

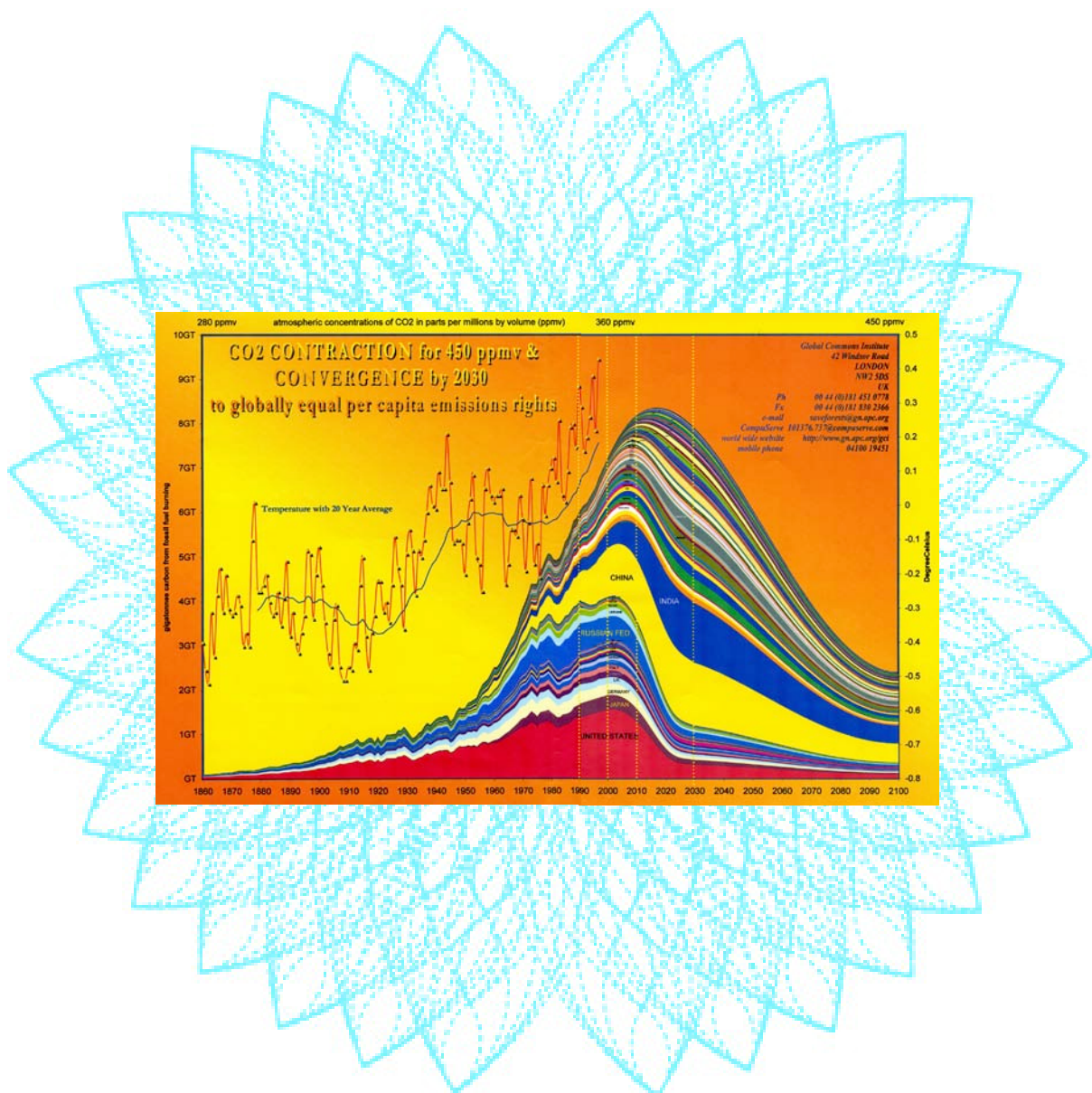
The 'Contraction & Convergence' Campaign

A short summary

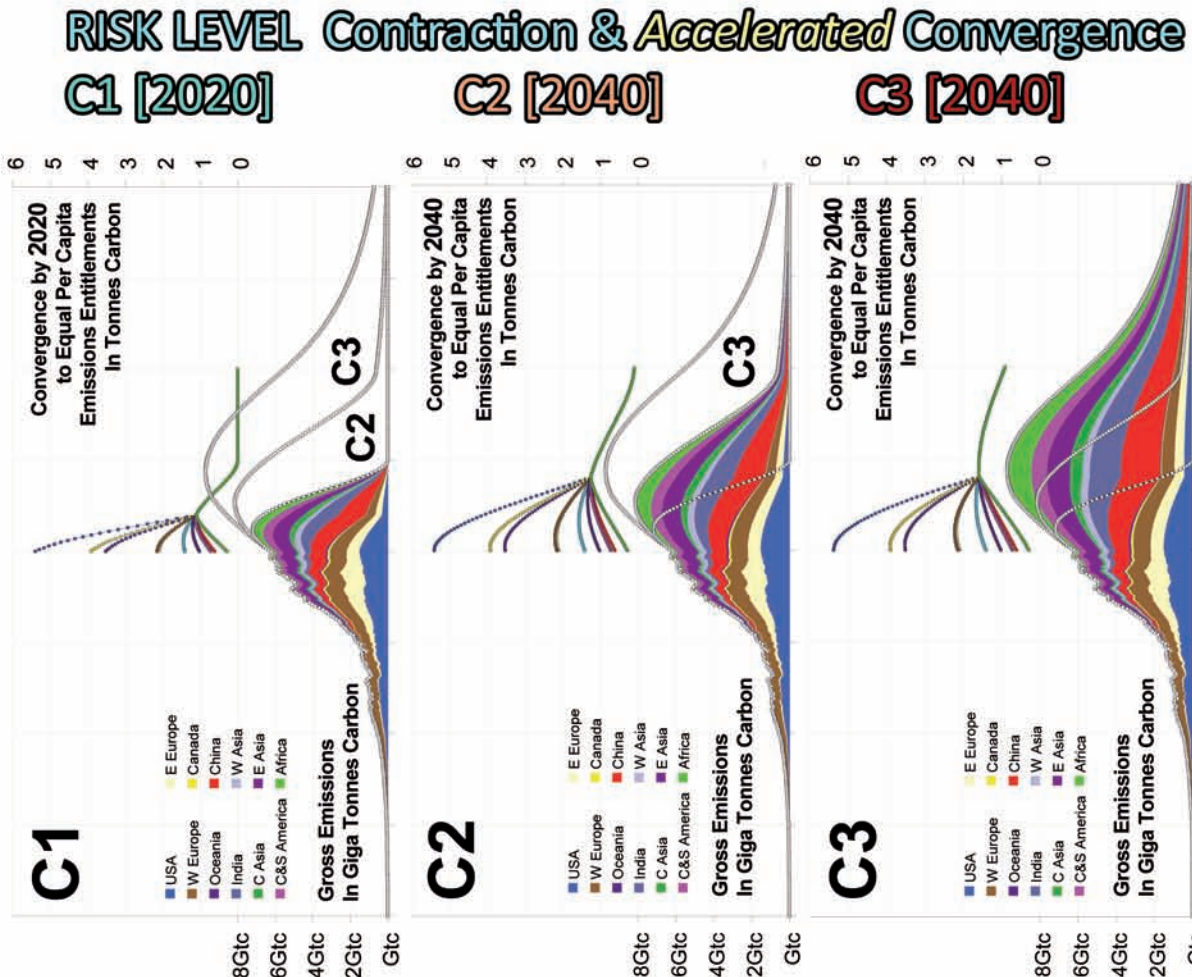
Contraction and Convergence [C&C] models the international basis for negotiating a UNFCCC-compliant global climate treaty. This requires safe and stable greenhouse gas concentration in the global atmosphere.

C&C was conceived by Global Commons Institute [GCI - Director and ex-musician Aubrey Meyer] in 1990. The formal calculating model of C&C was first introduced by GCI to the UN Climate negotiations at COP-2 in June 1996.

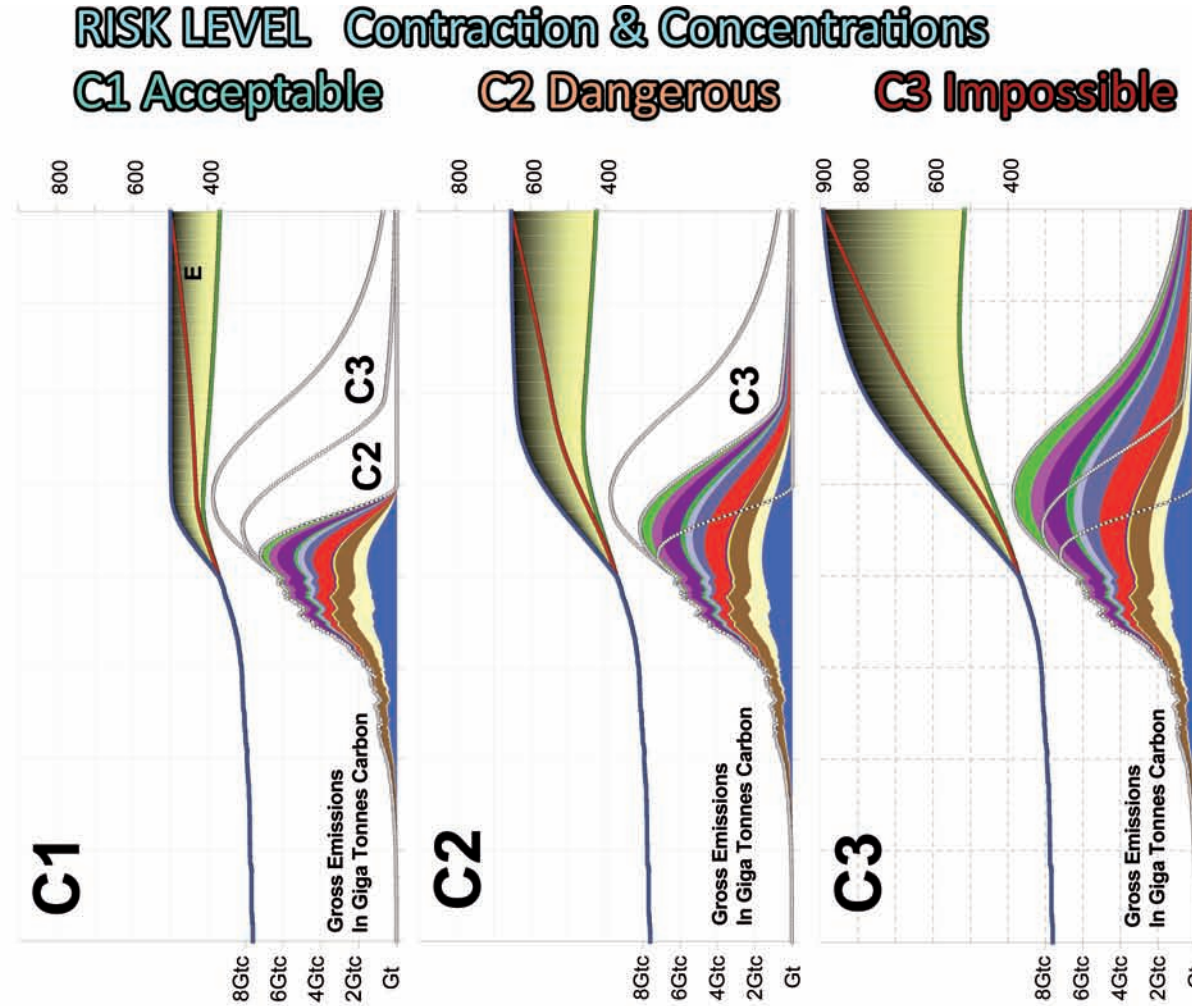
Since then GCI's advocacy has made C&C the most widely cited and arguably the most widely supported basis for negotiating the future shares of greenhouse gas emissions that sum to being consistent with achievement of the objective of the UNFCCC.



Contraction & Accelerated Convergence



Contraction & Accelerated Concentrations



A detailed animation of this analysis is on-line at http://www.gci.org.uk/Animations/BENN_C&C_Animation.exe

Two Page Synopsis

- GCI was founded in 1990. Responding to the climate crisis, GCI began a campaign to make 'Contraction & Convergence' [C&C] the basis of UNFCCC-compliance.
- A campaign to establish the principle of equity in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change [UNFCCC] began, proposed as equal per capita emissions entitlements globally, within the future emissions contraction 'event' that would achieve the UNFCCC objective, a safe and stable concentration of greenhouse gas in the global atmosphere: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/Documents/OrigStatement2.pdf>
- By 1992, GCI had helped to establish the principles of 'precaution' and 'equity' in the UNFCCC and was asked by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [IPCC] to prepare analysis for its 'Second Assessment Report' [SAR] on '*The Unequal Use of The Global Commons*'. GCI's '*Expansion and Divergence*' analysis [published by IPCC in 1995] here: - http://www.gci.org.uk/Documents/Nairobi3b_.pdf
- This analysis successfully rebutted the 'neoclassical global cost/benefit analysis' done by UK and US economists for the IPCC SAR. GCBA maintained the climate-induced death of one rich person equalled fifteen such deaths amongst poor people. More about this is detailed here: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/economists.html>
- In 1996 the full calculating 'Contraction and Convergence' [C&C] model, showing GCI's equity principle in practice as the basis of UNFCCC-compliance and the remedy for 'Expansion and Divergence', was introduced to the UNFCCC at the 2nd Conference of the Parties [COP-2] to the UNFCCC in Geneva in June: - http://www.gci.org.uk/Documents/ZEW_CONTRACTION_&_CONVERGENCE.pdf
- The C&C model attracted interest that has grown from then on: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/briefings.html> <http://www.gci.org.uk/Briefings/ICEx.pdf>
- In 1997 the US Senate unanimously passed the 'Byrd Hagel Resolution' [BHR] on climate change saying the political solution to achieving the objective of the UNFCCC had to be global. GCI responded, saying to the US delegation that the only way to organize what BHR called for was to use the C&C organizing principle: - http://www.gci.org.uk/Documents/C&C&ByrdHagel_.pdf
- On that basis the US Government asked for GCI's support in the negotiations. They then said, "*C&C is the only game in town*" and asked GCI to canvass for support for C&C in India, China and from the Africa Group. GCI did, support was raised and C&C was nearly agreed at COP-3 in December 1997 by these parties and the US: - http://www.gci.org.uk/COP3_Transcript.pdf However, the 'Kyoto Protocol' was carried, though the US refused to support it then, as well as since then, until now.
- In 2000 C&C was adopted and advocated to the UK Government by the UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution [RCEP]: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/chp4.pdf>
- In 2003 the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC stated that, "*achieving the objective of the UNFCCC inevitably requires contraction and convergence*": - <http://www.gci.org.uk/images/Pasztor.png>
- Several GCI reports to UK Parliamentary Select Committees and several of their resulting reports to the UK Parliament and to the UK Government backed C&C: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/publications.html>
- By this time C&C was becoming the most widely cited and arguably the most widely supported model in the entire global process: - http://static.london.gov.uk/mayor/strategies/energy/docs/energy_strategy04.pdf
- In November 2005 the Climate Change (Contraction and Convergence) Bill, as presented by Colin Challen and ordered, by the House of Commons, was published: - <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200506/cmbills/092/2006092.htm>

- In 2005 the City of London Life-Time's Achievement Award went to Aubrey Meyer: *"From the worlds of business, academia, politics and activism, Aubrey Meyer has made the greatest contribution to the understanding and combating of climate change having led strategic debate or policy formation. In recognition of an outstanding personal contribution to combating climate change at an international level through his efforts to enhance the understanding and adoption of the principle of Contraction and Convergence."* <http://www.gci.org.uk/awards.html>
- In 2008 the report by Professor Ross Garnaut to the Australian Government declared that with C&C, *"the rate of convergence is the main equity lever"*: - http://www.gci.org.uk/Documents/Garnaut_Chapter9.pdf
- In 2008 the UK passed the UK 'Climate Act' and Lord Turner, Chairman of the Climate Change Committee that prepared the Bill, said the 'Climate Act' was based on C&C: - <http://www.candcfoundation.com/pages/endorsements.html#>
- Lord Turner also agreed the rate of convergence to equal per capita shares globally, would need to be accelerated relative to whatever overall accelerated rate of global emissions contraction was needed for UNFCCC-compliance: - <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmenergy/309/09030402.htm>
- In 2008 an all party group of UK MPs nominated Aubrey Meyer for a Noble Peace Prize: - http://www.gci.org.uk/Documents/NObel_Nomination_APPGCC.pdf
- In June 2009 Ban Ki Moon and 30 other eminent persons signed a pro-C&C statement: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/Documents/Hi-Level-Climate-Change.pdf>
- In June 2009 the Global Humanitarian Forum, based in Geneva and chaired by Kofi Annan, held a conference there. Following Meyer's presentation, the Forum issued a call for C&C to be made the basis of the so-called post-Kyoto deal: - http://www.gci.org.uk/Documents/GHF_2009_.pdf
- In December 2009 at COP-15, C&C was tabled by the UK and an un-named group of Governments. However, resistant to advice to be biddable on the rate of convergence relative to the rate of contraction, the UK Government's effort stalled: - http://www.gci.org.uk/animations/C&C_COP_15.swf
- In December 2010 at COP-16, the global disagreement on how to globally share the emissions restraint that achieves the objective of the UNFCCC was repeated for the fifteenth year in a row. Meyer commented on this situation here: - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y19pXCN84MQ&feature=player_embedded#at=28
- **COP-17 in Dec 2011 schedules the last opportunity by when to produce the 'global-climate-deal' that extends or succeeds Kyoto Protocol.**
- Noting that C&C is the basis of the UK Climate Act, GCI organised a letter to the UK Government-coalition where many eminent people have stated C&C is the apex example of an agreement for UNFCCC-compliance and must now be established as the basis of the global deal for that purpose. Many say there is no other way to reach such an agreement and note that at Kyoto in December 1997 and shortly before they withdrew from these negotiations, the USA stated, *"C&C contains elements for the next agreement that we may ultimately all seek to engage in."* <http://www.gci.org.uk/politics.html>
- Longer-term progress reports are here: - http://www.gci.org.uk/2009_Funding_Appeal.pdf
http://www.gci.org.uk/Documents/2000_2007.pdf
http://www.gci.org.uk/Archive/MegaDoc_19.pdf
- Diverse and multi-disciplinary C&C endorsements are constantly added to the list here: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/Documents/endorsements.html>

Answering some questions arising

- **Aim: taking into account the sustainability and efficiency of the project.**

Global climate change is an apex 'sustainability challenge' for humanity. As things stand, with the historic 'expansion and divergence' of our greenhouse gas emissions continuing largely unabated, we continue to cause the problem of climate change much faster than we are responding to restrain emissions and avoid it.

The stalemate of blame-based politics at the UNFCCC is at the heart of this. What has become a 'Versailles-Treaty-mentality' has brought out the worst in all and represents a decrease in 'equity', 'efficiency', and 'sustainability' for this and future generations.

For reasons of survival, we must be UNFCCC-compliant. So we must reverse that ratio of rates of causation and response and solve the problem faster than we cause it. Therefore, we must transparently have an accounted international agreement that demonstrates understanding of that need for UNFCCC-compliance. That, as the UNFCCC executive itself has said, "*inevitably requires contraction and convergence.*"

In other words, in order to demonstrate that hard-won local gains are not still being swallowed in larger global losses, local criteria for sustainability, efficiency and 'efficiency gains' need to be defined within and consistent with a strategic global account that is in turn defined by this globally quantified agreement for UNFCCC-compliance: - http://www.gci.org.uk/C&C_Janos_Pasztor_UNFCCC.pdf

- **Innovative aspects of the project taking into account the technological standards and the circumstances in the region.**

The UNFCCC negotiations occur in an international sum of 'regions' that is *global* and within the discipline of globally sharing the global commons of the atmosphere at sustainable rates of use.

Language in the UNFCCC addresses this in terms of the "*Common but Differentiated Responsibilities*" of the Parties. This is reminiscent of the numberless language of "*Unity in Diversity*" used by the Church in the Middle Ages, where the Unity spoken about is the sum of its Diverse parts, more than the Diversity is the sub-division into parts of that Unity. This language has been 'aspirational' giving rise to the marginal 'market-based framework' of the Kyoto Protocol at the UNFCCC in recent years.

However, considering now the consequences of failing to achieve UNFCCC-compliance, marginal is seen as irrelevant and it has become more apparent and appropriate to use the language and C&C's rational calculus of "Equity in Adversity".

The Contraction and Convergence idea itself is not an 'innovation' as it is 'perennial' - a simple mathematical truth that has always been true. However, the innovation of C&C is in bringing this 'aspirational' truth to bear *rationally* as a global 'signal' in the international 'noise' of the UNFCCC negotiations, so the objective - UNFCCC-compliance - is always to the fore as the core focus of the negotiations. This transcends Kyoto's aspirational 'market-based framework' and goes to C&C's rational 'framework-based market' subject to the global emissions total needed for UNFCCC-compliance.

Like this, what has been called "*The Incontestable Truth*" of C&C, has the merit of protecting the important technologically and socially innovative aspects of these negotiations from the tendency of this noise to dissipate the energy of the negotiations towards blame and UNFCCC-non-compliance by arranging to do too-little, too-late.

- **Cost/benefit: description of economic and social aspects.**

The over-arching cost/benefit calculation facing us now is global. It is self-evident that however great the alleged global cost of being UNFCCC-compliant may be, the benefit of being UNFCCC-compliant is greater as the cost of failure is effectively infinite.

First attempts by Western economists to conduct a 'Global Cost/Benefit Analysis' of Climate Change were methodologically absurd as they revealed two things: -

1. the value of assets damaged by climate change was proportional to the asset owners income where 15 dead poor people equalled 1 rich dead persons and
2. all assets discounted this way, it was therefore cheaper overall to adapt to climate change than to prevent it.

This was the precursor of Kyoto's 'market-based-framework'. GCI called this exercise '*the economics of genocide*' and due to GCI's focused intervention, these perverse results were rejected at the UNFCCC in 1995 and also heavily criticized in the IPCC.

In proposing C&C as the solution to the 'economic problem' and the challenge of UNFCCC-compliance, GCI said that the 'numeraire of relevance to UNFCCC-compliance' was not the *monetary* unit, but '*carbon per person per unit time, subject to the limit defined by the objective of the UNFCCC*': - i.e the relevant numeraire is C&C.

Of course this of itself does not solve the problem. However, it does make it possible to solve the problem by methodologically subordinating the economy to the environment rather than continuing with an 'economic-belief-system' that persistently puts us all at deepening risk in futile efforts to achieve the reverse.

The economic and social costs of proceeding with the latter way will be cumulatively disastrous, while the economic and social benefits of proceeding with C&C as the standard for achieving UNFCCC-compliance are self-evidently infinite.

● **Replication potential: can the project be implemented elsewhere.**

C&C has been taken as that standard by an increasing diversity of actors in the following sectors: - population transport religion political academic institutions professions local movement building economic growth/no-growth analysts.

These often state that adopting C&C as the 'standard' for UNFCCC-compliance and 'sustainability' makes it easier to develop the debates they seek. For example: -

- actors in the 'population-growth and sustainability' debate acknowledge that the 'population base-year' function in the C&C model makes it easier to engage with their critics as selection of a base-year in the C&C accounts actually creates 'an economic incentive for negative fertility' rather than one for positive fertility.
- actors in the political debate, both nationally and internationally, acknowledge that C&C's standard for equal per capita global emissions entitlements subject to the limit of the UNFCCC, makes it more obviously futile to support standards of inequality if global agreement for UNFCCC-compliance is to be reached.
- actors in the political economic debate acknowledge that C&C's framework-based market for emissions entitlements, resolves debating conflicts between social equity [convergence to per capita equality] and financial equity [tradability] by making these a function of environmental equity [the full-term contraction-event].
- actors in the economic policy debate acknowledge that "*C&C addresses the central international equity issue simply and transparently; slower convergence favours emitters that are above the global per capita average at the starting point while faster convergence gives more emissions rights to low per capita emitters. The convergence date is the main equity lever in such a scheme.*" [Garnaut Report].
- the clarity of C&C's 'contraction:concentrations' analysis has exposed weakness and contradictions in the 'scientific' modelling of future atmosphere:ocean CO₂ concentration and kept the focus on the rates of C&C that are needed to prevent the future CO₂ saturation of both atmosphere and oceans that will precipitate disastrous rates of climate change: <http://www.gci.org.uk/acidification.html>

- actors in progressive people's movements increasingly cite C&C as the standard around which they organize campaigns for sustainable communities see: - <http://www.gci.org.uk/endorsements.html>
- Recent activist feedback was: - *"I most liked GCI's capacity to place this debate 'within the round'. There was always, it seemed, an appropriate and important tangential idea available which could be fleshed out to further enlighten the argument. You've set the standard for debate on this issue - it is complex, yes, but your assurance on the central issue; that anthropogenic climate change is a fact that needs to be dealt with, as rapidly, as equitably, and as intelligently as possible has inspired countless activists."*

Environmental compatibility, particular regarding climate protection.

The entire primary focus of C&C is on emissions, UNFCCC-compliance and climate protection. As the Australian academic Professor Brendan Mackey observed in 2008: -

"As with all great ideas, C&C is deceptively simple, addresses the root causes of the problem, and is recognized as a grave threat to those vested interests who fear the climate change problem's successful resolution because of the fundamental changes it will wrought on our economic status quo.

The sustained effort of GCI over 20 years is a testimony to Aubrey's integrity, commitment, and resolve.

The logic and calculus of C&C is inescapable once an objective analysis is undertaken. For years, it was foolishly dismissed as impractical! Somewhat ironically, those who now view the problem with a clear head are increasingly accepting that C&C presents the only politically acceptable solution to the foundational question of how the permissible emissions can be distributed amongst the people of Earth."

As the Greenpeace campaigns Director Chris Rose wrote of the UNFCCC negotiations:

"The problem was framed in abstruse scientific terms and actions which ordinary individuals could play no part in. Only extraordinary individuals such as Aubrey Meyer, father of 'contraction and convergence', managed to penetrate this remote citadel. NGOs could prioritise it but they were stuck in someone else's game."

Aubrey's effort to keep the C&C approach visible at the centre-ground of UN climate politics has now substantially paid off. It resulted in the adoption and advocacy of C&C by the UK Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in 2000.

After the RCEP Report, Aubrey steadily published a body of evidence of advocacy and support for C&C. This included UK Parliamentary Select Committees who in turn repeatedly published reports strongly advocating C&C to successive UK Governments. In the light of all this and numerous other recommendations, it has inter alia resulted in the UK Climate Act [2008] being clearly based on C&C. It is now the most widely cited and arguably the most widely supported model in the debate: -

<http://www.gci.org.uk/endorsements.html>

As the 'Permavegan' Jonathan Maxson said': -

"C&C is a principle <http://www.gci.org.uk/music.html> that every climate activist should be familiar with. If we are going to spend the next ten-to-forty years together successfully advancing the most important global justice movement in the history of the world, we need to start cutting our teeth on C&C now."

It may yet be invaluable in consolidating consensus on the global deal needed for success at the UNFCCC. We need a strong signal at the UN climate negotiations saying that to survive, we must finally transcend the politics of blame and join together globally in C&C's integrated constitution for Climate Justice without Vengeance.