



NDC CHECKLIST

Japan Analysis

WWF'S NDC RATING GRADES

- ✔ NDC We Want
- ⓘ Short Way to Go
- ✂ Some Way to Go
- ✘ NDC We Don't Want

		2015 NDC (resubmitted in 2020)	Analysis
AMBITION			
	MITIGATION		
1	Strengthened mitigation targets	GHG target of 26% reduction in GHG emissions by 2030 compared to 2013, or 25.4% reduction compared to 2005, equivalent to approximately 1.042 billion t-CO ₂ eq in 2030. The resubmitted NDC states that Japan “will pursue further efforts both in the medium-term and long-term, to reduce GHG emissions beyond this level” without presenting further details.	According to the Carbon Action Tracker, Japan’s NDC is rated as “highly insufficient”. Its commitments fall outside the fair share range and are not at all consistent with holding warming to below 2°C let alone with the Paris Agreement’s stronger 1.5°C limit. Japanese civil society has requested that Japan re-submits its NDC by COP 26, with a reduction of at least 45-50% from the 1990 level by 2030 (the current target represents a 18% reduction from 1990 levels).
2	An economy-wide absolute 2030 target	The NDC has an economy-wide absolute target that includes the following sectors: Energy; Industrial processes and product use; Agriculture; Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF); and Waste. - The target excludes LULUCF in the base year (2013), but includes LULUCF credits in the target year (2030). LULUCF target for removals are set as approximately 37 million t-CO ₂ . - The Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) is not included as a basis of the bottom-up calculation of Japan’s emission reduction target, but the amount of emission reductions and removals acquired by Japan under the JCM will be appropriately counted as Japan’s reduction.	The NDC does not clarify whether JCM credits will be used towards Japan’s contribution to the Paris agreement. This is therefore an open possibility.
3	A 2021-2030 carbon budget aligned to 1.5°C	No carbon budget is mentioned. The NDC states that Japan’s commitments are consistent with the long-term emission pathways up to 2050 to achieve the 2°C goal as presented in the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).	No carbon budget is mentioned.

4	NDC targets aligned to a 2050 or earlier Net-Zero Long-term Strategy	Japan's Long-term Strategy (LTS), submitted to the UNFCCC in 2019, was elaborated as a comprehensive long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategy. The LTS aims at a "decarbonized society" as the ultimate goal to be accomplished as early as possible in the second half of this century, while taking measures towards the reduction of GHGs emissions by 80% by 2050. The LTS should be reviewed every 6 years.	The level of information provided in the NDC does not allow for an assessment its alignment with the LTS. It is fair to conclude that further alignment is needed since the NDC is from 2015 and the LTS is from 2019.
ADAPTATION			
5	Clear adaptation objectives	–	No clear adaptation and resilience objectives mentioned in the NDCs. Japan has a National Adaptation Plan but no reference is made to it.
FINANCE			
6	Finance Commitments	–	No information presented in the NDC.
7	Clear conditional targets	–	–
8	Moving from conditional to unconditional targets	–	–
FOSTERING SYSTEMIC CHANGE			
9	Increased sectoral coverage	Japan's 2015 NDC presented economy-wide targets.	Japan's 2015 NDC presented economy-wide targets.

10	Quantitative Sectoral targets	<p>There are quantitative sectoral targets in the NDC related to energy - which is relevant, considering approximately 90% of GHG emissions in Japan is covered by energy-originated CO₂ - and for non-energy originated CO₂. As part of the reference information, the NDC provides quantitative emission targets of energy-originated CO₂ (reduction by 25.0% compared to 2013 level) (24.0% reduction compared to FY 2005 level) (approximately 927 million t-CO₂). As per non-energy originated CO₂, the target is set as 6.7% reduction compared to 2013 level (17.0% reduction compared to FY 2005 level) (approximately 70.8 million t-CO₂). The NDC refers to industrial sectors, including steel (converter steel production) and cement (clinker production) recognizing that further improvement is needed, such as promotion and enhancement of the industries' action plans towards a low carbon society. Targets for LULUCF are also defined.</p>	<p>The Japanese NDC presents quantitative sectoral targets for the main emitting sectors in the country.</p>
11	Key structural sectors included	-	-
12	Just transition policies	-	-
13	Cross-sectoral approaches	<p>The NDC mentions that for energy-originated emissions, cross-sectoral measures will be taken, such as the introduction of high-efficient air conditioner; introduction of industrial heating-drying; introduction of industrial light; introduction of low-carbon industrial furnace; introduction of industrial motor; introduction of high performance boiler; direct use of recycled plastic flakes; introduction of hybrid construction machine; introduction of energy efficiency and conservation farming machinery; introduction of energy efficiency and conservation equipment in horticultural facility; switch to energy efficiency and conservation fishing vessels; promotion of cooperative energy efficiency and conservation measures across the industries; and the promotion of low-carbonization in special vehicles. It is also referred that for the implementation of cross-sectional strategies the J-Credit Scheme[1] will be promoted.</p>	<p>The Japanese NDC presents cross-sectoral approaches for energy-originated emissions.</p>

INCLUSIVENESS AND PARTICIPATION

14	Inclusive process to invite inputs from institutions and citizens in the NDC design	The INDC was considered through discussions open to the public at the Joint Experts' Meeting of the Central Environment Council (Subcommittee on Global Warming Measurement after 2020, Global Environment Committee) and the Industrial Structure Council (INDC Working Group, Global Environment Subcommittee, Committee on Industrial Science and Technology Policy and Environment). Energy policies and the energy mix were considered through open discussions at the Advisory Committee for Natural Resources and Energy. Based on these discussions, the Global Warming Prevention Headquarters (ministerial decision-making body for global warming countermeasures) developed a draft INDC. There was no consultation process before the resubmission of the 2020 NDC.	Japanese NGOs have urged Prime Minister to substantially increase national climate targets following a public consultation to be in line with the science and to cease all new fossil fuel production. According to them, a public consultation process should have been conducted, ensuring broad civil society participation, an inter-ministerial review process within the government should be formally established and after these enabling conditions, a resubmission of the NDC would be carried out.
15	Disclosure of information	No information was disclosed before the resubmission of the NDC	No information was disclosed before the resubmission of the NDC
16	Reporting back on process	-	-
17	Participatory Climate governance structures	The governance structure created by the Japanese Government for the design of the 2015 INDC was not maintained for the 2020 resubmission.	The governance structure created by the Japanese Government for the design of the 2015 INDC was not maintained for the 2020 resubmission.
CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT			
18	Linkages with SDGs	-	-
19	Measurable Nature-based Solutions	Although the expression NBS itself is not used, the NDC presents a target for LULUCF removals of approximately 37 million t-CO ₂ (corresponding to 2.6% reduction of total emissions in FY 2013 (corresponding to 2.6% reduction of total emissions in FY 2005)) (approximately 27.8 million t-CO ₂ by forest carbon sinks measures (corresponding to 2.0% of total emissions in FY 2013 (corresponding to 2.0% reduction of total emissions in FY 2005)), and approximately 9.1 million t-CO ₂ by cropland management, grazing land management and revegetation (corresponding to 0.6% reduction of total emissions in FY 2013 (corresponding to 0.7% reduction of total emissions in FY 2005))).	The NDC does present LULUCF removals targets. However, clarity would be needed on how this strategy aims to address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits.

TRACKING PROGRESS

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A transparent national system to track implementation

WWF checklist for Japan's 2020 NDC assessment

Mitigation

Adaptation

Finance

Fostering system change

Inclusiveness and Participation

Contribution to Sustainable Development

Tracking progress

Japan's rating grade after assessment:  NDC We Don't Want

For more information

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