



Climate change is real. What governments do matters.

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Global Spotlight Report #20

Theme: New And Noteworthy Climate Change Events In Leading Greenhouse Gas Emitting Countries

Introduction

Climate Scorecard Report #20 covers new and noteworthy climate change events in leading greenhouse gas emitting countries during the period July-September 2019. During this time, many countries (Australia, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, Turkey and Spain) endured extreme weather events, mainly droughts and fires; some countries (China, India) initiated or strengthened important climate mitigation policies, while others (France, Germany) issued reports indicating their efforts to reach mitigation targets are falling short. A headline table of New and Noteworthy Events by Country follows, as well as detailed Country Activity Reports and Action Alert Messages.

Each country report is given an activity rating based on our 4 point rating system:

- **** Moving Ahead
- *** Right Direction (needs more work)
- ** Standing Still
- * Falling Behind

Country	Climate Event Headlines (7/19-9/19)
Australia	Drought Deepens in Australia's Interior
Brazil	Fires Rage Across the Amazon
Canada	Fails to Attend UN Climate Summit
China	A Call for An Absolute Carbon Cap
EU	Convenes Major Climate Learning Conf.
France	Failing to Meet Paris Agreement Targets
Germany	New Plan Fails to Address Implementation
India	Commits to Below 2 degree Paris Pledge
Indonesia	Devastating Agricultural Fires
Mexico	Widespread Extreme Weather
Nigeria	President Issues Climate Action Plan
Russia	Finally Ratifies Paris Agreement
Saudi Arabia	IPCC Report Blocked
South Africa	Moves Forward with Mitigation Policies
Spain	Successful Extreme Weather Containment
Thailand	Adopts Fridays for the Future Movement
Turkey	Public is Concerned About Climate Change
United Kingdom	Heatwaves and Climate Protests
United States	Presidential Candidates Prioritize Climate

Australia

Spotlight Activity Report: Drought Deepens in Australia's Interior as Spring Bushfires Hit

This July, Australia's Bureau of Meteorology declared the current inland drought the worst on record. The Murray-Darling Basin – an area nearly the size of Texas and California combined – is currently receiving record low levels of rainfall, with below average rain expected for the remainder of 2019. The MDB feeds two of Australia's most important river systems, provides drinking water for 1 in 8 Australians and is considered Australia's agricultural food bowl. The highly publicised "fish kills" earlier this year occurred towards the downstream end of the MDB, where chronic government mismanagement, water hoarding by big irrigators and low rainfall combined to reduce river flows to a critical level. Not only are more fish kill events predicted this Australian summer, but now a host of large regional cities in NSW are bracing for their "Day Zero" when rivers and dams in the MDB dry up and their water supply is cut.

Compounding the inland crisis are the worst spring bushfires to ever hit Queensland. Australians have looked on in horror as fire services in the northern state struggle to combat the blazes, which have even burnt through areas of subtropical rainforest. Fires have never hit Queensland so early and with such intensity. Emergency services are scrambling to cover threats for the rest of 2019, with a bad cyclone season also predicted.

Activity Rating: *Falling Behind

The damage from Queensland's fires was brought home to many Australians with pictures of the destruction of the historic Binna Burra Lodge – a rainforest eco-resort popular with holidaymakers since the 1930s. Damage from bushfires in Australia is made visceral by the loss of homes and buildings, and along with Binna Burra Lodge 20 Queensland families have lost their homes so far in the 2019 fire season. Queensland's state government has emphasized the unprecedented nature of the 2019 spring bushfires and directly linked escalating fire seasons to climate change. Former fire & rescue leaders from around the country say the same things when interviewed on television: what they're seeing is worse than ever, and that scares them.

Although voters in the MDB by-and-large returned their conservative MPs to government in the May federal election, tension and frustration with the government continues to grow (as it did throughout 2018). Anger at water shortages and government incompetence brought out 1,500 protesting farmers in Tocumwal, where an effigy of water minister David Littleproud was thrown into the Murray River. It doesn't sound like much, but protests of that size (Tocumwal's population is only 2600) and ferocity are rare in small, conservative rural communities. Frustrated farmers in the MDB are increasingly turning to water rights campaigns and climate advocates to voice their grievances. Prominent group *Farmers for Climate Action* recently travelled to Canberra to meet with government MPs, and even managed to get new environment minister Sussan Ley to

speak publicly about the link between climate change and the current drought – again, doesn't sound like much, but it's significant. The tensions between farmers, rural landowners and the government will continue to escalate as long as rainfall remains low, and climate change is making sure rain outlooks remain bleak.

Action Alert Message:

Mr. Littleproud,

The Murray Darling Basin is in the grip of the worst drought on record, and farmers are nervous and angry about the prospect of water shortages. Just next door to your electorate huge regional cities in NSW are facing their "Day Zero" in the coming months, when rivers and dams that supply their drinking water dry up. And no doubt you were made aware of the massive protest in Tocomwal, where Australian farmers were compelled to throw an effigy of you into the Murray river. I'll repeat that: Australian farmers were so riled up by the drought conditions and anger with water mismanagement they gathered to protest – that's not a sentence you hear very often! Climate change is driving record low rainfalls in the MDB and Sussan Ley made it clear when she appeared with Farmers for Climate Action: climate change is behind this record-breaking drought. MDB farmers and landowners need a plan, and as federal water minister they're looking to you to steer a way out of the crisis.

And, as minister for natural disaster & emergency management, it should be painfully obvious to you that firefighters cannot continue to fight blazes like Queensland's historic spring bushfires. Current and former firefighters are all saying the same thing: these conditions are getting beyond their abilities, and they're scared of what the future holds. If climate change continues to dry out Australia's interior and cause fire seasons to start earlier and earlier we will soon reach a point where emergency services will be simply unable to combat some fire events. Again: people are looking to you for a plan on how to tackle this escalating crisis. We urge you to fully accept the responsibilities of your portfolio, recognise the severe danger climate change is putting regional Australia at risk of and help contribute to a plan that ensures a healthy future for regional Australians.

Send Action Alert Message to:

Hon. David Littleproud MP
David.Littleproud.MP@aph.gov.au
@D_LittleproudMP
<https://davidlittleproud.com.au/contact/>

Learn More:

<https://www.theland.com.au/story/6281386/drought-now-officially-our-worst-on-record/>

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/j57qdy/australias-extreme-heatwaves-have-killed-a-million-fish-dozens-of-horses

<https://abc.net.au/news/2019-07-20/australias-drought-crisis-is-still-a-real-and-ongoing-threat/11321564>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-07-14/day-zero-approaching-as-towns-run-out-of-water/11271430>

<https://abc.net.au/news/2019-09-08/queensland-bushfires-continue-stanthorpe-applethorpe-binna-burra/11489304>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/09/world/australia/bushfires-wildfires-climate-change.html>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-08/bushfire-destroys-binna-burra-lodge-gold-coast-hinterland/11489860>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-10/the-drum-tuesday-september-10/11498228>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-05/angry-farmers-throw-effigy-of-water-minister-into-murray-river/11483520>

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/beyond-time-for-action-australian-farmers-call-for-climate-change-plan>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Australia Country Manager Julian Achison

Brazil

Spotlight Activity Report: Fires Rage Across the Amazon

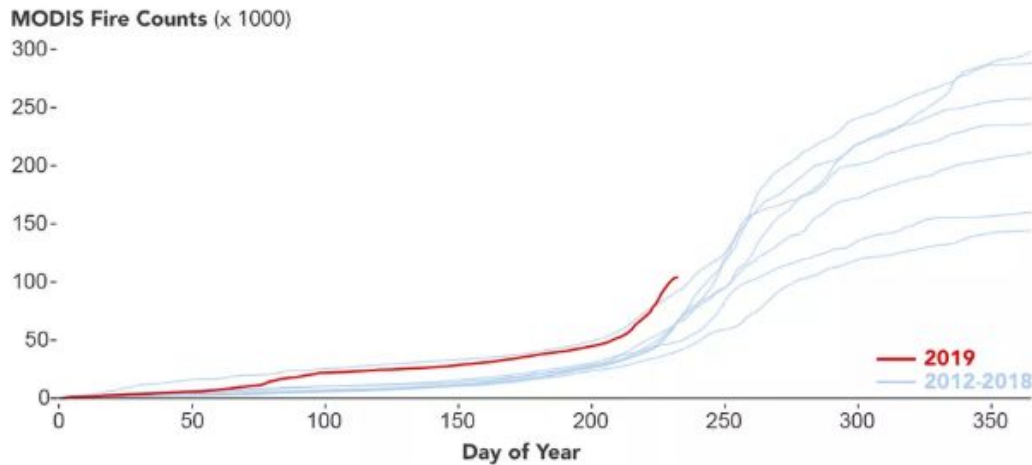
During a few weeks from last August until mid-September, Brazil was constantly on the main global newspapers' headlines. It was not because of our long lasting political turmoil, sluggish economic recovery or a (highly expected) World Cup Championship. It was due to what became acquainted as the "Day of Fire": on the second weekend of August, farmers settled fire into large native Amazon areas, motivated by reiterated attacks from President Bolsonaro on the country's environmental laws and main controlling organisms. Accordingly to local papers, this was the way that these farmers (mainly cattle ranchers) have met to show the President that they "want to work" and, therefore, they should deforest and set fire, razing the area.

This movement received special attention when on Monday, August 19th, around 3pm in São Paulo, the country's main financial center, the day literally turned into night as a result of the encounter between the ashes coming from Amazon and heavy humid clouds. This is

just a small piece of a tragic scene: NASA, the American space agency said that 2019 has been the year with the highest fire activity in the Amazon since 2010. Below is a tweet from NASA on August 23rd showing large and intense fires burning:



According to NASA scientists, fires in the Amazon are quite volatile, strongly varying throughout the year and from year to year. They are heavily influenced by climate and economic changes. Although 2019 is appearing to be a dry year having a relevant role on the number of registered fires, both the moment and the location of these fires are more related to deforestation and land use than to regional drought (graph from NASA):



Data from INPE, the Brazilian Institute for Space Research, are aligned with NASA's. According to the Institute, the number of fires in the Amazon had an 82% increase from 2018 – 2019:

Aumento dos focos de queimadas

Dados por áreas e bioma entre janeiro e agosto de 2018 e de 2019, segundo o Inpe

Área	Focos em 2018	Focos em 2019	Variação
Brasil	41 404	76 720	85%
Bioma Amazônia	22 165	40 341	82%
Amazônia Legal	33 632	54 906	63%
América do Sul	148 312	168 247	13%

This information was heavily criticized by the current government, and such criticism may have influenced the dismissal of INPE's president.

President Bolsonaro and his team were heavily criticized by world leaders, such as Macron and Merkel, on how he dealt with the situation; first, corroborating the actions taken by those cattle ranchers and second, denying data from one of the most respected research institutes in Brazil.

We can't expect much from this current government on environmental and climate change issues. However it may be susceptible to pressure from wealthier nations, as illustrated by the Nordic pension funds that are threatening to cut investments in Brazil if action is not taken to control the Amazon fires. The Amazon is a global resource vital for the wellbeing of our planet, and other countries are not going to sit by and do nothing while the Amazon burns.

Activity Rating: *Falling Behind

Brazil is falling behind not because of the events themselves, but because of how the country's leader denied the cause and effects, and neglected his role to solve it.

Action Alert Message:

Mr. Salles,

Brazil has just passed through a serious climate-related crisis, showing how fragile our institutions are in this regard. What we saw was not only a massive fire season, corroborated by statistics from both US and Brazil research institutes, but, especially, a denial of facts instead of an answer to the population and to other leaders. Climate change is real and we, as holders of the largest biodiverse region in the world, should take it more seriously instead of denying it or, worse, condoning with it.

Contact

Mr. Ricardo Salles, Minister of Environment
Telephones: (61) 2028-1057/1289/1422
Esplanada dos Ministérios, Bloco B, 5º andar
70068-900 - Brasília - DF

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Brazil Country Manager Rafael Gersely

Canada

Spotlight Activity Report: Canada Fails to Attend UN Climate Summit

During a week of climate action from September 20th to 27th, several of the 32 countries that produce over 80% of our global emissions have put comments forward demonstrating a commitment to set more ambitious climate targets by 2030. Global response has included: 1) millions of people attending youth strikes to express need for urgent climate action, 2) a UN youth climate summit on September 21, and 3) the global UN climate action summit on September 23 in New York City, where countries were expected to share stronger roadmaps in reaching earlier commitments surrounding the Paris Agreement.

September 23 was expected to be a turning point. UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, had thrown down the gauntlet summoning decision-makers to showcase solutions at the Summit from government, business, and civil society toward reducing emissions to zero by mid-century. More than 100 countries applied to present but only about half were scheduled. It has been almost five years since the Paris Agreement where nearly 200 countries agreed to work towards limiting global warming to 1.5 °C.

Unfortunately, Canada was not on the Summit agenda. Following the dissolution of Parliament for an election requested September 11, 2019 (for October 21, 2019), criteria states it is incumbent that a government act with restraint during the election period. This does not impact decision making or announcements but does deter policy decisions, new spending, and avoidance of participation in high-profile government-related domestic and international events. In attendance were civil servants such as Climate Change Ambassador Patricia Fuller, and various elected municipal and provincial officials to follow the global proceedings.

Montreal Mayor, Valerie Plante (the only mayor invited to speak), confirmed Montreal's 55% emissions reduction by a 2030 target. She indicated cities must play a big role in emissions reductions as two-thirds of the world's population will live in urban centres by 2050. Guterres noted, 77 smaller countries committed to net zero carbon emissions by 2050 for the Summit and 70 countries announced increased Paris pledges by 2020. With several of the world's largest emitters failing to step up though, the Summit was later viewed as a missed opportunity to gain ground for 2020. As always, the door remains open for more ambition to enter.

The day following the Summit, September 24, Catherine McKenna announced the Liberal party's platform will 'push Canada to net-zero emissions by 2050, joining the EU and countries making the same pledge at the UN in New York City.' The plan will have 5 year milestones over the 30 years and will exceed Canada's 2030 emission goals. Trudeau later expanded on some details on how targets would be met. (Note - each party has a climate position in their platform).

For more emission details, visit

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-emissions/sources-sinks-executive-summary-2019.html#wb-info>

Activity Rating: * Right Direction**

In December 2018, prior to COP 24, McKenna acknowledged a need to step up Canada's ambition by 2020 and also signed the UN Secretary-General's June 2018 Declaration of Ambition. At the May 2019 G7 environment ministers meeting in France, McKenna agreed with other Ministers that tackling climate change was critical to a healthy planet, while addressing inequality, promoting sustainable growth, and good jobs.

With the federal election just around the corner, climate is one of 5 top issues including economy, affordability, health care and taxes. A dramatic scale up of Canada's ambition and follow through is what many Canadians are showing they care about.

Action Alert Message:

To request action, please contact Minister Catherine McKenna, with the following message:

The IPCC 1.5 degree report from last fall stated only a global reduction of 45% of global greenhouse gases by 2030 from 2010 and zero emissions by 2050 globally will hold warming well below 2°C, while pursuing a limit of the tougher 1.5°C target. On September 19, Climate Action Tracker announced that under current policies, the world will exceed 1.5°C of warming around 2035, 2°C around 2053, and 3.2°C by the end of the century. Canada needs a solid plan to reach a limit of 1.5°C target as your highest priority this fall prior to the COP25 meeting.

Contact

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Email: EC.MINISTRE-MINISTER.EC@CANADA.CA

Mail: 200 Sacré-Coeur Boulevard, Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0H3

Tel: 819-938-3860 or toll-free: 1-800-668-6767

For more information, please email Climate Scorecard Canadian Country Manager: Diane Szoller at Canada@climatescorecard.org.

China

Spotlight Activity Report: A Call for Absolute Carbon Cap in China's 14th Five-Year Plan

At the recent Global Climate Summit, China's Ministry of Ecology and Environment released a review on the effect of policies addressing climate change and other environmental challenges the country is facing. Looking ahead, China is already working on a new set of targets to address climate change which will find entry into the 14th Five-Year-Plan.

(http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

In the National Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Agreement of 2015, China committed to peak its carbon emissions around 2030, or potentially earlier, and to achieve 20% non-fossil energy as a proportion of primary energy supply by 2030. It also committed to CO₂ emissions per unit of GDP to be 60-65% lower than in 2005.

The numbers that China presented are encouraging and show that policies regulating emissions, environmental effluence, forestry, energy efficiency, and those encouraging innovative technologies are starting to see effects. For example, by the end of 2018 China's carbon emission intensity had decreased by 45.8% compared with the level in 2005, despite growing GDP. From 2016 to 2018, China's energy consumption per unit of GDP decreased by 11.35%, saving about 540 million tons of standard coal equivalent. In 2018, China's total installed power capacity of renewables exceeded 728 GW. Clean energy accounted for 22.1% of the total energy consumption mix, or 7.6% higher than that

of 2012. Coal accounted for about 59% in the total energy consumption mix, or 9.5% lower than that of 2012. By 2018, China had phased out more than 800 million tons of coal production capacity.
(http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

China is likely to peak its CO₂ emissions well in advance of 2030 and achieve its non-fossil target by 2030 if it consequently pursues implementation of all relevant current policies, successfully concludes the power-sector reform, and fully implements a national emissions-trading system (ETS) for the power and major industrial sectors after 2020.
(<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-09159-0>)

Yet, a number of issues still need to be addressed: overall CO₂ levels continue to rise as production and GDP are rising. Climate relevant legislation only includes CO₂ into the GHG, but excludes other equally damaging gases. China's NDC defines in which year CO₂ emissions are to peak, however it is more relevant to specify at what level CO₂ emissions have to peak in order to achieve a realistic zero emission target by 2050. More urgent action is needed to achieve the 1.5 Degree Celsius goal demanded in the IPPC report. A recent report by the innovative Green Development Program (iGDP), a non-governmental Chinese think tank, calls on the Chinese administration to add a specific Climate Change law that includes all GHGs and an absolute carbon cap to complement the ongoing roll-out of the Emissions Trading System into China's 14th 5-year-plan (FYP). The FYP is under preparation and will set the guardrails for China's next phase of development from 2020 to 2025. Stronger, legally binding, and enforceable climate legislation will be a means to reign in and reduce absolute emissions.
(<http://www.igdp.cn/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019-09-19-IGDP-Report-EN-Introducing-a-Carbon-Cap-in-the-14th-FYP.pdf>)

Activity Rating: * Right Direction but Needs to do More**

China's 13th Five-Year Plan and ensuing laws and regulations on environmental policy have had a definite effect in accelerating the mitigation of environmental damage brought about by China's rapid economic development of the past 20 years. Moving forward however, specific legislation on climate change is needed in addition to current environmental policy. The 14th Five-Year-Plan offers a strategic tool to include specific provisions. At the same time, effective implementation will depend on ensuing interpretation and formulation of concrete regulations not only for CO₂ but also other GHG and on their enforceability.

Action Alert Message:

Please send the following message to the policymaker(s) below.

During the period of validity of China's 13th Five-Year Plan, the country has made great strides to address and mitigate many of the environmental problems that emerged in the wake of rapid

economic development. We also commend China for having underwritten the Paris Agreement. Moving ahead we hope to see even more concrete policies in the 14th Five-Year Plan specifically addressing climate change such as a cap on absolute carbon emissions. We hope that a cap on absolute emissions will spur innovation and new technology to reform emission producing sectors such as energy generation, industrial production or transportation.

Contact:

Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China
Website to leave message: http://www.mee.gov.cn/hdjl/bzxxzs_1/

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager Annette Wiedenbach, awiedenbach@gmx.de

European Union

Spotlight Activity Report: EU's Research and Innovation Project Convened at Major Learning Conference

The biennial European Climate Change Adaptation conference is comprised of projects that have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Framework Programme. Working together to prepare for change, the fourth ECCA 2019 conference was hosted in Lisbon from May 28 to 31 2019.

In 2010, the first global conference on adaptation was held in Gold Coast, Australia under the umbrella of the UN Environment Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability. This has inspired a group of European participants to organize Europe-focused events in the alternate years. The European Commission agreed to support the conference series, assigning management of the events to project coordinators of three EU-funded adaptation research projects.

ECCA 2019 provided an opportunity to share and learn from professionals in adaptation, while discovering new products, research, and alternative approaches to engaging with stakeholders. The three projects which shared the organization and communications for ECCA 2019 were (i) PLACARD interchange, a hub for dialogue, knowledge exchange and collaboration between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation communities; (ii) BINGO, whose aim is to provide practical knowledge and tools to end users, water managers, and decision and policy makers affected by climate change to enable them to better cope with all climate projections, including droughts and floods; and (iii) RESCUE, Europe's first large-scale innovation and urban resilience project improving the capability of cities to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from significant multi-hazard threats with minimum damage.

ECCA's main themes for this year focused on:

1. Data, methods, and approaches in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
2. Co-production of knowledge, solutions, and services
3. Communication, data-sharing, and decision support
4. Institutions, governance, citizens, and social justice
5. Global climate challenges
6. Climate risk management and resilience

Being a scientific and technical conference, rather than political, a number of messages emerged: to support and stimulate efforts to increase climate adaptation and risk reduction by various societal factors. Among these messages were a number of research gaps that are of critical importance for future research planning in Europe and internationally.

ECCA 2019 aimed to meaningfully and creatively engage young people and give them a voice to express themselves about climate change and possible responses. This is to reflect the fact that, at the time of the conference, there were few young people participating in public decisions around climate change worldwide. These same youngsters were disproportionately affected by disasters and climate change hazards. They had limited voices in the decisions and policies related to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and community resilience. Recently, the trend regarding youth participation has been reversed as we have seen young people participating in climate change leadership roles as well as youth-led efforts such as Fridays for the Future and the Extinction Rebellion.

Activity Rating: * Right Direction**

In its effort to tackle climate change adaptation issues, the EU is supporting a series of events to engage a broad range of actors in society, share information, knowledge, and to support innovation and related projects. The EU is seeking to make Europe a model for the rest of the world by actively and positively tackling environmental issues. However, the EU climate policy is established on a European level while its implementation is the responsibility of each Member State. Thus, the engagement of actors lie in the hands of national governments. Individual national plans of each Member State demonstrate a European-wide absence of the engagement of all stakeholders such as small non-state actors and local actors' contributions in the efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Netherlands is the only European country whose government is aware that the contribution of all stakeholders is necessary to achieve the country's economy wide target. The fact that ECCA 2019 gave special attention to young people is a major step forward in engaging a wider group of stakeholders. The young population are mostly marginalized while they are considered the essence of a brighter future. A hot topic such as the environment and climate change will have direct and indirect implications on the lives of those young people in the future, thus the importance and need of their engagement and contribution besides all other stakeholders.

Action Alert Message:

Dear Mr. Diogo de Gusmão-Sørensen,

We would like to congratulate you on a successful organization of the ECCA 2019 conference as well as for the European Commission support and engagement in climate adaptation action. We would like to stress the importance of engaging various stakeholders and actors of our society by giving them the chance to have their voices heard on a hot topic such as climate adaptation action. We've lately observed a global youth movement calling for rapid movement to tackle climate change. This event marks a major change in global society as it alarms governments of the awareness and also the power of the most vulnerable and marginalized segments of the society, the youth. We would like to praise your step forward to actively engaging the youth. This critical step is achieving full engagement, empowerment, and resilience of our global society.

We are looking forward to working on climate action together.

With our respectful and best regards,

Contact Information:

Mr. Diogo de Gusmão-Sørensen
European Commission Coordinator and Chair of the Executive Committee
European Commission
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard EU Manager Ibrahim Abdel-Ati

France

Spotlight Activity Report: Climate Advisory Reports Indicates France is Falling Short in Meeting Paris Agreement Commitments; Major Heatwave Scorches the Country

A [report](#) by the climate advisory council (*Haut conseil pour le climat*, an independent expert body established in November 2018), published June 25, 2019 shows that France is far from meeting its commitments under the Paris climate agreement. Despite ambitious political promises, during the country's first carbon budget period of 2015-2018, CO₂ emissions decreased by only 1.1%, instead of the envisaged 2%.

The most problematic sector identified in the report is transport, making up 31% of total emissions in France. Transport emissions have largely stalled in the past decade. Last winter, in an attempt to tackle transport emissions, the Macron Government announced the introduction of a vehicle carbon tax to tackle transport emissions. However, the

proposed tax was perceived by many as unfair, provoking the yellow vests protestations, and the bill was eventually withdrawn.

A second important emission source is buildings, which constitutes 19% of total emissions and the decrease of emissions has been much slower than predicted. Although 2018 saw a notable decrease of emissions of -4.2% compared to 2017, this was mainly attributable to a lower demand for heating due to a mild winter. Meanwhile, renovation of buildings has not been effective and oil heating continues to be too widespread.

The report recommends that the level of ambition of carbon budgets should be increased and defined in law. Furthermore, policy measures should be extended to the international sphere, including a carbon neutrality objective for international transport and a strategy for reducing the global carbon footprint, including manufacturing emissions of imported goods. Since France already relies to a great extent on low-emissions nuclear energy, emission cuts will have to be made through changes in consumption.

Corinne Le Quéré, chair of the High Council, stated that the climate crisis cannot be left to an environment ministry alone to handle “on the periphery of public policies”. Instead, it must be a national priority and central policy for all public and private actors.

In the meantime, France and Europe experienced two record heatwaves in June and July this summer. The highest temperature in the history of France, 45.9 degrees Celsius, was hit on June 28, close to Montpellier in the south of the country. Local records were beaten elsewhere, including 42.6 degrees Celsius in Paris. A European study linked the heatwaves to man-made global warming. By late September, a great part of the country had suffered from weeks or even months of drought, which has been a hard blow on the important agricultural sector.

September saw heightened climate action across the country in connection with the UN Climate Action Summit in New York on September 23. At the start of the school year in early September, the parent federation FCPE, Greenpeace, and the French Vegetarian Association AVF reminded local governments that as of November 1, 2019, school canteens will be legally obliged to offer students at least one vegetarian meal option per week. On September 17, a group of high-profile university and student representatives published an appeal for climate action in higher education in the national daily Le Monde. On September 20-21, climate marches took place in several French cities as part of the global movement. In Paris, the demonstration gathered an estimated 15,000 participants, but was disrupted by violent confrontations between the police and yellow vest and black bloc protesters, who had joined in the procession.

Activity Rating: * Falling Behind

Having reduced its CO₂ emissions by 1.1% in 2015-2018, France has not reached its goal of a 2% emissions reduction. The climate advisory council warns that at the current rate,

France will not reach either its short-term goals or its long-term goal of carbon neutrality by 2050.

Action Alert Message:

Write to the President of France, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, and Ministers for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, Ms. Élisabeth Borne, Ms. Brune Poirson and Ms. Emmanuelle Wargon:

Dear Mr. President, Dear Ms. Ministers,

Although France has set ambitious climate objectives, the June 2019 report by the Haut conseil pour le climat indicates that the policy measures taken so far are insufficient to reach either the short-term carbon budgets or the long-term goal of France reaching carbon neutrality by 2050. The report shows that least results and greatest problems are found in the transport and building sectors. We implore that your Government rapidly take the necessary measures to reduce emissions especially in the above-mentioned two sectors, while ensuring that the measures are socially and geographically fair and sustainable.

*With our respectful and best regards,
[sign name]*

Send Action Alert Message to:

Mr. Emmanuel Macron

Website: <http://www.elysee.fr/ecrire-au-president-de-la-republique/>

Ms. Élisabeth Borne

Email: elisabeth.borne@ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr

Ms. Brune Poirson

Email: brune.poirson@ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr

Ms. Emmanuelle Wargon

Email: emmanuelle.wargon@ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard France Co-Country Manager Anna Savolainen

Germany

Spotlight Activity Report: New Climate Protection Plan Fails to Address Implementation Issues

Spotlight Activity Report:

After failing the initially set targets for 2020 of reducing greenhouse gas emissions below 40% of the level in 1990, and with continuing demand from the public, the German government has decided to establish a climate commission and agree on a new climate protection program containing 66 activities to reach even higher targets for 2030.

Throughout September, multiple meetings, workshops, and conferences took place to release the new “*Klimaschutzprogramm 2030*” on Friday September 20, 2019. This release coincided with the global Fridays for Future demonstration, in addition to the UN Climate Conference in New York, and was thereby an important event for the nation. The main content of the new climate plan focuses on four primary areas: 1) The introduction of a set carbon tax, 2) Reduction of energy costs for citizens and the economy, 3) Regulations for the individual sectors (including housing, transport, agriculture and industry), and 4) Promotion and funding for science and innovation.

1) The introduction of a carbon tax

The first carbon price will be introduced and endorsed by 2021 with an initial price of 10€/ton and an increase to 35€/ton by 2025. This would be the equivalent to an increase of 3 cents per ton for every liter of petrol. Experts from the science community, in addition to other parties such as the Green Party, have criticized the proposed price as being too low to have a serious impact on the market. Adam Edenhofer from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Science had, prior to the release, advised a first set price of at LEAST 50€/ton in 2021. From 2026 onwards the carbon price will vary in between 35-60€/ton based on climate certificates that are being traded each year.

2) The reduction of energy costs for citizens and the economy

Multiple energy subsidies will be given by the central government to reduce the pressure of the individual citizen and the economy. For instance, due to the introduced carbon tax, the government promises to reduce the price for the *EEG-Umlage* (the amount, every citizen currently has to pay for the difference that arises from the production of electricity from renewable energy). Furthermore, people driving daily to work (more than 21 km) will be subsidized until 2026.

3) Regulations for Individual Sectors

The individual sectors are housing, transport, agriculture, industry, energy economy, and waste management. For the transport sector alone, 15 activities were agreed upon. For instance, the government guarantees to invest in public transport by reducing prices, electrifying buses, and extending the rural public transport infrastructure. Furthermore, they will provide an immediate increased amount to the *Deutsche Bahn* (German Train corporation) to extend the railway network and allow more train traffic to take place. On the other hand, to provide a better infrastructure for electric vehicles, the central government has promised 1 million new public charging stations in addition to subsidies to people who wish to purchase an electric vehicle. Other measures that were proposed are the increase of taxes on particularly inland flights, in addition to the immediate development of a strategy for the expansion of renewable and more sustainable water- and freight traffic opportunities.

Activities from other sectors include increased conservation for wetlands and peatland, reforestation activities, and promotion for energy conserving industries.

4) Promotion of Funding for Science

This section guarantees funding opportunities for individual climate-related topics, such as green IT, innovative geoengineering ideas to capture and store CO₂ and investments into hydrogen-based research.

Activity Rating: *Falling Behind

We are at the end of 2019 and Germany has failed to meet its agreed 2020 targets by miles and the climate crisis is getting worse and worse every year. With its new climate protection program for 2030, Germany has failed its opportunity to enforce concrete measures to reach these ambitious goals. The proposed CO₂ tax of 10€/ton will not lead to any changes in the transport sector. Even private leaders such as Karl Hauesgen, the Director of Hawe Hydraulics, said on television that he would have put an immediate carbon price of 110€/ton to force and encourage particular industries to invest in alternative energy measures. More attention should have been given to education and behavior changes of citizens.

Action Alert Message:

This message goes to the scientific institutes and the climate commission.

*The scientific community is asked to raise its voice and speak out louder and activate civilians and industries to demand a higher initial carbon price. The Climate Commission is asked to revisit the proposed 'Climate Programme 2030' and include concrete and immediate measures to encourage behavior change across civilians, industries, and regional governments and prepare them for a long-term sustainable lifestyle. An immediate activity could, for instance, be an (affordable) annual public transport ticket for each region. Another activity could be the obligation to color **ALL** cycle paths in a red color to guarantee more secure options for cyclists. In the agriculture sector immediate subsidies and funding opportunities should be given to farmers who focus on organic farming. Finally, sustainability and climate awareness should become part of the general curriculum in education facilities.*

Contacts:

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Mercator Research Institute for Global Commissions and Climate Change

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Mobil Telefon: +49 171 1964449

Sarah Messina (Press- and Public Relations)
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Telegraphenberg A31
14473 Potsdam
Telefon: +49 (0)331 288 25 44

E-Mail: [messina\(at\)pik-potsdam.de](mailto:messina@pik-potsdam.de)

Dr. Anja Weisgerber (Member of the German Climate Commission)
Platz der Republik 1
11011 Berlin
anja.weisgerber@bundestag.de
Phone: 030/227-79344

More information:

PDF of the Climate Protection Programme 2030 from the German government (German):

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/975202/1673502/768b67ba939c098c994b71c0b7d6e636/2019-09-20-klimaschutzprogramm-data.pdf?download=1>

Article on climate protection plan by journalism for the energy transition in Germany:
<https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/germanys-2030-climate-action-package>

Article on TV-debate in Germany on the new climate protection plan 26. September 2019:
<https://www.welt.de/vermischtes/article201039282/Maybrit-Ilner-Im-Panikmodus-kan-n-man-das-Thema-Klimaschutz-nicht-besprechen.html>

PDF of scientific paper on 'options for a CO₂ tax in Germany:
https://www.mcc-berlin.net/fileadmin/data/B2.3_Publications/Working%20Paper/2019_MCC_Optionen_f%C3%BCr_eine_CO2-Preisreform_final.pdf

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Germany Country Manager Berit Mohr

India

Spotlight Activity Report: India Supports Its Commitment to a Below 2 Degrees Paris Agreement Pledge with a Range of Programs

The Indian Government is one of the signatories to both the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, committing itself to stay below 2 degrees Celsius by a slew of initiated measures through public policies, lifestyle changes, and sectoral transformations. The Indian Prime Minister's recent address during the Climate Summit in September indicated his country's continued commitment to stay the course through a set of action plans that takes the country's climate agenda further, notwithstanding its domestic challenges and lack of corresponding financing by the West.

The three specific developments that occurred in India over the last three months related to Indian climate change policy are outlined below.

1) New Public Policy on Electric Vehicles

Power ministry issues revised norms for Electric Vehicles (EV) charging infra to boost e-mobility

To promote EVs, the Indian government approved amendments in guidelines and specifications for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. These revised guidelines and specifications shall supersede the earlier guidelines and standards issued by the Ministry of Power on December 14, 2018.

To address the range of issues of EV owners, a phased installation of a network of charging infrastructure throughout the country has been planned to ensure that at least one charging station should be available in a grid of 3 km X 3 km in the cities and one charging station at every 25 km on both sides of highways and roads.

It has also been envisaged that in the first phase (i.e. 1-3 years), all existing expressways connected to mega cities (with a population of over four million as per Census 2011) and important highways connected to mega cities may be taken up for coverage, while in the second phase (3-5 years), big cities such as state capitals and Union territory (UT) headquarters may be covered for distributed and demonstrative effect.

To address the concerns in inter-city travel and long range and/or heavy duty EVs such as buses and trucks, it has been stated that fast-charging stations shall be installed at every 100 km on each side of the highways and roads.

(<https://beeindia.gov.in/content/e-mobility>)

Introduction of a new set of guidelines to provide charging infrastructure for electric vehicles portends well both as an incentive for new entrants in this market and also for people willing and open to buy e-vehicles.

Activity Rating: ** Moving Ahead**

Action Alert Message:

The Indian government has taken up the issue of electric vehicles in order to reduce CO₂ emissions and clean up the air, environment and city skyline, those desirous of knowing more about the future plans and ascertain further pathways can contact the following official:

Contact

Mr. R.K Singh

Minister of State for Power (Independent Charge)

Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi.

Twitter : @RajSinghIndia

Telephones: +91-11-23717474, 23710411, 23710065

2) Extreme Weather Events

Indian Rivers Crossed Highest Flood Levels in India

Climate change has impacted India severely. Extreme rainfall events and widespread floods have increased manifold over the last several decades.

States like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Gujarat received 36, 30, 22, and 31% more rainfall than normal between June 1 and September 18, 2019. This is the highest among the big states of India.

Moreover, a rise in average global temperatures led to a worrying trend of no rain for long periods and then a sudden bout of excessive rainfall causing extreme weather events, particularly floods. Such floods take lives, destroy homes, and agricultural yields as well as result in huge revenue losses.

Kerala was reeling under a seasonal rainfall deficit of 27% until August 7. But between August 1 and 7, Kerala saw a 22% excess rainfall and then on August 8 it received 368% more rainfall than normal, which led to floods, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) records.

By August 13, the incessant rainfall in the state reduced the seasonal deficit to 3%. The floods ended up killing more than 100 people and displacing 1.9 lakh.

Floods are also a result of gross mismanagement of dams and lack of coordination between states.

Activity Rating: ** Standing Still

Action alert message:

Many Indian cities situated by the sea or the riverside are getting more and more vulnerable to floods. Measures are needed to help India better adapt to climate change related weather extremes. The Ministry of Home Affairs can be contacted and asked to put such measures in place.

Contact

Mr. Amit Shah
Union Home Minister
North Block, New Delhi
Twitter: PIBHomeAffairs

3) New Research Studies, Investments, and Findings

Launch of The UNEP Report "*Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment, 2019*

India has so far committed a mammoth \$90 billion investment in the renewable energy sector and is fast emerging as a leading investor for green energy projects, according to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

A new UNEP Report "Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2019" highlights a ranking of countries, including India, based on their renewable energy investments between 2010 and the first half of 2019. The report also points at the capital costs attributed to some of the largest projects financed in 2018 to highlight the highly competitive nature of the Indian solar market. This included the NLC Tangedco photovoltaic (PV) plant and Adani Karnataka portfolio.

The report also noted that auctions in 2017 and 2018 delivered highly competitive tariffs for wind projects in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, and the commissioning of these from 2019 onward is expected to expand the market to 5-6 GW annually. India is starting to develop an offshore wind market, with the government eyeing up to 1 GW of projects along the coast of Gujarat. However, the UNEP study pointed out investors are waiting for more clarity on the power offtake mechanism, the amount of subsidy, and the conditions for site permissions.

The finding of the UNEP Report shows that the Indian government, private sector, and financial and banking sector need to coordinate and synchronize to take effective measures to transition towards renewable energy for a climate clean up exercise. If India wants to achieve a safe and sustainable future, it needs to do a lot more now in terms of creating an enabling-regulatory environment and infrastructure that encourage investment in renewable

Activity Rating: * Right Direction**

Action alert message:

In order to address issues brought out by international reports and/or multilateral involvements in such cases, the following person can be accessed for any clarifications as may be needed.

Contact

Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman

NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg, New Delhi

Telephones: +91-11- 23096677 23096688

Email: vch-niti@gov.in

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard India Country Manager Pooran Chandra Pandey

Indonesia

Spotlight Activity: Indonesia Has Its Own Burning Amazon

Indonesia has its own forest burning, like Brazil, and these fires are also the result of agriculture.

The production of palm oil requires the clearing of biodiverse forests and mangroves. These forests have contributed large amount of dead plant material over the millennia which accumulates as carbon rich soil, called peatland. These forests will only accumulate carbon in peat when the soil is wet. Clearing forests and draining for agriculture causes these peatlands to catch fire during the summer if they are exposed. Agriculture, particularly palm oil, is the cause of the 2019 haze. Indonesian peatlands can be up to 20 meters deep. Indonesia's peatlands contain an estimated 55 gigatons of carbon, or about 27 years of total Indonesian carbon emissions. Half of Indonesia's peatlands are degraded. In 2015 alone, 1 gigaton of carbon was released from peatland fires. The summer of 2019 may have similar disastrous emissions because it was dry.

In May, the start of the dry season, there was no rainfall in some areas. Some of this is attributable to the El Nino event, which decreases rainfall from warmer ocean surface temperatures. However, climate change exacerbates these natural processes. July was the hottest month on record globally. There have been 74,000 fires across Indonesia as of September 16, 2019. 5,086 hotspots have been identified since September 19th. The fires have caused transboundary haze, resulting in dangerous PSI (pollutant standard index) levels in all of Singapore. The PSI levels are even higher for Indonesians in areas with these fires; Sumatra, Riau, and Kalimantan in particular. In 2015, the haze from fires caused 140,000 cases of respiratory illness in Indonesia. These fires appear to be the worst since 2015. 800,000 acres have burned, mostly in and around palm oil plantations. These fires are often caused by land clearing and intentional burning.

Activity Rating: * Falling Behind

Indonesia must improve forest and land laws that protect carbon stocks. Indonesia has a vast policy suite to prevent land fires, punish those responsible, and improve degraded land. They are just not at a scale that can match global climate processes, such as El Nino years, prolonged droughts, and global temperature rises.

Key efforts that must be ramped up include:

1. The Peatland Restoration Agency (Badan Restorasi Gambut, BRG): BRG must re-wet and restore land more quickly. BRG must push companies to provide restoration plans.

2. The moratorium on land clearing in conservation forest and peatland must be extended to secondary forests and enforced more effectively. The Ministry of Forestry and Environment should revoke licenses for those who violate.
3. Mandatory reports on forest fire controls: only 22% of forestry business permit holders submitted forest fire control reports. Even fewer companies have provided restoration plans for their degraded peatland.
4. 200 companies have been identified as responsible for starting fires, though Indonesian authorities have only committed to action against 30. Punishment for forestry and land violations must be taken more seriously, especially among corporate violators. The government itself even estimates that 80% of the fires were deliberately set. The government audit agency could do more to investigate these companies and determine which breach regulations.
5. Firefighters are ill-equipped to handle land fires. Many of the firefighters are local volunteers. Indonesia must beef up efforts, train responders, and provide more resources to responders.

Action Alert Message:

Climate Scorecard has provided the contact information to the agencies responsible for each of the policies and programs listed above. Reach out to this list of organizations and explain why they have a crucial role in preventing these fires.

Contact

1. Peatland Restoration Agency (BRG): <https://brg.go.id/kontak-kami-2/> and admin@brg.go.id 021 319 012608
2. Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK): pusdatin@menlhk.go.id (021)-5730191
3. Contact RSPO companies and ask them to develop a restoration plan: <https://rspo.org/certification/search-for-certified-growers> Reach out to non-RSPO companies to join RSPO.
4. Indonesian National Audit Agency (BPK): ksbhumas@bpk.go.id (021) 25549000 ext. 3912
5. Indonesia National Board for Disaster Management (BNBP): pusdalops@bnpb.go.id and andcontact@bnpb.go.id (021) 29618775

For more information contact Climate Scorecard Indonesia Country Manager Tristan Grupp: Tristan@climatescorecard.org

Mexico

Spotlight Activity Report: Mexico Harmed by Extreme Weather Events

Mexico is especially vulnerable to climate change and weather events due to its location between two oceans. In addition, its social and economic conditions increase the population's vulnerability as they lack proper preparation to face the impacts of extreme weather events.

It is estimated that around 1,385 municipalities in Mexico are vulnerable to extreme weather events including floods, landslides, agricultural droughts, and heat waves, and that at least 68% of the population has been affected by natural disasters. (INECC)

According to the International Disaster Database, Mexico has registered 259 natural disasters from 1900 to 2017, from which 80% were related to hydrometeorological phenomena, with impacts that include 11,350 lost lives, 16 million people affected, and costs of around 38,000 million dollars.

One of the main hydrometeorological phenomena Mexico is vulnerable to is hurricanes. According to the National Institute of Climate Change and Ecology (INECC), around 25 hurricanes are generated annually near the Mexican coasts and 4 or 5 can enter the territory, causing serious damages. Not all states in Mexico have the same vulnerability as it varies according to location and socio-economic situation. However, 17 of the 32 Mexican states are highly exposed to hydrometeorological phenomena, the 5 most exposed being Colima, Veracruz, Tamaulipas, Baja California, and Baja California Sur. A recent example of this is hurricane *Lorena*, formed in the Pacific Ocean on September 17, which has had unpredictable behavior keeping several of the exposed States in constant alert. The impacts of *Lorena* were enhanced by the presence of the tropical storm *Mario*, also formed in the Pacific Ocean.

Lorena is mainly affecting the west coast of Mexico with some of the affected states being amongst the 5 most vulnerable: Baja California, Baja California Sur, and Colima. These states have experienced impacts like floods, power and communications cuts, and damages to residential and strategic infrastructure. Local authorities are still applying security protocols to prevent further risks.

Mexico is also struggling with another extreme weather event caused by climate change and deforestation: droughts. According to the National Program Against Droughts, around 106 municipalities in Mexico are vulnerable to droughts and 8 of these are highly vulnerable. Droughts not only affect productivity and land use potential, but if uncontrolled, they can lead to other disasters, such as fires. An example of this is the burning of the Biosphere Reserve "Sian Ka'an" in Quintana Roo, declared UNESCO Human Heritage in 1987. The reserve is essential for ecological balance, contains 9 ecosystems and has 120 km of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System. The fires damaged 2,500 hectares and drought has strengthened its impact. Indeed, the Director of the "Amigos of Sian Ka'an" Foundation declared that most of the time, fires are caused by human activity and that drought increases the risk of them getting out of control.

Activity Rating: ** Standing Still

Mexico has strong climate adaptation goals, established in its Paris Agreement NDC. These include 1) Social adaptation through the conservation of biodiversity, increasing funds for prevention, and relocation of houses that are in high risk places; 2) Ecosystem-based adaptation, which includes ecosystem conservation and restoration; 3) Adaptation of strategic infrastructure, with the objective of ensuring the security of strategic infrastructure, communications, and transport in the case where natural disasters or hydrometeorological phenomena occur.

However, the country has to accelerate these actions and implement further early warning systems. Many people still live in high risk zones and are highly exposed. Forests are not effectively conserved or restored, there are still many weather events, like fires, caused by human activity and infrastructure. These tend to take place in regions that also experience loss of communication and power cuts during extreme weather events, compromising peoples' security.

Action Alert Message:

Mexico needs to strengthen its adaptation strategies and boost actions to ensure peoples' and ecosystems' security. There must be a stronger synchronization between environmental institutions and relevant government stakeholders like Civil Protection, Public Security, Health, etc. The National Adaptation Strategy must be finished and ought to contain the right strategies and actions for an effective climate action and strengthening of peoples' and ecosystems' resilience.

Contact information:

Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources- Victor Manuel Toledo
Emails: atencion.ciudadana@semarnat.gob.mx
Website: <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat>

National Commission for Protected Natural Areas- Alejandro del Mazo Maza
Email: gobmx@funcionpublica.gob.mx
Website: <https://www.gob.mx/conanp>

Learn more:

Climate Change Special Program 2014-2018:
http://www.semarnat.gob.mx/sites/default/files/documentos/transparencia/programa_especial_de_cambio_climatico_2014-2018.pdf
National Vulnerability to Climate Change Atlas:
<https://www.gob.mx/inecc/acciones-y-programas/atlas-nacional-de-vulnerabilidad-ante-el-cambio-climatico-anvcc-80137>
Mexico's National Determined Contribution":
https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/162974/2015_indc_esp.pdf?

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Mexico Country Managers Aline Nolasco Escalona and Valeria Lopez-Portillo

Nigeria

Spotlight Activity Report: President Issues Climate Change Action Plan; Expansion of Green Bonds Program; Stakeholder Capacity Building Efforts

1) President Issues Climate Change Action Plan: President Muhammadu Buhari's action plan for tackling climate change, laid out at the United Nations sponsored Climate Change Summit, is intended to foster foster low-carbon, high growth economic development path and build a climate resilient Nigeria. However, the plan is lacking in implementation details.

2) Government Plans Expansion of its Green Bonds Program: Nigeria plans to develop a more robust sectoral action plan, expanding the scope of sovereign Green Bonds in line with upward review of its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) made under the Paris Agreement. This embodies the country's efforts to reduce emissions and to adapt to the effects of climate change to include the water and waste sector by 2020. If fully implemented, these efforts will pave the way for a low carbon economy and result in about 50% reduction in emissions. At the same time, the economy will grow at an average annual rate of 5% by 2030. This represents an important milestone in tackling the challenges of climate change.

The signing of Green Bonds MoU by the Nigerian Stock Exchange occurred at the annual meeting of the World Federation of Exchanges in Singapore on Wednesday, October 9, 2019. The Nigerian Green bond market received international recognition following the issuance and listing of the ₦10.69bn Federal Government sovereign green bond in December 2017.

The MoU established an agreement for the Nigeria and Singapore stock exchanges to collaborate on sharing best practices and organizing joint initiatives in their respective markets. In a statement in Lagos, the NSE was quoted as saying that the partnership reinforced its drive to foster the growth of sustainable finance in Nigeria. (Environews)

Over the past several months Nigeria has undertaken several important stakeholder engagement and capacity-building events including:

1) Nigeria Youth Roundtable on Climate Action: The pressing need to engage Nigerian youth creativity by partnership is essential in meeting the country's climate change goals.

The Nigeria Youth Roundtable on Climate Action held in June was an important milestone in engaging Nigerian youth.

2) Ministry Hosts Meeting of Environmental Activists: Recently the Honorable Minister of State, Ministry of Environment, Sharon Ikeazu, also hosted youth activists in Civil Societies (CSOs) to show the readiness of Nigerian government to listen to youth views about climate change. (Environews.org)

3) A five-day capacity building workshop for National Reporting on the GHGs Inventory and Mitigation was held in Abuja from August 19 to 23, 2019. Internet of Things (IoT) is expected to support the smart sustainable city vision, aiming at the seamless integration of advanced ICTs in support of urban services. Smart sustainable cities supported by IoT, are seen as an ideal arrangement for providing solutions to climate change by reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and improving the quality of life (QoL).

4) World Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation: The “3rd World Symposium on Climate Change Adaptation” event held in September 2019 was a joint initiative by the Federal University of Technology in Akure, Nigeria, Manchester Metropolitan University (UK), and the Research and Transfer Centre “Sustainable Development and Climate Change Management” of the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (Germany), in cooperation with the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP). The event focused on “climate change adaptation to address poverty and ensure sustainable livelihoods” and made progress of this rapidly expanding field. (Africa news.space)

Activity Rating: *** Right Direction

Nigeria has several national level climate change plans but little or nothing is being put in place to help homes and communities implement these plans. An effective monitoring and evaluation system to assess the effectiveness of climate change policies is greatly needed.

Action Alert Message:

Write to **Mrs. Sharon Ikeazor** and **Dr. Yerimah Peter Tarfa**

Dear Madam/Sir,

Your effort so far is commendable. We are asking for a workable and sustainable climate change implementation plan that has clear goals and a system for assessing the ability of Nigeria to meet these goals. Thank you.

Contact:

The Honorable Minister of State for Environment,
The Federal Ministry Of Environment Headquarters
(After Federal Ministry Of Power Works & Housing)

The General Director,
Department of Climate Change;
Ministry of Environment,
Mabushi,
Abuja
e-mail:petertarfar@hotmail.com

Learn More:

<https://www.ndcs.undp.org/content/ndc-support-programme/en/home/our-work/geographic/africa/nigeria.html>

<https://www.dailytrust.com.ng/nigeria-must-lead-on-climate-change.html>

<http://climatechange.gov.ng/nationally-determined-contribution-ndc-implementation/>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Nigeria Country Manager Priscilla Offiong

Russia

Spotlight Activity Report: Russia Ratifies Paris Agreement While Extreme Weather Events Occur in Siberia

Inside Climate News reports that the world's fourth largest emitter, Russia, has formally adopted the Paris Agreement, drawing an end to months of national tensions on the subject. "The Russian Federation has accepted the Paris Agreement and is becoming a full-fledged participant of this international instrument," Ruslan Edelgeriev, the president's climate advisor, told the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York, before proceeding to list the country's climate contributions.

Whereas he had previously intended to submit the decision to parliament, months of opposition from industry lobbyists and deputies have swayed president Putin to bypass the chamber and endorse the pact via a government accord. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed the government decree in the day.

However, the country's climate pledge is notoriously weak, with Climate Action Tracker labelling it as "critically insufficient".

Russia has declared a state of emergency in five Siberian regions after wildfires engulfed an area of forest almost the size of Belgium amid record high temperatures as a result of climate change.

Officials said 2.7 million hectares of forest (about 10,400 square miles) were ablaze on Tuesday as soaring temperatures, lightning storms and strong winds combined, sending smoke hundreds of miles to reach some of Russia's biggest regional cities.

The fires, which began earlier this month, and the Russian government's lackluster response have raised concerns over Moscow's commitment to addressing climate change. The country relies heavily on the oil and gas industry and has a poor record of enforcing green initiatives.

The decision to declare states of emergency on Wednesday came after two petitions attracted more than 1 million signatures demanding the government take action against the wildfires, which authorities previously dismissed as a natural occurrence, saying putting them out was not economically viable.

"The role of fires [in climate change] is underestimated. Most of the fires are man-made," Grigory Kuksin, head of the fire protection department at Greenpeace Russia, told the Financial Times. "Given the changing climate, this has led to the fire acreage expanding quickly, and the smoke spreading wider."

Activity Rating: * Falling Behind

Russia's tardiness in ratifying the Paris Agreement and its weak pledge are shameful, especially given its status as one of the world's largest emitters of CO₂.

Action Alert Message:

Dear Minister of Economic Development of the Russian Federation, Oreshkin Maxim Stanislavovich

We applaud that Russia has finally ratified the Paris Agreement. Now it is incumbent on your country, as one of the world's largest greenhouse gas emitters, to strengthen your Paris Agreement pledge by 2020; and make your pledge compliant with the current 1.5 degrees Celsius global warming tipping point.

Contact

Oreshkin Maxim Stanislavovich

Phone: +7 945 870 86 39

Address: 1,3 1-ya Tverskaya-Yamskaya, Moscow

Learn More

Climate Home News September 23, 2019

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Director Ron C Israel

Saudi Arabia

Spotlight Activity Report: IPCC Report blocked by Saudi Arabia

At UN talks in Bonn this last June, a small group of countries, including Saudi Arabia, blocked the new IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report from being included in negotiations to chart out a path forward of reducing global carbon emissions. The small group of countries undermined the report by discrediting its scientific validity. The new IPCC report outlined the dangers of reaching a point where global warming exceeds 2 degrees Celsius, and recommended that countries should do their best to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. Because of the block, countries could not agree on a path forward to further reduce carbon emissions. Many countries, such as Costa Rica and Ethiopia, voiced their disappointment at the report being blocked, explaining that the science was clear and cannot be negotiated with. Being one of the top carbon-emitting countries in the world, this seriously hampers the ability of Saudi Arabia to participate in the global movement to reduce carbon emissions per the 2015 Paris Climate agreement.

Activity Rating: * Falling Behind

Saudi Arabia's move, along with other countries, to block the recent IPCC publication on the dangers of global warming above 2 degrees Celsius is unfortunate and hinders the utilization of the IPCC report scientific findings to further the efforts to reduce carbon emissions and limit global warming to 1.5 degrees. This also casts doubts on the Kingdom's leadership to participate in the global movement to reduce carbon emissions per the 2015 Paris Climate agreement.

Action Alert Message:

We recommend that the Ministry of Energy reverse course on discrediting the scientific validity of the IPCC report and follow in the steps of other developed countries that have welcomed the report's findings. This step will strengthen the global community's efforts to forge a path forward to further reduce carbon emissions. Saudi Arabia is in the position to spearhead the global movement to reduce carbon emissions in accordance with the 2015 Paris Climate agreement.

Contact:

Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman
Minister of Energy
webmaster@meim.gov.sa

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Saudi Arabia Country Managers Abeer Abdulkareem and Amgad Ellaboudy: Contact Abeer@climatescorecard.org or Amgad@climatescorecard.org

Saudi Arabia (Arabic)

تم حظر تقرير الهيئة الحكومية الدولية المعنية بتغير المناخ من قبل المملكة العربية السعودية

في محادثات الأمم المتحدة في بون في يونيو الماضي ، قامت مجموعة صغيرة من الدول ، بما في ذلك المملكة العربية السعودية ، بمنع تقرير الجديد للهيئة الحكومية الدولية المعنية بتغير المناخ من المشاركة في المفاوضات لرسم طريق للمضي قدمًا في خفض انبعاثات الكربون العالمية. قوضت مجموعة صغيرة من الدول التقرير من خلال تشويه صحته العلمية. أوضح التقرير الجديد للهيئة الحكومية الدولية الجديدة المعنية بتغير المناخ مخاطر الوصول إلى نقطة تجاوز فيها الاحترار العالمي درجتين مؤبقتين ، وأوصى الدول بأن تبذل قصارى جهدها للحد من ظاهرة الاحتباس الحراري إلى 1.5 درجة. بسبب السد ، لم تتمكن البلدان من الاتفاق على طريق للأمام لزيادة خفض انبعاثات الكربون. عبرت العديد من الدول ، مثل كوستاريكا وإثيوبيا ، عن خيبة أملها إزاء حظر التقرير ، موضحة أن العلم كان واضحًا ولا يمكن التفاوض معه نظرًا لكونها واحدة من أكثر الدول التي تنبعث منها الكربون في العالم ، فإن هذا يعوق بشكل خطير قدرة المملكة العربية السعودية على المشاركة في الحركة العالمية لخفض انبعاثات الكربون وفقًا لاتفاقية باريس للمناخ لعام 2015

*تقييم النشاط

أن تحرك المملكة العربية السعودية مع دول أخرى لمنع النشرة الأخيرة للهيئة الحكومية الدولية المعنية بتغير المناخ حول مخاطر الاحتباس الحراري فوق 2 درجة مئوية هو أمر مؤسف ويعرقل من الاستفادة من الاكتشافات العلمية لتقرير الهيئة الحكومية الدولية المعنية بتغير المناخ لزيادة الجهود للحد من انبعاثات الكربون وتقليل الاحتباس الحراري إلى 1.5 درجة مئوية. وهذا يؤثر الشكوك حول قيادة السعودية في المشاركة في الحملة العالمية للحد من انبعاثات الكربون حسب اتفاق باريس للمناخ لعام 2015.

تنبيه العمل، المملكة العربية السعودية

نوصي وزارة الطاقة بتغيير مسارها حول التشكيك بالمصادقية العلمية لتقرير الهيئة الحكومية الدولية المعنية بتغير المناخ واتباع خطوات الدول المتقدمة الأخرى التي رحبت بنتائج التقرير. وهذه الخطوة ستعزز من جهود المجتمع الدولي لإيجاد مسار إلى الأمام لزيادة الحد من انبعاثات الكربون. والمملكة العربية السعودية في موقع يمكنها من قيادة الحملة العالمية للحد من انبعاثات الكربون وفقًا لاتفاق باريس للمناخ لعام 2015.

إرسال رسالة تنبيه العمل إلى:

الأمير عبد العزيز بن سلمان
وزير الطاقة

webmaster@meim.gov.sa

هذا التقرير قدمه المدراء القطريون في (Climate Scorecard) / المملكة العربية السعودية عبر عبد الكريم وأمجد اللبودي
اتصل ب:

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South Africa

Spotlight Activity: South Africa Moves Forward with Climate Change Mitigation Policies and Plans

Honourable President Cyril Ramaphosa sent a statement to United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres regarding the country's plans and commitments of climate change on September 23, 2019. In his statement, he said that "like all countries of the world, we recognize the urgency with which we must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and move towards a carbon-neutral future". However, with more countries transitioning away from coal to renewable energy, South Africa still lacks vision and urgency on climate change impacts.

"In fact, the recent IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C has identified Southern Africa as a climate change hotspot. Our region is likely to become drier and drastically warmer even under 1.5 or 2°C of global warming," said the President. "It is therefore crucial for our country to enhance the ambition of our Nationally Determined Contributions and communicate long-term low emissions development plans to put South Africa on a path to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement."

"South Africa's National Development Plan 2030 identifies poverty, inequality and unemployment as our most serious national development challenges. Overcoming these triple challenges fundamentally informs our approach to addressing climate change," he noted.

Undoubtedly, there are massive challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality in South Africa, but the solution does not lie in the further promotion of coal, gas, and nuclear energy, which will only increase inequality while enriching a few. A vast national rollout of renewable energy is needed, not only at a large scale, but at a local and decentralised micro-grid level, which can be implemented everywhere, placing power in the hands of the people and bringing with it massive clean industrial development and job creation regionally. During the past few years South Africa has experienced devastating weather events and various regions of our country faced their worst drought in decades. The impact was felt most severely by the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of our society. Cape Town suffered from drought from 2015 to 2017, which brought the city to the verge of an unprecedented water crisis.

Activity Rating: *** Moving Forward

There are several climate change policies and plans in place in South Africa. As mentioned in the President's statement, South Africa has already done much to address the challenge of climate change. A Carbon Tax was introduced and voluntary carbon budgets systems have been implemented for large emitters. REIPPP was also introduced and so far has

procured 6 422 Megawatts. However, a better commitment to renewable energy is required for our country to move forward in a sustainable long-term solution.

Action Alert Message:

Dear Honourable President Cyril Ramaphosa,

Mr. President, we are happy with the statement given to United Nations secretary-general Antonio Guterres regarding country's plans and commitments of climate change. It is vital to meet the commitments made to United Nations secretary-general for our country to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

We urge you to establish a vast national rollout of renewable energy, not only at a large scale, but at a local and decentralised micro-grid level, which can be implemented everywhere, placing power in the hands of the people and bringing with it massive clean industrial development and job creation regionally.

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0001

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Tel: +27 (0)12 300 5200

Learn more

See an overview "Statement by H.E. President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit, 23 September 2019", <http://www.dirco.gov.za/docs/speeches/2019/cram0923.htm>

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard South Africa Country Manager Tabana Mailula

Spain

Spotlight Activity Report: Spain Contains Extreme Weather

Apart from the sweltering summer heatwaves, Spain has also experienced a different but equally serious threat to the environment: fires in the Canary Islands. During August, two separate large fires caused evacuations of close to 10,000 people and over 12,000 hectares burned. The fire threatened multiple natural parks, home to important regional biodiversity. While Spain is no stranger to summer forest fires, due to its hot, arid climate, scientific consensus has concluded that climate change is, in large part, to blame for this

event. Scientists also conclude that these extreme weather events are expected to increase over time, and at exponential rates.

Other 2019 fires have been monitored closely by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and firefighters have generally been able to keep fires under the 1,000-hectare mark. Even so, with the growing number of fires in a larger number of regions than previously seen in recent history, it has at times been difficult to generate the resources and manpower to fully control and monitor all of these situations at once.

While most Spaniards agree that climate change is an existent and growing threat to the nation, some naysayers continue to fight against the now popular stance. Francisco José Alcaraz, the senator representing the Vox political party, refused to support a recent institutional declaration about the fires, citing ideological language about climate change as his reason to bow out of the joint government statement and from supporting the citizens in need. The Vox party is seen as an ultra-conservative party in Spain, and currently only has one Senate seat, although final seat allotments are to be determined once Pedro Sánchez's coalition government has been settled upon.

Unlike Brazil, whose forest fires have also been in the media throughout August, Spain's commitment to the Paris Agreement remains strong. Although the political outliers of Vox and their representatives have been gaining momentum in the past 5 years, the party remains a very small minority with minimal political support.

Activity Rating: *** Right Direction

Spain is doing a good job of controlling the extreme weather events during August. It is yet to be seen if they will be able to control the forecasted higher quantities of extreme weather events in the future. A lot of Spain's environmental policy success is dependent on political appointments from environmentally-oriented leaders. Non-partisan and private entities should continue to show their support and action against climate change, not only to bolster the current political party but also to inhibit politics from influencing future climate action in predatory ways.

Action Alert Message:

Dear Ms. Salas,

I would like to thank you and your team at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for your hard work during the recent events in the Canary Islands. I wonder if your team has contingency plans in place for the future climate events that not only are bound to happen but are also bound to happen unpredictably? I encourage you to work with non-partisan and private entities to strengthen the Ministry's environmental work and to avoid policy reversal for future governments.

Contact

Directora de Comunicación del Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación,
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Source:

https://www.eldiario.es/canariasahora/sociedad/especialista-incendios-forestales-Gran-Canaria_0_933707167.html

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Spain Country Manager Samantha Pettigrew

(Spanish translation below)

A pesar de la competencia actual del gobierno, los incendios en las Islas Canarias muestran una visión turbia del futuro de España

Además de las sofocantes olas de calor del verano, España también ha pasado por otra amenaza igualmente grave para el medio ambiente: incendios en las Islas Canarias. Durante agosto, dos grandes incendios provocaron evacuaciones de cerca de 10,000 personas y quemaron más de 12,000 hectáreas. El incendio amenazó múltiples parques naturales, hogar de una importante biodiversidad regional. Si bien España no es ajena a los incendios forestales de verano, debido a su clima cálido y árido, el consenso científico ha concluido que el cambio climático es, en gran parte, el culpable de este evento. Los

científicos también concluyen que se espera que estos eventos climáticos extremos aumenten con el tiempo, y a una velocidad exponencial.

Otros incendios de 2019 fueron monitoreados por el Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación, y los bomberos generalmente han podido mantener los incendios por debajo de la marca de 1,000 hectáreas. Aun así, con el creciente número de incendios en un mayor número de regiones de lo que se había visto en la historia reciente, a veces ha sido difícil generar los recursos y la mano de obra para controlar y monitorear todas estas situaciones a la vez.

Si bien la mayoría de los españoles está de acuerdo en que el cambio climático es una amenaza existente y creciente para la nación, algunos detractores continúan luchando contra la postura. Francisco José Alcaraz, senador del partido político Vox, se negó a apoyar una reciente declaración institucional sobre los incendios, citando un lenguaje ideológico sobre el cambio climático como su razón para retirarse de la declaración conjunta del gobierno y en apoyo a los ciudadanos. El partido Vox es visto como un partido ultraconservador en España, y actualmente solo tiene un representante en la Cámara alta el Senado, aunque las asignaciones finales se determinarán una vez que se haya establecido un gobierno de coalición de Pedro Sánchez.

A diferencia de Brasil, cuyos incendios forestales también han estado en los medios durante el mes de agosto, el compromiso de España con el Acuerdo de París sigue siendo fuerte. Aunque los valores atípicos de Vox y sus representantes han estado ganando impulso en los últimos 5 años, el partido sigue siendo una minoría muy pequeña con un apoyo político mínimo.

Calificación de la actividad: Dirección correcta ***

España hizo un buen trabajo al controlar los fenómenos meteorológicos extremos durante agosto. Aún está por verse si podrán controlar las mayores cantidades pronosticadas de eventos climáticos extremos en el futuro. Una gran parte del éxito de la política ambiental de España depende de los nombramientos políticos de los líderes orientados al medio ambiente. Las entidades no partidistas y privadas deben continuar mostrando su apoyo y acción contra el cambio climático, no solo para reforzar el partido político actual sino también para inhibir que la política influya en la acción climática futura de manera predatoria.

Mensaje de alerta de acción e información de contacto:

Estimada Sra. Salas:

Quiero agradecerles a usted y a su equipo del Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación por su arduo trabajo durante los recientes eventos en las Islas Canarias. Me pregunto si su equipo tiene planes de contingencia para los futuros eventos climáticos que no solo sucederán, sino que también sucederán de manera impredecible. Le pido que trabaje con entidades privadas y no partidistas para fortalecer el trabajo ambiental del Ministerio y evitar la reversión de políticas para futuros gobiernos.

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Thailand

Spotlight Activity Report: Fridays for the Future Movement Comes to Thailand

A young climate activist from Thailand named Sanathorn Ratananapoompinyo, also called Joy, was greatly affected by the impacts of climate change in her country. Joy has experienced first-hand the impacts of climate change in Thailand in the form of hotter temperatures in the winter season. According to Joy, who has experienced Thailand's winters from childhood, "the hotter temperatures during the winter are a sign of changing climate as Thailand normally experiences colder winters". In order to address climate change concerns in Thailand, Joy initiated an event called "Fridays for Future" on September 20, 2019. Fridays for the Future is a global movement led by young people concerned about the impact of climate change on their generation.

The "Fridays for Future" Thailand event was held at Siam Discovery in Bangkok. To describe the event, Joy explained "on upcoming Friday, 20th September 2019 there will be a global strike march again. I think it is a good opportunity to do something. Why don't we sit down and have a talk? Where are we now and will we make it by 2030? It would be great if we can express our opinion and express how much we are worried about climate change. The government organizations probably want to tell us about their progress. Both sides will have a better understanding".

This event held a "debate talk between government organizations and citizens about climate change". Talk sessions and open floor question and answer sessions were organized for the event. There was also an interactive exhibition about Climate Change that displayed the "causes of climate change, effects that already happened, effects that are expected to occur in 2050, and how to help prevent climate change". The event also included a visual trash room which displayed to visitors the amount of damage being done.

Different government organizations and government representatives attended the event, such as the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization, The Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning Bangkok Office, Pollution Control Department, and Dr. Suchana Chavanitch, professor of marine science at Chulalongkorn University. Citizens representatives including Greenpeace, Rereef, Trash Hero, Climate Strike Thailand, and Climate Activist Lily from "Grin Green International" also attended the event.

To know more about the event please visit the blog written by Joy at <http://th.boell.org/en/2019/09/16/climate-call-thailand>

Activity Rating: ** Standing Still

The “Fridays for the Future” event, initiated by Joy is a positive step for addressing climate change issues in Thailand. However, more is yet to be done by climate activists and the Thai Government in order to address climate change issues in the country. Joy and other climate activists in Thailand along with the Thai government should jointly facilitate different initiatives like community-based workshops, awareness campaigns, and public exhibitions. These initiatives will provide appropriate strategies for addressing climate change issues.

Action Alert Message:

In order to ensure that climate change issues are properly addressed in Thailand, you can contact the members of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning with the following Action Alert message:

We congratulate the Government of Thailand for its active participation in the “Fridays for Future” event, which was recently organized by Thai Climate Activist Joy. Thai Government’s participation in this event is indeed a positive sign, which indicates that the Government is active in its effort to mitigate climate change in the country. To address climate change issues in Thailand in a systematic manner, more is yet to be done. Here, your role will be crucial. As a prominent member of the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), I request you kindly to consider two recommendations. First, climate activists like Joy and the Thai Government should jointly facilitate different initiatives like community-based workshops, awareness campaigns, and public exhibitions. Second, to address climate change issues in a transparent manner, there should be regular meetings, debates and joint-discussions between the Thai Government, climate activists and the concerned stakeholders.

Contact

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For more information please contact Climate Scorecard Thailand Country Manager Neebir Banerjee: Neebir@climatescorecard.org or neebirban@yahoo.com

Turkey

Spotlight Activity Report: New Study Shows Widespread Concern About the Effects of Climate Change on Turkey's Environment

Due to climate change, natural disasters are expected to occur more frequently and on larger scales. It is inevitable that the economic impact of natural disasters will increase due to population density in high-risk areas. There are serious problems in Turkey due to the high rate of precipitation as a result of climate change.

During the last 3 months, many flood events with death tolls have been recorded in different regions of Turkey. Flood in rural areas damaged agriculture areas and caused the death of animals, while in urban areas underpasses and other substructures became useless. Although the results were experienced in different ways, a common perception is that extreme events will increase due to climate change and the current efforts of government and municipalities is not enough.

According to a new research study, one in every two people in Turkey feel the effects of the climate crisis, while 61% of the community is worried about this situation. At the same time, 71% of Turkey's society thinks that disasters are increasing, and that climate change is the cause. 55% of respondents, who evaluated the climate actions of governments and municipalities, stated that no effort has been made on their behalf.

The study shows that the majority of people in Turkey are worried about the consequences of climate change, and believe that government and non-government actors need to take action. Adaptation strategies need to be developed and implemented immediately.

Activity Rating: ** Standing Still

During the last 3 months, there has been some governmental efforts against Climate Change in Turkey, namely the Minister of Environment and Urbanization announced the Black Sea Climate Change Action Plan and Turkey's Strategic Plan and Sustainable Development Goals. A sustainable development training workshop was held with the

participation of 21 municipalities from different regions. At the end of the workshop a Turkish Sustainable Urban Development Network was established.

However, due to the increased number of natural disasters with death tolls, the government should speed up the process and immediately switch from planning to taking action.

Action Alert Message:

People in Turkey are aware of the consequences of climate change and a high percentage of the population is worried about its impact. Most people feel that not enough has been done by the government to address the problem. Although there have been governmental plans to take climate change action, the impact caused by recent extreme weather and natural disasters show that government needs to do much more. The Turkish government together with non-governmental organizations should speed up the process to adapt and mitigate the effects of Climate Change.

Contact

Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

[Murat Kurum and Mehmet Birpınar](#)

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LEARN MORE: “Climate Change Perceptions in Turkey 2019” a research study written by İklim Haber and published by KONDA.

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Turkey Country Manager Ozlem Duyan

United Kingdom

Spotlight Activity Report: Heat Waves, Widespread Climate Protests, Government Doubles International Finance Budget

The conversation on Climate Change in the UK is changing direction towards more outrage and talks for adaptation. This has arguably been shaped by the heatwave in July that saw a new record for the hottest day ever in the UK with Cambridge University Botanic Gardens observing a temperature of 38.7 degrees Celsius (101.66 Fahrenheit) on the 25th of July.

This may be part of the motivation behind the widespread protests as Climate Strike continued across the country throughout August and September. On September 20, after a global call from Greta Thunberg, thousands abandoned work or school to attend the protests. The escalation saw more protests in cities outside the Capital, such as Glasgow, Manchester, Coventry and York, as opposed to London or Edinburgh. Some of these

protests are accompanied or organized by *Extinction Rebellion*, who have begun staging die-ins where protesters fake their deaths by lying on the floor to capture the real threat that climate change poses.

In response, the UK government announced on the 23rd September at this year's UN General Assembly, that it will double its International Climate Finance budget to meet a target of £11.6 billion over the next 5 years. The increased investments will go to developing countries to reduce Carbon emissions and slow down deforestation. It also includes adaptation measures like installing early-warning systems to flood prone areas or providing drought resistant crops to water scarce areas, and £1 billion will also go towards UK scientists to assist in finding new technological solutions.

Changes over the past three months include a new focus on farming, as farms are not only vulnerable to the effects of climate change but could also represent a major solution. While farmers are beginning to use robots to cut tractor use, plant more trees and keep livestock outside for longer (to reduce the need for soya feed), the National Farmers Union says they don't need to actually cut down on meat production. They argue we can reuse the waste produced to fuel power stations and then offset the emissions. As livestock waste is a huge release of methane, with methane having ten times the effect on greenhouse warming than CO₂, this would be a valuable solution. It may be a strong option as the NFU rejects any major land use change in the UK and the government needs them to cooperate for any serious climate change action in the future. However, the significance of these plans are yet to be seen as there are currently no signs of implantation.

Other solutions that have recently been proposed are to make our forests more resilient to hotter climates by introducing new species of trees and aiding in the survival of woodland creatures as the number of extinctions increases. In addition, the UK bogs will be restored to provide carbon sinks. Alternatively the UK government has recently suggested a nuclear fusion plant by 2040 as part of the net zero targets put in place. However, this has been deemed unrealistic by organizations such as Greenpeace who suggest more money needs to be invested in renewable energies and adaptation efforts.

Activity Rating: ** Moving Ahead**

Action Alert Message:

Dear Mr. Twigg,

I am pleased to hear the budget for Climate Change aid is being increased to help countries overseas. I think it is an excellent opportunity to shape international development towards a green agenda and may be able to encourage green growth. Your proposal highlights the cross-cutting nature of climate change into all other aspects of the economy and is a good model for future parliamentary policy.

However, one concern is that of the climate justice you discuss. How will it be possible for some developing countries to move towards a low carbon economy whilst expanding the national grids and power outlets to remote areas, such as the 800 million poor rural households that inhabit forest areas. It is critical that moving forward the aid budget tries to include these communities in future strategies, as this will also increase their climate resilience. If this can be achieved, I think the UK aid budget will be most effective.

Yours Sincerely,
Name

Contact info:

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*This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard Country Manager: Zara Holden
Contact: zaraholden@hotmail.com*

United States

Spotlight Activity Report: Democratic Candidates Make Climate a Priority

In early September, Democratic presidential primary candidates spoke on a variety of climate issues in the first-ever climate town hall hosted by CNN. The seven hour televised event gave each of the 10 candidates a dedicated time to speak on their policy platforms to combat climate change, and to answer questions posed by audience members and CNN's hosts.

This event marks a major turning point in the 2020 presidential race, turning climate change - ranked a top issue for Democratic voters - into a major responsibility for candidates to approach. The event spurred all of the candidates who hadn't already released climate change policy proposals to compile platforms based on scientific evidence and in-depth policy research. Additionally, giving each candidate a 30-45 minute spotlight to discuss the nuances of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience policies brought the climate conversation in the public eye from a simple discussion of whether climate change is real to a nuanced conversation of topics from energy efficiency policies to environmental justice issues.

All of the candidates engaged with the policy proposal known as the Green New Deal, a comprehensive plan to mobilize all available resources to transform the American economy to a carbon-neutral, sustainable economy, while generating thousands of "green jobs" and promoting environmental justice. Additionally, many weighed in on their positions on carbon pricing, natural disaster response, and public lands issues.

While the Trump Administration continues to deny the need for meaningful climate action and push for the expansion of high-emission coal energy, it is important for nuanced issues combating climate change and promoting resilience to have their time in the national spotlight.

Activity Rating: *** Right Direction

Recent climate-related disasters like wildfires, floods, and hurricanes have made the reality of climate change impossible for many Americans to ignore. Bringing real climate solutions into the national electoral conversation is a major step toward changing the public's perception of federal climate policy and shedding light on practical solutions.

Action Alert Message:

We've seen the climate town hall, now we want an official climate debate. Send a message to the Democratic National Committee calling for an official primary debate focused on climate.

The consequences of climate change are affecting every American - and we need our next President to respond with meaningful, positive climate action. American voters should be informed on the Democratic primary candidates' positions on climate change and the solutions they bring to the table. Bring climate change to the center of the presidential race: Please create an official climate debate.

Contact:

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE
430 South Capitol Street Southeast
Washington, DC 20003

This Post was submitted by Climate Scorecard US Country Manager Stephanie Gagnon