

UK funding protects 88 million people from the impacts of climate change

The UK's International Climate Finance (ICF), totalling £11.6 billion over the next five years, helps developing countries limit and manage the impacts of climate change, mitigate further global warming from emissions and avert, minimise and address loss and damage.

The results come ahead of COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference, which the UK will host in Glasgow in November this year. World leaders will come together to agree on action to tackle the urgent threat of global climate change, with the UK making supporting vulnerable communities a priority in its presidency.

International Environment Minister Zac Goldsmith said:

Tackling climate change and protecting vulnerable communities and habitats is truly an international effort. I am proud of the impact that the UK's International Climate Finance is having in developing countries around the world. By lending to climate friendly businesses in Latin America and the Caribbean, or preventing emissions and boosting biodiversity through the restoration of mangroves, forests, and other habitats, the UK is stepping up to tackle the greatest threats we all face.

COP26 represents a unique opportunity for more countries to come forward with ambitious financial commitments and urgent action to reduce emissions and protect and restore the natural world.

Today's figures show that over the last ten years, UK funding has:

- Provided 41 million people with improved access to clean energy, including connections to off-grid renewable energy sources, access to solar lanterns, or clean cookstoves;
- Installed 2,400 MW of clean energy capacity, equivalent to 500 offshore wind turbines, capable of powering 1.8 million UK homes;
- Avoided or reduced 180 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions;
- Leveraged £3.3 billion of private finance and £5.2 billion of public finance for climate change purposes.

Programmes like the Blue Forests initiative in Madagascar see UK funding support local communities, the private sector and government to protect over 20,000Ha of mangroves, as one of the most effective natural carbon stores on earth. This also provides invaluable storm protection and coastal erosion prevention.

UK funding has also supported the KaXu Solar One Concentrated Solar Power project in South Africa to use mirrors to reflect and concentrate the sun's

rays, generating enough energy to power 80,000 households and saving around 315,000 tonnes of CO₂ – the equivalent to taking 66,000 cars off the road.

These results follow a week of climate talks among global leaders at the UN General Assembly in New York, where the UK Prime Minister committed new UK funding for global climate action, including a further boost the UK's contribution to the \$100 billion a year from 2020 goal for developed countries to support developing countries.

Notes to editors:

- The International Climate Finance results can be found [here](#).
- 30% of all investments from CDC, the UK's Development Finance Institution, flowing into climate finance over the next five years, with all new investments Paris Aligned. CDC is expected to invest a minimum of £1.6 billion in climate projects over the next 5 years, further boosting the UK's contribution to the \$100bn global climate finance goal beyond our existing £11.6bn ICF commitment. More information can be found [here](#).
- The Prime Minister also announced that £550million of international climate finance will be allocated to provide technical assistance to developing countries moving to low-carbon technology and to end the use of coal internationally. £350 million of funding will go to the Climate Investment Funds – one of the world's largest multilateral funds working to pilot and scale climate solutions in developing countries.
- A further £200 million of funding will go to UK PACT, the UK's flagship climate technical assistance programme which provides the UK's world-leading expertise to public, private and civil society institutions so that they can help countries develop in a more sustainable way – reducing both emissions and poverty. More information can be found [here](#).
- The results follow yesterday's announcement that the £100m Biodiverse Landscapes Fund, first announced by the Prime Minister at UNGA 2019, will invest in six biodiversity hotspots, including the Western Congo Basin, Lower Mekong and Kavango-Zambezi region of Southern Africa. More information can be found [here](#).