



One year after Gleneagles

Climate Change and the G8

One year ago **Tony Blair**, who then held the presidency of the G8, made climate change and development his top two priorities. The Gleneagles Plan of Action stressed the urgency of climate change, a consensus on the science, and the need for action. WWF checks where we stand now.

Since G8 2005 the world has made some progress on climate change:

+ A coalition between decisive developing and industrialized countries was built in December 2005 in Montreal at the 11th Conference of the Parties to the UN Climate Treaty (UNFCCC). The conference agreed to **launch the next round of international negotiations on the basis of the Kyoto Protocol**. This was achieved despite tremendous efforts by the US Administration to block any forward progress. The conference clarified that the Kyoto Protocol would continue to provide the base for further international action against climate change, beyond the end of its first phase in 2012, and thus gave more security to financial markets and investors about the future of the global climate change regime.

+ Although there is still much to be done, we now have a **clear approach for the coming two to three years**, requiring industrialized countries to begin negotiating their next round of emission reduction targets under Kyoto. Developing countries need to assess how they too can do more to bend the curve of emissions whether in deforestation or energy.

+ The Montreal outcome is based on a growing sense of urgency: the scientific debate about human-induced climate change has been put to rest; and the scale and the urgency of the problem are better understood. This is one of the biggest successes of the UK's G8 Presidency - the Exeter conference "**Avoiding Dangerous Climate Change**" in February 2005.

+ Another remarkable step is the new **Chinese law on renewable energy** and China's 11th 5-year plan aiming at decoupling energy and economic growth. China upped its renewable energy goal to 15% of its total energy mix by 2020. The ambitious strategy is showing effect – for 2005, the World Wind Energy Association ranked China no 6 in new wind energy installations.

However, there are crucial failures which are hindering progress to reduce global emissions:

- In WWF's assessment the **Gleneagles Dialogue** is helping to build trust. However, neither the World Bank nor the International Energy Agency has shown much concrete action so far. What is needed is real money and the true will to commit to clean energy – so far this has not happened.

- The **first meeting of officials** after the Montreal Conference lacked courage and vision and just inched forward – a serious scale-up in the intensity of work is needed;

- The EU should be congratulated for establishing the first international **carbon trading market** which aims to cut emissions from heavy industry. However, we have yet to see any real reductions in EU greenhouse gas emissions or any obvious shift towards investment in low carbon technologies. In the first stage of the scheme 2005 data showed that overall there had been massive over-allocation of pollution permits. This meant that the carbon trading scheme had no effect on pollution from some industries.

- The **upcoming G8 Summit** is focusing on energy security but has so far not shown great vision, merely talking about security of supply of fossil fuels – G8 Leaders need to link energy security considerations with climate security issues and start a massive global initiative to switch clean and super-efficient energy management.

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