Climate change and development
October 2014

We, your constituents, care about climate change and are taking action to protect all that we love from the threat of our changing climate.

1. **What are you currently doing to tackle climate change?**
   - Please support the growing climate movement by speaking out about climate change, and publically standing alongside the millions around the world who are impacted.
     - Will you use social media, your newsletter and/or local media to talk about the need for ambitious action on climate change in the coming months?

2. Our government has a unique opportunity to change history through taking a strong stance on climate change. **Will you please ask the Prime Minister, Chancellor, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to do all they can to ensure that the EU reaches an ambitious climate position as soon as possible ahead of upcoming global meetings?**
   - The UK should do all it can to push the rest of the EU to commit to at least a 40% carbon reduction target by 2030 when heads of state meet in October, and work to ensure that this increases to at least 50% by the Paris climate meeting next year.

3. The recent Climate Marches around the world have shown the level of public concern about climate change. With the General Elections coming up next year, climate change is likely to be a defining issue across all parties. **Will you please ask your Party’s Leader to commit in your Party’s manifesto:**
   - a) to uphold the Climate Change Act 2008;
   - b) increase support for poor countries to access clean, low carbon energy, and
   - c) to work towards a science-based global climate deal by Paris in 2015 and climate proofing of the new Sustainable Development Goals in 2015.

4. We are concerned about the effects of climate change not only on our communities here in the UK, but on our brothers and sisters around the globe. Many millions of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people are bearing the brunt of climate change – yet they did the least to cause it. Rich countries need to step up and pledge support for the world’s poorest communities to develop in a sustainable, low-carbon way.

   **Following the Prime Minister’s speech at the UN summit in New York in September, will you please write to the Prime Minister David Cameron calling for the UK to contribute at least $1 billion to the Green Climate Fund before the next round of climate talks in Lima in December?**
   - This would match recent commitments from countries such as Germany and France.

---

Where we are now

Climate change, largely caused by developed countries’ carbon emissions, is disproportionately affecting developing countries, which are least able to cope with its effects. See table below for more information on Christian Aid’s work in this area.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is 95% certain that human activity is driving climate change. The global community has agreed that warming should be limited to 2°C to prevent catastrophic damage. The world is currently on track for warming between 3 and 5°C, which would have far-reaching consequences for food security, the availability of fresh water, and the frequency and intensity of storms. At this level of climate change, adaptation strategies are severely limited.

Christian Aid cares about this issue because of the devastating impact climate change is already having on the lives of the poorest. We are working hard with partners around the world to adapt to the effects of climate change.

---

1 IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, September 2013.
2 Agreed at Copenhagen in 2009 and given formal status at UNFCCC negotiations in Cancun in 2010.
However, adaptation is not enough – global leaders must do all they can to mitigate the effects of climate change before it is too late.

**What is next?**

The EU is agreeing its 2030 carbon reduction targets. The Commission has proposed an uninspiring 40% target. Proposed targets were discussed in March but sadly not agreed. It is important that the EU agrees an ambitious target in order to provide credible leadership in UN talks. In the wake of the Ukraine crisis, the focus on energy security in the EU has increased. The threat is that states will focus on short term fossil fuel solutions. The UK must play a constructive role in ensuring climate change and emission reductions are at the centre of energy policy. The UK Government’s position (50% carbon reduction) is among the most positive and it should not backtrack from this.

At the end of 2015, world leaders will gather in Paris to agree a global climate deal to mitigate climate change’s effects. It should set an ambitious, legally binding deal to take over from the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. Fair carbon reduction targets should be included for all countries, with independent monitoring. World leaders met at a UN summit in New York on 23rd September. The Prime Minister described climate change as a threat to our security and to poverty eradication. This now needs to be followed up with Government action.

The UK’s 2008 Climate Change Act was the first of its kind. 65 other countries have now followed and introduced climate change legislation, with others such as China due to consult on such a law. Following the excellent news that the Fourth Carbon Budget will remain unchanged after a review, the Government must continue to stick to its commitments in this Act.

**How is climate change affecting it?**

**Cases in point:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>How it climate change affecting it?</th>
<th>What is Christian Aid doing to help?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Philippines</td>
<td>Typhoon Haiyan killed more than 6,000 people, displaced 4 million and affected 14 million in late 2013. The 24th typhoon in the Philippines in 2013, it was the strongest storm to make landfall ever recorded. Scientists suggest that a warmer, moister climate enhances the likelihood of stronger cyclones.</td>
<td>Emergency relief, building preparedness using meteorological data collection and increasing community resilience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>An increase in temperature of 1°C since 1960 has meant more chaotic and unpredictable weather. More droughts and intense rainfall.</td>
<td>Mobile technology is being used to provide accurate weather forecasts to farmers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>In 2005 exceptional heat caused the worse drought in decades in the Amazon, leaving communities without water and food. Destruction by forest fires increased 300%. Very intense rainfall in 2006 caused a major flood engulfing thousands of homes. Residents said they had never seen such a great drought followed by a ‘deluge’.</td>
<td>Supporting access to land rights and preventing deforestation is mitigating the impact of climate change on indigenous and forest dwelling people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Glaciers in the Andes have shrunk by 30%. Glaciers in Le Paz and El Alto have shrunk by more than a third since the 1960s. Water availability has become extremely irregular.</td>
<td>Water conservation methods such as building a reservoir. Studying glaciers to predict future water availability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>Rising sea levels have contributed to the destruction of agricultural land and mean greater damage from tropical storm surges. Cyclone Aila displaced 1 million people in 2009.</td>
<td>Communities have been trained to cultivate new crops such as in floating gardens.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

2 Dr Jeff Masters, ‘Haiyan’s true intensity and death toll still unknown’, Weather Underground, November 2013, wunderground.com/blog/JeffMasters/comment.html?entrynum=2580
3 See Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature (BEST) results by country, berkeleyearth.lbl.gov/country-list/
4 Alison Doig, community answers to climate chaos: getting climate justice from the UNFCCC, Christian Aid, September 2009, christianaid.org.uk/images/community-answers-to-climate-chaos.pdf
5 Current state of glaciers in the tropical Andes: a multi-century perspective on glacier evolution and climate change, The Cryosphere, 2013, the-cryosphere.net/7/81/2013/tc-7-81-2013.html
6 Peru’s glacier meltdown threatens water supplies, Sept 2007, geography.osu.edu/faculty/bmark/newstory.pdf
8 India’s glacier retreat endangers water supplies, Sept 2007, geography.osu.edu/faculty/bmark/newstory.pdf
10 The role of agriculture in future climate change, Climate Change Institute, University of Montana, 2006, www.cci.umt.edu/research/reports.php?key=cc_010608_019

---

**Christian Aid is a member of the**

[actalliance](http://www.actalliance.org)
Questions for your MP

Thank you for taking action and contacting your MP. To help us assess the impact of your lobbying, please complete this form as soon as you have a response from your MP.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>My constituency:</th>
<th>Date of contact:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who did you contact and how? (Please provide the name and party of the MP you contacted.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key comments or quotes from the MP on the issues you raised</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please add any further comments you have.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Please use this space to feedback your MPs comments on the following questions:

1. What are you currently doing to tackle climate change?
   - Will you use social media, your newsletter and/or local media to talk about the need for ambitious action on climate change in the coming months?
2. Will you please ask the Prime Minister, Chancellor, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change to do all they can to ensure that the EU reaches an ambitious climate position as soon as possible ahead of upcoming global meetings?

3. Will you please ask your Party’s Leader to commit in your Party’s manifesto:
   a) to uphold the Climate Change Act 2008;
   b) increase support for poor countries to access clean, low carbon energy, and
   c) to work towards a science-based global climate deal by Paris in 2015 and climate proofing of the new Sustainable Development Goals in 2015.

4. Following the Prime Minister’s speech at the UN summit in New York in September, will you please write to the Prime Minister David Cameron calling for the UK to contribute at least $1 billion to the Green Climate Fund before the next round of climate talks in Lima in December?

Please return this form to:
Campaigns team, Christian Aid, 35-41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RL.

Or return to your local Christian Aid office / Regional Coordinator.