



The Commonwealth Secretariat's COP29 Glossary

When we say...	It means...
1.5 degrees	It becomes harmful for people, animals and plantlife. Even below this threshold, we will continue to see extreme weather events if the average global temperature keeps rising.
Biodiversity	The biological diversity of a place, or of our planet refers to the richness of life, including the smallest of organisms. If one aspect of this diversity is significantly changed or removed, the effects will have an impact on the rest.
Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)	ACE is a global framework designed to empower communities and individuals to take action on climate change through education, public awareness, and capacity-building, fostering a culture of climate responsibility and engagement.
Carbon footprint	A person, business or country can have a carbon footprint. It refers to the volume of greenhouse gases you produce in the course of a day as you go about your life or business. For instance, packaging food in factories and transporting it will have a higher footprint than sourcing locally produced food.
Climate Finance	Climate Finance refers to funding and investments from public and private sources to help nations, particularly developing countries, tackle climate change by reducing emissions, adapting to its effects and building resilience.
Climate Justice	Climate Justice highlights fairness in tackling climate change, ensuring that the people who are least responsible but most affected by climate issues are supported and protected.
COP	The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) brings the world together every year at its Conference of the Parties, or COP. This year's COP is the 29th.
Decarbonisation	Decarbonisation is the process of reducing the amount of carbon emissions produced, especially from fossil fuels, to lower the impact on the planet and slow down climate change.
Just transition	In our journey to reduce dependency on fossil fuels, we need to ensure the transition is fair, and that those whose livelihoods depend on the current fossil fuel industry are not left behind.
Kyoto Protocol	The Kyoto Protocol was adopted at a conference in Japan in 1997 and became international law in 2005. It put the UNFCCC into operation.

Lima Work Programme on Gender	An initiative to integrate gender considerations into climate policies, ensuring that both men's and women's experiences are represented and addressed in climate action to enhance equality and inclusiveness.
Loss and damage	Extreme weather events like a flooding or drought can mean losses – of life, income, livestock and much damage to infrastructure or property. But it can also refer to the loss of and damage to biodiversity, and even of ways of life. Where small and other vulnerable states bear the brunt of climate change, loss and damage is proportionally significantly greater than it is for developed, richer states.
Loss of marine biodiversity	Warmer oceans are affecting marine ecosystems, and changes are damaging coral reefs and mangroves that support ocean life. Species are migrating to cooler waters, or perishing.
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)	NDCs are five-year country plans to reduce countries' emissions while taking bold steps to adapt to the climate crisis. They are an outcome of the Paris Agreement.
Net zero	Achieving net zero would mean attaining balance between the amount of greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere and the amount that is removed. The ocean and its capacity to absorb carbon plays a huge role in this equation.
New Collective Quantified Goals (NCQG)	NCQGs are targets for climate finance that aim to mobilise more resources beyond the initial US\$100 billion per year pledged by countries in Copenhagen in 2009 to better meet developing countries' needs for climate mitigation and adaptation.
Paris Agreement	COP21 was held in Paris, France in 2015. It was an historic moment when leaders made a new climate agreement, superseding the Kyoto Protocol. Countries committed to limit global temperature rise.
Sea-level rise	Melting ice caps and glaciers are often mentioned as the main reason for rising sea levels. Yet there is also the fact that when water heats up, it expands – so as the ocean temperatures rise, the volume increases. Cities, towns and villages along coastlines face an existential threat from rising sea levels.