

Feedback by members of the Bond Development and Environment Group (DEG) to the High-Level Champions on How to Improve the Marrakech Partnership for Enhancing Ambition

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further inputs or clarification relating to our comments. Please contact Catherine Pettengell, Bond DEG Coordinator, cpettengell@bond.org.uk

Disclaimer

In response to the formal Invitation to Provide Feedback to The High-Level Champions on How to Improve the Marrakech Partnership for Enhancing Ambition, inputs from members of the UK-based Bond Development and Environment Group (DEG) have been compiled. This feedback represents a collective view from many of the members, but is not an official statement and does not represent the views of Bond or any particular organisation.

Introduction

We very much appreciate this opportunity that the High Level Champions have provided to submit comments on the future of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action. The Marrakech Partnership has played an important role in advancing climate action to date, and initiatives such as this are needed more than ever in the context of a delayed UNFCCC COP26 to ensure that climate action is not put on hold and that the global community 'builds back better' from the Covid-19 emergency in ways that do not 'lock in' the climate emergency.

2020 marks the start of a decade in which we must collectively limit climate change, restore nature, and make our societies more equal and just. Otherwise, we will emerge from this global pandemic locked into a climate emergency, a nature emergency, and a poverty emergency. We will undermine our and future generations' ability to produce food, to have enough water, to remain healthy, and to thrive.

2020 was set to be a landmark year on global action to tackle this triple emergency, with global summits on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 26 to be in Glasgow this November. While these events have rightly been postponed due to the global pandemic, these issues remain urgent and must be at the heart of recovery plans in order for humanity to succeed in our goal to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, halt and reverse the decline of nature, and build the resilient and inclusive future envisioned in the Paris Agreement and the SDGs.

This requires dedicated action and moving beyond words, to really drive transformational action on the ground around the world in the difficult months ahead – and the Marrakech Partnership has an important role to play in that.

Q1. How would you define success of the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership in terms of enhancing ambition in the next 5 years and beyond?

- **Through Inclusivity, Participation, and Relevance:** Success requires an expanded membership of the Marrakech Partnership to more non-state actors from the Global South, especially communities already facing the consequences of climate change impacts and loss and damage (L&D).
- **Driving Action on Adaptation and L&D:** A legacy that ensures adaptation and L&D are integral parts of ambitious actions, and are placed on par with mitigation efforts. This is much needed to ensure a balanced focus across all areas of climate action that are needed, since currently there is a greater focus on mitigation actions and greenhouse gas emissions pledges.
- **Climate Action in Covid-19 Recovery:** We know from the IPCC that the next decade is all the time we have left to collectively take the actions necessary to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C. The Marrakech Partnership needs to be part of a broader conversation on Covid-19 recovery and global solidarity, so that the opportunities of the build back and the economic recovery are realised for people, climate, and nature. The Marrakech Partnership has a role in creating momentum towards enhanced mitigation actions by different actors and across different sectors, and should promote co-beneficial approaches to long-term sustainability and climate, as detailed in the IPCC 1.5°C Special Report. Success will be whether the world is on a high-probability 1.5°C-consistent emissions trajectory.
- **Championing the Role of Nature:** Success will also reflect the fact that we will not reach 1.5°C without a significant role for natural ecosystems - a fact that is underlined in the IPCC 1.5°C Special Report. Ecosystems can significantly enhance ambition (providing up to a third of the mitigation potential) but this must be *additional to and not instead of a rapid fossil fuel phase out*. Successful implementation of an ambitious role for nature will involve the protection and restoration of a wide range of naturally occurring ecosystems on land and in the sea, in a way that sustains biodiversity, and is with the full engagement and consent of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. A new set of principles has been developed that ensure that 'nature-based solutions' to climate change contribute to addressing the triple emergency of climate change, biodiversity loss, and poverty; badly implemented they can actively harm all three. These principles are set out here: <https://nbsguidelines.info/>

Q2. How can the High-Level Champions and the Marrakech Partnership add the most value and complement existing efforts to drive ambition and transformation in the next 5 years and beyond?

- **Connect to the Action Agenda of the CBD.** There is an open window of opportunity for the Marrakech Partnership to better integrate nature into the Climate Action agenda. The Covid-19 crisis highlighted that the drivers of nature loss and climate change can also lead to the spread of dangerous zoonotic diseases. To recover from the current crisis and chart the path towards a more resilient and sustainable future, it is critical to recognise that the health of humanity largely depends on the health of the planet and its ecosystems. In this context, an integrated approach to global challenges like the climate emergency, nature and biodiversity loss, and pandemics is more relevant than ever. As such, at the CBD COP14, a ‘Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People’ was launched to accelerate stakeholder action in order to achieve the objectives of the CBD. However, it has to date not attracted the same level of attention and commitment compared with its equivalent in the UNFCCC space. In 2020 and 2021, there is a window of opportunity for the Marrakech Partnership and the High Level Champions to connect both ‘action agendas’, by an active dialogue between the two partnerships and by better integrating nature in the UNFCCC Climate Action Agenda.
- **By expanding the space and opportunity for Southern non-state participants.** Core to the success of expanding diversity is to define a clear “offer and ask” that outlines the value-add for partners, and especially those from the Global South, to be part of and strengthen the Marrakech Partnership. Concrete ways this can be taken forward include holding more than half of the Marrakech Partnership’s meetings in the Global South; developing principles of work for the Marrakech Partnership that make diversity and inclusion of the Global South at the heart of the approach including through elevating the voices of people most at risk and vulnerable; championing diversity in panels and events under the UNFCCC; improving the accessibility both in person and virtually of Partnership events, Regional Climate Weeks, and COP side events by providing interpretation services and closed captioning; and disseminate information in a broader range of languages and formats.
- **Increase profile, knowledge, and evidence-base on adaptation and L&D:** Placing adaptation and L&D on par with mitigation efforts is urgent and vital given the historic lack of funding for action in these areas, and the devastating impacts communities around the world now face. One element that has contributed to holding back action is the difference in complexity between measuring and monitoring mitigation action and greenhouse gas emissions pledges compared to adaptation and action on L&D delivered. The Marrakech Partnership should contribute to these efforts by developing and implementing an effective set of indicators for adaptation and for L&D.