

COP President Fabius presents new draft text for Paris Agreement on climate change: “Ambitious targets remain at risk. Why is Nature being forgotten?”

A new draft of the agreement to fight climate change was presented this afternoon at the Paris COP21. The text was reduced from 44 to 29 pages, 75% of the brackets (topics lacking an agreement) are gone. But key things remain to be decided on the issues of: differentiation, finance and ambition.

Melanie Heath, Director of Science, Policy and Information at BirdLife International, said: *“In general, we welcome the growing ambition to limit temperature increases to 1.5°C. Unfortunately we are afraid this headline target could be an empty shell.*

“The draft Agreement is not specific enough on how the target should be achieved. It does not provide the means to achieve it and is vague on the review process.”

Edward Perry, Global Climate Change Policy Coordinator at BirdLife International, said: *“The draft agreement goes some way to recognize the critical role of nature in combating climate change and helping people adapt. However, there is no commitment to ensure that climate change responses will not harm ecosystems.”*

John Lanchbery, Principal Climate Change Adviser at RSPB (BirdLife in the UK), said: *“There are some positive aspects of course. The draft Agreement currently endorses and reaffirms the critical role of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). And the rules on land accountancy are satisfactory. At present.”*

BirdLife’s Heath concluded: *“It is however a positive fact that there is a strong political will to reach an agreement. The next 48 hours will be critical ”*

Negotiations will continue through the night. A new draft is expected by Thursday night.

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For further information, please contact:

Luca Bonaccorsi, BirdLife Europe Head of Communications:
+32 (0) 2 238 50 94 - Out of hours: +32 (0) 478 206 284

Finlay Duncan, BirdLife Europe Communications and Media Officer:
+32 (0) 2 238 50 81 - Out of hours: +32 (0) 485 873 291