

ROUNDTABLE 2025

Part One 30 January
Part Two 19 February

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' Progress & Prospects

Full report

Key Partners















Full report

Contents

- Part One
- Progressing the Transition 3
- People of Goodwill 4
- The State of the Global Transition
- 5 Reforming the Financial System
- Building Trust
- 6 Reframing the Conversation
- Announcing the Foundation's newest Global Partners: Vale & TotalEnergies
- Global focus must continue
- Part Two 9
- Collaboration on the long-game 10
- Shaping a stronger global green narrative 10
- Nature as infastructure 11
- Opportunity in South-East Asia 11
- Working with China 12
- India's renewable energy & Al journey
- Working with the Pacific
- Putting a spotlight on the 'blue' side of climate action
- 14 Next steps
 - In Australia
 - Globally
- 15 Coming up

The 2025 'State of the World' Roundtables demonstrated that, in times of geopolitical tension and uncertainty, there remain people of goodwill, from business, institutions, faiths, civil society and governments, who are determined to advance their sustainability commitments and leave a positive legacy.

Participants, who came from diverse professional backgrounds across multiple continents, agreed to leverage business with purpose as a force for positive change. Both discussions reiterated the central imperative of the Foundation's 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature' project, calling for collaborative, global action on climate change and the preservation of nature. They also called for such action to promote economic resilience and social equity.

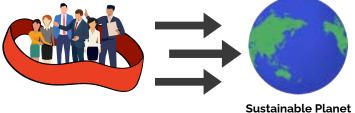
The themes from both roundtable discussions have been compiled in the following report.

Introduction

Every February, the Global Foundation convenes a 'State of the World' Roundtable, bringing together a carefully selected group of distinguished global citizens to discuss some of the world's most substantial issues and help shape pathways globalisation' towards 'cooperative that transformative, fair, inclusive and prosperous.

In 2025, the 'State of the World' Roundtable was convened in two parts on Thursday 30 January and Wednesday 19 February. The central focus of both meetings was the Foundation's global project, 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature,' launched at the Rome Roundtable in June 2024.

The project seeks to help renew faltering global governance to more effectively address the global challenges of climate change and the restoration of nature. It does this by gathering together a diverse and growing group of influential contributors who may not necessarily agree with each other on all matters, but who do agree that there is greater value in working together in seeking a common pathway for the global common good.







Related links

Learn more about the 'rubber band strategy' and our global commitments



ROUNDTABLE 2025 Part One

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' **Progress & Prospects**

Thursday, 30 January 2025

Part One Report



ROUNDTABLE 2025

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' Progress & Prospects

Thursday, 30 January 2025



Part One Report

On Thursday, 30 January 2025, the Global Foundation convened the fifth consecutive edition of its 'State of the World' Roundtable online, bringing together a group of distinguished global citizens from multiple continents to discuss the Foundation's global project, 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature,' launched seven months ago at its Rome Roundtable meeting.

Against the backdrop of a changing geopolitical context, characterised by uncertainty and tensions, roundtable participants embraced the opportunity to work more closely together in advancing the global energy transition and the preservation of nature and called for greater cooperation to find solutions that benefit the common good of humanity.

As global governance falters, it is time for 'business with purpose' to play a bigger role alongside institutions and civil society, and in working with governments, to ensure global sustainability. As a consequence, the Global Foundation has further mobilised, to play such a facilitation and enabling role.

"Business with purpose' is the mantra espoused by the Foundation, a sentiment increasingly supported by the international community with which it affiliates. We have more to gain by working together than by pulling apart – our planet demands this of us."

Ms Louise Watson

Chairman of the Board, the Global Foundation





Mr John Denton AO Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

Speakers



Mr Aurélien Hamelle
President, Strategy &
Sustainability, TotalEnergies



Ms Svetlana Klimenko Global Lead for Sustainable Finance and Lead Climate Finance Specialist, The World Bank



Ms Sylvie Lemmet
Ambassador for the
Environment, Ministry for
Europe & Foreign Affairs,
Government of France



Mr Gustavo Pimenta President & CEO, Vale



Leadership team

Mr Tom Tayler
Head of Climate Finance,
Aviva Investors



Ms Jo Tyndall
Director, Environment
Directorate, Organization for
Economic Cooperation and
Development (OECD)



Dr Mark Cutifani CBE
Chair, Global Advisory
Council and Co-Chair,
'Shaping Global Governance,
Climate and Nature' Project
Steering Committee, the
Global Foundation



Ms Sharan Burrow AC

Deputy Chair, Global Advisory
Council and Co-Chair,
'Shaping Global Governance,
Climate and Nature' Project
Steering Committee, the
Global Foundation



Ms Louise Watson Chairman of the Board, the Global Foundation



Mr Steve Howard
Secretary General,
the Global Foundation

Key:



'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature' Project Steering Committee members



ROUNDTABLE 2025 Part One Report

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' **Progress & Prospects**

Thursday, 30 January 2025



However, the speed and scale of action are far less than is required to limit climate change to 1.5 degrees and avoid major climate tipping points. Global CO2 emissions increased again in 2024, and harm to nature is accelerating.

Global agreements for all sectors of society to act in concert are also progressing at a pace and scale that is less than ideal.

The work of Professor Johan Rockstrom and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research on planetary boundaries underscores the urgency of action, with research in 2023 showing that, at current emissions levels, the world had only six years of its 'carbon budget' left before crossing major tipping points.



Adding to the challenge is the fact that 4 billion people on the planet still do not have adequate access to energy. In order to meet the UN Human Development Index, the amount of energy available to this population will need to triple in the next 20 years.

Progressing the Transition

Momentum is well underway in the private sector to finance and develop the global transition to clean energy and to support nature. The business case for the transition has grown, with the cost of some kev renewable energy technologies plummeting.

Roundtable participants discussed mechanisms like voluntary carbon credits, trade finance frameworks, and the Tropical Forests Forever Facility (TFFF), an innovative market-based solution to provide financial incentives for the

conservation of tropical forests.

Pioneered by the Government of Brazil and the World Bank. the TFFF illustrates that such opportunities are not limited to the 'West'.

On the contrary, emerging nations have the opportunity to become global leaders in sustainability and are actively seeking to shape the enabling finance and economic tools. The Foundation will support Brazil, in particular, as it will the official COP30 climate negotiations later in 2025.



The roundtable re-confirmed the Foundation's special role in bringing together those individuals and organisations who want to embrace their agency in advancing the global energy transition.

Though the old forms of multilateralism may no longer function as before, the private sector and civil society have agency. They can still take action together, and working with governments and institutions, to advance the energy transition and the preservation of nature.

"Investing in a just, net zero transition makes economic sense."

Roundtable participant



ROUNDTABLE 2025

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' Progress & Prospects

Thursday, 30 January 2025



Part One Report

People of Goodwill

Roundtable participants came from global businesses, institutions, think tanks and civil society, across four continents. All shared a common ambition of advancing the global energy transition and the preservation of nature, to secure a sustainable and just future for humanity.

Everything has changed in light of economic, environmental and political circumstances, with the rules-based order giving way to power-based structures. Economic globalisation, that has lifted millions out of poverty and increased living standards over recent decades, is now in further doubt. Forecasts for global economic growth in 2025 are modest, with all major economic institutions warning that emerging nations are at risk of being left behind.



Paradoxically, at a time when collaboration on matters affecting the global commons is needed more than ever, the whole concept of international co-operation, over and beyond national borders and interests, is under threat.

Despite these shifts in geopolitics, roundtable participants held firm in their mission to work together to advance the energy transition and protect nature.

"The world has changed. Our purpose stays the same... We are not an observer, we are an active participant. We have agency."

Roundtable participant

The State of the Global Transition

For the global energy transition to limit climate change, the trajectory is generally positive:

- Investment in renewable energy is outstripping investment in fossil fuels.
- The Paris Agreement has triggered a 'virtuous circle' of government policies encouraging the transition and businesses acting in return, both with improved transparency.
- The most recent of the International Energy Agency's Stated Policy Scenarios ('STEPS'), projected warming to reach 2.4 degrees above the pre-industrial average temperature by the end of the century; a 0.3 degree drop from the projection made by STEPS in 2016.





ROUNDTABLE 2025

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' Progress & Prospects

Thursday, 30 January 2025



Part One Report

Reforming the Financial System

The roundtable reiterated the Foundation's call to reform the global financial architecture. The world is not lacking in capital, but it is not flowing where it needs to go in order to meet international climate goals. Mobilising climate finance through public and private sector partnerships is essential, with experts estimating that investment in emerging markets will need to quadruple by 2050.



This is not without its challenges. The view was expressed that macro-prudential regulatory frameworks that emerged after the Global Financial Crisis may be limiting climate investment in emerging economies. For example, viable renewable energy businesses in emerging economies struggle to access finance because they cannot receive a credit rating higher than the government in which they are based. This pushes the businesses to leave the so-called 'Global South' and relocate to developed economies.

The importance of public sector involvement in financial reform should not be underestimated. Government decisions shape global financial markets - for example, governments give \$5.3 trillion in environmentally harmful subsidies each year, contributing to the profitability of unsustainable activities.

"At the moment, there is a continued decision that economic activity that emits carbon and equivalents, that destroys nature and that takes advantage of people and planet, makes more money than sustainable economic activity...

There is nothing written in the stars that tells us the economy has to be framed this way."

Roundtable participant

Building Trust

The view was expressed that we need to move beyond transactional social licences and build democratic legitimacy for the transition.

One key component of this work that was discussed at the roundtable was the need to build community trust around mining.

As the source of the raw minerals used in the construction of many key renewable energy technologies, from solar panels to wind turbines, sustainable mining has a critical role to play in the energy transition. Similarly, without the products of mining used in fertiliser, humanity would need 20-30% more land – land that could be dedicated to the preservation of biodiversity – to feed and shelter the world's population.



ROUNDTABLE 2025

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' Progress & Prospects

Thursday, 30 January 2025



Part One Report

It is necessary, therefore, to engage with the local communities living near mines to build a case for the mine's presence; a case that includes not only jobs but a commitment to improving quality of life, and a clear message that mining is part of the solution. Working with existing centres for community engagement, such as faith-based organisations, is important in gaining this social licence.

"These partnerships are even more important in today's context of increasing geopolitical fragmentation. Reaching out collectively to others around the world is a sign of building the democratic legitimacy we require for the pace and scale of this challenge."

Ms Sharan Burrow AC

Deputy Chair, Global Advisory Council and Co-Chair, 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature' Project Steering Committee, the Global Foundation



Re-framing the conversation

In the face of waning public support in many parts of the world, advocates for the energy transition should explore how they can reframe the narrative to emphasise the transition's economic benefits. Discussions should centre on the opportunities presented by the transition rather than only its costs.

It should also be remembered that the costs of climate inaction are greater than the costs of the transition. For example, roundtable participants discussed scenarios by the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS) that estimate global GDP losses of 20-50% by the end of the century under current climate policies.

Though emerging nations are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, economic losses are not limited to these parts of the world. The recent wildfires in Los Angeles, damages from which amounted to 7.5% of California's GDP, were raised as a sombre reminder that having money is no protection from climate change-enhanced natural disasters.

Moreover, the energy transition should not be framed as a partisan issue. Foundation affiliates need to work to remove the association of environmentalism with so-called "woke" politics and focus instead on economic arguments. The roundtable echoed previous calls for the Foundation to develop broad, cross sector coalitions over and above political and other divides, and to be able to have peaceful conversations about these topics.

Dr Mark Cutifani CBE concluded the roundtable, summarising the key takeaways from the discussion.

"For me, it's three points:

- 1. Bringing the story together into one coherent conversation that people can get their arms around.
- 2.Identifying who we should work with to help them understand what levers they have and how they can be applied to make a difference.
- 3. Releasing funds to go to the right areas to provide both an economic return and a social return. Both are as critical as each other and impact each other."



Dr Mark Cutifani CBE

Chair, Global Advisory Council and Co-Chair, 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature' Project Steering Committee, the Global Foundation



ROUNDTABLE 2025

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' Progress & Prospects

Thursday, 30 January 2025



Part One Report

Announcing the Foundation's newest Global Partners: Vale & TotalEnergies

At the roundtable, the Foundation was thrilled to announce new partnerships with Brazilian mining company Vale, and French energy company TotalEnergies.

The partnership with Vale demonstrates its commitment to being a global leader in sustainable mining and the Foundation's ongoing advocacy of 'business with purpose'.

The centrepiece of the partnership will be the most important global roundtable meeting of the Foundation for 2025, to be held from 12-15 August 2025 in Carajas, Brazil, the site of the world's largest iron ore mine. The roundtable is to be held ahead and in support of Brazil's hosting of the United Nation's global climate event, COP30, in November.

"Vale is delighted to be partnering with the Global Foundation to promote positive dialogue among different sectors and joint efforts to tackle the most pressing issues of our time. We understand that large organizations have a role to play in driving change. At Vale, we are committed to a responsible mining model, that integrates environmental protection, community well-being and economic development; and we believe that important players in the public and private sectors can converge in this same direction."



Located at the edge of the Amazon Rainforest, Carajás is emblematic of the dual need to care for our tropical forests while sourcing the raw materials needed to build renewable energy technology and sustainable infrastructure.

Vale will host the roundtable meeting, which will showcase the reforestation of more than 1 million hectares of the Amazon.



In addition, the partnership with TotalEnergies reflects its intention to help drive sustainable progress and adaption within the energy industry and beyond.

"TotalEnergies is eager to participate in the Global Foundation work that brings together civil society organisations, representatives of international organisations, officials and academia as well as corporate actors. Such global cooperation is key in achieving the sustainable development goals and advancing the energy transition, which is in tune with TotalEnergies' ambition."



ROUNDTABLE 2025
Part One Report

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' **Progress & Prospects**

Thursday, 30 January 2025



Global focus must continue

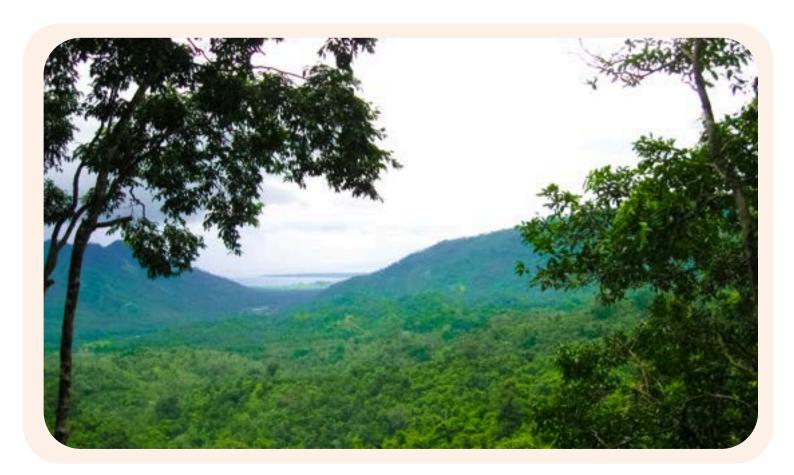
At global level, the Foundation will continue to convene cross-sections of global talents, as well as leaders from business, institutions, civil society, along with governments, to help build a shared narrative that to date is flagging.

A growing number of affiliates to the global project and the method of engagement may be found here.

"Our global project is galvanising support and involvement from all sections of society. There is a growing recognition that enlightened business needs to be given greater voice in official channels in shaping and co-owning and investing in this global transformation."

Mr Steve Howard Secretary General, the Global Foundation







Related links

Part One **Agenda**

Part One **Participant list**

Part One **Speaker biographies**





ROUNDTABLE 2025 Part Two

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' **Progress & Prospects**

Wednesday, 19 February 2025

Part Two Report



ROUNDTABLE 2025







Part Two Report

On Wednesday, 19 February, the Global Foundation convened Part Two of the fifth consecutive edition of its 'State of the World' Roundtable, bringing together a group of distinguished global citizens from across the Asia Pacific region to discuss the Foundation's global project, 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature,' launched eight months ago at its Rome Roundtable meeting.

The roundtable was hosted by Foundation partner **Mr Jeff Dimery**, CEO of **Alinta Energy**, at Alinta's offices in Melbourne, with additional participants joining online.



Addressing Part Two, Global Advisory Council Chair Dr Mark Cutifani remarked that 'business with purpose' was not possible without 'leaders with purpose.'

"I've never seen a business with purpose without a leader that embodies that mantra."



Dr Mark Cutifani CBE

Chair, Global Advisory Council and Co-Chair, 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature' Project Steering Committee, the Global Foundation

"Global governance is being turned on its head as we speak. It is inspiring to see the positive response to the Global Foundation's Global Project"

Ms Louise Watson

Chairman of the Board, the Global Foundation



Dr Erik Berglof *
Chief Economist, Asian
Infrastructure Investment Bank
(AIIB), Beijing



The Most Rev. Archbishop Peter Loy Chong DD* Archdiocese of Suva. Fiji

Speakers



Sr Adele Howard RSM OAM Adviser, Eco-Theology, Australia



Mr Jeyakumar Janakaraj *
CEO, Adani Data Centre Business
& Adani Global, Singapore



Mr Pascal Lamy *
Chair, Mission Board for Healthy Oceans,
Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters at
International Science Council & Coordinator
of the Jacques Delors Think-Tanks Network,
Former Director General of the World Trade
Organisation, France



Dr Mabel Miao*
Secretary General, Center for
China and Globalization
(CCG), China



Mr Afzal Mohsin*
Corporate Affairs
Manager for APAC, Vale,
Malaysia



HE Xiao Qian*Ambassador of China to Australia

Leadership team



Tan Sri Dr Michael Yeoh * President, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, Malaysia



Dr Mark Cutifani CBE
Chair, Global Advisory
Council and Co-Chair,
'Shaping Global Governance,
Climate and Nature' Project
Steering Committee, the
Global Foundation



Ms Sharan Burrow AC

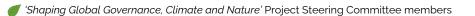
Deputy Chair, Global Advisory
Council and Co-Chair,
'Shaping Global Governance,
Climate and Nature' Project
Steering Committee, the
Global Foundation



Ms Louise Watson Chairman of the Board, the Global Foundation



Mr Steve Howard
Secretary General,
the Global Foundation



ROUNDTABLE 2025

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' Progress & Prospects

Wednesday, 19 February 2025



Part Two Report

Collaboration on the 'long-term game'

Participants agreed that, despite parts of the world retreating from their climate commitments, it was important to be on the right side of history and stick convictions and promises about to sustainability. The energy transition preservation of nature are not political ideologies, but necessary tasks to ensure the long-term prosperity of humanity and our 'common home.'

Participants discussed examples of successful collaboration. In Australia's Pilbara region, companies that had not traditionally worked closely together were able to reduce their energy costs and carbon footprints through the use of shared energy infrastructure. In Malaysia, mining company Vale has built strong relationships with its surrounding community, investing in social and environmental initiatives for more than a decade.



"When you're truly able to build partnerships with government agencies and the local community, and the NGOS and human rights activists... they want you there, they will advocate for you, they will support you and you will grow together as a community. The organisation isn't just another business – you are part of that broader community."

Roundtable Participant

Environmental challenges cannot be solved by one country alone - they require international as well as cross-sectoral partnerships. The current geopolitical environment, while concerning to participants, many roundtable presents an opportunity for nations of the Asia Pacific including Australia - to step up and play more of a The roundtable leadership role. opportunities for Australia to collaborate more with Asia, particularly China, India, and the Pacific islands, on advancing the energy transition.

"Solidarity with Asia-Pacific for Australia and for countries across the region is more important than ever. To use the 'rubber band' analogy, the more like-minded, positive thinking we get in the room the more we will find ways to navigate the challenges thrown at us."

Ms Sharan Burrow AC

Deputy Chair, Global Advisory Council and Co-Chair, 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature' Project Steering Committee, the Global Foundation



Shaping a stronger global green narrative

A recurring theme in Part Two was the 'narrative', or the 'story', that is the basis of communicating the state of the world to the public and private sectors. Roundtable participants were invited to consider what story was being told, how it was being framed, and who was presenting it.

It is imperative to develop a more intentional and compelling narrative, specifically a greener narrative, to effectively communicate the urgency of climate action to the public.



Related links

Part Two <u>Agenda</u>
Part Two <u>Participant list</u>
Part Two <u>Speaker biographies</u>

ROUNDTABLE 2025

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' Progress & Prospects

Wednesday, 19 February 2025



Part Two Report

Nature as infastracture

During the Roundtable, participants discussed the concept of 'nature as infrastructure', with a representative of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), describing nature as "the most important infrastructure that we have to sustain life on Earth".

Different to other nature-based solutions or approaches, the concept of 'nature as infrastructure' requires the view of an ecosystem as a whole, and explores the connections within. The 'nature as infrastructure' concept prompts those with influence to act beyond 'doing no harm' or simply being 'nature-positive', exploring how we can use nature as the source of a value and as a tool for improvement.

Central to the paradigm is a proper valuation of nature, which could include, for example, integrating nature into cost benefit analyses and creating markets for nature and biodiversity credits.

An example discussed at the roundtable was the use of wetlands, rather than steel or cement, as flood management infrastructure in the Chinese Autonomous Region of Inner Mongolia.



Wetlands in Ulanhot, Inner Mongolia. Photo by Wang Zheng/People's Daily Online



Financed by the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, part of the project involved analysing the other ecosystem services provided by wetlands, which included carbon capture, air purification, water purification, cross pollination, recreation and mental health. The analysis persuaded local authorities to expand the project.

The example highlighted the benefits of prioritising 'green' infrastructure over 'grey' infrastructure where possible, and prompted Roundtable participants to reflect on the inherent connections between environmental health and human health.

More broadly, the paradigm of 'nature as infrastructure' prompted Roundtable participants to consider what their ecosystems provide, and how they can be utilised as a tool, replacing more industrial or destructive alternatives.

The discussion also reinforced the need for financial institutions to support investments in nature and accelerate green projects

ROUNDTABLE 2025

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' Progress & Prospects

Wednesday, 19 February 2025



Part two report

Opportunity in South-East Asia

ASEAN plays a crucial role in global governance and climate action, having adopted a joint statement on climate change at its most recent summit in Laos and established a new Centre for Climate Change in Brunei. However, progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals is lagging in the region.

The United Nations Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has said no country in the Asia Pacific can fully achieve all the SDGs by 2030, prompting calls for stronger public-private partnerships and investment in sustainability, including through the newly established climate change centre.

With the US withdrawing from regional agreements, ASEAN countries are reassessing trade strategies, while the UN's Asia-Pacific Green Deal and emerging carbon markets present new opportunities for collaboration, particularly with Australian businesses.

Strengthening regional cooperation between ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific is essential for navigating geopolitical shifts and accelerating the green transition.



Working with China

China has emerged as a global leader in renewable energy technology, with the 20th annual congress of the CCP declaring "Chinese modernisation is the modernisation of harmony between humanity and nature."



"China went from the 'kingdom of bicycles' to leader in EVs"

Roundtable Participant

China is among the countries with the fastest energy intensity reduction in the world, reaching its renewable energy capacity targets years in advance. It has led electric vehicle sales for nine consecutive years, and taken on a leadership role in global environmental governance.

The roundtable was addressed via video by His Excellency Xiao Qian, Ambassador of China to Australia, who remarked that Australia and China's climate policy visions were highly aligned.

The two nations have complementary strengths, such as China's manufacturing capacity and market scale, and Australia's rich natural resources.

ROUNDTABLE 2025

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' Progress & Prospects

Wednesday, 19 February 2025



Part two report

There is, therefore, vast potential for collaboration between the two nations in green energy, transportation, manufacturing and construction, particularly in the decarbonisation of iron ore.

Participants remarked upon how Chinese technology was already assisting Australia in lowering emissions; for example, by providing more affordable electric vehicles, and by providing batteries that help to upscale Australia's distributed generation profile.

India's renewable energy & Al journey

Global renewable energy in the rapid progression of the digital age was a focus throughout the Roundtable.

Further to the discussion around China's capacity to lead in the renewable energy space in Part Two, Roundtable participants discussed the renewable energy journey of India, the third largest producer and consumer of electricity worldwide.

With a per capita energy consumption of only one third of the global average, India's renewable energy infrastructure must be bold and scalable to meet growing demand.



In 2025, India reached significant milestones in its renewable energy journey, with the country's total renewable energy capacity surpassing 200GW. With this progress, India is well on target to achieve its Paris goals.

As AI technology rapidly becomes more globally accessible and popular, so too does the need for the conversation on the energy AI systems and their data centres demand. For example, AdaniConneX is creating the world's largest renewable energy data centre park in India, a direct response to the growing demand for data centres as the use of AI soars.



"For decades, conversations about India's economic future revolved around potential; an emerging giant, a nation of promise, a market of possibilities. But today, we stand at a historic inflection point. India is no longer just a global aspirant – in the global arena, it's an architect of its own future."

Roundtable Participant



ROUNDTABLE 2025

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature' Progress & Prospects

Wednesday, 19 February 2025



Part two report

Working with the Pacific

The roundtable discussed opportunities to work with Pacific island nations ahead of Australia's potential hosting of COP31 in 2026. Australia shares with the Pacific vital but endangered marine ecosystems, which could be to COP31 what tropical forests are to COP30 in Brazil.

Collaboration with Pacific Island nations should also give consideration to how Pacific stories of climate change are told on a global stage. It is important to listen and faithfully record the experiences of local peoples, including experiences of vulnerability and victimisation which have been neglected by the media. The stories of victims, told with symbolic language, can touch peoples' hearts in ways that stories of finance and technology cannot.



Image: Sea level rise in Fiji. Credit: Reuters

"The victims' story must be told to inform the world, and even shock and interrupt the world about climate change realities."

Roundtable Participant

Indigenous voices across the Pacific, including in Australia, also have knowledge and experience to share about how to organise human social and economic life in ways that do not destroy the hydrosphere.

The roundtable discussed a Vatican-led project to amplify the voices of people in Oceania, connecting the reality of climate change with their lived experiences of disruption and displacement.

The Pacific discussion underscored the importance of grassroots leadership and of amplifying diverse voices in climate action.

Putting a spotlight on the 'blue' side of climate action

Though the oceans are valued for their geostrategic importance, the connections between the hydrosphere and the climate are relatively underexplored. The link between climate change and rising sea levels is well known; a threat made all the more serious by the fact that a quarter of the world's population, and most of the world's megacities, are located along coastlines. The threats to aquatic ecosystems, which harbour most of life on Earth, are not fully understood.

Roundtable participants supported a call to give the oceans more priority on the international climate change agenda. Though current geopolitical tensions create a cloud uncertainty, the third UN conference on the oceans, set to take place in June 2024, could be a pivotal moment in global cooperation on the protection of the world's oceans. Roundtable participants discussed the potential for the creation of an international panel on oceans and seas and the ratification of marine biodiversity regions beyond national jurisdictions.



ROUNDTABLE 2025

Next Steps

In Australia

The Foundation intends to further brief Australian Foreign Minister, Senator Penny Wong, on the Global Project, to serve as a further step in exploring opportunities for collaboration between Australia and the Pacific on advancing the energy transition, strengthening regional partnerships, and fostering sustainable finance mechanisms to support long-term climate resilience.

The Foundation is also solidifying a small working group of its key stakeholders to further align efforts on Australia's national energy transition. This work aims to help integrate diverse expertise, drive collaborative solutions, and ensure a coordinated approach to advancing the energy transition agenda.

This work will explore decarbonisation pathways, sustainable finance mechanisms, and the role of Al and innovation in accelerating the transition. With strategic engagements planned, including a key discussion with the Chinese Ambassador, this working group presents a unique opportunity to shape Australia's approach to energy and regional cooperation.

Globally

In conjunction with the 'State of the World' Roundtables, the Global Foundation announced its most important global roundtable meeting of the Foundation for 2025, will be held from 12-15 August 2025 in Carajás, Brazil, at the site of the world's largest iron ore mine, operated by Foundation key partner Vale.

Vale will host the Roundtable meeting, which will showcase the reforestation of more than 1 million hectares of the Amazon. It will be held ahead of and in support of Brazil's hosting of the United Nation's global climate event, COP30, November.

Located at the edge of the Amazon Rainforest, Carajás is emblematic of the dual need to care for our tropical forests while sourcing the raw materials needed to build renewable energy technology and sustainable infrastructure.

'Shaping Global Governance, Climate & Nature'

Progress & Prospects





Carajás Roundtable Amazon, Brazil

12-15 August

Location:

Carajás, Pará, Brazil

Date:

12-15 August 2025



Part of the 'Shaping Global Governance, Climate and Nature' Project

To learn more about the Global Foundation and the Global Project, please contact:



Natalia Cikorska, Chief of Staff at natalia.cikorska@globalfoundation.org.au



Follow us on LinkedIn at the Global Foundation