

Media Release

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Statement by Samantha Smith, Leader of the WWF Global Climate & Energy Initiative

Response to the World Bank Report released today: Turn Down the Heat: Climate Extremes, Regional Impacts and the Case for Resilience

Gland, Switzerland – The world's most vulnerable people, both inland and in coastal areas, are at increasing risk to the extremes of climate change, are least able to marshal resources to adapt to a warming world.

Climate change is putting their food and water supplies under increasing risk and we have to ask ourselves if we are really serious about global warming when our global financial institutions – like the World Bank and others – continue to fund the development of dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure like coal plants, many of which are in countries whose people are the most vulnerable.

Renewable energy offers a safer, cleaner option. It is the only option that will allow governments across the world to provide access to energy for their most vulnerable communities who today, remain without this basic right.

WWF's Seize Your Power campaign, launched earlier this month, addresses such shortcomings with a clear focus on clean renewable energy instead of oil, coal or gas for further energy infrastructure investments by public and private institutions.

We are calling for new and additional commitments of at least \$US40 billion in renewables by June 2014.

I challenge World Bank President Jim Yong Kim to make a commitment to increase their funding of renewable energy infrastructure.

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Notes to editors:

1. [*Turn Down the Heat: Climate Extremes, Regional Impacts, and the Case for Resilience*](#)



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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.

See www.panda.org/news for latest news and media resources and **Seize Your Power!** campaign news

Read **The Energy Report** at www.panda.org/energyreport

Seize Your Power! Read and sign the global renewable energy campaign pledge here: www.panda.org/seizeyourpower