

# REACH Public Consultation on Singapore's Climate Ambition

5 - 26 September 2022

Respondent Name: Anirudh Krishnan

**1 Singapore has stated that we intend to achieve net zero emissions by or around mid-century. Reaching net zero emissions by 2050 is:**

- (a) Just right
- (b) Too ambitious
- (c) Not sufficiently ambitious

**Answer: (a) Just right**

**1.1 [If answered (b) or (c) above] What is a suitable year to reach net zero?**

- (a) Not Sure
- (b) 2030-2039
- (c) 2040-2049
- (d) 2050-2059
- (e) 2060-2069
- (f) Beyond 2070

**Answer: -**

**1.2 Please feel free to provide your thoughts on what makes a suitable net zero year.**

NIL

**2 Should we enhance Singapore's 2030 NDC which currently pledges to peak emissions at 65 MtCO<sub>2e</sub> around 2030?**

- (a) Yes
- (b) No
- (c) Neutral/ Maybe/ Not sure

**Answer: Yes**

**3 What should our 2030 NDC ambition be and why? (Refer to Paras 3 - 4 of Consultation Document)**

Yes. To stay in line with the Glasgow Climate Pact, which draws on the scientific evidence produced in the IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6), countries should be aiming to reach a net emissions peak no later than 2025 and rapidly cutting net emissions thereafter such that net emissions in 2030 are about half of what they were in 2020. With peak emissions in 2030 as currently targeted, much deeper cuts will be required from 2030 to 2050 to achieve net zero by or around mid-century. Singapore and other high per-capita GDP countries, which have the financial resources to be at the leading edge of our global economic transformation, should play a leadership role in demonstrating major net emissions reductions in greenhouse gases by 2030.

In addition, a new report released at the recent New York Climate Week in September 2022 sets out what the mitigation 'roadmap' for the 'land sector' should look like in order to keep 1.5 degrees Celsius within reach, even with the energy and other industrial sectors cutting emissions by half each decade through 2050, to reach net zero (see: [www.conservation.org/roadmap](http://www.conservation.org/roadmap)). Based on the latest science, the report outlines a "Carbon Law for Nature", which states that the land sector must reach net zero emissions by 2030 globally, en route to becoming a 10Gt sink by 2050. Singapore, and all countries and businesses with a footprint in the land sector, should seek to frame its 2030 NDC in line with this Carbon Law for Nature. A notable source of land sector emissions in Singapore that merit attention include the clearing of secondary forest for new housing and other developments, which accelerates the fragmentation of forests and compromises existing nature's ability to support a robust, resilient ecosystem that acts as an effective carbon sink. Singapore should also, in particular, consider its emissions from land reclamation, which is also a driver of land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) emissions in neighboring countries, from which material for land reclamation is often imported.

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## 4 What can the Government do to support Singapore's transition to a low carbon future?

We are supportive of the Singapore government's commitment, demonstrated by the Carbon Pricing Act (Amendment) Bill, to increase the carbon price over time to better reflect the social cost of carbon. However, price estimates from climate economists put the necessary price per ton even higher than the planned price increases, with sources varying to as high as US\$ 75-100 per ton of carbon emitted (see references 1 and 2 at the bottom of this section). A higher price per ton in line with the social cost of carbon could be considered in future revisions of the carbon tax.

On the one hand, Singapore may be more constrained than some other countries in low-cost near-term climate mitigation options. However, Singapore could demonstrate a model of financing enhanced Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) outcomes in neighboring countries, which offer low-cost immediate climate mitigation opportunities that could deliver well beyond national carbon neutrality. For example, Laos, Malaysia, Cambodia, and Papua New Guinea are all countries in the Asia-Pacific region that could reach net carbon removals with cost-effective (NCS alone, and hence can over-deliver on national carbon neutrality (see reference 3 at the bottom of this section). The Singapore government should, as a priority, continue to pursue bilateral deals to finance NCS in these countries and share the climate mitigation outcomes as part of a national pledge to reduce net emissions by 2030 and be carbon-negative by 2050.

### References

1. Bhat, P. (2021). "Carbon Needs to Cost at Least \$100/Tonne Now to Reach Net Zero by 2050: Reuters Poll." Reuters. <https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/carbon-needs-cost-least-100tonne-now-reach-net-zero-by-2050-2021-10-25/>.
2. Gaspar, V., et al. (2019). "Fiscal Policies to Curb Climate Change". International Monetary Fund. <https://blogs.imf.org/2019/10/10/fiscal-policies-to-curb-climate-change/>.
3. Figure 3B in Griscom BW et al. (2020). "National mitigation potential from natural climate solutions in the tropics." Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B 375: 20190126. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2019.0126>

## 5 What can businesses and industries do to support Singapore's transition to a low carbon future?

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## 6 What can individuals and communities do to support Singapore's transition to a low carbon future?

Spread the word: Encourage family, friends, co-workers, and others to take action to reduce their carbon pollution. Learn about the impact of the everyday choices we make and make thoughtful decisions about purchases, energy and water use, modes of travel, and generating waste, among others. Speak up for action on climate change, protection of nature and biodiversity for people and the planet.

Participate: Participate in activities and learning opportunities – such as through public workshops, festivals, and other events – that provide opportunities to learn about and understand natural resource constraints, especially resources that Singapore draws upon.

## 7 While there may be trade-offs or inconveniences, I am willing to contribute / play my part in helping Singapore realise its net zero ambition.

- (a) Strongly Agree
- (b) Neutral
- (c) Agree
- (d) Strongly Disagree
- (e) Disagree

Answer: Strongly Agree

## 8 Do you have any other thoughts on Singapore's climate ambition that you wish to share?

We look forward to Singapore demonstrating increasing ambition and progress towards that ambition through revisions to its 2030 and 2050 NDCs and a new LEDS in line with the recommendations above. In revising Singapore's Low-Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS), Singapore should also seek to proactively communicate how new policies and programmes associated with Singapore's transition to a low-carbon future may affect low-income, vulnerable people in society.