



2021 G7 Cornwall Summit Final Compliance Report

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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Research Team	4
Compliance Directors	4
Lead Analysts	4
Compliance Analysts	4
Summary	6
The Final Compliance Score.....	6
Compliance by Member	6
Compliance by Commitment.....	6
The Compliance Gap Between Members.....	6
Future Research and Reports.....	7
Table A: 2021 Priority Commitments Selected for Assessment	8
Table B: 2021 G7 Cornwall Final Compliance Scores.....	10
Table C: 2021 G7 Cornwall Final Compliance Scores by Member.....	11
Table D: 2021 G7 Cornwall Final Compliance Scores by Commitment.....	12
1. Health: Vaccines	13
2. Health: Vaccine Equity.....	65
3. Health: Disease Prevention.....	77
4. Health: Indirect Impacts of COVID-19.....	115
5. Climate Change: Zero Emission Vehicles	158
6. Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use	184
7. Environment: Crime and Corruption	229
8. Environment: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss	247
9. Environment: Marine Health and Litter.....	283
10. Energy: Renewables	316
11. Energy: Coal.....	346
12. Trade: Free Trade.....	382
13. Gender: Education Equality	417
14. Democracy: China.....	440
15. Regional Security: Addressing Instability	465
16. Development: Sustainable Growth in Africa.....	527
17. Infrastructure: Build Back Better.....	555
18. Human Rights: Forced Labour	583
19. Digital Economy: Open Internet.....	608
20. Macroeconomics: Strong, Resilient, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth	633
21. International Cooperation: Research Transparency	739
22. International Cooperation: Research and Knowledge Sharing.....	764

6. Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use

“In our agricultural, forestry and other land use sectors, we commit to ensuring our policies encourage sustainable production, the protection, conservation, and regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon.”

Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan	-1		
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.75 (88%)	

Background

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), “agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) plays a central role for food security and sustainable development” as well as being integral to reducing greenhouse gasses since these ecosystems are natural carbon sinks and homes of rich biodiversity.¹⁰⁹⁴ The AFOLU sector is responsible for nearly a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions, primarily coming from agricultural production and deforestation. G7 members committed to ensure that policies relating to agriculture, forestry and other land use encouraged sustainable production and the sequestration of carbon, as well as the regeneration of ecosystems and the conservation of land to foster biodiversity. While there have been commitments made at past summits dealing with each individual criteria of Commitment 203, the 2021 Cornwall Summit was the first-time members acknowledged the link between the AFOLU sector and climate change so directly and made broad-stroke commitments to make production more environmentally friendly to enhance the fight against climate change.

At the 1987 Venezuela Summit, commitments surrounding the importance of forward-looking agricultural policies were first made. Prior to this summit there were few commitments relating to agriculture and those that were, had been primarily focused on distributing fertilizers and increasing aid with the intention of fighting famines in developing countries. At the 1987 Venezuela Summit, members committed to “work in concert to achieve the necessary adjustments of agricultural policies” to improve agricultural and food production/security.¹⁰⁹⁵ This was also the first summit in which climate change was specifically addressed with members acknowledging their own responsibility to “tackle effectively environmental problems of worldwide impact such as...the destruction of tropical forests.”

At the 1988 Toronto Summit, the first recognition of the harm haphazard agricultural practices can wreak on the environment was made. In the Toronto Economic Summit Declaration, members recognized the

¹⁰⁹⁴ Chapter 11 Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Geneva) 2014. Access Date: 30 July 2021. https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ipcc_wg3_ar5_chapter11.pdf.

¹⁰⁹⁵ Venezia Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 June 1987. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/communiqué/index.html#agriculture>.

“potential impact of agriculture on the environment, whether negative through over intensive use of resources or positive in preventing desertification.”¹⁰⁹⁶

At the 1989 Paris Summit, members acknowledged the importance of the agricultural sector in “tackling problems such as water pollution, soil erosion and desertification” as well as the importance of protecting ecosystems from degradation.¹⁰⁹⁷ Preserving forests and other environmental habitats for native species and an emphasis on sustainable use of natural resources was also reflected in the commitments.¹⁰⁹⁸

At the 1990 Houston Summit, members committed to prevent the destruction of forests and protect and conserve forests for sustainable management.¹⁰⁹⁹ The importance of protecting biodiversity through conservation measures was also evident at the Summit, as well as committing to take actions to “limit greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide.”

At the 1991 London Summit, members committed to “addressing all sources and sinks for greenhouse gases” which is similar to the carbon sequestration criteria found in commitment 203.¹¹⁰⁰ In addition to reducing carbon and other greenhouse gases, members also committed to agree “on principles for the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.”

While environment and climate change did not play a central role at the 1993 Tokyo Summit, there was recognition of the importance of forest and environmental conservation and sustainable development.¹¹⁰¹ Agriculture and other land use sectors were not mentioned, nor was the regeneration of ecosystems and the importance of developing carbon sinks.

At the 1997 Denver Summit of The Eight, sustainable forest management was again emphasized as well as the importance of creating protected areas to conserve biodiversity.¹¹⁰² Agriculture was not mentioned in this Summit’s communique, nor was carbon sequestration or ecosystem regeneration.

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, sustainable growth and production played a central role. Members again committed to sustainable forest management and conservation in addition to committing to reduce greenhouse gases.¹¹⁰³

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, members recognized the importance of sustainable development and the “preservation of the environment.”¹¹⁰⁴ Forest conservation was not mentioned at this summit although members did agree that limiting and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and atmospheric damage was crucial to protecting the environment.

¹⁰⁹⁶ Toronto Economic Summit Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 June 1988. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1988toronto/communique.html#environment>.

¹⁰⁹⁷ Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 1989. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/communique/index.html#environment>.

¹⁰⁹⁸ Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 1989. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/communique/index.html#environment>.

¹⁰⁹⁹ Houston Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 11 July 1990. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1990houston/declaration.html#environment>.

¹¹⁰⁰ Economic Declaration: Building World Partnership, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 July 1991. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1991london/communique/index.html#environment>.

¹¹⁰¹ Economic Declaration: A Strengthened Commitment to Jobs and Growth, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 6-9 July 1993. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1993tokyo/communique/index.html#environment>.

¹¹⁰² Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>.

¹¹⁰³ 1998 Birmingham Summit Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>.

¹¹⁰⁴ Genoa Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>.

At the 2009 Hokkaido Summit, members recognized the importance of reducing emissions and protecting forests and other biodiverse areas.¹¹⁰⁵ In addition, members acknowledged the paramount nature of carbon sinks and sustainable land use to fighting climate change and battling atmospheric degradation.

At the 2010 Muskoka Summit climate change once again played a central role. However, the reduction of carbon emissions dominated the dialogue and there was no mention of forest preservation, sustainable agriculture, or ecosystem regeneration.¹¹⁰⁶

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, members once again committed to fighting against forest degradation and reducing greenhouse gases.¹¹⁰⁷ In addition, members acknowledged the importance of protecting biodiversity and maintaining resilient ecosystems, the absence of which jeopardizes food security.

At the 2012 Camp David Summit, the importance of sustainable agriculture for facilitating food stability was emphasized.¹¹⁰⁸

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, members committed to protecting marine and forest ecosystems and to developing sustainable agricultural practices.¹¹⁰⁹ The sequestration of carbon and the reduction of emissions was also committed to at the Summit; however these features were not specific to the agricultural, forest and other land use sectors as they are in Commitment 203.

At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, members emphasized the importance of mitigating the effects of climate change and increasing resilience and adaptation through conservation and other land protection efforts in addition to committing to the efficient use of natural resources and sustainable production.¹¹¹⁰ Sustainable agriculture and investment were promoted for the purpose of increasing food security, but the focus of these commitments was not as all-encompassing as Commitment 203.

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, members committed to investing in and utilizing sustainable agricultural practices in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.¹¹¹¹ In addition, members also committed to sustainable forest management and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, members did not commit directly to advancing sustainable agriculture or forest management.¹¹¹² Commitments were made surrounding the conservation of land to protect biodiversity and the reduction of harmful carbon emissions that advance environmental degradation.

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, members committed to the “preservation and restoration of biodiversity” as well as increasing the sustainable management of forests and the agri-food sector.¹¹¹³ Leaders directly referred to the scaling down of carbon reliant technologies in these sectors and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions overall.

¹¹⁰⁵ Declaration of Leaders Meeting of Major Economies on Energy Security and Climate Change, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2008. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-mem.html>.

¹¹⁰⁶ Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html#green>.

¹¹⁰⁷ G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#climate>.

¹¹⁰⁸ Camp David Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 May 2012. Access Date: 29 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2012campdavid/g8-declaration.html>.

¹¹⁰⁹ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>.

¹¹¹⁰ Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>.

¹¹¹¹ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#climate>.

¹¹¹² The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communique, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communique.html>.

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, leaders committed to “policies encourage sustainable production, the protection, conservation, and regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon” in their agricultural, forestry and other land use sectors.¹¹¹⁴ This is the first summit in which all of these criteria were in specific reference to agricultural and other land use practices which were often ignored as a driver of climate change in past summits.

Commitment Features

G7 members committed to ensure “policies encourage sustainable production, the protection, conservation, and regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon” in their agricultural, forestry and other land use sectors. This commitment has four parts: 1) to ensure policies regarding the land use sector utilize sustainable production 2) to ensure that policies encourage the protection and conservation of the lands 3) to ensure the regeneration of ecosystems involved in the agricultural, forestry and other land use sectors and 4) to ensure that policies include the sequestration of carbon.

To “ensure” is understood as to “guarantee” or make certain.¹¹¹⁵ In regard to this commitment, to “ensure” emphasizes the strength of action needed in order to achieve full compliance. This language implies that only policy actions that fulfill the commitment features will be considered towards compliance.

To “encourage” is understood as to “foster” or “stimulate.”¹¹¹⁶ In regard to this commitment, any policy action that fosters or stimulates sustainable production, the protection, conservation, and regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon will be counted towards compliance, regardless of whether the actual goal is achieved.

“Sustainable production” is understood as the manufacturing of goods and services “while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product” so as to not cause environmental degradation or deplete resources faster than they can be replenished.¹¹¹⁷ Examples of production systems that are sustainable are ones that are “non-polluting, conserving of energy and natural resources and are economically viable.”¹¹¹⁸

To “protect” is understood as to “shield from exposure, damage or destruction.”¹¹¹⁹ Any policy action that works to safeguard the environment from degradation or damage will count towards compliance.

To “conserve” is understood as “to avoid wasteful or destructive use of.”¹¹²⁰ Policy actions that work to maintain the environmental health, biodiversity and original state of lands involved in the agricultural, forestry and other land use sectors will count towards compliance.

¹¹¹³ Biarritz Chair’s Summary on Climate, Biodiversity and Oceans, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/chairs-summary-climate.html>.

¹¹¹⁴ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communique: Our Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 30 July 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communiqué.html>.

¹¹¹⁵ Ensure, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/ensure>.

¹¹¹⁶ Encourage, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/encourage>.

¹¹¹⁷ Sustainable consumption and production policies, UN Environment Program (Nairobi) Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.unep.org/explore-topics/resource-efficiency/what-we-do/sustainable-consumption-and-production-policies>.

¹¹¹⁸ Sustainable Production Defined, University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Sustainable Production (Lowell) Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.uml.edu/research/lowell-center/about/sustainable-production-defined.aspx>.

¹¹¹⁹ Protected, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/protected>.

¹¹²⁰ Conserve, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conserve>.

To “regenerate” is understood as “to restore to original strength or properties.”¹¹²¹ In regard to this commitment, the “regeneration of ecosystems” refers to any policy action that works to restore the environmental health and biodiversity of damaged lands.

Carbon sequestration is understood as “the process of capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide” which is the most common greenhouse gas.¹¹²² Any action that fosters the production of a carbon sink - areas such as oceans, forests or soils that store and absorb carbon dioxide from the environment - will count towards compliance.

On breadth, in order for the G7 member states to achieve full compliance, or a score of +1, they must ensure that policies regarding the agricultural, forestry and other land use sectors fulfill all four parts of the commitment including the encouragement of: 1) sustainable production 2) protection and conservation 3) the regeneration of ecosystems and 4) the sequestration of carbon. Full compliance will be awarded to any member that fulfills all four parts of the commitment criteria regardless of the actual quantity (so long as it is at least two since “policies” implies more than one) of policies enacted over the course of the summit cycle. Thus, if a member fulfills some but not all of the four parts of the commitment, they will receive a score of 0.

To achieve a score of 0, or partial compliance, a state will have enacted policies regarding the agricultural, forestry and other land use sectors that encourage at least two of the four criteria needed to achieve full compliance. For example, if a member were to ensure that their policies encouraged sustainable production and preservation and conservation but did not encourage the regeneration of ecosystems or the sequestration of carbon, they would receive a score of 0.

On depth, in order for an action to count towards compliance it must be related to a policy associated with the agricultural, forestry and other land use sectors and encourage the “sustainable production, the protection, conservation, and regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon.” As to “encourage” is understood as fostering or stimulating the fulfillment of these criteria, compliance will be awarded for actions that aim to achieve the commitment criteria regardless of how successful they are at achieving their long-term goals. For example, a policy that legislates for the regeneration of an ecosystem will count towards compliance even if the ecosystem is not regenerated to the level intended. Additionally, proposing a law or policy that seeks to fulfill one of the four breadth requirements will count as full compliance regardless of whether the law/policy goes on to be implemented. Actions that would be considered “strong” compliance include, but are not limited to; enforcing a policy, expanding or launching a new program, passing legislation and allocating money towards initiatives that fulfill the breadth requirements. Actions that would be considered “less than strong” include those that show intent to take more meaningful action in the future, such as attending a meeting to discuss the implementation of a new initiative that fulfills one of the breadth requirements.

Considering both the breadth and depth criteria together, in order for a member to achieve a score of +1 they need to *strongly* comply with at least three of the four breadth requirements and somewhat comply with the fourth. For a member to receive a partial score, or that of 0, they must strongly comply with at least half of the four breadth criteria or somewhat comply with more than half.

A score of -1, or non-compliance, will be used for any state that does not take at least strongly fulfill two of the four breadth requirements or somewhat fulfill more than two of the four breadth requirements. They will have not fulfilled the requirement to achieve a partial score, nor will they have encouraged the “sustainable production, the protection, conservation, and regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon” in the agricultural, forestry and other land use sectors.

¹¹²¹ Regenerate, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 27 July 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/regenerated>.

¹¹²² What is carbon sequestration?, United States Geological Survey (Reston) Access Date: 27 July 2021. https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-carbon-sequestration?qt-news_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has not complied by failing to strongly implement any actions to fulfill at least two of the four breadth requirements and failing to somewhat implement at least half of the breadth criteria
0	The G7 member has partially complied by strongly fulfilling at least two of the four breadth criteria or somewhat fulfilling more than half of the breadth criteria
+1	The G7 member has fully complied by taking strong action to fulfill at least three of the four breadth requirements (the encouragement of: 1) sustainable production 2) protection and conservation 3) the regeneration of ecosystems and 4) the sequestration of carbon) and somewhat fulfilling the fourth

Compliance Director: Aida Zarghami

Lead Analyst: Annie Ding

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied by ensuring its policies encourage sustainable production, the protection, conservation, and regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon.

On 16 June 2021, the Government of Canada launched the new Agricultural Clean Technology Program to foster the development and utilization of clean technology that will help make Canada’s agricultural industry more sustainable and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.¹¹²³ This Program will not only help to foster sustainable production in this industry, but also develop clean technologies to increase energy efficiency and stimulate the sequestration of carbon. The creation of this program will also help Canada transition to a low-carbon economy.

On 25 June 2021, the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Catherine McKenna, joined by the Mayor of Toronto John Tory, announced a CAD200 million Natural Infrastructure Fund.¹¹²⁴ Up to CAD120 million was invested in large natural infrastructure projects. This program supported projects that used natural or hybrid approaches to protect the natural environment, improve access to nature for Canadians and reduce reliance on building infrastructure.

On 29 June 2021, the Governments of Canada and Ontario announced an investment of CAD150,000 to support “agri-food innovation in the vegetable farming sector” and to fund research at the Ontario Crops Research Centre.¹¹²⁵ Some of the funding will be used to purchase climate control technologies for the greenhouse at the Research Centre and the installation of a new weather station also intended to maximize climate controls. The purpose is to foster “optimal” growing conditions for vegetables in the greenhouse before they are transplanted outdoors. Additionally, the funding will be used to increase research regarding the development of more “sustainable vegetable farming practices” to help Ontario farmers remain competitive without compromising environmental considerations. The funding for these research initiatives will help to foster sustainable production in the agriculture industry.

On 30 June 2021, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard and Member of Parliament for South Shore-St. Margaret’s, Bernadette Jordan, announced that the Government of Canada will invest CAD1.16 million in federal funding to revitalize infrastructure at Kejimikujik National Park and

¹¹²³ Agricultural Clean Technology Program: Research and Innovation Stream: Step 1. What this program offers, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/agricultural-programs-and-services/agricultural-clean-technology-program-research-and-innovation-stream>

¹¹²⁴ Government of Canada announces new Natural Infrastructure Fund, Infrastructure Canada (Toronto) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-announces-new-natural-infrastructure-fund.html>

¹¹²⁵ Funding to Support Research and Innovation in Ontario’s Vegetable Farming Sector, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (King) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/06/funding-to-support-research-and-innovation-in-ontarios-vegetable-farming-sector.html>

National Historic Site and Kejimikujik National Park Seaside.¹¹²⁶ The purpose of the investment is to construct climate-resilient infrastructure and rehabilitate the Seaside trail network that was damaged from storms and coastal erosion – replacing them with sustainable trails away from particularly vulnerable areas. This action will help regenerate the protected ecosystems in the park and make them more resilient to the increasing climate change related extreme weather.

On 7 July 2021, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Marie-Claude Bibeau, announced that the federal government is investing CAD1.7 million in funding for nine projects in Quebec that will “support and advance innovation” in the agriculture sector.¹¹²⁷ Examples of initiatives the investment will fund include research into developing techniques for the production of pest-free strawberry and raspberry plants that reduce reliance on pesticides and research to determine the best strain of wheat adapted to grow in Canadian winters. This will help encourage the sustainable production of produce in the agricultural sector by reducing reliance on pesticides and other pathogens.

On 13 July 2021, Minister Bibeau visited Coop Agri-Energie Warwick, the first “agricultural cooperative” which utilizes solely renewable energy in Quebec, to highlight the Agricultural Clean Technology Program and the types of projects the Government of Canada is seeking to invest in to reduce emissions in the agricultural industry.¹¹²⁸ While this action only somewhat encourages the sequestration of carbon and the increase of sustainable production in the agriculture industry, it does highlight how the Warwick biogas plant captures methane from manure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourages other plants to implement similar initiatives.

On 13 July 2021, the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan announced that cow-calf producers may be eligible to access “cost shared funding of up to 75 per cent of project costs” to implement surface runoff control measures to protect the integrity of water quality and preserve biodiversity through the new Farm Stewardship Program.¹¹²⁹ Some measures to achieve this goal include the funding of retention ponds to collect runoff, ditches and pen regrading. This Program will help protect and regenerate vital ecosystems and biodiversity that have faced degradation due to surface runoff from cattle farming.

On 19 July 2021, Minister Bibeau announced an investment of CAD2.6 million in federal funding to Canadian Forage and Grassland Association for three projects that will improve alfalfa growth and “develop a Canadian grassland carbon offset system.”¹¹³⁰ Alfalfa is a key component of the carbon capture and offset system for Canadian agriculture, and it also helps improve soil health. The federally funded projects will help farmers facilitate alfalfa growth and better understand how it grows in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

¹¹²⁶ Government of Canada invests in infrastructure for Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site and Kejimikujik National Park Seaside, Parks Canada (Maitland Bridge) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-invests-in-infrastructure-for-kejimikujik-national-park-and-national-historic-site-and-kejimikujik-national-park-seaside.html>

¹¹²⁷ Growing an environmentally sustainable agriculture sector in Quebec through science, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Saint-Je-de-l’Ile-d’Orleans) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/07/growing-an-environmentally-sustainable-agriculture-sector-in-quebec-through-science.html>

¹¹²⁸ Support for major farmer biogas plant part of push for more clean technology in agriculture, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Warwick) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/07/support-for-major-farmer-biogas-plant-part-of-push-for-more-clean-technology-in-agriculture.html>

¹¹²⁹ Farm Stewardship Program Supports Saskatchewan Cow-Calf Producers in Protecting Surface Water, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Regina) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/07/farm-stewardship-program-supports-saskatchewan-cow-calf-producers-in-protecting-surface-water.html>

¹¹³⁰ Government of Canada invests \$2.6 million to improve alfalfa growth and develop a grassland carbon offset system, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Sawyerville) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 4 August 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-invests-26-million-to-improve-alfalfa-growth-and-develop-a-grassland-carbon-offset-system.html>

On 29 July 2021, the Government of Canada provided CAD959,000 in support of an Indigenous Forestry Skills Development and Job Recruitment Program to the B.C. First Nations Forestry Council.¹¹³¹ The funding helped launch the Indigenous Forestry Virtual Platform which includes sharing information through online advisory services, training sessions, virtual job forums and regional focus groups. This will help to integrate the use of Traditional and Indigenous Knowledge into forest sustainability projects.

On 3 August 2021, Parks Canada began mobilizing to plant 150,000 trees in up to eighteen national parks across the country as a part of the Government of Canada’s commitment to plant two-billion trees.¹¹³² This initiative will help protect biodiversity, restore the ecosystems in national parks and combat climate change. In addition, planting such a high quantity of trees throughout the country will help to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions as dense forests act as a natural carbon sink.

On 4 August 2021, the Government of Canada announced that 70,000 trees will be planted at the Canadian National Vimy Memorial “as part of a 10-year forest conservation project to rejuvenate the forests.”¹¹³³ While planting the trees is primarily to honor Canadians, and more specifically Newfoundlanders, who served in World War One, the forest conservation project will also help restore the ecosystem by planting new trees to replace those that have reached the end of their lifespan and will increase the area of protected forest.

On 12 August 2021, Minister Bibeau announced the call for proposals under the new On-Farm Climate Action Fund that will support farmers in transitioning and adopting sustainable technologies.¹¹³⁴ This will help encourage practices that store carbon and greenhouse gas emissions – thus increasing carbon sequestration in the agricultural industry. Not only will the fund help reduce emissions but also will aid in regenerating the environment by improving soil health and building resilience to climate change.

On 12 August 2021, the Government of Canada and the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador invested a total contribution of more than \$11 million in funding through the Atlantic Fisheries Fund.¹¹³⁵ It invested in 36 projects that focused on equipment modernization, improving productivity, and sustainability in the Newfoundland and Labrador fish and seafood sector.¹¹³⁶ The investments were made in harvesting, processing, aquaculture and Indigenous partnerships to promote sustainability and effectiveness of the fish and seafood sector.¹¹³⁷

¹¹³¹ Government of Canada supports Indigenous jobs in forestry sector, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-supports-indigenous-jobs-in-forestry-sector.html>

¹¹³² Planting in National Parks Underway as Part of Canada’s Two Billion Tree Commitment, Parks Canada (Alma) 3 August 2021. Access Date: 5 August 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2021/08/planting-in-national-parks-underway-as-part-of-canadas-two-billion-tree-commitment.html>

¹¹³³ Government of Canada announces 10-year forest conservation project at Vimy and Beaumont-Hamel, Veterans Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 5 August 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/veterans-affairs-canada/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-10-year-forest-conservation-project-at-vimy-and-beaumont-hamel.html>.

¹¹³⁴ Helping farmers to reduce GHGs and improve resiliency to climate change, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Sherbrooke) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 21 September 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/08/helping-farmers-to-reduce-ghgs-and-improve-resiliency-to-climate-change.html>.

¹¹³⁵ Government of Canada and Province of Newfoundland and Labrador invest in projects to increase value and sustainability in the province’s fish and seafood sector, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (St. John’s) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-and-province-of-newfoundland-and-labrador-invest-in-projects-to-increase-value-and-sustainability-in-the-provinces-fish-and-se.html>

¹¹³⁶ Government of Canada and Province of Newfoundland and Labrador invest in projects to increase value and sustainability in the province’s fish and seafood sector, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (St. John’s) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-and-province-of-newfoundland-and-labrador-invest-in-projects-to-increase-value-and-sustainability-in-the-provinces-fish-and-se.html>

¹¹³⁷ Government of Canada and Province of Newfoundland and Labrador invest in projects to increase value and sustainability in the province’s fish and seafood sector, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (St. John’s) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-and-province-of-newfoundland-and-labrador-invest-in-projects-to-increase-value-and-sustainability-in-the-provinces-fish-and-se.html>

On 13 August 2021, France's Minister for the Ecological Transition Barbara Pompili renewed the 2018 France Canada Partnership on the climate and environment with her Canadian counterpart, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson.¹¹³⁸ New initiatives under the renewed partnership include working with the Powering Past Coal Alliance to phase out coal and ensure a fair transition for affected communities and workers, promotion of the Ocean Plastics Charter as a means of developing a more efficient approach to resource use and protecting the oceans and promoting a post-COVID green recovery.

On 12 November 2021, Innovative Solutions Canada launched a new challenge led by Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) to modernize tree seedling production and make tree planting more cost-efficient and sustainable.¹¹³⁹ In this challenge, the Government of Canada invited Canadian small businesses to come up with a new innovative product, service, or solution through the Innovative Solutions Canada program. Winning businesses might receive up to CAD150,000 to refine their research and development, or up to CAD1 million to develop a working prototype.

On 17 November 2021, the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau, announced an investment of more than CAD4.3 million to support Canada's pulse and special crops farmers meet growing consumer demand for sustainable, high-quality plant-based protein.¹¹⁴⁰ Specifically, Pulse Canada received more than CAD2.3 million to promote the benefits of pulses and their ingredient derivatives to international food manufacturers and foodservice operators as a sustainable, value-added, healthy ingredient across a wide range for food sectors.

On 19 November 2021, the governments of Canada and Manitoba invested CAD2.2 million in three agricultural research projects that would improve the precision feeding of sows and promote higher welfare standards to enhance the competitiveness of Manitoba pork producers.¹¹⁴¹ This project would help improve the pork industry to be more environmentally and economically sustainable.

On 8 December 2021, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, announced that the Government of Canada was investing more than CAD3.1 million over three years in thirty-two new projects funded under the Great Lake Protection Initiative.¹¹⁴² They aimed to address priorities to restore water quality and ecosystem health in Areas of Concern, prevent toxic and nuisance algae, and enhance engagement with Indigenous Peoples and the public.

On 13 December 2021, New Brunswick's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Gary Crossman, hosted the virtual Council of Ministers of the Environment meeting.¹¹⁴³ Attendees shared their respective updates on climate action and discussed opportunities to collaborate and advance national climate issues.

¹¹³⁸ Canada and France renew partnership on climate and environment, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/08/canada-and-france-renew-partnership-on-climate-and-environment.html>

¹¹³⁹ Government of Canada seeking innovative ways to reduce tree planting cost and waste, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 12 November 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/11/government-of-canada-seeking-innovative-ways-to-reduce-tree-planting-cost-and-waste.html>

¹¹⁴⁰ Government of Canada helps meet global demand for sustainable protein products, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Regina) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/11/government-of-canada-helps-meet-global-demand-for-sustainable-protein-products.html>

¹¹⁴¹ Governments invest in innovation to help increase competitiveness and sustainability of pork producers, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Winnipeg) 19 November 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/11/governments-invest-in-innovation-to-help-increase-competitiveness-and-sustainability-of-pork-producers.html>

¹¹⁴² Canada invests \$3.1 million to protect the Great Lakes and launches new call for proposals, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 8 December 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/12/canada-invests-31-million-to-protect-the-great-lakes-and-launches-new-call-for-proposals.html>

¹¹⁴³ Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, Government of Canada (virtual) 13 December 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/pan-canadian-framework/canadian-council-ministers-environment.html>

On 13 December 2021, researchers from the National Research Council of Canada's (NRC) Aquatic and Crop Resource Development Research Centre collaborated with DeNova, the Center for Aquaculture Technologies Canada, and Dalhousie University to focus on research to develop more sustainable salmon aquaculture feeds.¹¹⁴⁴ This initiative would help reduce harmful greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and contribute to the sustainable growth of Canada's ocean-based economy.¹¹⁴⁵

On 16 December 2021, the Minister of Fisheries, the Honourable Joyce Murray, and the Canadian Coast Guard, announced a more cautious approach to Pacific herring management based on recently intensified risks to wild salmon.¹¹⁴⁶ It would close most commercial fisheries for Pacific herring and limit to First Nations food, social and ceremonial fisheries. Harvesting would be reduced to a 10% harvest rate with a maximum total allowable catch of 7,850 tonnes for the Strait of Georgia.

On 28 January 2022, the Government of Canada joined the Sustainable Productivity Growth for Food Security and Resource Conservation coalition (SPG) as part of its approach to working in collaboration with international partners to mitigate the risks of climate change and create conditions for industry to remain competitive globally.¹¹⁴⁷ The coalition will work in coalition to develop strategies focused on accelerating the transition to more sustainable food systems through agricultural productivity growth.

On 17 February 2022, Minister Bibeau announced up to CAD1,545,000 in funding for Outcast Foods Inc. to expand their operations in food waste reduction that upcycles surplus and unsaleable fruits and vegetables from growers, processors and retailers into dried, plant-based powders and solid food ingredients.¹¹⁴⁸ It encourages more solutions to food waste in Canadian society, helps support the expansion of Outcast Foods Inc.'s demonstration plant in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and commission a new full-scale facility in Burlington, Ontario.

On 22 February 2022, Government of Canada announced a federal funding of up to CAD182.7 million for 12 organizations to deliver the On-Farm Climate Action Fund across the country which focuses on building a healthy and more sustainable agriculture sector in Canada.¹¹⁴⁹

On 17 March 2022, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South, Terry Duguid, announced support of over CAD66 million to help Manitoba and Prairie farmers adopt sustainable practices and clean technologies.¹¹⁵⁰ This aims at helping farmers build resilience to a changing climate and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

¹¹⁴⁴ Advancing Canada's aquaculture into the future, National Research Council Canada (Ketch Harbour) 13 December 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/stories/advancing-canadas-aquaculture-future>

¹¹⁴⁵ Advancing Canada's aquaculture into the future, National Research Council Canada (Ketch Harbour) 13 December 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/stories/advancing-canadas-aquaculture-future>

¹¹⁴⁶ Fisheries and Oceans Canada updates Pacific herring coast-wide harvest plan for 2021-22, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Vancouver) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 28 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/12/fisheries-and-oceans-canada-updates-pacific-herring-coast-wide-harvest-plan-for-2021-22.html>

¹¹⁴⁷ Canada joins international sustainable agriculture production and food systems coalition, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 28 January 2022. Access Date: 27 March 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/01/canada-joins-international-sustainable-agriculture-production-and-food-systems-coalition.html>

¹¹⁴⁸ Government supports efforts to reduce food waste and enhance sustainability, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 17 February 2022. Access Date: 27 March 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/02/government-supports-efforts-to-reduce-food-waste-and-enhance-sustainability.html>

¹¹⁴⁹ Government of Canada announced up to \$182.7 million to partner organization to help farmers lower emissions and improve resiliency to climate change, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Winnipeg) 22 February 2022. Access Date: 9 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/02/government-of-canada-announces-up-to-1827-million-to-partner-organizations-to-help-farmers-lower-emissions-and-improve-resiliency-to-climate-change.html>

¹¹⁵⁰ Parliamentary Secretary Terry Duguid to announce clean technology investments in support of Manitoba's agriculture sector, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Winnipeg) 17 March 2022. Access Date: 27 March 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/03/parliamentary-secretary-terry-duguid-to-announce-clean-technology-investments-in-support-of-manitobas-agriculture-sector.html>

On 7 April 2022, Government of Canada announced the budget of 2022 which included an allocation of CAD329.4 million over the next six years, starting in 2022-23 towards the Agricultural Clean Technology Program, CAD469.5 million towards Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to expand the Agricultural Climate Solutions and CAD150 million to support carbon sequestration.¹¹⁵¹

On 22 April 2022, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD6.4 million for six projects under the AgriScience Program that will help tackle climate change and create sustainability in Canada's agriculture sector.¹¹⁵²

On 14 May 2022 the G7 Agriculture Ministers gathered in Stuttgart, Germany to address global challenges that the agriculture sector has been facing today. In this meeting, which was a part of the leadup to the G7 Elmau Summit, the leaders discussed how agricultural policies could be adapted to fulfil sustainable development goals.¹¹⁵³

On 27 May 2022 Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault and Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson attended the G7 Climate, Energy and Environment Ministers Meeting in Berlin in which Canada announced CAD9.1 billion in investments towards sustainability.¹¹⁵⁴

On 30 May 2022 Minister Bibeau and Saskatchewan's Minister of Agriculture David Marit announced CAD3.2 million in funding towards research on carbon sequestration.¹¹⁵⁵

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to policies encouraging sustainable production, the protection, conservation, and regeneration of ecosystems, and the sequestration of carbon. Canada had invested and provided funding for projects that focused on the productivity and sustainability of the fish and seafood sector, the production of crops, beef, pork, and salmon. The Minister of Fisheries had cautioned Pacific herring management for the protection of wild salmon and the Minister of Environment and Climate Change funded projects that aimed at addressing priorities to restore water quality and ecosystem health in Areas of Concern, preventing toxic and nuisance algae, and enhancing engagement with Indigenous Peoples and the public under the Great Lake Protection Initiative. Canada also invested in natural infrastructure projects in cities to protect the natural environment and reduce carbon sequestration, while supporting businesses with innovative modernizing tree seedling production and sustainable tree planting solutions. It provided funding for programs that aim at reducing food waste, sustainable practices and clean technologies in the agricultural sector. It joined the SPG coalition to further its commitment of mitigating climate change and strengthening food sustainability.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

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¹¹⁵¹ Clean and a Strong Economy, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 April 2022. Access Date: 9 May 2022. <https://budget.gc.ca/2022/report-rapport/chap3-en.html>

¹¹⁵² Government of Canada takes concrete actions to fight climate change in the agriculture sector, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Winnipeg) 22 April 2022. Access Date: 9 May 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/04/government-of-canada-takes-concrete-actions-to-fight-climate-change-in-the-agriculture-sector.html>

¹¹⁵³ G7 Agriculture Ministers' Communiqué - english, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/_International-Affairs/g7-2022-kommunique-en.pdf

¹¹⁵⁴ Ministers Guilbeault and Wilkinson advance climate action, energy security and environmental protection at G7 Ministerial, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 4 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/05/ministers-guilbeault-and-wilkinson-advance-climate-action-energy-security-and-environmental-protection-at-g7-ministerial.html>

¹¹⁵⁵ Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan invest in research on carbon sequestration in pasture and forage lands, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Winnipeg) 30 May 2022. Access Date: 4 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2022/05/governments-of-canada-and-saskatchewan-invest-in-research-on-carbon-sequestration-in-pasture-and-forage-lands.html>

France: +1

France has fully complied by ensuring its policies encourage sustainable production, the protection and conservation of ecosystems, the regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon.

On 23 June 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food presented its Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change.¹¹⁵⁶ The plan for sustainable agriculture is structured around six axes: accelerating the development of eco-friendly agricultural practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; developing the potential for carbon sequestration in soils and forest biomass; gearing demand for and consumption of food products towards practices that have lower environmental impact; supporting the adaptation of agricultural and forestry sectors to the impacts of climate change; using agricultural research and development to teach how production can be changed and innovated and guaranteeing a high level of eco-responsibility.

On 7 July 2021, Minister Delegate in charge of Transport Jean-Baptiste Djebbari emphasized the strong commitment of the Government to support the activity of the river sector and signed the Commitment for Green Growth of the River Sector (ECV).¹¹⁵⁷ These commitments aim to strengthen the partnership between the General Assembly of River Companies in France (E2F) and the state, ensure the green development of fleets and the energy transition of the sector and enhance the education and know-how of the commitments to the ecological transition. Within the framework of the ECV, greenhouse gas emissions from rivers must be reduced by 20 per cent within 10 years and new targets for transitioning to energy efficient technologies was made.

On 15 July 2021, France expressed a readiness to accept the various concrete action proposals to accelerate the fight against climate change, achieve climate neutrality by 2050 and meet the target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55 per cent at least in 2030 compared to 1990 released by the European Commission.¹¹⁵⁸ These proposals will now be the subject of in-depth negotiation for several months in the European Parliament and Council of Ministers, and France plans to advance these negotiations in its presidency of the European Union which will begin in January 2022. Furthermore, the French government “welcomes in particular the Commission’s proposal to establish a border carbon adjustment mechanism” which will help reduce carbon emissions.

On 20 July 2021, the National Assembly definitively adopted the Climate and Resilience bill which is intended to bring about a long-lasting ecological transformation of French society.¹¹⁵⁹ The bill will initiate widespread changes to advance decarbonisation objectives and a climate-friendly economic transition. The Climate and Resilience bill is a landmark action for France in the path towards carbon-neutrality and sustainable development, with its final stage of a ban on renting classified E housing in 2034.

On 23 July 2021, Minister for the Ecological Transition Barbara Pompili published an action plan which will result in a 50 per cent reduction of emissions of pollutants from domestic wood heating, the leading emitter of fine particles in France by 2030.¹¹⁶⁰ The Efficient Domestic Wood Heating action plan will make it possible for France

¹¹⁵⁶ National low-carbon strategy: the Ministry of Agriculture and Food presents its action plan, Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Paris) 23 June 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022.

<https://agriculture.gouv.fr/strategie-nationale-bas-carbone-le-plan-dactions-du-ministere-de-lagriculture-et-de-lalimentation>

¹¹⁵⁷ Jean-Baptiste Djebbari signed the commitments for the green growth of the river sector, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 7 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022.

<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/jean-baptiste-djebbari-signe-engagements-croissance-verte-du-secteur-fluvial>

¹¹⁵⁸ “Fit for 55”: a new cycle of European climate policies, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 15 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 28 November 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/fit-55-nouveau-cycle-politiques-europeennes-climat>

¹¹⁵⁹ Climate and Resilience Bill – Final vote in the National Assembly and the Senate: ecology in our lives, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 20 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022.

<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/projet-loi-climat-resilience-vote-definitif-lassemblee-nationale-et-au-senat-ecologie-dans-nos-vies>

¹¹⁶⁰ The Government publishes the action plan to reduce fine particle emissions from domestic wood heating by 50%, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 23 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022.

<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-publie-plan-daction-reduire-50-emissions-particules-fines-du-chauffage-au-bois>

to achieve a 50 per cent reduction of all fine particle emissions between 2020 and 2030 – a key part of the newly passed Climate and Resilience bill. This will help to make wood heating more sustainable.

On 26 July 2021, the French Development Agency (AFD) announced their support for various programs that encourage the participation of local and Indigenous populations in forest management to aid in forest protection and the increasing of sustainable practices.¹¹⁶¹ There are many local barriers that often inhibit Indigenous forest management, such as state instability and the misuse of conservation projects that lead to exploitation – two issues that the AFD seeks to reconcile by aiding local populations in reclaiming their traditional forest management practices. AFD does this by providing technical and financial support to local populations, ultimately increasing the sustainability of forest management and increasing the amount of protected areas.

On 26 July 2021, the AFD announced that it is increasing its support to increase the sustainable management of the Congo River Basin to combat deforestation.¹¹⁶² The Congo River Basin is an enormous carbon sink and site of biodiversity and thus aiding in the implementation of responsible forest management increases sustainable practices, preserves biodiversity and works to increase carbon sequestration. In order to achieve this goal, AFD has committed to granting EUR6 million to ensure that the Northern Congo increases biodiversity conservation and sustainable management practices.

On 6 August 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food deployed a new wave of funding for a total of 107 projects to promote sustainable food production.¹¹⁶³ The National Food Program (PNA) committed a total of EUR14 million to the initiative, and the objective of having at least one territorial food project per department by 2023 has now almost been reached with nearly 300 chapters around France. Furthermore, the PNA designated 21 laureates for the 2020-2021 edition of. Its call for innovative or exemplary projects for sustainable agriculture.

On 9 August 2021, the AFD announced that it is supporting efforts to help Amazonian states transition towards more sustainable development, combat deforestation and preserve biodiversity off the heels of a July report that the Amazon rainforest was emitting more carbon emissions than it was absorbing due to the increase in forest fires.¹¹⁶⁴ The AFD is achieving this goal by aiding in the development of protected areas to preserve biodiversity and protect Indigenous territories. Additionally, the AFD entered into an agreement with the National Institute for Biodiversity in Ecuador to gain access to monitoring the park so the agency can assess the impacts of different activities on biodiversity in the region.

On 13 August 2021, Minister Pompili renewed the 2018 France Canada Partnership on the climate and environment with her Canadian counterpart, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson.¹¹⁶⁵ New initiatives under the renewed partnership include working with the Powering Past Coal Alliance to phase out coal and ensure a fair transition for affected communities and workers, promotion of

¹¹⁶¹ Mobilizing Local Populations in Forest Management, French Development Agency (Paris) 26 July 2021. Date Accessed: 21 September 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/mobilizing-local-populations-forest-management?origin=/en/actualites>.

¹¹⁶² Combating Deforestation in the Congo Basin, French Development Agency (Paris) 26 July 2021. Date Accessed: 21 September 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/combating-deforestation-congo-basin?origin=/en/actualites>.

¹¹⁶³ National Food Programme: more than 170 projects funded across the country, an unprecedented year thanks to support from the France Relance plan, Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Paris) 6 August 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/programme-national-pour-l'alimentation-plus-de-170-projets-finances-sur-tout-le-territoire>

¹¹⁶⁴ Protected Areas: Nurturing Biodiversity for Present and Future Generations, French Development Agency (Paris) 9 August 2021. Date Accessed: 21 September 2021. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/protected-areas-nurturing-biodiversity-present-and-future-generations>.

¹¹⁶⁵ Canada and France renew partnership on climate and environment, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/08/canada-and-france-renew-partnership-on-climate-and-environment.html>

the Ocean Plastics Charter as a means of developing a more efficient approach to resource use and protecting the oceans and promoting a post-COVID green recovery.

On 6 September 2021, Secretary of State for Biodiversity Berangere Abba announced the creation of a wilderness area, two regional parks and the extension of two national nature reserves.¹¹⁶⁶ Through this, the French government is pursuing its commitment to protect 30 per cent of land and sea areas, with 10 per cent under heavy protection. In a statement to the press, the secretary of state for biodiversity emphasized how important these methods are for preserving biodiversity.

On 7 September 2021, France hosted the 20th World Organic Congress in Rennes to stress the importance of transitioning to organic agriculture to foster sustainability and improve the health of the environment.¹¹⁶⁷ The Congress brings together international stakeholders to discuss sustainable solutions and how to make the agricultural sector more resilient to climate change. The Ministry of Ecological Transition stressed that transitioning to an organic agricultural model would be the best way to preserve the environment and biodiversity while also lowering emissions.

On 22 September 2021, the finance bill for 2022 was presented in the Council of Ministers.¹¹⁶⁸ This bill provided for a further increase of the budget of the Ministry of Ecological Transition to reach a total amount of EUR49.9 billion – this is a three per cent increase compared to the year 2021, and an addition to the EUR30 billion of the recovery plan committed to in 2021 and 2022.

On 11 October 2021, Minister Pompili, and Bruno Le Maire, Minister of the Economy, Finance and Recovery, and Olivier Dussopt, Minister Delegate in charge of Public Accounts, unveiled the second edition of the “green budget,” a tool intended to support countries in aligning their budgetary, economic, and fiscal policies with the challenges of environmental transition, with respect to climate ambitions.¹¹⁶⁹ The report is focused on six environmental objectives: the fight against climate change; adaptation to climate change and the prevention of natural risks; water resource management; the circular economy, waste and the prevention of technological risks; the fight against pollution and biodiversity in the protection of natural, agricultural and forested areas. The green budget pledges increased funds towards various environmental ambitions, including an increase of EUR1.1 billion increase from EUR29.8 billion towards so-called green spending and an additional EUR5.7 billion towards the environmental Recovery Plan.

On 11 October 2021, Minister Pompili, Minister Le Maire and Minister of Agriculture and Food Julien Denormandie signed the decree issuing a ban on plastic packaging around unprocessed fresh fruits and vegetables.¹¹⁷⁰ From 1 January 2022 onwards, 30 fresh unprocessed fruits and vegetables will be sold without plastic, marking a step forward for ecosystem preservation and the fight against plastic waste. The decree

¹¹⁶⁶ IUCN World Conservation Congress: To preserve exceptional natural areas, France is creating 5 new protected areas, including 2 under strong protection, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 6 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/congres-mondial-nature-luicn-preserver-des-espaces-naturels-exceptionnels-france-cree-5-nouvelles>

¹¹⁶⁷ 20th World Organic Congress: organic farming, a solution to the global challenges of our time?, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 7 September 2021. Date Accessed: 21 September 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/20e-congres-mondial-bio-lagriculture-biologique-solution-aux-enjeux-globaux-notre-temps>.

¹¹⁶⁸ 50 billion euros: an unprecedented effort for ecological transition in the 2022 finance bill, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 22 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/50-milliards-deuros-effort-inedit-transition-ecologique-dans-projet-loi-finances-2022>

¹¹⁶⁹ Green budget: Increase in environmentally friendly spending in 2022, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 11 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/budget-vert-augmentation-des-dépenses-favorables-l'environnement-en-2022>

¹¹⁷⁰ Fight against plastic pollution: publication of the decree framing the ban on plastic packaging around fresh fruits and vegetables, Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Paris) 11 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/lutte-contre-la-pollution-plastique-un-decret-encadrant-linterdiction-des-emballages-plastiques>

provides a gradual application of the ban, so that by 2026 all fruits and vegetables will be sold without plastic packaging.

On 8 November 2021, Minister Denormandie announced the launch of the new Seeds and Plants for Sustainable Agriculture plan at the international conference on green development.¹¹⁷¹ This new plan is centered around four main principles: diversity of seed variety and species; ensuring that seeds produce quality, sustainable food; use and development of new techniques for seed production and distribution and incorporation of scientific expertise at the service of public authorities and society. Furthermore, this plan is framed with the objectives of the European strategy “from farm to table,” which identifies seeds as an essential actor for a successful transition to a more sustainable agriculture adapting to climate change.

On 12 November 2021, Minister Pompili, Minister Le Maire and Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed an agreement ending public funding abroad for certain fossil fuel energy projects from the end of 2022.¹¹⁷² France considers the signing of this agreement, which concerns fossil fuel energy projects that do not have greenhouse gas emission mitigation devices, “a new step in the necessary decarbonisation of export financing to which the Government is resolutely committed.”

On 29 November 2021, Secretary of State Abba brought together stakeholders for a monitoring committee for the National Strategy to Combat Imported Deforestation.¹¹⁷³ The meeting allowed for all stakeholders to be presented with the new tools and policy options available to them in their cause of mitigating deforestation. This strategy shows the commitment of France to take the fight against deforestation to the European, or international level.

On 2 December 2021, Minister Pompili travelled to Nantes and Saint-Nazaire in the Loire-Atlantique region to discuss the development of a strategy for the decarbonization of various French economic sectors.¹¹⁷⁴ At this meeting, Minister Pompili reaffirmed the commitment of the French government towards decarbonization across various industries and supported the innovative and sustainable sailing prototype, Solid Sail, which will significantly reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of the maritime transport sector. This project is supported by nearly EUR600,000 as part of the Future Investments Programme.

On 6 December 2021, Minister Pompili announced the launch of the “Mission Ecological Transition” portal, a search engine that will “bring together all the aid offered for the ecological transition of companies, the State, and communities, roughly 500 devices.”¹¹⁷⁵ Minister Pompili also unveiled a new system called “decarbon’Action” which aims to support small and medium sized enterprises so that they can define their plan to reduce their emissions. The system plans to support 400 companies by 2023. Finally, Minister Pompili

¹¹⁷¹ Launch of the new plan Seeds and plants for sustainable agriculture: a new version of the plan at the service of agroecology, adaptation to climate change and food sovereignty, Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Paris) 8 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/lancement-du-nouveau-plan-semences-et-plants-pour-une-agriculture-durable>

¹¹⁷² COP26: France signs an agreement reaffirming its commitment to end foreign public funding of fossil fuel projects, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 12 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/cop26-france-signe-accord-reaffirmant-engagement-mettre-fin-aux-financements-publics-letranger>

¹¹⁷³ Bérangère Abba presents new tools for implementing the National Strategy to Combat Imported Deforestation, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 3 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-presente-nouveaux-outils-mise-en-oeuvre-strategie-nationale-lutte-contre>

¹¹⁷⁴ Barbara Pompili will announce the Decarbonization Strategy for French economic sectors on Friday December 3 in Loire-Atlantique (44), Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 2 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2021. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/barbara-pompili-annoncera-strategie-decarbonation-des-filieres-economiques-francaises-vendredi-3>

¹¹⁷⁵ Speech by Barbara Pompili at the Business Climate Convention in Nantes on December 3, 2021, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 6 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/intervention-barbara-pompili-lors-convention-des-entreprises-climat-nantes-3-decembre-2021>

referenced her visit to the maritime transport sector and described the undertaking of a “major work of drawing up roadmaps for decarbonization, shared between economic sectors and public authorities.”

On 14 December 2021, France and the United States held the first meeting of the United States-France Bilateral Clean Energy Partnership in which they supported the goals of the 26th United Nations Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP-26) to “accelerate the global transition to net zero and through, among other approaches and activities.”¹¹⁷⁶ Some of the key areas covered by the partnership include nuclear energy, scientific research and development, clean energy technology development and deployment and responsible and sustainable clean energy supply chains. This meeting saw extensive discussion on clean energy policies and carbon sequestration. Both countries have stated their commitment to leveraging technological innovation and its market deployment to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050, and the next meeting of the United States-France Bilateral Clean Energy Partnership is scheduled for Washington D.C. in 2022.

On 4 February 2022, Prime Minister Jean Castex, Minister for Ecological Transition Barbara Pompili and Minister Delegate of Industry Agnès Pannier-Runacher unveiled the government’s action plan to decarbonize French industries and thus ensure compliance with climate commitments by reducing industrial emissions from 26 megatons per year by 2030, while sustaining employment and the industrial footprint of strategic sectors.¹¹⁷⁷ The plan allocates EUR4 billion towards innovative methods of carbon and hydrogen sequestration and provides EUR5 billion in funding of direct aid for the deployment of decarbonization solutions for industrial sites.

On 8 February 2022, Minister of Agriculture and Food Julien Denormandie brought together his European counterparts to lead a joint reflection on eco-friendly agricultural and forestry models.¹¹⁷⁸ The meeting provided an important opportunity for an economic valuation of carbon sequestration models, as well as enabled a political consensus to be reached at the broader European level related to the role of farmers and foresters. The ministers proposed a common European certification framework, as well as underlined the importance of research and experimentation.

On 19 February 2022, the Ministry of Ecological Transition and Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Recovery brought together more than 200 representatives of the main economic sectors and local authorities to launch a consultation on the development of decarbonization roadmaps for sectors that emit the most greenhouse gases.¹¹⁷⁹ These roadmaps aim to both identify the decarbonization mechanisms and any obstacles that might need to be overcome, but also the specific mechanisms mobilized by each of the parties to achieve the reduction targets for France’s greenhouse gas emissions.

On 14 May 2022 the G7 Agriculture Ministers gathered in Stuttgart, Germany to address global challenges that the agriculture sector has been facing today. In this meeting, which was a part of the leadup to the G7

¹¹⁷⁶ Joint Statement Issued by the United States and France Following the First Meeting of the United States-France Bilateral Clean Energy Partnership, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 17 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/declaration-conjointe-emise-etats-unis-et-france-suite-premiere-reunion-du-partenariat-bilateral>

¹¹⁷⁷ France 2030: the Prime Minister announces the deployment of actions to accelerate the decarbonization of French industry, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 4 February 2022. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/france-2030-premier-ministre-annonce-deploiement-dactions-accelerer-decarbonation-lindustrie>

¹¹⁷⁸ Informal meeting of agriculture ministers from 6 to 8 February 2022 in Strasbourg: consolidating agricultural and forestry models in favor of the climate with low-carbon agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Paris) 8 February 2022. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/rmi-des-ministres-de-lagriculture-consolider-des-modeles-agricoles-et-forestiers-en-faveur-du-climat>

¹¹⁷⁹ Launch of the development of decarbonization roadmaps for the most emitting sectors, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 9 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lancement-lelaboration-feuilles-route-decarbonation-des-filieres-plus-emettrices>

Elmau Summit, the leaders discussed how agricultural policies could be adapted to fulfil sustainable development goals.¹¹⁸⁰

France has fully complied with its commitment to ensuring its policies encourage sustainable production, as well as the protection and conservation, the regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon. France has demonstrated responsible environmental policy development by developing a new green budget, establishing an Action Plan for Adaptation to Climate Change (PNACC) and adopting the Climate and Resilience bill.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Paul Maiquez-Gameter

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied by ensuring its policies encourage sustainable production, the protection and conservation of ecosystems, the regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon.

On 25 June 2021, the Bundesrat passed an amendment to Germany's Climate Change Act, approving an Immediate Action Programme worth EUR8 billion with the goal of intensifying support for decarbonisation of the industrial sector, creating green hydrogen, energy-focused building refurbishments, climate-friendly mobility and sustainable forestry and agriculture.¹¹⁸¹ This amendment also focused on raising the carbon dioxide emission reduction targets, strengthening natural sinks with the aim of binding carbon dioxide, coordinating climate action at the European level and specified greenhouse gas emission targets to be achieved during the 2030s.

On 25 June 2021, the Federal Council adopted several legislative initiatives and ordinances pertaining to the Common European Agricultural Policy (CAP), two-tier consumer production, plant health, organic farming and various regulations on animal welfare.¹¹⁸² The amendments and system change in in the CAP set the groundwork for an agriculture that improves environmental conservation, protection and climate change in practice by introducing a revised budget for eco-regulations, redistributing funding to small and medium-sized enterprises, reallocation of funds and supporting young farmers with an additional EUR98 million. Germany also implemented European Union law regarding plant health and made regulations regarding phytosanitary import controls.

On 6 July 2021, the Chairman of the Commission on the Future of Agriculture handed over its final report to Chancellor Angela Merkel, outlining several strategies for agricultural policy development and recommendations to increase efforts to boost climate and environmental protection.¹¹⁸³ The final report stressed that to properly support modern agriculture in Germany, adequate financial support must be given to farmers and local sustainable development initiatives.

On 6 July 2021, Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture (BMEL) Hans-Joachim Fuchtel, handed over the final premium approval allocating an amount of EUR398,100 to six communities in Baden-Württemberg to

¹¹⁸⁰ G7 Agriculture Ministers' Communiqué - english, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/_International-Affairs/g7-2022-kommunique-en.pdf

¹¹⁸¹ Climate Change Act 2021: Intergenerational contract for the climate, Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/klimaschutz/climate-change-act-2021-1936846>

¹¹⁸² System change in the CAP, empowerment of consumers, reduction of glyphosate, more animal welfare, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 25 June 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2021. <https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2021/108-bundesrat.html>

¹¹⁸³ Recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Agriculture: Like "squaring a circle", Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/future-agriculture-1940546>

promote the conversion of damaged forests into site-adapted and climate-resilient mixed forests.¹¹⁸⁴ This premium is part of a long strategy for adapting forests to climate change and ensures the healthy regeneration of forests and ecosystems.

On 22 July 2021, the Parliamentary State Secretary Uwe Feiler presented the funding notification for EUR1.8 million from the Forest Climate Fund to the BENEATH project, which aims to quantify, evaluate and improve the climate protection performance of near-natural beech forests in terms of the influence of climate change in forest soil, especially related to carbon balance.¹¹⁸⁵ In a statement, Secretary Feiler noted that “The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change calls sustainable forest management one of the most effective climate protection measures of all. That also means: We must keep an eye on the forest soils, they store 3,500 gigatons of carbon worldwide.”

On 2 September 2021, the International Ministerial Conference to combat marine litter and plastic pollution, hosted by Germany, Ecuador, Ghana and Vietnam, ended with a draft resolution.¹¹⁸⁶ All four countries advocated for a global agreement which would achieve joint action, hopefully resolving the crisis posed by marine litter to the sea and ocean ecosystems. Germany continues to work to ensure that marine litter and ecosystem conservation is given a high priority in global forums.

On 1 October 2021, Oslo/Paris convention countries for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) agreed to create one of the largest protected marine areas in the world, providing protection for seabirds.¹¹⁸⁷ The goal of this new protected area is to reduce marine pollution and litter on beaches by 50 per cent by 2025 and by 75 per cent by 2030. This action will help to protect aquatic and marine environments.

On 8 November 2021, Germany committed EUR150 million for climate change adaptation in developing countries, bringing the total amount provided towards the adaptation finance fund to EUR2 billion a year.¹¹⁸⁸ Projects supported by the Adaptation Fund include efficient irrigation systems in agriculture, transboundary coastal zones and water management and securing alternative livelihoods for farming and forestry communities. To date, Germany had contributed EUR390 million making it the largest donor.

On 24 November 2021, the Federal Cabinet approved the ordinances submitted by the Federal Minister for Food and Agriculture, Julia Klöckner, for the national implementation of the CAP.¹¹⁸⁹ This represents a crucial stage in the implementation, after the relevant laws passed through the Bundestag and Bundesrat in June. The CAP was constituted mainly of direct payment regulations in the form of obligations and premium amounts for organic regulations, and conditionality regulations on the details on distance regulations to water

¹¹⁸⁴ Fuchtel: We need the municipalities for healthy forests, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 6 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2021.

<https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2021/114-bundeswaldpraemie-bw-fuchtel.html>

¹¹⁸⁵ Improving the climate protection performance of forest soils, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 22 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 January 2021.

<https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2021/126-klimaschutzleistung-waldboeden.html>

¹¹⁸⁶ International Ministerial Conference to combat marine litter and plastic pollution ends with draft resolution, Ministry of Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Bonn) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2021.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/international-ministerial-conference-to-combat-marine-litter-and-plastic-pollution-ends-with-draft-resolution>

¹¹⁸⁷ North-East Atlantic countries create one of the largest marine protected areas in the world, Ministry of Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Bonn) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2021.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/north-east-atlantic-countries-create-one-of-the-largest-marine-protected-areas-in-the-world>

¹¹⁸⁸ Germany commits 150 million euros for climate change adaptation in developing countries, Ministry of Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Bonn) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 27 January 2021.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-commits-150-million-euros-for-climate-change-adaptation-in-developing-countries>

¹¹⁸⁹ Klöckner: Broad political basis for the implementation of the European agricultural policy, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 24 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022.

<https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2021/173-gap-verordnungen-bundeskabinett.html>

bodies. A strategy for protecting wetlands and moors in the form of management requirements were also issued on agricultural land in such areas.

On 13 December 2021, the new Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture Cem Özdemir met with his European counterparts to discuss the draft regulation by the European Union Commission to prevent deforestation and forest damage within certain agricultural commodities.¹¹⁹⁰ Minister Özdemir emphasized the importance of ensuring that agricultural goods purchased by Germany were not contributing to deforestation abroad. As one of his first meetings with his European counterparts, Minister Özdemir has made it clear that climate change mitigation and avoiding deforestation are key issues for German policymakers.

On 13 December 2021, the German Cabinet passed a draft law for a second supplementary budget for 2021, with which an allocation of around EUR60 billion will go to the Energy and Climate Fund (EKF).¹¹⁹¹ Federal Minister for Economics and Climate Protection Robert Habeck stated “With the EUR60 billion that has now been decided in the supplementary budget, we are starting the next stage. We can use the funds to leverage investments that go hand in hand with economic recovery and climate protection.” The Bundestag must still approve the draft law.

On 11 January 2022, Minister Habeck presented the opening balance sheet for German climate protection.¹¹⁹² In his remarks, Minister Habeck stated that climate protection has been insufficient in various sectors and efforts must be intensified. Minister Habeck presented some immediate measures that the Federal Ministry of Economics and Climate Protection prepared, including an amendment to the German Renewable Energy Act where the course for 80 per cent renewable electricity generation has been moved to 2030. Furthermore, Minister Habeck proposed the creation of legal and financial conditions for the provision of climate protection contracts, called Carbon Contracts for Difference. These will serve as tools to support the transformation in the industry.

On 1 February 2022, The federal government released a specific guideline for the “promotion of investments in emission-reducing measures in the fermentation of manure,” aiming to regenerate ecosystems by reducing emissions of methane.¹¹⁹³ The project aims to invest in the conversion of already built and operated biogas plants under the condition of an increase in the proportion of manure use, construct additional storage containers for manure and associated fermentation residues, and otherwise encourage manure usage in biogas plants in an effort to regenerate ecosystems.

On 10 February 2022, the departments of Economy and Climate Protection (BMWK) and of Environment and Agriculture (BMEL) agreed on the expansion of solar energy in the context of the Renewable Energy

¹¹⁹⁰ Özdemir: We want to put an end to imported forest destruction, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 13 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2021/180-agrarrat.html>

¹¹⁹¹ Habeck: Additional funds for the transformation to a climate-neutral economy – Cabinet approves draft of the second supplementary budget for 2021, Federal Ministry for Economics and Climate Protection (Bonn) 13 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/12/20211213-habeck-zusaetzliche-mittel-fuer-die-transformation-zu-einer-klimaneutralen-volkswirtschaft-kabinett-beschliesst-entwurf-des-zweiten-nachtragshaushalts-2021.html>

¹¹⁹² Habeck: Additional funds for the transformation to a climate-neutral economy – Cabinet approves draft of the second supplementary budget for 2021, Federal Ministry for Economics and Climate Protection (Bonn) 13 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2021/12/20211213-habeck-zusaetzliche-mittel-fuer-die-transformation-zu-einer-klimaneutralen-volkswirtschaft-kabinett-beschliesst-entwurf-des-zweiten-nachtragshaushalts-2021.html>

¹¹⁹³ BMEL specifically promotes greenhouse gas reduction, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 1 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2022/15-treibhausgasmaendigung.html>

Sources Act.¹¹⁹⁴ Along with allocating land for a 200 gigawatt increase in photovoltaic systems, this agreement promotes climate protection and conservation. Municipalities will be able to prescribe nature conservation criteria for all open spaces in which solar energy is expanded, in both subsidized and unsubsidized zones under the Renewable Energy Sources Act.

On 16 March 2022, the federal cabinet approved the second government draft of the federal budget for 2022, including the business plan for the 2022 energy and climate fund.¹¹⁹⁵ The main areas of expenditure in the energy and climate fund promote industrial decarbonization, a reform of building renovations toward measures with the greatest carbon saving potential, as well as introducing an environmental bonus to promote electromobility. In total, the financial plan amounts to EUR203 billion for climate protection measures and the transformation of the German economy.

On 25 March 2022, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture published two funding announcements for carbon storage in agricultural soils.¹¹⁹⁶ The application of these two projects marks the initiation of the federal government's 2030 climate protection program in relation to the goal of "carbon storage potential of agricultural soils being activated to a greater extent."

On 29 March 2022, Federal Environment and Consumer Protection Minister Steffi Lemke presented the cornerstones of the Action Program for Natural Climate Protection (ANK).¹¹⁹⁷ This action program makes a substantial contribution to climate protection, and the federal government intends to provide a total of EUR4 billion for the implementation of the program in the years 2022-2026. The cornerstones of the program, as well as areas in which protection should be promoted include (1) the protection of intact moors and rewetting, (2) near-natural water balance with lively rivers, lakes and floodplains, (3) seas and coasts, (4) wilderness and protected areas, (5) forest ecosystems, (6) soils as carbon stores, (7) natural climate protection on settlement and traffic areas, (8) data collection, monitoring, modeling and reporting, (9) research and capacity building, (10) cooperation in the EU and internationally. In addition, the ANK is integral to the national implementation of the planned EU legal instrument for the restoration of nature.

On 14 May 2022 the G7 Agriculture Ministers gathered in Stuttgart, Germany to address global challenges that the agriculture sector has been facing today. In this meeting, which was a part of the leadup to the G7 Elmau Summit, the leaders discussed how agricultural policies could be adapted to fulfil sustainable development goals.¹¹⁹⁸

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to ensuring its policies encourage sustainable production, as well as the protection and conservation of ecosystems, the regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon. Through funding efforts towards industrial decarbonization and investment for sustainable

¹¹⁹⁴ Better use of existing area potential: More photovoltaic systems on agricultural land with a consistently high level of nature conservation, Ministry of Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Bonn) 10 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/bestehende-flaechenpotenziale-bessernutzen-mehr-photovoltaik-anlagen-auf-landwirtschaftlichen-flaechen-bei-gleichbleibend-hohem-naturschutz>

¹¹⁹⁵ More funds for climate protection, energy security and pandemic management, Federal Ministry for Economics and Climate Protection (Bonn) 16 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2022/03/20220316-mehr-mittel-fur-klimaschutz-energiesicherheit-und-pandemiebewaltigung.html>

¹¹⁹⁶ Expanding the carbon storage potential in the soil: Looking for new climate protection projects in land use, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 25 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2022/37-kohlenstoffspeicher.html>

¹¹⁹⁷ Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke presents the cornerstones of the action program for natural climate protection, Ministry of Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Bonn) 29 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerin-steffi-lemke-stellt-eckpunkte-fuer-aktionsprogramm-natuerlicher-klimaschutz-vor>

¹¹⁹⁸ G7 Agriculture Ministers' Communiqué - english, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/_International-Affairs/g7-2022-kommunique-en.pdf

development in developing countries and environmentally conscious policy developments such as the CAP, Germany has ensured sustainable development and decarbonization are prime aspects of its international and domestic policies. Additionally, Germany has taken efforts to preserve and restore ecosystems.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Paul Maiquez-Gameter

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to ensure policies encourage sustainable production, the protection, conservation and regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon in its agricultural, forestry and other land use sectors.

On 11 July 2021, the International Conference on Climate Change, organized by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Bank of Italy, was held in Venice.¹¹⁹⁹ At the conference, representatives from G20 members, key international financial institutions and the private sector advanced discussions on policies to promote decarbonization and the green transition.

On 19-21 July 2021, the United Nations Food Systems Summit was held in Rome under the leadership of Italy's Government and United Nations.¹²⁰⁰ The goal of this food summit was to build sustainable food systems that work for everyone by bringing youths, smallholder farmers, indigenous people, policy leaders and many more actors together to discuss how to make food systems more resilient to climate change.

On 29 July 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition released an ordinance for the repair of environmental damage that occurred due to quarrying activities by VANNELLA.¹²⁰¹ The ordinance will identify activities "relating to maintenance and crop care subsequent to planting" and integration. This ordinance will help to restore a damaged ecosystem.

On 5 August 2021, the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies published a decree outlining reforestation and forestation criteria for urban areas.¹²⁰² In accordance with the decree, reforestation and forestation in urban areas by private individuals voluntarily organizing tree planting activities, which are financed with funds from the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), must comply with national forest biodiversity standards. The decree ensures the cultivation of forests in urban areas that are more resilient and resistant to adversity.

On 29 September 2021, the Undersecretary to the Ministry of Ecological Transition, Ilaria Fontana, emphasized the importance of protecting and conserving the marine resources and ecosystems in Antarctica.¹²⁰³ She noted Italy's presence on the continent in a scientific capacity since 1985 and its history of supporting the "need to intervene, in Antarctica, with the designation of Marine Protected Areas." These

¹¹⁹⁹ Press release N° 142 of 07/11/2021, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 11 July 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2022.

<https://www.mef.gov.it/en/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2021/International-Conference-on-Climate-Change-in-Venice-00001/>

¹²⁰⁰ Italy to set the stage for UN Food System with three-day event that will deliver bold new ambitions, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 17 March 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/italy-set-stage-un-food-systems-summit-three-day-event-will-deliver-bold-new-ambitions>

¹²⁰¹ Order to repair the environmental damage caused by the quarrying activity conducted by VANELLA srl, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 29 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 5 February 2022.

<https://www.mite.gov.it/notizie/ordinanza-di-riparazione-del-danno-ambientale-cagionato-dall-attivita-di-coltivazione-di>

¹²⁰² Published in OJ decree to define deforestation and forestation criteria for urban areas, Ministry for Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Rome) 5 August 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 January 2022.

<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17262>

¹²⁰³ Environment: Increase the number of marine protected areas in Antarctica, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 29 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 February 2022.

<https://www.mite.gov.it/notizie/ambiente-aumentare-il-numero-di-aree-marine-protette-antartide>

statements reemphasize Italy's commitment to the protection of vulnerable ecosystems in the Antarctic Peninsula.

On 1 October 2021, the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies issued a decree approving 149 projects in the irrigation infrastructure sector for funding equal to EUR1.6 billion from the NRRP.¹²⁰⁴ The funds will support the innovation of irrigation infrastructures to improve their resilience as well as the management of water resources. The decree forms part of a larger plan to address the problem of climate change-related emergencies in the agricultural sector and enhance the sustainability of agricultural processes.

On 2 November 2021, at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference, Italy endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, which includes a commitment to "halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030."¹²⁰⁵ The declaration also articulates broader "commitments to sustainable land use, and to the conservation, protection, sustainable management and restoration of forests and other terrestrial ecosystems."

On 23 November 2021, Minister of Agriculture Stefano Patuanelli signed a decree supporting the eco-sustainable transition of the olive oil supply chain.¹²⁰⁶ The decree provides for the allocation of EUR10 million to support investments in new plants and EUR20 million to modernize existing plants.

On 2 December 2021, Minister Patuanelli received approval for the National Forest Strategy, which aims to enhance and actively manage Italy's national forest heritage.¹²⁰⁷ The National Forest Strategy will span twenty years and be subjected to revisions and updates every five years.

On 30 December 2021, the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies announced the approval of EUR420 million in the 2022 Budget Law for the financing of the National Forest Strategy until 2032.¹²⁰⁸

On 7 January 2022, Minister of Agriculture Stefano Patuanelli presented the National Strategic Plan (NSP) for the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy programs to the European Commission, which aims to establish a sustainable and inclusive agricultural, food and forestry system.¹²⁰⁹ Under the NSP, approximately EUR10 billion will be invested in interventions with clear environmental objectives, including initiatives helping companies to adopt agricultural practices that are environmentally sustainable. In addition, EUR500 million will be directed to interventions favouring sustainable forestry.

¹²⁰⁴ Irrigation Infrastructures: the first list of projects eligible for PNRR funds approved. 1.6 billion euros of investments, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Rome) 1 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 January 2022. <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17398>

¹²⁰⁵ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (London) 12 November 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

¹²⁰⁶ Minister Patuanelli signed a decree in support of the eco-sustainable transition of the olive-oil supply chain, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Rome) 23 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17553>

¹²⁰⁷ National Forest Strategy and compensation for damage from bad weather approved by the State-Regions Conference, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Rome) 2 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17570>

¹²⁰⁸ Budget law: over 2 billion euros for agriculture, fishing and agri-food, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Rome) 30 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17528>

¹²⁰⁹ The National Strategic Plan of the new CAP was presented to the EU by Minister Stefano Patuanelli, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Rome) 7 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17717>

On 8 February 2022, the Informal Council on Agriculture and Fisheries was held in Strasbourg, where climate change technology solutions were at the center of debate.¹²¹⁰ Minister of Agriculture Stefano Patuanelli stated that he was in favor of the European Commission's proposal to take further actions in incentivizing and remunerating carbon-absorbing agricultural and forestry practices, highlighting the NSP. The NSP seeks to encourage virtuous agricultural and forestry practices that can increase carbon absorption, which would include organic farming, good management of pasture meadows, storage of organic matter and the development of agroforestry systems.

On 9 February 2022, Minister Patuanelli spoke on the state of implementation of the NRPP.¹²¹¹ Under the NRPP, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry will manage resources of EUR4.88 billion, split among several independent interventions and projects. This endowment of EUR4.88 billion will go towards the development of agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, floriculture and nursery sectors, as well as solar innovation and investments in better irrigation systems. The decree helps to increase the sustainability and efficiencies in these sectors.

On 19 February 2022, the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies announced the publication date set for the call for funding of solar agricultural measures.¹²¹² The measure seeks to support investments for the construction of solar panels across a total area of 4.3 million square meters. The installation of photovoltaic panels aims to achieve an increase in sustainability and efficiency in the agricultural, livestock, and agro-industrial sectors.

On 8 March 2022, the fifth meeting of the Interministerial Committee for Ecological Transition (ISCED) was held in the Palazzo Chigi.¹²¹³ The ISCED approved the Ecological Transition Plan, which will be updated and reported on an annual basis. Minister of Ecological Transition Roberto Cingolani also stated that five environmentally harmful subsidies had been eliminated with a budget of EUR100 million.

On 14 May 2022 the G7 Agriculture Ministers gathered in Stuttgart, Germany to address global challenges that the agriculture sector has been facing today. In this meeting, which was a part of the leadup to the G7 Elmau Summit, the leaders discussed how agricultural policies could be adapted to fulfil sustainable development goals.¹²¹⁴

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to 1) ensure policies regarding the land use sector utilize sustainable production, 2) ensure that policies encourage the protection and conservation of the lands, 3) ensure the regeneration of ecosystems involved in the agricultural, forestry and other land use sectors and 4) ensure the policies include the sequestration of carbon. In the agricultural sector, Italy has invested in infrastructure innovation and the improvement of production processes to facilitate sustainable production.

¹²¹⁰ Il Ministro Patuanelli all'AGRIFISH: il ciclo del carbone sostenibile al centro del consiglio informale di Minister Patuanelli at AGRIFISH: the sustainable coal cycle at the center of the informal council in Strasbourg, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry PoliciesStrasburgo (Rome) 8 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17794>

¹²¹¹ Hearing of Minister Patuanelli at the Agriculture Commissions of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Republic, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Rome) 9 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17803>

¹²¹² In dirittura d'arrivo bando per fotovoltaico su tetti agricoli previsto da programma PNRRthe pipeline call for photovoltaics on agricultural roofs foreseen by the PNRR program, Minister of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Rome) 19 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17857>

¹²¹³ Quinta riunione del Comitato interministeriale per la transizione ecologica – CITE – Approvazione del piano per la transizione ecologicaFifth meeting of the Inter-ministerial Committee for the ecological transition – ISCED – Approval of the plan for the ecological transition, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (RomeROME) 9 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/quinta-riunione-del-comitato-interministeriale-la-transizione-ecologica-cite-approvazione>

¹²¹⁴ G7 Agriculture Ministers' Communiqué - english, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/_International-Affairs/g7-2022-kommunique-en.pdf

In the forestry sector, Italy's investment in reforestation and forestation efforts, sustainable forestry and the maintenance of its national forest heritage fulfill all four components of the commitment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Vincent Zhang, Annie Ding and Aida Zarghami

Japan: -1

Japan has not complied with its commitment of ensuring its policies encourage sustainable production, the protection and conservation of ecosystems, the regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon.

On 26 July 2021, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) revised the Roadmap for Carbon Recycling Technologies, “a document that aims to accelerate innovation by showing the path for expanding and disseminating Carbon Recycling (technologies whereby CO₂ [carbon dioxide] is used as a fuel or raw material).”¹²¹⁵ Revisions included bringing forward the beginning of widespread adoption of (general purpose) Carbon Recycling products to around the year 2040 from previous estimates of 2050, in light of progressive trend of development in Japan. These actions aim to sequester carbon from the atmosphere.

On 3 September 2021, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga held the 47th meeting of the Global Warming Prevention Headquarters at the Prime Minister's Office, to discuss “the draft Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures and the draft Long-Term Strategy under the Paris Agreement and other matters.”¹²¹⁶ The Prime Minister stated Japan's goal of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050, in addition to seeking a 46 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2030, and to continue reaching the goal of cutting emissions by 50 per cent. One of the concrete measures presented to achieve this goal includes the decarbonization of the food sector.

On 4 October 2021, METI and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) also jointly held the Third International Conference on Carbon Recycling 2021.¹²¹⁷ “Industry, academia and government leaders in the field of carbon recycling (concrete/cement, fuel/chemicals, and R&D/investment) participated from Japan and abroad, and through panel discussions, announced their future directions toward implementing carbon recycling throughout society.” Furthermore, METI reiterated previous carbon sequestration efforts, such as the Green Growth Strategy Carbon Recycling Action Plan and the revision of the Roadmap for Carbon Recycling Technologies.

On 22 October 2021, the Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ) announced that the Cabinet has approved the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which describes “describes the basic direction of the measures to be taken for climate change” for multiple sectors, including agriculture, forestry, the environment and other land use sectors.¹²¹⁸ This will help to ensure that these land use sectors will adopt policies that are in line with climate change objectives.

On 27 October 2021, Japan attended the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting on Environmental Cooperated, aimed at strengthening cooperation between Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

¹²¹⁵ Roadmap for Carbon Recycling Technologies Revised, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Japan (Tokyo) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/0726_003.html

¹²¹⁶ Press Release: Global Warming Prevention Headquarters, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 3 September 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202109/_00007.html

¹²¹⁷ Press Release: Third International Conference on Carbon Recycling 2021 Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry Japan (Tokyo) 6 October 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2021/1006_002.html

¹²¹⁸ Press Release: The Cabinet's Approval of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the Results of the Call for Public Comments on the Plan, Ministry of the Environment Japan (Tokyo) 22 October 2021. Access Date: 26 November 2021. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2560.html>

on climate change, as part of ASEAN's climate action and its transition to decarbonization.¹²¹⁹ The meeting encouraged the countries to “further enhance cooperation on regional activities to achieve innovative and sustainable agricultural production and food systems aiming to promote the application of digital technologies in agriculture, application of nature-based solutions in agriculture, forestry and climate change adaptation and mitigation” as appropriate to the locales to achieve climate change goals.

On 14 May 2022 the G7 Agriculture Ministers gathered in Stuttgart, Germany to address global challenges that the agriculture sector has been facing today. In this meeting, which was a part of the leadup to the G7 Elmau Summit, the leaders discussed how agricultural policies could be adapted to fulfil sustainable development goals.¹²²⁰

Japan has failed to comply with its commitment to ensure sustainable production in the agricultural sector, conserve and protect ecosystems, restore ecosystems and foster carbon sequestration. Japan has only taken strong action towards carbon sequestration via the implementation of the Carbon Recycling Action Plan and other policies and took partial action towards fostering sustainable production in agriculture. Japan took no action towards environmental protection and conservation nor any action to restore ecosystems.

Thus, Japan receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Muhammad Hamza Khan

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied by ensuring its policies encourage sustainable production, the protection and conservation of ecosystems, the regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon.

On 23 June 2021, the Environment Agency and Natural England launched updates to water abstraction licenses to 20 businesses operating in Ant Valley, a region of environmental importance.¹²²¹ Under these new regulations, businesses will have to source water sustainably rather than sourcing it from rivers, lakes or groundwater. Each year, the regulations are predicted to replace 3 billion liters of water, which will help bring water levels back to their original amount.

On 24 June 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Natural England declared two new Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Yorkshire Wolds and Cheshire Sandstone Ridge.¹²²² This development will allow these natural habitats to remain protected and will increase citizens' access to nature.

On 19 July 2021, the Environment Agency announced new guidelines for businesses that want to capture carbon dioxide from their combustion process, the goal of the new guidelines is 10Mt of carbon dioxide emissions a year by 2030.¹²²³ Under these new guidelines, these businesses will have to apply for an environmental permit, which will only be awarded to groups that meet requirements to protect the environment and local communities.

On 21 July 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs worked with local communities

¹²¹⁹ Press Release: Outcome of the Japan-ASEAN Summit Meeting on Environmental Cooperation, Ministry of the Environment Japan (Tokyo) 27 October 2021. Access Date: 26 November 2021. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2547.html>

¹²²⁰ G7 Agriculture Ministers' Communiqué - english, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/_International-Affairs/g7-2022-kommunique-en.pdf

¹²²¹ Habitats protected in Norfolk through stricter abstraction laws, Environment Agency (Bristol) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/habitats-protected-in-norfolk-through-stricter-abstraction-limits>

¹²²² Ambitious proposals to create and improve protected landscapes across England, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ambitious-proposals-to-create-and-improve-protected-landscapes-across-england>

¹²²³ Guidance published on new carbon capture technologies, Environment Agency (Bristol) 19 July 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/guidance-published-on-new-carbon-capture-technologies>

to create a plan to plant 500 hectares of trees by 2025.¹²²⁴ This initiative aims to increase biodiversity, restore habitats and bring local communities closer to nature.

On 21 July 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Forestry Commission created a GBP1 million fund to increase tree production in England.¹²²⁵ This fund will support nurseries to develop and adopt new technologies to increase the quantity of tree stock while increasing biodiversity of trees in England.

On 21 July 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Natural England, and the Environment Agency awarded GBP100,000 to each of 27 projects designed to capture carbon and improve water quality and biodiversity.¹²²⁶ Various organizations have also been given funding to set out on projects that will protect natural habitats.

On 22 July 2021, the UK government worked with water regulators including the Environment Agency to reform water policies.¹²²⁷ Changes include measuring water companies using an outcome rather than output-bases system, using nature-based solutions for water treatment to improve biodiversity, working with other entities like landowners and wildlife trusts so environmental improvements are more efficiently achieved and having water companies work more closely with the Environment Agency and Natural England.

On 27 July 2021, the Government of the United Kingdom agreed to provide KES20 billion in funds to Kenya to help the country achieve its green housing goals.¹²²⁸ UK funds are being awarded to projects to help forest restoration, green energy, and green cooling.

On 28 July 2021, the UK government plans to fund 90 projects with a total of GBP40 million through the Green Recovery Challenge Fund.¹²²⁹ The UK also announced an additional GBP550 million in new funding to help Kenya achieve their climate change objectives, including for projects that relate to forest restoration.

On 2 August 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office launched a new training package for the UK's Overseas Territories as part of the UK government's Blue Belt Programme.¹²³⁰ This training package includes easy-to-access modules designed to teach how to better manage and protect marine environments.

¹²²⁴ New Community Forest created in the North East to support a greener future, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-community-forest-created-in-the-north-east-to-support-a-greener-future>

¹²²⁵ Forestry Commission launches new Tree Production Innovation Fund, Forestry Commission (Bristol) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/forestry-commission-launches-new-tree-production-innovation-fund>

¹²²⁶ Boost to drive investment in Essex, Norfolk, and Lincolnshire environment, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-to-drive-investment-in-essex-norfolk-and-lincolnshire-environment>

¹²²⁷ Water Policy reforms to deliver ambitious environmental agenda, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/water-policy-reforms-to-deliver-ambitious-environmental-agenda>

¹²²⁸ UK Mobilises KES 20 billion investment into Kenya's Big Four projects, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-mobilises-kes-20-billion-investment-into-kenyas-big-four-projects>

¹²²⁹ Multi-million pound boost for green jobs and nature recovery, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-pound-boost-for-green-jobs-and-nature-recovery>

¹²³⁰ Blue Belt Programme launches Training Programme for UK Overseas Territories, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 8 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/blue-belt-programme-launches-training-programme-for-uk-overseas-territories>

On 2 August 2021, The UK government provided GBP17 million in funds to programs to help farmers prevent water pollution through free advice programs.¹²³¹ These programs are meant to teach green management and increase sustainable production in the agricultural sector.

On 4 August 2021, the Environment Agency announced that a project to invest GBP5.59 million to improve the environment across Yorkshire has succeeded.¹²³² Over 40 projects that received funding through the program managed to improve over 100 kilometers of rivers, restored and created 570 hectares of natural habitats, remove barriers to fish migration and planted 36,000 trees.

On 11 August 2021, the UK government awarded GBP1.4 million to Malaysia as part of the UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions program.¹²³³ Five projects are being funded through this program to help increase the capacity of Malaysia to achieve low-carbon energy and protect its natural habitats.

On 13 August 2021, the UK government provided the first GBP16.2 million as part of the Blue Planet Fund, which plans to eventually total GBP500 million in investment.¹²³⁴ These funds were awarded to projects designed to increase marine protection, minimize plastic pollution and halt damage to coral reefs.

On 18 August 2021, the Environment Agency launched the month-long Operation LUNGFISH to prevent illegal fishing, examples of prohibited activities include fishing without a license or using illegal traps.¹²³⁵ This will help to protect the environment and conserve species from the effects of overfishing which reap a detrimental impact on biodiversity and ecosystem health.

On 26 August 2021, the Environment Agency announced a plan to invest GBP9.5 million into a program to improve navigation infrastructure on the Thames River.¹²³⁶ Some improvements include plans to construct new fish passes that will help improve the natural habitats there.

On 27 August 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Natural England announced five new projects to restore thousands of hectares of England's peatlands.¹²³⁷ To achieve these projects, the UK government plans to invest over GBP50 million.

On 2 September 2021, the UK government provided GBP263 thousand in funds to the Pacific Community as part of an agreement to help Pacific Island Countries get rights over their ocean spaces.¹²³⁸ This

¹²³¹ Funding boost for farmers to tackle water pollution, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 8 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-for-farmers-to-tackle-water-pollution>

¹²³² Multi-million pound investment brings Yorkshire improvements, Environment Agency (Bristol) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 8 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-pound-investment-brings-yorkshire-improvements>

¹²³³ UK PACT backs low-carbon transition in Malaysia with £1.4 million in support, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 11 August 2021. Access Date: 8 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-pact-backs-low-carbon-transition-in-malaysia-with-14-million-in-support>

¹²³⁴ Government scales up support to protect the world's ocean with multimillion boost for marine recovery, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 8 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-scales-up-support-to-protect-the-worlds-ocean-with-multimillion-boost-for-marine-recovery>

¹²³⁵ Environment Agency delivers warning to illegal anglers with new enforcement campaign, Environment Agency (Bristol), 18 August 2021. Access Date: 8 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/environment-agency-delivers-warning-to-illegal-anglers-with-new-enforcement-campaign>

¹²³⁶ Bumper £9.5 million navigation investment for River Thames, Environment Agency (Bristol) 26 August 2021. Access Date: 8 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bumper-95-million-navigation-investment-for-river-thames>

¹²³⁷ Thousands of hectares of vital peatland to be restored to help tackle climate change and protect biodiversity, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 8 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-hectares-of-vital-peatland-to-be-restored-to-help-tackle-climate-change-and-protect-biodiversity>

¹²³⁸ UK supports Pacific Island progress on Extended Continental Shelf, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 2 September 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-supports-pacific-island-progress-on-extended-continental-shelf>

development aims to help the Pacific Community gain the ability to sustainably manage the environments within their ocean spaces.

On 10 September 2021, the Marine Management Organization announced a new plan, the Studland Bay Marine Conservation Zone Habitat Protection Strategy.¹²³⁹ This plan aims to protect the Marine Conservation Zone and its seagrass habitat through two main steps that will be implemented in December 2021 and June 2022. Both steps will implement a voluntary no-anchor zone in these waters to protect the marine ecosystems.

On 11 September 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs provided GBP24 million in funds to spur the creation of new technologies to promote the sustainability of the seafood industry.¹²⁴⁰ This initial round of funding is part of a GBP100 million investment project that has three pillars. The first pillar promotes the coordination of the seafood industry to work alongside scientists to encourage more sustainable fishing practices and gather data.

On 13 September 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced GBP2.5 million in funding to farmers and landowners as the sixth round of the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund.¹²⁴¹ This program provides funds to groups of farmers if they submit a detailed plan about how they plan to work together to protect and manage the local environment.

On 17 September 2021, the Environment Agency announced new restrictions on salmon fishing to combat a decline in migratory salmon numbers, which are currently below sustainable levels.¹²⁴² These new restrictions prohibit the catch of salmon in the Severn Estuary and River Severn and mandate all salmon to be released.

On 21 September 2021, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak launched the Green Gilt program, which is a 12-year government bond that is sold to help finance green projects in the UK.¹²⁴³ These projects aim to preserve natural habitats and finance clean transportation and green energy, on the day of its sale, the Green Gilt program raised GBP10 million.

On 22 September 2021, Natural England announced a plan to expand the National Nature Reserve, a partnership between multiple environmental organizations in England.¹²⁴⁴ The project will last 20 years and increase the quantity of land under protection and conservation measures.

On 22 September 2021, the UK funded GBP220 million to top-polluting industries to help facilitate a switch to green production.¹²⁴⁵ This funding targets new projects aimed to help increase capture carbon, reduce carbon emissions and recycle waste heat into electricity.

¹²³⁹ The MMO introduces the Studland Bay Marine Conservation Zone Habitat Protection Strategy, Marine Management Organisation (Newcastle) 10 September 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-mmo-introduces-the-studland-bay-marine-conservation-zone-habitat-protection-strategy>

¹²⁴⁰ £24 million for cutting-edge science and fisheries, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 11 September 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/24-million-for-cutting-edge-science-and-fisheries>

¹²⁴¹ New round of government fund for collaborative farming communities, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 13 September 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-round-of-government-fund-for-collaborative-farming-communities>

¹²⁴² New bylaws to be introduced in the Severn Estuary and River Severn, Environment Agency (Bristol) 17 September 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-byelaws-to-be-introduced-in-the-severn-estuary-and-river-severn>

¹²⁴³ UK's first Green Gilt raises £10 billion for green projects, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 21 September 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-first-green-gilt-raises-10-billion-for-green-projects>

¹²⁴⁴ Partners agree 20-year vision for Purbeck Heaths super NNR, Natural England (York) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/partners-agree-20-year-vision-for-purbeck-heaths-super-nnr>

¹²⁴⁵ £220 million to help big-emitting industries become cleaner and greener, Prime Minister's Office (London) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/220-million-to-help-big-emitting-industries-become-cleaner-and-greener>

On 22 September 2021, the UK government provided GBP100 million in funding to six biodiversity hotspots that are home to endangered species.¹²⁴⁶ This funding will be provided over a span of seven years, and money will be allocated to community-led projects. These projects aim to support sustainable agriculture and land management, restore natural habitats and allow local communities to self-manage their land.

On 25 September 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Agriculture and the Forestry Commission announced the new environmental project, The Woodlands for Water project.¹²⁴⁷ Through this project, 3,150 hectares of woodlands are planned to be created, and landowners can apply for funding from the England Woodland Creation Offer in order to plant and manage new trees.

On 1 October 2021, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Agriculture provided GBP 7.2 million to 17 different projects designed to combat illegal wildlife trade.¹²⁴⁸ These projects include efforts to protect endangered species such as pangolins, tigers, rosewood timber and elephants.

On 15 October 2021, the Environment Agency launched a new strategy to protect and restore England's chalk streams, which make up around 85 per cent of the world's total chalk streams.¹²⁴⁹ In England, chalk streams provide a vital habitat and a water source for the country.

On 18 October 2021, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced new guidelines for businesses to disclose their environmental impacts.¹²⁵⁰ These guidelines will encourage green investment and discourage unsustainable business practices.

On 28 October 2021, the UK created the Climate Services for a Net-Zero Resilient World (CS-N0W), which is a 4-year program with the backing of GBP5 million.¹²⁵¹ It aims to use the latest scientific knowledge to help inform UK climate policy and achieve the government's goals of net-zero emissions by 2050.

On 1 November 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson launched a major funding initiative for the UK's new Clean Green Initiative (CGI) at the COP26 conference.¹²⁵² The CGI aims to promote both public and private investment in green infrastructure worldwide. Over the next five years, the UK will provide over GBP3 billion in total to support green growth in developing countries, and GBP200 million of those funds will be used to create a new Climate Innovation Facility. This facility will work with the private sector to innovate in technologies that the private sector deems too risky to invest in alone.

¹²⁴⁶ Lifeline for some the world's most precious biodiverse habitats announced, Prime Minister's Office (London) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/lifeline-for-some-the-worlds-most-precious-biodiverse-habitats-announced>

¹²⁴⁷ Riverbanks and watercourses to be planted with new woodland, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 25 September 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/riverbanks-and-watercourses-to-be-planted-with-new-woodland>

¹²⁴⁸ UK commits additional £7.2 million to tackling illegal wildlife trade, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-commits-additional-72-million-to-tackling-illegal-wildlife-trade>

¹²⁴⁹ New strategy launched to protect chalk streams, Environment Agency (Bristol) 15 October 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-strategy-launched-to-protect-chalk-streams>

¹²⁵⁰ Chancellor sets new standards for environmental reporting to weed out greenwashing and support transition to a greener financial system, Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 18 October 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-sets-new-standards-for-environmental-reporting-to-weed-out-greenwashing-and-support-transition-to-a-greener-financial-system>

¹²⁵¹ Climate Services for a Net Zero resilient world (CS-N0W): overview, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 28 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/climate-services-for-a-net-zero-resilient-world/cs-n0w-overview>

¹²⁵² PM Launches New Initiative to Take Green Industrial Revolution Global, Prime Minister's Office (London) 1 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-new-initiative-to-take-green-industrial-revolution-global>

On 2 November 2021, the UK will provide GBP1.5 billion over the span of five years to support the Global Forest Finance Pledge (GFFP).¹²⁵³ The GFFP aims to tackle deforestation around the world, and 12 countries also pledged public funds to support the program.

On 2 November 2021, the UK government announced a plan to fund GBP50 million into the High Impact Partnership on Climate Change (HIPCA), which is a program launched by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development during the COP26 conference.¹²⁵⁴ The Partnership aims to support environmental protection and innovative solutions and investments that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The UK's funds are used to encourage the private sector to support work in the Middle East and Africa.

On 5 November 2021, the UK and Zambia signed the Green Growth Compact, which aims to create sustainable growth and jobs.¹²⁵⁵ The Compact will deliver billions of pounds for investment purposes, aim to double trade between the two countries, and channel millions of pounds of financial resources to smaller companies.

On 8 November 2021, the Environment Agency temporarily installed a flood barrier across the Newhaven Railway, which is the first of its kind in the UK.¹²⁵⁶ This scheme is part of the GBP17.5 million project to alleviate flooding in Newhaven.

On 8 November 2021, the UK government announced the GBP274 million program, Climate Action for a Resilient Asia (CARA), which aims to promote adaptation to climate changes for seven years.¹²⁵⁷ The program will work with the Met Office, the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, and the International Center for Integrated Mountain Development. CARA also will provide a Flexible Technical Assistance Fund, which aims to provide innovative programming in the Indo-Pacific Region.

On 9 November 2021, the UK Space Agency gave GBP11 million in funds to 11 UK organizations to develop new space technologies.¹²⁵⁸ The majority of the funded projects include initiatives related to climate change and environmental management. Such projects include a satellite to measure thermal emissions from Earth, a forestry and management tool to monitor trees' health from space, a satellite to measure the density of Earth's thermosphere, thermal telescopes to measure the energy efficiency of buildings, a satellite observation system to measure Earth's weather variability and a system to monitor emitters of greenhouse gasses.

¹²⁵³ \$12 Billion Donor Support to Halt and Reverse Loss and Protect Land Rights, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/12-billion-donor-support-to-halt-and-reverse-forest-loss-and-protect-land-rights>)

¹²⁵⁴ UK Announces Funding for Climate and the Environment in the Middle East and Africa, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London). 2 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-funding-for-climate-and-the-environment-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa>)

¹²⁵⁵ Green Growth Compact agreement between the UK and Zambia, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 5 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-growth-compact-agreement-between-the-uk-and-zambia>)

¹²⁵⁶ Newhaven flood barrier success, Environment Agency (Bristol) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/newhaven-flood-barrier-success>)

¹²⁵⁷ UK announces £274m boost to climate resilience across Indo-Pacific, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-274m-boost-to-climate-resilience-across-indo-pacific>)

¹²⁵⁸ Government backs ground-breaking space technology to tackle climate change, UK Space Agency (Swindon) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-ground-breaking-space-technology-to-tackle-climate-change>)

On 9 November 2021, the Government of the UK funded GBP210 million to small nuclear reactors in the UK along with private investment funds of GBP250 million.¹²⁵⁹ The government additionally provided GBP165 million in funds to promote gender diversity while combating climate change.¹²⁶⁰ The funds are divided into two initiatives. The first GBP45 million aims to help communities and local women's rights movements in Asia and the Pacific to promote gender inequality and adjust to the impacts of climate change. The second GBP120 million is to tackle pollution, protect biodiversity and promote green energy while supporting women's equality and leadership in Bangladesh.

On 10 November 2021, the UK government made the Environment Act law.¹²⁶¹ The Act aims to stop deforestation overseas, halt the extinction of species by 2030 and require new developments to create or preserve habitats. These environmental targets are legally binding and are to be enforced by the new and independent Office for Environmental Protection.

On 11 November 2021, the UK government launched the UK Urban Climate Action Programme to help reduce emissions in cities around the world, which currently release 40 per cent of the world's emissions.¹²⁶² The UK will fund GBP27.5 million in total to help cities in Asia, Africa and Latin America grow sustainably.

On 18 November 2021, the Environment Agency launched an investigation into sewage treatment works after water companies admitted that they could be releasing unauthorized discharge into bodies of water.¹²⁶³ The investigation involved 2000 sewage treatment works, and offending companies will be fined or prosecuted. The EA mandated that water companies install monitors so the frequency and duration of sewage spills can be displayed.

On 30 November 2021, the UK government announced a new roadmap to work with farmers in creating a path to sustainable, subsidy-free agriculture by 2028.¹²⁶⁴ Measures in this plan aim to recover habitats and create new woodlands, eradicate endemic diseases in livestock, reduce yearly Direct Payments and reallocate the money for new grants, create a Farming Investment Fund to provide farmers with new technology and infrastructure and simplify the agriculture regulatory system.

On 3 December 2021, the Environment Agency, the Norfolk Rivers Trust and the Norfolk City Council constructed a new wetland.¹²⁶⁵ Constructing new wetlands will improve the quality of water entering rivers and to create a safe habitat for native plants and fish.

On 7 December 2021, the UK government provided GBP116 million to invest in businesses developing projects to capture carbon emissions and atmospheric greenhouse gasses.¹²⁶⁶ Projects to use captured carbon to create energy are also funded.

¹²⁵⁹ UK backs new small nuclear technology with £210 million, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (London) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-backs-new-small-nuclear-technology-with-210-million>

¹²⁶⁰ UK boost to advance gender equality in climate action, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-boost-to-advance-gender-equality-in-climate-action>

¹²⁶¹ World-leading Environment Act becomes law, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law>

¹²⁶² UK funding to support developing cities and regions transition to net zero by 2050, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (London) 11 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-funding-to-support-developing-cities-and-regions-transition-to-net-zero-by-2050>

¹²⁶³ Water companies could face legal action after investigation launched into sewage treatment works, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London). 18 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/water-companies-could-face-legal-action-after-investigation-launched-into-sewage-treatment-works>

¹²⁶⁴ Government unveils path to sustainable farming from 2021, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 20 November 2020. Access Date: 5 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-path-to-sustainable-farming-from-2021>

¹²⁶⁵ New wetland habitats created in Norfolk, Environment Agency (Bristol) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 5 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-wetland-habitats-created-in-norfolk>

On 15 December 2021, the Forestry Commission issued new regulations to help limit the propagation of an insect harmful to trees, the European spruce bark beetle.¹²⁶⁷ Under new requirements, landowners are supposed to look out for suspected trees, ensure that prohibitions to forbid unauthorized and suspect material are implemented and make sure that members of the forestry industry notify the Forestry Commission before any susceptible spruce trees are felled.

On 20 December 2021, the Environment Agency worked with the Wild Trout Trust to remove a flood bank in Manthorpe to create a new environment for native species.¹²⁶⁸ Not only can the restoration of England's wetlands encourage biodiversity, but wetland plants can also sequester carbon.

On 6 January 2021, the UK government announced a new plan to pay farmers and landowners if they take steps to preserve, improve and create natural habitats.¹²⁶⁹ Such actions include planting trees or creating woodlands and wetlands. These plans are set to have the effects of increasing natural habitats by 10,000 hectares, saving carbon and helping to protect about half of England's most threatened species.

On 12 January 2022, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy created a new program to support hydrogen created by BECCS, which refers to bioenergy with carbon sequestration.¹²⁷⁰ This program, worth GBP5 million, will be given to bidders, which are applicants from research groups, universities and businesses.

On 14 January 2022, the Forestry Commission outlined new initiatives to help private citizens and landowners to manage the Oak Processionary Moth (OPM), which is a pest that can cause irritation in humans and animals.¹²⁷¹ An Established Area will be expanded to cover most of the infected areas, and landowners in this region will be given financial support to manage the pest. An Extended Buffer Zone, which will cover remaining land, will track and control the pest as well. In addition, the government will provide information and guidance to local authorities and the public.

On 20 January 2022, the Forestry Commission and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs started to combat the spread of a fungus-like tree pathogen.¹²⁷² A new demarcation zone has been established to limit the spread of the disease, and the government is conducting further research to gain more insight on the pathogen and its spread.

On 20 January 2022, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs announced upcoming legislation changes to grant greater powers to plant gene-editing research.¹²⁷³ It is hoped that genetic

¹²⁶⁶ Government invests over £116 million to drive forward green innovation in the UK, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (London) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 5 January 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-over-116-million-to-drive-forward-green-innovation-in-the-uk>

¹²⁶⁷ Forestry Commission introduces new controls on bark beetle tree pest, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/forestry-commission-introduces-new-controls-on-bark-beetle-tree-pest>

¹²⁶⁸ Restored floodplain habitat helps rare/endangered species thrive, Environment Agency (Bristol) 20 December 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restored-floodplain-habitat-helps-rare-endangered-species-thrive>

¹²⁶⁹ Government unveils plans to restore 300,000 hectares of habitat across England, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 6 January 2022. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-to-restore-300000-hectares-of-habitat-across-england>

¹²⁷⁰ Government launches new scheme for technologies producing hydrogen from biomass, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (London) 12 January 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-scheme-for-technologies-producing-hydrogen-from-biomass>

¹²⁷¹ Forestry Commission strengthens support to manage oak tree pest, Forestry Commission (Bristol) 14 January 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/forestry-commission-strengthens-support-to-manage-oak-tree-pest>

¹²⁷² Forestry Commission strengthens support to manage oak tree pest, Forestry Commission (Bristol) 14 January 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/forestry-commission-strengthens-support-to-manage-oak-tree-pest>

¹²⁷³ New powers granted to research gene editing in plants, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 20 January 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-powers-granted-to-research-gene-editing-in-plants>

modification may be able to protect crops against climate change and limit the use of pesticides, which can harm pollinators.

On 22 January 2022, the UK government launched new proposals to reform the waste industry to crack down on illegal waste disposal, which can greatly harm the environment.¹²⁷⁴ Firms that manage waste will be subject to greater background checks, and government regulators will have more power against rogue waste management operators.

On 24 January 2022, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced the start of applications for the Chair of the England Species Reintroduction Task Force.¹²⁷⁵ This new task force will assist the UK government in complying with its goals outlined in the 25 Year Environmental Plan, and the group will provide independent advice to the government.

On 25 January 2022, the UK Hydrographic Office collaborated with Geovation to create a challenge that will award GBP5 thousand to winners that provide a sustainable solution against diffuse coastal pollution.¹²⁷⁶ This specific form of pollution mainly occurs due to agricultural runoff and poor sewage systems, and it can greatly harm coastal environments. Geovation will allow applicants to access its data to create their solutions, and the Hydrographic Office also allows similar access to its own data.

On 26 January 2022, Natural England created three new projects worth a total of GBP11 million in order to support critical environmental regions along the Scottish borders, Cumbria, and South Yorkshire.¹²⁷⁷ The work to be completed by these projects include water quality improvement, habitat restoration and protecting critical species like the freshwater pearl mussel.

On 27 January 2022, the Minister for Pacific and the Environment Rt Hon Lord Goldsmith announced that the UK will invest GBP2 million to fund marine experts to help environmental protection efforts in the Eastern Tropical Marine Corridor, which includes the waters of nations like Panama and Ecuador.¹²⁷⁸

On 10 February 2022, the UK Hydrographic Office started to survey ocean beds off the coast of Belize in order to create accurate ocean maps at no environmental cost.¹²⁷⁹ The data from these surveys will be sent to the government of Belize so coastal and marine protection efforts can be improved.

On 10 February 2022, the Environment Agency launched an information hub for litter pickers called the Solent Forum.¹²⁸⁰ This forum allows for ease in sharing and finding information about equipment, local events, recycling or disposal and other related information.

¹²⁷⁴ New powers granted to research gene editing in plants, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 20 January 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-powers-granted-to-research-gene-editing-in-plants>

¹²⁷⁵ Applications for the Chair of the England Species Reintroduction Task Force opens, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 24 January 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/applications-for-the-chair-of-the-england-species-reintroduction-task-force-opens--2>

¹²⁷⁶ Geovation launches environmental challenge to tackle coastal pollution, UK Hydrographic Office (Taunton) 25 January 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/geovation-launches-environmental-challenge-to-tackle-coastal-pollution>

¹²⁷⁷ Three new £11 million Natural England LIFE projects launched, Natural England (York) 26 January 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/three-new-11-million-natural-england-life-projects-launched>

¹²⁷⁸ UK supports international efforts to protect over 500,000 km of ocean with £2M investment, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 27 January 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-supports-international-efforts-to-protect-over-500000-km-of-ocean-with-2m-investment>

¹²⁷⁹ UKHO supports maritime trade and economic growth in Belize, UK Hydrographic Office (Taunton) 10 February 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukho-supports-maritime-trade-and-economic-growth-in-belize>

¹²⁸⁰ Solent plastic pollution hub launched for Hampshire litter pickers, Environment Agency (Bristol) 10 February 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/solent-plastic-pollution-hub-launched-for-hampshire-litter-pickers>

On 18 February 2022, the Scottish government announced that eight projects will receive GBP1.4 million.¹²⁸¹ These projects are designed to further research on and support marine populations, like initiatives to use artificial light to influence fish behavior.

On 2 March 2022, the UK government created progress on negotiations on a UN treaty to combat plastic pollution.¹²⁸² The UK hopes that the treaty will also include regulations against marine plastic pollution in its terms, and the UK offered support to create an intergovernmental Science Policy Panel and scale up nature-based solutions to pollution.

On 8 March 2022, the Environment Agency planted over 7,000 shrubs at three different locations near Essex for the purpose of carbon storage and capture.¹²⁸³ The hedges are also expected to promote biodiversity and provide habitats for local species.

On 8 March 2022, the Forestry Commission and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs reopened two funds—the Woods into Management Forestry Innovation Funds and the Tree Production Innovation Fund—designed to protect trees.¹²⁸⁴ GBP4.5 million will be granted to projects aimed to boost tree health and biodiversity.

On 9 March 2022, the Environment Agency’s updates to the water charging regulations were approved by the federal government.¹²⁸⁵ These changes are aimed to preserve the water supply in England, which could be below sustainable levels in the near future. Updates include people and firms that abstract a lot of water will now be required to pay more for access to water. The income generated from this price increase, about GBP25 million, will be used to further protect the water supply and solve other economic challenges.¹²⁸⁶

On 9 March 2022, the Environment Agency and Natural England announced charges against the landowner of a protected area of the River Lugg for ecological damage to the region, including changing the shape of the riverbanks.¹²⁸⁷

On 9 March 2022, the Environment Agency started a project to create new homes for water voles in Bishops Stortford.¹²⁸⁸ The project includes building “coir rolls,” which are cylindrical homes made from sustainable coconut husk, along riverbanks. These coir rolls will also provide protection against erosion to the riverbanks.

¹²⁸¹ £1.4m for projects supporting sustainable fishing and fisheries science across the UK, Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland (Edinburgh) 18 February 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/14m-for-projects-supporting-sustainable-fishing-and-fisheries-science-across-the-uk>

¹²⁸² UK backs ambitious global action to tackle plastic pollution, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-backs-ambitious-global-action-to-tackle-plastic-pollution>

¹²⁸³ More than 7,000 shrubs planted to combat climate change in Essex, Environment Agency (Bristol) 8 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-7000-shrubs-planted-to-combat-climate-change-in-essex>

¹²⁸⁴ Tree resilience efforts boosted as funds to improve forestry innovation reopen, Forestry Commission (Bristol) 8 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tree-resilience-efforts-boosted-as-funds-to-improve-forestry-innovation-reopen>

¹²⁸⁵ Changes to Environment Agency’s abstraction charges to safeguard water supplies for people and wildlife, Environment Agency (Bristol) 9 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-environment-agencys-abstraction-charges-to-safeguard-water-supplies-for-people-and-wildlife>

¹²⁸⁶ Changes to Environment Agency’s abstraction charges to safeguard water supplies for people and wildlife, Environment Agency (Bristol) 9 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-environment-agencys-abstraction-charges-to-safeguard-water-supplies-for-people-and-wildlife>

¹²⁸⁷ Natural England and Environment Agency launch joint legal action in response to River Lugg damage, Environment Agency (Bristol) 9 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/natural-england-and-environment-agency-launch-joint-legal-action-in-response-to-river-lugg-damage>

¹²⁸⁸ Making Bishops Stortford a home for ‘Ratty’, Environment Agency (Bristol) 8 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/making-bishops-stortford-a-home-for-ratty>

On 11 March 2022, the Environment Agency renewed restrictions on salmon fishing on the River Wye mandating that all salmon and river trout caught using rods and lines must be released.¹²⁸⁹ These restrictions are currently set to end on 17 October 2022.

On 15 March 2022, Natural England announced that 20,000 seagrass bags will be planted to restore Solent, which is one of many seagrass meadows that have been depleted due to human activity.¹²⁹⁰ Natural England will also ensure that human activity in existing seagrass meadows will be regulated.

On 15 March 2022, the Forestry Commission launched a new program to provide long-term income to farmers in exchange for creating and protecting new woodlands.¹²⁹¹ An application will open for farmers and land managers to enter an auction where bidders may be given the option to sell Woodland Carbon Units, which are protected against inflation. Woodland Carbon Units represent the value of a ton of stored carbon.

On 28 March 2022, the COP26 Ambassador to the Middle East and Africa, Janet Rogan, declared the UK's new GBP5 million fund to recreate the Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER) in the Middle East and North Africa.¹²⁹² Initially, WISER was a successful program implemented in Africa. The WISER program delivered weather and climate information to national, regional and local governments in order to better inform environmental and climate policies.

On 29 March 2022, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced the start of a public dialogue program for the upcoming third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3).¹²⁹³ The aim of this public dialogue is for the government to understand various perspectives on how climate policy should be created and implemented. Furthermore, the discussions will help the public be more informed about climate policies.

On 31 March 2022, the UK government announced new limits for water companies to adhere to in regards to the use of storm sewage and discharge, which can harm the environment and public health.¹²⁹⁴ The goal of these limits is to decrease the amount of discharges by 70 per cent by 2035. On the same date, the government released data on a complement policy.¹²⁹⁵ This policy installed monitoring devices on storm overflows, and this data was used to determine that water companies discharged stormwater far too often.

On 11 April 2022, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs launched a new crackdown on fly-tipping or illegal dumping, which can harm public health and the environment.¹²⁹⁶ While authorities will be

¹²⁸⁹ New byelaws on the River Wye to help improve at-risk salmon stocks, Environment Agency (Bristol) 11 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-byelaws-on-the-river-wye-to-help-improve-at-risk-salmon-stocks>

¹²⁹⁰ Solent's underwater meadows get a boost, Natural England (York) 15 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/solents-underwater-meadows-get-a-boost>

¹²⁹¹ £10 million to provide long-term income for woodland creation with fifth auction of Woodland Carbon Guarantee, Forestry Commission (Bristol) 15 March 2022. Access Date: 21 March 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-to-provide-long-term-income-for-woodland-creation-with-fifth-auction-of-woodland-carbon-guarantee>

¹²⁹² UK announces £5 million funding to expand the Met Office's Weather and Climate Information Services Activity in the MENA region, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 28 March 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-5-million-funding-to-expand-the-met-offices-weather-and-climate-information-services-activity-in-the-mena-region>

¹²⁹³ Public workshops to help develop the third National Adaptation Programme, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 29 March 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-workshops-to-help-develop-the-third-national-adaptation-programme>

¹²⁹⁴ Largest overhaul sewer system to tackle storm discharges, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 31 March 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/largest-overhaul-of-sewer-system-to-tackle-storm-sewage-discharges>

¹²⁹⁵ Improved monitoring of sewage spills to drive enhanced environmental protection and enforcement, Environment Agency (Bristol) 31 March 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/improved-monitoring-of-sewage-spills-to-drive-enhanced-environmental-protection-and-enforcement>

¹²⁹⁶ Government announces new crackdown on fly tipping, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 11 April 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-new-crackdown-on-fly-tipping>

granted with new resources to monitor and combat illegal dumping, the government also decided to remove the payments households have to make to dispose of DIY waste.

On 13 April 2022, the Marine Management Organization declared new fishing laws—which will start being enforced in two months— in four Marine Protected Areas.¹²⁹⁷ The laws will ban bottom-towed gear in some areas and even static gear like nets or lines in other areas. The aim of these laws are to protect rare habitats and species like deep water coral and sand eels.

On 14 April 2022, the Environment Agency announced a continuation of its partnership with the organization Wild Trout Trust.¹²⁹⁸ The program will connect with anglers, landowners and other stakeholders to advise and deliver new environmental projects and support local conservation efforts. The Environment Agency hopes to continue improving river habitats and conservation efforts for the trout.

On 19 April 2022, the Environment Agency finished creating a new 11-hectare intertidal habitat in Calstock.¹²⁹⁹ Not only does the new habitat limit flooding risk to the surrounding community, it also offers a home for many diverse animal species, and birds and other species have already been seen in the habitat.

On 20 April 2022, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced new requirements for applicants of tree planting grants.¹³⁰⁰ These applicants are not required to source their trees from accredited suppliers in order to maintain a healthy and pest-free bioculture. The health of trees will limit loss to the treescape and promote the protection of the environment.

On 14 May 2022 the G7 Agriculture Ministers gathered in Stuttgart, Germany to address global challenges that the agriculture sector has been facing today. In this meeting, which was a part of the leadup to the G7 Elmau Summit, the leaders discussed how agricultural policies could be adapted to fulfil sustainable development goals.¹³⁰¹

On 31 May 2022, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced GBP20 million in funding for projects that develop Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage technologies and processes.¹³⁰²

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to ensuring its policies encourage sustainable production, the protection and conservation of ecosystems, the regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon. The United Kingdom continually provided funding to green initiatives and efforts to preserve nature, especially those in developing countries with less resources. The UK imposed binding legal restrictions and has conducted investigations on possible offenders to environmental laws. The United Kingdom also advanced the implementation of carbon sequestration initiatives and worked to restore degraded ecosystems.

¹²⁹⁷ Government uses Brexit freedoms to protect our seas, Marine Management Organization (Newcastle) 13 April 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-uses-brexit-freedoms-to-protect-our-seas>

¹²⁹⁸ Wild trout stocks set for further boost as Environment Agency and Wild Trout Trust partnership is renewed, Environment Agency (Bristol) 14 April 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wild-trout-stocks-set-for-further-boost-as-environment-agency-and-wild-trout-trust-partnership-is-renewed>

¹²⁹⁹ Building Calstock's resilience to climate change, Environment Agency (Bristol) 19 April 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/building-calstock-s-resilience-to-climate-change>

¹³⁰⁰ New pilot requirement for free suppliers announced to strengthen UK biosecurity, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 20 April 2022. Access Date: 25 April 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-pilot-requirement-for-tree-suppliers-announced-to-strengthen-uk-biosecurity>

¹³⁰¹ G7 Agriculture Ministers' Communiqué - english, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/_International-Affairs/g7-2022-kommunique-en.pdf

¹³⁰² Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS) Innovation 2.0 competition: call 2, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 31 May 2022. Access Date: 11 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/carbon-capture-usage-and-storage-ccus-innovation-20-competition-call-2>

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Erin Mulaşımoglu

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied by ensuring its policies encourage sustainable production, the protection and conservation of ecosystems, the regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon.

On 30 June 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau to expand joint activities aimed at reaching the goal of supporting sustainable farms in the region.¹³⁰³ The MOU expands the “communication, education and outreach” and promotion of sustainable agricultural training in order to foster better environmental maintenance. This will help the agriculture sectors of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas become more sustainable and environmentally conscious.

On 30 June 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that they are awarding the Kansas Department of Health and Environment USD750,000 in funding as a part of the Farmer to Farmer grant program.¹³⁰⁴ The purpose of the funding is to improve “water quality, habitat, resilience” and the exchange of information between people in the AFLU sector to increase environmental protection. Additionally, this will help to advance sustainable agricultural practices and protect the surrounding ecosystems from degradation and water pollution.

On 1 July 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that USD997,383 will be provided to the Sand County Foundation as a “Farmer to Farmer” grant.¹³⁰⁵ The funding will be used to finance efforts from farmers to improve “water quality, habitat and resilience.” This will help to restore and protect ecosystem health.

On 23 September 2021, the US Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and the US Agency for International Development Administrator Samantha Power announced a planned multi-year investment of more than USD10 billion at the 23 September United Nations Food Systems Summit.¹³⁰⁶ This investment will promote food systems transformation through innovation and climate-smart agriculture, improved infrastructure for food access and inclusive market opportunities, programs prioritizing women’s and children’s needs, improving nutrition, reducing food loss and waste and climate change mitigation and adaptation within the US and worldwide. USD 5 billion will be invested in strengthening food systems in the US, while USD 5 billion would contribute to Feed the Future (the US government’s global hunger and food security initiative) over five years.

On 7 October 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency announced that they are granting USD498,673 to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to “enhance its wetlands program for

¹³⁰³ EPA, New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau Sign Pact to Expand Support for Sustainable Farming, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 30 June 2021. Date Accessed: 4 August 2021. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-new-mexico-farm-livestock-bureau-sign-pact-expand-support-sustainable-farming>.

¹³⁰⁴ EPA Awards \$750,000 to KDHE for Farm-Focused Project to Improve Water Quality, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 30 June 2021. Date Accessed: 4 August 2021. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-750000-kdhe-farm-focused-project-improve-water-quality>.

¹³⁰⁵ EPA Awards Nearly \$1 Million to Help Farmers in Wisconsin, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 5 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-nearly-1-million-help-farmers-wisconsin>

¹³⁰⁶ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Commit to End Hunger and Malnutrition and Build Sustainable Resilient Food Systems, The White House (Washington D.C.) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 30 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/09/23/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-commit-to-end-hunger-and-malnutrition-and-build-sustainable-resilient-food-systems/>

state parks and forests.”¹³⁰⁷ This will help to increase the quality of water and protect natural resources in addition to restoring damage ecosystems.

On 12 October 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency granted USD292,324 in federal grant funding to the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.¹³⁰⁸ This money will fund a project to “better understand the impact of climate change on wetlands restoration” for communities in Virginia and help to determine what can be done to better protect these ecosystems.

On 2 November 2021, President Joe Biden announced the US Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan to push the US clean energy economy forward and create good-paying jobs.¹³⁰⁹ This plan aimed to reduce oil and gas industry methane emissions, landfill methane emissions, emissions by plugging oil and gas wells and remediating abandoned mines and agricultural methane emissions.

On 3 November 2021, the European Union Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski released a joint press statement with United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack that created a new transatlantic platform on agriculture intended to tackle the global challenges of climate change and foster sustainability.¹³¹⁰ They promised to continue exchanging information with each other and collaborating on climate-smart solutions that can help agricultural producers, consumers and businesses moving forward. The agreement marks another step towards seeking sustainable production options in agriculture.

On 6 December 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency in coordination with other government officials announced that USD2.8 million will be provided to state and local government, nonprofits groups and community groups to “improve the health and ecosystem of Long Island Sound” in Connecticut and Vermont.¹³¹¹ This funding will aid efforts to protect these ecosystems and restore them to full health.

On 14 December 2021, France and the United States held the first meeting of the United States-France Bilateral Clean Energy Partnership in which they supported the goals of the 26th United Nations Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP-26) to “accelerate the global transition to net zero and through, among other approaches and activities.”¹³¹² Some of the key areas covered by the partnership include nuclear energy, scientific research and development, clean energy technology development and deployment and responsible and sustainable clean energy supply chains. This meeting saw extensive discussion on clean energy policies and carbon sequestration. Both countries have stated their commitment to leveraging technological innovation and its market deployment to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050, and the next meeting of the United States-France Bilateral Clean Energy Partnership is scheduled for Washington D.C. in 2022.

¹³⁰⁷ EPA awards nearly \$500K to Pennsylvania to enhance wetlands on state parks, forests, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access date: 5 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-nearly-500k-pennsylvania-enhance-wetlands-state-parks-forests>

¹³⁰⁸ EPA awards \$292,324 to Virginia Institute of Marine Science to examine how climate change impacts wetlands, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 12 October 2021. Access Date: 5 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-292324-virginia-institute-marine-science-examine-how-climate-change-impacts>

¹³⁰⁹ Fact Sheet: President Biden Tackles Methane Emissions, Spurs Innovations, and Supports Sustainable Agriculture to Build a Clean Energy Economy and Create Jobs, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 30 December 2021. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/11/02/fact-sheet-president-biden-tackles-methane-emissions-spurs-innovations-and-supports-sustainable-agriculture-to-build-a-clean-energy-economy-and-create-jobs/>

¹³¹⁰ EU-US joint press statement, European Commission (Brussels) 3 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-us-joint-press-statement-2021-nov-03_en

¹³¹¹ \$2.8 Million in Grants Awarded to Improve the Health of Long Island Sound, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 6 December 2021. Access Date: 5 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/28-million-grants-awarded-improve-health-long-island-sound>

¹³¹² Joint Statement Issued by the United States and France Following the First Meeting of the United States-France Bilateral Clean Energy Partnership, Ministry for the Ecological Transition (Paris) 17 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/declaration-conjointe-emise-etats-unis-et-france-suite-premiere-reunion-du-partenariat-bilateral>

On 16 December 2021, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Tanya Trujillo announced actions that would advance the Department of the Interior's efforts to mitigate the impacts of drought and assist the public, Tribes and adjoining communities through investments with partners in the Colorado River Basin during the Colorado River Water Users Association's annual conference.¹³¹³ The Interior Department officials signed important water conservation agreements with the Colorado River Indian Tribes and the Gila River Indian Community to supplement the USD 200 million investments aimed at reducing the risk of Lake Mead falling to critically low elevations over the next two years.

On 17 December 2021, the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency announced the establishment of a new Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.¹³¹⁴ This commission would fulfill a key provision of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law by recommending federal policies and strategies to prevent, mitigate, suppress and manage wildland fires and the rehabilitation of land affected from wildland fires more effectively.

On 20 December 2021, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it would re-engage a Federal Advisory Committee, which would provide recommendations to the US Departments of the Interior and Agriculture to help advance wildlife and habitat conservation and to preserve the nation's hunting heritage.¹³¹⁵ The Council would focus on policies that benefit wildlife resources; encourage partnership among the public, sporting conservation organizations, and federal, state, Tribal, and territorial governments and benefit fair chase recreational hunting and safe recreational shooting sports.

On 10 January 2022, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources Conservation Service announced several new opportunities for climate smart agriculture in 2022.¹³¹⁶ The goal of this initiative is to support and expand the adaptation of the conservation approach to address the issue of climate change and conserve natural resources.

On 19 January 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that it will invest more than USD14 billion in the fiscal year 2022 for over 500 projects across 52 states and territories to increase climate resilience and make long-overdue improvements at ports and waterways, as well as additional funds through supplemental appropriations to help impacted states and Tribes recover and become more resilient to natural disasters.¹³¹⁷

On 31 January 2022, the Department of Interior announced USD1.15 billion for states to clean up orphaned oil and gas wells for the reduction of methane emissions.¹³¹⁸ This is in line with the Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan to tackle methane emissions and support a clean energy economy.

¹³¹³ Assistant Secretary Tanya Trujillo Outlines Drought Mitigation Initiatives During Annual Colorado River Basin Conference, US Department of the Interior (Washington D.C.) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 30 December 2021. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/assistant-secretary-tanya-trujillo-outlines-drought-mitigation-initiatives-colorado-river-basin-conference>

¹³¹⁴ Departments of the Interior, Agriculture and Homeland Security Jointly Establish New Wildland Fire mitigation and Management Commission, US Department of the Interior (Washington D.C.) 17 December 2021. Access Date: 30 December 2021.

¹³¹⁵ Biden-Harris Administration Establishes Committee to Support Wildlife Conservation and Recreation Opportunities, US Department of the Interior (Washington D.C.) 20 December 2021. Access Date: 30 December 2021.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-establishes-committee-support-wildlife-conservation-and>

¹³¹⁶ USDA Offers Expanded Conservation Program Opportunities to Support Climate Smart Agriculture in 2022, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 10 January 2022. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2022/01/10/usda-offers-expanded-conservation-program-opportunities-support>

¹³¹⁷ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Announces Historic Investment to America's Port and Waterways Infrastructure, The White House (Washington D.C.) 19 January 2022. Access Date: 28 March 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/01/19/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-historic-investment-to-americas-port-and-waterway-infrastructure/>

¹³¹⁸ Fact Sheet: Biden Administration Tackles Super-Polluting Methane Emissions, The White House (Washington D.C.) 31 January 2022. Access Date: 28 March 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/01/31/fact-sheet-biden-administration-tackles-super-polluting-methane-emissions/>

On 15 February 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration announced new actions across agencies to support American leadership on clean manufacturing.¹³¹⁹ The Department of Energy is launching major clean hydrogen initiatives of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including USD8 billion for Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs; USD1 billion for a Clean Hydrogen Electrolysis Program; USD500 million for Clean Hydrogen Manufacturing and Recycling Initiatives. The Council on Environmental Quality and White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy are establishing the first-ever Buy Clean Task Force. The Administration is advancing carbon-based policies to reward American manufacturers of clean steel and aluminum. The Council on Environmental Quality is issuing new guidance on responsible deployment of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration (CCUS) technologies that can reduce emissions from heavy industry and help us achieve a net-zero economy. The White House Office of Science and Technology is launching a new Initiative for Interdisciplinary Industrial Decarbonization Research with a focus on benefiting American workers and communities.

On 28 February 2022, the White House highlighted achievements made by the Biden-Harris Administration relating to Clean Energy Manufacturing.¹³²⁰ During the first two months of 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration announced actions from seven agencies on clean energy deployment; launched the Building Performance Standards Coalition with more than 30 state and local governments to reduce emissions; built on the Methane Emissions Reduction Action Plan by announcing an initial USD1.15 billion to clean up orphaned oil and gas wells, USD725 million to reclaim abandoned mine lands; advanced America's electric vehicle future by announcing new manufacturing facilities for the industry; convened a roundtable of electric utility CEOs to discuss their support for Congressional investments in clean energy; took major steps to reduce industrial emissions and advance clean manufacturing, including clean hydrogen investments; released the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool for public feedback; announced major investments to secure the Supply Chain for a Robust Clean Energy Transition; and held a record-shattering offshore wind auction in the New York Bight with winning bids for six lease areas to totaling USD4.37 billion.

On 15 March 2022, the Biden-Harris Administration announced that it is developing a bold decadal vision to accelerate fusion, which is a clean energy technology that uses the same reaction that powers the Sun and stars.¹³²¹ The Administration will hold a White House Fusion Summit on 17 March 2022 to convene a broad group of stakeholders to initiate discussions exploring the promise of the technology and its challenges. The US Department of Energy will launch an agency-wide initiative to develop a decadal strategy to accelerate the viability of commercial fusion energy in partnership with the private sector.

On 22 April 2022, President Biden signed an Executive Order to tackle the climate crisis through reduction of emissions and, also combating global deforestation.¹³²²

¹³¹⁹ Fact Sheet: Biden-Harris Administration Advances Cleaner Industrial Sector to Reduce Emissions and Reinvigorate American Manufacturing, The White House (Washington D.C.) 15 February 2022. Access Date: 28 March 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/15/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-advances-cleaner-industrial-sector-to-reduce-emissions-and-reinvigorate-american-manufacturing/>

¹³²⁰ Fact Sheet: President Biden to Highlight Clean Energy Manufacturing and Deployment investments that Cut Consumer Costs, Strengthen US Energy Sector, and Create Good-Paying Jobs, The White House (Washington D.C.) 28 February 2022. Access Date: 27 March 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/02/28/fact-sheet-president-biden-to-highlight-clean-energy-manufacturing-and-deployment-investments-that-cut-consumer-costs-strengthen-u-s-energy-sector-and-create-good-paying-jobs/>

¹³²¹ Fact Sheet: Developing a Bold Vision for Commercial Fusion Energy, The White House (Washington D.C.) 15 March 2022. Access Date: 28 March 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/03/15/fact-sheet-developing-a-bold-vision-for-commercial-fusion-energy/>

¹³²² Fact Sheet: President Biden Signs Executive Order to Strengthen America's Forests, Boost Wildfire Resilience, and Combat Global Deforestation, The White House (Washington D.C.) 22 April 2022. Access Date: 9 May 2022. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-signs-executive-order-to-strengthen-americas-forests-boost-wildfire-resilience-and-combat-global-deforestation/>

On 14 May 2022 the G7 Agriculture Ministers gathered in Stuttgart, Germany to address global challenges that the agriculture sector has been facing today. In this meeting, which was a part of the leadup to the G7 Elmau Summit, the leaders discussed how agricultural policies could be adapted to fulfil sustainable development goals.¹³²³

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to ensure sustainable production in agriculture, the protection and conservation of ecosystems, the restoration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon. The US has done this by funding restoration and conservation initiatives for vulnerable ecosystems, encouraging the adoption of sustainable agricultural production through new initiatives and policies and by investing in carbon capture.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

Analysts: Xiyuan Chen and Aida Zarghami

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied by ensuring its policies encourage sustainable production, the protection and conservation of ecosystems, the regeneration of ecosystems and the sequestration of carbon.

On 21 June 2021, the European Commission announced that it is increasing preparations for the 2021 forest fire season to help protect and conserve Europe's forests which is home to large amounts of integral biodiversity.¹³²⁴ The preparations include setting up large fleets of firefighting planes and helicopters and issuing guidelines to EU members on how to prevent wildfires from spreading. This early action will help increase the resilience of forests and help limit the damage that wildfires wreak on the ecosystems and biodiversity.

On 25 June 2021, the European Parliament and Council reached a provisional political agreement on the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to introduce a "fairer, greener, more animal friendly and flexible CAP."¹³²⁵ The new policy will help the agriculture, forestry and land use sectors transition to be more sustainable and environmentally mindful. There are also stipulations in the policy that ensure that farms dedicate "at least 3 per cent of arable land" to biodiversity and guarantees that "all wetlands and peatlands will be protected."

On 30 June 2021, the European Commission introduced a "Long-Term vision for the EU's rural areas" which includes proposals for a Rural Pact and a Rural Action Plan to make rural and farm areas more resilient.¹³²⁶ The purpose of the plans is to foster sustainable production and facilitate a green transition for the agriculture, farming and forestry sectors. Examples of climate focused initiatives in the plan include calls to preserve resources and green "farming activities to counter climate change."

On 5 July 2021, the European Commission launched the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices as a part of the existing Farm to Fork Strategy that aims to increase sustainable and healthy food options and reduce the environmental impact of the agricultural sector.¹³²⁷ Some

¹³²³ G7 Agriculture Ministers' Communiqué - english, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/_International-Affairs/g7-2022-kommunique-en.pdf

¹³²⁴ Forest fires: European Commission is stepping up its preparations for the forest fire season 2021, European Commission (Brussels) 21 June 2021. Date Accessed: 4 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3093.

¹³²⁵ Political agreement on new Common Agricultural Policy; fairer, greener, more flexible, European Commission (Brussels) 25 June 2021. Date Accessed: 4 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2711.

¹³²⁶ Long-term vision for rural areas: for stronger, connected, resilient, prosperous EU rural areas, European Commission (Brussels) 30 June 2021. Date Accessed: 4 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3162.

¹³²⁷ Farm to Fork Strategy: 65 companies and associations sign the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices, European Commission (Brussels) 5 July 2021. Date Accessed: 4 August 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3385.

aspects of the new strategy include improving sustainable production in the food value chain and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

On 14 July 2021, the European Commission adopted the “Fit for 55” plan which includes several propositions to change the EU’s climate, energy, land use, transport and taxation policies in order to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 by at least 55% in comparison to 1990 levels.¹³²⁸ The proposal is comprehensive: it will require the EU Emissions Trading System to lower the cap on emissions for certain industries every year and increase its annual rate of reduction; Member States are encouraged to spend their emissions trading revenues on climate and energy-related projects; it expects Member States to be responsible for removing carbon from the atmosphere; the EU Forest Strategy plans to improve the resilience and quantity of EU forests by planting an additional 3 billion trees across Europe by 2030; the Renewable Energy Directive will increase renewable energy production to over 40%; and a new Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism will place a carbon price on imports for targeted products to prevent Member States from pushing carbon-intensive production outside of the Union. The adoption marks a concrete step towards executing the European climate law and satisfies the objectives of sustainable production, promoting protection of land and forestry and the reduction of carbon emissions.

On 13 October 2021, the European Investment Bank (EIB) implemented a new Climate Adaptation Plan which aims to triple climate adaptation finance.¹³²⁹ In addition to reviewing future projects for their financial risk from climate change, the EIB will promote climate-smart digital technologies for agriculture and infrastructure resilient against the effects of climate change. European Commission Executive Vice President Frans Timmermans sees the EIB’s plan as integral because “every euro spent on flood or wildfire protection or on climate resilient agriculture saves many euros spent on the devastating consequences of ever more frequent extreme weather events.” Overall, the EIB’s Adaptation Plan helps to support initiatives directed towards protection and conservation, particularly in agriculture.

On 3 November 2021, European Union Commissioner for Agriculture Janusz Wojciechowski released a joint press statement with United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack that created a new transatlantic platform on agriculture intended to tackle the global challenges of climate change and foster sustainability.¹³³⁰ They promised to continue exchanging information with each other and collaborating on climate-smart solutions that can help agricultural producers, consumers and businesses moving forward. The agreement marks another step towards seeking sustainable production options in agriculture.

On 9 November 2021, EU participants at COP26 agreed that there is a need for a global transition towards more sustainable food systems.¹³³¹ In order to develop climate-resilient food systems, the participants recognized that soil and nutrient management practices as well as management of livestock must be improved. The discussion illustrates growing support for reviving agricultural ecosystems to be more climate conscious and sustainable.

On 15 November 2021, the European Council adopted a new EU forest strategy for 2030.¹³³² The measures aim to promote sustainable forest management; provide economic incentives for forest owners and operators

¹³²⁸ European Green Deal: Commission proposes transformation of EU economy and society to meet climate ambitions, European Commission (Brussels) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3541

¹³²⁹ The EIB Climate Adaptation Plan, European Investment Bank (Luxembourg) 13 October 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. https://www.eib.org/attachments/publications/the_eib_climate_adaptation_plan_en.pdf

¹³³⁰ EU-US joint press statement, European Commission (Brussels) 3 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eu-us-joint-press-statement-2021-nov-03_en

¹³³¹ COP26: participants recognise the need for sustainable food systems to ensure global food security and achieve climate objectives, European Commission (Brussels) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/cop26-participants-recognise-need-sustainable-food-systems-ensure-global-food-security-and-achieve-climate-objectives-2021-nov-09_en

¹³³² Council adopts conclusions on the new EU forest strategy for 2030, Council of the EU (Brussels) 15 November 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/11/15/council-adopts-conclusions-on-the-new-eu-forest-strategy-for-2030/>

to implement climate-smart practices; promote non-wood products such as cork, honey and medicinal plants; offer education and training for workers in forest-based industries; protect the EU's current primary and old-growth forests and establish a legally binding instrument for ecosystem restoration. The proposal will work in conjunction with the EU's 'Fit for 55' carbon-neutral program, in addition to focusing on conserving natural resources and regenerating ecosystems.

On 17 November 2021, the European Commission adopted new initiatives to help realize the objectives of the European Green Deal, including through the proposal of new rules to stop deforestation.¹³³³ Additionally the commission presented a new soil strategy to restore the health and resilience of Europe's soil to protect nature and improve agriculture.¹³³⁴

On 2 December 2021, the European Council adopted the CAP for the duration of 2023-2027.¹³³⁵ Traditionally, CAP accounts for nearly a third of the EU's budget and aims to offer affordable and safe food for citizens, guarantee a fair standard of living for farmers, and preserve natural resources. The new legislation will direct a quarter of payments towards green farming practices – making it the most environmentally ambitious CAP on record – to secure a more sustainable future for European farmers.

On 14 January 2022, the European Commission published a set of recommendations to make sustainability a core part of EU education and training systems.¹³³⁶ It will provide youth with access to education and training on climate change, biodiversity and sustainability with the aim to foster more climate-conscious actions. It will propel green infrastructure and conservation efforts forward as educational resources enable youth to be prepared for a green transition.

On 17 February 2022, the European Commission announced a EUR110 million investment into the LIFE programme, which is the EU's funding reservoir for the environment.¹³³⁷ The investment will support new environmental and climate projects in 11 EU countries. One project in France will target nature conservation by developing three pilot forest areas to mitigate the biodiversity decline in the Grand Est region. The project will contribute to the European Green Deal, the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the green recovery plan from the Covid-19 pandemic.

On 21 February 2022, the European Council called on the Codex Alimentarius Commission to transition towards a more sustainable food system that considers the current environmental challenges and changes in consumer expectations.¹³³⁸ The aim is to make sustainability a key feature of food safety standards for international trade.

¹³³³ European Green Deal: Commission adopts new proposals to stop deforestation, innovate sustainable waste management and make soils healthy for people, nature and climate, European Commission (Brussels) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 5 February 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5916

¹³³⁴ European Green Deal: Commission adopts new proposals to stop deforestation, innovate sustainable waste management and make soils healthy for people, nature and climate, European Commission (Brussels) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 5 February 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5916

¹³³⁵ Council adopts fairer, greener and more performance-based farming policy for 2023-2027, Council of the EU (Brussels) 2 December 2021. Access Date: 17 January 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/12/02/council-adopts-fairer-greener-and-more-performance-based-farming-policy-for-2023-2027/>

¹³³⁶ Commission calls for environmental sustainability to be at the core of EU education and training systems, European Commission (Brussels) 14 January 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_327

¹³³⁷ Green Deal: Eu invests over €110 million in LIFE projects for environment and climate in 11 EU countries, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_864

¹³³⁸ Council calls for greater emphasis on sustainability in international food standards, European Commission (Brussels) 21 February 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/02/21/council-calls-for-greater-emphasis-on-sustainability-in-food-safety-standards/>

On 21 February 2022, the European Council approved final conclusions on “EU climate diplomacy.”¹³³⁹ The European Council promised to advance climate diplomacy outreach efforts to low-income countries in order to accelerate the implementation of the COP26 goals. It also called on other high-income countries to satisfy the collective commitment to utilize USD100 billion per year in 2022 to mobilize the private sector towards more sustainable investments.

On 23 February 2022, the EU and Norway released a joint-press release on their commitments to sustainability.¹³⁴⁰ They reaffirmed their commitment to decarbonisation and explored the creation of a Green Alliance between the EU and Norway to achieve this transition synchronously and foster greater collaboration on climate policy.

On 24 February 2022, the European Council released a statement alongside other G7 leaders to reaffirm their commitment to meeting the Paris and Glasgow outcomes and work towards conserving biodiversity in Europe and abroad.¹³⁴¹

On 25 February 2022, the European Commission outlined its agenda for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly taking place from 28 February to 2 March 2022.¹³⁴² The EU intends to create a Science-Policy Panel for Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution to work in parallel to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which provides scientific advice on climate change to the global community. Among other key objectives is the EU’s plan to negotiate a legally binding global agreement on plastics and develop a common definition of “nature-based solutions” to combat “greenwashing.”

On 14 March 2022, the European Commission published their key priorities for the resumed global diversity meetings taking place between 14 March and 29 March 2022 that aims to continue working towards goals established in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.¹³⁴³ The EU plans to negotiate for the addition of targets to restore world ecosystems by 2050, ensure sustainable land and ocean use by 2030, double EU international biodiversity financing and to ensure respect of the rights of indigenous peoples and their stakeholders in relation to land use into the Framework.

On 29 March 2022, the European Council adopted the 8th Environmental Action Programme, it will act as a point of guidance for environmental policymaking until 2030.¹³⁴⁴ The provisions focus on decreasing the EU’s material footprint, increasing environmentally positive incentives for producers and consumers, and transitioning away from environmentally harmful subsidies such as the ones placed on fossil fuels.

On 30 March 2022, the European Commission proposed new strategies to implement the Circular Economy Action Plan.¹³⁴⁵ They discussed ways to make textiles more durable and recyclable, increase the internal market for construction of products to ensure delivery on sustainability objectives and empower consumers in the green transition by providing educational resources on greenwashing. Additionally, consumers will be

¹³³⁹ Council conclusions on EU Climate Diplomacy: accelerating the implementation of Glasgow outcomes, Council of the EU (Brussels) 21 February 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/54433/st06120-en22.pdf>

¹³⁴⁰ EU-Norway Press Statement on Climate, European Commission (Brussels) 23 February 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_22_1302

¹³⁴¹ G7 Leaders’ Statement of 24 February 2022, European Council (Brussels) 24 February 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/02/24/g7-leaders-statement-of-24-february-2022/>

¹³⁴² EU at UN Environment Assembly: seeking to secure launch of negotiations for global agreement on plastics, European Commission (Brussels) 25 February 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1314

¹³⁴³ COP15 global biodiversity negotiations: EU leading the ambition for a new deal to protect people and the planet, European Commission (Brussels) 14 March 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_1747

¹³⁴⁴ Council adopts 8th environmental action programme, European Council (Brussels) 29 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/03/29/council-adopts-8th-environmental-action-programme/>

¹³⁴⁵ Green Deal: New proposal to make sustainable products the norm and boost Europe’s resource independence, European Commission (Brussels) 30 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2013

granted the right to know the durability of goods for purchase, whether they can be repaired, and the degree to which they were produced in a sustainable fashion.¹³⁴⁶

On 31 March 2022, the European Commission reviewed the geographical indications system for agricultural products.¹³⁴⁷ In addition to preserving heritage and cultural authenticity, the proposal will also make it possible for producers to promote their sustainability practices on their products. This will create incentives for farms and consumers to lower their impact on the environment, better protect natural resources and ensure the sanctity of animal welfare.

On 1 April 2022, the European Commission signed grant agreements valued at over EUR 1.1 billion for seven large-scale projects that intend to reduce emissions and develop low-carbon technologies.¹³⁴⁸ Livestock farms is one of the large-scale projects covered under the new rules. Going forward, livestock farms will be guided towards reducing emissions and rewarded for implementing sustainable practices.

On 7 April 2022, the European Council's farming ministers approved the European Commission's carbon farming proposal.¹³⁴⁹ The objective is to promote agricultural practices that capture carbon from the atmosphere and store it in soil or biomass to reduce emissions. It will encourage the planting of hedges and trees, growing legumes, using catch crops and cover crops, maintaining peatlands, afforestation and reforestation.

On 14 May 2022 the G7 Agriculture Ministers gathered in Stuttgart, Germany to address global challenges that the agriculture sector has been facing today. In this meeting, which was a part of the leadup to the G7 Elmau Summit, the leaders discussed how agricultural policies could be adapted to fulfil sustainable development goals.¹³⁵⁰

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to ensuring its policies encourage sustainable production, the protection and conservation of ecosystems, the regeneration of ecosystems, and the sequestration of carbon. The EU persistently adopted measures aimed at preserving forests and natural resources, restoring degraded ecosystems and fostering sustainable production in agriculture by updating the CAP and implementing new farming strategies. The EU has also worked to develop new strategies that will reduce carbon use and make production methods more climate conscious.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

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¹³⁴⁶ Circular Economy: Commission proposes new consumer rights and a ban on greenwashing, European Commission (Brussels) 30 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2098

¹³⁴⁷ Commission strengthens geographical indications to preserve high quality and reinforce protection, European Commission (Brussels) 31 March 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2185

¹³⁴⁸ Commission awards over € 1 billion to innovative projects for the EU climate transition, European Commission (Brussels) 1 April 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_2163

¹³⁴⁹ Council adopts conclusions on carbon farming, European Council (Brussels) 7 April 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/04/07/council-adopts-conclusions-on-carbon-farming/>

¹³⁵⁰ G7 Agriculture Ministers' Communiqué - english, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bonn) 14 May 2022. Access Date: 8 June 2022. https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/_International-Affairs/g7-2022-kommunique-en.pdf