With the Paris Agreement, the international community signed up to the goal of limiting global temperature increases to well below 2°C (target of 1.5°C) compared with pre-industrial levels. The Paris climate goal is to be achieved in international cooperation through national climate protection contributions. The climate protection contributions announced by countries to date are far from sufficient to achieve this. They correspond to a trajectory that would mean a temperature increase of 3-4°C. This is a disaster in the making. We must take decisive and immediate action to counter this.

Protecting our world’s climate is a question of human survival. The Earth is being pushed ever faster to its limits. It is the industrialised countries that are mainly responsible for climate change. Its primary victims are the people living in developing countries. That is why this is about so much more than just ecological issues – climate policy is closely linked to development policy:

- One hundred million people in coastal and drought-affected areas are at risk from heat and rising sea levels. Their livelihoods are threatened.
- According to the World Bank, up to 140 million people could be displaced from their homes by 2050 because of climate change.

This is not acceptable. That is why we need robust implementation of the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that is compatible with climate protection, thereby enabling us to meet the development needs of emerging and developing countries while the world population continues to grow strongly.

Our partner countries in the Global South need extensive support in this respect. Development cooperation alone cannot provide the necessary resources to achieve this. Strong partners must be recruited – policymakers, business leaders, civil society, and each and every individual – to help preserve a world worth living in for present and future generations. Significant voluntary contributions are needed from non-governmental stakeholders so as to effectively complement government efforts. Privately-financed, emission-offsetting projects that meet high standards can effectively support partner countries in their climate protection efforts and in their development (co-benefits). Such projects are a decisive element in overcoming the challenges of climate change in the future and at the same time facilitating development, because climate protection measures are particularly effective in developing and emerging countries.

- Mangroves bind up to 5 times more CO₂ than other forests and protect against flooding – but a third of the mangroves in the world have already been destroyed.
- In Africa, 600 million people still have no access to electricity at all. Renewable energies, not fossil solutions, should meet this need, enabling climate goals to be met.

This is the background against which the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) launched the Development and Climate Alliance in late 2018. As an institutionalised platform created to promote both development and climate protection, it pays tribute to, networks and campaigns for non-governmental commitment, especially by the private sector, and draws attention to this approach. The activities of the Alliance partners are voluntary. They exceed existing statutory CO₂ reduction obligations and are carried out through participation in high-quality projects in developing and emerging countries. Together with avoidance and reduction measures, they contribute towards achieving climate neutrality and even climate positivity in the near future.

Become part of a transformative alliance to advance the development causes of the 2030 Agenda – and at the same time avert the worst consequences of climate change! Help substantially expand climate protection efforts, thereby enabling an additional contribution to be made towards overcoming the challenges that lie ahead.
Our vision: An effective alliance of strong, non-governmental stakeholders – primarily from the private sector – to achieve development-orientated and climate-friendly economies.

The BMZ acknowledges its responsibility for taking the lead on this critical issue. As the Alliance’s initiator, the BMZ is setting a good example and will be climate-neutral by 2020. It is thus a pioneer within the German government and the public sector – and it is working towards recruiting the entire public sector into the Alliance.

Take action! Join the Alliance!

Several hundred partners have already joined the Alliance: companies, associations, authorities, project developers, emission-offsetting providers and civil society. They all want to contribute to climate protection by avoiding, reducing and offsetting CO₂.

Private individuals can also join and improve their CO₂ footprint. The number of participants is to be significantly increased between now and the end of 2019.

Goals of the Alliance

- Political recognition for emission offsetting that exceeds the Paris commitments
- Massive growth of the voluntary emissions trading market
- Improving institutional and political framework conditions
- Recording and communicating emission-offsetting measures that have already taken place
- Mobilising financial resources for climate protection and development
- Providing political support and guidance for members of the Alliance
- Enabling the exchange of experiences and the pooling and dissemination of know-how
- Networking of the various stakeholders
- Internationalisation of the approach

Take responsibility as part of a strategic multi-stakeholder initiative for development and climate protection! Make voluntary contributions to offset CO₂ emissions and simultaneously support development causes financially by purchasing emission certificates and/or by developing your own project activities in developing and emerging countries.