



## **Progress in Cancun Climate Talks But Much Remains to be Done**

CANCUN, Mexico (December 11, 2010) – World leaders concluded two weeks of intense climate negotiations in Cancun today, resulting in countries formalizing their greenhouse gas reduction targets pledged last year in Copenhagen. While the agreement fell short of a legally binding climate pact, progress was made on a number of key issues including stopping deforestation and establishment of a Green Climate Fund to assist developing countries most vulnerable to the impacts of global warming.

Joe Mendelson, global warming policy director of the National Wildlife Federation, said today:

“Progress was made on a number of important issues, but it’s clear the Senate’s failure to pass clean energy legislation tied the hands of negotiators to come to a full global deal. Formally recognizing the Copenhagen reduction targets – including the U.S. 17 percent reductions by 2020 - still leaves the world woefully short of what needs to be done to tackle the climate crisis.

“The stakes are too high to let lawmakers captured by special interests drive what happens on the international stage. America’s role as a world power, and it’s outsized emissions require us to show good faith and constructive engagement so we can achieve a binding climate accord. These qualities were absent far too often in Cancun.

“To ensure the chances of success in South Africa next year, the administration must start now to show the rest of the world it’s acting to reduce its global warming pollution at home. This leadership includes standing strong to reduce emissions under the Clean Air Act and living up to providing promised financial resources for countries most impacted by climate change. It also means rejecting steps that would make us more dependent on dirty fuels such as construction of more tar sands pipelines and tax breaks for coal-to-liquids.

“Only when the U.S. aligns its domestic policies to be consistent with a low carbon future will the administration be able to lead the world toward a real global climate deal. For the sake of our children and future generations, the National Wildlife Federation hopes that will be in 2011 in Durban, South Africa.”

Barbara Bramble, NWF senior international affairs advisor said:

“While the process is cumbersome at times, the U.N.’s Framework Convention remains our best forum for convening global powers to solve a massive global problem. The process can work, and in fact produced some forward progress here in Cancun,

particularly on deforestation and assisting vulnerable countries. But by not getting more done in Cancun, we are raising the stakes at the next round of talks in South Africa.”

*The National Wildlife Federation is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.*

**Immediate Release: December 11, 2010**

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