

Aotearoa New Zealand's International Climate Change Engagement Plan (2023)

Why climate change matters to Aotearoa New Zealand

Aotearoa New Zealand has a compelling national interest in ambitious global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while protecting nature and the biosphere.

How we pursue our interests internationally

Deliver our Emissions Reduction and Adaptation Plans and leverage this experience to help/encourage others

Leverage our cultural values, tirohanga Māori, indigenous perspectives, the Māori-Crown relationship and diplomatic networks

Implement Pacific and Development Climate Action Plan by delivering climate finance for ambitious action, championing Pacific priorities, standing with the Pacific on the international stage, and providing policy leadership

Diplomacy and domestic action to reinforce the multilateral rules-based system and avoid inaction that undermines it

Contribute to, and gain, knowledge within the global climate system and solutions to climate challenges through research, innovation and technical expertise

Maintain our reputation as a principled, fair and constructive participant in climate change negotiations, by influencing others in favour of developing countries

| | Our priorities | Our key messages | Success in 2023/24 | | | 2024/25 |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| GLOBAL AMBITION | Contribute to, and foster, effective global ambition | <i>Greater global ambition means enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions, net/carbon zero targets, Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform, phasing out fossil fuels</i> | Demonstrably affect the overall mitigation ambition of others | Develop NDC strategy and deliver domestic emissions reductions through agile and adaptive delivery of our ERP policies and strategies | COP28 delivers an ambitious course-correction to deliver on Paris Agreement goals including mitigation outcomes and the Global Stocktake | Mitigation ambition is reflected in NDC-2 submissions, as well as 1.5 aligned International Maritime Organization and International Civil Aviation Organization long-term goals |
| | Respond to the urgency of climate action in the context of Sustainable Development Goals | <i>New Zealand is committed to a fair and equitable global response to climate change</i> | Formalise New Zealand's position on human rights and climate change | Promote equitable solutions, just transition and indigenous rights in all multilateral climate fora | Action plans on gender, human rights, and child and youth development are mainstreamed into climate finance | New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution 2 takes account of equity |
| | Leverage NZ investment in sustainable agriculture to drive faster global emissions reduction and enhance food security | <i>Agricultural mitigation is a key component of climate action, and sustainable food systems and land use</i> | Influence for global reduction of agricultural emissions, for sustainable food systems, and to remove environmentally harmful agricultural subsidies | Promote robust, evidence-based sustainability and climate change methodologies and metrics | Action by the Global Research Alliance increases global capability and capacity to enhance agricultural mitigation | Global ambition for agricultural emissions reductions reflected in new NDCs and enhanced collaboration, research & development |
| | Promote biodiversity and ecosystem resilience through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation for mitigation and adaptation | <i>NZ advocates internationally for recognition and implementation of nature-based solutions to combat climate change and enhance biodiversity with appropriate safeguards</i> | NZ advocates international recognition of nature-based solutions to combat climate change and enhance biodiversity with appropriate safeguards | NZ fulfills Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use (GLD) commitment | Increased funding provided for nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation | New Zealand supports nature based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change towards a net gain in biodiversity |
| | Influence ambitious climate action through trade policies, instruments and institutions | <i>Trade policy, agreements and institutions drive ambitious climate action</i> | Trade agreements under negotiation such as ACCTS and IPEF promote ambitious climate action, including elimination of environmentally harmful substances | Implementation of trade agreements supports NZ access to transition technologies and services, and creates opportunities for NZ suppliers of low emissions and resilience technologies and services | NZ shows leadership by strengthening climate action under existing agreements, e.g. CPTPP and CER | Free Trade Agreements support climate action and sustainability; the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability is agreed and membership expanded; World Trade Organisation work programme on Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform established, and CER40 climate commitments are being implemented |
| PACIFIC RESILIENCE | Lead and invest in a resilient & empowered Pacific transition | <i>The future, prosperity, security and wellbeing of the Pacific depends on greater adaptation and enhanced regional & global climate action</i> | Deliver NZ's climate finance commitments in line with new climate finance strategy | Provide policy leadership on sea level rise, climate mobility, loss and damage, oceans and fisheries | COP28 is inclusive of Pacific and other Small Island Developing States and the Pacific Pavilion ensures high visibility of Pacific issues. | NZ supports Pacific Nationally Determined Contributions, Adaptation Plans and Long-term Low Emissions and Development Strategies |
| | Enhance the mobilisation of climate finance | <i>Collectively we need to increase climate finance for developing countries, especially for adaptation, and make capital flows more sustainable, including by implementing Article 2.1(c) of the Paris Agreement</i> | Push to align financial flows with Paris Agreement goals including by establishing approaches to achieving Article 2.1(c) in UNFCCC negotiations (including COP28) and advocating for policy levers including climate related financial disclosures | Promote ambitious commitments to meet collective finance goals with bilateral and multilateral partners, including MDBs and IFIs | Contribute to ensuring COP28 establishes a loss and damage fund that is effective and accessible for the Pacific | New global finance goal agreed; New Zealand's post 2025 climate finance commitment announced |
| | Support Pacific partners to prepare for and respond to climate-driven events that threaten security | <i>The security and wellbeing of the Pacific depends on effective regional responses to climate-driven security events</i> | Deliver on relevant aspects of the New Zealand Defence Force Climate Change Response Programme | Be prepared to respond to multiple concurrent complex climate-driven events | Be a trusted partner on climate change and security in the Pacific | Continue to deliver on relevant aspects of the New Zealand Defence Force Climate Change Response Programme |
| DOMESTIC TRANSITION | Support New Zealand's plan for transitioning to a low-emissions climate-resilient future | <i>New Zealand's domestic legislation, policies & plans provide a low-emissions pathway aligned to 1.5C</i> | Adaptively implement the policies and programmes outlined in the Emissions Reduction Plan and National Adaptation Plan | Bilateral and international cooperation and business links support access to technology, research and innovation needed for domestic transition | Foster transparency and connectedness between international governance structures to support the design and implementation of domestic policies for the transition to a low emissions, resilient economy | Public finance prioritises climate action |
| | Cooperate to reduce emissions in other countries to contribute to New Zealand's Nationally Determined Contribution | <i>New Zealand's cooperation to support emissions reductions in other countries lets us make a greater contribution to the global effort than domestic emission reductions alone</i> | Complete strategy for international cooperation that operationalises environmental integrity and sustainable development and human rights objectives | Develop potential cooperation activities and options for partnerships with governments, multilateral funds and project developers | Influence carbon market development, including through the UNFCCC, APCMR and capacity building processes | Cooperation arrangements formalised and initial purchasing commences |

Mātauranga Māori

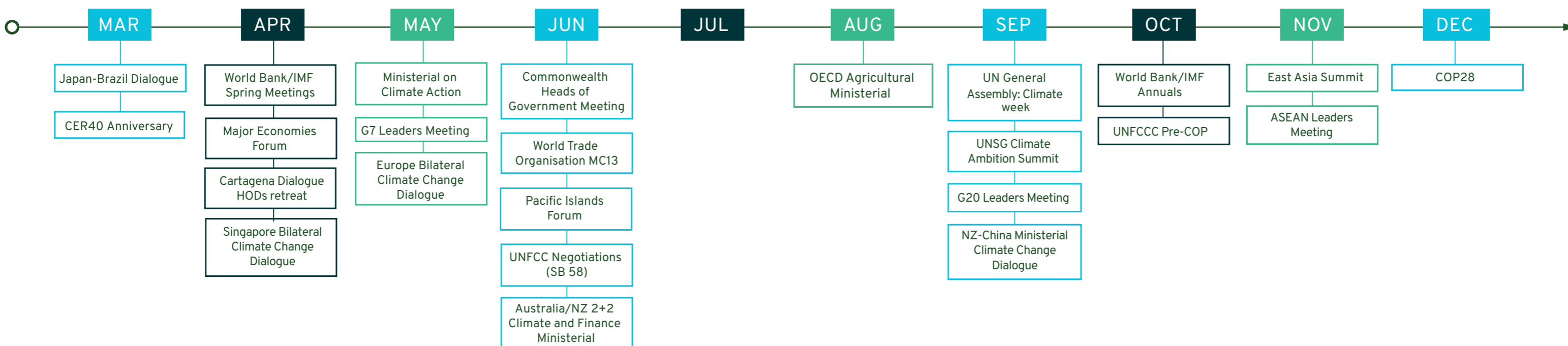
Our international engagement on climate change must acknowledge and address the risks and opportunities for iwi, hapū and the Māori economy. Engagement in 2023 and beyond will ensure global action is equitable for Māori, including being informed by Māori, and seeks outcomes that promote and protect Māori rights and interests under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

This includes:

- Delegations and international engagement on climate change show clear partnership and representation;
- Mātauranga Māori and tirohanga Māori informs policy and decision-making;
- Respecting and upholding Indigenous rights, knowledge, practices, culture and values such as kaitiakitanga that are integral to te ao Māori;
- Promoting Māori interests in climate and biodiversity objectives on the international stage, including as they relate to the Māori economy and the resilience of Māori communities; and
- Empowering and amplifying the experiences of other Indigenous Peoples globally.

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Major international climate change-related engagements in 2023



Sectoral opportunities



ENERGY

- Gather insights and best practice in other countries, including via the International Energy Agency, Clean Energy Ministerial
- Promote global ambition to decarbonise the energy sector, building on Glasgow Pact commitments to accelerate phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies
- Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation: accelerate development of renewable energy, and phasing out of fossil fuel subsidies: put the voluntary standstill from end of 2022 into operation, and contribute to development of international low carbon hydrogen standard
- Support the Emissions Reduction Plan through accessing technology and innovation supporting electricity transmission and energy storage; energy efficiency technologies; bio-energy and hydrogen supplies



LAND SECTOR

- Partner with like-minded countries to drive reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions from land use
- Promote robust evidence-based metrics and research that encourage sustainable food systems and healthy diets
- Demonstrate gross emission reductions and sustainable forestry removals
- Support the Emissions Reduction Plan through driving increased investment into R&D and innovation for low emissions agricultural technology and encouraging global efforts to use nature based solutions.



TRANSPORT

- Support NZ achievement of the COP26 declaration on transition to 100% zero emission cars and vans
- Advocate for International Maritime Organisation and International Civil Aviation Organisation goals that align with 1.5°C implement the Clydebank Declaration to decarbonise shared shipping routes, and support effective implementation of the International Civil Aviation Organisation Carbon Offsetting Scheme.
- Support the Emissions Reduction Plan through cooperation on supply of low emissions vehicles, aviation and maritime technologies, and low emissions fuels and associated infrastructure.



FISCAL AND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

- Advocate for green recovery, carbon pricing and reform of environmentally harmful subsidies
- Support Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and advocate for climate-related financial disclosure
- Outreach on the green bonds product launch
- Support the Emissions Reduction Plan through engagement on emissions leakage policies aligned with increasing climate ambition, and accelerating sustainable finance