

Letter from world ecologists calling for action on climate change

This is the text of a letter sent to politicians in New Zealand calling for action on climate change after a gathering of heads of ecological societies from across the globe at the ESA100 meeting in Baltimore.

Subject: COP21, 21st United Nations Conference on Climate Change

Attached is a call from World Ecologists urging Parties meeting this December in Paris to take decisive steps to address the effects of climate change.

At the 100th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America Presidents of a number of international ecological societies and associations met to address issues related to the field of Ecological Science. Discussion was dominated by a shared concern at the severe and ongoing erosion of global natural assets including genetic diversity, species, habitats and ecosystem processes that people rely on for survival. This erosion will be further accelerated and exacerbated with current climate change.

Please accept the attached call for Parties meeting in Paris for the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to come to an agreement.

We count on New Zealand to ensure that the Parties take **the decisive steps urgently needed to prevent a 2°C rise in average global temperatures** as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

We are the signatories of International Association for Ecology (INTECOL) and NZ Ecological Society (NZES), two of the Ecological Societies represented in the attached motion. The President of INTECOL is currently from New Zealand. Both INTECOL and NZES strongly support this motion.

INTECOL is the umbrella organisation for ecological societies worldwide, and it has 2700 individual members from more than 100 countries worldwide. INTECOL supports ecological science and its application around the world, and was set up to foster international participation to address important ecological questions. Communication is supported globally through co-sponsoring of international meetings and exchanges of information between members. The 12th INTECOL Congress will be held in Beijing in 2017.

NZES was formed in 1951 to promote the study of ecology and the application of ecological knowledge in all its aspects. With over 500 members, NZES is New Zealand's leading professional society for applied and pure research ecology and publishes the New Zealand Journal of Ecology, the primary publication for ecological science and research in NZ. The Society has held an annual conference in each year since it was formed.

New Zealand has an important role to play in representing world ecological societies and scientists.

We urge New Zealand to ensure that 2015 will mark decisive changes towards this essential objective.

Yours sincerely

Shona Myers
President INTECOL

Chris Bycroft
President New Zealand Ecological Society

Call of world Ecological Societies related to the COP21

World Ecologists urge the Parties meeting this December in Paris to take decisive steps against climatic change

The 10th of August 2015 during the 100th Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America the Presidents of 11 Ecological Societies and of two major Associations and Federations of Ecological Societies, representing over **20 000 scientists** from **over 100 countries** and over **40 national ecological societies**, met to address key issues related to the field of Ecological Science.

They shared their concern about the severe and ongoing **erosion of global natural assets** including genetic diversity, species, habitats and ecosystem processes that people rely on for survival. This erosion will be further **aggravated with current climatic change**.

Given that an important cause of these changes is the impact of people on the climate, the Presidents urge the Parties meeting in Paris in December during the 21st Conference of the Parties (**COP21**) of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences, to take **the decisive steps urgently needed to prevent a 2°C rise in average global temperatures** as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (**IPCC**). This is very likely the last decade when it will be possible to achieve this together and to establish a global legacy of a healthy planet for generations to come.

Signatories

International Association for Ecology (INTECOL) <http://www.intecol.net/>

European Ecological Federation (EEF) <http://www.europeanecology.org/>

British Ecological Society (BES) <http://www.britishecologicalsociety.org/>

Ecological Society of America (ESA) <http://www.esa.org/esa/>

Ecological Society of Argentina (AsAE) <http://www.asaeargentina.com.ar/>

Ecological Society of Australia (ESA) <http://www.ecolsoc.org.au/>

Ecological Society of Japan (ESJ) <http://www.esj.ne.jp/esj/>

Ecological Society of Mongolia

French Ecological Society (SFE) <http://www.sfecologie.org/>

Israel Society of Ecology and Environmental Sciences (ISEES) <http://www.isees.org.il>

Italian Society of Ecology (SIte)

Mexican Scientific Society of Ecology (MSSE)

New Zealand Ecological Society (NZES) <http://newzealandecology.org/>

This initiative is also getting the **full support** of the **Society for Conservation Biology** <https://conbio.org/>, a society representing over **4 000 scientists**.

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