



CHANGE THE FORECAST FOR WILDLIFE
SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

International Global Warming Agenda

Global warming poses an unprecedented threat to people and wildlife. Bold action to reduce global warming pollution and to transition the world to a clean energy economy is a major priority of the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Solutions to climate change require a strong international agreement, and the U.S. can help bring countries to the table to reach such a deal. The key elements that must be addressed in treaty talks with developing countries are: a) assisting developing nations in coping with unavoidable climate impacts, b) promoting clean energy and technology cooperation, and c) reducing tropical deforestation.

Help Developing Countries Cope With Global Warming:

Climate change has a disproportionate impact on the world's poorest countries, which have contributed the least to global warming pollution. Providing developing countries and at-risk communities with the means to build climate-resilient ecosystems and infrastructure, and adapt to climate impacts, is critical to international and national security.

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that there will be 150 million "environmental refugees" (populations forced to leave their established homelands because the land can no longer support them) by the year 2050, as a result of coastal flooding, shoreline erosion, desertification, and agricultural disruption.
- Losses from extreme weather conditions are exponentially higher in developing countries than in the developed world. Even a single event can devastate a developing country's economy. In 1998, Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras and devastated that country's economic growth for the next few years.
- In the last two decades alone, the total number of global natural disasters has quadrupled, affecting more than 250 million people a year, worldwide.
- Global temperature increases of above two degrees Celsius will multiply agricultural losses. The United Nations Development Program estimates that as many as 600 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa could go hungry as a result of collapses in agriculture, while an increase in the frequency of diseases like malaria might impact as many as 400 million people.
- The increased frequency of droughts in dry countries such as Kenya means that women and girls walk greater distances for water. This confronts women with personal security risks, keeps young girls out of school, and imposes an immense physical burden.
- Global sea-levels continue to rise at an alarming rate. Rising seas are already threatening the survival of coastal communities and ecosystems. The United Nations Development Program estimates that in Sub-Saharan Africa, an estimated 200 million people could be flooded out of their homes in future years.
- The impacts of climate change threaten the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, which world leaders adopted in the year 2000 to cut global poverty by one-half by the year 2015.
- Unless the world successfully implements adaptation strategies, climate change impacts in developing countries could cost up to \$100 billion a year.

Promote Clean Technology:

If the world is to avert dangerous global warming, we must reduce existing emissions from industrial sources, help the many millions of people who are energy poor to implement clean technologies, and invest in new clean energy markets.

- Worldwide, about 1.6 billion people still lack access to electricity, and over 2.5 billion people depend on biomass such as wood and grass as their primary source of cooking fuel.
- Fossil fuel combustion adds 7 billion tons of carbon to the atmosphere every year. These emissions will continue to rise if developing countries join the developed world and increase their reliance on fossil fuel-consuming technologies.
- Start up costs for most renewable energy technologies are still somewhat more expensive than conventional carbon-intensive energy sources. Without substantial financial assistance in paying these incremental costs, developing countries have little choice but to continue to rely on high emission fossil fuel technologies.
- Currently, there are 600 million cars in the world. As developing economies grow, the number of passenger vehicles on the road is estimated to increase to 2 billion in 50 years.
- The effectiveness of the post-2012 climate treaty will largely depend on the commitment of developed countries to helping poorer nations deploy appropriate, climate-friendly technologies.

Reduce Global Deforestation:

Forest protection and restoration are essential in the fight against climate change. In order to significantly reduce global carbon emissions, we must create a system of financial incentives that values intact forests, protects biodiversity, and safeguards the interests and rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

- Tropical deforestation is responsible for nearly 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions, which is higher than the entire transportation sector.
- Each year, an average of 37 million acres of tropical forests are destroyed, an area larger than the size of the state of New York. Deforestation results in the irreversible loss of habitat for wildlife and deprives us of the valuable ecosystem services provided by these forests.
- The U.S. consumes almost 30% of the total global wood and fiber supply. Our large “global forest footprint” obligates us to lead international efforts to save global forests.
- Deforestation in developing countries has many causes, including illegal logging and the expansion of cattle ranching and farming, which is in part driven by international commodities markets. Currently, economic gains from the expansion of agriculture and other development far outweigh potential income from conserving forests. Without adequate compensation such as the payments to developing countries for storing carbon (provided by the proposed climate bill), forests will continue to be “worth more dead than alive” in the global marketplace.
- The conservation and sustainable management of forests can significantly reduce carbon emissions, conserve biodiversity, sustain complex water systems, preserve the rights of over 60 million indigenous people, and protect over 1.2 billion people who rely on forests for their livelihoods.

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