27th February 2020

Dear Prime Minister,

Many congratulations on your election success. For the issues on which we work – climate change, the advancement of the world’s poorest people and the protection of the natural world – your government comes into office at a crucial moment. This year you have a chance to write a new chapter in history by achieving significant progress at November’s UN climate summit in Glasgow.

Hosting a United Nations climate summit is a huge honour for any country, particularly in a year that, under the terms of the Paris Agreement, has to deliver a major uplift in action to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. We are looking forward to COP 26 as a transparent and inclusive COP, with a welcome for the world's nations, including a diversity of civil society.

The Climate Coalition brings together over 150 diverse organisations active on climate issues with 22 million supporters between us. These include household names such as the Women's Institute, RSPB, WWF, Oxfam, CAFOD, Christian Aid and community organisations active in their locality. We organised the largest mass lobby of Parliament, “The Time is Now”, on climate, nature and people last year. Bond is the UK network for over 450 organisations working in international development. In the UNFCCC process, Bond plays an active role championing the issues of poverty and environment, particularly those most important to vulnerable countries.

The scale of the cyclone in Mozambique last year, the fires in Australia and the flooding in the UK are further evidence that climate change is already causing devastation to people and wildlife. Everything must be done to achieve the target in the Paris Agreement to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C. We stand ready to work with your government through the year and beyond to achieve that outcome.

Building momentum for global decarbonisation at COP26 will require substantial investment of time and resources throughout the year in two key areas: international diplomacy and national decarbonisation. Diplomacy, because the UK cannot deliver a transformational summit on its own: that needs a positive working relationship with allies, including the EU, and with nations most vulnerable to climate change impacts. This includes using the UK’s strong Commonwealth relationships to advance solidarity and resilience.

To strengthen climate change mitigation ambition the UK must also maximise cooperation with China on the
linkages between the climate and biodiversity COPs, and engage the EU at the highest level to encourage the prioritisation of climate action at the EU-China Leipzig Summit later this year. A strong EU-China climate deal in the months ahead of COP 26 will be a necessary prerequisite for a successful outcome at the summit itself, by demonstrating that the world’s largest economies are helping to close the gap against what scientists say would be required to avoid the worst temperature rises.

The UK must also get its own house in order. The coming months must see a green turbocharging of our decarbonisation policies and investment to maximise our emissions reductions, so that we reach net-zero as soon as possible. Since Parliament voted unanimously to adopt the net zero target, now is the time to revisit the pathway to achieving this objective. In particular, the UK Government must adopt a more ambitious 2030 target to get on track to net-zero, as part of the UK’s forthcoming NDC, and make an early announcement on this before the summer. This will bolster the UK’s diplomatic strategy whilst ensuring the country is on the cheapest pathway to achieving the target. Let's get net-zero done.

We set out below the priorities in our Glasgow Action Plan, that would put the UK on the pathway to net-zero, and deliver essential global climate outcomes at COP26. It contains five areas for action that are all achievable and prioritise a significant increase in support for the most vulnerable around the world and our precious natural ecosystems. They would also deliver additional benefits in the UK, such as warm homes, clean air, nature recovery and improved prospects for UK plc’s burgeoning clean industries. Many build on pledges in your election manifesto. Collectively, they will drive inward investment, boost productivity and inspire other countries across the world to act faster and with more ambition. We urge you to implement them.

In the face of the climate emergency, now is the moment for the UK, under your charge, to become a global climate leader. There is no time for delay.

Yours sincerely,

Clara Goldsmith
Director
The Climate Coalition

Stephanie Draper
Chief Executive
Bond
The Climate Coalition and Bond, together with 62 organisations
The Glasgow Action Plan - Priorities

Five priority areas for action to deliver a game-changing climate summit and establish the UK as a world leader on the green economy.

1. RAISE AMBITION AND NDC ACTION: The UK must use every diplomatic effort to encourage countries to close the gap between existing Paris Agreement pledges (NDCs), and those needed to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 °C. UK leadership necessitates announcing a new high-ambition UK NDC for 2030 and a long-term economic strategy that puts the UK on track to net-zero.

2. SUPPORT IMPACTED COMMUNITIES: The UK must show global leadership to ensure there is urgent and significant scale up of financial support to poor and vulnerable countries and communities on the frontline of the climate crisis. This must include maintaining the UK’s commitment to 50% of UK climate finance for adaptation and building support for other countries to commit to the same, championing a new global adaptation finance goal; leading international efforts to establish new and additional sources of finance for loss and damage; and ensuring support is accessible and responsive to the needs and rights of women and other marginalized groups.

3. SCALE UP NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: As well as deep decarbonisation, the UK must promote and support the incorporation of ambitious and rigorous nature-based solutions into all countries’ NDCs, long-term strategies, and adaptation plans.

4. SUPPORT A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION: The UK must immediately stop all new support for fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas) overseas, review and phase-out existing investments by 2021, scale up support for renewable and efficient energy systems and help deliver universal access to energy.

5. GET UK ON TRACK TO NET ZERO: UK leadership and credibility also rests on introducing the policies and investment to get the UK on track to net-zero as fast as possible, without the use of international offsets. Top priorities include:

- **Homes**: Reduce energy bills and emissions for all UK families by putting the investment in place to ensure all homes are highly energy efficient by 2030; provide funding to install 10 million heat pumps by 2030; and work with industry to ensure all new homes reach Passivhaus standard by 2023.
- **Transport**: Reduce emissions, air pollution and the cost of transport by ending the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030 and significantly expanding public transport and active travel; cancel destructive new roads and all airport expansion.
- **Power**: Triple the level of wind and solar power generation by 2030, delivered in harmony with nature
- **Nature**: Transition to a land use and farming system that delivers for nature and the climate by creating Nature Recovery Networks across the UK, restoring precious habitats like woodlands, peatlands, and seagrass meadows, building towards 50,000 hectares a year of predominantly native forest and tree cover in harmony with nature.
- **Investment**: To underpin these solutions, increase public and private investment for climate action and restoring nature, to an equivalent of at least 2% GDP per year.