

## Climate change mitigation

UNFCCC AWG- LCA Agenda item 3 (b)  
UNFCCC COP14 Agenda item 4

**Fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP14), Poznan, Poland, 1-12 December 2008**

### Recommendations

**IUCN recommends that COP 14:**

- √ **Calls** on Parties to conclude negotiations on an effective, comprehensive and equitable climate change regime beyond 2012 in line with the ultimate objective of the Convention, by the Conference of Parties in Copenhagen in 2009; so as to ensure that there is no gap between the first and second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol ;
- √ **Calls** on Parties to the UNFCCC to adopt emission reduction targets post-2012 that will reduce the risk of global average temperature exceeding 2°C above pre-industrial levels by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all sources at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2050, including:
  - binding quantified emission reduction targets by all developed countries in the upper range of -25% to -40% emission reductions below 1990 levels by 2020, and -80% to -95% below 1990 levels emission reductions by 2050; and
  - substantial voluntary, measurable and verifiable actions by some developing countries by 2020, and in all regions by 2050, which are consistent with the above global temperature target on the basis of voluntary and nationally appropriate mitigations actions, supported and enabled by technology transfer, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.
- √ **Calls** on Parties to urgently plan and promptly implement policies and measures for mitigation, with special attention to land use, land use change, forestry, agriculture, livestock, and from the energy, transportation and urban and industrial sectors of their economies ;
- √ **Calls** on Parties to consider the effects of mitigation options on biodiversity as a determinant element to select mitigation measures ;
- √ **Urges** Parties to explore financing for technologies that help to reduce emissions while not having adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods.

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## Introduction

Climate change is already happening at a rate of change that could make its impacts irreversible. Delaying emissions reduction significantly constrains opportunities to achieve the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentration levels and increases the risk of more severe climate change impacts.

At the recent IUCN World Conservation Congress, held in Barcelona in October 2008, IUCN Members strongly urged Parties to the UNFCCC to adopt a shared vision that balances climate stabilisation, adaptation, sustainable development and the means of implementation, including as noted in the Bali Action Plan a long term goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50%-85% below 1990 levels by 2050.

## Emission Reduction Targets

The IPCC's Fourth Assessment Report showed<sup>1</sup> that substantial negative global impacts on water, ecosystems, food, coastal zones and health would result from changes in global temperatures exceeding 2°C above pre-industrial levels. This level of warming has a 50% probability of being avoided if the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases is stabilised at 450 ppmCO<sub>2</sub>eq

The report concluded that 'under most equity interpretations....developed countries as a group would need to reduce their emissions significantly by 2020 (10-40% below 1990 levels) and to still lower levels by 2050 (40-95% below 1990 levels) to achieve these low to medium stabilisation levels (450-550 ppmCO<sub>2</sub>eq.)<sup>2</sup>.

### IUCN recommends that COP14:

- √ **Calls** on Parties to conclude negotiations on an effective, comprehensive and equitable climate change regime beyond 2012 in line with the ultimate objective of the Convention, by the Conference of Parties in Copenhagen in 2009, so as to ensure that there is no gap between the first and second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol ;
- √ **Calls** on Parties to the UNFCCC to adopt emission reduction targets post-2012 that

<sup>1</sup> IPCC AR4, Technical Summary of WGII, page 66

<sup>2</sup> IPCC AR4, Technical Summary of WGIII, page 90

will reduce the risk of global average temperature exceeding 2°C above pre-industrial levels by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all sources at least 50% below 1990 levels by 2050, including:

- binding quantified emission reduction targets by all developed countries in the upper range of -25% to -40% emission reductions below 1990 levels by 2020, and -80% to -95% below 1990 levels emission reductions by 2050; and
- substantial voluntary, measurable and verifiable actions by some developing countries by 2020, and in all regions by 2050, which are consistent with the above global temperature target on the basis of voluntary and nationally appropriate mitigations actions, supported and enabled by technology transfer, financing and capacity-building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.

## Mitigation measures

In order to achieve the ambitious targets mentioned above, countries will need to design and implement mitigation policies and measures as a matter of urgency, giving priority to the most polluting sectors such as energy production and transport, but also to other sectors where mitigation measures will have a sizeable impact to overall emissions.

### IUCN recommends that COP14:

- √ **Calls** on Parties to urgently plan and promptly implement policies and measures for mitigation, with special attention to land use, land use change, forestry, agriculture, livestock, and from the energy, transportation and urban and industrial sectors of their economies.

## Impacts of mitigation options on biodiversity

While IUCN strongly supports the establishment of ambitious emission reduction targets and measures to achieve them, we urge Parties to evaluate the possible impact of these options on biodiversity as a determining factor in selecting specific measures. An example is the mechanism for Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). IUCN welcomes the proposals to include REDD as

part of the negotiations towards the post-2012 UN climate change regime, as long as any future REDD mechanism ensures the protection of biodiversity and critical ecosystems services provided by standing forests.

In addition, IUCN urges Parties to find innovative mechanisms and sources of funding to promote technological research, development and diffusion to enable all countries to utilize the best available technologies for reducing emissions that do not have adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods.

**IUCN recommends that COP14:**

- √ **Calls** on Parties to consider the effects of mitigation options on biodiversity as a determining factor in selecting mitigation measures ;
- √ **Urges** Parties to explore financing for technologies that help to reduce emissions while not having adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and livelihoods.