



BRIEF

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Stay the course:

How do we remain on track between Paris and Marrakech?



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**WWF “ASKS” FOR A FAST,
SMOOTH JOURNEY TO A
CLIMATE SAFE FUTURE**

How does Paris look in the rear-view mirror?

It is clear that the Paris Agreement was a large political milestone that has the potential to refocus global efforts around one of the most difficult problems humanity has ever faced. 195 countries agreeing to address climate change, with 175 signing the agreement on the first day possible, lays a strong platform for long-term efforts to fight climate change. However, geophysics cares little for political milestones. Much more effort, much faster is required to

limit warming to 1.5°C, especially since we already hit 1°C of warming in 2015. current commitments (INDCs) still leave the world on course for more than 3°C of warming. History will judge the Paris agreement not by what happened in Paris in the December of 2015, but by whether governments, corporations and other actors rapidly increased ambition as a result.

THE ENTIRE CARBON BUDGET FOR ANY REASONABLE CHANCE TO KEEP WARMING BELOW 1.5°C (400-600 GtCO₂eq) WILL BE EXHAUSTED SOMETIME IN THE NEXT 4 TO 12 YEARS

What are the issues that need to be addressed in 2016?

Governments have promised their best efforts to keep warming below 1.5°C and we expect this to show in the negotiations and national action going forward. At the May session in Bonn governments have to prove their commitment by making concrete progress on urgent matters that include:

1. **Delivering** concrete emission reduction initiatives that close the mitigation, adaptation and support gaps in the immediate future (before 2020).
2. **Ratifying** the Paris Agreement as soon as possible.
3. **Strengthening** processes for reviews of commitments by swiftly preparing modalities for the “facilitative dialogue” in 2018 to lay the tracks for effective 5 year review cycles that will increase ambition based on **science and equity**.
4. **Embedding** equity and fairness in the rules under the Paris Agreement, particularly those guiding national contributions, which are to be negotiated over the next 24 months.
5. **Delivering** much more certainty on climate finance so that there will be sufficient resources for the just transition to a low/zero carbon economy as well as for building resilience to the unavoidable impacts of climate change due to slow mitigation action.
6. **Developing** objectives and indicators as well as securing financial and technical support to materialize the global adaptation goal into national policies and actions.

7. **Establishing** a robust regime by creating effective accounting and transparency systems.

Is the Paris Agreement strong and clear enough to deliver the promise to hold global average temperature rise to well below 2 °C with efforts to keep it to 1.5 °C?

No, the intended Nationally Determined Contributions (iNDCs) attached to the Paris agreement cannot deliver the promised temperature goals without a strong increase of ambition. At the rate anthropogenic greenhouse gases (GHGs) are currently released to the atmosphere (around 50 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per annumⁱ) the entire carbon budget for any reasonable chance to keep warming below 1.5°C (400-600 GtCO₂eq) will be exhausted sometime in the next 4 to 12 years¹. Yet countries' current plans (iNDCs) mean that global emissions remain set to increase for at least the next 14 years - until 2030ⁱⁱ! This implies that countries will not deliver on the Paris goals at all. at best they are relying on massive negative emissions in the second half of the 21st century rather than focussing on what is under their control - immediate, large-scale decarbonisation.

i WRI. 2016. GHG Emissions Totals - Total GHG Emissions Including Land-Use Change and Forestry - 2012 (MtCO₂e). Available at: <http://bit.ly/1WeTh35> Accessed 7 April 2016.

ii UNFCCC. 2015. Synthesis report on the aggregate effect of the intended nationally determined contributions. FCCC/CP/2015/7

1 <http://www.carbonbrief.org/six-years-worth-of-current-emissions-would-blow-the-carbon-budget-for-1-5-degrees>

Can we still increase the targets for 2020?

There is one last formal opportunity - a “facilitative dialogue”² at COP22 in November 2016- for developed countries to deliver on their decades-old promise to lead on climate change action by increasing their 2020 climate targets and the support they provide to developing countries. To ensure that this moment is successful the Bonn meetings in May have to provide clear guidance for the event.

For developing countries to also contribute to increased pledges at this juncture decisions on climate finance must also be prepared for COP22, including clarity on how finance will be scaled up to the promised USD100 billion per annum by 2020³.

Are the pre-2020 economy wide targets not just one part of the picture? What can we do more to ramp up actual efforts before 2020?

Transformational initiatives like the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and the International Solar Alliance prove that additional emission reductions with co-benefits for development are possible when countries collaborate. For the UNFCCC discussions in May this means that technical discussions (TEMs⁴) need to be results-focussed. This means identifying concrete next steps to overcoming the barriers to implementation of transformational initiatives and agreeing concrete criteria for which initiatives could form part of the action agenda and the annual high level events at each next COP.

These discussions should also give further guidance to the work of the High Level Champions⁵, the LPAA and the annual high level event.

How about the insufficient 2025 and 2030 targets/NDCs? How do we scale them up?

As countries ratify the Paris Agreement, they should present more ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) or at least prepare to do so during the facilitative dialogue⁶ that has been set up for 2018. To this end the UNFCCC negotiations during 2016 and 2017 need to provide guidance for how the scheduled 2018 dialogue will take place and will drive more ambitious plans. This first review event will also set an important precedent for the five yearly stocktakes that will commence from 2023.

To help countries update current NDCs and prepare subsequent submissions negotiators need to urgently work on a set of guidelines to help structure NDCs to ensure that they are ambitious, comparable, measurable and equitable⁷. Parties also need to work together to deliver the conditions that some Parties have indicated need to be met for them to deliver more action under their INDCs. Currently, it is not clear how and where those conditional actions will be matched with necessary support. While support providing countries have to come to the party, those countries with conditional INDCs also have to offer more clarity on their unconditional efforts and how much support they require to realize their conditional ambition.

PARTIES ALSO NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO DELIVER THE CONDITIONS THAT SOME PARTIES HAVE INDICATED NEED TO BE MET FOR THEM TO DELIVER MORE ACTION UNDER THEIR INDCS

² FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1 para 116

³ As mentioned in FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1 para 115

⁴ FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1 para 110

⁵ FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1 para 122

⁶ FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1 para 20

⁷ FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1 para 28

SECURING FINANCIAL AND OTHER SUPPORT FOR CONDITIONAL MITIGATION PLEDGES IS ONE POTENTIAL WAY FORWARD

What do we do about fairness and equity under the Paris Agreement?

In the push to get a united global response to climate change together governments left much room for interpretation on who should do how much and what the basis for an equitable sharing of responsibility will be. Already we see that without any guidance on fairness global efforts fall short. The principle of national determination that underpins the Paris Agreement has to be balanced and informed by further agreement on a set of indicators, based on responsibility and capability, that can guide countries as they seek to increase their ambition levels. The upcoming negotiations on guidelines for climate plans (NDCs)⁸ and the global stocktake⁹ offer important opportunities opportunity to reattach this important carriage to the climate action train.

How do we find the financial and other support to fund the just transition to low/zero-carbon future?

Article 2.1.c of the Paris Agreement commits all Parties to making financial flows consistent with a pathway to low GHG emissions and climate resilient development. This objective must underpin all further work on finance and support under the Agreement and Parties have to consider how finance and other support can leverage greater ambition. It remains a fact that Many developing countries will need external financial, capacity

building and technological support, at least partly, to make the transition to low carbon development pathways. Securing financial and other support for conditional mitigation pledges is one potential way forward with some countries already having clearly indicated how much more they could do with additional support.

The Paris Agreement builds on existing institutions and goals, and extends the commitment by developed countries to mobilize \$100 billion per annum by 2020, to each year from 2020 to 2025, and to negotiate new, higher targets after 2025. It is more important than ever to deliver clarity on what types of financial transfers and flows can be counted toward this target. Therefore The request to SBSTA¹⁰ to develop accounting modalities is extremely important and essential for the creation of a credible roadmap for scaling up financing to the \$100 billion per annum level.¹¹

Although an expanded group of countries can contribute to delivering the agreed finance and support targets, the group of developed countries that currently have financing responsibilities must continue to scale up their support. It must be made clear that developed countries have a responsibility to deliver resources at the necessary scale to ensure that poorer countries can offer their people a better future without relying on fossil fuels.

⁸ FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1 para 28

⁹ UNFCCC. 2015. Paris Agreement, 21st Conference of the Parties, Paris: United Nations. Available at http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_english_.pdf

¹⁰ Paragraph 58 of 1.CP/21

¹¹ Paragraph 115 of 1.CP/21

IN PARIS, GOVERNMENTS AGREED THAT GREATER ADAPTATION NEEDS INVOKE HIGHER COSTS

What about vulnerable people, communities, ecosystems and countries which already have to adapt to the impact of climate change?

Recognising the importance and urgency of dealing with climate change impacts The Paris Agreement placed Adaptation and Loss and Damage on a par with Mitigation. these articles in the Agreement now need to be translated into tangible protection for the poor and vulnerable through the following steps:

1. The Global Adaptation Goal has to be translated into a set of objectives and indicators that are directly linked to countries' preparation of their national adaptation plans (NAPs) and their national climate change contributions (NDCs). Negotiators need to immediately start discussions on such objectives and indicators in order to agree on them at COP22.
2. In Paris governments agreed that greater adaptation needs invoke higher costs – yet the Paris Agreement remains silent on the level of adaptation finance that will be made available. Negotiators must now start discussing how adaptation finance will be delivered and at what scale to ensure that developing countries can plan appropriately for future climate change impacts.
3. Recognising that adaptation action must be scaled up urgently, governments agreed to launch a Technical Examination Process on Adaptation (TEPA) in 2016. These meetings must immediately be focussed on launching concrete collaborative adaptation initiatives starting at the high-level event at COP22.

What about those instances where adaptation is not possible or insufficient? How will an article in the Paris Agreement on Loss and Damage help them?

By recognising Loss and Damage as a standalone issue the Paris Agreement has created a critical space to start helping those that face the worst, irreversible impacts of climate change. The first step to ensure that the Agreement has real benefit is to deliver an effective institutions framework. The Warsaw International Mechanism has to start implementing its workplan and make progress on risk insurance facilities. Concurrently, countries have to complete national plans to address loss and damage, and, importantly, quantify their support requirements for dealing with Loss and Damage. developed countries have to clarify how, when and at what scale they will provide financial and technical support for those vulnerable people and countries that face loss and damage.

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Why we are here

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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