



WWF *for a living planet*

WWF-UK
Panda House, Weyside Park
Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1XR
tel: +44 (0)1483 426444
fax: +44 (0)1483 426409
info@wwf.org.uk
wwf.org.uk

PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING

The UK and a Global Climate Deal – WWF Briefing, June 2010

SUMMARY AND KEY ASKS

- WWF expects the global climate negotiations which will take place this November in Cancun, Mexico (Conference of the Parties (COP) 16) to reach agreement on a number of crucial issues, which will allow progress towards a comprehensive legally binding agreement shortly thereafter.
- Elements of the Copenhagen Accord could help move these negotiations forward towards a fair, ambitious and binding global deal, through negotiations under the UNFCCC.
- To ensure progress towards a global climate agreement, it is crucial to build trust between nations, both in the international negotiations, and in other international forums including the G8/G20 meetings.
- The G8 and G20 summits in Canada provide a critical opportunity for the UK Government to promote the climate finance agenda as well as action on the G20 commitment to phase out fossil fuel subsidies. Initiating the flow of fast-start and medium term sources of finance will build trust and give momentum to a global agreement.
- The EU has agreed to increase its carbon reduction target from 20% to 30% by 2020, if a global agreement is achieved. However the real cost of increasing the EU carbon reduction target is now expected to be far lower than previously thought, even without including wider co-benefits. WWF believes the UK should show leadership by moving unilaterally to meet its share of the higher target. This would encourage the EU to move now to the higher target and help build confidence internationally.
- There needs to be discussion on innovative methods to close the 'gigatonne gap', the difference between existing carbon reduction pledges from individual countries and the much greater reduction needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. Scientific research, addressing emissions loopholes, and agreement on national low carbon action plans all need to be considered.
- Climate change should be central to international development policy, finance and programmes, to ensure the long-term effectiveness of overseas support.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

President: HRH Princess Alexandra,
the Hon Lady Ogilvy KG, GCVO
Chair: Ed Smith
Chief Executive: David Nussbaum

WWF-UK charity registered in England number
1081247 and in Scotland number SC039593
and a company limited by guarantee registered
in England number 4016725.
VAT number 733 761821
Printed on recycled paper

Moving on from Copenhagen

Despite the disappointing and inadequate outcome of the Copenhagen Climate Summit, the world still requires a fair, ambitious and binding agreement to protect people and nature from runaway climate change. Many nations, including the UK, signed up to the Copenhagen Accord, which, as it stands, is far from the deal that WWF and millions globally have been calling for. Further international cooperation is essential for a final successful global deal on climate change.

The importance of trust

The UK has played a positive role in international climate negotiations through both strong diplomatic engagement for action on climate change globally, and national action via the implementation of the Climate Change Act 2008. The UK can continue to build trust in the negotiations in three ways:

- by taking strong domestic action to cut emissions by at least 42% by 2020, proving that a low carbon economy is achievable and desirable;
- by continuing its diplomatic engagement with other countries to share experience and ideas, working to bring about further progress on measures for both mitigation and adaptation; and
- by working within the EU for strong domestic action and for a positive EU position in the international negotiations, where the EU negotiates en bloc.

Expectations from Cancun

WWF believes that progress can be made in Cancun (COP16 - November 2010) on a number of key elements including: reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), technology, fast start finance, adaptation measures and closing existing loopholes in the Kyoto Protocol, particularly on accounting for emissions from land-use and forestry in industrialised countries. WWF is calling for developed nations to produce transparent and pragmatic action plans for decarbonising their economies, similar to the UK Climate Change Act, and for developing countries to make similar climate resilient and low carbon plans for their economies

Two of the key areas where WWF believes global progress can and must be made this year are **climate finance** and **closing the 'gigatonne gap'**.

Climate finance

The Copenhagen Accord commits to the provision of new and additional 'fast-start finance' of US\$30bn by 2012, and a long-term finance goal of US\$100bn per year by 2020 from alternative sources to support both mitigation and adaptation measures in developing countries.

WWF believes that moves to get fast-start finance flowing, and to identify significant and predictable sources of climate finance in the medium term, will foster trust and inject new momentum into the talks. Adaptation finance and measures to protect those exposed to the unavoidable impacts of climate change were lacking from the Copenhagen Accord and are an urgent priority for discussion and clarification. The establishment of the Advisory Group on Climate Finance, which met for the first time on 31 March, is a useful step towards this goal.

G8 and G20 summits:

The G8 and G20 summits in Canada (25-27 June) provide an early opportunity for the UK Government to promote the climate finance agenda. These meetings bring together some of the key players who can provide strategic and political momentum for a comprehensive global agreement under the UNFCCC. WWF is calling for progress to be made at these meetings on both **short-term and long-term financing** and **a transformative outcome on phasing out fossil fuel subsidies**.

The first task is to ensure that climate change is discussed at these meetings: WWF is concerned that climate change is not being prioritised – which would be a very poor signal of intent from the largest economies of the world. Economic recovery is a key agenda item for the G20, and building on the agreed 'core values for sustainable economic activity', requires climate change to be central. The UK can play a role ensuring a low carbon future is discussed.

WWF believes that the G8 countries must fulfil the short-term financing commitments made in the Copenhagen Accord at or before the June summit, whilst ensuring that urgent adaptation finance needs, identified by the Least Developed Countries, are met. It is important to ensure that the finance for climate actions is additional to Government aid commitments. Climate finance is to cover the costs of dealing with the emissions for which the developed countries are solely responsible and as such are an obligation over and above aid. WWF is concerned that many of the early contributions to fast start finance are being drawn from existing aid budgets; we need clarity on these allocations both within the UK and internationally.

The G20 last year committed to phase out fossil fuel subsidies. WWF believes that details and time-lines for the phasing out of these subsidies, including both production and consumption subsidies, should be set this year. The G20 should recommend that fossil fuel subsidies are phased out in accordance with common but differentiated responsibilities agreed in the UNFCCC. Such subsidies could then become a source of finance for climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

By taking such actions, the G8 and G20 can demonstrate willingness to act on climate change and to provide climate finance; both of which will encourage progress at COP16.

Closing the 'gigatonne gap'

The 'gigatonne gap' describes the gap between the total current carbon emissions reduction pledges from individual nations, and the total level of emission reductions required to keep global warming below the most dangerous levels.

The Copenhagen Accord agreed that the rise in average global temperature should be less than 2°C. While the Small Island Developing States and the Most Vulnerable Countries call for temperatures to stay below 1.5°C. WWF is calling for action to keep below 2°C with a long term aim of stabilising at below 1.5°C.

Three studies conducted before and during Copenhagen – by the UN Environment Programme and UK economist Lord Stern¹, by McKinsey for Project Catalyst², and by Ecofys and the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research³ – give a common message: the emissions reductions are not yet on a trajectory to keep the increase in global temperature below even 2°C. All three studies conclude that global emissions need to be at 44 gigatonnes of CO₂e, or lower, by 2020, for a better than 50% chance of staying below 2°C warming. Pledges made so far in the Copenhagen Accord are insufficient to achieve this target, leaving a considerable gap between the 44 gigatonnes required and the level currently projected. This gap is even greater if various loopholes such as poor accounting rules for land use and forestry emissions, and the excessive use of offsets are considered. The UK, therefore, needs to push for ambitious action globally and at the EU level, as well as nationally.

1 Action and ambition for a global deal in Copenhagen, <http://www.unep.org/pdf/climatechange/ActionAndAmbitionForGlobalDealInCopenhagen.pdf>

2 Taking stock – the emission levels implied by the current proposals for Copenhagen, http://www.project-catalyst.info/images/publications/taking_stock.pdf

3 Copenhagen climate deal – how to close the gap?, http://www.climateactiontracker.org/briefing_paper.pdf

EU emissions reduction target:

The European Commission recently published a revised impact assessment of the likely cost of meeting the current target to reduce emissions in the EU by 20% by 2020 on 1990 levels, and of the proposed higher target of 30%.⁴ This assessment showed that the costs of the EU moving to the 30% target are much lower than previously thought, and are only slightly above the cost of the 20% target at the time of agreement, 2 years ago. Additional benefits, including to human health, will accrue if the EU achieves this higher reduction.

The UK Government has indicated its support for the EU to move to a target of 30%, and should show its support for this stronger target to be adopted at the October Council. In addition, WWF believes that the UK should demonstrate its commitment by making a unilateral decision to commit to the more ambitious, national carbon reduction target of 42% by 2020; the UK's share of a cross-EU 30% reduction. 42% is the 'intended target' as recommended by the Committee on Climate Change.⁵

WWF has strong concerns about the adequacy of even the 30% EU reduction target, as it is at the low end of the 25-40% range recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to give at least a 50% probability of staying below 2°C. WWF believes that stronger targets are now needed. An immediate move to the 30% target, with emissions achieved within the EU, rather than through offsetting, is a necessary step to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and to build trust between nations in the negotiations

WWF is calling for all developed countries to draw up clear plans for moving to near-zero emissions by 2050. These plans would provide clear milestones to guide investment and inform a fuller package of policy measures. Urging the EU and its Member States to adopt this approach would be a good step in ensuring a strong and effective transition away from fossil fuels and towards a clean, efficient economy based on renewable energy sources and sustainable land use.

Contact:	Margaret Ounsley Head of Public Affairs mounsley@wwf.org.uk Penny Evans Senior Public Affairs Officer pevans@wwf.org.uk
Tel:	01483 412389/ 412376
Date:	June 2010

Download parliamentary briefings at wwf.org.uk/parliamentary

4 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Analysis of options to move beyond 20% greenhouse gas emission reductions and assessing the risk of carbon leakage, May, 2010. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:DKEY=516615:EN:NOT>

5 Building a low-carbon economy - the UK's contribution to tackling climate change, Committee on Climate Change, December, 2008. <http://www.theccc.org.uk/pdf/7993-Climate%20Change-ExecSumm-WEB-BMK.pdf>