



Climate and Energy Policy Manifesto 2024

**Turning the tide
on tipping points:
Aiming higher, doing
more and exploring
synergetic solutions**

Historical emissions have led to the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, and the ambition and implementation gaps mean this will continue exacerbating the impacts of climate change, especially for the most vulnerable communities. This is even more so in what promises to be yet another year of broken climate records followed by extreme events.

Among the gravest threats faced by humanity are the harmful tipping points¹ in the natural world that will severely damage our planet's life-support systems and threaten the stability of our societies. The full damage caused by negative tipping points will be far greater than their initial impact. The effects will cascade through social and economic systems, and could exceed the ability of some countries to adapt.

Negative tipping points show that the threat posed by the climate and ecological crisis is far more severe than is commonly understood and is of a magnitude never before faced by humanity. Five tipping points² are already at risk of being crossed due to current warming, with three³ at risk in the 2030s if the world exceeds 1.5°C global warming; and prevention is only possible if societies and economic systems are transformed to rapidly reduce emissions and restore nature.

A recent study⁴ found that the world economy is committed to an income reduction of 19% within the next 26 years, *independent* of future emission choices. The damage clearly outweighs the mitigation costs required to limit global warming by sixfold over this time frame. Committed losses are projected for all regions except those at very high latitudes. Those findings should be an incentive for governments to accelerate climate action as current choices can impact our near-term future..

After three decades of negotiations, a historic outcome was achieved at the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai when a global consensus was reached on the need to transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems. The first Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement highlighted the necessary steps to keep global warming to 1.5°C, but science calls for more urgent and stronger climate action in this critical decade.

2024 is a decisive year for climate action, since previous commitments and recommendations from the Global Stocktake should be translated into national plans⁵. Important political milestones will be the annual G7 and G20 meetings, COP16 of the Convention on Biological Diversity and COP29 of the UNFCCC, and the UN **Summit of the Future**, aimed at multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow.

To prevent negative tipping points and pave the way for the sectoral and system transformation we need, we call on all government and private sector leaders, in partnership with civil society and communities, to aim higher, do more and explore synergetic solutions. WWF identifies below five key political priorities to be addressed in 2024.

1 According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), tipping points are 'critical thresholds in a system that, when exceeded, can lead to a significant change in the state of the system, often with an understanding that the change is irreversible.'

2 T. M. Lenton et al, Global Tipping Points Report 2023, available at <https://global-tipping-points.org>. Crossing one harmful tipping point could trigger others, causing a domino effect of accelerating and unmanageable change to our life-support systems.

3 Greenland Ice Sheet, Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation - AMOC and Amazon rainforest.

4 Kotz, M., Levermann, A. & Wenz, L. The economic commitment of climate change. Nature 628, 551–557 (2024), available at <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07219-0>

5 Nationally-Determined Contributions and Long Term Strategies under the UNFCCC and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans under the CBD



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1 WE CALL ON LEADERS TO PHASE OUT FOSSIL FUELS, AND MOVE TO 100% RENEWABLES

Emissions from coal, oil, and gas are the largest driver of the climate crisis. 2023 saw unprecedented high-level political discussion on how to phase out fossil fuels and scale up renewable energy. Relevant decisions and communications include the [G7 Ministers of Climate, Energy, and the Environment Communiqué](#), the [G7 Leaders Communiqué](#), the [Major Economies Forum Chair's Summary](#), the [Petersberg Dialogue Co-Chairs Summary](#); and the [UN Secretary General's Acceleration Agenda](#), culminating with the above-mentioned [UAE Consensus](#) with the outcomes of the Global Stocktake.

The enabling conditions for the energy transition have never been more favourable, such as the declining costs of renewables. In 2023, an estimated 96% of newly installed, utility-scale solar PV and onshore wind capacity had lower generation costs than new coal and natural gas plants⁶. Affordable renewable electricity supply contributes to other positive tipping points across systems and technologies, such as electric vehicles and heat pumps.

Concrete measures that should be implemented are reducing energy demand and improving energy efficiency to accelerate decarbonising the energy system. These must be supplemented by policies, regulation and financial frameworks that stimulate the

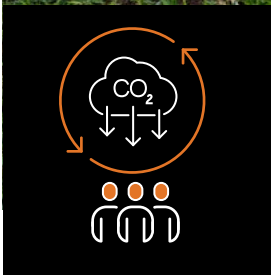
immediate switch from fossil fuels to renewables in all areas of energy use (including buildings, industry, agriculture, and transport).

We reinforce that the current global targets of tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030 provide a baseline; *faster action* is needed. We expect leaders attending the UN Summit of the Future to set a deadline for eliminating fossil fuel subsidies. G7 and G20 countries should define timelines to phase out all fossil fuels by 2050 at the latest, with developed countries phasing out first (well before 2040). We must also ensure that the rapid uptake of renewables does not compromise biodiversity.

6 IEA, Renewables 2023, available at <https://www.iea.org/reports/renewables-2023>



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2 WE URGE LEADERS TO TRANSFORM SECTORS AND SYSTEMS IN THIS CRITICAL DECADE

The IPCC Sixth Assessment Synthesis Report states that *rapid and far-reaching transitions across all sectors and systems are necessary to achieve deep and sustained emissions reductions and secure a liveable and sustainable future for all.*

These sectoral transitions include land and ecosystem, agriculture, food, energy, urban and infrastructure, and industrial systems. The same report presents cost-effective mitigation technologies for the energy, agriculture, forestry and land use, buildings, transport, and industry sectors⁷. Leaders should include those in their Nationally-Determined Contributions.

The [Global Tipping Points report](#) suggests an *avoid/shift/improve* logic to decide which interventions are most effective and can contribute towards positive tipping points for many sectors. High-emitting sectors need coordinated supply-side and demand-side approaches.

⁷ Listed in IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report [Figure SPM.7](#)



3 WE CALL ON LEADERS TO DELIVER CLIMATE JUSTICE FOR THOSE MOST AFFECTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE, ESPECIALLY THROUGH NEW AND ADDITIONAL FINANCE

The climate crisis got to a point where the world must not only to prevent further damage, but also address the damage already done. Crossing Earth system tipping points would have further severe impacts on people and biodiversity. In this context, climate justice can be demonstrated in several ways. For WWF it means new and additional resources for mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage; delivering a just transition and fulfilling SDG7 on energy access.

2024 is “*the year of climate finance*”: countries must deliver on past promises and adopt a bold new goal from 2025 onwards that is commensurate with the needs of developing countries. Public and private finance flows must be aligned with 1.5°C pathways. It is also important to address developing countries’ debt, especially the least developed countries, as debt burdens can prevent action in responding to emergency needs that will become more and more frequent. High debt combined with climate-related extreme events can push indebted countries even further into debt. Substantial finance in the form of grants, not loans, is essential.

Pledges for the Loss and Damage Fund of about \$700 million are woefully inadequate. Developed countries must provide loss and damage finance at the scale needed. And, despite agreement between countries to at least double adaptation finance, the UNEP **Adaptation Gap Report** found that the needs of developing countries are 10 to 18 times as big as international public finance flows – over 50% higher than the previous range

estimate and that the current adaptation finance gap is estimated at US\$194-366 billion per year. This should be reflected in the new finance goal, which Parties should agree on at COP29.

A just transition is critical to delivering on climate justice. It ensures that the burden of transitioning to a low-carbon economy is shared equitably and that the needs of workers and communities are addressed. Governments, in cooperation with relevant industries and trade unions, must ensure that social, financial and technical support is provided to those who might be affected by policies and measures to combat climate change.

Energy access is another critical issue of climate justice, as there are still 745 million people without electricity access⁸. Decision-makers should define and implement actions to deliver on SDG7, guaranteeing equal access to clean and affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all and stakeholder participation in decision-making processes related to energy policies and infrastructure.

8 <https://www.iea.org/commentaries/access-to-electricity-improves-slightly-in-2023-but-still-far-from-the-pace-needed-to-meet-sdg7>



4 WE CALL ON LEADERS TO INTEGRATE NATURE IN NATIONAL CLIMATE PLANS

Protecting and restoring natural ecosystems can provide mitigation and adaptation while reducing some projected losses and damages. Maintaining the resilience of biodiversity and ecosystem services at a global scale depends on effective and equitable conservation of approximately 30% to 50% of Earth’s land, freshwater and ocean areas, including currently near-natural ecosystems⁹.

There is growing recognition of the intersection between climate change and nature protection. In the science realm, IPBES¹⁰, IPCC and the Global Tipping Points report provide clear recommendations. Political responses by countries can be found in the UNEA decisions, the Cover Decisions of COP26 and 27, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and most recently by the Global Stocktake outcome. Non-State actors have also demonstrated their commitments through the climate and nature action agendas.

But there is an implementation gap that could be bridged by solutions and coordinated implementation. In 2024, decision-makers should take the opportunity of the CBD COP16 and UNFCCC COP29 happening in October and November respectively, to further operationalize the convergence between climate and nature through the synergistic implementation of national plans required under both Conventions, in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and local communities. WWF believes that a Climate and Nature Workstream under the UNFCCC would be an invaluable contribution to the convergence agenda.

9 IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report, 2023, available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/>
10 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services



5 WE CALL ON NON-STATE ACTORS TO DEVELOP SOUND NET-ZERO PLANS, AND ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO TRANSFORM THEIR VALUE CHAINS

The contribution of non-State actors is recognized as potentially more effective in accelerating ambitious climate leadership than multilateral agreements. Coalitions formed by countries and relevant non-state actors with shared interests can enable positive tipping points (GTP 2023). We welcome the many pledges of non-State actors and the Presidencies at COP. We also recommend that such initiatives include clear and quantifiable targets, with a focus on the key levers for emissions reductions, with accountability and tracking of country implementation (CAT, 2023).

Private sector leaders must address the net-zero credibility gap urgently. Stronger net-zero plans that incorporate the recommendations from the [UN High Level Expert Group on the Net Zero Commitments of Non-State Entities](#) can differentiate greenwashing from credible net-zero. Companies should focus on *transforming their own value chains*, by reducing their Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions in line with 1.5°C aligned Science Based Targets initiative '[Pathways to Net-Zero](#)'. We also encourage them to go beyond their value chain to *take responsibility for their remaining emissions*, by pricing them at a level that reflects the damage to

society and investing the funds in climate solutions that have benefits for climate, nature, and people.

Cities and regions should increase their ambition to address both mitigation and adaptation, and align locally to the 1.5°C, as underscored in the [Integrity Matters for Cities, States and Regions](#) report, including regularly publicly reporting their climate plans and actions, and scaling up their ambition. The upcoming IPCC Special Report on Cities and Climate Change will build momentum to call on cities to be climate leaders.



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