

Climate Responsibility

Können wir effektiv Treibhausgase kompensieren und wenn „Ja“ – wie?



FORUM
FÜR NACHHALTIGKEIT

Carsten Warnecke, 23 September 2021



- » Climate Responsibility – was bedeutet das eigentlich?
- » Von Kyoto nach Paris – was bedeutet das Bekenntnis zu den Pariser Klimazielen wirklich?
- » Klimaneutralität durch Zertifikatekauf – ist die Lösung wirklich so einfach?
- » Welche Alternativen zur Kompensation gibt es?

Verantwortung – wofür, weshalb?

- » Historische Verantwortung
- » Konsum und Lebensweise jenseits der planetaren Grenzen
- » Technologische und finanzielle Möglichkeiten (Minderung und Anpassung)
- » Externe Schäden und Kosten der nicht vermiedenen Emissionen
 - *High-Level Commission on Carbon Prices (2017): “the explicit carbon-price level consistent with the Paris Agreement temperature objectives is at least US\$40–80/tCO₂ by 2020, provided that a supportive policy environment is in place”*
 - *Umweltbundesamt 2020: Kostensatz für Klimafolgeschäden für Kohlendioxid- und andere Treibhausgasemissionen 195 €₂₀₂₀ / t CO₂ äq für das Jahr 2020. (215 €₂₀₂₀ / t CO₂ äq in 2030)*
 - *UK 2021: UK government updates social “carbon values”, setting central figure at £245/tonne (288 EUR)*

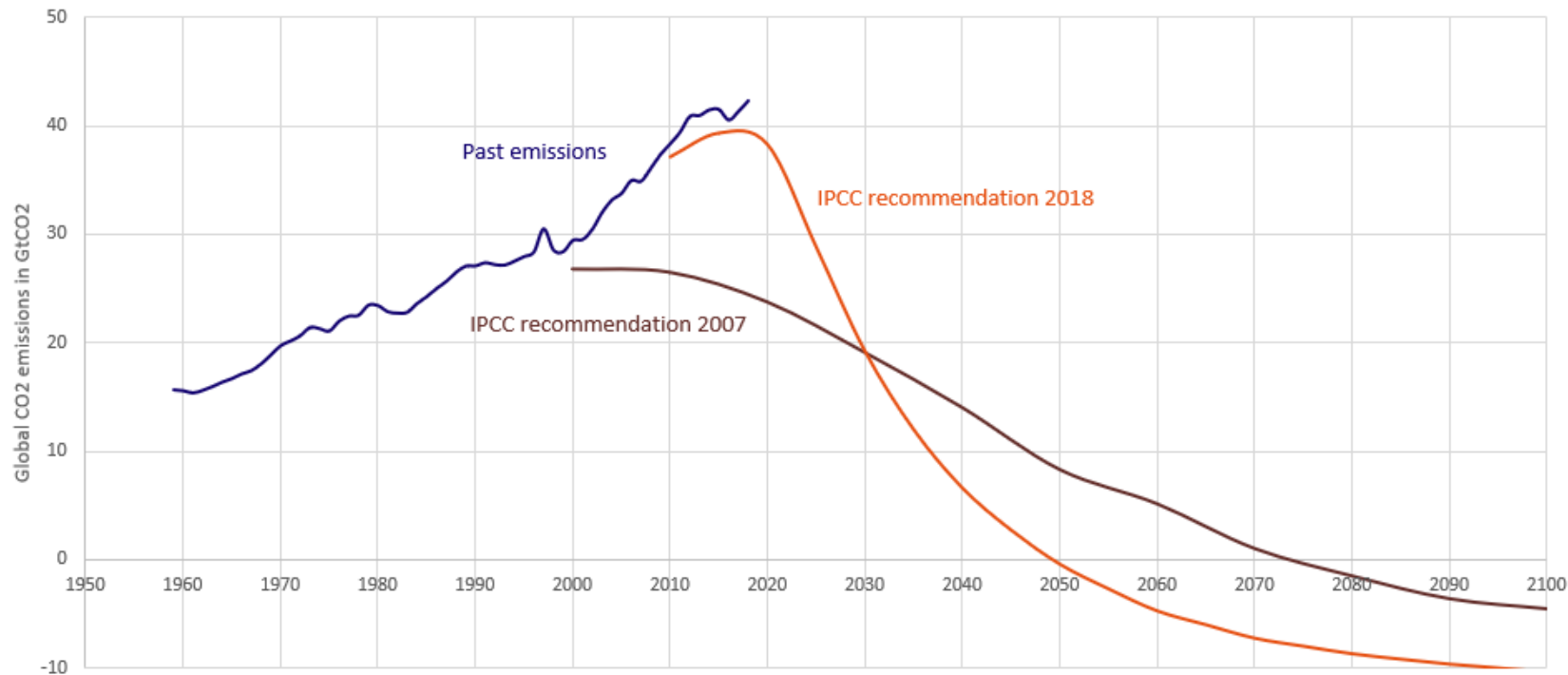
Kyoto Protokoll

- » Industrieländer haben Ziele, Entwicklungs-/Schwellenländer nicht
- » Zielwerte sind %-Reduktion bis Zieljahr (**statisch**)
- » Verpflichtungszeiträume (Enddatum)
- » Handelbare Emissionsbudgets (AAUs)
- » **Flexibilisierungsinstrumente** für mehr **Kosteneffizienz** (IET, JI, CDM)

Übereinkommen von Paris

- » Alle Länder haben selbstgesteckte Ziele (NDC)
- » Zielverschärfungsmechanismen
- » Definition eines Temperaturzieles; %-Reduktion muss immer wieder angepasst werden (**dynamisch**)
- » Ohne Enddatum
- » **Kooperationsinstrumente** für mehr **Ambition** (Artikel 6, finale Umsetzungsregeln sind offen)

Urgent action required

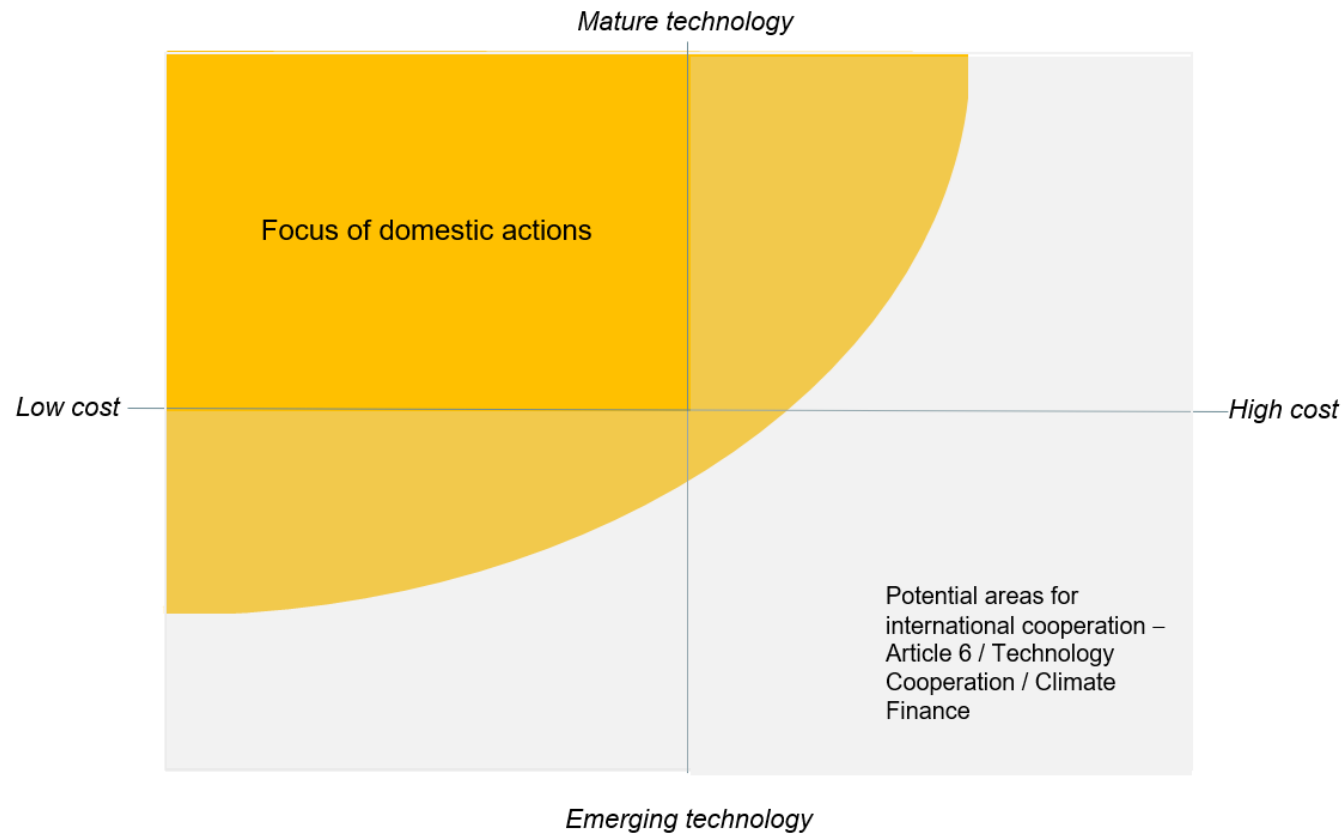


- » Incremental changes insufficient
- » Real transformational change in all sectors
- » Current NDCs collectively not ambitious enough
- » Developing Long-term Strategies (LTS) as visioning exercise

Pathways of global CO2 emissions recommended by IPCC

in the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report for scenarios compatible with 2.0°C (the at that time agreed global limit) and by the 2018 IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C for low and no overshoot scenarios aiming at 1.5°C (the currently agreed global limit) (only average ranges shown). Source: Höhne, N. et al. (2019) 'A possible 2050 climate target for the EU'. <https://newclimate.org/2019/09/23/a-possible-2050-climate-target-for-the-eu/>

The potential transferring country perspective



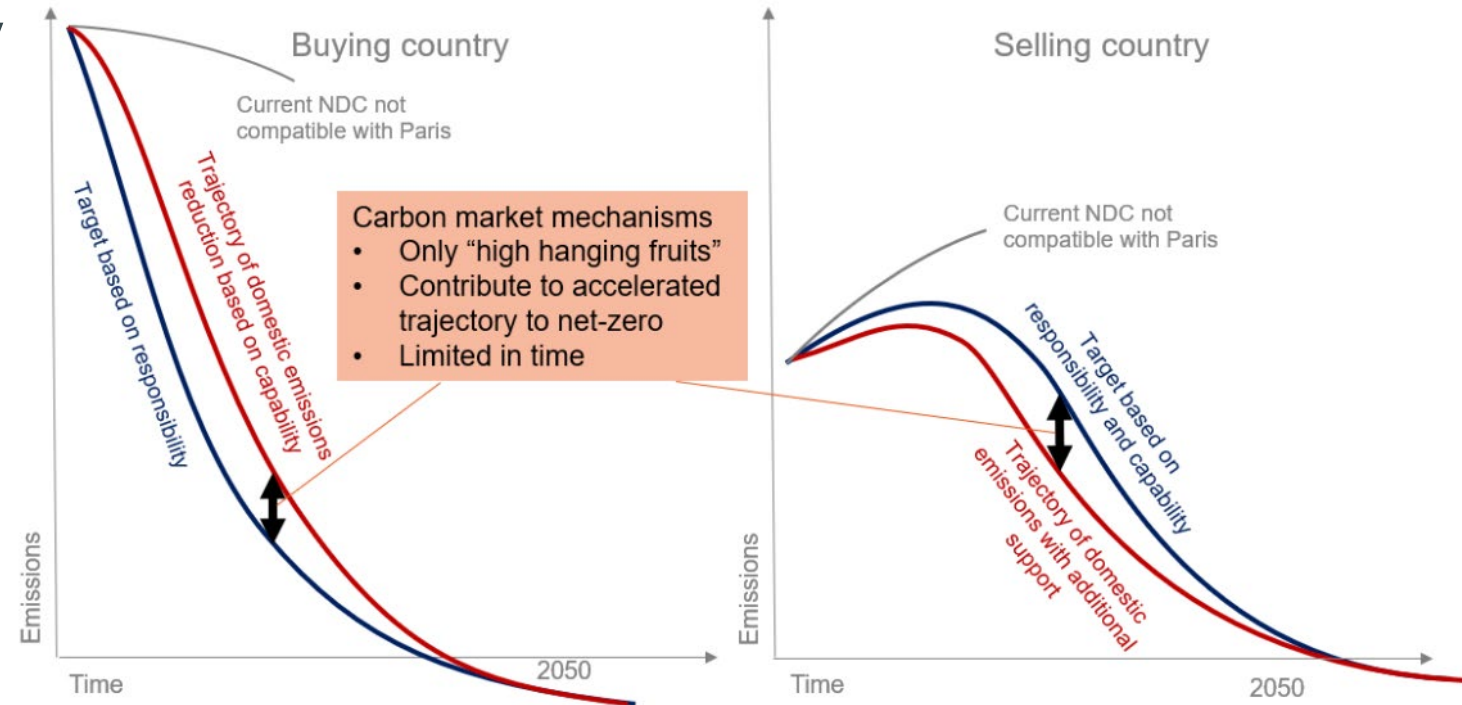
- » Enhancing ambition by driving mitigation in inaccessible abatement options
- » Governments must take an active role in assessing and identifying proposals for “high-hanging fruits”
- » Safeguards needed against risks for ambition raising through disincentives and undesirable impacts
- » In no ambitious scenario large quantities of cheap offsets will be available post 2020

Two-dimensional technology mapping related to Article 6.

Source: Warnecke, C. et al. (2018) 'Opportunities and safeguards for ambition raising through Article 6 - The perspective of countries transferring mitigation outcomes'. <https://newclimate.org/2018/05/09/opportunities-and-safeguards-for-ambition-raising-through-article-6/>

The potential acquiring country perspective

- » Industrialised countries have capacity to undertake the steepest possible **domestic** reduction pathway
- » Historical responsibility can lead to **fair share contributions** beyond most ambitious domestic decarbonisation pathway technically feasible
- » Intl. offsetting offers option **“on top”** of fastest decarbonisation pathway



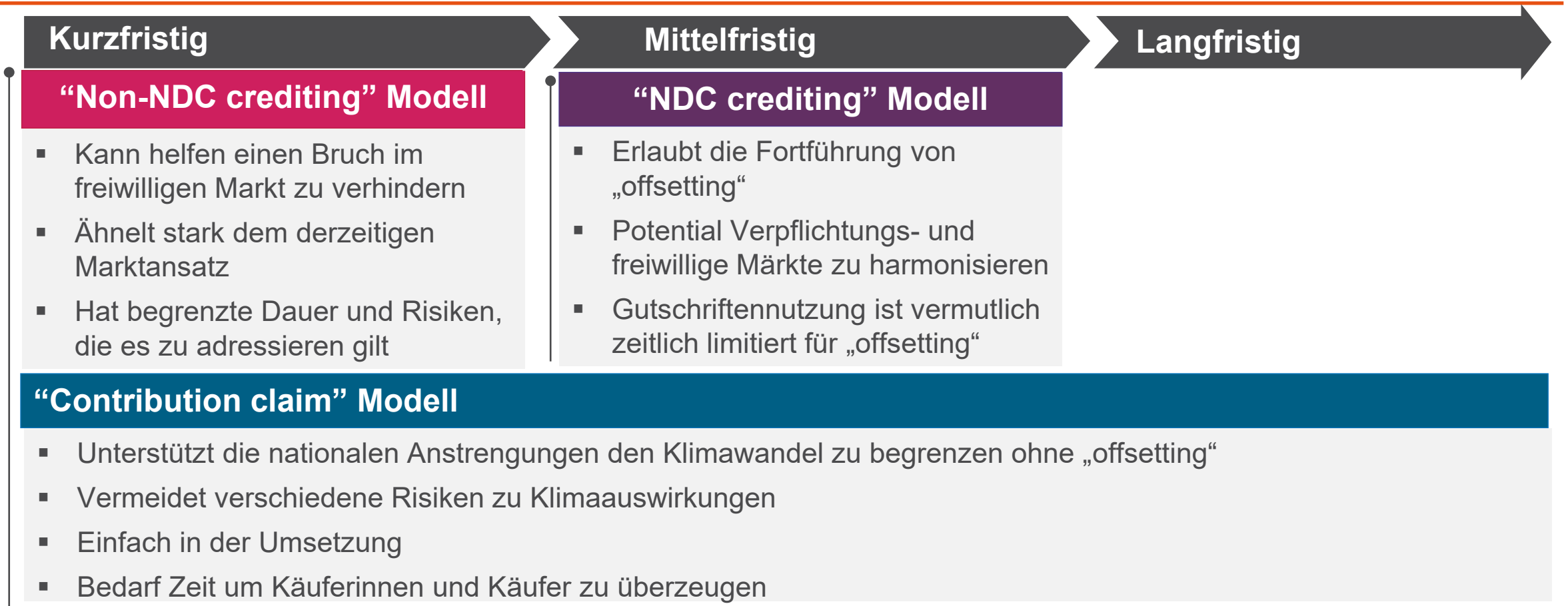
Article 6 transfers "on top" of fastest possible decarbonisation pathway.

Source: Kachi, A. et al. (2019) 'The role of international carbon markets in a decarbonising world - Aligning Article 6 with long-term strategies'.

<https://newclimate.org/2019/11/26/the-role-of-international-carbon-markets-in-a-decarbonising-world/>

- » Das Übereinkommen von Paris ändert auch den Kontext, in dem der freiwillige Markt operiert
- » Kompensationsprojekte müssen einer **neu definierten Zusätzlichkeit** entsprechen (zusätzlich zu Paris kompatiblen NDCs)
- » Im Laufe der Zeit spielt „offsetting“ eine **begrenzte Nischenrolle**, wenn alle engagiert sind und alles tun, um so schnell wie möglich zu dekarbonisieren
- » Drei Modelle haben sich als potenziell tragfähige Optionen in der Pariser Ära herauskristallisiert, alle mit ihren eigenen Stärken und Schwächen: „Non-NDC crediting“, „NDC crediting“ und der „Contribution claim“
- » **Doppelte Inanspruchnahme** stellt auch im freiwilligen Markt ein Risiko für das Klima und die Integrität dar und muss vermieden werden

Tragfähige freiwillige Marktmodelle



Source: Fearnough et al. (2020) 'Future role for voluntary carbon markets in the Paris era'. <https://newclimate.org/2020/11/24/future-role-for-voluntary-carbon-markets-in-the-paris-era/>

Worauf muss ich heute achten?

NATURE CLIMATE CHANGE

Zusammenhänge zw. Emission und Kompensation

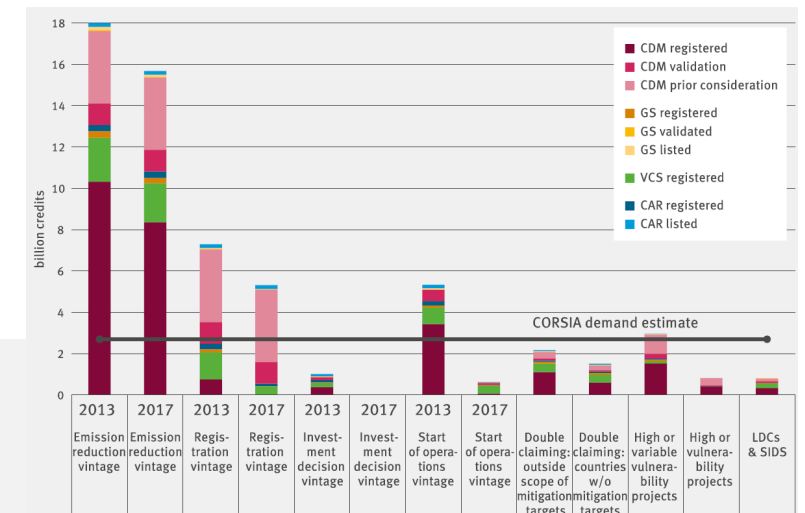
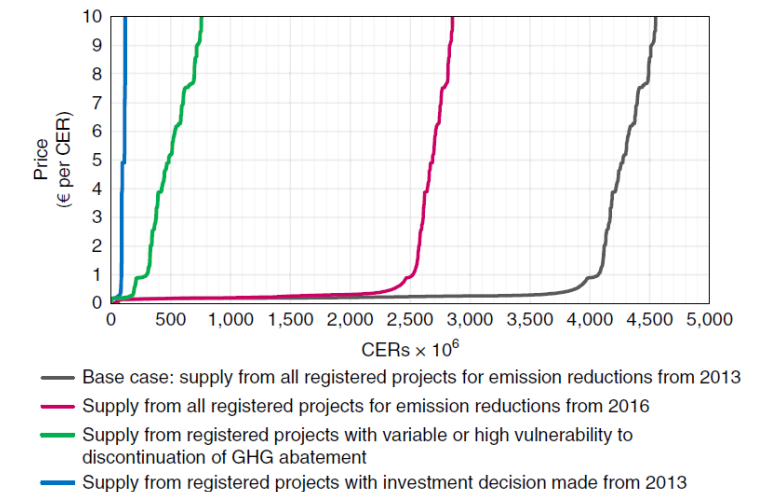
- » Zeitliche Dimension (Kyoto ≠ Paris)
- » Zusätzlichkeit (Kyoto ≠ Paris)
- » Vergleichbare Permanenz (fossil ≠ biologisch)
- » Zertifikatspreis vs. externe Schäden

Herausforderungen

- » Der Markt ist geflutet durch Zertifikate mit zweifelhaften Kompensationsnutzen für heutige Emissionen
- » Projekte für eine integrale heutige Kompensation sind ein Nischenprodukt
- » Herausforderungen werden in der Zukunft ebenso wie die Preise stark steigen

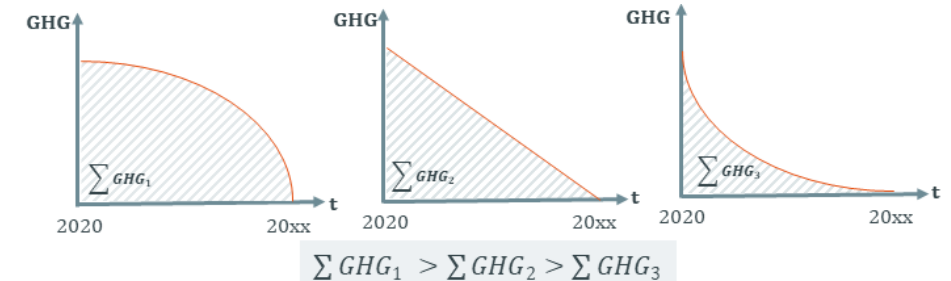
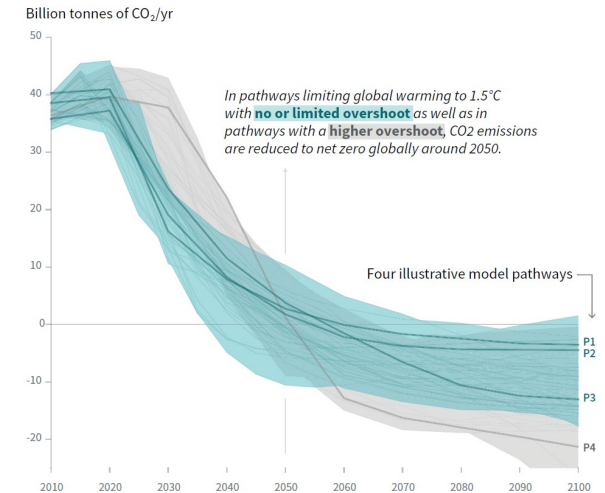
Quelle oben: Warnecke et al. (2019): 'Robust eligibility criteria essential for new global scheme to offset aviation emissions'. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41558-019-0415-y>

Quelle unten: Fearnough et al. (2019) 'Offset credit supply potential for CORSIA'. <https://newclimate.org/2019/11/05/offset-credit-supply-potential-for-corsia/>



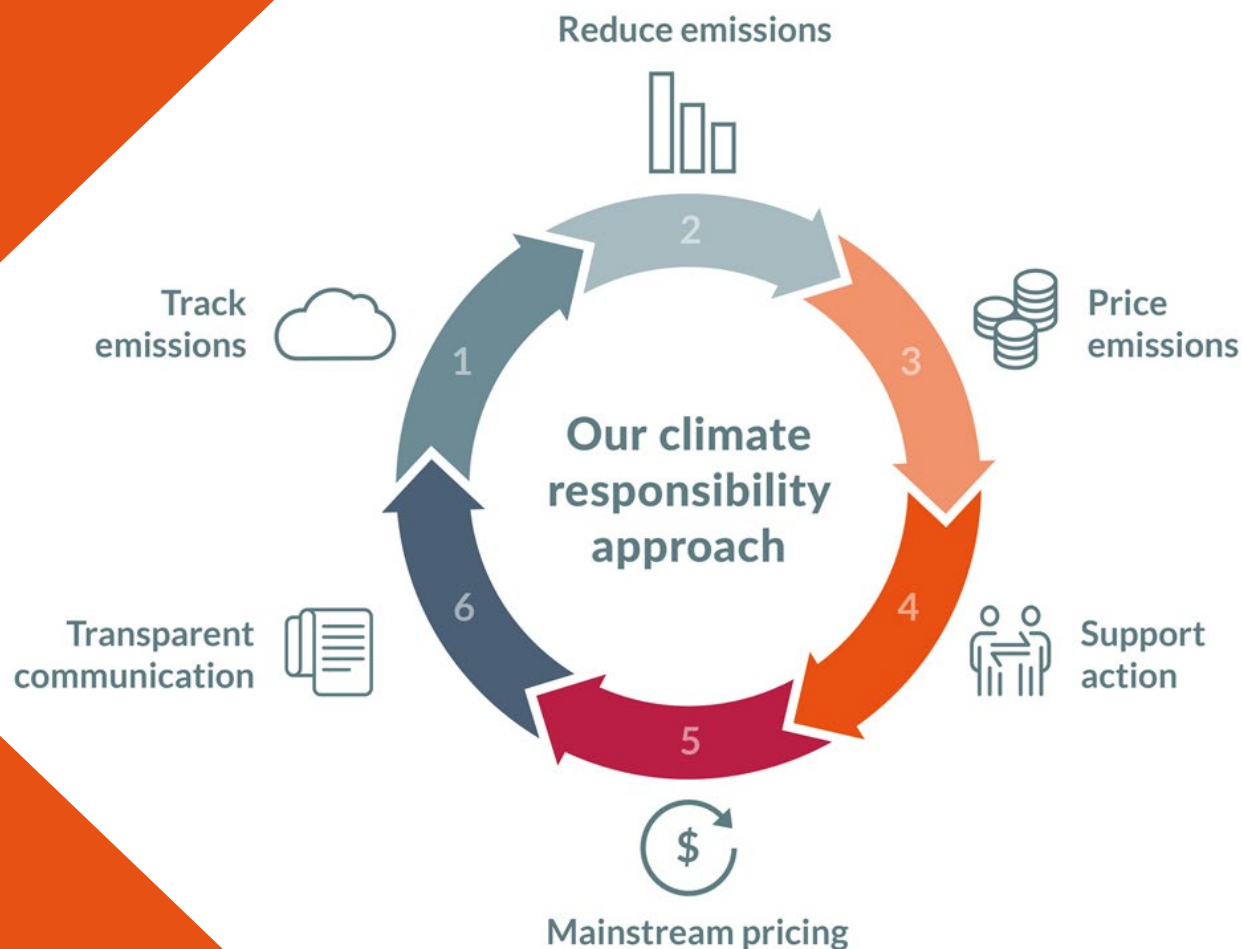
Klimaneutralität als Ziel?

- » Klimaneutralität ist ein Zwischenziel kein Endpunkt!
- » „*real zero vs. net zero*“:
 - Länder setzen sich netto-Null Ziele für ihr Territorium
 - Unternehmen müssen (möglichst) emissionsfrei wirtschaften
- » Senkenpotential ist begrenzt – wer entscheidet über die Nutzung?
 - Biologische Optionen sind meist keine „high hanging fruits“
 - Technologische Optionen müssen erst entwickelt werden
- » Der Weg zum Ziel ist (zurzeit noch) wichtiger als das Ziel selbst
 - Gleichzeitige drastische kurzfristige Reduktionen und Entwicklung von langfristig verfügbare Option für schwer vermeidbare Emissionen notwendig
- » Transparenz
- » Rechtssicherheit
- » Wer sich heute **klimaneutral** nennt und glaubt den Anspruch mit Kompensationsprodukten aufrechterhalten zu können, geht ein großes finanzielles und **Reputationsrisiko** ein.



Quelle oben: IPCC (2018): 'Special report Global Warming of 1.5 °C'. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

Quelle unten: Kachi et al. (2020): 'Climate neutrality claims'. <https://newclimate.org/2020/09/14/climate-neutrality-claims/>



Contribution claims Alternative?

Section based on

<https://newclimate.org/climate-responsibility>

Climate Responsibility Approach

1 Track emissions

We maintain an overview of our GHG emissions on an annual basis and continuously strive to improve our understanding of the impact that we have, in order to plan and implement actions to reduce our own GHG emissions as far as possible.

2 Reduce emissions

We aim to reduce our own emissions as much as possible, with a vision of zero emissions as soon as possible.

3 Price emissions

We impose a price per unit of emissions, based on a price signal aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, for our GHG emissions we cannot yet avoid. Based on this price level, we generate funds which represent the actual costs of this approach.

6 Transparent communication

We transparently communicate the details of this approach on a regular basis, including challenges and lessons learnt, in order to identify and collaboratively address issues, prompt discussion and encourage replication amongst other organisations. We solicit feedback to continuously improve and ensure the relevance of our approach.

5 Mainstream pricing

We aim to mainstream the pricing of our climate impact through our accounting processes, to raise awareness and integrate these costs into decision making processes both internally, as well as with funders and partners, who we encourage to recognise these costs in the same way.

4 Support action

With the funds from step 3, we support initiatives for transformational action to address climate change that advance progress towards achieving the Paris Agreement objectives for mitigation and adaptation. This includes initiatives that may not yet generate quantifiable emission reductions or credits, but which could have a transformational impact in the future.



3 We impose a price per unit of emissions (EUR 100/tCO₂e)

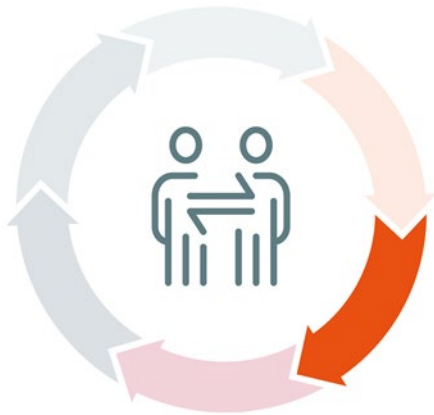


Price
emissions

- » “NewClimate Institute’s determination of the price level for its Climate Responsibility approach is informed by the carbon price signal required to put the transformation of the global economy on a pathway compatible with the Paris Agreement temperature objectives.”
 - » Many potential interpretations of Paris Agreement compatibility
 - » In the end we intentionally left this vague in our wording
 - » We pursue an approach based on *abatement costs* rather than *societal costs*

- » We imposed a **price level of EUR 100/tCO₂e** for the 2014-2020 period
 - » Informed by *High-Level Commission on Carbon Prices*: “the explicit carbon-price level consistent with the Paris Agreement temperature objectives is at least US\$40–80/tCO₂ by 2020, provided that a supportive policy environment is in place ”

4 We support initiatives for transformational action to address climate change



Support
action

What do we want to support

- » Broad approach to climate action, with a starting focus on **mitigation** activities.
- » Geographies and technologies where government resources are most limited.
- » Technologies and practices that may be in less advanced stages of development but entail considerable potential for transformational change. **“Certainty of resulting in immediate emission reductions” is not the most important criteria.**

How will we identify projects and channel our support

- » We currently work with atmosfair to develop together an ‘alternate’ product offering, for us and their other clients
- » Funding from the period 2014 – 2019 as reported in the 2020 implementation was spend for **Renewable heating and electricity for Bayanbulag school in Mongolia**
https://newclimate.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Case_Bayanbulag_School.pdf

Contribution claim(s)

Possible claims

- » Support provided to country to (over-) achieve its NDC
- » Support provided to country to increase the ambition of subsequent NDCs
- » Support provided to lower barriers for new technology

Impossible claims

- » Compensation / neutralisation / netting out / offsetting of own GHG emissions
- » “net-zero” / “climate-neutral” / “carbon neutral” state achieved



Incentive for deeper action from the company



Does not represent a conflict with the ambition of developing countries



Financial contribution has a real climate impact



It does support the identification of solutions for long-term challenges



Company's can also pursue the *contribution claim* model when “net-zero” is dispensable

Support ambition raising & Maintain constructive transparency



Thank you

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