

Media Release

For immediate release 10 June 2013

WWF Statement on US/China climate change pledge

Gland, Switzerland – WWF issued the following statement from **Samantha Smith, leader of the WWF's Global Climate & Energy Initiative** on the pledge announced yesterday by U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping to reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs:

“WWF welcomes the recent pledge by U.S. President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping to reduce the use of the dangerous greenhouse gases known as hydrofluorocarbons, or HFCs.

“An initiative to significantly cut HFCs by the world’s two largest emitters of greenhouse gases will make a contribution towards the world avoiding runaway climate change. *Strong action to reduce this very potent form of greenhouse gas through all available forms is sorely needed.*

“However, these efforts can only be effective if they are coupled with major commitments to rapidly reduce carbon dioxide emissions, which are the largest cause of climate change. *We trust that the agreement on HFCs will mark the beginning of robust action and collaboration between these two largest emitters. We cannot afford to lose any focus on cutting the use of fossil fuels in both countries.*”

ends

Notes to editors:

1 White House media release

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/06/08/united-states-and-china-agree-work-together-phase-down-hfcs>

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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.



WWF *for a living planet*®

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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