



# HLPF 2019 REVIEW OF SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION WWF BRIEFING

9–18 July 2019

## 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*);
- Scale-up the use of socially inclusive and equitable **nature-based solutions** for climate mitigation and adaptation into Nationally Determined Contributions, which will also provide multiple benefits for people and nature (*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

livelihoods of smallholder producers (*related targets: 1.4, 2.3, 2.4, 2.b, 8.4, 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.b*);

- Champion and support implementation of the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030** as declared by the UN General Assembly (*related targets: Goals 2, 6, 14 and 15 targets*).

## 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 facilitate the seismic shifts needed to prevent further impacts of climate change on vulnerable people.

### Scale up nature-based solutions to achieve multiple objectives

Alongside the key imperative of reducing fossil fuel emissions, nature offers a significant contribution to mitigation and adaptation to climate change, while providing multiple benefits for people and nature. Nature-based solutions encompass a broad range of actions that protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems, while also effectively addressing global societal challenges related to climate change mitigation and adaptation, human health, food security, water security, disaster risk, as well as providing social, economic and biodiversity benefits (Cohen-Shacham 2016). These include, for example, forest restoration, ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction, integrated water resources management, integrated coastal zone management, green infrastructure and protected area management.

### Champion and support implementation of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 aims to significantly scale up the restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems as a proven measure to fight climate change and enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity. Restoring ecosystems has the potential to remove up to 26 gigatons of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.<sup>1</sup> The Decade for Ecosystem Restoration should, inter alia, ensure mobilization of finance, maximise socio-ecological benefits, social and environmental safeguards, integration of traditional knowledge and adequate and participatory monitoring frameworks.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/press-release/new-un-decade-ecosystem-restoration-offers-unparalleled-opportunity>