



CLIMATE  
& ENERGY

## WWF Climate & Energy

# ADAPTATION EXPECTATIONS FOR COP 19, WARSAW

### Introduction: The harsh reality

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) fifth Assessment Report (AR 5 WG I) finds that it is extremely likely (more than 95% certain) that carbon dioxide released due to human activities is contributing to climate change. Similarly, the World Bank report *Turn Down the Heat* (2013) highlighted that more extreme impacts are expected to occur in cascading effects. Impacts such as unprecedented extreme heat; changes in rainfall regimes and water availability; reduced agricultural yields and nutritional quality; ecosystem shifts, altered species compositions or extinction; and sea level rise will be observed across all countries.

The hardest blows will fall on vulnerable developing countries and communities that have the least capacity and resources to reduce their vulnerability.

These increasing impacts show that adaptation to a changing climate is now more urgent than ever. It's a matter of survival for millions. In Warsaw, parties must take concrete adaptation-related decisions that help vulnerable developing countries to adapt to existing and future climate change impacts and its corresponding risks.

### Setting up an International Mechanism on Loss and Damage

There are limits to the extent that communities and ecosystems can adapt to the changing climate. Loss and damage of property, territory, biodiversity, ecosystems, lives and livelihoods will occur if those limits are exceeded. Irreversible loss and damage would include for example when sea level rise submerges an island and its community or when coral bleaching irreversibly destroys a reef ecosystem. It is impossible for people and ecosystems to adapt to such losses.

Since such loss and damage will in the main result from developed countries' insufficient mitigation action, an international mechanism is needed under the UNFCCC to address the current and future climate change impacts in vulnerable countries. Such a mechanism would need

to include insurance and rehabilitation measures; compensation for losses via migration, displacement or relocation; develop the knowledge and approaches to address slow onset events etc.

Thus in Warsaw:

- **Parties must agree to establish an International Mechanism on Loss and Damage in COP 19 and get it operationalized by COP 21 (2015).**
- Parties must decide to extend the existing work program on Loss and Damage in order to elaborate the principles, modalities and functions of the international mechanism, to be agreed by COP 20 and be operationalized by COP 21.
- Countries must agree to increase their mitigation targets in order for loss and damage to be minimized as much as possible and will be negligible.

### Securing Adaptation Finance

The Adaptation Fund receives a 2% levy on all sales of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Certified Emission Reduction (CER) credits. With CER prices at an all-time low due to insufficient mitigation ambition the Adaptation Fund cannot survive.

With the Adaptation Fund running on empty it is imperative that Developed countries must commit significant amounts of adaptation finance in Warsaw.

WWF believes that at COP 19, **at least an initial USD 300 million each for the Adaptation Fund (AF) and Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) should be committed for the period of 2013 until 2015 to enable the survival and effective operation of these two Funds.**

Currently, adaptation finance lags far behind mitigation finance. Both funding streams are crucial and need to be expanded rapidly. Therefore, parties need to ensure that there will be equitable, adequate treatment of adaptation in the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Access to funding for adaptation should be easy and direct, in the form of grants

and not loans, without co-financing elements. To achieve an adequate level of financing, developed countries must make financial pledges and signal that they are prepared to deliver fully on their commitment to scaling up climate finance to at least USD 100 billion annually by 2020 as part of a concrete global effort to address the climate emergency. At least 50% of this public finance should be allocated for adaptation.

The scale of adaptation finance should be reviewed periodically in the light of the best available science, as well as assessments of adaptation needs, loss and damage in developing countries, and the state of developed countries' mitigation actions.

## Readiness on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

At Warsaw, parties need to initiate the process for developing modalities and guidelines to support non-LDC developing countries in the planning, prioritization and implementation of national adaptation planning measures or NAPs with a view to implementing these by COP 20 in Peru. Appropriate funding support needs to be allocated to enable both LDC and Non-LDC developing countries to prepare their NAPs in the next two years.

Full implementation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) should be key elements of the pre- and post- 2020 agreements. To achieve this, developed countries need to sustain an adequate level of support to the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) for the implementation of NAPAs and NAPs.

## Next phase of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP)

At Warsaw, Parties need to agree on the next phase of the Nairobi Work Programme under SBSTA, which effectively scales up the knowledge sharing and outreach of adaptation planning and implementation. The Nairobi Work Program should support the Cancun Adaptation Framework, and also contribute to the content of a 2015 agreement.

The role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in human adaptation should be included as a work area in the next phase of the NWP. Other areas to be included are the impacts of climate change on water resources and integrated ecosystem-based adaptation approaches.

## Adaptation in the 2015 agreement

Adaptation must be accorded its rightful place in the 2015 agreement for a post-2020 climate regime. To ensure this, in Warsaw the ADP must make a significant contribution in delivering a long-term adaptation approach which adequately responds to the needs of vulnerable developing countries, communities and ecosystems. Adaptation must be treated with the same urgency as mitigation. The key elements of adaptation that should be included in the 2015 agreements are the following:

- Agreement on periodic reviews of post-2020 adaptation needs based on assessment reports from developing countries, the best available science (IPCC Reports), observed impacts, and the degree of mitigation in developed countries.
- Recognition that a lack of mitigation ambition exacerbates the adaptation needs of the poorest and most vulnerable countries, communities and ecosystems;
- The means of implementation for adaptation (adaptation finance including for the short term 2013- 2020, technology and capacity building);
- Full implementation of National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs);
- Global adaptation goals; and
- Operationalization of the International Mechanism on Loss and Damage.

It is imperative that parties already make progress on each of these elements in Warsaw to ensure that they are agreement-ready well in advance of COP 21 in Paris.

## Contacts

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To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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