



Media Release

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WWF: UNPRECEDENTED RATE OF CHANGE IN CLIMATE DEMANDS ACTION

Stockholm, Switzerland – Climate change is happening faster, more intensely and, in many cases, at an unprecedented rate of change, according to the Fifth Assessment Working Group 1 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This demands action.

“There are few surprises in this report but the increase in the confidence around many observations just validates what we are seeing happening around us. Since the IPCC issued its last big report in 2007, terrestrial glacier loss and sea-level rise has dramatically accelerated; the Arctic summer sea ice losses are higher than originally projected and the last decade was the warmest since 1850,” says Samantha Smith, leader of WWF’s Global Climate & Energy Initiative.

In particular findings showing major impacts on our oceans are a huge concern, as more than one billion people live and depend on oceans as their main source of food and livelihoods. Ocean acidification since 1900 has increased by almost 30% and is probably strongest since many million years.

“It’s CO₂ mainly from burning fossil fuels that dissolves in oceans and may destroy an already fragile ecosystem in an almost irreversible way if mankind does not shift from fossil fuels to renewables as soon as possible”, says Dr Stephan Singer, WWF’s director of global energy policy. Warmer and much more acid oceans are detrimental for fish, coral reefs and most other parts of marine ecosystems.

It is incumbent on all sectors of society, including governments, to now act on the facts and science presented in this report which has gone through an unprecedented process of review, he says.

“Whichever facts may be discussed, debated or distorted, we cannot ignore the reality that we must act or face frightening new impacts. We know that most of the pollution that causes climate change comes from burning fossil fuels. WWF calls on governments and investors to stop investing in dirty energy and start an immediate and just transition by investing in renewables,” says Smith.

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About WWF

WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organisations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

The Global Climate & Energy Initiative (GCEI) is WWF's global programme addressing climate change, promoting renewable and sustainable energy, scaling up green finance, engaging the private sector and working nationally and internationally on implementing low carbon, climate resilient development.

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