



Background Paper

A CRUNCH ISSUE FOR PARIS COP21: 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 observed on all continents, and across the oceans. There is evidence of impacts on agriculture, human health, ecosystems, water supplies and people's livelihoods—poor and marginalised communities are particularly vulnerable.

WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR A GLOBAL GOAL FOR ADAPTATION (GGA)?

According to a 2012 report from Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), adaptation received around US\$11 billion in public finance in 2011. This figure is highly inadequate. The estimated cost to developing countries to adapt to an approximately 2°C warmer world ranges from \$150 billion per year by 2025/2030 and \$250 billion to \$500 billion per year by 2050 according to 2014 UNEP figures.¹ These costs may vary from region to region. For example, in 2°C temperature scenarios, according to UNEP the adaptation costs for the African region can rise to \$50 billion per year by 2050.² Based on the current Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), we are heading towards a 2.7°C or warmer world.

Adaptation need is directly proportional to temperature rise. UNEP's 2014 report states that "higher rates of warming could lead to significant increases in global economic damages and adaptation costs, even in the medium terms". There will also 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 the multilateral talks. It is therefore critical to strongly embed adaptation in the 2015 agreement. WWF believes that the best way to achieve this is through agreement on a comprehensive global adaptation goal.

WHERE DO THE NEGOTIATIONS STAND ON A GGA?

The proposal for such a Global Goal for Adaptation was first developed during the 2009 COP15 negotiations in Copenhagen. It then gained momentum through support from the African Group. More recently, other vulnerable group within G77 have supported it. WWF supports a GGA, but wants to take it a bit further, recognising 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.

In the current Draft Agreement (dated 6 November) for the Paris COP, Articles 4.1 and 4.2 reflect the elements of a global goal for adaptation. However, in both articles, there are options that capture the position of developed and developing country parties. WWF supports Option 1 of Article 4.1 and Option 2 of Article 4.2 for the establishment of a global goal on adaptation in the agreement.

¹ UNEP 2014 "adaptation Gap report", http://www.unep.org/climatechange/adaptation/gapreport2014/portals/50270/pdf/AGR_FULL_REPORT.pdf

² UNEP 2015 "Africa's Adaptation Gap 2 report" http://apps.unep.org/publications/pmtdocuments/-/Africa%E2%80%99s_Adaptation_Gap_2_.pdf

WWF ASKS:

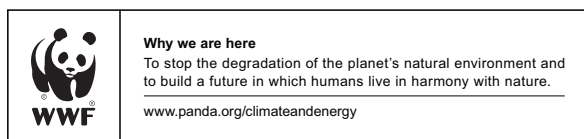
The global goal for adaptation should articulate the following vision: “to build resilience to climate change impacts and protect vulnerable people and ecosystems”. **It should:**

- **Be holistic in nature, capturing the full spectrum of adaptation needs, including, but not limited to, finance,**
- **Include adaptation support needs linked to the projected level of global temperature rise,**
- **Reflect universal agreement that adaptation need for the most vulnerable must be covered through financial, technical and institutional support from developed countries, and,**
- **Require developing countries to contribute by setting up nationally appropriate adaptation institutions where appropriate, as well as through the development and implementation of national adaptation plans, with support provided by developed countries.**

**FOR FURTHER
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ABOUT WWF

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The Global Climate and Energy Initiative is WWF's global programme addressing climate change through promoting renewable and sustainable energy, scaling up green finance, engaging the private sector and working nationally and internationally on implementing low carbon, climate resilient development.

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