



# The Glasgow Action Plan

## COP 26 Asks to UK Government

February 2020

### Introduction

The 2020 United Nations climate change summit will be one of the biggest gatherings of world leaders ever seen on UK shores, coming to discuss solutions to the biggest global crisis of our time.

We are looking forward to COP 26 being a transparent and inclusive COP, with a friendly Glasgow welcome for the world's nations, including wide and diverse participation by civil society. Particular attention must be given to ensure the voices of the most vulnerable are heard in Glasgow from impacted countries and communities, and marginalised groups. This especially includes women from the global south, who have been largely excluded from COPs to date, despite being on the frontlines of the crisis.

Climate impacts are rising rapidly, impacting people and wildlife. Millions of people in developing countries are already living with the threat of climate change - homes are becoming uninhabitable, land unfarmable, access to clean water unpredictable and lives unbearable. Of course, it's not only developing countries that are suffering – as the unimaginable devastation caused by forest fires in Australia has shown. The UK has also been hit by substantial and costly flooding and drought. Developing countries – who are least responsible for the causes of climate change, yet are suffering the worst impacts - do not have the resources to adapt and to pursue low-carbon development pathways. It is a matter of climate justice that significantly increasing international support for impacted communities in developing countries is a priority at COP 26.

The fires in Australia also highlight the urgent need to protect ecosystems as huge carbon stores for the climate, for communities and for wildlife. Nature as a theme at COP26 provides an important opportunity to secure their future.

If the worst consequences of climate change are to be limited, the Glasgow summit has to deliver real progress. Which means in turn that the UK has to be an effective leader. The IPCC has warned that we only have one decade left for actions to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5°C, the goal agreed in the Paris Agreement. As the country which led the industrial revolution and built our wealth in the fossil-fuel age, the UK has a responsibility to lead the just transition to a zero-carbon world.

2020 is a critical year because under the Paris Agreement, this is the year when governments pledged to step up. The targets they have set for cutting their own emissions aren't enough to prevent dangerous climate change – we are still on course for over 3°C of devastating warming. This is the year when they agreed to revisit those targets. In the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity COP also taking place this year, the UK must prioritise the important role ecosystems play in climate change mitigation and resilience at COP 26.

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Global emissions are still not decreasing. Yet, the IPCC has said that in order to achieve the 1.5°C target, the world will need to reduce carbon emissions by 45% by 2030 and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. So, 2020 has to be a year to deliver.

In 2008, the UK Parliament passed the Climate Change Act, the first law anywhere in the world to make cutting emissions a legal obligation on successive governments – since then we have cut our territorial emissions by one-third, while the economy has grown. And last year the UK was the first G7 country to set a net zero target for emissions in national law, committing to eliminate our territorial contribution to climate change within a generation.

However, the UK cannot rest on its laurels. Emissions are not falling quickly enough to meet the net zero target and the UK is not even on target to meet the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> carbon budgets under the old 80% 2050 target. In some sectors such as transport, housing and agriculture, emissions have flat-lined or are increasing. Meanwhile, the UK is still financing fossil fuel expansion abroad. That failure cannot continue.

The Government cannot credibly claim to be a climate change leader – to set an example to other nations – unless it implements policies well before the summit opens that demonstrably put us on track to reaching net zero as soon as possible and ending the UK's contribution to climate change. True leadership in 2020 means doing five things.

Firstly, it means Britain using its diplomatic weight to close the gap between existing Paris Agreement pledges for 2030 (NDCs), and those needed to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 °C.

Second, it means championing a global scaling up of financial support to poor and vulnerable countries and communities to adapt to climate change and manage loss and damage, ensuring this support reaches those who need it most.

Third, it means massively increasing support for nature-based solutions which can help to achieve net-zero emissions globally, whilst restoring the Earth's precious ecosystems and biodiversity on which we all rely for food, water, clean air, and medicine.

Fourth, the UK must immediately stop all new support for fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas) overseas, review and phase-out existing investments, scale up support for renewable and efficient energy systems, and help deliver universal access to energy.

Finally, it means getting our own house in order – The UK must put its own NDC on track to net-zero and enact new policies, laws and investment to put us unmistakably on the pathway to eliminating our greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible.

Around the world, people want climate change stopped. Opinion surveys have shown this for more than a decade, but in the last two years we have seen increased outpourings of concern – most visibly from schoolchildren, but also from doctors, firefighters, the military, faith leaders and investors. The public thirst for action is palpable, in the UK and across the world. Failure is not an option.

We call on the UK Government to implement this Action Plan:

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# Priorities

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 Government 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.

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# The Glasgow Action Plan in detail

## ASK 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 and long-term strategy with immediate actions to put the UK on a path to achieve net zero domestically.**

The world has already experienced over 1°C of warming, and is on course with the aggregated current NDCs to a devastating 3°C or more of warming. COP 26 must be the COP that delivers on the Paris Agreement: it must deliver NDCs and long-term strategies that are consistent with pursuing efforts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C. The IPCC has highlighted that a 1.5°C world is much safer than a 2°C world for people and nature, since hundreds of millions fewer people would be faced with climate-related poverty and water stress, and 10 million fewer people affected by sea-level rise by 2100.

We call on the Government to:

- Announce a high-ambition UK NDC showing leadership for a high ambition COP 26 as President.
- Work with countries around the world to deliver increased ambition NDCs, ideally by September, in order for a synthesis report in October to articulate what gap remains to be closed through high level political commitments at COP in November 2020.

## ASK 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, championing a new global adaptation finance goal and 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.**

Climate change is costly, deadly and hits hardest those who are least responsible for causing it. Low-income countries are exposed to some of the most severe climate impacts, have the least capacity to adapt, and find it hardest to recover from the loss and damage caused by devastating floods, droughts, heatwaves, cyclones, and rising sea levels. Finance to support developing countries to adapt has been stagnating at only 20% of overall climate finance for many years, falling short of the Paris Agreement commitment from developed countries to provide a balance between adaptation and mitigation finance. In addition, new and additional sources of finance are also urgently needed for Loss and Damage in climate change affected countries and communities; and urgent attention is needed to address the neglect of gender equality and to ensure significantly more climate finance reaches women, who are on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

On adaptation we call on the Government to:

- Publicly pledge the UK's continued commitment to dedicating 50% of UK climate finance to adaptation.

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- Build a coalition of countries to announce ahead of COP26 a pledge to allocate at least 50% of their climate finance to adaptation.
- Support a new global public finance goal specifically for adaptation, given that the \$100 billion goal has failed to address the historic neglect of adaptation.
- Ensure the UK scales up its gender equality efforts in climate finance spending, in a way that recognizes women's importance in delivering adaptation and ensures all human rights are protected in implementation.

On loss and damage we call on the Government to:

- Commit to establishing new and additional sources of finance for loss and damage. This could include cancellation of debt during times of crisis, shifting subsidies, and a climate damages tax.
- Recognise that over-reliance on insurance is not the solution, and provide a package of support including social protection and other grants based finance.

### **ASK 3: SCALE UP NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS:**

**As well as deep decarbonisation, the UK must promote ambitious and rigorous nature-based solutions within all countries' NDCs, long-term strategies, and adaptation plans.**

Nature is declining rapidly, yet halting and reversing its loss is necessary if we are to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Protecting remaining primary and intact ecosystems, restoring degraded lands - in particular forests and wetlands - and mainstreaming sustainable land management practices, are the most important and urgent priorities for international climate change and biodiversity cooperation. Biodiversity loss, from razed rainforests to converted mangroves, contributes to climate change through the release of greenhouse gases and to poverty through the collapse of livelihoods. In contrast, a healthy environment can limit and even reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provides the resources needed for people to survive and thrive.

We call on the Government to:

- Support and drive the incorporation of ambitious and rigorous nature-based solutions into all NDCs, long-term strategies, and adaptation plans - including the UK's.
- Ensure a robust framework is agreed, for both policies and finance mechanisms, to prevent the use of NBS to offset climate-incompatible activities and any action that is not in the best interests of communities reliant on the local environment for their lives and livelihoods.
- Work with the Chinese Government to ensure alignment of NDCs with commitments under the post-2020 CBD framework, and a robust outcome from UNFCCC and CBD COPs for biodiversity and the climate.
- Play a leading role, through the Global Ocean Alliance, in establishing an ambitious new Global Ocean Treaty, paving the way to an apex target at the Convention on Biological Diversity to fully protect at least 30% of global oceans by 2030.
- Introduce due diligence requirements, including full traceability and transparency, to prevent the placement of any commodities or derivatives on the UK market that can't be proved to be free from deforestation and human rights abuses.
- Through the Global Resource Initiative and related platforms, work with key producer countries and supply chain stakeholders to build long term partnerships and trade relationships that deliver fair returns and

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protections for farmers, communities and indigenous peoples, enhanced resilience, and improved climate change and biodiversity outcomes.

#### **ASK 4: SUPPORT A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION:**

**The UK Government 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 (SDG7).**

UK support for fossil fuels overseas runs into billions of pounds. 60% of total energy support goes to fossil fuels - three times the support to renewable energy - and almost 100% of UK export finance (UKEF). This fuels dangerous climate change, locks developing countries into polluting, high-carbon energy systems, and is inconsistent with the UK's climate change and SDG commitments. Fossil fuel investment is incompatible with the Paris Agreement and pursuing efforts to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C. Whilst the recent announcement that the UK will end support for coal mining and coal power plants overseas is a step forward, coal represents a tiny amount of the UK's current fossil fuel support. The UK must join the European Investment Bank (EIB) in committing to end all support for fossil fuels, including gas, and engage other countries and MDBs to build a coalition for phasing out support for fossil fuels and scaling up renewable energy and energy access – since SDG7 remains significantly underfunded and unlikely to achieve universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy by 2030.

We call on the Government to:

- Put an immediate moratorium on all new fossil fuel investments (ODA and non-ODA) including indirect investments through the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC).
- Review and phase out all existing fossil fuel investments by 2021. Where there is a proven case for ODA energy support for poverty reduction, identify alternative renewable energy investments. Undertake a review of the impacts of a phase out on workers in the UK and overseas, and develop a plan to support a just transition for those affected.
- Significantly scale up support for renewable energy and energy efficiency and for energy access, particularly for decentralised renewable energy and clean cooking.
- Carry out diplomatic engagement with other countries and MDBs to end fossil fuel finance and scale up renewable energy and energy access.
- Ensure fossil fuel companies are not allowed to sponsor or participate in COP 26.

#### **ASK 5: GET UK ON TRACK TO NET-ZERO:**

**To be a credible leader ahead of and during COP 26, the UK Government must get its own house in order. We call on the Government to undertake the following domestic actions:**

**Homes :** UK homes are responsible for 20% of the UK's emissions and these are rising. The Government must help all UK households to reduce the emissions in their homes to zero as fast as possible. This can cut energy bills for millions of households, end fuel poverty, reduce Excess Winter Deaths and reduce NHS costs. A capital infrastructure programme to make all homes highly energy efficient by 2030 and expand heat pump installations must

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be at its heart and can help level up the economy across the UK, create thousands of jobs and boost the economy. This programme must include the following commitments:

- Bring forward to 2030 the energy efficiency target for all homes to reach at least Energy Performance Certificate Band C, with flexibility for traditional buildings with significant heritage value, and incentivise as many as possible to reach Bands A and B. Also, set a target and provide investment to roll out at least 10 million heat pumps by 2030 to decarbonise heating, beginning in homes off the gas grid.
- To achieve these twin 2030 targets, the Government needs over the next five years to deliver existing policy commitments and manifesto funding pledges (an additional £745 million a year for improving energy efficiency of social housing and lower income households), as well as at least £0.5 billion extra per year for incentives to encourage energy efficiency investment from able to pay households, and £2.3 billion extra per year to support the adoption of heat pumps.
- Work with industry to ensure all new homes and commercial buildings are built to a standard equivalent to Passivhaus by 2023, while ending the installation of fossil-fuel heating.

**Transport** : UK transport is now the cause of the biggest, and rising, share of carbon emissions. It is also the cause of 98% of the UK's air pollution hotspots. In order to get on track to net-zero, a new transport strategy is required that achieves rapid and deep cuts in transport emissions and avoids locking in high carbon infrastructure in the future. The key priorities are to:

- Phaseout new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2030.
- Significantly expand, electrify and reconfigure bus, rail and tram services; boost walking and cycling investment; and end plans for new roads designed to expand overall network capacity or which are detrimental to nature, habitats and liveable spaces for people.
- Reduce emissions from aviation and contain demand growth, through policies such as a Frequent Flier Levy; include international aviation and shipping in future carbon budgets; stop all new airport expansion, including at Heathrow.

**Power** : The UK has made significant progress in de-carbonising its power sector in recent years. The UK is now the global leader in off-shore wind and has made a commitment to completely phase out coal fired generation by 2024. However, one of the cheapest forms of generation, on-shore wind, has been blocked and solar power support has been slashed. To achieve our net-zero targets it will be necessary for the UK to at least triple solar and wind generation by 2030, delivered in harmony with nature. The Government should commit to the following:

- Commit to targets of at least 40GW of solar, 30GW onshore wind and 45GW offshore wind by 2030, alongside improving planning to optimise the cost for low cost power, whilst avoiding harm to wildlife or special landscapes.
- Confirm Pot 1 Contract for Difference auctions for solar and onshore wind at the March Budget; and hold Pot 1 and 2 auctions for onshore wind, solar and offshore wind to ramp up deployment.
- Revise the principal objective of Ofgem to align with net-zero.
- Update the offshore wind sector deal to speed up deployment.

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- Fully implement the coal phase out commitment, including an end to permissions for new coal mines, and the exclusion of coal power generation from the capacity market.

**Nature:** In order to achieve net-zero emissions the UK must transition to a land use and farming system that delivers for nature and the climate by creating Nature Recovery Networks, restoring ecosystems and rapidly increasing forest cover to help soak up carbon emissions. It must also end unsustainable burning of bio-energy and develop a new agriculture strategy to make UK farms net-zero as soon as possible. The Government must commit to the following:

- Increase forest and tree cover, appropriately-sited for wildlife and people, building towards 50,000 hectares a year as soon as is safely possible without risking importing tree diseases, including through freeing-up land via reduced meat and dairy consumption. A focus on native woodland will benefit wildlife and the climate.
- Halt the deliberate burning of blanket bogs; restore and extend precious habitats like peatlands, seagrass meadows (or kelp forests/coral reefs), saltmarshes and permanent grasslands.
- Support agroecological food production and agroforestry and introduce measures to significantly reduce pesticide and fertiliser application.
- Only allow genuine wastes and residues to be used for bioenergy.

**Investment:** These policies must be underpinned by an investment and fiscal programme at the Budget and the Spending Review to achieve the following:

- Increase public and private investment for climate action and restoring nature, to an equivalent of at least 2% GDP per year, in line with the recommendation of the Committee on Climate Change. To achieve this it will be necessary for the Government to more than double current levels of investment to at least 5% of government spending per year. This amounts to at least an additional £25 billion of investment per year over the next 3 years for climate action, public transport investment and nature restoration. Innovative policies can help leverage in significant levels of private sector investment.
- UK government to take steps to require all UK regulated financial entities to have a plan in place by 2021 to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement, extending across firms' global practices.
- UK to push financial sector to be coal free by time of COP 26.

The Climate Coalition and Bond, together with 63 organisations

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