



Climate and Energy Manifesto 2026

# Responding to the science: Accelerating implementation to minimize overshoot and secure a 1.5°C future

September 2026

Science is unequivocal: current action remains insufficient to achieve the goals the world has established to tackle climate change. As a result, the risk of temporarily overshooting the 1.5°C temperature limit of the Paris Agreement is greater than ever, with dire consequences. This highlights the urgent need to accelerate implementation and cut emissions faster to limit any overshoot, minimise risks, and strengthen resilience to increasingly severe climate impacts.

In its landmark 2025 Advisory Opinion<sup>1</sup>, the International Court of Justice established the 1.5°C global warming threshold as a legally binding obligation rather than a political goal. That means national climate pledges - Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) - must aim to collectively meet the 1.5°C target. It also means that the consequences of inaction by countries, such as failing to regulate private emissions, issuing new fossil fuel licenses or setting inadequate national targets, can trigger their legal responsibility.

In times of geopolitical crises and growing misinformation, protecting multilateralism and respecting global agreements is more important than ever. We see implementation as a fundamental condition for that. The two-tier multilateralism concept proposed by Brazil encompasses both the continuity of negotiations driven by consensus and the accelerated delivery of existing commitments to keep 1.5°C within reach.

We know what we need to do since the Global Stocktake outcome in 2023 and the most recent IPCC reports:

- Phasing out fossil fuels;
- Halting and reversing deforestation and ecosystem conversion by 2030;
- Protecting and restoring land and water ecosystems, including oceans;
- Addressing food systems.

It's now time to focus on how to do it. WWF calls on leaders and institutions to:



# 1 ALIGN IMPLEMENTATION PLANS AND DELIVERY MECHANISMS

Existing policy and planning instruments, including DCs, Long-Term Strategies, National Adaptation Plans, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, already provide a strong foundation for fulfilling commitments. The priority now is to strengthen coherence and synergies across these instruments and the other Rio Conventions (UNCCD and CBD), and integrate approaches that deliver climate mitigation, adaptation, and nature outcomes simultaneously into national plans.

Since COP30, new catalyzing processes for that have emerged. Some are connected to the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement, such as the Global Implementation Accelerator and Belém Mission to 1.5. Others are presidential initiatives, such as the Roadmaps on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels and Halting and Reversing Deforestation and Degradation. New country coalitions and initiatives focused on key issues, such as Santa Marta-Tuvalu on Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels, have been established. Brazil has reformed the Action Agenda to strengthen its connection to the Global Stocktake. Under the Action Agenda, one of the priorities of the COP31 Presidency is the Climate Implementation Bridge, which aims to turn national plans into concrete, investment-ready, and bankable projects.

All those initiatives should form a coherent implementation architecture to support delivery through existing instruments and new ones as needed, such as national energy transition plans and a specific treaty on fossil fuels.

<sup>1</sup> operationalised by UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/80/263



## 2 DELIVER CLIMATE JUSTICE

A fair shares approach means that the global effort to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change must be shared equitably, according to countries' responsibilities and capabilities. This approach is not limited to reducing emissions; it also means that richer countries should financially and technically support more vulnerable and poorer ones to scale up adaptation and resilience-building, as well as addressing loss and damage. The implications of overshooting 1.5°C for the just and equitable transition will also need to be addressed, with the full participation and engagement of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

Finance is a key enabler for delivering any kind of climate action. In an overshoot context, a study<sup>2</sup> estimated that each additional 0.1°C of warming by 2030 can result in significant GDP losses in about 30% of all countries. With vulnerable countries being most affected, overshoots are projected to increase global inequality. Scaling up finance for mitigation helps minimize overshoot, While the equally urgent scaling up of adaptation finance helps manage the risks. As the world, unfortunately, is on a path to severe climate risks, extensive funding to cover loss and damage is required. Any delay will increase the costs of managing risks and adverse impacts, including debt service and insurance.



## 3 TREAT NATURE AS A FOUNDATION FOR A 1.5°C FUTURE

Protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing nature is essential, both for resilience-building and as a critical component of climate mitigation strategies. Oceans, plants, animals and soils absorbed 54% of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions over the past decade, while healthy ecosystems, such as mangroves, also reduce our exposure to climate hazards. However, this natural support is not guaranteed; rather, it is threatened. For example, the Amazon's role as a carbon sink is already weakening, and parts of the southeastern Amazon have shifted to becoming a net carbon source. The loss of coral reefs and destabilization of the Polar ice sheets can have profound consequences for millions of people.

<sup>2</sup> Schoengart et al, Temporary Warming, Lasting Losses: Economic damages from climate overshoot may be irreversible within this century (2025)

Continued degradation of forests, freshwater, oceans and other ecosystems weakens resilience to climate impacts and their ability to remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Therefore, the integrity of critical carbon sinks and reservoirs should be treated as an essential enabling condition for keeping 1.5°C within reach, as the effectiveness of mitigation and adaptation depends on these systems continuing to function. Leaders should also focus on triggering positive tipping points that benefit nature, people and climate.



## 4 ACCELERATE SCALABLE HIGH-IMPACT SOLUTIONS

A science-led approach points to clear priorities. First, rapid emissions reductions must remain at the center of implementation efforts, particularly through the transition away from fossil fuels. Deployment of proven solutions such as acceleration of renewable electrification as proposed by the COP31 Presidency, improvements in energy efficiency, and substantial reductions in methane emissions are also an important share of what needs to be done.

In its Sixth Assessment Report, the IPCC presents **multiple opportunities for scaling up climate action** that must be prioritised. Studies have also demonstrated that nature-based solutions consistently provide a cost-effective approach to mitigating hazards and building resilience. We urge leaders to enable the full use of such approaches urgently.



## 5 MOBILIZE AND SUPPORT ON-THE-GROUND IMPLEMENTERS

Non-state actors (e.g. subnational governments, cities, business, civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, among others) have a key role in bridging the gap between global and national commitments and implementation at the sectoral and local level. They should continue and strengthen their work on transition pathways and implementation plans, aligned with the Global Stocktake recommendations and the instruments and catalyzing mechanisms described above. Governments and international organizations, especially International Finance Institutions, should provide financial support and capacity building.

The six thematic axes of the Action Agenda<sup>3</sup>, the Granary of Solutions and the Plans to Accelerate Solutions create an important platform to organize the engagement of such actors and demonstrate and measure progress.

3 Transitioning Energy, Industry, and Transport; Stewarding Forests, Oceans, and Biodiversity; Transforming Agriculture and Food Systems; Building Resilience for Cities, Infrastructure, and Water; Fostering Human and Social Development; Unleashing Finance, Technology, and Capacity-Building)



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