

Saving Our Planet Submission to Marrakech Partnership – 15 Solutions that Can Stop Climate Change vFinal 15 Feb19

TO: globalclimateaction@unfccc.int

Subject: High Impact Topics – 15 solutions that can stop climate change

Dear Global Climate Action

This response is from Saving Our Planet to the letter to Parties from the High-Level Champions of Global Climate Action dated January 2019.

Summary

Most articles today about climate change focus on the problem and only a minority focus on solutions. Yet proven mitigation solutions already exist. The problem is that these solutions are not being promoted or featured in the news, and most people also don't know what actions they can take that will make a difference.

This response is about a new campaign by Saving Our Planet where we focus on solutions with the power to stop or reduce global warming – see www.savingourplanet.net

First are solutions which are easy for people to undertake, including: personally to go Carbon Neutral, to plant trees to take up CO₂ emissions, to reduce personal CO₂ emissions, to switch energy supply based on lowest CO₂ footprint of supplier, to reduce meat and dairy consumption, and to support campaigns to reduce rainforest deforestation and manage population growth.

Second are solutions where people can demand, encourage and support initiatives by Governments, including: measures to keep global warming to 1.5C maximum, to reduce the carbon intensity of electricity generation to below 50 gCO₂/kWh well before 2050, to electrify transport by 2030 rather than by 2040, to reduce CO₂ emissions from buildings and industrial processes, to develop CO₂ Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS), and to implement a Fair Carbon Tax where all the money raised is either invested in projects which mitigate climate change or is given back to the people to choose their own CO₂ emissions reduction solutions.

This focus on solutions to mitigate climate change is an excellent fit with 2019 as the Year of Climate Action: to promote and implement solutions which reduce and remove CO₂ and make it easier for innovative changes to take place.

Who we are - Saving Our Planet:

Solutions to Protect Our Planet. Together we can stop climate change

This response is by Saving Our Planet, a non-Party Stakeholder and International NGO which is registered in France as Charity Number W751235109. See www.savingourplanet.net

Our mission is to inspire, energize and enable the entire community of humans to work together to save the planet, and to convince World Leaders to make the fight against climate change their number one priority.

Honorary Members are:

- George Monbiot, a writer known for his environmental and political activism who writes for The Guardian and is the author of a number of books about Sustainable Development.
- Brice Lalonde who is the president of EdEN, an NGO about building the low-carbon power mix in France and Europe, former French Minister of Environment 1988-1992 under President Mitterand and French Ambassador for climate change negotiations 2007-2011.

What this response is about

This response addresses your Question 1 and Question 6:

Question 1

Annex III Question 1 – Specific Actions to achieve the desired outcome

Annex III of the High Level Champions Letter identifies the following priority area: “As described in the indicative work programme for 2019 of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, the priorities for this year are:

“1 a) Strengthening interaction between Parties and non-Party stakeholders and promoting integration of action, among all levels of government and sectors, with a view to catalysing concrete action on high-impact issues, in particular related to cross-cutting areas, and leveraging, inter alia, the collaborative experience of the Talanoa Dialogue process;”

This response addresses Question 1:

Q1. Do the above priorities adequately reflect what needs to be done to accelerate pre-2020 action and support enhanced ambition, adaptation, resilience and support? If not, how could they be refined? In the context of the priorities, could specific actions be taken to achieve the desired outcomes?

Concrete Action by Solutions which mitigate Climate Change

We are submitting this response because we believe much more can be done to accelerate pre-2020 action by catalysing concrete action on the high impact issue of solutions which mitigate climate change. This submission to the Marrakech Partnership focuses on the following 2 high-impact areas:

- A. Solutions to Climate Change which are easy for individuals to undertake
- B. Solutions to Climate Change where individuals can demand, encourage and support action by Governments

Why a Solutions Focus?

Progress in stopping climate change is slower than expected by the Paris Agreement of the COP21. Today, most articles about climate change are overwhelmingly negative and focus on the problems and difficulties to be overcome without pointing to solutions, with the potential to engender a sense of hopelessness and despair.

It is time to change this. The fact is that proven solutions to mitigate global warming already exist, but as yet these solutions are not being promoted or featured in the news. Secondly, although today most people are concerned about the climate, they don't know what actions they can take to help stop climate change.

Saving Our Planet is focusing on solutions to mitigate climate change which people can implement themselves, as well as solutions where people can encourage and support governments to implement to achieve larger scale mitigation. Critical to this will be communications and promotion about what people can do (which is in our response to your Question 6).

A) Solutions to Climate Change for individuals

Our first focus area is on proven solutions to mitigate climate change which are easy for individuals, organisations and small businesses to undertake themselves:

- 1) **Go Carbon Neutral. NØCO₂** is the campaign from Saving Our Planet which makes it easy for people to remove their CO₂ footprint by planting trees. See www.n0co2.org The potential is for people to reduce 100% of their CO₂ emissions so they personally go Carbon Neutral. Others have campaigns to plant trees and market carbon offsets for specific activities, such as air travel. What is different about **NØCO₂** is that we encourage people to plant enough trees to remove ALL their CO₂ emissions for every year the trees are growing. This solution is available to 700 million people on a first come, first served basis. Although limited to 9% of global CO₂ emissions, it provides an opportunity to slow down global warming.
 - a. To remove the UK and EU average CO₂ emissions of around 7 Tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per person per year, we have calculated people need **NØCO₂** to plant 1,750 trees per person. For people living in US,

Canada and Australia where the average is around 16 Tonnes CO₂ equivalent per year, each person needs **N0CO₂** to plant 4,000 trees.

- b. To donate to plant all these trees is a much lower cost than you might expect. For those in the UK the price is around 17p per day, for the EU around €0.19 and for those in the US around USD \$0.51 per day - assuming costs are spread over 3 years.

- 2) **Afforestation and Reforestation.** The potential of planting trees is to remove around 9% of worldwide CO₂ emissions. Experts have estimated about 500 million hectares could be available for the re-establishment of forests on lands previously forested, but not currently used productively, and that this could sequester at least 3.7 GtCO₂ per year for decades. [Source IPCC SR15 Report 8 October 2018 Chapter 4 page 4-47 quoting Houghton et al, 2015]. What can you do? Support **N0CO₂** – see details above – and www.n0co2.org

Even if people are not able to commit to go Carbon Neutral, we would still encourage people to plant trees to take up the CO₂ from the fossil fuels they use. For instance, each hour of air travel creates around 125kg of CO₂ emissions. So we would encourage everyone to plant 32 trees for each hour of air travel – and x3 for Business Class and x4 for First Class. See www.n0co2.org

- 3) **To reduce rainforest deforestation.** The potential is to reduce around 10% of global CO₂ emissions. In 2017, land area the size of Italy was deforested. There are multiple causes including both legal and illegal logging, and clearing land for palm oil plantations, for cattle and to grow crops. Efforts to stop deforestation are at the level of the UN and National Governments. What can individuals do? Support campaigns to stop deforestation and NGOs such as Saving Our Forests and Cool Earth, who work alongside rainforest communities to halt deforestation.

- 4) **UK only - Switch to an electricity supplier which supplies 100% clean electricity.** Switch your Electricity supplier away from suppliers who use on average 50% gas and coal and instead to choose suppliers who use 100% clean (ie non-carbon-emitting) energy such as solar, wind or nuclear. An example listing of UK electricity suppliers by fossil fuel components is here: <http://electricityinfo.org/fuel-mix-of-uk-domestic-electricity-suppliers/>

- 5) **Switch to clean energy.** Increasingly households are being offered the option of their own Solar Panels or Heat Pump, and some countries are offering payments for selling your excess electricity to the grid. Potential savings for household electricity and hot water are around 10% of CO₂ emissions, plus a further 20% if you are replacing gas central heating with a heat pump. Heat pumps should give heat equivalent to 2-3 times the electricity they use.

- 6) **Electric Cars.** While the amount of CO2 savings will depend on the energy source used for charging, an all-electric car should save around 20% of average CO2 emissions. Additional benefits are less pollution, particularly in town centres. In the future, autonomous self-drive cars will reduce cost of transport by car even further because for many people it will be lower cost not to own their own car.
- 7) **Migration of Diet away from Animal Products.** The main contributors to greenhouse gases are beef and lamb because cattle and sheep produce methane emissions which contribute powerfully to global warming. Each additional day of flexitarian or vegetarian diet saves the equivalent of about 1 kg of CO2. Each additional vegan day saves the equivalent of nearly 2 kg of CO2.
- 8) **Reduction of CO2 emissions.** In addition to all the other actions, there is potential is for individuals to reduce CO2 emissions in common-sense ways: turn down the heating, walk/bike where possible, use public transport rather than private vehicle where possible, minimize air travel, share car travel and maximise recycling and re-use of products and materials.
- 9) **Support action to manage Population Growth.** Global population is currently rising at around 1% per year. Every additional person will potentially over time emit the world average emissions which is currently around 5 Tonnes of CO2 per person per annum. Even though there is a remote chance that this average will eventually fall back to more sustainable levels, such as 2 tCO2/yr/cap., it's impossible to forecast when this might be achieved. In the meantime, support one of the charities working in this space. A UK charity is Population Matters <https://populationmatters.org> which is supported by David Attenborough.

B) Solutions to Climate Change where individuals can demand, encourage and support action by Governments

Our second focus area is on solutions to mitigate climate change where individuals can make a difference by demanding, encouraging and supporting actions by Governments and other parties:

- 1) **Demand that Politicians commit to keep global warming to 1.5C maximum.** Contact your national and local politicians to demand that you want them fully to commit to keep global warming to 1.5C maximum Because the IPCC SR15 report dated 8 October 2018 found that limiting global warming to 1.5C presents substantially less risk of uncontrolled warming than if global warming were allowed to reach or even exceed 2C.

- 2) **Demand that Politicians reduce the carbon intensity of electricity generation.** In the UK today around 50% of electricity is still generated from fossil fuels, and in Germany around 80%. The potential worldwide is to save almost all of the 25% annual CO₂ emissions from electricity generation. Individuals can urge their government representatives to oppose coal, gas and oil and instead support solar, wind, geothermal, tidal and nuclear power (which also creates very low CO₂ emissions - as low as 6 gCO₂/kWh in France, thus providing the largest low-carbon grid worldwide), as well as pilot projects for Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS). We also invite people to support the petition Exit Coal Now from Saving Our Planet, on www.exitcoalnow.org
- 3) **Demand that Politicians electrify transport by 2030 rather than by 2040.** Cars, buses and lorries are responsible for around 15% of global CO₂e emissions from fossil fuels. The potential is to reduce most of these emissions. Support initiatives to electrify as much transport as possible by 2030. Governments in the UK and France have committed to stop the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2040, but this is at least 10 years too late. Additional benefits of electric vehicles and motorbikes are to reduce pollution, which is harming health, particularly of children. In the future, autonomous self-drive cars will reduce cost of transport even further, because most people should be able to save money by not owning their own car.
- 4) **Demand that Politicians reduce CO₂ emissions from buildings, from industrial processes, and in building materials and support research into CO₂ capture and storage.**
- a. Buildings and their construction are responsible for around 32% of energy consumption. The potential is to save 10 percentage points from less energy use, and another 10 percentage points from alternative construction methods and materials. [Source: Page 4.3.3.2 of https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/02/SR15_Chapter4_Low_Res.pdf
 - b. Industrial Processes are responsible for around 38% of global emissions. The potential is to reduce this by around two thirds.
 - c. CO₂ capture and storage is a key technology which could play an important part in keeping global warming to 1.5C maximum. But, as at 2019, it is not yet deployed anywhere on an industrial scale. The IPCC Report SR15 dated 8 October 2018 shows scenarios with significant Carbon Capture and Storage. In pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C with limited or no overshoot, Bioenergy with

Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) deployment is projected to range from 0–1, 0–8, and 0–16 GtCO₂ yr⁻¹ in 2030, 2050, and 2100.

- d. CarbonFiberStone from TechnoCarbon Technologies France (TCTF) is an example of initiatives to capture CO₂ permanently for use in building materials as part of walls, floors, cladding and concrete. See www.TCTF.eu
 - e. Government initiatives to increase fuel efficiency and performance standards, if implemented as a consistent strategy, can over time deliver significantly more efficient and cleaner technology in the fuel economy of vehicles, ships, aircraft and also in the fuel efficiency of buildings and industry.
- 5) Demand that Politicians Establish a Carbon Tax or a [Carbon Price and Dividend](#)** – provided that all the additional money raised is invested in measures to make it easy and cost-effective for people to mitigate climate change. For example, we calculate that a Carbon Price of \$120 per Tonne of CO₂ would add about \$0.30 per litre of petrol/diesel, ie about 23p per litre. (Note that 1 litre of diesel or petrol emits around 2.5kg of CO₂). This could be done as early as 2020.
- 6) Demand that Politicians remove subsidies and tax breaks on fossil fuels.** Because worldwide these are said to be worth over \$500 billion per annum!

Question 6

Annex III Question 6 - specific high-impact topic that address the greatest needs of Parties

Annex II of the High Level Champions Letter identifies the following Operational Approaches including 4f:

4f "Expansion of climate action media and communication:

Media specialists and networks will be engaged to assist the efforts to build and raise awareness and facilitate wider participation of various stakeholders. This will also include strengthening communication tools, such as revamping the Global Climate Action website, to increase the visibility and understanding of the work of the Marrakech Partnership."

Annex III of the High Level Champions Letter includes the following about Thematic and cross-cutting areas:

"The Marrakech Partnership is structured around seven thematic areas (energy, land use, human settlements, industry, transport, water, and oceans and coastal zones) with specific cross-cutting areas (finance, health, resilience, gender, education and decent work) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) being focus areas for a particular year. As outlined in the indicative work programme, the focus in 2019 will

be on finance and resilience, in addition to on four specific SDG's. Efforts will also be made to engage with media and communication specialists and networks and to reach out to the constituted bodies, as appropriate, to facilitate greater collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, promoting integrated approaches to adaptation and mitigation and highlighting innovative technologies and capacity-building opportunities."

This response address Question 6:

Q6. Considering each of the thematic areas, cross-cutting areas, SDGs and priorities outlined in the indicative work programme, should any specific high-impact topics that address the greatest needs of Parties be discussed?

Very high-impact by communicating about solutions which people can implement themselves

In our response to Question 1, we identified multiple solutions to climate change which individuals can undertake themselves. In response to this Question 6, we are proposing that very high-impact can be achieved by communicating the potential of these solutions to Non-Party stakeholders – particularly to individuals, organisations and small businesses.

Why Communications?

Communications is critical in order to raise awareness of solutions to climate change and get agreement to solutions to reduce and remove CO2 emissions. We have proposed the focus on actions by individuals, organisations and smaller businesses, because of the huge potential to multiply individual savings of CO2 by large numbers of people worldwide.

Because there are so many individuals who can implement the solutions, this makes it all the more important for media and communications to get the message across that people can take actions which will make a difference to help stop global warming.

Proposal for Collaboration between Saving Our Planet, the Marrakech Partnership and other Stakeholders

We note the Marrakech Partnership theme about facilitating greater collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

In our response to Question 1, we identified 9 solutions which mitigate climate change which individuals can undertake themselves, and a further 6 where they can support work by Governments and other parties.

In response to Question 6, we would like therefore to propose collaboration between Saving Our Planet and the Marrakech Partnership with the aim of encouraging greater participation by individuals in taking action on these 15 solutions.

We note that the Marrakech Partnership plans to engage specialists and networks to assist the efforts to build and raise awareness and facilitate wider participation of various stakeholders (see Annex II point 4f Media). If appropriate, we would be keen to collaborate on this action.

We propose:

- 1) **Saving Our Planet supports the Marrakech Partnership.** We propose we support the aim of more specific projects pre-2020 and reaching out and engaging with non-Party Stakeholders, particularly individuals. Including for example:
 - a. Link from Saving Our Planet to Marrakech Partnership website
 - b. We acknowledge support on our Saving Our Planet website www.savingourplanet.netIn return, we would ask that the Marrakech Partnership support our work with these 15 solutions.

- 2) **Collaboration with the Marrakech Partnership Media and Communications team.** We propose this collaboration to help maximise the impact of raising awareness with the wider public about these 15 actions they can take to mitigate climate change. We note that Marrakech Partnership are keen to engage with media and communication specialists and networks to facilitate greater collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders, to promote integrated approaches to adaptation and mitigation and highlighting innovative technologies and capacity-building opportunities. As part of this work, we would be pleased to collaborate with your team and with media and communications specialists about how to communicate information about these 15 solutions to individuals, organisations and small businesses with the aim that people will take action and use these solutions to reduce and remove their CO2 emissions

- 3) **Request for Funding to promote solutions including afforestation and reforestation.** If appropriate we would also reach out to the Marrakech Partnership - and also to other organisations and stakeholders - to support Saving Our Planet and our campaign **N0CO2** with funding for to communicate and promote messages about the potential for solutions to help stop climate change, including planting trees. Note that the purpose of this funding would be to drive increased funding for solutions from organisations and individuals.

- 4) **UN 2019 Climate Summit 29 September 2019 in New York.** From the website <http://sdg.iisd.org/events/un-2019-climate-summit/> we note that the UN Secretary-General [Antonio Guterres](#) will convene the UN 2019 Climate Summit on the theme 'A Race We Can Win. A Race We Must Win,' and seek to challenge states, regions, cities, companies, investors and citizens to step up action in six areas: energy transition, climate finance and carbon pricing, industry transition, nature-based solutions, cities and local action, and resilience. The 15 solutions we are proposing cover all these areas. We would be pleased to support this initiative with these initiatives from Saving Our Planet and, if appropriate, to seek financial support to attend this Climate Summit in New York and to use this to promote these 15 climate change solutions for individuals, organisations and small businesses.

Contact

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Saving Our Planet

15 February 2019