

The Bali Mandate

Building Blocks for a Successful Outcome at the UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol Meetings

Why do we need an improved international treaty to address global warming? Because global issues require global solutions. We must take immediate and effective global action to avert environmental and economic collapse from climate change. No country will avoid the impacts unless all countries, large and small, developed and developing, join together as partners and actively contribute to the solution.

The entire world—nearly 200 countries in all—is gathering in Bali, Indonesia between December 3-14, 2007 to address the fast-arriving effects of global warming, the findings of climate science and the early results of efforts to stop dangerous climate change.

Most importantly, the Bali meetings must set the stage for the crucial second phase of work starting in 2013 under the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. Some are calling the package of agreements to be adopted this month the Bali Mandate.

The Sierra Club (US) and Sierra Club of/du Canada stand together in our view on the key issues to be addressed in Bali. We join with the Climate Action Network in strong support of extending, strengthening and accelerating the Kyoto Protocol to provide the resources and the clear direction needed to address the oncoming crisis of global warming.

Sierra Club Supported Outcomes for the Bali COP13/MOP3 Meetings

- Agreement on a coordinated and clear **two-year timetable** and **detailed work program** for both the UNFCCC (“Convention track”) and the Kyoto Protocol (“Kyoto track”), leading to an agreement at the UN meetings in Copenhagen at the end of 2009. This will provide time for all countries to ratify treaty amendments, maintain momentum, and avoid any delay or gap once Commitment Period 1 ends in 2012.
- Adoption of goals to limit global temperatures to **no more than 2° C** above pre-industrial levels, keep greenhouse gas levels at **450 ppm CO₂ equivalent** or less, and review these goals regularly with regard to new scientific information.
- Commitment to adopt short term (2020) and intermediate (2050) **global goals for emissions**



As countries with historically high levels of carbon dioxide emissions, the United States and Canada must shift to more renewable energy sources, like this wind farm in Texas.

reductions to achieve the 2° C/450 ppm limit as part of the Kyoto/Copenhagen agreement.

- Provide broad flexibility and resources to Subsidiary Bodies, Working Groups and other delegated bodies to assure rapid progress, prepare strong and detailed proposals as soon as possible, and accelerate the negotiations for a **final agreement in Copenhagen in 2009.**

Sierra Club Program for the United States and Canada

- Official national policy of the US and Canada opposing the Kyoto Protocol will not change until the current administrations leave office. But thereafter, the Bali Mandate should provide an open path toward reconnection of the US to the global process and reintegration of Canada as a full and active participants.
- The current national administrations of the US and Canada must not be allowed to block progress in Bali and beyond, nor to foreclose effective methods for moving forward post-2012.
- The efforts of local, state and provincial governments, civil society and the private sector in the US and Canada to address the climate crisis demonstrate the basis for full partnership by both countries in the post-2012 framework.
- Participation by the US and Canada in the Kyoto/Copenhagen framework should be based on the high levels of greenhouse gas emissions from our nations in both absolute and per capita terms, our very substantial capacity to respond, and our ability to assist other nations. The US and Canada must prepare for a higher than average level of involvement post-2012 to make up for lost time since Kyoto was adopted.

Sierra Club Principles for Kyoto/ Copenhagen Agreement

- Guidance by the **findings of scientific research** about the causes and risks of dangerous climate change, our capacity to respond, the role of technological innovation, opportunities for mitigation and

adaptation, and the uncertainty inherent in the scientific review that must be considered in determining our response.

■ **Guidance by the three pillars of sustainability:**

1. Protection of the **environment**, to reduce the impacts of climate change, protect habitats, ecosystems, biodiversity and the flow of natural services, and achieve a more harmonious relationship between human society and nature.
2. Protection of **equity** so that all people in the world fairly share the effort of stabilizing the climate and have the right and capacity for a good quality of life.
3. Protection of the **economy** to insure the well being of all people, reduce the risks from water and food shortage, air pollution, storms and other effects of a destabilized climate, and preserve our capacity to respond to the climate crisis.

■ **Adherence to the UNFCCC binding principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities**, recognizing the much larger historical and current greenhouse gas emissions of the industrialized nations, and the greater exposure of developing countries to the impacts of global warming.

■ **Adoption of a strategy of adaptive management**, focusing on a learning-based cycle of assessment, planning and action to find a successful path toward climate stabilization in the face of profound uncertainty.

■ **Time is of the essence.** Delay or shortfall in efforts to address climate change will lead to further increases in greenhouse gas emissions, raise costs, reduce trust and cause material harm to the Earth's environment and human society.

Sierra Club Program for Kyoto/Copenhagen Commitment Period 2 (2013-2020)

■ **Per Capita Emissions and Global Equity.**

Recognition of the variations in per capita emissions across and within countries, and making global equity a primary factor in pursuing a fair and effective response to global warming.

■ **Enhanced Annex B targets.** More ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets and an expanded list of covered nations. We support reductions at least 30% below 1990 levels by 2020 for Annex B countries generally, and the maximum attainable commitments for the US and Canada specifically.

■ **Accession to Annex B.** Consideration of a "graduation path" for newly industrializing countries, enabling them to take on reduction targets through a criteria-based process.

■ **Developing Countries.** Greater responsibility for other developing countries, assisted by positive incentives, enabling them to commit to concrete actions and national programs addressing both development and climate protection.

■ **Accelerated Adaptation.** Greatly increased financing and technical support for adaptation activities to near-term climate impacts, especially coastal, island, alpine, arctic and dryland areas.

■ **Land-Based Carbon Sinks.** Increased protection of terrestrial carbon sinks including farmland and forests, savannah, taiga and tundra.

■ **Energy Efficiency and Conservation.** An urgent focus in the second Commitment Period on rapid diffusion of techniques and financing to level off and decrease energy demand through energy efficiency measures and conservation efforts in all sectors.

■ **Renewable Energy.** Increased effort to develop sustainable and renewable energy resources and improve integration between renewable supply and efficient demand.

■ **Technology Programs and Funding.** Significantly expanded and less restrictive technology transfer, financing and adaptation assistance for developing countries with the most exposure to climate impacts and the most limited resources.

■ **Delivery Capacity.** Improvement of existing programs such as the Clean Development Mechanism and carbon markets, and development of new programs, to assure reliability, transparency and environmental integrity in delivering reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and improving carbon sink capacity. Also, extend coverage post-2012 to include bunker fuels (shipping and aviation) and avoided deforestation and forest degradation.

■ **Participation and Duration.** A second commitment period of 2013-2020 is preferred. Most important is the full and unqualified partnership of all nations, including the US and Canada.

Background on the UN Climate Change Meetings in Bali

This marks the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP13) and the 3rd Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP3, sometimes called MOP3).¹

A total of 190 countries, including the US and Canada, have ratified the UNFCCC as a binding treaty, and 176 have ratified the Kyoto Protocol as a treaty extension, including all industrialized countries except Australia and the United States. Australia is expected to announce at Bali that it will ratify Kyoto.

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 and came into effect in February 2005. The first five-year Commitment Period for binding global warming emissions targets for Annex B industrialized countries starts in January 2008 and ends in December 2012. Attention now turns toward what to do after 2012.

While the binding emissions targets for industrialized countries in Commitment Period 1 have received the most attention, the Kyoto Protocol is far more than that. It is permanent, comprehensive and binding. In addition to binding targets for Annex B industrialized countries, it covers scientific and technical research, flexible market mechanisms, advancement of both mitigation and adaptation programs, and financing. The world has already done a great deal under the Kyoto Protocol, but much has changed since it was adopted in 1997. The time is already late for real action. We must not hesitate to set a very high bar for the next phase of work, particularly by the US and Canada.

1. For official meeting information and agendas see http://unfccc.int/meetings/cop_13/agendas/items/4095.php

The Sierra Club, established in 1892 by John Muir, is the oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization in the United States with chapters in all 50 states. Sierra Club of/du Canada has been active in Canada since 1963. The national office of Sierra Club of Canada was established in Ottawa in 1989. Sierra Club of Canada has active chapters in every region of Canada.

Named "the most influential environmental organization" in a poll by the Aspen Institute, the Sierra Club gives the public the information and the means to make their voices heard. The Club's 1.4 million members and supporters in 65 chapters and over 400 local groups possess the unique ability to empower people and influence public policy through community activism, public education, lobbying, and litigation.

For more information, visit www.sierraclub.org and www.sierraclub.ca/.

Or contact Fred Heutte, chair, Global Warming & Energy Committee, fred.heutte@sierraclub.org; Stephen Mills, director, International Programs, stephen.mills@sierraclub.org; Emilie Moorhouse, director, Energy and Atmosphere, Sierra Club of/du Canada, emilium@sierraclub.ca