


# Republic of Korea

Emissions	Climate Commitment Status
<p><b>1.4%</b> of global emissions<sup>1</sup></p>  <p>Agriculture = 21.3 MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq in 2016<sup>2</sup> or 3% of total emissions excluding LULUCF Stable since 1990</p> <p><b>-44.5</b> MtCO<sub>2</sub>eq LULUCF emissions in 2016<sup>3</sup></p> <p>Net sink of emissions</p>	<p><b>2020 update submitted<sup>4</sup></b> ✓</p> <p><b>LTS submitted in 2020<sup>5</sup></b> ✓</p> <p><b>CAT rating<sup>6</sup></b> <b>HIGHLY INSUFFICIENT</b></p> <p><b>Net zero commitment:</b> To reach carbon neutrality by 2050 (<a href="#">2050 Carbon Neutral Strategy</a>)</p> <p><b>Net zero details:</b></p> <p><b>Date:</b> 2050</p> <p><b>Legal status:</b> In policy document</p> <p><b>Gases covered:</b> All GHGs</p> <p><b>Credits allowed:</b> Yes. The strategy mentions the Korean ETS and the possibility to “use overseas carbon offsets to earn carbon credits in compliance with the Paris Agreement”</p>

How action-oriented are the NDCs in the food and land sector?	
Criteria	NDC Assessment
<p><b>Specific policy priorities or actions for agriculture and food:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NDC focuses strongly on the Korean Green New Deal for the implementation of its mitigation and adaptation actions, but the food and land sector is not covered</li> <li>The NDC mentions that Korea’s 2020 Climate Change Assessment Report, which focuses on the impact of climate change and vulnerabilities, covers the agriculture and fishery sector</li> </ul>	<p>○</p> <p><b>Low:</b> NDC does not cover agriculture and food or provides no detail on general or specific orientations, or only in contextual manner.</p>
<p><b>Specific policy priorities or actions for LULUCF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LULUCF is mentioned in the NDC, mainly in reference to accounting, categorisation, and methodology; while the LULUCF sector is covered in the target, it is excluded from the baseline</li> <li>The NDC states that forestation projects will be carried out to increase capacity of carbon sinks in the forest sector; it adds that the Republic of Korea continues to practice sustainable forest management, not confined to a specific age-class, to ensure its forests serve as reliable carbon sinks</li> <li>The NDC confirms that the Republic of Korea intends to use voluntary cooperation under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement as a complementary measure to its domestic mitigation efforts including LULUCF to achieve its target</li> <li>No specific targets or measures were included</li> </ul>	<p>▲</p> <p><b>Medium:</b> NDC mentions generic orientations of actions, commitment or strategy in the LULUCF sector but provides little detail of specific sub-sector orientations pursued by the Party</p>
<p><b>Key policies in the NDC supporting priorities:</b></p> <p><b>Agriculture and food:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Korea’s 2020 Climate Change Assessment Report (impact of climate change and vulnerabilities) covers the agriculture and fishery sector</li> </ul> <p><b>LULUCF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2003 Good Practice Guidance for LULUCF (GPG LULUCF)</li> </ul>	<p>○</p> <p><b>Low:</b> NDC does not list any <b>sectoral</b> policy related to agriculture, food or LULUCF</p>
<p><b>Dedicated financial resources associated with policies or action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NDC references the 73,4 trillion KRW [roughly 62 billion USD] to be invested by 2025 under the Korean Green Deal, however the AFOLU sector is not included in the target sectors</li> </ul>	<p>○</p> <p><b>Low:</b> NDC does not provide any detail on public funding to mitigation actions in the agriculture, food and land sectors</p>
<p><b>Spatial information for mitigation provided in the NDC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The only mention of spatial data is in the context of urban transitions, with the NDC stating that “The Green New Deal is underpinned by 3 key pillars” with one being “green transition in cities/spatial planning/living infrastructure; in this mention, spatial planning relates to the urban environment rather than to agriculture and land use.</li> </ul>	<p>○</p> <p><b>Low:</b> NDC does not provide any information on spatial planning to support adaptation or mitigation actions in the food and land sectors in the form of maps or indications of spatial data</p>
<p><b>Technology details provided in the NDC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>○</p> <p><b>Low:</b> NDC does not provide any detail on technological innovation related to the agriculture, food and land sectors</p>

What specific policy measures are included in the NDCs regarding critical food and land transitions?		
Critical transition	Details	NDC Assessment
Healthy diets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Productive and regenerative agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture listed in IPCC sectors covered</li> <li>In July 2020, the 2020 Korea's Climate Change Assessment Report, a comprehensive survey on the impact of climate change and vulnerabilities in such sectors as water management, ecosystem, health, and agriculture and fishery, was published</li> <li>The 2006 IPCC Guidelines are applied for rice cultivation and agricultural soils in agriculture sector</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Protecting and restoring nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In July 2020, the 2020 Korea's Climate Change Assessment Report, a comprehensive survey on the impact of climate change and vulnerabilities in such sectors as water management, ecosystem, health, and agriculture and fishery, was published</li> <li>Forestation projects will be carried out to increase capacity of carbon sinks in the forest sector. The Republic of Korea continues to practice sustainable forest management, not confined to a specific age-class, to ensure its forests serve as reliable carbon sinks</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC lists essential actions, including specific commitments, strategies, or funding, related to the critical transition</p>
A healthy and productive ocean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Diversifying protein supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Reducing food loss and waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise single use waste items, solid waste disposal on land, wastewater, waste incineration</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC provides inexplicit or unclear information on the critical transition (topic is mentioned, but not as a policy action)</p>
Local loops and linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Digital revolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government will support energy efficiency projects and new mitigation technology development projects; the Republic of Korea plans to significantly scale up R&amp;D investments for core emissions reduction technologies, e.g., renewable energy, zero emission vehicles and hydrogen technologies</li> <li>The Office for Government Policy Coordination and the Ministry of Environment will analyze and assess the mitigation performance of each ministry every year under the principle of transparency, timeliness, responsibility, and open communication and release the assessment results to the public; For effective monitoring and assessment, the government plans to estimate provisional GHG emissions and release such information on an annual basis</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Stronger rural livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Green New Deal is underpinned by 3 key pillars; green transition in cities/ spatial planning/living infrastructure; the next 5 years of implementing the Green New Deal will serve as a lever for achieving the updated NDC including the 2030 national GHG reduction target and green transition toward carbon neutrality</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>
Gender and demography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>N/A</li> </ul>	<p>●</p> <p>NDC does not mention any detail on the critical transition</p>

## What specific institutional arrangements for climate have countries put in place?

### Dedicated body in place:

- Inter-ministerial coordination for setting a 2030 national GHG reduction target with the Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Research Centre of Korea (GIR), which operated a joint working group comprising expert agencies from each sector to conduct technical analysis for setting the target
- Post-2020 Public-Private Joint Commission to engage with the private sector and civil society
- Committee on Green Growth involved in the review of the update to the NDC

### Consultation processes:

- The Post-2020 Public-Private Joint Commission was formed to collect broader inputs from the private sector in drawing up the target; the commission consists of representatives from civil society and industries and was tasked with reviewing the result of the technical analysis delivered by the joint working group and collecting public opinions through public hearings and parliamentary discussions
- Civil society also played a role in pointing out that the 2030 Roadmap should serve to incentivise companies sufficiently to develop their investment plans for emissions reduction and to increase the role of domestic reduction rather than relying on mitigation efforts in overseas countries as suggested in the 2030 Roadmap

## SUMMARY

### Summary of the NDC analysis:

- The NDC provides little information on actions in the agricultural and food sector and generic orientations in the LULUCF sector. The document does not include any details on funding, policies, spatial information or use of technology directly tied to the food and land sector.
- The NDC only addresses four critical transitions and all in an inexplicit manner. Although the transition on "protecting and restoring nature" lists some essential actions, it lacks significant detail and only mentions a commitment to conduct forestation projects including sustainable forest management. Overall, little detail and no dedicated commitments or strategies are associated to the critical transitions.
- Out of all the critical transitions, "protecting and restoring nature" most directly relates to the land sector, in particular mentioning forestation projects and sustainable forest management practices. However, the NDC lacks detail of specific current or planned policies and actions to achieve these, as well as indication of any targets and monitoring means.

## REFERENCES

1. Source: ClimateWatch, accessed 30 August 2021. <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/compare-all-targets?>
2. Source: UNFCCC, Greenhouse Gas Inventory Data, accessed 30 August 2021. [https://di.unfccc.int/detailed\\_data\\_by\\_party](https://di.unfccc.int/detailed_data_by_party)
3. Source: UNFCCC, Greenhouse Gas Inventory Data, accessed 30 August 2021. [https://di.unfccc.int/detailed\\_data\\_by\\_party](https://di.unfccc.int/detailed_data_by_party)
4. Submitted 30 December 2020. Source: UNFCCC. [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/201230\\_ROK%27s%20Update%20of%20its%20First%20NDC\\_editorial%20change.pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/ndcstaging/PublishedDocuments/Republic%20of%20Korea%20First/201230_ROK%27s%20Update%20of%20its%20First%20NDC_editorial%20change.pdf)
5. Submitted 30 December 2020. Source: UNFCCC. [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LTS1\\_RKorea.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/LTS1_RKorea.pdf)
6. Source Climate Action Tracker, accessed 15 September 2020. <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/south-korea/>