



## **Naturefriends request fair and effective protection of the climate!**

Human-induced climate change is among the greatest challenges of our time. At the beginning of December 2015, the 21st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) will be held in Paris. The aim is to adopt a new international climate protection agreement to replace the not very effective Kyoto Protocol.

Today, we are at a turning point: without an agreement, it will not be possible to limit global warming to a still-bearable measure. The consequences of climate change are already disastrous; throughout the world, millions of people suffer from droughts, storms or inundations. The main victims of climate change are those countries that are not the main generators of emissions.

Naturefriends urge the participants in the COP21 negotiations to adopt an agreement which determines clear objectives for all countries and finds solidary forms of funding and technology transfer.

### **Naturefriends core demands for the climate negotiations:**

- **Climate protection needs to be enhanced immediately!**

Neither existing regulations nor the suggestions for Paris drafted so far will suffice to achieve effective climate protection. Naturefriends expect EU governments in particular to take a stand for climate agreements binding under international law in order to halt global warming before we reach 2°C warming. Until 2050, the global carbon dioxide emissions in the energy sector need to be reduced to zero! What we need to achieve this are pioneering countries, an ecologically-minded EU and binding treaties under international law.

- **Climate protection needs an energy transition and an ecological transformation in all industries relevant for the climate!**

Naturefriends request EU governments in particular to take a pioneering role in an ecological energy transition with programmes for efficiency increase, energy saving, expansion of a decentralised supply with renewable energies and the quickest possible phase-out of nuclear energy. Furthermore, Naturefriends call on the EU governments to promote greening of the transport sector (especially by coordinated expansion of train infrastructure) and agriculture.

### **Climate protection needs to be fair!**

Climate protection is also an issue of justice. Measured by per capita carbon dioxide emissions, industrialised states are the main perpetrators of climate change. They need to take the lead because only they have the necessary financial and technological means. In the meantime however, the big threshold countries have also become part of the biggest CO2 emitters. Instead of clinging to the questionable emission trading system, a global reduction strategy needs to be fixed which goes hand in hand with a global solidary financing. Especially the poor regions of the global South which have been exposed to the consequences of climate change for decades without causing any emissions worth mentioning themselves need assistance. This is why we need an international climate fund to which all countries contribute according to the extent of their emissions.

Naturefriends call on the EU to support specific financial and technological agreements with the countries of the global South in order to mitigate the consequences of climate change in regions concerned. These agreements need to be binding under international law and must not be funded by existing development cooperation.

- **Climate protection is a necessity and an opportunity!**

An effective global climate protection agreement which creates social and ecological justice is the basis for a sustainable global development of the environment and the society which benefit everyone equally. Naturefriends demand clear rules of transparency to assess the achievement of targets, as well as more investment in innovation and research e.g. to create a low-emission transport system, energy self-sufficient buildings or sustainable energy generation from renewable resources.

*NFI is the international umbrella organisation of the Naturefriends movement, uniting over 50 member organisations and approximately 500,000 members. The focus of NFI's work is on creating and implementing sustainable development of the environment and society. NFI is member of the "Green 10", a coalition of ten leading environmental NGOs active at the EU level.*

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