

OVERSHOOTING TEMPERATURE LIMITS


Position Summary

1. WWF urges countries to raise their ambition so as to keep global warming below 1.5°C without overshoot:
 - a. We should avoid overshooting 1.5°C to limit risks of irreversible climate change impacts on species, biodiversity and people;
 - b. To do this we should focus on rapid and deep greenhouse gas emissions cuts across the whole economy;
 - c. Carbon dioxide removal will also be needed but should not delay or replace efforts to cut emissions; and
 - d. Adaptation will be needed at 1.5°C and we will need to prepare for higher temperatures.

Position Statement

1. WWF urges countries to limit the rise in global average temperature to below 1.5°C for the whole century. We should avoid overshooting 1.5°C as even a temporary breach of this limit leads to unacceptable increases in the risk of irreversible and potentially catastrophic climate change impacts on species, terrestrial and ocean ecosystems, and people.
2. Our focus should be on early and stringent reductions in emissions by all means possible – exiting fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas); scaling up renewable energy; reducing energy demand through energy efficiency; rapidly electrifying energy demand in transport and heat; stopping deforestation and reducing emissions of non-CO₂ greenhouse gases. At the same time significant long-term changes in consumption patterns are needed by avoiding loss and waste in food and other resources and changing consumption patterns (e.g. eating more plant- and less animal-based products on a global scale in line with dietary guidelines; moderating demand for aviation by promoting lower-carbon alternatives). We also need to increase the rate of carbon dioxide removal through sinks, for example via reforestation and other forms of ecosystem restoration. All of this demands increasing ambition in the country pledges (nationally determined contributions – NDCs) by 2020 and the political will to make structural changes in the economy; it also demands better compliance with targets.

3. Staying below 1.5°C (overshoot or not) implies that some carbon dioxide removal will be needed, however this should neither delay or replace reductions in emissions and will need to be implemented, at a minimum, in a way that does not cause greater damage to ecosystems than climate change itself.
4. Even at 1.5°C we will face climate impacts, losses and damages to species, ecosystems, and people, and significant adaptation will be needed. On a precautionary principle we need to improve climate resilience and prepare for a world above 1.5°C.

	<p>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.</p> <hr/> <p>panda.org/climateandenergy</p>
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