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DRAFT NDC Recommendations 2030 – 2035: Mitigation

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Revisiting SAs 2021 Updated First NDC,

Year	Target	Corresponding period of implementation
2025	South Africa's annual GHG emissions will be in a range from 398–510 Mt CO_2e.	2021–2025
2030	South Africa's annual GHG emissions will be in a range from 350–420 Mt CO_2e.	2026–2030

"Takes into account our status as a developing country, our national circumstances and common but differentiated responsibility and respective capability, and the long-term temperature goal, as specified in the Paris Agreement's Article 2, in the light of the latest science"

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The PCCs recommendations for the 2030 – 2035 NDC will

- Reflect on whether the 2030 target range is still appropriate and sufficiently ambitious.
  - Covid-19 pandemic
  - Extensive load shedding, and
  - Low levels of economic activity
  - Growth of grid renewable energy because of the REIPPP programme
  - Increased behind the meter solar capacity
  - UAE Consensus, keeping 1.5 degrees within reach
- Make a proposal for an appropriate 2035 emissions trajectory range.
- Present reflections on appropriate sector-level mitigation considerations for inclusion

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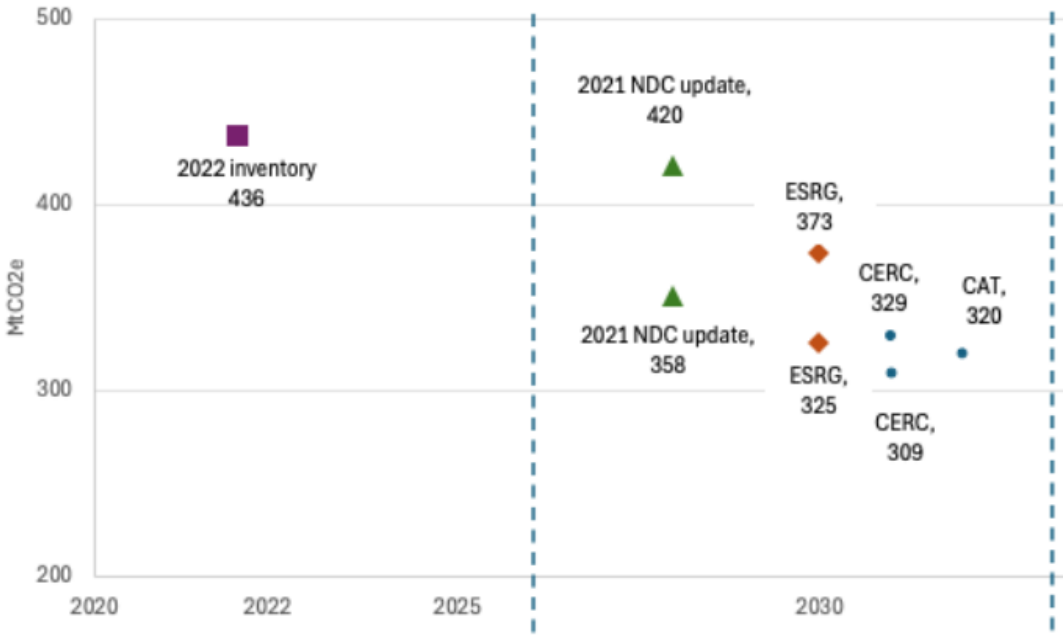
Revisiting the 2030 target range

- To do this, we have drawn from the study we commissioned by the UCT ESRG, 2024 but data is also cross correlated with latest data from CAT and CERC.
- The study is considered well suited to informing these recommendations because it includes recent data, it has been developed by a local well-respected research institution, and it includes pathways relevant to this current document.
- The DFFE is using an updated data set for their analysis of the NDC.

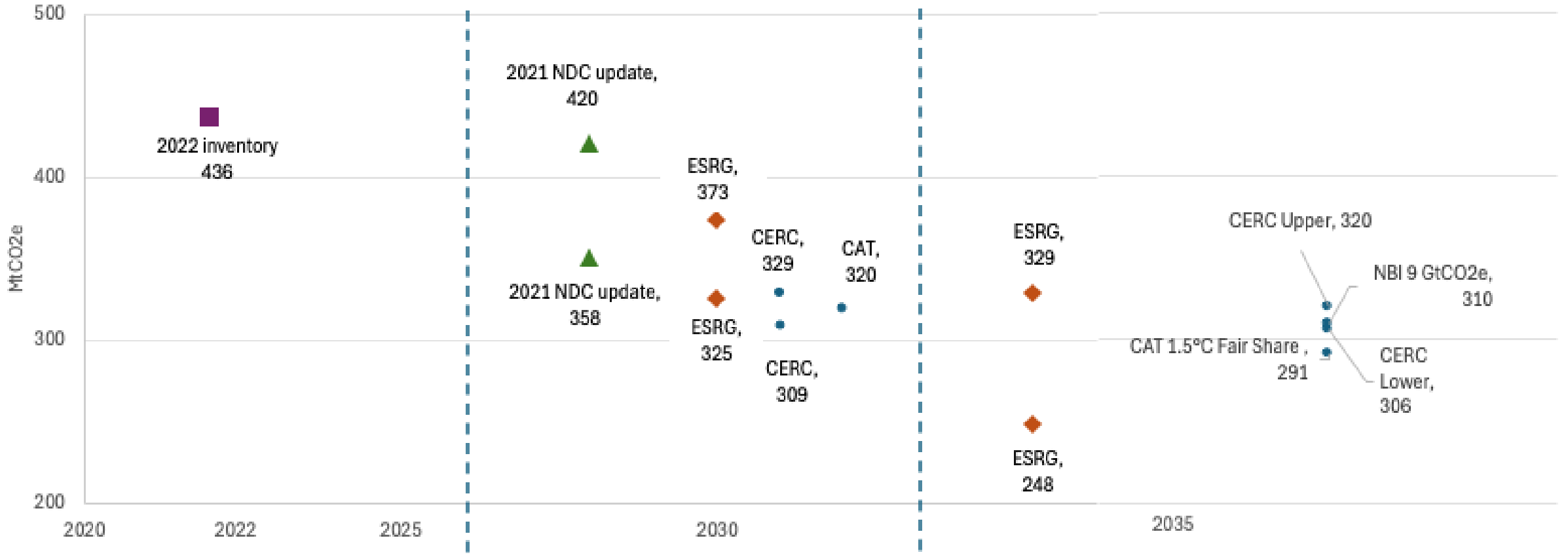
Reflections on the 2030 target range (350 – 420 Mt CO_2e)

- Analysis from these data sets indicate a 2030 NDC fair share range of: ESRG below 325 and 373 MtCO2e; CAT: 320MtCO2e; and CERC 309 – 329MtCO2e.
- South Africa faces a variety of trade-offs when evaluating whether the 2030 targets should be revised downward as part the of 2030-2035 NDC update.
- There is no analytical fair share justification published literature for raising the 2030 NDC target range.
- Neither outcome (retaining or lowering the target range) should affect the setting of the ambition of the 2035 emission range.



Data points that underpin the PCC's suggestions for both the 2030 and 2035 ranges

There ***was divergence on the level of ambition and feasibility of implementation*** *- labour and some parts of government - it* ***should not exacerbate job losses (especially in vulnerable regions) and that too ambitious a target might exacerbate socio-economic inequality if not paired with clear mitigation support measures and policy certainty.***



Recommendations for inclusion of sectoral considerations

Electricity Supply

- Stakeholders differed on the role of certain technologies, e.g. gas and nuclear.
- The proposed build plan for renewables and batteries in the draft IRP2024 submitted to NEDLAC for renewables and batteries falls within the range of the figures suggested by both ESRG & Meridian Economics as enabling the achievement of the proposed 2030 and 2035 target ranges. The PCC would support inclusion of renewables and battery capacity expansion numbers contained within the draft of the IRP 2024 submitted to NEDLAC.
    - This needs to be supported by expansion and upgrading of transmission infrastructure, support for which could also be included in the NDC.
- **However, more work needs to be done to understand coal and gas utilisation rates.**

Transport

- Key decarbonisation levers include electrification of passenger and freight transport fleet and shift from road to rail.
- We should not lose sight of options with the biggest JT outcomes when decarbonising transport.
- The PCC recommends that the NDC includes a **formal commitment to implement the draft Transport JT Plan** towards ensuring international accountability and financial support.
- **Further modelling and analysis** will be required for the implementation of the plan.

Industry

- Opportunities for some emissions savings are possible by 2035 through increased efficiencies, changes to existing configurations and feedstock changes.
- it is recommended that this NDC include a commitment to laying the groundwork for large-scale industrial decarbonisation,

Summary of recommendations

- Policy alignment among the LEDS, NDCs, SETS should be strengthened, ensuring coherence across national economic, social, and environmental priorities, underpinned by the Just Transition Framework.
- The NDC target for the 2030 target range does not have to be changed, it should be acknowledged that achieving well below this upper level would align with both South Africa's fair share contribution and position the country well for achieving the 2035 target affordably.' .
- A 2035 emissions range of between 248 and 329 MtCO2e for 2035.
- Supporting the renewables and battery expansion capacity projections to 2035 contained in the draft IRP submitted to NEDLAC and facilitated by expansion and upgrading of the national grid.
- Establishment of guardrails for the utilisation of coal and gas in the power sector to support the achievement of the NDC target range in an affordable manner that promotes economic diversification and justice.
- Emission reductions in other sectors are aligned with the NDC emissions target ranges and laying the foundation in terms of investment and planning to ensure their contribution to the net zero trajectory in the period post-2035.

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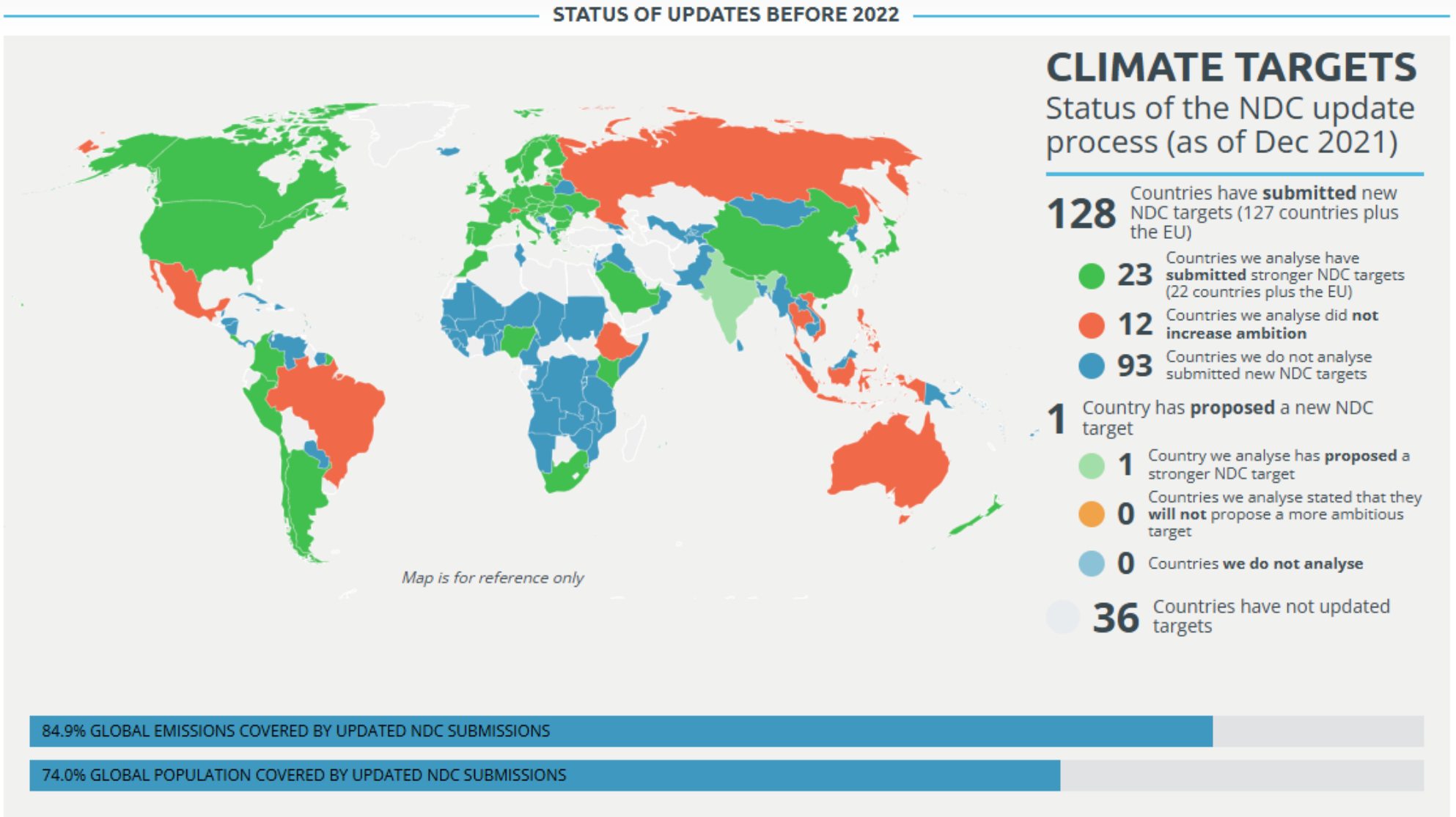
Thank You / Ngiyabonga

NDC Targets for the previous round in 2021



**** NOTE: **Turkey** ratified the Paris Agreement on 11 October 2021 and submitted its 2015 INDC target to the UNFCCC NDC registry at that time. We do not consider this to be an updated NDC submission and it is not reflected in our numbers. Turkey should submit an updated NDC target as soon as possible.*

Source: Climate Action Tracker

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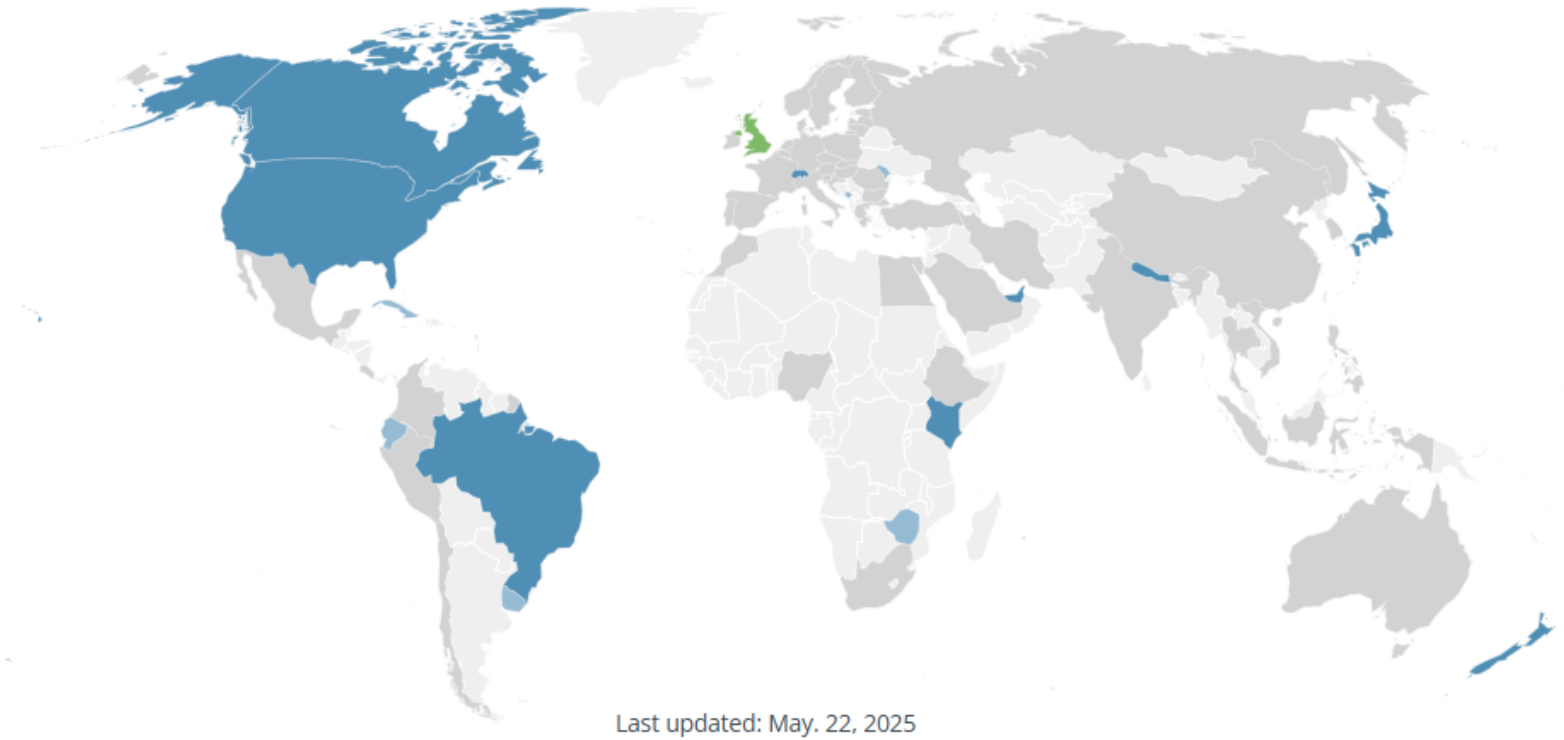
NDC submissions and targets for 2035 commitments



Last updated: May. 22, 2025

Map is for reference only

CLIMATE TARGETS

2035 NDC targets submitted since Nov 2024

21 Countries have submitted a 2035 NDC target

- **1** **1.5C compatible** NDC against modelled domestic pathways*
- **10** **Submitted** NDC target
- **10** Countries **we do not analyse** submitted NDC target

172 Countries have **not** submitted a 2035 NDC target

51 Countries **we analyse** have not submitted NDC target (24 countries plus EU27)

21.5% GLOBAL EMISSIONS COVERED BY 2035 NDC SUBMISSIONS

11.8% GLOBAL POPULATION COVERED BY 2035 NDC SUBMISSIONS

Source: Climate Action Tracker