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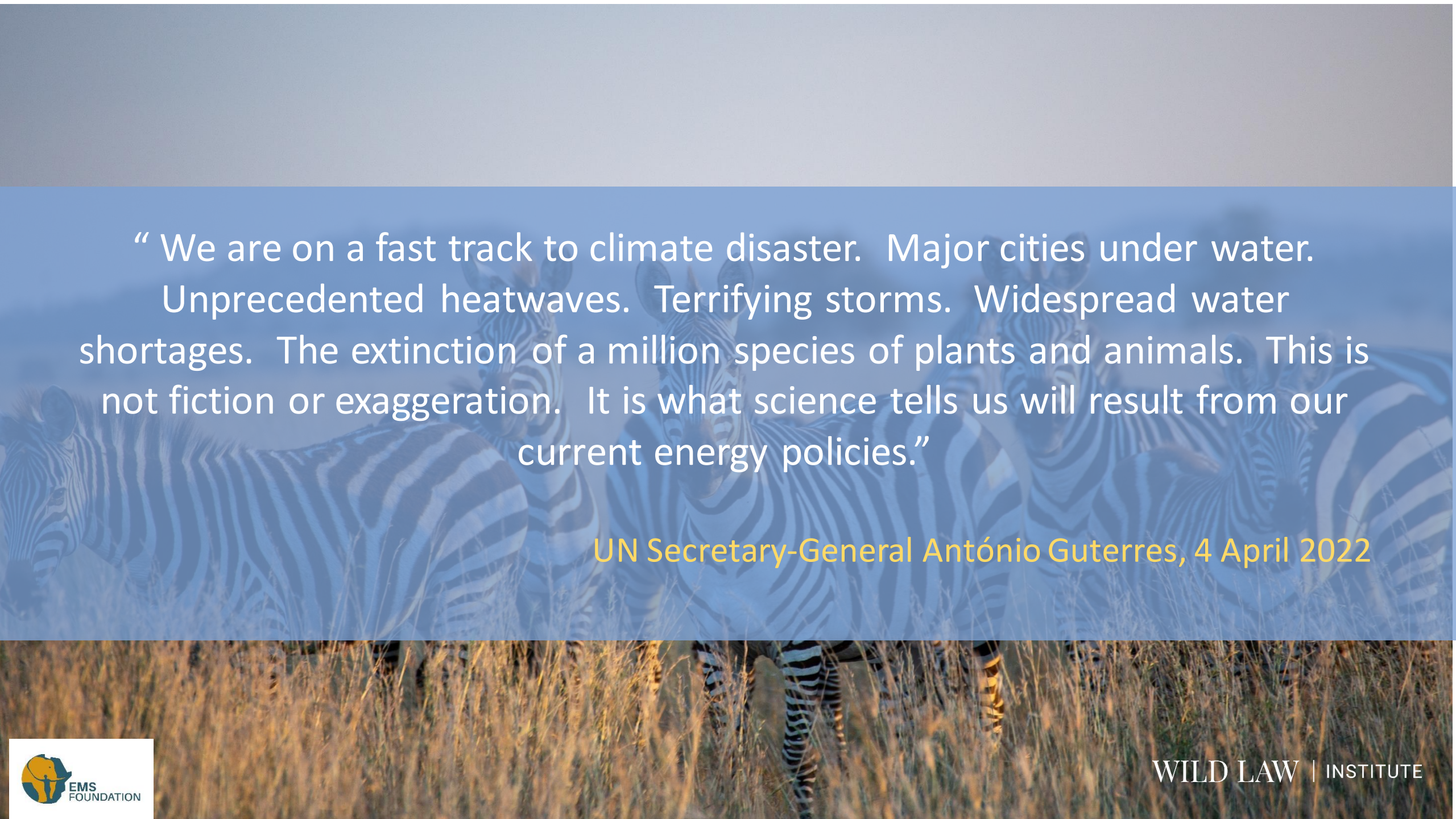
RIGHTS FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE EARTH COMMUNITY

EMS FOUNDATION

compassion • synergy • social justice

CLIMATE CHANGE BILL

Presentation to Parliament, 20 September 2022



" We are on a fast track to climate disaster. Major cities under water. Unprecedented heatwaves. Terrifying storms. Widespread water shortages. The extinction of a million species of plants and animals. This is not fiction or exaggeration. It is what science tells us will result from our current energy policies."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, 4 April 2022

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"We are on a pathway to global warming of more than double the 1.5˚C limit agreed in Paris. Some Government and business leaders are saying one thing, but doing another. Simply put, they are lying. And the results will be catastrophic. This is a climate emergency."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, 4 April 2022

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"Climate scientists warn that we are already perilously close to tipping points that could lead to cascading and irreversible climate impacts. But, high-emitting Governments and corporations are not just turning a blind eye, they are adding fuel to the flames."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, 4 April 2022

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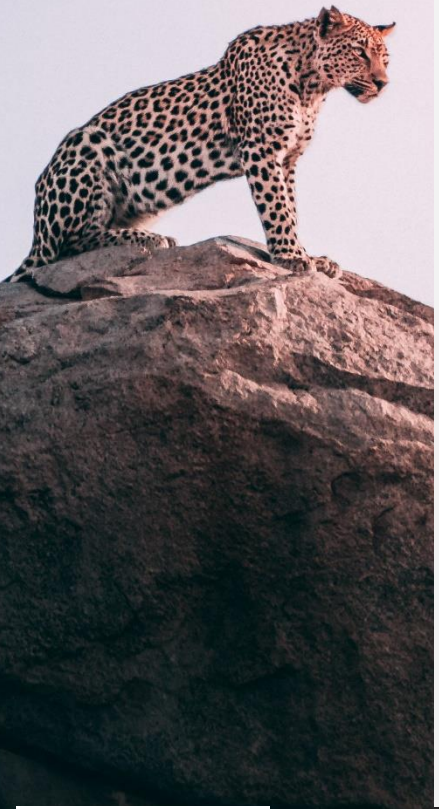
Overview



1. Support Bill but must be strengthened
2. Transform society by addressing root causes
3. Responses must be comprehensive and integrated
4. Climate emergency: requires urgent, bold responses
5. Establish fund
6. Specific amendments drafted

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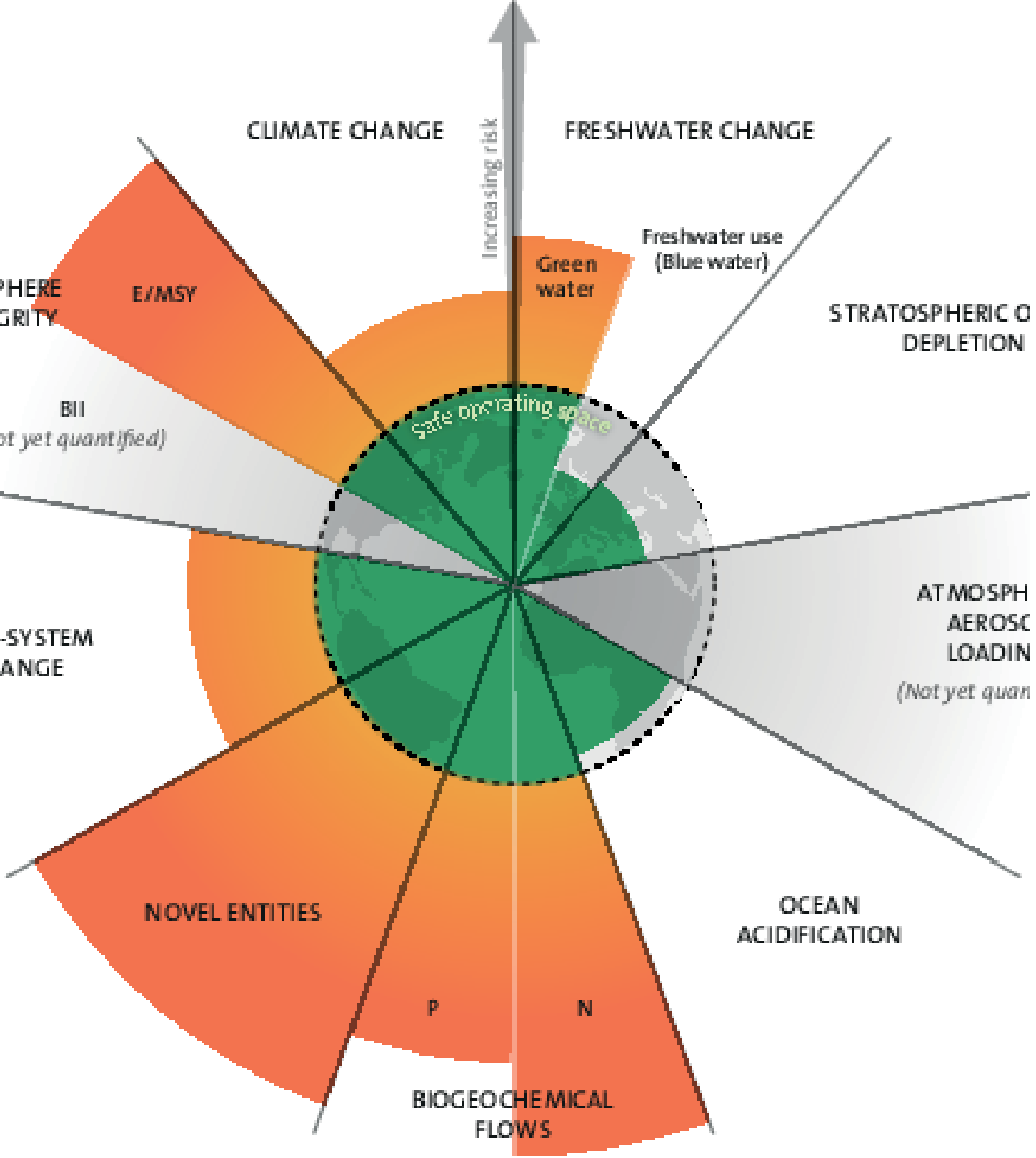

Planetary boundaries

1. At least seven boundaries exceeded

- Novel entities (pollutants like plastics), potassium & nitrogen cycles, biosystem integrity (biodiversity loss), land system change, freshwater (moisture in soils), climate change

2. Five tipping points may occur now

Greenland & West Antarctic ice sheets, abrupt permafrost thaw, Labrador Sea convection collapses, massive die-off of tropical coral reefs

WHAT THIS MEANS

- Climate change is one of several symptoms of systemic problems in society
- Humanity is already in danger
- Current aspirations and measures are hopelessly inadequate
- Must address the root causes of activities that exacerbate climate change.

Gradual change is inadequate and will not work!

COLLAPSE

SOCIAL SERVICES & HUMAN WELLBEING

ECONOMY

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS,

RULE OF LAW

DEMOCRACY.

THE PROBLEM WE MUST SOLVE

- Climate change is a symptom, not the problem
- Consumerist civilisations addicted to GDP growth, fossil fuels, consumption and accumulation, based on exploiting Nature.
- Legal and economic systems designed to facilitate exploitation of Nature – its legal to cause climate change

WHAT WE MUST DO

Restoring climate stability requires society:

- to aspire to living harmoniously within Nature;
- stop encouraging the activities that exacerbate climate change(GHG emissions and damage to ecosystems); and
- to restore the ecosystems and ecological processes that created a stable climate and are essential to maintaining climate stability.

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

" a fundamental, system-wide reorganization across technological, economic and social factors, including paradigms, goals and values"

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

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HARMONIOUS CO-EXISTENCE

a state in which humans relate to other aspects of Nature in ways that are either beneficial to, or do not harm, the integrity and health of ecosystems and the functioning of the natural processes that sustain life and maintain climate stability;

Principles

(b) the principle that human health and wellbeing must be safeguarded and pursued by promoting harmonious co-existence, and not at the expense of Nature;

(c) the principle that the climate system, including the natural systems that have created and contribute to maintaining climate stabilility, must be protected for the benefit of present and future generations of human and other beings;

BROADEN SCOPE

"**climate change response**" means any action planned or taken by humans to restore climate stability, or to prevent, mitigate, increase resilience to, or adapt to the adverse effects of climate changes, and includes adaptation and mitigation;

BROADEN SCOPE

PREAMBLE implementing an effective climate change response … requires —

(a) education and correcting misunderstandings about the fundamental causes of climate change;

(b) transforming economic, legal, political and other systems and factors that motivate and promote activities that exacerbate climate change;

(c) protecting and regenerating indigenous ecosystems and natural processes that capture and store carbon from the atmosphere and increase resilience to the adverse effects of climate change;

RESTORE LIVING SYSTEMS

WE CANNOT PROTECT PEOPLE AND SOCIETY WITHOUT RESTORING THE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS THAT ENABLE LIFE AND MAINTAIN A STABLE CLIMATE

ACCELERATE EMISSION REDUCTION

- General duty on everyone to take climate change response measures as soon as reasonable possible (section 6A(1), (2))
- Specific duties on organs of state e.g. to promote and facilitate the taking of urgent and effective response measures (section 6B(1), (2))

DUTY TO RESPOND

Duty to respond to climate emergency

6A (1) Every natural and juristic person, including every organ of state, must take all climate change response measures that they are reasonably able to take, as soon as reasonably possible, and in a manner that promotes harmonious co-existence. ….

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DUTY TO RESPOND

State's climate response duties

6B (1) The State, and every organ of state must take, and promote and facilitate the taking of, urgent and effective climate change response measures that promote harmonious co-existence.

....

EMERGENCY

Emergency measures

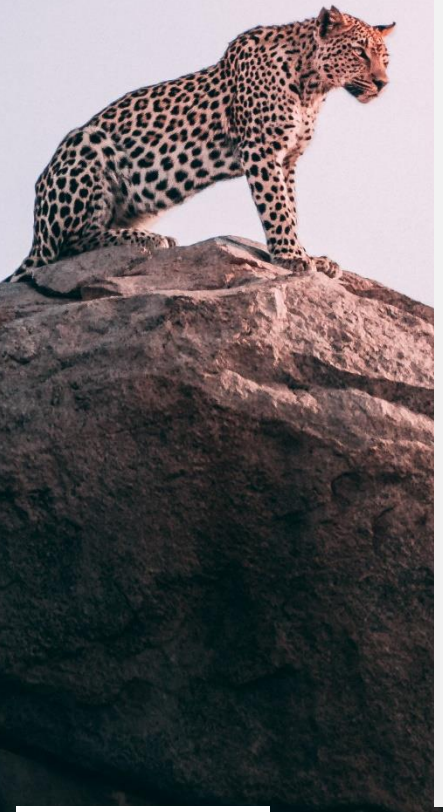
6C (1) If the President, after consulting with the Presidential Climate Commission and the Cabinet, has reason to believe that extraordinary climate change response measures must be taken that are not provided for in any other law, the President may direct any person who is in a position to take those measures, to do so within a reasonable time. ….

FUND

6D Climate Change Fund

- establish fund, describing its purpose and how it will be administered
- funds from polluters (e.g. carbon taxes) to be paid into the fund
- Presidential Climate Change Committee to advise on how the funds are spent
- Fund to be audited and its expenditure disclosed to the public

Conclusions



1. Historic opportunity and duty
2. Re-orient the nation towards a new aspiration
3. Responses must go beyond mitigation and adaptation
4. Govern people as members, not colonisers of community of life
5. New duties

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