



NDC CHECKLIST

New Zealand Analysis

WWF'S NDC RATING GRADES

- ✓ NDC We Want
- ⓘ Short Way to Go
- / Some Way to Go
- ✗ NDC We Don't Want

		2016 NDC	2020 NDC	Analysis
AMBITION				
	MITIGATION			
1	Strengthened mitigation targets	Emissions will be reduced to 30% below 2005 levels by 2030. In meeting its target New Zealand intends to use international market mechanisms, cooperative approaches and carbon markets that enable trading and use of a wide variety of units/emission reductions/mitigation outcomes that meet reasonable standards and guidelines.	Confirmed commitment to national action through legislation enacted in late 2019, the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act, that set a new domestic target to i) reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases (other than biogenic methane) to zero by 2050, and ii) reduce emissions of biogenic methane to 24 to 47% below 2017 levels by 2050, including to 10% below 2017 levels by 2030.	<p>The 2016 target (30% below 2005 levels by 2030) is equivalent to 11% below 1990 levels. It includes LULUCF and relies on removing emissions from forestry and other uses of land, as well as the use of international market mechanisms, cooperative approaches and carbon markets.</p> <p>In its 2020 NDC update, New Zealand confirms this general emissions reduction target that covers all sectors and GHGs and informs about its Climate Act, approved in 2019, that set a new domestic target to reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases (other than biogenic methane) to zero by 2050, and to reduce emissions of biogenic methane to 24 to 47 per cent below 2017 levels by 2050, including to 10 per cent below 2017 levels by 2030. However, New Zealand has been criticised for using "gross-net" accounting. That means the 2030 target is for net emissions (including carbon sink of forests) but it is measured against the 2005 gross emissions, meaning net emissions can grow and New Zealand still meets its commitment.</p>
2	An economy-wide absolute 2030 target			

3	A 2021-2030 carbon budget aligned to 1.5°C	The NDC mentions that the type of commitment is an absolute reduction target managed using a carbon budget.	The NDC mentions that New Zealand remains fully committed to ambitious national and global climate action to achieve the aims of the Paris Agreement, to supporting efforts aimed at limiting warming to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and to building resilience to the impacts of climate change with a focus on their Pacific neighbours. It also states that the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act established a framework for a series of emissions budgets to act as stepping stones towards the long-term target, and plans and policies to achieve them.	The NDC indicates that there will be a process in 2021 around alignment to 1.5 within the Climate Change Committee. It is important to highlight that the Zero Carbon Act does not introduce any policies to actually cut emissions. According to the Climate Action Tracker, the mitigation targets are insufficient as goals are not consistent with holding warming below 2C, let alone with the Paris Agreement's stronger 1.5C limit. This is the sixth time in a row that New Zealand's response to the climate crisis has been ranked as "insufficient".
4	NDC targets aligned to a 2050 or earlier Net-Zero Long-term Strategy	Not mentioned.	The NDC states that the legislation enacted in late 2019 established a framework for a series of emissions budgets to act as stepping stones towards the long-term target, and plans and policies to achieve them; and set a new domestic target to i) reduce net emissions of greenhouse gases (other than biogenic methane) to zero by 2050; and to ii) reduce emissions of biogenic methane to 24 to 47% below 2017 levels by 2050.	The Zero Carbon Amendment Act establishes zero net emissions (excluding methane emissions from agriculture and waste) by 2050 . Methane emissions from these sectors represent about 40% of New Zealand's current emissions and are covered by a separate target (of at least 24-47% below 2017 levels by 2050, with an interim target of 10% by 2030). While the Zero-Carbon Act strengthens its former New Zealand's 2050 target (halving its greenhouse gas emissions by 2050), excluding such a substantial share of emissions from the net zero goal lowers its ambition. Therefore, a critical step towards enhanced ambition would be to have biogenic methane included in the zero net emissions target by 2050.
ADAPTATION				
5	Clear adaptation objectives	Not mentioned.	Mentions that the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act established regular measures to plan for the impacts of climate change in a coordinated way, including a National Climate Change Risk Assessment and a National Adaptation Plan.	The country has moved from no reference in the 2016 NDC to a promise in the 2020 NDC of a National Adaptation Plan (NAP), to be elaborated after the first National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA), currently under development. The NCCRA should inform the development of a NAP, allowing the government to understand which risks are the most significant that need to be addressed in the short term.

FINANCE				
6	Finance Commitments	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	<p><u>No specific information on finance commitments is provided in both submissions. However, the first NDC clearly states that the country intends to use international market mechanisms, cooperative approaches and carbon markets. According to the government, the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) is the government's main tool for meeting domestic and international climate change targets.</u></p> <p><u>New Zealand supports climate change action in developing countries, having contributed approximately NZ\$455 million in climate related support for developing countries during 2013-2016. The government has also invested with an initial capital fund of NZD \$100 million to establish the New Zealand Green Investment Finance Ltd (NZGIF), with the objective to accelerate investment in projects that reduce domestic greenhouse gas emissions. (National Communication and Biennial Report - Ministry for the Environment, 2017). https://www.mfe.govt.nz/sites/default/files/media/Climate%20Change/Final%20Snapshot_WEB.pdf</u></p>
7	Clear conditional targets	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	Both NDCs do not refer to conditional targets.
8	Moving from conditional to unconditional targets	2030 unconditional target.	2030 unconditional target maintained; new 2050 unconditional target.	2030 unconditional target maintained; new 2050 unconditional target.
FOSTERING SYSTEMIC CHANGE				
9	Increased sectoral coverage	Economy-wide covering the sectors of Energy; Industrial processes and product use; Agriculture; Forestry and other land use; and Waste (economy-wide, including LULUCF).	Same coverage.	Both NDCs present economy-wide sectoral coverage, including LULUCF.

10	Quantitative Sectoral targets	New Zealand's approach to forestry and other land use accounting will be fully described in its First Communication under the Paris Agreement. Its assumed accounting for the forestry and other land use sector will be based on a combination of the 2006 IPCC Guidance and the 2013 IPCC Kyoto Protocol Supplement.	Not mentioned.	There are no quantitative sectoral targets in both NDCs.
11	Key structural sectors included	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	There are no key structural sectors addressed in both NDCs.
12	Just transition policies	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	Just transition policies are not addressed in both NDCs.
13	Cross-sectoral approaches	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	

INCLUSIVENESS AND PARTICIPATION

14	Inclusive process to invite inputs from institutions and citizens in the NDC design	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	Although not mentioned in both NDCs, the New Zealand public was consulted in 2015 before the 2030 target was set for the first NDC (National Communication and Biennial Report - Ministry for the Environment, 2017). During the submission period 15 public meetings were held across the country and 17,023 written submissions were received from 15,639 submitters. There was strong criticism about the consultation process, including the short notice, insufficient advertising and number of public meetings, with a particular concern from Iwi/Māori and councils that the short timeline left them unable to engage effectively the information provided in the Discussion Document, in particular about the representation of the costs, and the need for more information for stakeholders to make an informed submission. It is expected that New Zealand undertakes a similar process for updating its NDC.
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15	Disclosure of information	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	While there is no reference made in the NDC submissions, relevant information is available on the Ministry of Environment's website, including the material released as part of the consultation process and a summary of consultation responses. Of the public submissions received, 1,485 were unique (i.e., completed through the Ministry's online webform or by writing an individual response by email/letter). The remainder of submissions were 'form' submissions (i.e., drafted by particular organisations/groups and submitted by individuals).
16	Reporting back on process	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	A summary of consultation responses in the consultation process for the 2015 NDC is available on the Ministry for the Environment's website.
17	Participatory Climate governance structures	Not mentioned.	The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act established a new, independent Climate Change Commission in December 2019 to provide expert advice and monitoring, with the goal of helping keep successive governments on track to meeting long-term goals.	The establishment of the Climate Change Commission with a mandate to, among other things, provide for public participation; publish and invite comments on discussion papers and draft reports; and carry out any other type of consultation that it deems necessary for the performance of its functions and duties in accordance with the Climate Law is an advance. It is to be seen whether the Commission will be able to implement such actions regarding stronger climate ambition before COP 26

CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

18	Linkages with SDGs	Not mentioned.	Not mentioned.	There are no linkages with SDGs made in both NDC submissions.
19	Measurable Nature-based Solutions	Mentions that New Zealand's forestry and other land use approach will create incentives for the establishment of new forests, recognise permanent, long-term enhancements of carbon sinks resulting from new management, and take responsibility for deforestation, while accommodating the long-term cycles in net emissions and removals that arise from sustainable forest management.	Not mentioned.	Nature-based solutions are only briefly mentioned in the first NDC, but not elaborated upon.

TRACKING PROGRESS

20	<p>A transparent national system to track implementation</p>	<p>Not mentioned.</p>	<p>The Climate Change Response Law (Zero Carbon) established the Climate Change Commission in December 2019 to provide expert advice and monitoring, with the goal of helping keep successive governments on track to meeting long-term goals.</p>	<p>The 2020 NDC does not elaborate on a system to track implementation, but it does mention the creation of the Climate Change Commission. As established by the national legislation, one of its purposes is to monitor and review the Government's progress towards its emissions reduction and adaptation goals. Overall, updated information on measuring, reporting and accounting for emissions, including the types of emissions data reported and its purposes can be found on the Ministry for the Environment's website. Therefore, some progress is observed in building a transparent national system to track implementation of the NDCs.</p>
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WWF checklist for New Zealand's 2020 NDC assessment

- Mitigation
- Adaptation
- Finance
- Fostering system change
- Inclusiveness and Participation
- Contribution to Sustainable Development
- Tracking progress

New Zealand's rating grade after assessment: ⊗ NDC We Don't Want

For more information

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