

# WWF Germany Perspective on the Benefits of a Climate Act

## Background and Context

### **Information to WWF Norway; WWF Norway's participation in the consultation process regarding Norway's Climate Act**

The German Government has undertaken various initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to transition to renewable energies. Germany is frequently viewed as being one of the leaders on climate policy by international observers. Actors and stakeholders from within Germany, however, are frequently confronted with uncertainties and perceive the regulatory environment as insufficient to provide investment security for the large-scale transformational activities, which are under way or need to be initiated in order to meet the internationally agreed target of keeping the global warming well below 2°C compared to preindustrial levels and to attempt to achieve 1,5°C limit.

This is mainly due to the absence of a National Climate Act. The absence of a National Climate Act causes any law or regulation on emissions reductions or renewable energies to be subject to possible revision not only with regard to its details but also with regard to the overall level of ambition, and on a time scale which is too short for the large-scale infrastructural investments needed. One example is the revision of the EEG (Renewable Energy Act), which substantially cut down the speed of renewable generation capacity additions. As a consequence, companies engaged in wind energy could face over-capacity issues in the following years, and companies planning to engage in low-emission technologies deal with substantial uncertainty with regard to what amounts of electricity generated from renewable sources will be available. Similar problems could arise with any other Act in Germany. The bigger the opportunities opened up by the Act, the greater the risks associated with its revisions.

Therefore, WWF Germany believes that a National Climate Act is essential for the success of the transition to a low-carbon economy and society. It is one of WWF asks for the upcoming elections in Germany.

While there is no Climate Act on national level, many Federal Lands have implemented a Climate Act or are in the process of doing so. One of the first Federal Lands to implement a Climate Act was Nordrhein-Westfalen in order to provide a better frame work to help its traditional industrial areas with the transition. WWF was consulted intensely by Nordrhein-Westfalen and Rheinland-Pfalz on Climate Act and the associated Climate Protection Plan. WWF has also provided input to the Climate Act of Schleswig-Holstein and will provide to Niedersachsen. WWFs intensive work on Climate Act began with an in depth study in 2013 [http://www.wwf.de/fileadmin/fm-wwf/Publikationen-PDF/Gutachten\\_Klimaschutz\\_und\\_Energiewenderahmengesetz\\_KEnRaG.pdf](http://www.wwf.de/fileadmin/fm-wwf/Publikationen-PDF/Gutachten_Klimaschutz_und_Energiewenderahmengesetz_KEnRaG.pdf) , which continues to be a helpful analysis. Additional statements and position papers can be found under <http://www.wwf.de/themen-projekte/klima-energie/klimaschutz-und-energiewende-in-deutschland/klimaschutzgesetz/>.

# Summary of WWF asks

In order to provide sufficient planning security and reliable regulatory framework for a transition to low carbon economy and society, a Climate Act should contain the following key points:

- **Binding targets in line with the Paris agreement.** The country should determine its carbon budget in line with the internationally agreed target of keeping the global warming well below 2°C compared to preindustrial levels and to attempt to achieve 1.5°C limit and derive its 2050 reduction target from it. For Germany, WWF is asking for a target of at least -95% in 2050. Targets for 2020, 2030 und 2040 also need to be derived consistently with the carbon budget and the long-term target for 2050. The targets for 2020, 2030, 2040 and 2050 should be legally binding.
- **Sectoral targets.** In order to achieve the overall emissions reduction target, every sector has to contribute its share. Sectoral budgets should be derived from the overall carbon budget. This would lead to binding targets per sector per decade.
- **Clear responsibilities.** The ministry responsible for the sector is also responsible for achieving the sectoral emissions reduction target. It will ensure the development of appropriate measures and secure appropriate financing of the measures.
- **Flexible use of different measures.** An appropriate set of initial measures should be developed and regularly adjusted in line with the progress made. This could be for example a Climate Protection Plan which is revised every four years.
- **Control mechanism.** The government should establish a comprehensive monitoring system and publish results for each sector annually. An independent board or committee should monitor the rate of progress and advise the government on adjustments to the Climate Protection Plan.

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