



for a living planet®

WWF International
Avenue du Mont-Blanc
1196 Gland
Switzerland
panda.org

Media Release

Embargo: **13:30 GMT, 7 April 2014**

Climate change threat highlights energy investment challenge

The increase in renewable energy's share of world electricity generation is positive, but lags behind the level needed to tackle dangerous climate change, said WWF in reaction to a report published today on global energy investment.

The report, produced by the Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre for Climate & Sustainable Energy Finance, noted that renewables accounted for close to 44% of newly installed electricity generating capacity in 2013.

The Frankfurt/UNEP report was released as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) meets in Berlin to consider its own study on the mitigation of climate change. The panel is expected to recommend the decarbonisation of global energy systems as the most important way to lessen the impacts of climate change. Last week, a companion report issued by the IPCC set out in detail the threats posed by climate change.

"The messages coming from the IPCC couldn't be clearer: Climate change is a huge risk that the world isn't doing enough to tackle. Changing our energy sector is central to the task of confronting that risk," said **Samantha Smith, leader of WWF's Global Climate & Energy Initiative**. "We must quit fossil fuels and switch to clean renewable energy. We have the knowledge and power to stop climate change – we just need to seize it," Smith added.

According to the Frankfurt/UNEP report, the increase in renewable energy sources kept an estimated 1.2 gigatonnes of CO₂ emissions from being put into the atmosphere in 2013. Even with this positive development, the so-called '*gigatonne gap*' – the difference between the world's current emissions trajectory and the course required to keep global warming below 2°C – remains huge.

"Growth in the clean renewable sector is good news, but it's extremely worrying that this is way below what is needed to avert dangerous climate change. Political security, reliable investment frameworks and ambitious, binding renewable energy targets are needed to more than triple investments in renewable energy over the next 15 years," said **Stephan Singer, Director of Global Energy Policy at WWF International**.

While the report highlights an increase in the share of renewable energy in global electricity generation, the study also notes a decline in investments in the same sector. That decline is explained, in part, by the falling cost of some renewable technologies and uncertainty around energy policy.

WWF is currently running a global energy campaign, "Seize Your Power," calling on financial institutions to make a significant shift in funding from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Confronting climate change is primarily a problem for policymakers and investors, and moving investments from fossil fuels to renewable energy is an essential part of the fight against climate change.

— ENDS —

Notes to editors

1. The report, Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment 2014, produced by the Frankfurt School-UNEP Collaborating Centre for Climate & Sustainable Energy Finance and Bloomberg New Energy Finance, is published today, 7 April.
2. IPCC Report: A changing climate creates pervasive risks but opportunities exist for effective responses http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/ar5/pr_wg2/140330_pr_wg2_spm_en.pdf



WWF *for a living planet*[®]

3. WWF is running a global campaign, Seize Your Power, calling on financial institutions including major sovereign wealth funds, pension funds and multilateral development banks to significantly increase their funding of renewable energy and cut funding to fossil fuels as a key means of tackling climate change. In the past twelve months the World Bank, European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development have all committed to virtually end coal investments.
www.panda.org/syp

For more information:

Mandy Jean Woods (communications) mwoods@wwf.org.za, twitter: @mandyjeanwoods

Samantha Smith, Leader, WWF's Global Climate & Energy Initiative, Mob: + 47 45 02 21 49, email: ssmith@wwf.no, twitter: @pandaclimate

George Smeeton, Media Relations Manager WWF-UK
Tel: 01483 412 388, mob: 07917 052 948, email: GSmeeton@wwf.org.uk, twitter: @GSmeeton

About WWF

WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations, 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.

panda.org/news for latest news and media resources