

**MERCATOR RESEARCH  
INSTITUTE ON GLOBAL  
COMMONS AND CLIMATE  
CHANGE (MCC)**

**EVALUATION 2016**

**STIFTUNG  
MERCATOR**

# MERCATOR RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON GLOBAL COMMONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (MCC)

## EVALUATION 2016

### BACKGROUND

The Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC) in Berlin was founded by Stiftung Mercator and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) in 2012. The MCC is initially funded by Stiftung Mercator with 16.4 Million Euro for the period 2012-2018.

In order to evaluate the institute's scientific performance as well as its impact at the interface of science and policy Stiftung Mercator and MCC convened a high-profile committee.

In addition, 14 in-depth interviews with policy makers and stakeholder from civil society and the media were held in order to assess MCC's visibility and impact among decision makers outside the scientific realm.

In 2017 Stiftung Mercator decided to continue funding the MCC until 2024 with another 12.2 Mio. Euro.

### PART I

#### Report of the MCC Evaluation Committee

The MCC Evaluation Committee, chaired by Dirk Messner, German Development Institute (DIE) met on 4/5 May, 2016. The committee members discussed on the basis of a comprehensive self evaluation report provided by the MCC.

#### Member of the MCC evaluation committee

- Dirk Messner (Chair),  
*German Development Institute (DIE)*

- Dallas Burtraw,  
*Resources for the Future (RFF)*
- Dennis Snower,  
*Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW)*
- Frank Jotzo,  
*Crawford School of Public Policy,  
Australian National University*
- Georg Teutsch,  
*Hemholtz Centre for Environmental Research  
(UFZ)*
- James Wilsdon,  
*Faculty of Social Sciences,  
University of Sheffield*
- Joachim von Braun,  
*Center for Development Research (ZEF),  
University of Bonn*
- Keywan Riahi  
*International Institute of Applied Systems  
Analysis (IIASA)*
- Miranda Schreurs,  
*Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU),  
Freie Universität Berlin*
- Susanne Dröge,  
*Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)*
- Uwe Schneidewind, *Wuppertal Institut*

### PART II

#### The impact of the MCC at the interface of science and policy – Summary –

14 in-depth expert interviews were held in the period April-June 2016 by Kornelis Blok (Ecofys / Delft University), commissioned by Stiftung Mercator.

Here, the executive summary of the Ecofys report on the interviews is provided.

## **PART I**

### **REPORT OF THE MCC EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

# Report of the MCC Evaluation Committee

## Introductory Remarks

The first funding period of the Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change (MCC), founded in 2012 by Stiftung Mercator and PIK, ends in 2018. A formal decision by Stiftung Mercator to continue funding beyond 2018 is foreseen for mid-2017. The funding decision will be based on (1) an Evaluation of the MCC's achievements so far and (2) a future concept to be drawn up by the MCC on its post-2018 development.

The Evaluation of MCC's achievements consists of two parts: *A Report of the Evaluation Committee* (hereafter: "Committee"), reflecting the discussions and recommendations of the Committee, and a separate *Report on the impact of MCC at the interface of science and policy*, based on 10-15 interviews to be conducted by an external evaluator with relevant German and international stakeholders. The present report is the Report of the Committee.

The Committee convened on 2 and 3 May 2016 in the premises of MCC in Berlin. The following inputs served as basis for discussions:

- Self-evaluation report on MCC achievements, sent to the Commission members prior to the meeting;
- Presentations of the MCC Director and four Working Group leaders, including Q&A sessions;
- Poster Presentations of Post-doc students and three Working Group leaders;
- Q&A sessions with the MCC Director and Secretary General, as well as Stiftung Mercator.

The agenda of the Committee meeting can be found in Annex d.

The Committee, headed by Professor Dirk Messner, comprised eleven senior researchers from different university and research institutions in Germany, Austria, Australia and the UK. Next to the Commission members, the external evaluator was present in the internal meetings to serve as rapporteur, and one shareholder (Stiftung Mercator) participated as a guest. The list of the members of the Committee can be found in Annex c.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

Two major conclusions can be drawn from the Committee's meeting: (1) The quality of MCC's research and staff is excellent; (2) to develop its full potential, MCC should now focus on strategy building in the areas of theory and assessments. The Committee thus recommends to continue the funding of MCC

beyond the current funding period. The main observations and recommendations are detailed in the following. The Committee suggests that MCC starts the process to address current challenges and related recommendations right after the completion of the evaluation.

The **quality of research** at MCC is considered excellent, both with regards to the high quality of the research team and the publication record (3.3 publications per scientific FTE in 2015), especially considering the short life-time of the institute to date. The research collection of MCC is perceived as coherent and new, and the cross-cutting nature of the research as well as exchange between the different Working Groups is appreciated.

MCC's strategy to keep a broad focus during its inception phase is seen as adequate. For the following years, the Committee recommends to sharpen the **research focus** in two main areas: Scientific assessments (focus on assessments as methodology *and/or* assessments as instruments to impact policies) and theory development (be more explicit about ways in which MCC research goes beyond mainstream economics). The Committee considers strategy building in these two fields as essential in the near-term future. Furthermore, MCC should ensure an integrated approach regarding its research topics and central mission. As the research focus is sharpened, the institute's mission might need to be adjusted to ensure consistency.

With regards to the **policy-science interface**, the Committee considers MCC's outreach to the policy sphere as generally effective. However, it still perceives a gap between the institute's excellent research and its policy impact. Even though it is expected that MCC's policy impact will increase over time along with its reputation, the need to systematically strengthen the role of the Working Group Leaders in this regard was particularly emphasised. A range of specific recommendations by the Committee is provided in this report.

The Committee is clear in that the MCC should be a long-term "institute" rather than a "project" limited to a certain lifetime, to be able to carry on with its high-level research, sharpen its focus further, provide a perspective for early career researchers, fill a strategic research niche and enhance its policy impact. It therefore recommends Stiftung Mercator to expand its funding commitment to a second funding period. At the same time, MCC's long-term **institutional future** and related funding beyond the non-perpetual support of Stiftung Mercator should be prepared early on. Three different options are suggested by the Committee: Max Planck Institute, Leibniz Institute, or link to a university.

The role of MCC in **promoting early career researchers** is viewed very positively, especially regarding the young Working Group leaders. A longer-term perspective of the institute is needed to provide those researchers with job security and allow them to grow their reputation and networks over time. Gender balance is seen as an area of improvement, with only one of the seven Working Group Leaders being female. This report contains concrete recommendations of the Committee to promote gender balance within MCC.

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## I. The MCC

### a. Mission

According to its self-evaluation report, MCC is a scientific think tank addressing the challenges of climate change and of governing the global commons. MCC strives for a world where present and future generations are provided with a fair and equitable access to the global commons. The institute formulates its mission as follows:

*“MCC’s mission is to provide solution oriented policy pathways for governing the global commons to enhance sustainable development and human well-being. Our approach is based on high-quality research to inform policy making in an iterative societal learning process. We call this assessment-making.”*

## b. Structure

MCC is headed by **Director** Ottmar Edenhofer and **Secretary General** Brigitte Knopf. The Director is principally responsible for scientific, public and administrative affairs of the institute. The Secretary General takes responsibility for the internal management, cooperation with universities and government, business, as well as civil society stakeholders, and replaces the Director in case of absence.

The **management team** consists of the Director, the Secretary General, seven Working Group Leaders, the Head of Administration, and the Head of Press&PR. It convenes weekly to discuss day-to-day business.

At the beginning of 2016, MCC comprised 47 staff members (28 FTE, of which 19 scientific FTE).

The staff list can be found in Annex b.

The research is carried out in the seven **Working Groups** (WG):

1. **Economic Growth and Human Development** (Head: Prof. Dr. Matthias Kalkuhl) This WG explores the relationship between economic growth, climate change and sustainable development with limited natural resources.
2. **Land use, Infrastructure and Transport** (Head: Dr. Felix Creutzig)  
This WG assesses the contribution of cities and land use to climate change mitigation.
3. **Sustainable Resource Management and Global Change** (Head: Dr. Sabine Fuss) This WG explores the functioning and design of instruments for sustainable resource management and the provision of public goods. The research focuses on optimal policy portfolios to address problems affecting the commons by emphasising climate change.
4. **Governance** (Head: Prof. Dr. Christian Flachsland)  
This WG explores polycentric governance of the global commons with a focus on ambitious climate change mitigation.
5. **Scientific Assessments, Ethics and Public Policy** (Head: Dr. Martin Kowarsch) This WG analyses scientific assessments at the science-policy interface and aims to improve their practice and design. The research focuses particularly on the appropriate treatment of ethical issues and multiple stakes in integrated, environment-related assessments.
6. **Applied Sustainability Science** (Head: Prof. Dr. Christoph Minx)  
This WG analyses climate change mitigation in the broader context of sustainable development.
7. **Climate and Development** (Head: Dr. Jan Christoph Steckel)  
This WG assesses development pathways consistent with climate change mitigation.

Furthermore, MCC has two boards: the **Expert Advisory Board** advises the management on strategic issues and met for the first and so far only time in February 2015. Its members come mainly from academia, but also business, policy and political consultancies. The **Institutional Board** develops

cooperation with local universities and research institutions. The first meeting took place in June 2015. Its members are drawn from four local universities (Hertie School of Governance, Humboldt University, Technical University Berlin, and University of Potsdam).

The organisational chart can be found in Annex a.

### c. Key outputs

MCC views **peer-reviewed publication as the backbone** of its work. More than half of MCC's publications are peer-reviewed (41 in 2015), of which about two thirds in ISI Journals. Overall, MCC released 3.3 publications per scientific FTE in 2015.

In its self-evaluation report, MCC highlights that, through its publications and its contributions to the international assessment making process, e.g. IPCC, it stimulated debates in three areas:

- Assessment-making;
- Sustainable bioenergy use regarding the demand for negative emissions; -
- Global commons.

## II. Scientific Assessment

### a. Quality of research

The Committee is unanimously **impressed with MCC's quality of research**; it is considered world class.

Above all, the **high quality of the research staff** and synergies among them was stressed. In the same vein, **numbers of peer-reviewed publications** in *Science*, *Nature*, *Nature Climate Change* and *PNAS* (11 in 2015) were considered excellent, particularly given the short period of time in which MCC has been operational (<4 years). Also, compared to the respective numbers for 2014 (6) and 2013 (3), a clear trend towards increasing high-ranking publications can be observed. In terms of visibility, agenda-setting and quality of publications, the following research highlights were emphasised by the Committee:

- Importance of carbon price/ reform of European emission trading scheme;
- Cluster of publications around "negative emissions";
- Urban energy systems and transport;
- Trade-offs between sustainability issues (growth and sustainability).

Particularly, the international assessments research should be mentioned. This is really perceived as the unique selling point of MCC, with the possibility of building on the experience in a variety of functions to the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The **cross-cutting nature** of MCC's research was also positively stressed. While the single research topics are not necessarily seen as "new", the collection presented by MCC is considered **new and coherent**. It



was also considered a novelty that an *institute* focuses on the importance of public goods in the global commons as a central part of a strategy to address climate change.

### b. Research focus and value added

The Committee endorses the strategy that MCC has been pursuing in its “start-up phase” to explore different research areas and keep the focus broad, which is also reflected in the relatively high number of Working Groups. The Committee was initially concerned about this high number combined with the small size of the Working Groups as this could potentially lead to a limited critical mass, but was reassured when they learned that there is intense cooperation and exchange between these groups.

For the upcoming years, the Committee suggests to **sharpen the focus in two main areas** described below and develop a corresponding overarching strategy to ensure an integrated research approach. This could also lead to narrowing down the number of Working Groups and adjusting the institute’s central mission.

#### 1. Scientific assessments

It is not clear yet if MCC wants to focus on scientific assessments as a methodology or as instrument for the policy-science interface. A focus on *assessments as a methodology* would imply an emphasis on theoretical learning in social sciences/ economics by conducting metaanalyses on current knowledge, using empirical evidence and synthesising theories. The Committee sees this in itself as a value added, as it could contribute to a cultural shift and systematic learning process in the social science community, with the emphasis on accumulating scientific knowledge instead of the current practice of a diversity of approaches.

The second option, to focus on *assessments as policy impact instrument* would imply that MCC needs to include certain additional elements in its work, such as the legal discipline and game theory. If this focus is chosen, the Committee also suggests to conduct one to two MCC-driven assessments instead of participating in several assessment processes, in order to increase the chances for policy impact. MCC would need to install a technical support unit for this. At the same time, some concern was raised as to whether the theoretical assessment model applied by MCC today (pragmatic-enlightened-model) would constrain the range of engagements with policy actors.

The Committee also considers a *combination of both options* as a possibility, but then a concentration on a few thematic areas would be needed (e.g. climate/ inequality, land rents/ climate). **A decision to focus on one of the options, or a combination of both, should be taken in the near future, and a respective strategy developed.**

#### 2. Theory development

While the original MCC approach was to stay close to mainstream economics, it has now proceeded to take on broader fields of economics, including environmental, institutional, and evolutionary economics, and connect to other social science disciplines to be able to study governance issues. The Committee had very good discussions with the MCC Director and Secretary General on how MCC seeks to develop economic theory further. These discussions focused on (1) global commons and economic theory building; (2) assessment as a methodology to change economic theory building; (3) MCC’s inductive approach, instead of choosing between “institutional economics” and

“evolutionary economics”. The Committee believes that this search process will produce a value added. It therefore **recommends MCC to make this search process explicit**, including what economic theories the institute applies and in which ways these go beyond mainstream economics.

Since MCC research connects knowledge rather than going in-depth into certain research topics, the Committee sees the **need for partnering up** with other research institutions. This decision should be based on the choice of the research focus. Furthermore, it was emphasised that MCC should ensure that the technical solutions it develops **take the complexities of reality into account**, including in the area of global governance (bridge normative approach with realism).

Furthermore, the Committee recommends that the **Advisory Board**, which has so far just convened once, **should play a more strategic role** in terms of helping sharpen the research focus and single out the most promising areas.

### c. Policy-science interface

Beyond the assessment approach, the current MCC strategy for policy advice is seen as traditional (press releases, workshops etc.). While the Committee values MCC’s outreach to the policy sphere as generally effective, it still perceives a **gap between the excellent research and policy impact**. Especially the role of Working Group leaders could be strengthened. Generally, it is expected that impact will increase over time through the growing reputation, and some young scholars are already moving into the direction of young public intellectuals. However, the Committee sees a lack of strategic support in this regard.

To further improve MCC’s outreach and thus policy impact, the following recommendations were made:

#### *General*

- Characterise the various types of impacts of different activities beyond contributions to the scientific literature – focus on trust-based impacts (i.e. through personal relationships) will have longest pay-off;
- Develop a name brand and consider this as element of a media strategy. That means gradually shifting away from or expanding the MCC’s Director central media role and involving other researchers to promote the MCC label;
- Create crisp policy briefs;
- Look for opportunities for informational exchanges with ministry staff, where pieces of research can be shared but also special attention should be paid to political agendas;
- Invite ministry staff to visit MCC for a certain period of time, for example a two-week sabbatical;
- Get out more and give seminars at other institutions, within Germany and internationally;
- Join forces with other institutions that work on similar topics;
- Take timing as a factor for some of the specific policy processes into account;
- Expand dissemination of key insights via social media channels;

- Explore possibility to have more demand-driven research in co-creation with policy makers.

#### *Working Group Leaders*

- Invest in developing the Working Group leaders' relationships with policy-makers and advisors while building on the MCC Director's established networks;
- Engage in trainings and information exchange for policy impact, e.g. by inviting external researchers with policy networks and impact, active policy members of think tanks etc. to share their experiences and strategies with MCC staff;
- Meet with policy-makers to promote an understanding and culture of effective policy outreach and impact;
- Encourage MCC researchers to invest a part of their research efforts in topics, or angles of topics, that are of direct relevance to policy;
- Create simple case studies of (successful) policy impact for internal sharing to support learning process;
- Develop a framework at MCC to strengthen young scholars as public intellectuals – MCC might be a pioneer institute where excellent research and the presence in public debates go hand in hand.

#### **d. Institutional future**

The Committee is clear in that the MCC should be a long-term “institute” rather than a “project” limited to a certain life-time, to be able to carry on with its high-level research, sharpen its focus further, develop an overarching strategy, provide a perspective for young researchers, fill a strategic research niche and enhance its policy impact. It therefore **recommends Stiftung Mercator to expand its funding commitment to a second funding period.**

At the same time, it is considered important that the long-term institutional future of MCC beyond the non-perpetual support of Stiftung Mercator is prepared early on. The Committee sees three possible options:

##### 1. Max Planck Institute

Becoming a member of the Max Planck society would fit nicely with the people-centred focus of MCC, as, similar to MCC, Max Planck Institutes are built around high-level researchers who define their research projects themselves. To prepare this, negotiations with the society would have to start early on.

##### 2. Leibniz Institute

Another option would be for the MCC to become a Leibniz institute. For this, additional donors would have to be brought in. However, at its current size, MCC would be too small for this option.

##### 3. Link to university

Linking the MCC work to one of the existing universities would probably be the simplest in organisational terms. However, in terms of visibility and impact this may not be the most appropriate option.

The Committee recommends, provided a second funding period is granted, to start discussions on the long-term future of MCC from the beginning of that period onwards.

#### e. Promotion of early career researchers

The Committee acknowledges the role of MCC as an **incubator for promising researchers** in the area of climate change and global commons, especially regarding the young Working Group leaders, of which three have already been appointed professors.

However, the Committee also stressed the **importance of a longer-term perspective** of the institute beyond the first funding period of Stiftung Mercator, in order to be able to provide those researchers with job security and allow them to grow their reputation and networks over time. This is particularly important considering MCC's people-centred approach, with the Working Groups and research topics being built around the Working Groups leaders rather than the other way round.

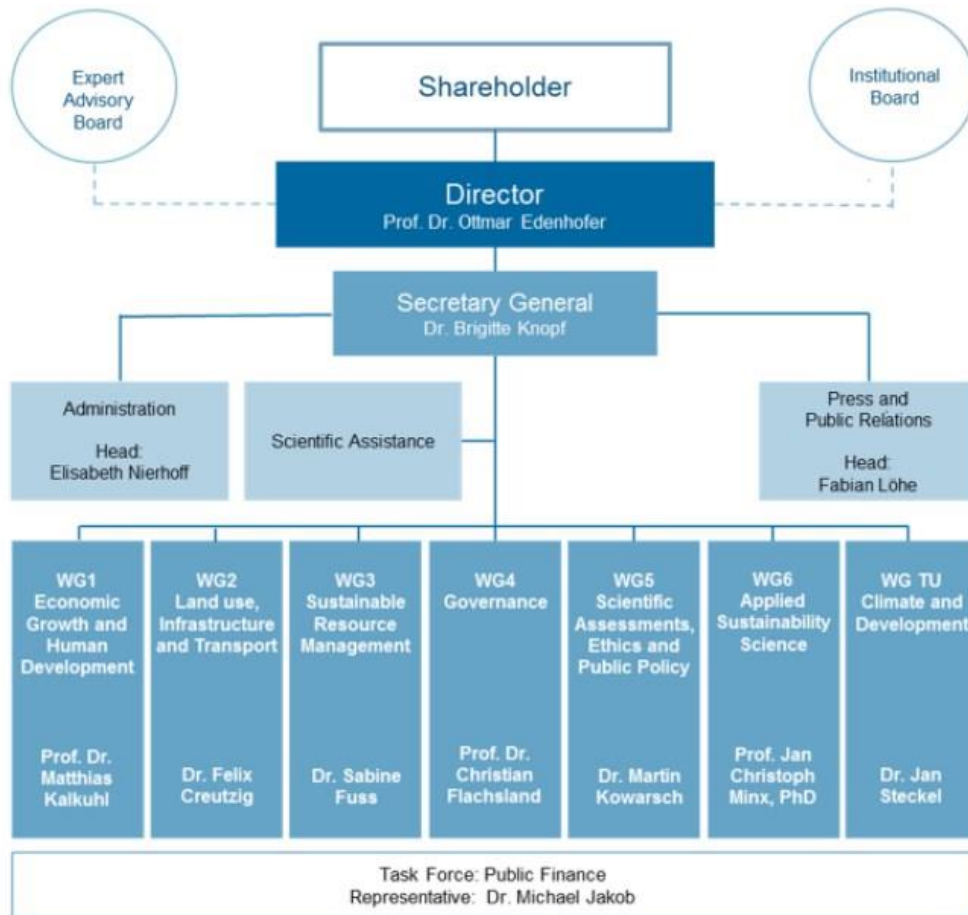
MCC's **internal PhD programme**, with PhD candidates being assigned to the different Working Groups, is **well received**. In 2015, the first PhD student completed his thesis, and five more are expected to follow in 2016.

With regards to **gender balance**, MCC states that it promotes gender equality and takes this into account throughout the hiring process. The fact that the Secretary General is female is positively emphasised by the Committee. However, it generally views gender balance as an **area of improvement** at MCC, as just one out of seven Working Group leaders is female. An improved gender balance is also viewed as supporting the credibility of an institute that deals with global commons. The following recommendations to increase gender balance in the short-term were made:

- Target winners among female PhDs /Post-Docs to be poised as future Working Group leaders;
- Coach junior female staff to leadership positions;
- Involve female head(s) of Working Group as mentor(s);
- Focus on female candidates for future external hires, and communicate this clearly;
- Use the available academic gendered web sites to target women in recruitments;
- At every level of organisational activities look for opportunities to improve gender balance, including when building committees, such as the Evaluation Committee;
- Formally adopt the Rooney Rule as principle: at every stage in a hiring process make every effort to ensure there is a woman candidate;
- Set the goal to establish a female Vice Director at MCC.

### III. Annexes

#### a. Organisational Chart



## b. Staff

MCC Staff Members		
Name	Function	Working Group
<b>Executive Staff</b>		
Edenhofer, Ottmar	Director	
Knopf, Brigitte	Secretary General	
Kalkuhl, Matthias	Group leader	WG1
Creutzig, Felix	Group leader	WG2
Fuss, Sabine	Group leader	WG3
Flachslan, Christian	Group leader	WG4
Kowarsch, Martin	Group leader	WG5
Minx, Jan	Group leader	WG6
Steckel, Jan	Group leader	WG TU
<b>Scientific Staff</b>		
Agoston, Peter	Post-Doc	WG2
Bren d'Amour, Christopher	PhD student	WG2
Brenner, Andri	PhD student	WG1
Burghaus, Kerstin	Post-Doc	Task Force
Dorsch, Marcel	PhD student	WG4
Fernandez, Blanca	PhD student	WG2
Garard, Jennifer	PhD student	WG5
Hilalre, Jérôme	Post-Doc	WG6
Hirth, Lion	Scientific Support TU	Directorate
Jakob, Michael	Post-Doc	Task Force
Klenert, David	PhD student	Task Force
Koch, Nicolas	Post-Doc	WG3
Kornek, Ulrike	Post-Doc	WG4
Lamb, William	Post-Doc	WG6
Leipprand, Anna	PhD student	WG4
Lenzi, Dominic	Post-Doc	WG5
Nguyen, Thang Dao	Post-Doc	Task Force
Radebach, Alexander	PhD student	WG TU
Schwerhoff, Gregor	Post-Doc	Task Force
Sedova, Barbora	PhD student	WG1
Siegmeler, Jan	PhD student	Task Force
Ward, Hauke	PhD student	WG TU
Weddige, Ulf	Scientific Support	WG2
Wehkamp, Johanna	PhD student	WG3
Wenz, Leonie	PhD student	WG TU

<b>Administration</b>		
Bruns, Jan	Head of Press & PR (Parental representation)	
Fritzsch, Martin	Back office	
Löhe, Fabian	Head of Press and PR	
Nierhoff, Elisabeth	Head of Administration	
Otto, Liene	Assistant to the Director	
Reinsch, Susann	Assistant Research & Events	
Wal, Annelie	Human Resources and Accounting	
<b>Guests</b>		
Ahmad, Sohail	Fellow	WG2
Bischer, Lisa-Marie	Master Student	WG TU
Dorband, Ira	Master Student	WG TU
Gläser, Anne	Master Student	WG3
Grosjean, Godefroy	PhD student	WG3
Nemet, Gregory	Fellow	WG TU
Mattauch, Linus	Fellow	Task Force
Pilger, Daffne	Master Student	WG6
Stechow, von Christoph	PhD student	WG6
<b>Student Assistants</b>		
Bauer, Julian	Student Assistant	Administration
Callaghan, Max	Student Assistant	WG6
Cook, Athene	Student Assistant	WG1
Harrs, Jan	Student Assistant	WG5
Lübbers, Sebastian	Student Assistant	Administration
Marxen, Annika	Student Assistant	WG3
Römer, Julia	Student Assistant	WG2
Schulze, Tom	Student Assistant	WG TU

### c. Evaluation Committee

	Name	Institution
1.	Dirk Messner (Chair)	German Development Institute (DIE)
2.	Dallas Burtraw	Resources for the Future (RFF)
3.	Dennis Snower	Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW)
4.	Frank Jotzo	Crawford School of Public Policy, Australian National University
5.	Georg Teutsch	Hemholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
6.	James Wilsdon	Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Sheffield
7.	Joachim von Braun	Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn
8.	Keywan Riahi	International Institute of Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
9.	Miranda Schreurs	Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU), Freie Universität Berlin
10.	Susanne Dröge	Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)
11.	Uwe Schneidewind	Wuppertal Institut

### d. Agenda of Evaluation Committee Meeting

#### Monday, 02 May 2016

13:15 h Arrival, light lunch

14:00 h Welcome (OE, 5 min)

14:05 h **Internal meeting** (Committee, Ecofys, Shareholders)

- D Messner: Mission statement, meeting objectives (5 min)
- Rohe: Rationale for initiating the MCC (5 min)
- Grotewold: Motivation for evaluating the MCC (5 min)
- Arndt: The role of PIK (5 min)
- Blok: Process and outputs of the evaluation (5 min)

14:30 h **Internal meeting** (Committee, Ecofys, KK as guest)



- 15:15 h Coffee break
- 15:30 h **Presentation of the MCC**  
(Committee, Ecofys, Shareholders, OE, BK, WG-Heads)
- OE: Overall view on the institute, synopsis of the self-report (20 min)
  - Discussion (40 min)
- 16:30 h Coffee break
- 16:45 h Presentations on selected scientific topics  
(4 Heads of WGs, 10 min each)  
Discussion (60 min; 15 min after each talk)
- 18:30 h End of meeting,  
Transfer to Restaurant
- 19:00 h **Dinner** (Committee, Ecofys, OE, BK, WG-Heads, Shareholders)  
Location: Käfer Dachgarten, Berlin Reichstag

## Tuesday, 03.05.16

- 9:00 h **Internal meeting**  
(Commission, Ecofys, KK as guest)
- 9:30 h **MCC at the Science/Policy Interface**  
Inputs from MCC scientists, discussion
- 10:00 h **Poster presentation**  
(WG-Heads, Post-Docs, PhD Candidates, OE/BK not attending)  
Poster presentation of the WGs (4-5 Posters),  
and of PhDs (3 Posters), open discussion between Committee,  
WG-Heads, Post-Docs, PhD Candidates
- During Poster presentation: Coffee
- 11:30 h **Internal meeting**  
(Commission, Ecofys, KK as guest)
- 12:30 h Lunch
- 13:30 h **Interview with Stiftung Mercator** (30 min)  
(Committee, Ecofys, Mercator, PIK)
- 14:00 h **Interview with Ottmar Edenhofer and Brigitte Knopf** (60 min)
- 15:00 h **Internal concluding discussion** (Committee, Ecofys)
- 16:00 h Closing remarks, outlook (Committee, Ecofys, OE, BK, Shareholders)
- 16:30 h End of meeting

## **PART II**

### **REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF MCC AT THE INTERFACE OF SCIENCE AND POLICY - SUMMARY -**

# Report on the impact of MCC at the interface of science and policy

## MCC Evaluation

**By: Kornelis Blok and Charlotte Cuntz**

**Date: 28 June 2016**

**Project number: CSPDE16600**

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## Summary

To evaluate MCC's impact at the interface of science and policy to date, 14 interviews were carried out with "recipients" of MCC's scientific policy advice in government, civil society, political lobby and media in Germany and internationally. As a result, it became evident that MCC has already influenced some debates and political positions in Germany with a focus on carbon pricing, as well as certain outputs of international organisations such as IPCC and UNEP. However, the stakeholders interviewed still see room for improvement regarding MCC's visibility and outreach.

The interviewees **perceive MCC** as a research institute or scientific think tank that conducts independent research. The fact that MCC is not driven by a political agenda was positively emphasised by many stakeholders and is considered a unique feature of MCC. It was argued that the funding structure and funders' motives could be made more transparent to emphasise MCC's independence even more. The majority of interviewees see MCC as one of the most important climate research institutes in Europe.

The **visibility of MCC** appears to be considerable higher in Germany than internationally. German interviewees mostly knew MCC quite well and particularly highlighted their informal exchange with the institute. Notably, many German stakeholders strongly associate MCC with the person of Ottmar Edenhofer. In contrast, most international stakeholders had only been in touch with MCC one or a few times, especially through attending workshops. The topics that interviewees primarily associate with MCC are carbon pricing and the work on EU-ETS. Only a few interviewees were familiar with MCC's work on assessments. Most stakeholders did not know or have not read MCC publications due to time constraints, but were informed about MCC work via other pathways.

In terms of **relevance/ needs of recipients**, most interviewees have already used MCC output for their daily work, mainly as background information or to refine their own lines of argumentation. The information is mainly derived from abstracts, press releases or attending workshops. The underlying scientific articles are viewed as important basis for MCC's credibility. The topics that MCC deals with are generally considered the right ones. Some recommendations for further topics that MCC should address (more) were given and are included in this report. MCC's translation function from science to policy was recognised and deemed useful.

The **effectiveness** of MCC's policy impact was acknowledged by many interviewees by giving concrete examples of cases in which they believe MCC has influenced political debates, policy outcomes or positioning. In Germany, the impact seems to focus on the topic of carbon pricing. Internationally, it appears as though MCC has had an impact with organisations where collaborations or close ties exist (IPCC, UNEP).

The interviewees also gave **recommendations to increase the visibility and policy impact** of MCC. The most common recommendation was to become more active in the field of social media, especially by writing a regular blog. Also, e-mail alerts were considered quite useful. Furthermore, it was argued that invitations for MCC workshops should include both a description of MCC and explanation of how the invitee fits in the workshop context, to increase the chances for attendance of international

stakeholders. EU stakeholders suggested that MCC requests personal meetings in Brussels to introduce the institute and establish personal ties with policy-makers, which would make the latter more receptive to MCC outputs and events. It was also recommended to write and circulate short policy briefs as opposed to longer papers.