# Glossary

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| **Greenhouse gas emissions** | Greenhouse gases are released (emitted) into the atmosphere both by the natural world and by human activities. In the atmosphere, these gases trap heat from the Earth and warm the surface (the greenhouse effect). The main greenhouse gases emitted by human activities are carbon dioxide ($CO_2$), methane ($CH_4$) and nitrous oxide ($N_2O$). |
| **Per capita CO₂e (Carbon dioxide equivalent)** | Six greenhouse gases are considered in the climate negotiation framework. To be able to compare the effect of different gases, they are transformed into $CO_2e$, i.e. the amount of $CO_2$ that would cause the same amount of warming. This amount is then divided by the number of people in a country to get per capita values. |
| **2° target** | Two degrees isn't a 'safe' level of climate change – there will be unpleasant consequences even if the temperature doesn't rise that much. However, it is easy to understand and a useful marker of how we're doing at limiting climate change that has helped focus minds on the scale of the challenge. A global average warming of 2°C will mean that some places warm by more, and some by less than, 2°C. Similarly, precisely how much warmer it is will vary with the season and type of weather. |
| **1.5° target** | As for two degrees, 1.5° isn't a 'safe' level of climate change. One large difference between these two targets, is the level of projected long-term sea level change. Many low-lying countries, such as the Maldives, strongly support this lower target. A 1.5° target would require a more drastic reduction in greenhouse gases, making this target more difficult to reach. |
| **Mitigation** | Mitigation is used to describe any measure that reduces the amount of climate change. Mitigation reduces the climate change that is due to human activities. |
| **Adaptation** | Even if we can reduce greenhouse gas emissions - i.e. mitigate, the climate will still change due to the high levels of greenhouse gases that are already in the atmosphere due to human activities. Humans will need to respond and change the way they do things - they must adapt to the changing climate - this can both cause challenges, but also open up new opportunities. |
| **Per capita GDP (Gross Domestic Product).** | The gross domestic product (GDP) is the monetary value of all goods and services produced within a nation. This value is then divided by the number of people in the country to get per capita values. |
| **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** | The Green Climate Fund is a fund for projects and programmes that help developing countries cope with the adverse effects of climate change. This fund should finance both adaptation and mitigation. The fund is financed by developed countries. For the purposes here, the aim is a total annual contribution of $100 000 million. |