Micah Network – Climate Change Advocacy Toolkit

This toolkit has been produced by members of Micah Network who are working on climate change advocacy; it was developed to help members of the network respond to the outcomes of the Micah Network Global Consultation on Climate Change.

It aims to help members of the network engage in national and international advocacy ahead of the critical climate talks taking place in Copenhagen in December 2009.

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The drafting of this document has been led by Tom Baker at Tearfund UK, supported by colleagues at Tearfund UK, Tear Australia, United Mission to Nepal and others. For more information about anything please don’t hesitate to get in touch with those listed in part 6.
Part 1 – Why act now?

Climate change is hitting the world’s most poor and vulnerable people hardest. We need drastic and immediate global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide finance and support to help poor people adapt to the changing climate and prevent climate chaos.

United Nations climate talks during 2009 are crucial to agreeing a global deal to tackle climate change. This deal is our best chance yet at securing action to help those whose lives are already being devastated by the changing climate, and those who will be impacted in the future.

Members of the Micah Network are campaigning for world leaders to seal a strong and fair deal that prioritises the needs and voices of the world’s poorest people, who are most impacted by climate change.

Why is this year so important?
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol were foundational in international efforts to tackle climate change. A ‘first commitment period’ was originally agreed to under the Kyoto Protocol, running from 2008-2012, in which most developed countries committed to reducing emissions by at least 5% from 1990 levels by 2012.

It is crucial that a robust global deal is agreed and in place ready for when the first phase of the Kyoto Protocol is completed in 2012. Kyoto was agreed in 1997 but wasn’t ratified by enough countries to take effect until 2005! So for a new climate deal there is very little time to get a deal both agreed and ratified by countries to be able to start in 2013. A gap between current targets and a new deal would lead to uncertainty in securing urgently needed emissions cuts, and finance for adaptation and clean development.

Is this the last chance to get a deal on climate change?
The climate talks in Copenhagen are the best chance we have at this time to secure urgent global action on climate change. However, if what is on the table at Copenhagen would fail to keep temperature rises below two degrees, or fail to deliver enough finance for poor communities then those working on the issue would prefer negotiations to continue into 2010 in the hope of securing a better outcome. But agreeing a deal after December 2009 will make it more difficult to implement and ratify it by 2013.

Why are members of the network concerned about getting an international climate deal?
We need a global effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide finance and technology to help developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change, and reduce their emissions.
Members work on climate change because it hits the world’s poorest people hardest. Floods, droughts, storms, sea level rises and changing rains…around the world the climate is shifting because of our energy hungry lifestyles in the wealthy west. Poor people haven’t caused climate change, rich people have, but it’s the poorest who are experiencing its devastating effects.

The bible tells us that ‘love does no harm to its neighbour’ (Romans 31:10) yet the way we live now harms our neighbours in poor countries. For the world’s poorest, climate change looks like:

- lack of rainfall or too much rainfall bringing floods and washing away crops and homes
- unusual and erratic rainfall which can cause crop failure, leading to hunger and loss of livelihood
- a rise in sea levels as a result of warming oceans
- more environmental refugees (people who are forced to leave their home to find food and shelter), and mounting pressure on vulnerable regions leading to tension and conflict
- increase in malaria as mosquitoes spread to new areas
- a rapid increase in malnutrition
- having to walk longer distances to access drinking water

Members of Micah Network are working to lift people out of poverty, and climate change comes and pushes them back down - unless urgent action is taken to curb climate change and adapt to it, years of development work will be undone.

The United Nations climate talks this December in Copenhagen are an unprecedented opportunity for all countries to work together to agree a deal to tackle climate change. To prevent catastrophic levels of climate change we need keep global temperature rise as far below two degrees as possible (above pre-industrial levels). This means that we need to take urgent action to peak global emissions by 2015 with a decline after that point.

Micah Network members are calling on world leaders to take urgent action to tackle climate change by sealing a strong and fair deal in Copenhagen.

**What are we calling for?**
To ensure the global deal on climate change is strong and fair, members of Micah Network believe it must include the following commitments:

- developed countries must agree to reduce their emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2020 (from 1990 levels). The vast majority of these cuts must be made in the country where they were emitted rather than by offsetting.
- developed countries must also commit to reduce emissions by at least 95 per cent of 1990 levels by 2050.
- developed countries must commit to provide at least US$150 billion a year of climate finance for poor countries. This must be new and additional to Official Development
Assistance commitments of 0.7% of GDP, and to finance provided by carbon markets. This finance is necessary to help poor and vulnerable communities adapt to the changing climate and to help support action to reduce emissions in developing countries.

Developing countries bear the brunt of a changing climate. Rich countries are most responsible for climate change and they have the capacity and resources to act so they must take action to combat climate change and help poor countries to adapt to the changing climate.
Part 2 - Get Involved

There are lots of ways that you can get involved in advocacy on this important issue; here are a few suggestions to get you started;

Send a letter to your Head of Government—We've included some suggested text for letters that you might like to send to your Head of Government. Working with others to get a range of organisations sign onto the letter will increase its effectiveness.

Meeting with key policy makers—We've included some useful tips about arranging to meet with key decision makers where you are. The more policy maker you are able to lobby on the better, perhaps start by trying to arrange a meeting with your Environment Minister, or staff in their office. Appendix 1 has a list of policy recommendations that you might like to leave with decision maker at the end of your meeting.

Using the Theological Statement—At the Micah Network consultation in Kenya delegates worked on a theological statement. This can a useful tool to get church leaders engaged in the issue.

In all your communications with decision makers these are the key messages to get across;

The global deal should be aimed at keeping average global temperature rise well below two degrees, and therefore must contain the following:

Mitigation
Developed countries taking the lead with tough and binding emissions cuts
- The global goal for reducing emissions should be to cut emissions by at least 85 per cent on 1990 levels by 2050, with a peak in emissions by 2015.
- Developed countries should commit to reducing their emissions by at least 95 per cent on 1990 levels by 2050, and by at least 40 per cent on 1990 levels by 2020.
- Offsets must be limited to – at the very most – a quarter of any emissions reduction target of 40 per cent or more below 1990 levels by 2020.¹

Adaptation
- In implementing the Copenhagen agreement a guiding principle is that special attention shall be given to the particular needs of the most vulnerable communities in adapting to the unavoidable consequences of climate change.
- Therefore massively scaled-up action on adaptation at the national and international level with massively scaled up and predictable funding must be part of the shared vision that will guide the post-2012 framework.

¹ Any target lower than 40% cuts on 1990 levels by 2020 proposed by a developed country must be reached without the use of offsets.
• Support must be predictable, reliable and results in regular and adequate flows of finance that reach and support the local level.

Finance
Necessary finance, capacity-building and technology from developed countries to enable developing countries to reduce their emissions and develop sustainably
• We need to see large scale public finance from developed countries in the order of at least €110 billion a year (US$150 billion) from developed countries for adaptation and mitigation in developing countries (this must be over and above any finance generated by the carbon market). Adaptation funding must be new and additional to Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments of 0.7 per cent of GDP.
Part 3 – Send a letter

We’ve included some suggested text for letters that you might like to send to your Head of Government. Working with others to get a range of organisations sign onto the letter will increase its effectiveness, sending this letter any time between now and December 5th would be useful.

**Letter a** is for those organisations in developing countries
**Letter b** is for those organisations based in developed countries – a list is available here - [http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/parties/annex_i/items/2774.php](http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/parties/annex_i/items/2774.php)

**Letter a for developing country leaders**

We [description here] call on all our national leaders to speak out strongly in national and international forums in order to secure an effective and equitable to climate deal in Copenhagen.

Our nation is already seeing the impacts of climate change and we know that these impacts are affecting the poorest people in countries across the world. Extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, storms and unpredictable rainfall all combine to threaten the food security, access to water, livelihoods and health of many poor people.

In response to these impacts, and the threat of more severe risks and impacts in the future we call on you to speak out and act.

We ask you to call on developed countries to live up to their responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions rapidly and drastically so that global temperature increase can be kept as far below two degrees as possible – the threshold over which climate change impacts will become overwhelming. We note that the Alliance of Small Island States and many Least Developed Countries have already identified a temperature rise of 1.5°C as an unacceptably dangerous threshold at which the viability and survival of small island and coastal communities will be placed at severe risk.

We ask you to demand that developed countries agree to cut their emissions by at least 40% (on 1990 levels) by 2020 and to urgently commit to providing at least $150 billion a year of additional funding to help developing countries adapt, reduce their emissions, protect their forests and develop sustainably. Please encourage newly industrialised countries and major developing country emitters to join in adopting low carbon growth paths with technological and financial support from developed countries.

We further call on you to prioritise adaptation efforts that will strengthen the capacity of vulnerable communities and groups in our own nation to prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change. Development of national adaptation plans and priorities should focus on the most vulnerable communities and groups and be undertaken in a participatory
way. Protecting the rights of the most vulnerable must be regarded as the highest priority for our national adaptation efforts.

As Christian leaders we believe that responding to climate change is a matter of justice and we call on you to display leadership in our nation and in the international negotiations.

**Letter b for developed countries**

We [description here] call on all developed country leaders to world leaders to secure a comprehensive, equitable and science-based deal in Copenhagen.

Our nation is already seeing the impacts of climate change and we know that these impacts are affecting the poorest people in countries across the world. Extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, storms and unpredictable rainfall all combine to threaten the food security, access to water, livelihoods and health of many poor people.

In response to these impacts, and the threat of more severe risks and impacts in the future we call on you to take urgent action.

We ask you to live up to your responsibility to reduce greenhouse gas emissions rapidly and drastically so that global temperature increase can be kept as far below two degrees as possible – the threshold over which climate change impacts will become overwhelming. We note that the Alliance of Small Island States and many Least Developed Countries have already identified a temperature rise of 1.5°C as an unacceptably dangerous threshold at which the viability and survival of small-island and coastal communities will be placed at severe risk.

To ensure global temperature does not rise above two degrees, we ask you to take the lead with tough and binding emissions cuts. All developed countries should commit to reducing their emissions by at least 95 per cent on 1990 levels by 2050, and by at least 40 per cent on 1990 levels by 2020. We believe the vast majority of these cuts must be made in the country where they were emitted rather than through offsetting. Offsets must be limited to – at the very most – a quarter of any emissions reduction target of 40 per cent or more below 1990 levels by 2020.

Developing countries, like our own nation, will also require necessary finance, capacity-building and technology from developed countries to enable us to reduce our emissions and develop sustainably. Therefore, we further call upon you to commit to providing at least US$150 billion a year of climate finance for poor countries. This must be new and additional to both Official Development Assistance commitments of 0.7% of GDP, and to finance provided by carbon markets.
In particular, we ask you to prioritise adaptation efforts that will strengthen the capacity of vulnerable communities and groups in our own nation to prepare for and respond to the no unavoidable impacts of climate change. Massively scaled-up and predictable funding is need immediately. This support must be predictable, reliable and result in regular and adequate flows of finance that reach and support local communities.

As Christian leaders we believe that responding to climate change is a matter of justice and we call on you to display leadership and ambition the international negotiations.

Members of Micah Network are working to lift people out of poverty, and climate change comes and pushes them back down - unless urgent action is taken to curb climate change and adapt to it, years of development work will be undone. Climate change is hitting the world’s most poor and vulnerable people hardest. We need drastic and immediate global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide finance and support to help poor people adapt to the changing climate and prevent climate chaos.

*If you get a response to you letter, or are invited to attend a meeting to discuss the issues further, please don’t hesitate to contact those listed in Part 6.*
Part 4 - Meeting with Decision Makers
Adapted from Micah Challenge Australia

Visiting a politician is one of the most powerful things you can do whilst campaigning for your issue. It carries much more weight than signing a petition, sending a postcard, making a phone call or even sending a letter. To make your visit as successful as possible, consider the following points.

Before the Visit

Pray
As you sit down to plan and strategise, pray for wisdom, for boldness and insight. If we want to be a prophetic voice, we need to recognise the spiritual dimension of what we are doing. Pray for power!

Know the issue
Make sure you know the issue thoroughly before you visit the politician. If you don't already know it, learn it. If you do, review it. Know the facts and figures. Know the counter-arguments to any arguments they might use.

Know the politician
Find out their name, party, electorate, and any committees they're on or positions they hold from the Parliamentary website or other sources. This will help you frame your arguments in ways that will be most relevant to them. It will also help you build a relationship with the politician. If possible, try searching transcripts of previous debates to see if the MP has spoken about your issue before.

Have clear objectives with a timeline
Be clear about what you want the politician to do. Don't be afraid to ask! This is very important. For example,
- Talk to a minister(s) on your behalf or forward to them a letter outlining your concerns.
- Lobby parliamentary or party colleagues; raise the issue at party meetings.
- Ask a question in parliament, with or without notice, to obtain information or draw attention to your issue.
- Give a speech in parliament about your issue.
- Promote a motion for debate in parliament to support your issue.
- Get the issue referred to a Parliamentary Committee.
- Speak at a public meeting or a meeting of your group.
- Make a public statement, perhaps directed to the media.
- Put an update on the issues in their next electorate newsletter.
- A friendly politician can advise you on how to use parliamentary procedures.

Plan your visit
You might like to have different people specialise in different areas, with a leader who coordinates the meeting and makes the introductions. Alternatively you could have just one
spokesperson. Perhaps designate someone as a note-taker to record what was agreed to and anything else the politician says that’s important. Make sure that all of your delegation understands and agrees to your plan for the meeting. It’s important to work together.

Rehearse
You’ll feel much more confident if you rehearse and memorise the meeting outline. Make sure you can recall the important facts you need and find the others on your leaflet or elsewhere. Learn the counter-arguments. Stage a role-play. Have a ‘politician’ argue and sidetrack things. Practise being polite, patient and keeping to your outline.

During the Visit
Be neat and presentable.
Politicians, like other people, can have their prejudices. They usually react badly to people who look too radical — a neat and "normal" appearance is what they prefer.

Be on time
Make sure everyone knows where the politician's office is and organise to meet there 15 minutes early. Remember to pray for each other and for the MP. You could meet even earlier outside or elsewhere and run through things one last time.

Preamble
Thank the politician for the opportunity to meet with them. Make the introductions. Confirm how much time you have.

Be clear and direct
State your concerns, and use concise and relevant information and stories to back up your case. A story that effectively illustrates your point can be very powerful. MPs want evidence, and personal experience or stories can be very good, as long as they don't represent an extreme or over-simplified case.

Be positive and focus on solutions
If there is something to thank a politician for, then do so, whether it's something they have done themselves, or something their party has done. Try to offer positive solutions rather than complaints, and actions that the MP and their party can take, explaining why they would be good things to do.

Be honest
If you don't know the answer to a question, say so. Don't guess or try to make things up. Offer to get back to them with the information, and if they want it, do so.

Be polite and patient
Some politicians can be incredibly frustrating at times – insensitive, prejudiced, or even downright rude – but it’s important to be polite and patient at all times. Even if they refuse to help you now, you or others from the movement might want to lobby them again later.
Listen
It's important to find out their views and you may gain useful information. Ask genuine questions and respect their answers as long as they don't try to deflect you from the topic.

Don't get sidetracked!
Sidetracking can come from within your own delegation, accidentally, or from the politician, perhaps deliberately, especially when they don't want to make a commitment. It's important you don't let this happen. Remember your outline and objectives and politely but firmly bring things back on track.

Don't be emotional
Unfortunately activists sometimes have a reputation for being overly emotional and irrational. We can counter this by simply sticking to the facts.

Thank them for the visit
Regardless of the outcome, thank them again for the opportunity to meet with them and to air your concerns. Thank the staff person too – note their name and details so you can keep them informed.

After the Visit
Debrief
Talk it over with your delegation. Discuss what worked, what didn't, and how you could do it better next time.

Thank God for the opportunity
Thank God for all the ways your prayers were answered; ask that your words are clearly remembered by the MP.

Follow up
Send any information you promised to the politician. Perhaps write and thank them for the opportunity to meet with them and remind them of any commitments they made to you. Make sure they honour their commitments. If you don't hear anything within a reasonable time, phone or write, and politely but firmly pursue the matter until you get a response.
Part 5 – Using the Theological Statement

The theological statement was drafted and agreed by those attending the Limeru Consultation. It’s a powerful statement about the need for Christians to take seriously the global environmental crisis.

Why not consider using the statement as a way of promoting and inspiring action on the issue in your own national context. You could work with other organisations to get senior church leaders to endorse it and then release it as a statement to the national media ahead of the Copenhagen talks starting in December.

The full text of the statement is below;

Micah Network 4th Triennial Global Consultation on Creation Stewardship and Climate Change

Declaration on Creation Stewardship and Climate Change

Foreword by René Padilla, International President, Micah Network

The Declaration on Creation Stewardship and Climate Change, which synthesizes the findings of the Fourth Triennial Global Consultation held in Kenya by the Micah Network from 13-18 July 2009, may perhaps in time be regarded as the most significant document coming out of the evangelical movement on a subject that has hardly received in the past the attention it deserves from people who confess the triune God as the God of Creation.

Drafted by an international network that managed to organize very active participation in group discussion on the part of the people attending the Consultation, this document is a superb summary of the ecological concerns of a global evangelical network fully committed to God’s integral mission, conceived as the proclamation and demonstration of the Gospel. The hope is that the Declaration will not only serve as an agenda for the members of the Micah Network but that it will also encourage Christians everywhere to take seriously the global environmental crisis resulting from “ignorance, neglect, arrogance and greed,” to overcome the traditional dichotomy between evangelism and socio-ecological responsibility, and to become actively engaged in practicing and promoting the care of God’s creation.

Established in 1999, the Micah Network has grown into a worldwide movement of over 500 Christian relief, development and justice organizations churches and individuals. It includes over 330 active members and 230 associate members from over 80 countries. Its primary objective is to encourage the practice of that, according to the text from which it derives its name, God requires of his people: “To act justly and love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8).

17 July 2009
Declaration on Creation Stewardship and Climate Change

We, members of the Micah Network, gathering together from 38 countries on all 5 continents, met at Limuru, Kenya from 13–18 July 2009 for its 4th Triennial Global Consultation. On the matter of Creation Stewardship and Climate Change, we sought God’s wisdom and cried out for the Holy Spirit’s guidance as we reflected on the global environmental crisis. As a result of our discussions, reflections and prayers, we make the following declaration:

1. We believe in God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit in community – who is the creator, sustainer and Lord of all. God delights in His creation, and is committed to it.

2. In the beginning, God established just relationships amongst all of creation. Women and men – as image-bearers of God – are called to serve and love the rest of creation, accountable to God as stewards. Our care for creation is an act of worship and obedience towards the Creator.

3. We, however, have not always been faithful stewards. Through our ignorance, neglect, arrogance and greed, we have harmed the earth and broken creation’s relationships. Our failure to be faithful stewards has caused the current environmental crisis, leading to climate change, and putting the earth’s ecosystems at risk. All creation has been subjected to futility and decay because of our disobedience.

4. Yet God remains faithful. In Christ's incarnation, life, death and resurrection, God is at work to reconcile all of creation to Himself. We hear the groaning of creation as in the pains of childbirth. This is the promise that God will act, and is already at work, to renew all things. This is the hope that sustains us.

5. We confess that we have sinned. We have not cared for the earth with the self-sacrificing and nurturing love of God. Instead, we have exploited, consumed and abused it for our own advantage. We have too often yielded to the idolatry that is greed. We have embraced false dichotomies of theology and practice, splitting apart the spiritual and material, eternal and temporal, heavenly and earthly. In all these things, we have not acted justly towards each other or towards creation, and we have not honoured God.

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2 Micah Network is a global network of Christian agencies and churches involved in relief, development and advocacy, and responding to poverty and injustice.
3 Colossians 1:15–16, Romans 11:36
4 Genesis 1:26–30, Genesis 2:15
5 Genesis 3:13–24
6 Romans 8:20
7 Romans 8:21
8 Colossians 1:19–20, Philippians 2:6–8
9 Romans 8:22, Revelation 21:5
10 Colossians 3:5, Matthew 6:24
6. We acknowledge that industrialization, increased deforestation, intensified agriculture and grazing, along with the unrestrained burning of fossil fuels, have forced the earth’s natural systems out of balance. Rapidly increasing greenhouse gas emissions are causing the average global temperature to rise, with devastating impacts already being experienced, especially by the poorest and most marginalized groups. A projected temperature rise of 2°C within the next few decades will significantly alter life on earth and accelerate loss of biodiversity. It will increase the risk and severity of extreme weather events, such as drought, flood, and hurricanes, leading to displacement and hunger. Sea levels will continue to rise, contaminating fresh water supplies and submerging island and coastal communities. We are likely to see mass migration, leading to resource conflicts. Profound changes to rainfall and snowfall, as well as the rapid melting of glaciers, will lead to more water stress and shortages for many millions of people.

7. We repent of our self-serving theology of creation, and our complicity in unjust local and global economic relationships. We repent of those aspects of our individual and corporate life styles that harm creation, and of our lack of political action. We must radically change our lives in response to God’s indignation and sorrow for His creation’s agony.

8. Before God we commit ourselves, and call on the whole family of faith, to bear witness to God’s redemptive purpose for all creation. We will seek appropriate ways to restore and build just relationships among human beings and with the rest of creation. We will strive to live sustainably, rejecting consumerism and the resulting exploitation. We will teach and model care of creation and integral mission. We will intercede before God for those most affected by environmental degradation and climate change, and will act with justice and mercy among, with and on behalf of them.

9. We join with others to call on local, national, and global leaders to meet their responsibility to address climate change and environmental degradation through the agreed intergovernmental mechanisms and conventions, and to provide the necessary resources to ensure sustainable development. Their meetings through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change process must produce a fair, comprehensive, and adequate climate deal. Leaders must support the efforts of local communities to adapt to climate change, and must act to protect the lives and livelihoods of those most vulnerable to the impact of environmental degradation and climate change. We recognize that among the most affected are women and girls. We call on leaders to invest in the development of new, clean technologies and energy sources and to provide adequate support to enable poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups to use them effectively.

11 Matthew 6:24
12 Micah 6:8
10. There is no more time for delay or denial. We will labour with passion, persistence, prayer and creativity to protect the integrity of all creation, and hand on a safe environment and climate to our children and theirs.

For those with ears to hear, let them hear.\textsuperscript{13}

17 July 2009

\textsuperscript{13} Mark 4:23
Part 6 - Further information

Members of the Micah Network Advocacy Forum regularly share updates on the progress of climate change negotiations. If you're not already a member send an e-mail to tom.baker@tearfund.org to be added.

If you're looking for further support from organisations actively working on Climate Change you might like to get in touch with;

Tearfund – Tom Baker – tom.baker@tearfund.org
Tear Australia – Carlyn Chan – carlyn@tear.org.au
United Mission to Nepal – Ben Thurley - ben@umn.org.np

Other global campaigns that you might be interested in include;

**Seal The Deal** – is a UN-led campaign that aims to galvanize political will and public support for reaching a comprehensive global climate agreement in Copenhagen in December. The United Nations has launched “Seal the Deal” campaign that encourages users to sign an online, global petition which will be presented by civil society to governments of the world. The petition will serve as a reminder that our leaders must negotiate a fair, balanced and effective agreement in Copenhagen, and that they must seal a deal to power green growth, protect our planet and build a more sustainable, prosperous global economy that will benefit all nations and people
Find out more at [http://www.sealthedeal2009.org](http://www.sealthedeal2009.org)

**Tck Tck Tck** - is an unprecedented global alliance of non-government organizations, trade unions, faith groups and people like you—all calling for an ambitious, fair and binding climate change agreement. This global alliance has come together to ensure a fair, ambitious, and binding agreement from the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, a meeting of world governments in Copenhagen, Denmark starting December 7, 2009. Find out more at [http://tcktcktck.org/](http://tcktcktck.org/)

**350.org** is an international campaign dedicated to building a movement to unite the world around solutions to the climate crisis--the solutions that science and justice demand.

The **Climate Action Network** (CAN) is a worldwide network of over 450 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working to promote government and individual action to limit human-induced climate change to ecologically sustainable levels. See [www.climatenetwork.org/](http://www.climatenetwork.org/)