexts. To this end, it is necessary for all Parties to devise a national strategy for ACE that is inclusive of existing activity and leadership, while also widening participation and impact. In particular, these should address the integration of implementation across all relevant organs of the government (e.g., the ministries of environment, ministries of education, etc), as well as with all other levels of government (state, provincial, local) and civil society stakeholders. Such a comprehensive, holistic, and inclusive framework is important to ensure the most equitable and effective implementation of ACE.

5.3 Enhancing the Work of ACE NFPs

The existing framework of having an ACE National Focal Point for each Party should be improved for the next ACE WP. Specifically, more capacity building and support is needed for ACE NFPs to understand and perform their roles, while a clear picture is required for how their roles and positioning varies from Party to Party. Additionally, ACE NFPs require more support within their national governments to champion ACE implementation across ministerial boundaries. Finally, they should have the support of an inclusive domestic network of ACE actors, who can also ensure NPS representation in the design of national ACE policies. Those Parties who have not yet appointed and operationalized an ACE NFP should either do so as soon as possible or ensure they have a nationally appropriate alternative measure in place.

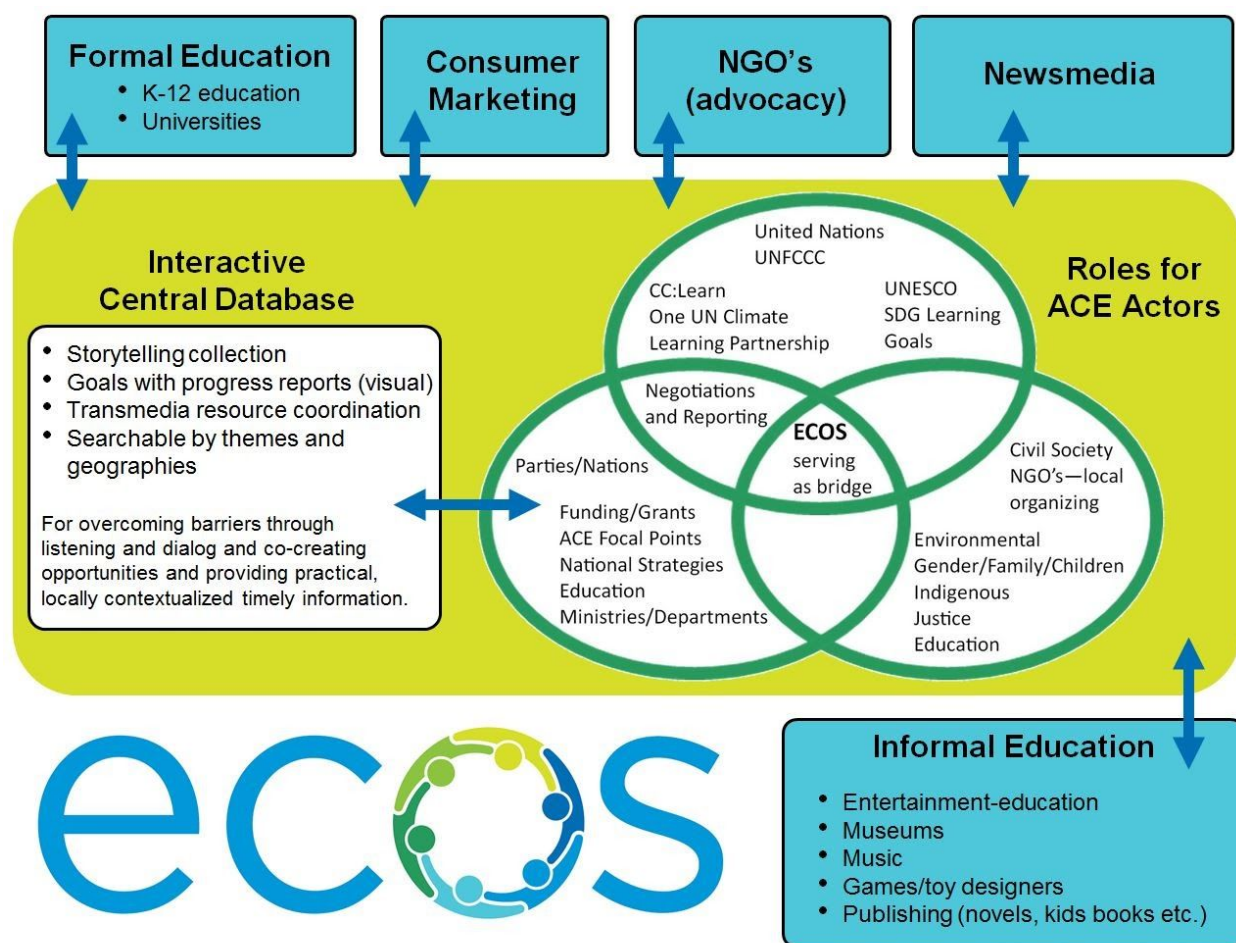
5.4 Linking ACE to Other Work Programmes

The new ACE WP should also identify means of harmonizing with other relevant bodies and programs under the UNFCCC, such as the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP). Both of these agendas share a connection to ACE, through the importance of education and empowerment of girls/women and indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge.

6. Stimulating and Coordinating ACE Engagement

6.1 Roles for ACE Actors

The diagram below illustrates the interconnected roles of various actors and stakeholders in contributing to the ACE agenda:



2/14/20 by Emily Coren and Timothy Damon

6.2 Campaign to Amplify ACE and Climate Learning

To raise awareness about the importance of ACE and it's goals, a campaign that uses a slogan, such as #Learn4Climate, can be used to amplify ACE and the various partners and efforts that

are working throughout society to strengthen resilience through informed climate action and engagement. Such a campaign should be launched prior to the new WP, ideally on Earth Day 2020 with the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders within and beyond the UN process. The aims of this campaign, amplified from global to local scales through the use of social media messaging, will be to increase the “brand awareness” of ACE and related organizations and initiatives and amplify the need for robust funding for ACE-related efforts. .

6.3 ECOS: A Bridge with Parties and Civil Society

As an open “network of networks”, coalition of partners and community of stakeholders, ECOS will continue to support efforts to amplify ACE and build capacity at every scale, from the international, continental and national to the regional, urban and community, ultimately helping households and individuals be able to make their own informed climate decisions and contribute to deploying adequate responses to climate change. As a diverse community of organizations and professionals with a range of expertise, we are able to serve as a connector between governmental entities and civil society.

Annex 1

Examples of targets or metrics across the 6 elements of ACE might include, *inter alia*:

- Education:
 - Is climate change integrated holistically across the K-12 system through national and state/provincial/prefecture standards, curricula, assessment, and are there policies and funding to support this?
- Training:
 - What proportion of government employees at national and state levels receive training on climate change, both scientific and cultural mitigation/adaptation aspects?
- Public Awareness:
 - What percentage of the general public is “climate literate”?
- Public Access to Information:
 - Is accurate information on the science and mitigation of climate change included on national and state/provincial/prefecture-level government websites? In how many places?
- Public Participation:
 - How many CSOs and NPS are networked with the ACE National Focal Point and actively collaborating on domestic ACE initiatives and policies?
- International Cooperation:
 - How often do Parties exchange best practices on ACE? How many collaborative ACE projects exist between Parties?

Annex 2

Learning Objectives for SDG 13 (from UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development Goals- Learning Objectives (p. 36-41)

Cognitive learning aspects

1. The learner understands the greenhouse effect as a natural phenomenon caused by an insulating layer of greenhouse gases.
2. The learner understands the current climate change as an anthropogenic phenomenon resulting from increased greenhouse gas emissions.
3. The learner knows which human activities – on a global, national, local and individual level – contribute most to climate change.
4. The learner knows about the main ecological, social, cultural and economic consequences of climate change locally, nationally and globally and understands how these can themselves become catalysing, reinforcing factors for climate change.
5. The learner knows about prevention, mitigation and adaptation strategies at different levels (global to individual) and for different contexts and their connections with disaster response and disaster risk reduction.

Socio-emotional learning objectives

1. The learner is able to explain ecosystem dynamics and the environmental, social, economic and ethical impact of climate change.
2. The learner is able to encourage others to protect the climate.
3. The learner is able to collaborate with others and to develop commonly agreed-upon strategies to deal with climate change.
4. The learner is able to understand their personal impact on the world's climate, from a local to a global perspective.
5. The learner is able to recognize that the protection of the global climate is an essential task for everyone and that we need to completely re-evaluate our worldview and everyday behaviours in light of this.

Behavioural learning objectives

1. The learner is able to evaluate whether their private and job activities are climate friendly and – where not – to revise them.

2. The learner is able to act in favour of people threatened by climate change.
3. The learner is able to anticipate, estimate and assess the impact of personal, local and national decisions or activities on other people and world regions.
4. The learner is able to promote climate-protecting public policies.
5. The learner is able to support climate-friendly economic activities.