

# Current and planned activities on analysing the “groundswell” of climate action

## Input to the Workshop “Understanding and communicating the groundswell of climate actions”

April 2015

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Non-state or sub-national actions can be, but are not necessarily integrated with national efforts. An important question is thus how the actions of different stakeholders match and add up. Building a robust set of mitigation targets on the national level as well as for the individual initiatives is important to ensure that ambition is maximised and environmental integrity is maintained. The interest of NewClimate includes the assessment of individual initiatives. However we find it increasingly important to understand how the pieces link together. Identifying promising non-state actions, moving them into implementation, and then considering them when setting national goals can thus significantly increase the ambition of the international mitigation efforts.

NewClimate Institute sees the quantification and evaluation with respect to greenhouse gases as the core element of its expertise. Its staff has been involved in projects quantifying the impact of national and sub-national policies on emissions for many years<sup>1</sup>. To apply techniques and knowledge gained with this work to non-state actions and the overall structure is our aim with upcoming project work.

As one step in this direction, we have started a project on the quantification of potential contributions of International Cooperative Initiatives to mitigation of GHG emissions in Germany (for a foundation). The objective of that project is to quantify the potential impact of actions by International Cooperative Initiatives on Germany’s greenhouse gas emissions until 2030. We will analysis whether this can lead to more emission reductions than are currently expected in national studies. This could ultimately lead to a more ambitious greenhouse gas reduction target for Germany than currently proposed.

We further look into other benefits of mitigation actions such as air quality, green jobs and energy security<sup>2</sup>. This topic is very relevant to consider when speaking about climate actions of non-state or sub-national governments, as the agenda of those stakeholders is often even more driven by such topics than that of the national governments.

In previous capacities, NewClimate team members contributed to the development of the Wedging the Gap concept<sup>3</sup> and the initial development of the Climate Initiatives Database<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> E.g. the Climate Action Tracker ([www.climateactiontracker.org](http://www.climateactiontracker.org)), Modelling Climate Action of Major Emitters (<http://newclimate.org/portfolio/enhancing-ambition-in-the-major-emitting-countries/>)

<sup>2</sup> <http://newclimate.org/2015/03/27/indc-cobenefits/>

<sup>3</sup> Blok, K.; Höhne, N.; van der Leun, K.; Harisson, N. (2012). Bridging the greenhouse gas emissions gap. *Nature Climate Change* 2, 471–474 (2012) doi:10.1038/nclimate1602

<sup>4</sup> <http://climateinitiativesdatabase.org/index.php/Welcome>