

A Crunch Issue in Lima: Global Goal for Adaptation (GGA)

What is the background?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has reported that the effects of climate change are already being observed on all continents and across the oceans with evidence of impacts on agriculture, human health, ecosystems, water supplies, and people's livelihoods—poor and marginalized communities being particularly vulnerable.

Why the need for a Global Goal for Adaptation (GGA)?

According to a 2012 report from Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) on climate finance, **adaptation received around USD \$11 billion of public finance in 2011**. This figure is highly inadequate given that developing countries' adaptation needs between 2010 and 2050 **of adapting to an approximately 2oC warmer world by 2050 is in the range of USD \$70 to USD \$100 billion per year** according to the World Bank. There will be further costs due to existing and future economic and non-economic impacts from climate change events to come. With this massive finance shortfall in mind it is clear that the adaptation issue warrants much more attention in multilateral talks. It is therefore **critical to ensure adaptation is strongly embedded in the 2015 agreement and WWF believes that the best way to achieve this is through agreement on a comprehensive global adaptation goal**.

The proposal for such a Global Goal for Adaptation was first developed during the COP15 negotiations in Copenhagen in 2009 and it has since gained momentum through support from the African Group. **WWF supports The African Group proposal for a GGA** but wants to take it a bit further, recognizing that the agreed temperature goal has an associated level of climate impacts and costs and that different temperature scenarios depend on the level of mitigation effort by Parties.

Where do the negotiations stand on a GGA?

In the last October session, parties had expressed their views on a Global Goal on Adaptation. Generally, **developing countries** expressed the need for a GGA that includes a strong relationship between the level of mitigation ambition and adaptation action and support provided. **Developed countries** were open to further discussions and exploration. The **EU, Switzerland, New Zealand and Canada** expressed a desire that the GGA be qualitative. The **US, Norway, Japan and Australia** have expressed concerns about proposals for a finance-related quantitative goal, arguing that it is hard to quantify the global cost of adaptation; these countries are expressing concern that discussions on a GGA could take more time and effort that could be better used for adaptation implementation.

WWF Asks:

The GGA should articulate the following vision: **“Safeguarding all people, community and ecosystems from impacts of climate change”** and it should:

- be holistic in nature, capturing the full spectrum of adaptation needs, including, but not limited to, finance;
- include finance needs based on global temperature scenarios;
- include a Global Climate Disaster Relief fund, Regional Adaptation Research Facility and national adaptation institutions, and adaptation readiness objectives as well as reviews of adaptation support and action taken;
- reflect universal agreement that adaptation costs for the most vulnerable must be covered through financial, technical and institutional support from developed countries;
- require developing countries to contribute by setting up nationally appropriate adaptation institutions, as well as through the development and implementation of national adaptation plans with support provided by developed countries.