



WWF

BRIEF

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2019

HLPF 2019 REVIEW OF SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION WWF BRIEFING

WWF Recommends

Seismic shifts in energy, land and sea use and scale up nature-based solutions in order to reduce CO2 emissions, foster adaptation and resilience and ensure climate justice

At HLPF 2019 under the theme of “empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, WWF calls upon member states and all stakeholders to recognise and include the following as fundamental for the full and effective implementation of SDG 13 and related targets:

- **Implement the Paris Agreement in full and enhance ambition** of countries' Nationally Determined Contributions by 2020 (*related targets: 1.5, 2.4, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.a, 7.b, 9.2, 9.4, 9.a, 10.7, 10.b, 11.6, 12.1, 12.2, 12.4, 12.6, 12.c, 15.1, 15.2, 15.5, 15.9, 15.a, 15.b*);
- **Phase out fossil fuels** and transition to **renewables** (*related targets: 3.9, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.a, 7.b*);
- **Phase out fossil fuel subsidies**, which prevent us from transitioning to a low carbon economy (*related targets: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.a, 7.b, 8.4, 12.c*);
- Mainstream inclusive, **nature-based solutions** for climate mitigation and adaptation into Nationally Determined Contributions (*related targets: 6.3, 11.b, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.b*);
- Double the contributions to the **Green Climate Fund** in the next replenishment period in order to reach the goal of \$100 billion/year (*related targets: 17.2, 17.3, 17.16*);
- Align **financial portfolios** with the Paris Agreement (*related targets: 7.2, 7.a, 7.b, 8.4, 12.6, 12.c*);
- Create an enabling environment for **more sustainable production and consumption** through strong and enforced legislative and policy frameworks that promote the **circular economy** and **halt deforestation**, destruction and conversion of natural habitats, and **safeguard the livelihoods of people** who are directly dependent on natural resources (*related targets: 1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 8.4, Goal 12 targets, 15.1, 15.2, 15.4, 15.5, 15.9, 15.a, 15.b*);
- Promote **reform of the private sector towards more sustainable production** methods and sustainable financing through supportive regulatory frameworks, policy and incentives as well as private initiatives (*related targets: 2.4, 8.4, 9.2, 9.4, Goal 12 targets*);
- Increase long-term **productivity, efficiency and climate and nature protection in food systems** through the adoption of agro-ecological practices, making fisheries more sustainable and eliminating harmful subsidies. This should include protecting the rights and

Background

Ensure climate justice for the most vulnerable

The world's richest 10 percent of people produce half of all carbon emissions. On the other hand, the poorest half of the world's population - 3.5 billion people - is responsible for just 10 percent of carbon emissions, despite being the most affected by catastrophic events linked to climate change (Oxfam 2015). The IPCC Special Report launched in October 2018 highlights that, for reaching the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, deep emission cuts with very rapid changes in our energy and land use systems, as well as behavioural changes such as dietary shifts, will be required before 2030. The recommendations above aim to achieve these goals, which will be critical to prevent further impacts of climate change on vulnerable people.

Scale up nature-based solutions to achieve multiple objectives

Alongside reducing fossil fuel emissions, nature offers a powerful line of defence against climate change. Nature-based solutions can provide over one-third of the climate mitigation needed between now and 2030 to stabilize warming to safe levels, and provide cost-effective options for nations to deliver on the Paris Climate Agreement while improving soil productivity, cleaning our air and water, and maintaining biodiversity (Griscom et al 2017). They can also provide low risk, low maintenance and low cost solutions for adapting to many climate change related hazards and impacts.

Nature-based solutions help to protect the environment, and at the same time offer numerous economic and social benefits. For example, building oyster reefs in coastal areas can provide a nature-based solution to coastal erosion and storm surges, while also filtering contaminated seawater, fostering biodiversity, and supporting local fisheries (IUCN 2019).