



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

## What is mitigation?

As there is a direct relation between global average temperatures and the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the key for the solution to the climate change problem rests in decreasing the amount of emissions released into the atmosphere and in reducing the current concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) by enhancing sinks (e.g. increasing the area of forests). Efforts to reduce emissions and enhance sinks are referred to as “mitigation”.

The [Convention](#) requires all Parties, keeping in mind their responsibilities and capabilities, to formulate and implement programmes containing measures to [mitigate](#) climate change. Such programmes target economic activity with an aim to incentivize actions that are cleaner or disincentive those that result in large amounts of GHGs. They include policies, incentives schemes and investment programmes which address all sectors, including energy generation and use, transport, buildings, industry, agriculture, forestry and other land use, and waste management. Mitigation measures are translated in, for example, an increased use of renewable energy, the application of new technologies such as electric cars, or changes in practices or behaviours, such as driving less or changing one’s diet. Further, they include expanding forests and other sinks to remove greater amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere, or simply making improvements to a cookstove design.