



# Climate change talks UNFCCC - COP 17 Durban

28 Nov- 9 Dec 2011

CCF Policy De-brief – Melanie Heath  
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# Background on UNFCCC

## ARTICLE 2

*The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, **stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations** in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient **to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally** to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.*

# Bali – Copenhagen- Cancun- Poznan - Durban - Qatar

2007 Bali – COP 13 – Bali Action Plan

2008 Poznan – COP 14 – Consolidation – long term action

2009 Copenhagen – COP 15 - Close to a legally binding agreement  
120 Heads of state – Copenhagen Accord - pledges

2010 Cancun – COP 16 – renewed faith in UN system – Cancun  
Agreements

2011 Durban - COP 17 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol  
and a roadmap with all major emitters

2012 Qatar – COP 18 - ?

# How the UNFCCC works?

Four groups met in parallel:

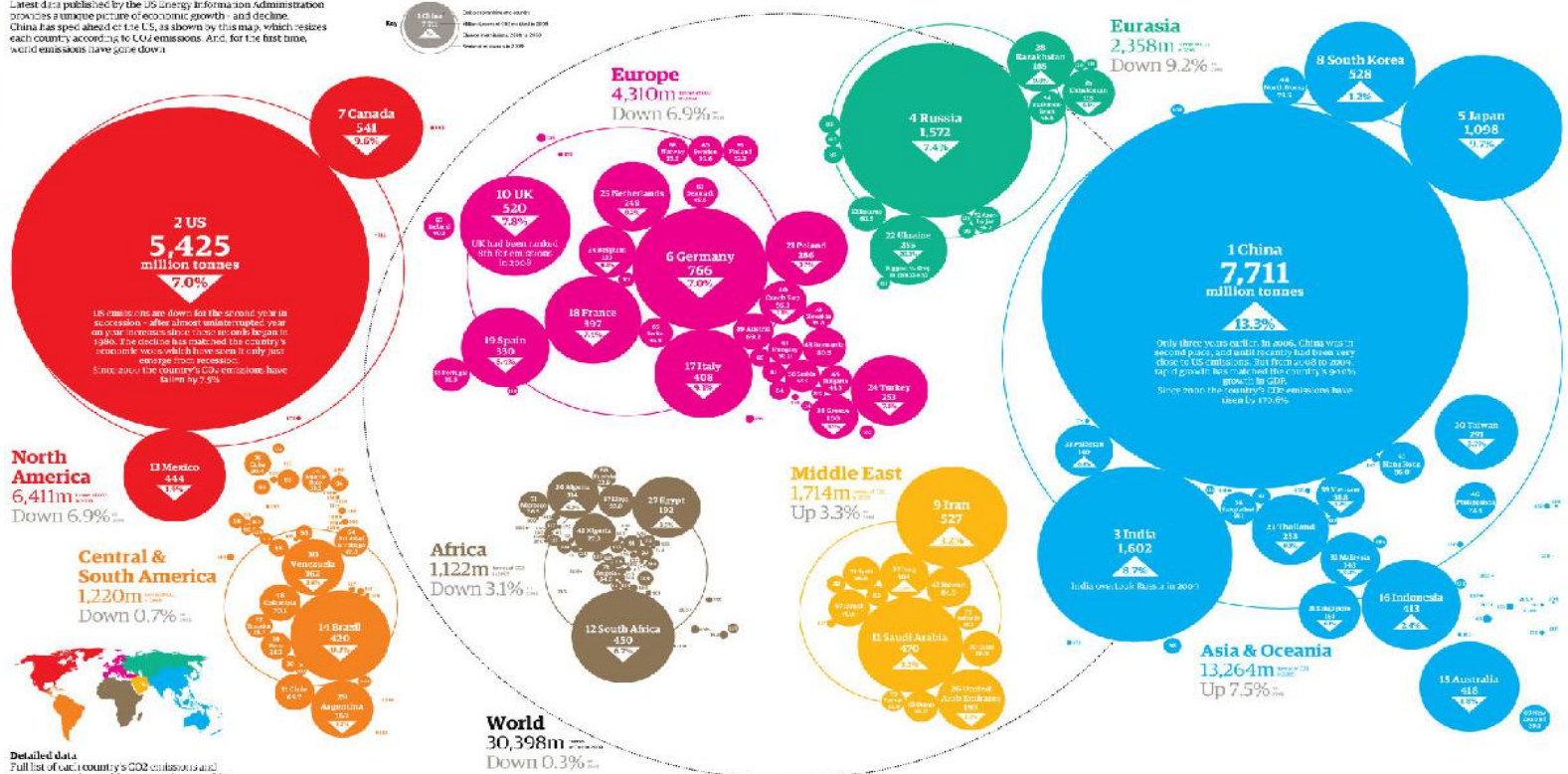
- AWG-KP Kyoto Protocol (emission reductions)
- AWG-LCA Long term Cooperative Action (e.g. REDD+ finance)
- SBI Subsidiary Body on Implementation (e.g. national adaptation plans..)
- SBSTA Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (e.g. REDD methodology/safeguards)

# Future of the Kyoto Protocol

- Comes to an end at the end of 2012 – what happens next?
- Only legally binding agreement but not all countries
- Current 17% of global emissions under KP
- Major opponents – Canada, Russia, Japan
- Countries pulling out e.g. Canada
- EU sign up (11% global emissions) but only with Roadmap to legally binding agreement for all major emitters
- Support of small island states, least developed countries, Brazil and South Africa

# The world in CO2 emissions

Latest data published by the US Energy Information Administration provides a unique picture of economic growth - and decline. China has sped ahead of the US, as shown by this map, which re-rates each country according to CO2 emissions. And, for the first time, world emissions have gone down.



Detailed data  
Full list of each country's CO2 emissions and movement in the world emissions league table

# 60 hour over-run



*"we are trying to agree a global business plan for the planet"*



# 2012-2020

2<sup>nd</sup> commitment Period of the KP – 5-8 years

Roadmap through new through Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action

“Protocol, legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force” to enter into force by 2020

2012 Qatar – COP 18

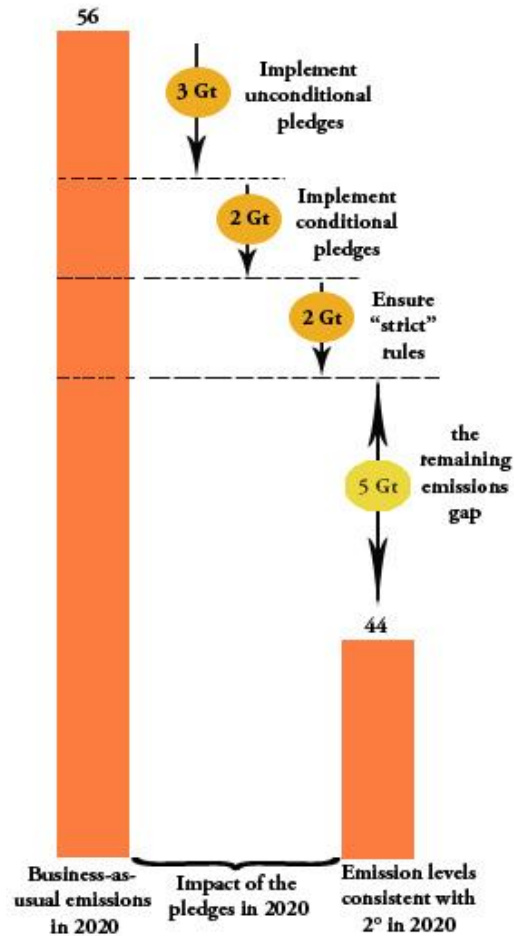
IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report

1.5 degree Review – strengthen ambition

# What the science tells us

- ❖ RSPB-Natural England-WWF UK Conference Nov 2011
- ❖ Keep global temp rise to below 2 degrees
- ❖ Must peak around 2016 and reduce by 3% annually thereafter
- ❖ Forests, marine, Arctic
- ❖ Scale and pace faster than most species can adapt naturally
- ❖ Undermine resilience – reduce capacity to supply ecosystem services
- ❖ Currently on path to world of 3 to 5 degree increases

# Closing the gigatonne gap – Emission reduction pledges



# Finance – Green Climate Fund

- Approval of the governing instrument
- Submit nominations for the members of the Board to the interim secretariat by 31 March 2012
- Board - 24 members (equal developed and developing)
- Develop environmental and social safeguards that are internationally accepted
- Thematic windows
- Interim Secretariat
- Germany 40 million Euros
- Denmark 15 million Euros

# To conclude

- Agreed to reach agreement by 2015 at the latest
- Operational by 2020
- Lawyers will be busy!
- Mitigation ambition low – ‘notes with grave concern’ - challenge how to keep up pressure – May deadline for targets
- Increase focus on domestic targets
- Positives on adaptation
- Mixed on REDD
- Green Climate Fund but needs money
- Rio+20 – Green Economy

# BirdLife and COP 17

- 6 main policy asks – lobbying and advocacy
- Strengthen links with government and other organisations
- Project/programme development
- Communication at COP (side event, stand, materials)  
Communication outside COP - wider Partnership and external
- Building capacity on climate change and shared learning (workshops)





*" It is not a half full or half empty glass, it is the commitment to have a glass,*

*and its shape, integrity, durability and whether it gets filled at all is what we now have to work on..."*