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AMBITION RED LINES: **A WWF CLIMATE POLICY** **MANIFESTO FOR COP26**

September 2021

The climate crisis remains at the top of the global agenda, even as the world is emerging from the crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic. The G20 Summit in October and the COP26 climate talks in November will be critical opportunities for governments to respond to the findings of the Synthesis Report that current NDCs put us on a pathway to 2.7°C global warming by taking the action needed now to halve emissions by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

WWF has identified five key priorities to be achieved in 2021. These are the ‘red lines of ambition’, the least we expect from our leaders. While they, decision-makers and hosts of multilateral events must deliver on the following priorities, we will also need all stakeholders to play their part to drive system change and economic transformation.

1

START DECARBONIZING NOW AND FAST - NO MORE EXCUSES

Governments, cities, companies, academia, civil society and investors, among others, must, as an urgent priority, move economic systems onto a sustainable footing, shifting away from our dependence on fossil fuels. In doing so, it is vital that workers in unsustainable parts of the global economy, their families and their communities are supported – no-one must be left behind.

The world must halve global greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and be net-zero¹ by 2050, while nature loss must be halted and reversed. And we have to make our food systems sustainable.

2

ACT ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Nature-based solutions are initiatives that protect, restore and sustainably manage land and ocean ecosystems such as forests, peatlands, wetlands, savannahs, coral reefs and mangroves. Although they reduce emissions, protect nature and people and create good jobs, they are not a substitute for emissions cuts in other sectors of the economy. Nature should be protected and restored because it absorbs and stores carbon and plays a key role in adaptation/resilience of places and communities.

COP26 must give this approach a formal role, and increase the funding available. And it must establish a continuous dialogue to integrate ocean climate solutions. These processes should be well coordinated with the ones under the Convention of Biological Diversity.

Countries must include technically, environmentally and socially sound nature-based solutions in their national climate plans (NDCs, NAPs, long-term strategies).

¹ "Netzero" emissions are achieved when human induced emissions of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere are balanced by human-induced removals over a specified period. Source: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/glossary/>

3

HELP NATURE AND PEOPLE ADAPT

Governments must escalate their actions to urgently help the world's most vulnerable people and many vital ecosystems to adapt and build resilience to a rapidly warming world.

We must encourage transformational adaptation solutions.² Examples of this could be revitalizing rivers, restoring degraded wetlands or relocating human activities in flood plains instead of building dams and dikes, or shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

We must accelerate these types of solutions, especially those that work with nature to simultaneously increase climate resilience and support biodiversity. 50% of climate finance should be aimed at adaptation.

4

FINANCE THE FUTURE

The risks are clear. The costs of action are dwarfed by the costs of inaction. That's why we cannot dither any more about providing climate finance to those that need it to survive.

Existing public finance promises - \$100 billion a year - must be fulfilled. A new post-2025 goal for public climate finance must be agreed at COP26.

Private sector financial flows need to be aligned with international climate objectives, with capital directed towards low-carbon activities, away from fossil fuels.

We must phase out harmful subsidies.

More finance must be directed to support local priorities and fund innovative partnerships. Currently, only 10% of climate finance reaches local actors in developing countries. Funds should also be made available for vulnerable countries to deal with unavoidable economic and non-economic impacts, known as loss and damage. COVID-19 economic recovery packages must capitalize on the opportunity to transform key sectors, reinforce new behaviours and put the world on pathways towards a 1.5°C aligned future.

5

PIVOT TO IMPLEMENTATION

We welcome countries (and businesses) setting mid-century net-zero targets. But if they are to be met, action needs to start now. Countries must set more ambitious near-term emissions goals through updated NDCs, and they must do so before COP26. And national implementation planning, with a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach, must be the next step.

Sufficient to keep 1.5°C alive, short-term goals must be supplemented by long-term strategies, as required by the Paris Agreement. They must include technically sound and feasible net-zero emissions pledges, with a primary focus on reducing emissions rather than on offsets or unproven technologies.

² Transformational Adaptation is adaptation that changes the fundamental attributes of a socio-ecological system in anticipation of climate change and its impacts. Source: IPCC <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/glossary/>

OUR MISSION IS 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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