



# PICKING UP THE PACE

NGO Climate Compact Report  
on Progress to Date from  
Annual Member Survey

AUGUST 2021



# OPENING LETTER

## Dear Members and Partners,

As we look back over the past year, I am deeply encouraged to see the progress that has been made on each of the four NGO Climate Compact commitments, from Members increasing their advocacy efforts toward the U.S. Government and other institutions on climate and environmental issues, to Members hiring technical experts on climate risk or environmental issues to advise their program teams. We are grateful for and proud of your work on this effort.

Among the Compact signatories, early adopters are leading the way in many places, while newcomers or later adopters are making progress, though a few steps behind. But regardless of an organization's stage of progress, there is much more work to be done and simply less time to do it.

The purpose of the Compact is to galvanize NGOs to commit to large-scale and unified action to address climate change and environmental degradation. We knew the urgency and importance of this work when we launched the Compact back in April 2020, but as we [quickly approach the 1.5°C threshold for global warming](#), the urgency has only heightened. There is no time to waste.

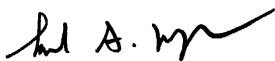
Climate change is already threatening decades of progress across global development, exacerbating conflict, and intensifying humanitarian crises. Therefore, addressing climate change is central to achieving our community's mission to serve the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

This work is not without challenges. There is an issue of attention spans that is endemic in our community, with organizations unable to prioritize the climate crisis and commit time and resources to climate action. If organizations are currently struggling to prioritize the time and resources to address climate change, it begs the question: If not now, when?

At InterAction, we have a responsibility to help put climate at the top of the agenda. This means creating more space and dedicating more time for Members to spend on climate work. It is also our responsibility to sustain the level of urgency and excitement that was present for many when we launched the Compact in April 2020.

We must expand and accelerate our fight against climate change, and we need your help, your time, and your ideas to do so. Our power to make an impact relies on urgent organizational and collective action.

Sincerely,



Sam Worthington, President, InterAction



*Photo by Pablo Muñoz Martin*



# ABOUT THE NGO CLIMATE COMPACT

On the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day, April 22, 2020, InterAction and 80+ Member NGOs launched the NGO Climate Compact to pledge concerted, unified, and urgent action to address climate change and environmental degradation.<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of the Compact is to initiate large-scale change across the InterAction coalition, which is the largest U.S.-based alliance of international NGOs, as well as the global development and humanitarian assistance sector more broadly. The Compact acknowledges that addressing climate change and environmental degradation is central to achieving our

community's mission to serve the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

By contributing to meeting higher-level global goals, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the U.N. Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the NGO Climate Compact aims to advance the global agenda to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support people with the least power and fewest resources to build resilience against the consequences of climate change.

The Compact spans April 2020 to December 2022 and consists of four commitment areas: education and advocacy; climate mainstreaming in programs; internal environmental sustainability; and learning. The Compact's four areas of commitment emphasize actions that Members can take before the end of 2022 to develop and advance joint action, kick-start individual organizational initiatives, and generate dialogue and learning, all of which will support more effective climate action in the future.

To maintain a necessary pace of action, signatories to the Compact report annually to InterAction on their progress against these commitments. At the end of 2022, our community will review the NGO Climate Compact commitments and lay out next steps to continue advancing the climate agenda.

## Accomplishments in the Compact's First Year

Between April 2020 and May 2021, InterAction hosted 27 learning events, climate working group meetings, and roundtables at multiple levels—all based on Member input from the 2020 baseline survey and rolling Member feedback. These included events on climate advocacy, climate mainstreaming in programs, and environmental sustainability:

- Introduction to Climate Advocacy toward U.S. Government, United Nations, and International Financial Institutions, 2-part series
- U.S. Public Opinion and Disinformation on Climate Change
- Organizational Environmental Sustainability Amidst Climate Change and COVID-19
- Climate Mainstreaming Throughout the Program Lifecycle, 2-part series
- Measuring Your Organization's Carbon Footprint: Why Do It and How to Get Started, 3-part series

- Mainstreaming Climate into NGO Organizational Strategies
- Making the Invisible Visible on Indigenous Peoples' Day: Climate Impacts on Indigenous Communities at Home and Abroad
- Building Resilience to Extreme Heat
- A Fork in the Road: NGO Climate Leadership after November 2020 (CEO track)
- How to Set Science-Based Targets for Organizational Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions
- Forum 2021 Session on Green Recovery from COVID-19
- Developing an Advocacy Agenda on Climate Adaptation and Integration in Development and Humanitarian Assistance
- A Conversation with the Biden Administration on the Margins of the U.S. Climate Leaders' Summit and 1-Year Anniversary of the NGO Climate Compact (CEO track)
- Managing Debt for a Climate-Resilient Future

In July 2020, InterAction started a monthly newsletter called the *Climate Digest* to support information-sharing and communication across NGO Climate Compact signatories and stakeholders.<sup>2</sup>



Photo by Debasish Chakraborty



# BACKGROUND ON AND PURPOSE OF SURVEY

From June 17 to July 7, 2021, InterAction ran its second annual survey of the 89 NGO signatories to the Climate Compact to capture coalition-level progress toward the four commitment areas in the Climate Compact: education and advocacy; climate mainstreaming in programs; internal environmental sustainability; and learning. InterAction surveyed Members on their current level of progress toward each of these four commitment areas, the challenges they face in implementing the Compact, including impacts from COVID-19, and their feedback on InterAction’s climate program.

The first annual survey of NGO signatories, which captured a baseline of coalition-level information, was conducted in June 2020. InterAction will continue to repeat this survey annually to track change over time from July 2020 to December 2022.

## METHODOLOGY

InterAction staff designed an 18-question online survey that included both quantitative and qualitative measures, using the 2020 survey as a base to ensure continuity of questions that measure change over time from the start of the program in 2020. Staff updated the survey with improvements to questions from the previous year, added new questions to collect additional information, and turned certain open-ended questions into multiple-choice or multiple-select questions based on the categories of responses collected in 2020.

InterAction disseminated the survey via email to individuals designated by the CEO or President of each Member when they signed the Climate Compact. InterAction collected survey responses over three weeks using SurveyMonkey.<sup>3</sup>

The sample and population size was 89 organizations, and 43 organizations responded, resulting in an overall response rate of 48% (compared to 43% for 2020). Of the 43 respondents, 27 organizations had also completed the survey in 2020, while 16 organizations completed the survey for the first time in 2021. The following table provides a breakdown of survey responses by organization and year:

Type of respondent	Number of organizations
Repeat survey respondent (completed the survey in 2020 and 2021)	27
Survey respondent in 2021 only	16
Survey respondent in 2020 only	9

InterAction’s analysis assumes that respondents had fairly open access to information within their organizations and that, as a result, the data reported accurately captures the actions of Climate Compact signatories.

*Photo by Kazi Md. Jahirul Islam*





Reasons underpinning this assumption include:

- No questions were mandatory, and InterAction asked respondents to skip any question that they felt they did not have or could not get full information about their organization's actions or views.
  - Question response rates ranged from 21% to 44% (19-39 organizations out of 89 sampled), with most falling between 37% and 44% (33-39 organizations out of 84 sampled), suggesting that respondents were highly engaged in the survey and that their attention remained consistent regardless of the types of questions or level of effort required to respond.
  - Organizations designated one staff person to respond to the survey on behalf of their organization and to report on or seek out the information that they needed to answer the questions.
  - Respondents' level of seniority ranged from the highest executive to mid-level managers and subject-matter experts. Given their diverse functional roles, some respondents may have had incomplete information on the actions of their organization.
- With no obvious incentive to exaggerate responses due to the survey's anonymity, respondents' progress was likely not overreported and may even exhibit a downward bias.

The following analysis applies the findings from 43 signatories to the full group of 89 signatories. InterAction made this determination by comparing characteristics of organizations that responded and those that did not to account for potential selection effects that would impact whether the results could be applied to the full sample. InterAction examined factors that might have influenced organizations' responses, such as annual revenue and secular or faith-based ideology. This analysis found no major differences between respondents and non-respondents. However, the survey results do not apply to InterAction Members that are not signatories to the NGO Climate Compact.

# FEEDBACK ON INTERACTION'S CLIMATE PROGRAM

## Working Groups and Other Offerings

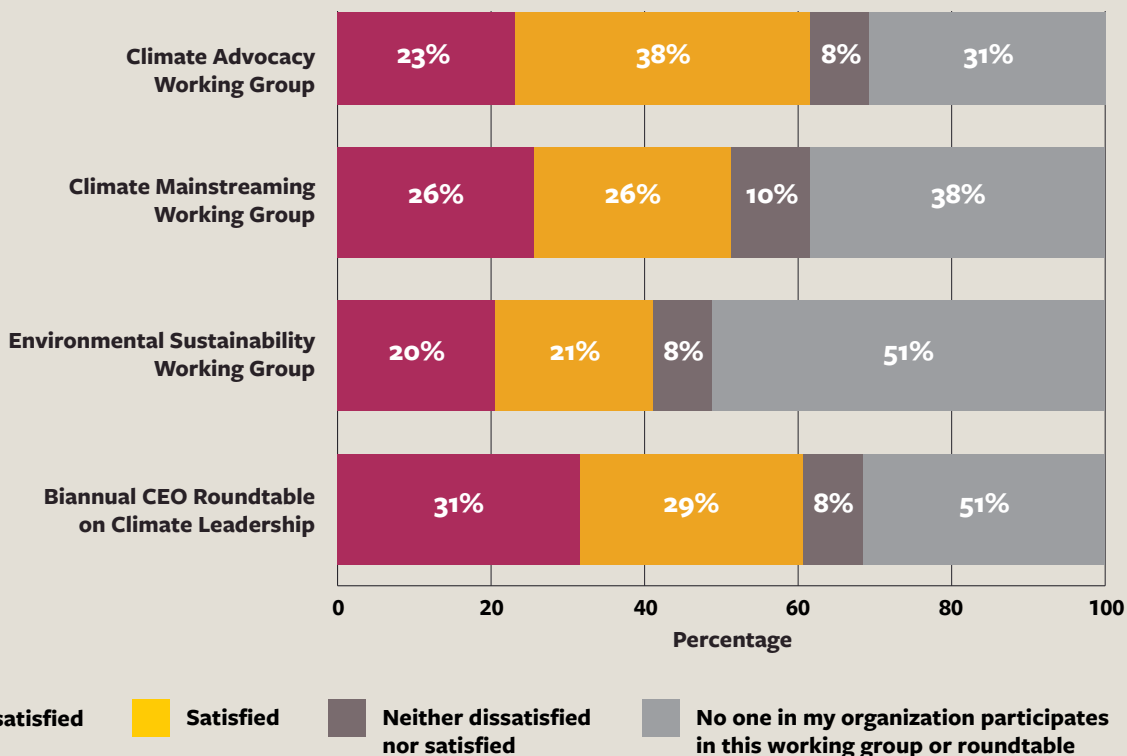
Within its climate program, InterAction runs three climate working groups that meet or host an event every four to six weeks and a CEO track that formally meets twice per year. InterAction asked signatories how satisfied they have been with these working groups and the CEO roundtable, on a scale from “highly satisfied” to “highly dissatisfied.” Overall, respondents expressed high levels of satisfaction with these four offerings; no respondents marked that they

were “dissatisfied” or “highly dissatisfied” for any of the working groups or the CEO roundtable. The CEO roundtable had the highest satisfaction rating, while the Climate Advocacy Working Group had the lowest satisfaction rating. The lower satisfaction rating of the Climate Advocacy Working Group, despite high engagement from Members and the achievement of significant progress since 2020, may signify a hunger from signatories to do even more.

The following graphs show the number and percentage of respondents by their satisfaction level for each of the three working groups and CEO roundtable. Response rates for the following four graphs ranged from 38 to 39 organizations answering these questions.

Respondents who marked anything lower than “highly satisfied” were given the option to provide feedback on what their organizations would want to see change about these offerings. This was asked as an open-ended question in which respondents provided short-answer responses. These responses were then coded into

### Satisfaction with Climate Compact Lines of Effort





categories during analysis to allow for comparison.<sup>4</sup> Twenty organizations responded to this question and twenty-three did not.

The most frequent suggestions from respondents included:

- Providing smaller Members or Members earlier along in the process with practical support and more opportunities to engage
- Connecting the work of each working group to combat fragmentation, potentially through a larger conversation on the Compact once or twice a year
- Changing the CEO roundtable format to provide space for more participation, interaction, conversations, and brainstorming
- Expanding access and invitations to events to staff outside of the working groups

Several respondents cited their own lack of participation and engagement in these offerings due to staff limitations.

The survey also asked signatories to provide any topics or issues they would like to see included in InterAction events, working group meetings, and roundtables over the next 12 months. This was an open-ended question, with responses coded into categories after the fact. Thirty-six organizations answered this question and seven did not.

Seventeen topics or issues were suggested by more than one NGO. In general, the coalition is interested in offerings that focus on building practical know-how for climate action. The topics or issues most frequently suggested by NGOs included:

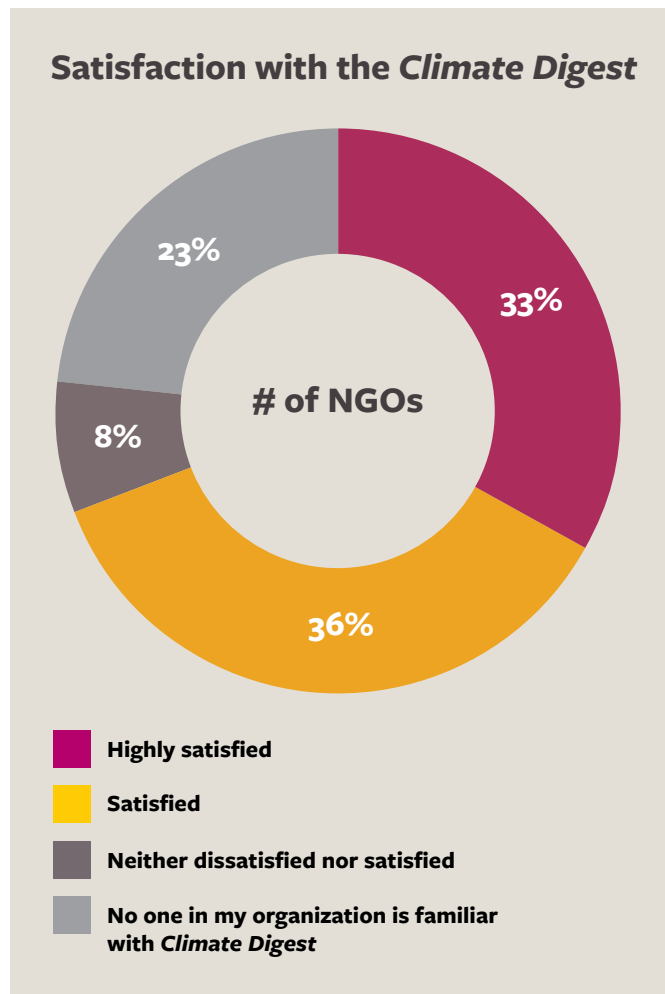
- Offsetting or reducing one’s carbon footprint, including carbon accounting and carbon markets
- Climate mainstreaming throughout the program lifecycle, including best practices and examples
- Mobilizing and developing an advocacy agenda around climate financing
- Focusing on how climate change affects the most vulnerable groups and climate justice
- Furthering a climate advocacy agenda toward the U.S. Government, United Nations, and/or International Financial Institutions, including coalition-building strategies

All Member suggestions fell within the existing areas of the current program (organizational sustainability, climate mainstreaming, and advocacy), which confirms that all topics or issues suggested can be handled within the existing structure of the program.

## Communications

InterAction sends a monthly newsletter called the *Climate Digest* to support information-sharing and communication across NGO Climate Compact signatories and other stakeholders. The survey asked signatories how satisfied they are with the *Climate Digest*. Thirty-nine organizations answered this question and four did not. The following graph shows the number and percentage of respondents by their satisfaction level with the *Climate Digest*.

Overall, respondents expressed high levels of satisfaction with the *Climate Digest*; no respondents marked that their organizations were “dissatisfied” or “highly dissatisfied.” Notably, 23% of respondents





are not familiar with the *Climate Digest*, even though the *Climate Digest* is routinely sent to a list of approximately 300 people with a 38% open rate. This represents an opportunity for InterAction to advertise and expand engagement with the Digest more broadly.

Lastly, respondents were asked to suggest ways to improve InterAction’s communications with Members on climate issues, including on the frequency and content of emails, social media, the *Climate Digest*, and any other communications.

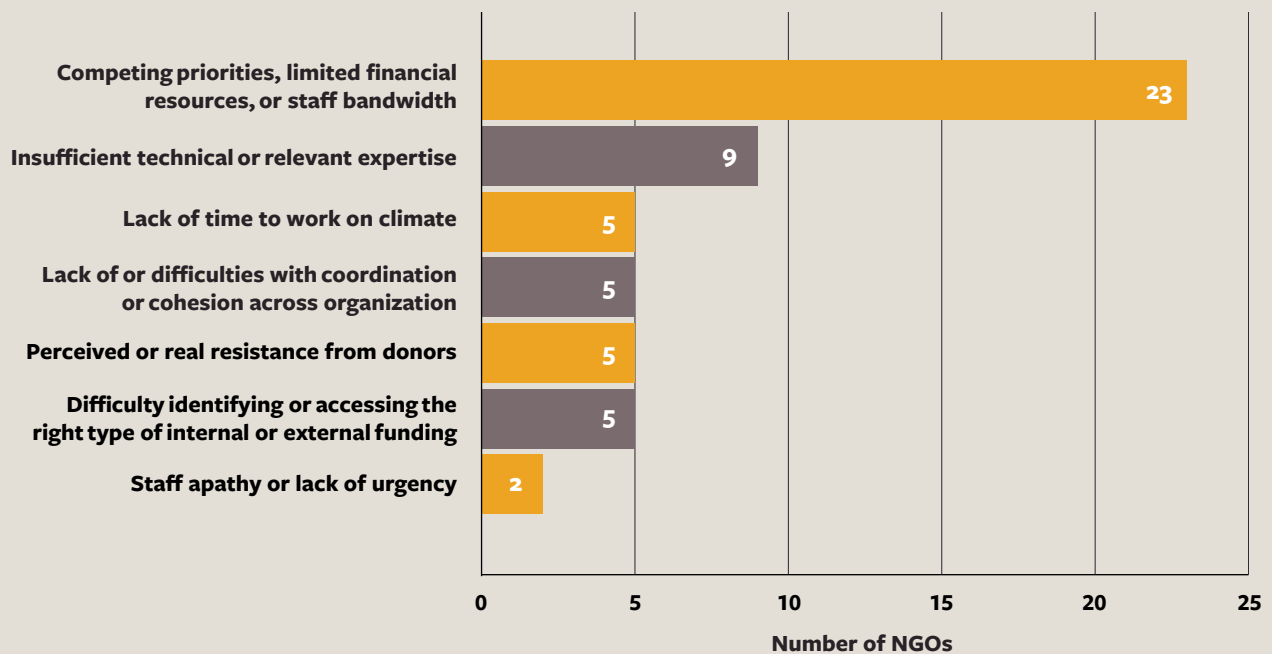
This was asked as an open-ended question in which respondents provided short-answer responses, which were then coded into categories during analysis to allow for comparison. Nineteen organizations responded to this question and twenty-four did not. Suggestions for improvement focused on consolidating communications, signposting action items, events, and important dates more clearly, and using concise writing to shorten communications.

# CHALLENGES FOR MEMBER PROGRESS ON CLIMATE ACTION

InterAction asked signatories, “What are the biggest challenges that your organization is facing related to climate advocacy, mainstreaming climate in programs and strategy, and internal sustainability?” Signatories cited several core challenges, including limited time and money; insufficient expertise; slow learning; inability to prioritize the climate crisis; internal lack of coordination; perceived or real resistance from donors; difficulty identifying or accessing the right type of external or internal funding; and staff apathy.

Other challenges cited by respondents included: donor lag time; prioritization of climate from leadership;

## Challenges in Implementing NGO Climate Compact



**Note:** Respondents could provide multiple answers to this open-ended question

identifying an organization's niche; decreasing emissions after carbon footprint study results; climate as a crowded space dominated by environmental groups; building connections with government decision-makers; lack of awareness of an organization's focus and goals; and complicated relationship with other organizations that promote fossil fuels in their approaches.

With time and money cited most frequently as constraints, inaction on the climate crisis seems to partially stem from issues with prioritization and short attention spans. Such findings highlight the need for InterAction to galvanize Members to put climate on the agenda and maintain urgency in their climate work, especially as the launch of the NGO Climate Compact drifts farther into the past.

The following graph shows the number of respondents who mentioned certain challenges they face with climate action. This was an open-ended question in which respondents provided short-answer responses, which InterAction then coded during analysis to allow for comparison. Thirty-three organizations responded to this question, while ten did not. Some organizations experienced multiple challenges, so there are more responses than respondents.

## IMPACTS OF COVID-19

InterAction asked signatories, "How is COVID-19 impacting your organization's thinking on climate-oriented advocacy, programs, and internal sustainability, if at all?" Across the four commitment areas, COVID-19 impacted signatories in both positive and negative ways, though some key negative impacts from COVID-19 have deepened over the past year.

Of the positive impacts, organizations most frequently cited that COVID-19 has intensified an internal commitment to address climate change and accelerated long-term sustainability efforts, especially around travel and commuting. However, a smaller percentage of organizations reported that COVID-19 had accelerated long-term sustainability efforts in 2021 (37%) than in 2020 (45%), possibly signifying challenges in advancing these efforts as many organizations in June and July 2021 were beginning to prepare to return to the workplace in Fall 2021.

Photo by Mau Maunze



**84%** of signatories said their climate work had been impacted in some way by COVID-19.

Encouragingly, compared to 2020, a higher percentage of organizations also noted that COVID-19 has strengthened their resolve to advocate on climate as the next major crisis and generated new ideas about climate mainstreaming in programs.



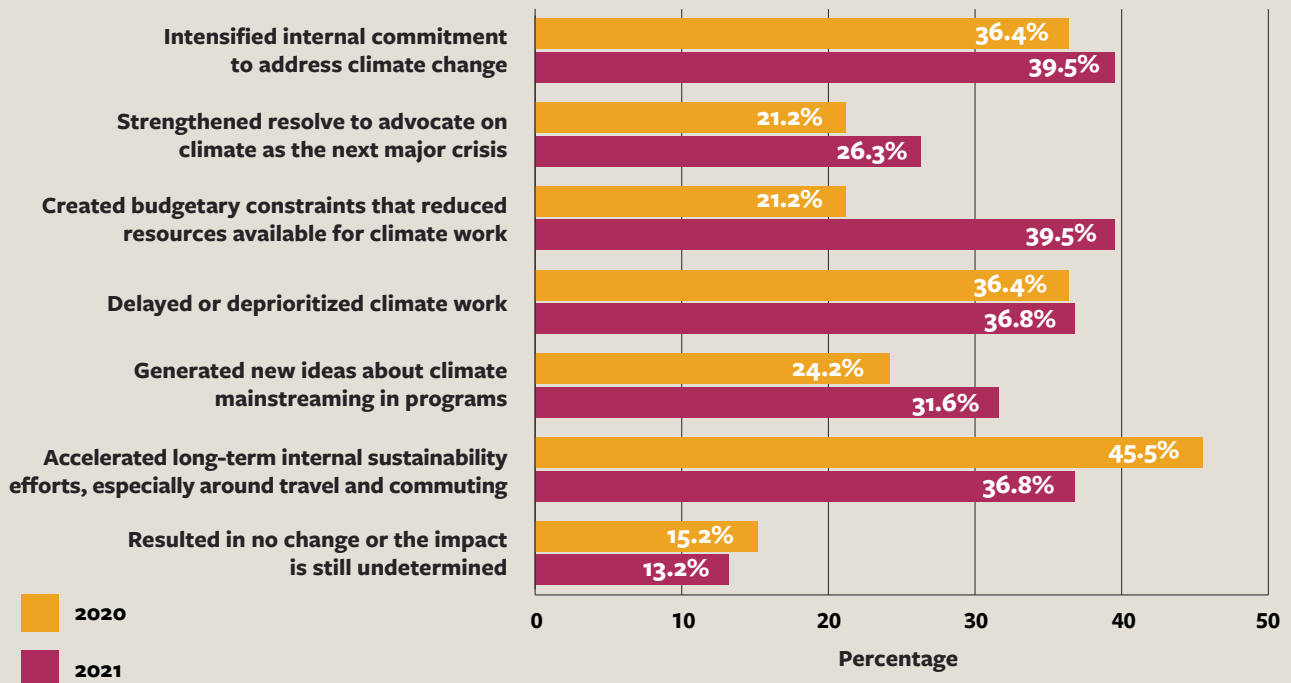
Results demonstrate that budget constraints due to COVID-19 have significantly deepened since 2020. Compared to 21% of respondents in 2020, 40% of respondents in 2021 cited that COVID-19 has created budgetary constraints that reduced resources available for climate work. A similar proportion of organizations noted that climate work has been delayed or deprioritized due to COVID-19. In write-in comments, some organizations highlighted that COVID-19 has limited their ability to run their climate operations (i.e., advocacy, program implementation).

Notably, of the 15 organizations that cited budgetary constraints because of COVID-19, 10 of them also cited that the pandemic has had at least one positive impact on their climate work. Similar to findings on COVID-19 impacts from the 2020 survey, these results demonstrate that positive and negative impacts on climate work from COVID-19 are not mutually

exclusive. However, while organizations may cite *feeling* more committed to addressing climate change, the budgetary constraints from COVID-19 are concrete and being felt now. This underscores the need for InterAction to provide more support to Members seeking to advance climate work during this time.

The following graph shows the number of respondents who mentioned certain impacts of COVID-19 on progress toward climate action. This question was a checkbox question that allowed respondents to select multiple answers, which were based on the coding of the survey responses to this question in 2020. A write-in option was also provided for respondents to cite any other impacts or clarify their responses. Thirty-eight organizations responded and five did not. Some organizations have experienced multiple impacts, so there are more responses than respondents.

### Deepening Impacts of COVID-19 on Coalition Progress on Climate Action





# COALITION PROGRESS IN NGO CLIMATE COMPACT COMMITMENT AREAS

InterAction asked signatories about their progress toward the four areas of commitment within the NGO Climate Compact:

1. Education and Advocacy
2. Climate Mainstreaming in Programs
3. Internal Environmental Sustainability
4. Learning

InterAction compared the stage of progress at the coalition-level with the stage of progress based on whether a respondent was a repeat respondent (e.g., completed the survey in 2020 and 2021) or a first-time respondent (e.g., completed the survey for the first

time in 2021). This analysis revealed that first-time respondents (37% of the sample) were, on average, at an earlier stage of progress toward the NGO Climate Compact commitments than organizations who completed the survey both years. As a result, the following analysis separates progress for these two cohorts—repeat respondents ( $n = 27$ ) and first-time respondents ( $n = 16$ )—to adjust for this selection effect. The weighted averages for coalition-level progress for all respondents in 2021 ( $n = 43$ ) and 2020 ( $n = 36$ ) can be found in tables in the Appendix.

Coalition-level stage of progress (x-axis) in all four graphs is measured by the weighted average of five response choices to a particular action on a Likert scale. The response choices were: 1) Will not pursue; 2) Has not started exploring; 3) Is currently exploring; 4) Is doing now; 5) Has completed; 6) I don't know/Does not apply. The last answer choice was not included in the weighted average.

For repeat respondents, the baseline weighted averages from the 2020 survey are denoted with horizontal dashes in each graph. Questions on actions that appeared in the survey for the first time in 2021 have no horizontal dash, as there is no baseline data on such actions from the 2020 survey.

Response rates for the following four questions were among the highest for the entire survey, with 39 organizations answering each question.



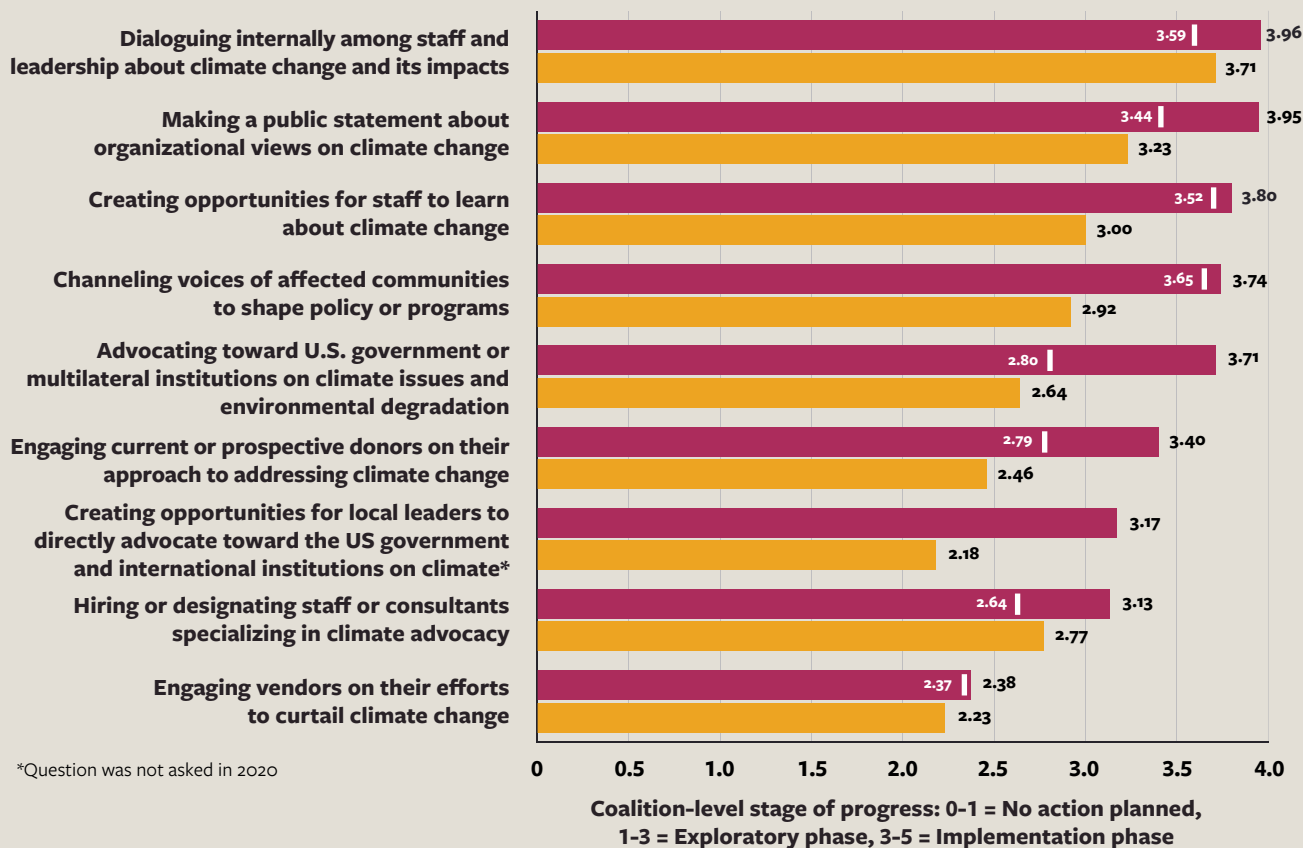
# 1. EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

Of the four commitment areas, signatories are farthest along in Education and Advocacy. For nearly all actions under this commitment, respondents noted being well into the implementation phase. Among repeat survey respondents, the most progress over the past year has been made in making a public statement about organizational views on climate change; advocating toward U.S. Government and multilateral institutions on climate issues and environmental degradation; and engaging current or prospective donors on their approach to addressing climate change. Among repeat and first-time respondents, the actions at the most

advanced stage of progress are dialoguing internally among staff and leadership about climate change and its impacts and making a public statement about organizational views on climate change.

First-time respondents are at an earlier stage of progress for all actions under Education and Advocacy, compared to repeat respondents. Notably, first-time respondents have weighted averages closer in value to the repeat respondents' 2020 level of progress, signifying a sort of stratification of early adopters and newcomers in terms of Education and Advocacy. However, data across both groups indicate signatories are struggling with the same areas of action within Education and Advocacy, such as engaging vendors on their efforts to curtail climate change.

## Coalition Progress on Education and Advocacy on Climate



Repeat survey respondents: Weighted average in 2021 | Repeat survey respondents: Weighted average in 2020 | First-time survey respondents: Weighted average in 2021

It is important to note that while this survey is identifying coalition progress against certain desired actions, this progress cannot necessarily be attributed to the NGO Climate Compact, as other changes (e.g., a new Administration with climate as one of its top priorities) may also have impacted advocacy and education work on climate by signatories.

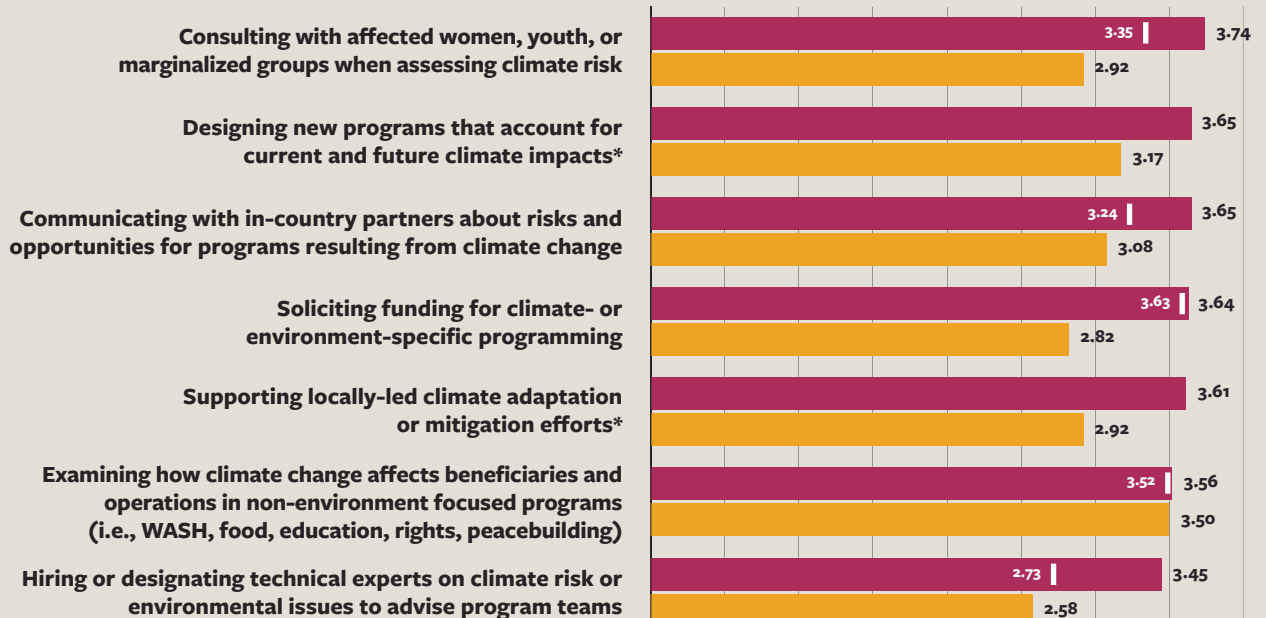
## 2. CLIMATE MAINSTREAMING IN PROGRAMS

Compared to Advocacy and Education, signatories are at an earlier stage of progress for Climate Mainstreaming in Programs, though, on average, they are in the implementation phase for actions under this commitment area.

Among repeat survey respondents, the most progress over the past year has been made in engaging stakeholders on climate mainstreaming: consulting with affected women, youth, and marginalized groups when assessing climate risk; communicating with in-country partners about risks and opportunities for programs resulting from climate change; and hiring or designating technical experts on climate risk or environmental issues to advise program teams. There is a lack of progress from last year among this group of signatories in soliciting funding for climate- or environment-specific programming and in examining how climate change affects beneficiaries and operations in non-environment-focused programs.

Again, first-time respondents are at an earlier stage of progress for nearly all measures under Climate Mainstreaming in Programs compared to repeat respondents. Interestingly, first-time respondents are at a very similar stage of progress as repeat respondents in examining how climate change affects beneficiaries

### Coalition Progress on Climate Mainstreaming in Programs



\*Question was not asked in 2020

0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0

Coalition-level stage of progress: 0-1 = No action planned, 1-3 = Exploratory phase, 3-5 = Implementation phase

Repeat survey respondents: Weighted average in 2021

Repeat survey respondents: Weighted average in 2020

First-time survey respondents: Weighted average in 2021

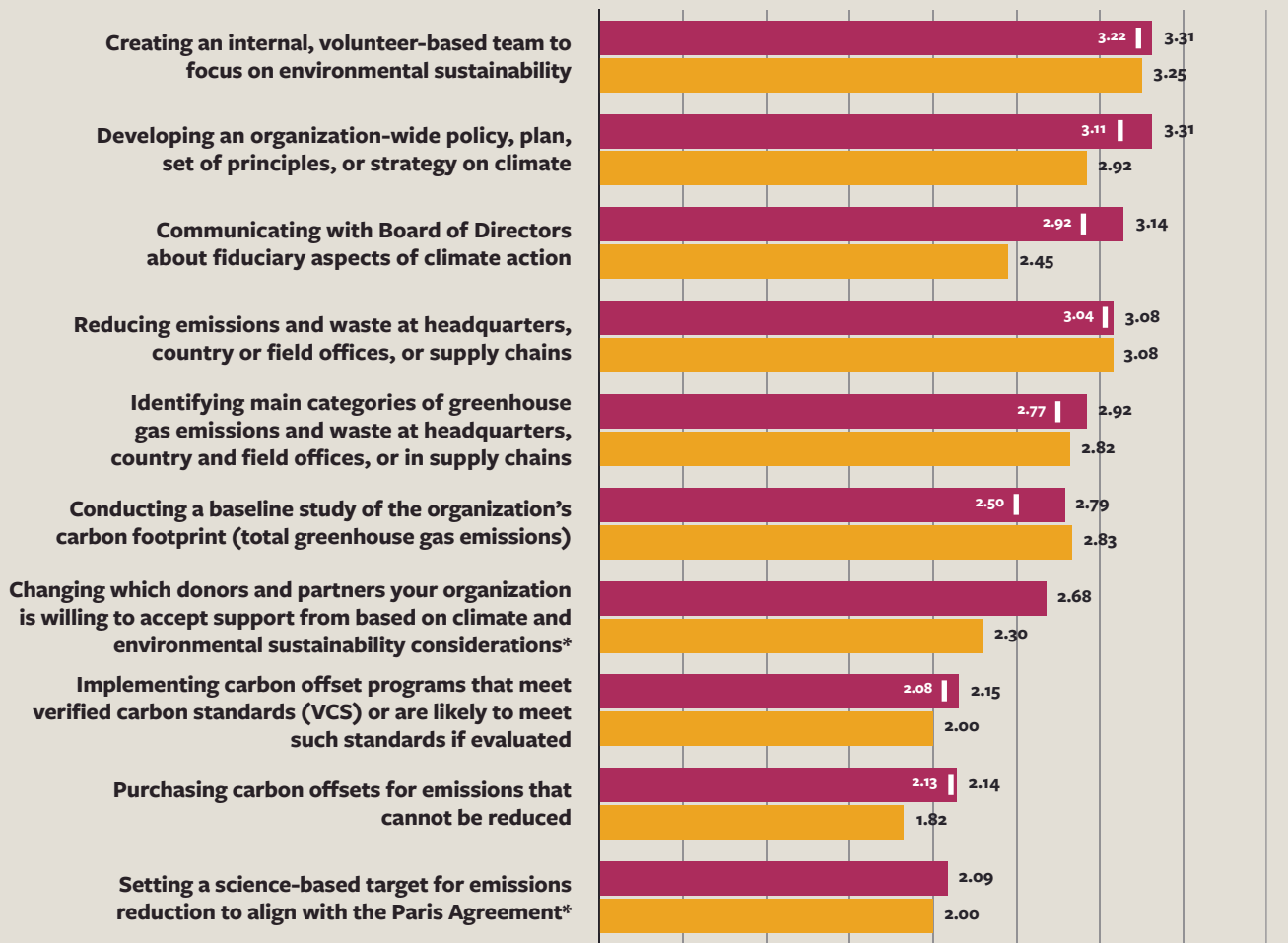


and operations in non-environment-focused programs. However, they are significantly further behind in consulting with affected women, youth, and marginalized groups when assessing climate risk and hiring or designating technical experts on climate risk or environmental issues to advise program teams.

### 3. INTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Compared to Climate Mainstreaming in Programs, signatories are at an earlier stage of progress for Internal Environmental Sustainability. Signatories tend to be in the exploratory phase for measures under this commitment area rather than in the implementation phase.

#### Coalition Progress on Internal Environmental Sustainability



\*Question was not asked in 2020

Coalition-level stage of progress: 0-1 = No action planned, 1-3 = Exploratory phase, 3-5 = Implementation phase

Repeat survey responders: Weighted average in 2021 | Repeat survey respondents: Weighted average in 2020 | First-time survey responders: Weighted average in 2021

Compared to the prior commitment areas, first-time and repeat survey respondents have weighted averages that are closer in value, signifying lower cohort-dependent effects on progress for Internal Environmental Sustainability. The largest differences in stages of progress between first-time and repeat respondents remain in communicating with the Board of Directors about fiduciary aspects of climate action and changing which donors and partners an organization is willing to accept support from based on climate and environmental sustainability considerations.

Signatories are farthest along in creating an internal, volunteer-based team to focus on environmental sustainability; developing an organization-wide policy, plan, set of principles, or strategy on climate; and reducing emissions and waste at headquarters, country or field offices, or supply chains.

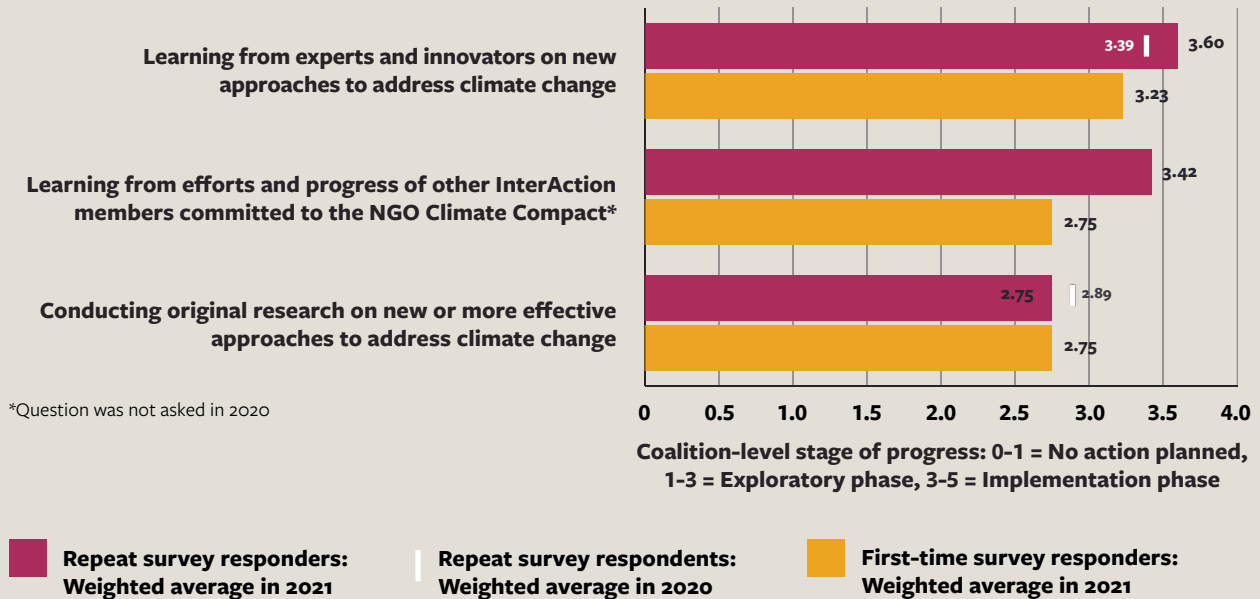
Signatories are generally in an earlier stage of exploration on actions aimed at reducing or offsetting carbon emissions: implementing carbon offset programs that meet verified carbon standards (VCS)

or are likely to meet such standards if evaluated; purchasing carbon offsets for emissions that cannot be reduced; and setting a science-based target for emissions reduction to align with the Paris Agreement.

## 4. LEARNING

For measures under the Learning commitment area, signatories are in the late exploratory phase or early implementation phase. However, less progress has been made over the past year compared to other commitment areas. Repeat respondents have made modest progress over the past year in learning from experts and innovators on new approaches to address climate change. They conducted slightly less original research on new or more effective approaches to address climate change compared to 2020. Repeat respondents reported more progress on learning from the efforts and progress of other InterAction Members committed to the NGO Climate Compact compared to first-time respondents.

### Coalition Progress on Learning on Climate





# CONCLUSION

## Cohorts Advancing at Different Paces

This year's survey has allowed us to begin measuring progress over time, providing insights about the pace and areas of progress that were not available from the baseline survey in 2020. In comparing the progress of signatories who responded to the survey in 2021 and 2020, it is encouraging to see that organizations have made consistent progress over the past year on measures under each commitment area of the NGO Climate Compact. Organizations have ramped up their work on climate advocacy and education, in particular—ever important and fruitful under a new Administration for which climate is a top priority.

Notably, the results from the 2021 survey indicate a potential stratification of progress among signatories, with first-time survey respondents at an earlier stage of progress, on average, than repeat respondents across the four commitment areas. These findings support that there are cohorts among the NGO Climate Compact signatories, with early adopters out in front, while later adopters and newcomers are just beginning to act. In the coming months, InterAction must work with signatories to better understand how to support

Members within each cohort to achieve the Compact's climate objectives.

## Significant Challenges Remain in Climate Action

Organizations cited several core challenges to taking action on climate change. A large percentage of respondents noted their organizations' inability to prioritize the climate crisis and limited time and money as key constraints. As the COVID-19 pandemic has continued, it has only deepened these resource constraints, with nearly double the proportion of respondents citing budgetary constraints that reduced resources available for climate work. However, time is of the essence on climate action.

As we look ahead, our community has work to do to match the action to the rhetoric. A challenge is to maintain the necessary sense of urgency in climate work, as the initial energy around the NGO Climate Compact launch will tend to dissipate in the wake of other pressing issues like COVID-19.

The Compact has wrapped up its first year and is already approaching its reassessment in 2022. InterAction and its Membership must ratchet up the urgency and resolve to act now.



# APPENDIX

## Coalition-Level Data on Progress in NGO Climate Compact Commitment Areas

The below tables provide the weighted averages for coalition-level progress in the NGO Climate Compact

commitment areas for all respondents in 2021 (n = 43) and 2020 (n = 36). Some actions were included for the first time in the 2021 survey; in such cases, “N/A” is listed under the 2020 weighted average.

Coalition Progress on Education and Advocacy on Climate	2021 weighted average	2020 weighted average
Dialoguing internally among staff and leadership about climate change and its impacts	3.87	3.56
Making a public statement about organizational views on climate change	3.68	3.41
Creating opportunities for staff to learn about climate change	3.50	3.43
Channeling voices of affected communities to shape policy or programs	3.49	3.55
Advocating toward U.S. Government or multilateral institutions on climate issues and environmental degradation	3.32	2.70
Engaging current or prospective donors on their approach to addressing climate change	3.08	2.81
Hiring or designating staff or consultants specializing in climate advocacy	3.00	2.66
Creating opportunities for local leaders to directly advocate toward the U.S. Government and international institutions on climate	2.86	N/A
Engaging vendors on their efforts to curtail climate change	2.31	2.39

Coalition Progress on Climate Mainstreaming in Programs	2021 weighted average	2020 weighted average
Designing new programs that account for current and future climate impacts	3.49	N/A
Communicating with in-country partners about risks and opportunities for programs resulting from climate change	3.46	3.21
Consulting with affected women, youth, or marginalized groups when assessing climate risk	3.44	3.27
Soliciting funding for climate- or environment-specific programming	3.37	3.56
Supporting locally-led climate adaptation or mitigation efforts	3.36	N/A
Examining how climate change affects beneficiaries and operations in non-environment focused programs (i.e., WASH, food, education, rights, peacebuilding)	3.51	3.52
Hiring or designating technical experts on climate risk or environmental issues to advise program teams	3.15	2.79

<b>Coalition Progress on Internal Environmental Sustainability</b>	<b>2021 weighted average</b>	<b>2020 weighted average</b>
Creating an internal, volunteer-based team to focus on environmental sustainability	3.29	3.12
Developing an organization-wide policy, plan, set of principles, or strategy on climate	3.18	3.06
Reducing emissions and waste at headquarters, country or field offices, or supply chains	3.08	2.91
Communicating with Board of Directors about fiduciary aspects of climate action	2.91	2.87
Identifying main categories of greenhouse gas emissions and waste at headquarters, country and field offices, or in supply chains	2.89	2.73
Conducting a baseline study of the organization's carbon footprint (total greenhouse gas emissions)	2.81	2.45
Changing which donors and partners your organization is willing to accept support from based on climate and environmental sustainability considerations	2.56	N/A
Setting a science-based target for emissions reduction to align with the Paris Agreement	2.12	N/A
Implementing carbon offset programs that meet verified carbon standards (VCS) or are likely to meet such standards if evaluated	2.10	2.10
Purchasing carbon offsets for emissions that cannot be reduced	2.03	2.13

<b>Coalition Progress on Learning on Climate</b>	<b>2021 weighted average</b>	<b>2020 weighted average</b>
Learning from experts and innovators on new approaches to address climate change	3.47	3.31
Learning from efforts and progress of other InterAction Members committed to the NGO Climate Compact	3.21	N/A
Conducting original research on new or more effective approaches to address climate change	2.75	2.86

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The NGO Climate Compact stems from the work of leaders within the InterAction Board of Directors and a group of 30+ Member organizations since 2019. It builds upon the long-standing work of the broader climate movement and decades of experience by NGO leaders and partners in environmental policy and programming.

This report was made possible by survey responses from 43 Member NGOs. This report was written by Jane Urheim, with guidance and contributions from the following InterAction staff: Noam Unger, Jenny Marron, Lindsey Doyle, Michelle Neal, and Jeremy Doran.

This report builds upon the InterAction report on the baseline survey results from August 2020, “At the Starting Blocks: NGO Climate Compact Signatories Report on Progress to Date from Baseline Member Survey.”<sup>5</sup>

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> NGO Climate Compact: <https://www.interaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Climate-Compact.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Archive of the Climate Digest: <https://airtable.com/shrqbdCKeu3WolTmD/tblryRQ3cGmqNK85U>

<sup>3</sup> Link to the survey: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IA\\_NGOClimateCompact\\_Year1](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IA_NGOClimateCompact_Year1)

<sup>4</sup> Coding qualitative data is beneficial to succinctly display common responses relative to one another; however, this kind of analysis introduces some subjectivity that reduces internal validity. Anonymized raw data is available for review upon request.

<sup>5</sup> Link to the report: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f-wBAD33kCIgzjJStzQysrd8eudkLX7Q/view>

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