

# To Ban Ki Moon and the Leaders of the Paris Climate Summit, 2015



## ***6010 Signatures***

(As of 25 November, 2015)



***For the Animals, for the Planet, for Humanity***



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25 November 2015

## **To Ban Ki Moon and the Leaders of the Climate Summit**

**RE: Petition to address animal agriculture as a primary cause of climate change.**

It is with profound concern that we present this petition to you.

Animal Agriculture is now being recognized as a primary cause of climate change with a devastating effect on the eco-system. The veil around its impact is lifting. Various groups and climate activists around the world are demanding that this issue be addressed in all its urgency.

The animal agriculture industry is based on the exploitation of animals, humans and the planet. Like a disease that spreads exponentially, we cannot limit the impact of the animal agriculture industry or control it by artificial long term targets. As long as we continue to profit off animal products at the expense of their suffering and the destruction of our eco-system, the catastrophic consequences will continue to escalate. Only when we look honestly at the devastation the meat and dairy industry have caused, will we be able to truly address climate change and embark on the healing of our planetary eco-system.

***Any climate policy that does not fully address and take radical action regarding the impact of animal agriculture on the climate will be neither honest nor effective.***

In the same way that we need to end the fossil fuel industry and replace it entirely with 100% green energy, we must take immediate action to move toward 100% organic plant based agriculture. Anything less than this is irresponsible and criminal. *(Already in 2006, the **United Nations Environmental Program** report stated that to save the world from hunger, we must urgently move to a vegan lifestyle.)*

We ask you, together with our partners in the petition, and in the name of millions of people around the world who recognise the horror and devastation of this industry, to ensure the end of the animal agriculture business and the immediate global transition to organic plant based agriculture.

Yours sincerely,

Shelley Ostroff PhD  
Ubuntu 4 Animals



Ubuntu 4 Animals

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# AVAAZ PETITION

## 2015 UN Climate Conference must address the impact of animal agriculture on climate change

**“We, concerned citizens from across the globe call on Ban Ki Moon and the leaders of the 2015 Paris Climate Summit to ensure that the impact of animal agribusiness on our global climate is comprehensively addressed, and that an urgent action policy be created and made effective immediately.”**

There is irrefutable evidence that animal agriculture is a key cause of climate change. It is a leading cause of greenhouse-gas emissions, water waste, water pollution, ocean dead zones, deforestation, habitat destruction and species extinction that each significantly impacts the climate. Any global policy that claims to address climate change without addressing the catastrophic impact of animal agriculture is neither honest nor effective. While awareness about the fossil fuel industry is gaining momentum, the impact of animal agriculture on the climate has not received the same global attention. Major policy decisions will be made at the Climate Summit that will impact the future of the planet and humanity. For our collective health and survival it is essential the impact of animal agriculture is fully addressed.

**AVAAZ.ORG**  
COMMUNITYpetitions


SIGN UP LOGIN ABOUT US HELP

The world's largest and most effective online campaigning community for change

START A PETITION

**2015 UN Climate Conference must address the impact of animal agriculture on climate change**

 Created by  
**kelly s.**  
South Africa

 To be delivered to:  
**Ban Ki Moon and  
Leaders of the 2015 UN  
Climate Change Conference**

  
THE PETITION

**6,010** / 10,000

6,010 signers. Let's reach 10,000

**SIGN THIS PETITION**

“ We, concerned citizens from across the globe call on Ban Ki Moon and the leaders of the 2015 Paris Climate Summit to ensure that the impact of animal agribusiness on our global climate is comprehensively addressed, and that an urgent action policy be created and made effective immediately.

ALREADY AN AVAAZ MEMBER?  
Enter your email address and hit "Sign".

Email

**SIGN**

FIRST TIME HERE? Please fill out the form below.

Name

Email

Country

Post code



Ubuntu 4 Animals created the Climate Petition Partnership was created to unite collective passion and action in order to amplify this call.

We are grateful to our partners, leaders of communities and organizations who have endorsed the petition and advocated for it within their communities.

## **PARTNERS**

Louise van der Merwe - **Compassion in World Farming, South Africa**

Bishop Geoff Davies – **Southern African Faith Communities’ Environment Institute**

Will Tuttle – Author “**The World Piece Diet**”

Adit Romano – **Freedom Farm Sanctuary, Israel**

Nikki Elliott – **United front 4 Animals**

Janice Cox – **World Animal Net**

Edveeje Fairchild – **Treesisters**

Justin Kerswell – **Viva!**

Tofie Zokufa – **Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance**



## PARTNER ENDORSEMENTS



**Compassion In World  
Farming - South Africa**



***SA. Director: Louise van der Merwe***

"For as long as we brutalise animals, we will never find peace. For as long as we brutalise animals, there will be a price to pay – whether it is the price of stifling heat, searing thirst or devastating floods.

Please may this conference on Climate Change formally acknowledge that industrialised animal agriculture is the leading cause of climate change in the world today and that we can no longer indulge our greed for profit and our appetite for meat. The price we will ultimately pay if we continue our callous disregard for animal suffering, is too ghastly to contemplate."



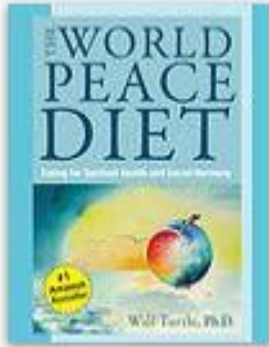
**Southern African Faith Communities'  
Environment Institute**



***Patron: Bishop Geoff Davies,  
The Green Bishop***

"It is essential that we cut down our greenhouse gas emissions. COP21 in Paris in December 2015 must be a deciding event that drives us to seek more sustainable lifestyles. But it is not only a matter of reducing the burning of fossil fuels. Many people don't know that the fast food industry with its stall fed, factory farmed animals is a major cause of greenhouse gas emissions. Ending this iniquitous treatment of animals will not only enable us to treat animals with greater respect and love, but will also reduce greenhouse gas emission dramatically.

But why does it happen? The bottom line is that we are driven by profit margins. Because we allow our financial interests to dominate, we resort to all sorts of practices which inflict pain, suffering and cruelty on fellow creatures. We have to start treating our fellow creatures with greater respect, compassion and love even if it costs more. This applies across the board, whether it is the way we treat poultry, pigs, cattle or the way we 'mine the oceans for fish. 'May Paris help usher in a new era for greater justice for the planet and all its creatures."



## Will Tuttle

**Author: "The World Peace Diet"**



"Animal agriculture is undeniably the most significant contributor to climate destabilization, and we are called to address it effectively in the upcoming UN Climate Conference.

"I believe the essential steps to take are to reduce the demand for meat, dairy products, and eggs by mobilizing large-scale education campaigns, encouraging people worldwide to shift toward more sustainable plant-based ways of eating. Animal foods should no longer be subsidized directly and indirectly, but should be taxed as alcohol and cigarettes are because of their demonstrated detrimental effect on public health and our environment, and also because of the abuse of both animals and humans required by animal agriculture."



## United Front 4 Animals

**Founder: Nikki Elliott**



"GLOBAL WARMING -  
NO OTHER PLANET FOR EARTHLINGS

"United Front 4 Animals has joined the Climate Petition Partnership, led by Ubuntu 4 Animals, petitioning world leaders to address the severe impact of animal agriculture on global warming without delay. Global leaders are duty bound to take the burden of their responsibility seriously and to use all scientific evidence at their disposal to protect our planet.

Other than the unconscionable cruelty inherent in animal agriculture - which undermines the moral fabric of society - this industry is the biggest threat to irreparable global warming.

Although the need to urgently develop mitigating policies to avert the looming catastrophe of human-induced global warming has long been acknowledged, all the major reasons for climate change have not. Comprehensive measures cannot be developed unless the effects of animal agriculture and its by-products (including the 51% greenhouse gas emissions), are dealt with.

"Facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored." (Aldous Huxley), and the evacuation of humankind to another planet is not possible."





## **World Animal Net**

*Co-founder and Director:  
Janice Cox*



"It is essential that the 2015 Paris Climate Conference addresses the 'elephant in the room' – animal agriculture. Animal agriculture is a major driver of climate change. Unless decisive steps are taken to tackle the global demand for meat and dairy products, the conference will fail in its aims and its moral duty to protect our planet.

See World Animal Net's blog on this subject, and our suggestions for action:  
<http://worldanimal.net/world-animal-net-blog/item/386-climate-change-will-the-elephant-come-out-of-the-closet-in-paris>"



## **TreeSisters**

*Chief Operating Officer:  
Edveeje Fairchild*



"TreeSisters is a growing global network of tens of thousands of women who understand the interconnectedness of the web of life. While our work in climate change focuses on the reforestation of the Tropics within ten years through women's nature-based feminine leadership, we recognize everything is connected and interdependent.

One of the major causes of deforestation is directly linked to the abuse and unsustainability of modern animal agriculture. All of life is interconnected, so we can't talk about reforestation without talking about animal agriculture. And so TreeSisters is in full support of this critical petition and we have invited our network to step forward on behalf of the Feminine Principle that is emerging across and through the planet right now."



## **Pan African Animal Welfare Alliance**

*Chair: Tozie Zokufa*



"African voices are asking world leaders and high-level panelists to include the impact of animal agriculture during the climate negotiations. The animal agriculture sector is a key contributor to climate change, land use changes, water pollution and water use. Cutting down on meat, egg, & dairy consumption can mitigate our environmental impact, whilst safeguarding our health."



## **Viva!**

*Campaigns Manager and Deputy Director: Justin Kerswell*



"Viva! wholeheartedly supports this initiative to bring global animal agriculture to the forefront of discussions at the 2015 UN Climate Conference. Meat, dairy and egg production are not only bad for the billions of animals killed each year, it is literally destroying the very world we live in. Profit must take a back seat to protecting our future and ending suffering on an unimaginable scale.

Great environmental catastrophes continue unabated across the globe with little more than lip service from the Government and International Organisations. It sometime feels that there is little one person can do to make a difference but it simply isn't so. You can contribute by signing the climate petition and by a change of diet. Find out how easy it is to go vegan - or to move in that direction at [www.viva.org.uk](http://www.viva.org.uk)"





## Freedom Farm Sanctuary

*Co-founder: Idit Romano*



"Albert Einstein said and was right: "Nothing will benefit human health and increase chances for survival of life on Earth as much as the evolution to a vegetarian diet."

Already in 2006, a United Nations report claimed that the animal agriculture industry is directly responsible for human hunger and poverty.

Millions of acres of land across the world are used for growing animal feed (especially corn and soya) rather than for cultivating agricultural produce that will feed humans. This practice is depleting the rain forests and causing extinction of animals by taking/stealing from them their natural homes. It is destroying the critical ecological balance in a way that is fatal for future generations.

Mahatma Gandhi said the — "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated. I call on the leaders of the 2015 Climate Summit, to fully address the serious ecological, moral and health consequences of animal agriculture and lead us towards a healthy and compassionate future for all."

# THE IMPACT OF ANIMAL AGRICULTURE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

*Fact Resources: Cowspiracy, Peta and One Green Planet*

## Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Animal agriculture is responsible for 18% of greenhouse gas emissions - more than all transportation combined.

Livestock and their byproducts account for at least 32,000 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year - 51% of all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions.

Cows produce 150 billion gallons of methane per day. Methane has a global warming power 86 times that of CO<sub>2</sub> on a 20 year time frame.

Livestock is responsible for 65% of all emissions of nitrous oxide – a greenhouse gas 296 times more destructive than carbon dioxide and which stays in the atmosphere for 150 years.



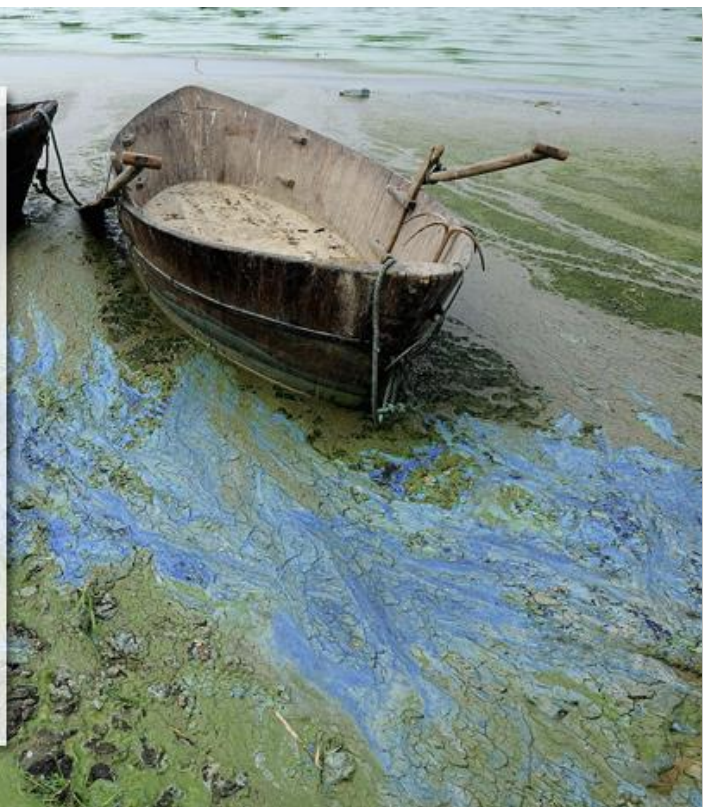
## Ocean Dead Zones

Dead zones are the direct result of soil and nutrient runoff from animal waste. These nutrients stimulate an overgrowth of algae that sinks, decomposes, and consumes oxygen. No fish or other life forms can survive.

When rains sweep through a region, unabsorbed chemical, fertilizer and toxin laden water flows into the sea.

There are more than 500 known dead zones worldwide. Some estimate 1,000-plus dead zones globally.

The rising atmospheric temperature is raising global ocean temperatures leading to large-scale reef die-off.





## Deforestation

Animal agriculture is responsible for up to 91% of Amazon destruction. 1½ acres of Amazon rainforest are lost every second.

Rainforests once covered 14% of the earth's land surface. Now they cover only 6%.

We are losing 50,000 animal, plant and insect species a year (137 species a day).

There were an estimated 10 million indigenous people living in the rainforest 50 years ago. Today there are less than 200,000.

## Species Extinction

Up to 137 plant, animal and insect species are lost every day due to rainforest destruction.

Monumental habitat destruction is caused by clearing forests and converting land to grow feed crops and for animal grazing.

Predators and "competition" species are frequently targeted and hunted because of a perceived threat to livestock profits.

The widespread use of pesticides, herbicides and chemical fertilizers used in the production of feed crops often interferes with the reproductive systems of animals.





## Water Crisis

Animal agriculture uses 34-76 trillion gallons of water annually. A total of 29% of all the fresh water in the world today.

2,500 gallons of water are required to produce 1 pound of beef.

477 gallons of water are required to produce 1 pound of eggs.

1,000 gallons of water are required to produce 1 gallon of milk.

## Water Pollution

Animal manure and urine is funneled into open-air lagoons that often break, leak or overflow, sending dangerous microbes, nitrate pollution, antibiotics and drug-resistant bacteria into water supplies.

Factory farming is the source of pollution in 41-48% of streams, rivers and lake waters.

Up to 75% of antibiotics pass into animal manure unchanged. The presence of antibiotics in water leads to the proliferation of superbugs. More than 40 diseases can be transferred to humans through manure polluted waterways.

