



The G7 Research Group presents the

## 2021 G7 Cornwall Summit Interim Compliance Report

14 June 2021 to 1 February 2022

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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*

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## 8. Environment: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss

“We will support and drive the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, and to tackle climate change.”

*G7 2030 Nature Compact*

### 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		+1.00 (100%)	

### Background

On 13 June 2021, at the Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders committed to “support and drive the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, and to tackle climate change.”<sup>928</sup> The G7 Leaders’ pledge to take the necessary actions required to achieve their goal to “halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030” builds on the G7 Metz Charter on Biodiversity and the Leader’s Pledge for Nature. Additionally, the commitment is a step towards meeting Sustainable Development Goals and promoting a “green, inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19.”

On 17 March 2007, at the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting, G8 leaders called for an economic analysis of the cost of biodiversity loss compared to the cost of conservation efforts, including supporting research, enforcing the protection of protected marine areas, preventing and controlling invasive species, combating illegal wildlife trade, and promoting production and consumption habits compatible with halting and reversing biodiversity loss.<sup>929</sup> The Potsdam Initiative: Biological Diversity 2010 called for an integration of climate and biodiversity policies and underlined the “global economic benefit of biological diversity.”

On 26 May 2008, the 2008 Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity produced by the G8 Environment Ministers Meeting reiterated the urgency of achieving the goals outlined by the Potsdam Initiative: Biological Diversity 2010.<sup>930</sup> In addition, G8 leaders emphasized the need for international scientific and political collaboration, “sustainable forest management,” and increased engagement with the private sector.

On 24 April 2009, the “Carta di Siracusa” on Biodiversity issued by G8 Environment Ministers called for the use of investments in green infrastructure as a strategy to tackle both biodiversity loss and the Great Recession, and outlined a “post-2010 framework on biodiversity.”<sup>931</sup>

<sup>928</sup> G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

<sup>929</sup> Potsdam Initiative, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 March 2007. Access Date: 25 September 2021. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/g8\\_potsdam\\_initiative\\_en.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/g8_potsdam_initiative_en.pdf)

<sup>930</sup> G8 Environment Ministers Meeting: 2008 Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 May 2008. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/env080526-BD.html>

<sup>931</sup> “Carta di Siracusa” on Biodiversity, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 24 April 2009. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/env090424-biodiversity.pdf>

On 26 June 2010, at the Muskoka Summit, G8 leaders expressed regret at the international community's failure to meet its 2010 biodiversity loss target and called for a strengthened "science-policy interface" to tackle biodiversity loss, expressing support for the establishment of an "Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services."<sup>932</sup>

On 27 May 2011, at the Deauville Summit, G8 leaders called for "green growth" to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss and committed to "[intensify] efforts to slow the loss biodiversity."<sup>933</sup>

On 8 June 2015, at the Elmau Summit, the G7 Elmau Progress Report was released, examining the progress made by G7 leaders in slowing the loss of biodiversity since the Deauville Summit in 2011.<sup>934</sup> The report touted G7 countries' record on bilateral biodiversity aid, measures taken to "directly conserve biodiversity" such as "fighting poaching, illegal logging and wildlife trafficking" and to tackle the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss. The report outlined the path toward future preservation of biodiverse ecosystems through more effective use and expanded sources of funds, and through connecting biodiversity loss with other development commitments.

On May 6 2019, the Metz Charter on Biodiversity issued by G7 leaders recognized the need for urgent, accelerated and intensified action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.<sup>935</sup> The Metz Charter outlines the "co-benefits" of combating biodiversity loss "with regard to other global challenges ... including climate change, ecosystem degradation and natural disasters," and underscores the need for equitable, nature-based and multilateral environmental governance.

The G7 2030 Nature Compact report underlines that climate change is a key driver of biodiversity loss, and that in order to mitigate the effects of climate change, it is necessary to "protect, conserve and restore biodiversity."<sup>936</sup> G7 leaders have recognized that a key factor to any nation's sustainable development and economic growth is its reliance on a healthy climate and strong biodiversity. Moreover, with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on public health, the economy, food systems and the environment, the G7 2030 Nature Compact report reaffirms that "the mission to tackle biodiversity loss" will help tackle a number of other important issues, including but not limited to, animal health, the prevention of future pandemics and the protection of human life and wildlife. In addition, the G7 Nature Compact report reaffirms its commitment to the G7 One Health Working Group and the International Zoonose Community of Experts (IZCE). The "One Health" approach works to integrate policy concerning human and animal health and the environment, particularly with respect to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>937</sup> The IZCE is "a voluntary initiative that will consist of G7 and guest countries' experts in zoonotic disease, drivers of emerging disease, and biodiversity loss from across government agencies, to facilitate international collaboration and capacity building, surveillance and analysis and improved technology."<sup>938</sup>

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<sup>932</sup> Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>

<sup>933</sup> G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#climate>

<sup>934</sup> G7 Elmau Progress Report, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) May 2015. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/G7-elmau-biodiversity-summary.pdf>

<sup>935</sup> Metz Charter on Biodiversity, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 May 2019. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2019-metz-charter-on-biodiversity.html>

<sup>936</sup> G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

<sup>937</sup> Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué: Our Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communique.html>

<sup>938</sup> International Zoonoses Community of Experts (IZCE), G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 May 2021. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2021-zoonoses.html>

## Commitment Features

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders committed to “support and drive the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, and to tackle climate change.”<sup>939</sup> The G7 2030 Nature Compact details “new global targets to conserve or protect at least 30 [per cent] of global land and at least 30 [per cent] of the global ocean by 2030,” and encourages the creation and delivery of targets “to prevent the loss, fragmentation and degradation of ecosystems and to restore significant areas of degraded and converted ecosystems.” G7 leaders also called for international cooperation to promote biodiversity through “significantly [reducing] overall extinction risk and eventually [stopping] human-induced extinctions,” particularly with respect to protecting oceans “outside of national jurisdiction.”

Thus, the G7 2030 Nature Compact outlines three spheres in which strong action is required to tackle biodiversity loss, and in turn, climate change: protecting and conserving ecosystems, restoring ecosystems, and halting and reversing biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.<sup>940</sup> Biodiverse ecosystems are resilient, able to provide ecosystem services in the face of climatic hazards.<sup>941</sup> The degradation of biodiverse ecosystems emits vast quantities of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, destroys valuable carbon stocks, and reduces their capacity for carbon sequestration. Thus, halting and reducing biodiversity loss is a crucial element of the fight against climate change.

“Support” is understood to describe “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity,” in this instance, halting or reversing biodiversity loss.<sup>942</sup>

“Drive” is understood to mean “to compel to undergo ... a change,” in this instance, halting or reversing biodiversity loss.<sup>943</sup>

“Protection” is understood to mean “to cover or shield from exposure, injury, damage, or destruction,” in this instance, global land and ocean ecosystems.<sup>944</sup>

“Conservation” is understood to describe “a careful preservation and protection of something,” in this instance, “planned management of [natural resources] to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect.”<sup>945</sup>

“Restoration” is understood to describe “a bringing back to a former position or condition.”<sup>946</sup> The commitment outlines the necessity of degraded and/or converted ecosystems to be restored to their pre-degradation and/or pre-conversion conditions.

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<sup>939</sup> G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

<sup>940</sup> G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

<sup>941</sup> Addressing climate change: Why biodiversity matters, United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (Cambridge) 2014. Access Date: 25 October 2021. <https://www.unclearn.org/wp-content/uploads/library/unep248.pdf>

<sup>942</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2021.

[http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>943</sup> Drive, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/drive>

<sup>944</sup> Protect, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/protect>

<sup>945</sup> Conservation, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conservation>

<sup>946</sup> Restoration, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/restoration>

“Ecosystem” is understood to describe “all living things (plants, animals and organisms) in a given area, as well as their interactions with each other, and with their non-living environments (weather, earth, sun, soil, climate, atmosphere).”<sup>947</sup>

“Halting” is understood to mean to “discontinue” or to “terminate,” and “reversing”, in this context, refers to the act of “undoing or negating the effect of something.”<sup>948</sup>

“Biodiversity” is understood to describe “the variety of life on Earth and the natural patterns it forms.”<sup>949</sup> The commitment seeks to facilitate international cooperation to develop institutions and systems that will protect and conserve existing biodiverse ecosystems, while restoring ecosystems whose biodiversity has decreased as a result of degradation or conversion to other land uses.

“Environmental degradation” is understood to describe “the deterioration in environmental quality from ambient concentrations of pollutants and other activities and processes such as improper land use and natural disasters.”<sup>950</sup>

“Climate change” is understood to describe “a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.”<sup>951</sup>

This commitment has a depth component examining the strength of actions taken by each G7 member. A G7 member must take strong action in multiple spheres to achieve full compliance.

Strong domestic actions may include, but are not limited to: policy action, domestic legislation, allocation of funding, and/or changes to monetary policy designed to precipitate increased biodiversity and support the conservation, protection, and restoration of land and ocean ecosystems, the establishment of a new committee, task force, or other institutional mechanism to examine biodiversity loss, funding of research into biodiversity loss, or direct actions towards greater conservation, protection, and restoration of domestic land and water. Weak actions on the domestic level include verbal reaffirmation of the commitment or attending meetings that discuss biodiversity loss.

Strong international actions include the provision of international financial support (either directly or through international institutions), or participating, joining, or financing organizations addressing biodiversity loss. Weak actions at the international level include information sharing and development of international legislation, including participation in negotiations for an “international legally binding instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.”<sup>952</sup>

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<sup>947</sup> Water and Ecosystems, United Nations Water (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2021.

<https://www.unwater.org/water-facts/ecosystems/>

<sup>948</sup> Halt, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/halt>; Reverse, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reverse>

<sup>949</sup> UNEP and Biodiversity, United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi) September 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2021.

<https://www.unep.org/unep-and-biodiversity>

<sup>950</sup> Environmental Degradation, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 25 September 2001. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=821>

<sup>951</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations (New York, Rio de Janeiro) 9 May 1992. Access Date: 26 September 2021.

[https://unfccc.int/files/essential\\_background/background\\_publications\\_htmlpdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/background_publications_htmlpdf/application/pdf/conveng.pdf)

<sup>952</sup> G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

Strong actions related to the protection and conservation of ecosystems may include the creation of new protected lands, new legislation that prohibits actions that degrade the environment, or legislation restricting the extraction of natural resources that would lead to the loss of biodiversity or exacerbate the climate crisis.

Strong actions related to the restoration of ecosystems may include the implementation of programs to improve water, soil, or air quality, initiatives to introduce a species whose population had decreased as a result of human degradation.

Strong actions related to the reversal of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation may include new legislation banning a practice that degrades the environment, initiatives to prevent surface runoff from contaminating ecosystems, initiatives to remedy the damage caused by historic contamination, the planting of new trees, or any other action increasing the biodiversity of an ecosystem.

With this commitment, the leaders of the G7 recognize the significance and the urgency that the reversal of biodiversity loss has on climate change and other issues of domestic and international importance. In order to receive full compliance, a state must demonstrate that it has taken the necessary action to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change.

To achieve full compliance, the G7 member can take strong actions in two spheres and some action in one sphere to halt and reverse biodiversity loss: protecting and conserving ecosystems, restoring ecosystems, and halting and reversing biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. Alternatively, the G7 member can take strong action in all three aforementioned spheres to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change.

For a score of partial compliance, the G7 member has taken strong action in one sphere and some actions in the other two spheres to halt and reverse biodiversity loss: protecting and conserving ecosystems, restoring ecosystems, and halting and reversing biodiversity loss and environmental degradation. Alternatively, the G7 member can take strong actions in at least one of the three aforementioned spheres to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.

For a score of non-compliance, the G7 member has completed less than the aforementioned criteria.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	The G7 member has NOT taken strong steps to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in ANY of the following three spheres: protecting and conserving ecosystems, restoring ecosystems, and halting and reversing biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, OR the G7 member has taken weak steps in only ONE of the three spheres.
0	The G7 member has taken strong steps to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in at least ONE of the following three spheres: protecting and conserving ecosystems, restoring ecosystems, and halting and reversing biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, OR the G7 member has taken strong steps in ONE sphere and weak steps in the other TWO spheres.
+1	The G7 member has taken strong steps to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in ALL of the following three spheres: protecting and conserving ecosystems, restoring ecosystems, and halting and reversing biodiversity loss and environmental degradation, OR the G7 member has taken strong steps in at least TWO spheres and weak steps in ONE other sphere.

*Compliance Director: Quinn Teague-Colfer  
Lead Analyst: Ali Nadhum*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support and drive the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and to tackle climate change.

On 23 July 2021, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced upwards of CAD25 million “in funding to enhance, conserve and restore critical wetlands and grasslands in Prairie provinces,” including

funding for Ducks Unlimited Canada (CAD19.28 million), Nature Conservancy of Canada (CAD4.05 million) and the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (CAD2.4 million).<sup>953</sup> These organizations aim to restore croplands, grasslands and wetlands in the Prairie provinces while supporting wildlife habitat.

On 18 July 2021, Minister of Seniors Deb Schulte announced on behalf of then Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson CAD9 million in funding for grassland and wetland conservation projects led by Conservation Ontario and other regional conservation authorities.<sup>954</sup>

On 12 August 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Environment and Climate, Terry Duguid, signed a ten-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Manitoba's Minister of Agriculture and Resource Development Ralph Eichler to renew their commitment to collaborate on the conservation of Lake Winnipeg.<sup>955</sup> The protection of water quality and engagement with Indigenous stakeholders were priorities of the new MOU.

On 12 August 2021, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced an investment of up to CAD340 million to support Indigenous-led conservation efforts.<sup>956</sup> The support includes collaboration with Indigenous leaders to utilize their perspectives for habitat protection and conservation of biodiverse ecosystems.

On 13 August 2021, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced funding of up to CAD796 million to protect nature nationally.<sup>957</sup> The investment comes as part of the "Enhance Nature Legacy" launched by the government "to support territories, provinces and other partners' actions to recover species at risk and conserve and protect freshwater and lands."

On 6 November 2021, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced increased investment in nature protection to tackle climate change and biodiversity loss.<sup>958</sup> This target involves protecting 25 per cent of Canadian lands and oceans by 2025 and "working toward" 30 per cent by the year 2030. The federal government also announced an investment of CAD460 million to "protect and expand 22 of Canada's national wildlife areas."

On 6 November 2021, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault announced at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland, that the federal government planned to allocate 20 per cent of its international climate finance funding to help combat biodiversity loss in developing

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<sup>953</sup> Canada invests \$25 million to protect wetlands and grasslands in the Prairies, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Winnipeg) 23 July 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/07/canada-invests-25-million-to-protect-wetlands-and-grasslands-in-the-prairies.html>

<sup>954</sup> Canada invests \$9 million for nature conservation across southern Ontario, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Newmarket) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2022.

<sup>955</sup> Canada and Manitoba renew commitment to protect Lake Winnipeg and its basin, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Winnipeg) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/08/canada-and-manitoba-renew-commitment-to-protect-lake-winnipeg-and-its-basin.html>

<sup>956</sup> Government of Canada announces \$340 million to support Indigenous-led conservation, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-announces-340-million-to-support-indigenous-led-conservation.html>

<sup>957</sup> Canada invests \$796 million to collaborate with provinces, territories and other partners to protect nature across the country, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/08/canada-invests-796-million-to-collaborate-with-provinces-territories-and-other-partners-to-protect-nature-across-the-country.html>

<sup>958</sup> The Government of Canada increases nature protection ambition to address dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 6 November 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/11/the-government-of-canada-increases-nature-protection-ambition-to-address-dual-crises-of-biodiversity-loss-and-climate-change.html>

countries over the next five years.<sup>959</sup> Funding will focus on the development of nature-based solutions to support the restoration and preservation of wetlands and other carbon-rich ecosystems.

On 4 December 2021, Parks Canada announced a five-year investment of CAD14.7 million in conservation projects at five mountain national parks.<sup>960</sup> Funding will be allocated to mountain national parks struggling with aquatic invasive species, particularly invasive mussels: Waterton Lakes, Kootenay, Banff, Jasper and Yoho.

On 7 December 2021, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced funding of CAD200 million to projects supporting the reduction of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>961</sup> Funding will be allocated to projects focused on "conserving, restoring and enhancing the management of critical ecosystems" to tackle climate change.

On 8 December 2021, Minister Guilbeault announced three-year funding of more than CAD3.1 million to support the Great Lakes Protection Initiative.<sup>962</sup> The Great Lakes Protection Initiative's projects support the restoration of Great Lakes freshwater ecosystems and water quality. Minister Guilbeault's announcement emphasizes the initiative's "engagement with Indigenous Peoples and the public."

On 8 December 2021, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced funding for habitat protection of species at risk.<sup>963</sup> CAD5.4 million will be allocated to conservation projects managed by the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk and the Habitat Stewardship Program.

On 15 December 2021, Fisheries and Oceans Canada launched a call for proposals to support marine conservation efforts across Canada.<sup>964</sup> The Oceans Management Contribution Program will facilitate the call for proposals and provide access to at least CAD5 million in funding to successful proposals.

On 17 December 2021, Minister Guilbeault announced funding of nearly CAD5 million to support the EcoAction Community Funding Program.<sup>965</sup> The EcoAction Community Funding Program funds projects of non-profit and non-governmental organizations supporting the restoration and protection of freshwater ecosystems and water quality.

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<sup>959</sup> Canada earmarks 20 percent of climate funding to address biodiversity loss, CTV News (Ottawa) 6 November 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/climate-and-environment/canada-earmarks-20-per-cent-of-climate-funding-to-address-biodiversity-loss-1.5655432>

<sup>960</sup> Government of Canada invests \$14.7M in conservation projects in five mountain national parks to prevent and manage aquatic invasive species, Parks Canada (Banff) 4 December 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-invests-147m-in-conservation-projects-in-five-mountain-national-parks-to-prevent-and-manage-aquatic-invasive-species.html>

<sup>961</sup> Government of Canada announces \$200M to address climate change by restoring carbon-rich ecosystems through nature-based solutions, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-announces-200m-to-address-climate-change-by-restoring-carbon-rich-ecosystems-through-nature-based-solutions.html>

<sup>962</sup> 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: 29 January 2022. <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>

<sup>963</sup> Government of Canada announces funding for protection of species at risk and their habitats, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 8 December 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-protection-of-species-at-risk-and-their-habitats.html>

<sup>964</sup> Government of Canada launches Call for Proposals to support marine conservation efforts across Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-launches-call-for-proposals-to-support-marine-conservation-efforts-across-canada.html>

<sup>965</sup> Canada supports community-based action on freshwater protection through the EcoAction Program, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 17 December 2021. Access Date: 29 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2021/12/canada-supports-community-based-action-on-freshwater-protection-through-the-ecoaction-program.html>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. Canada has taken strong action to protect, conserve and restore ecosystems and to reverse biodiversity loss, including strong investment in Indigenous-led conservation efforts and the development of targeted initiatives for high-risk biodiverse ecosystems.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Julian Lam*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to support and drive the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and to tackle climate change.

On 28 June 2021, the Government of France submitted a national plan for public consultation regarding measures to halt the decline of pollinating insects and preserve these species and their environment.<sup>966</sup> The initiative highlights the essential role of pollinators in reproduction of plant species, supporting wider efforts to halt biodiversity loss.

On 5 September 2021, Secretary of State for Biodiversity Bérangère Abba recognized the Bay of Audierne, a popular summer tourist destination in Finistère, France, as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.<sup>967</sup> The Bay of Audierne experiences a high influx of tourists in summer months. Home to more than 1,000 animal species, the biodiverse Bay of Audierne will be protected from ecological degradation and pollution.

On 6 September 2021, Secretary Abba announced the creation of five new nationally protected areas.<sup>968</sup> These protected areas include the creation of a Roche Grande integral reserve comprised of the Mercantour National Park and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur; a significant extension of the Iroise National Nature Reserve; the creation of the Corbières Fenouillèdes Regional Natural Park (Occitanie); the creation of the Regional Natural Park of Doubs Horloger (Bourgogne Franche-Comté) and the extension of the Natura 2000 site of the Mue valley (Normandy). The initiative will reduce the threat of environmental degradation and contribute to the preservation of biodiversity in the aforementioned ecosystems.

On 5 October 2021, Secretary Abba renewed France's commitment to protecting marine biodiversity at the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR).<sup>969</sup> In a joint effort with other OSPAR member states, France pledged to create a new international marine protected area in the North Atlantic Current of the Evlanov basin. The initiative will protect this region's ecosystem, which

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<sup>966</sup> National plan for pollinating insects and pollination 2021-2026, Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Paris) 21 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/plan-national-en-faveur-des-insectes-pollinisateurs-et-de-la-pollinisation-2021-2026-0>

<sup>967</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress – The Bay of Audierne (Finistere) becomes the 51<sup>st</sup> “wetland of international importance” under the Ramsar Convention, Ministry for Ecological Transition (Paris) 5 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/congres-mondial-nature-luicn-baie-daudierne-finistere-devient-51eme-zone-humide-dimportance>

<sup>968</sup> IUCN World Conservation Congress: To preserve exceptional natural areas, France is creating 5 new protected areas, including 2 under strong protection, Ministry for Ecological Transition (Paris) 6 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/congres-mondial-nature-luicn-preserver-des-espaces-naturels-exceptionnels-france-cree-5-nouvelles>

<sup>969</sup> Bérangère Abba renews France's commitments for the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic during the annual commission of the OSPAR convention, Ministry for Ecological Transition (Paris) 5 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 1 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-renouvelle-engagements-france-protection-du-milieu-marin-latlantique-nord-est-lors>

serves as an important feeding ground for many species of seabirds and as a marine passage for migratory species.

On 8 October 2021, Secretary Abba reaffirmed France's commitment to restoring the ecological continuity of the Rhine.<sup>970</sup> France pledged EUR80 million for the construction of two new river passages. The initiative will contribute to the restoration of proper circulation of Rhine aquatic species unable to reach spawning grounds in recent years as a result of human development. Circulation of aquatic species is necessary to ensure genetic mixing and foster resilient, biodiverse river ecosystems.

On 25 October 2021, Secretary Abba launched an initiative to “identify sites of national interest likely to host a twelfth national park, dedicated to wetlands.”<sup>971</sup> In addition, Secretary Abba recognized the Pinail site in Vienne, France as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Secretary Abba's announcement highlighted the importance of ecosystem services provided by biodiversity wetlands in mitigating climate change and natural disasters. The creation of a new national park would enhance protection of wetland ecosystems' biodiversity.

On 4 November 2021, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).<sup>972</sup> France aided in finalizing international legislation for the COP26 commitment to cap global warming at 2°C. Furthermore, France reaffirmed its commitment to allocating EUR6 billion per year to accelerate decarbonization in emerging countries and tackle climate change.

On 12 November 2021, Minister for Ecological Transition Barbara Pompili, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian, and Minister for the Economy, Finance and of the Recovery Bruno Le Maire jointly announced France's decision to end foreign public funding of fossil energy projects by the end of 2022.<sup>973</sup> The joint announcement will reduce France's carbon footprint and decarbonize its export financing. Atmospheric pollution and destruction of biodiverse ecosystems from fossil fuel extraction and use contribute to biodiversity decline.

On 23 November 2021, Secretary Abba and Minister of the Overseas Sébastien Lecornu began public consultation of the draft decree for a second extension to the National Nature Reserve of the French Southern Territories.<sup>974</sup> This second extension plans to protect the exclusive economic zones of Saint-Paul and Amsterdam, Crozet and Kerguelen, which remain ecologically rich, containing highly biodiverse marine mammal populations and the world's largest population of seabirds. This joint initiative will ensure the continued protection of biodiversity in these territories.

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<sup>970</sup> Restoration of ecological continuity on the Rhine: Bérangère Abba announces the launch of work to create two new fish passes on the Rhine, on the hydroelectric dams of Rhinau and Marckolsheim, Ministry for Ecological Transition (Paris) 8 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/restauration-continue-ecologique-sur-rhin-berangere-abba-annonce-lancement-des-travaux-creation>

<sup>971</sup> Protection of wetlands: Bérangère Abba welcomes the labelling of the Pinail site in Vienne under the Ramsar Convention, and launches a mission to identify sites of national interest, Ministry for Ecological Transition (Paris) 25 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/protection-des-zones-humides-berangere-abba-se-felicite-labellisation-du-site-du-pinail-dans-vienne>

<sup>973</sup> COP26: France signs an agreement reaffirming its commitment to end foreign public funding of fossil fuel projects, Ministry for Ecological Transition (Paris) 12 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/cop26-france-signe-accord-reaffirmant-engagement-mettre-fin-aux-financements-publics-letranger>

<sup>974</sup> Bérangère Abba et Sébastien Lecornu announce the public consultation of the draft decree extending the national nature reserve of the French Southern Territories, Ministry of Overseas (Paris) 23 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 January 2022. <https://www.outre-mer.gouv.fr/berangere-abba-et-sebastien-lecornu-annoncent-lamise-en-consultation-au-public-du-projet-de-decret>

France has made strong efforts to strengthen the protection and conservation of biodiversity through its pollinator's initiative and the creation of new protected lands and marine environments. Additionally, France's attention to reversing the environmental degradation along the Rhineland is significant to its ecological continuity. France has also taken strong action towards tackling climate change through allocating funds to accelerate decarbonization in emerging countries and reaffirming its commitment to cap global warming at 2°C.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sara Schmidt*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support and drive the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and to tackle climate change.

On 16 July 2021, then Parliamentary State Secretary for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter announced the German target for climate-neutrality would be moved forward to 2045.<sup>975</sup> The announcement came at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and included a discussion of the negative implications of COVID-19 on biodiversity and the climate crisis. This announcement reflects Germany's commitment to promoting a green and resilient recovery from COVID-19.

On 7 September 2021, Federal Development Minister Gerd Müller hosted representatives of the ten countries around the Congo Basin at the Berlin Tropical Forest Symposium. Germany committed to increasing its support for the tropical forest countries in Central Africa.<sup>976</sup> Furthermore, representatives from Germany and the ten countries jointly signed the Declaration on the Protection of the Congo Basin Rainforest. This declaration outlines greater forest protection measures and aims to protect and restore 127 million hectares of forest by 2030.

On 11 September 2021, 40 farms in Lower Saxony announced they would join the project KOOOPERATIV, which promotes biodiversity at the landscape level.<sup>977</sup> The project is a part of the Federal Biological Diversity Program and is funded by the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. The Federal Biological Diversity Program provides funding for sustainable agri-environmental measures and thus halts any further loss of biological diversity caused by disruptive farming practices.

On 11 October 2021, Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze emphasized the urgency of restoration for degraded ecosystems at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on

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<sup>975</sup> UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: Germany calls for a sustainable and climate-friendly post-COVID recovery based on the 2030 Agenda, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 16 July 2021. Access Date: 19 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/un-high-level-political-forum-on-sustainable-development-germany-calls-for-a-sustainable-and-climate-friendly-post-covid-recovery-based-on-the-2030-agenda>

<sup>976</sup> Development Minister Müller calls for 'Fair Deal' for forest protection, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 8 September 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/archive-press-releases/minister-mueller-calls-for-new-deal-for-forest-protection-92650>

<sup>977</sup> More biological diversity on agricultural land, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 11 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/mehr-biologische-vielfalt-auf-landwirtschaftlichen-flaechen>

Biological Diversity (COP15).<sup>978</sup> The main priorities advocated by Germany during negotiations for the mandated goals of COP15 included a push for 30 per cent of the Earth's terrestrial and marine area to be protected by 2030, a decrease in environmental pollution and restoration of degraded ecosystems to halt the global loss of biodiversity.

On 20 October 2021, the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission, which currently operates under the chairmanship of Germany, presented the Baltic Sea Action Plan for the 2021-2030 period.<sup>979</sup> The aims of the plan include reducing beach waste by 50 per cent, improving the protection of marine species, and maintaining "one-third of the Baltic Sea under strict protection and management by 2030." The joint initiative with other Baltic Sea countries mitigates challenges affecting the Baltic Sea marine life and ecosystems.

On 1 November 2021, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that Germany will join the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC) and support its goal of protecting 30 per cent of the planet's land and ocean by 2030.<sup>980</sup> This initiative aims to create a global system of protected ecosystems and thus conserve biodiversity. In addition, under the German Council Presidency, the European Union will also adopt the HAC's target goal.

On 11 November, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection announced the German government would increase its multilateral commitment to adaptation finance by EUR150 million directed to the Global Environment Facility fund for least developed countries.<sup>981</sup> The Least Developed Countries Fund of the Global Environment Facility funds climate change adaptation measures including those safeguarding against biodiversity loss.

On 24 November 2021, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection allocated EUR4.5 million in funding to two research projects that intend to test climate-friendly alternatives to the use of fossil fuels in the glass industry.<sup>982</sup> This funding supports the decarbonization of energy-intensive industrial sectors in Germany and development of manufacturing practises in accordance with biodiversity and climate change targets.

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<sup>978</sup> Svenja Schulze: The UN Biodiversity Conference in Kunming aims to halt the destruction of nature and biodiversity loss, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 11 October 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/svenja-schulze-the-un-biodiversity-conference-in-kunming-aims-to-halt-the-destruction-of-nature-and-biodiversity-loss>

<sup>979</sup> HELCOM adopts 10-year plan for the Baltic Sea to reduce litter, noise and fertiliser input, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 20 October 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/helcom-adopts-10-year-plan-for-the-baltic-sea-to-reduce-litter-noise-and-fertiliser-input>

<sup>980</sup> One Planet Summit: Germany supports stronger global biodiversity protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation Building and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 November 2021. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/one-planet-summit-germany-supports-stronger-global-biodiversity-protection>

<sup>981</sup> Germany commits 150 million euros for climate change adaptation in developing countries, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-commits-150-million-euros-for-climate-change-adaptation-in-developing-countries>

<sup>982</sup> The Federal Environment Ministry is funding decarbonization projects in the glass industry for the first time, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 24 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerium-foerdert-erstmalig-dekarbonisierungsprojekte-der-glasindustrie>

On 20 December 2021, Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke and State Secretary Patrick Graichen attended the EU Environment Council to discuss issues of climate and environmental protection.<sup>983</sup> Germany supported legislative proposals for the Fit for 55 package, which aims to reduce the EU's emissions. Other matters discussed and supported by Germany included battery regulation with environmental and climate protection criteria and EU soil and biodiversity strategy.

On 18 January 2022, the Federal Environment Ministry agreed on strengthening the Natural Climate Protection Action Program at the annual German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection Agricultural Congress.<sup>984</sup> This initiative serves to reorient agricultural policy to reward nature conservation and find economic opportunities in the conservation of forests, moors and soil. By reducing the use of pesticides and banning glyphosate by the end of 2023, Germany will promote the restoration of ecosystems negatively affected by pesticide use.

Germany has taken significant action to support the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems through creating newly protected lands and marine environments nationally and internationally. Germany has also made strong efforts to precipitate increased biodiversity by implementing sustainable agriculture programs and to address the climate emergency through funding research into climate-friendly alternatives to fossil fuels.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sara Schmidt*

#### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to support and drive the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and to tackle climate change.

On 29 September 2021, Undersecretary to the Ministry of Ecological Transition Ilaria Fontana called for an increase to the number of marine protected areas in Antarctica, highlighting the increasingly urgent need for protection due to “cumulative anthropogenic pressures, such as pollution, illegal overfishing, acidification and the introduction of invasive alien species.”<sup>985</sup> Speaking at the preparatory Ministerial Conference of the 40th annual meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, Undersecretary Fontana called for a special session dedicated to the marine protected areas, “specifically, to the proposals for the designation of new areas in East Antarctica, in the Weddell Sea and in the Antarctic Peninsula.”

On 1 October 2021, the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies announced that EUR6.2 million would be allocated for the creation and implementation of projects focused on preparing a model for small-

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<sup>983</sup> Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke and State Secretary Patrick Graichen are taking part in the EU Environment Council, Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 20 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 January 2022.

<https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerin-steffi-lemke-und-staatssekretaer-patrick-graichen-nehmen-gemeinsam-am-eu-umweltrat-teil>

<sup>984</sup> Working together for the environment, agriculture and climate, Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 18 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/gemeinsam-fuer-umwelt-landwirtschaft-und-klima>

<sup>985</sup> 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: 30 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/notizie/ambiente-aumentare-il-numero-di-aree-marine-protette-antartide>

scale coastal fishing standards in protected areas.<sup>986</sup> The initiative aims to protect and restore marine ecosystems and their biodiversity while promoting sustainable fishing.

On 11 November 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition launched public consultation on the Program of Measures of the Strategy for the marine environment.<sup>987</sup>

On 20 December 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition announced the establishment of the Pelagos Voluntary Fund to support initiatives of the Pelagos Agreement between Italy, France and Monaco to provide further protection of marine mammals in the Pelagos Sanctuary.<sup>988</sup> Undersecretary Fontana emphasized the alarming rate of biodiversity loss in the Pelagos Sanctuary and reiterated Italy's commitment to the restoration of biodiversity in the sanctuary with coordinated international action.

Italy has taken strong action to protect and conserve ecosystems and to halt biodiversity loss through its funding of domestic and joint international actions regarding the marine environment. This includes by providing funding to restore the biodiversity in the Pelagos Sanctuary and to protect and conserve ecosystems by enforcing fishing regulations to prevent degradation.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pantéa Jamshidi Nouri*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to support and drive the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and to tackle climate change.

On 30 July 2021, the Ministry of the Environment announced the amendment of Act No. 78 of 2004 relating to combating the adverse environmental impacts of foreign alien species.<sup>989</sup> The revision involves the inclusion of *Spilococcus maculatus*, a species recently identified as alien to Japan, to the Act.

On 12 October 2021, Minister of the Environment Tsuyoshi Yamaguchi, announced a pledge of USD17 million to support developing countries with the protection of biodiversity.<sup>990</sup> The funding encourages “developing nations to set national strategies for biodiversity and expand their natural reserves.”

On 18 November 2021, the Ministry of the Environment announced that the Izumi Wintering Habitat of Cranes located in the Kagoshima prefecture was added to the “List of Wetlands of International Importance”

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<sup>986</sup> EMFF – Public notice for the disbursement of a grant pursuant to art.12, Law n.241/1990, relying on the resources referred to in Measure 40 lett. D), e) and f) “Protection and restoration of biodiversity and marine ecosystems and compensation schemes in the context of sustainable fishing activities” of Regulation (EU) no. 508/2014., 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/17400>

<sup>987</sup> Public consultation on the update of the Marine Strategy Programs of Measures, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 11 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 January 2022.

<https://www.mite.gov.it/notizie/consultazione-pubblica-sull-aggiornamento-dei-programmi-di-misure-della-strategia-l-ambiente>

<sup>988</sup> “Pelagos”: the Conference of the Parties establishes a voluntary fund, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 20 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 January 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/notizie/pelagos-la-conferenza-delle-parti-istituisce-un-fondo-volontario>.

<sup>989</sup> The amendment to the Regulations for Enforcement of the Act on the Prevention of Adverse Ecological Impacts Caused by Designated Invasive Alien Species Relating to *Spilococcus maculatus*, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2530.html>

<sup>990</sup> Japan Pledges 17 M. Dlr for Biodiversity in Developing Nations, Nippon (Tokyo) 12 October 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2021101201048/>

under the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.<sup>991</sup> Over 10,000 endangered Hooded and White-naped Cranes migrate to Izumi City each winter.

On 21 December 2021, the 14th Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue concluded with Japan pledging to cooperate with Mongolia on the Satoyama Initiative to support biodiversity.<sup>992</sup> Japan and Mongolia pledged to support the target to designate 30 per cent of their land as protected areas by 2030, and initiated dialogue to foster collaboration on conservation and reforestation projects.

On 26 December 2021, the Japanese Ministry of the Environment indicated its desire to collaborate with and provide technical support to the Government of Haryana in India on biodiversity conservation.<sup>993</sup> A visit by a Japanese embassy official explored the possibility of creating a “center of excellence” related to combatting various environmental issues.

On 11 January 2022, the Central Environment Council (CEC) submitted a final report to Minister Yamaguchi and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Genjiro Kaneko regarding “[necessary] measures to be taken in the future based on the state of enforcement of the Act on the Prevention of Ecosystem Damage by Designated Invasive Alien Species.”<sup>994</sup> The CEC submitted this report to the Minister of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries after public input and consultation with relevant organizations.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and to protect and conserve ecosystems, including domestic initiatives to protect wetlands and endangered species and international collaborative efforts with Mongolia and Haryana state in India. However, Japan has not taken action to restore ecosystems negatively impacted by biodiversity loss.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Julian Lam*

### **United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to support and drive the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and to tackle climate change.

On 18 June 2021, the Environment Agency and Natural England announced the reintroduction of the 1000<sup>th</sup> hazel dormouse into UK wildlife by wildlife charity People’s Trust for Endangered Species, Natural England and the University of Cumbria.<sup>995</sup> Dormouse reintroductions are part of a wider species recovery programme entitled “Back On Our Map,” led by the University of Cumbria, Morecambe Bay Partnership and supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

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<sup>991</sup> Newly Designated Ramsar Site, Izumi Wintering Habitat of Cranes, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2557.html>

<sup>992</sup> Results of the 14th Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 23 December 2021. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2577.html>

<sup>993</sup> Japan keen to work with Haryana on climate change, environmental issues, The Print (New Delhi) 26 December 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. <https://theprint.in/india/japan-keen-to-work-with-haryana-on-climate-change-environmental-issues/788553/>

<sup>994</sup> The Central Environment Council reports on “Necessary measures to be taken in the future based on the state of enforcement of the Invasive Alien Species Act, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 11 January 2022. Access Date: 18 January 2022. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2572.html>

<sup>995</sup> 1,000th hazel dormouse reintroduced to the UK, Environment Agency and Natural England (London) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 3 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1000th-hazel-dormouse-reintroduced-to-the-uk>

On 7 July 2021, the Environment Agency issued 14 notices for illegal angling during a multi-agency operation, Derbyshire, after 166 spot checks were carried out.<sup>996</sup>

On 12 July, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Nature Recovery and the Domestic Environment Rebecca Pow called on the general population to take five actions to care for bees and other pollinators.<sup>997</sup> These actions marked the beginning of the Bees' Needs Week when DEFRA and other green organizations including the Royal Horticultural Society and Bumblebee Conservation Trust collaborated to encourage a healthy habitat for pollinators and "boosting biodiversity."

On 13 July 2021, the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) announced that funding of GBP16.2 million from the Blue Planet Fund was released.<sup>998</sup> Using this funding, CEFAS will provide technical assistance to support developing countries to tackle marine pollution, develop sustainable seafood practices and establish designated, well-managed and enforced marine protected areas.

On 17 July 2021, DEFRA launched consultation on extending the near-total ban on import, export and dealing of items containing elephant ivory to other ivory-bearing species.<sup>999</sup> DEFRA outlined its proposals to ban the trade in hippo, narwhal, walrus, killer whale and sperm whale ivory in the Action Plan for Animal Welfare.

On 21 July 2021, DEFRA, the Environment Agency and Natural England announced a range of nature projects that will benefit from a new fund aimed to drive private investment in the environment and tackle climate change.<sup>1000</sup> The 27 schemes across England include initiatives restoring kelp forests, creating new woodlands and improving water quality. Organizations have been awarded up to GBP100,000 each, drawn from the GBP10 million Natural Environment Investments Readiness Fund.

On 27 July 2021, Natural England's Chair, Tony Juniper joined his Royal Highness The Prince of Wales on the Sandringham Estate to release one of the UK's most threatened species: the Eurasian curlew.<sup>1001</sup> The releases aimed to expand an existing breeding population of curlew in Breckland, creating a new curlew nature recovery network.

On 29 July, Natural England declared Johnson's Meadows, 16 acres of unspoiled grasslands in Leicestershire, rich in rare wildflowers, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).<sup>1002</sup> The site joined 4,100 SSSI's that "form the backbone of nature conservation in England."

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<sup>996</sup> Clampdown on illegal fishing in Derbyshire, Environment Agency (London) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/clampdown-on-illegal-fishing-in-derbyshire>

<sup>997</sup> Buzzing for Bees' Needs Week 2021, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Natural England (London) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/buzzing-for-bees-needs-week-2021>

<sup>998</sup> Cefas to partner on government's support to protect the world's oceans with boost for marine recovery, Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (London) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cef-as-to-partner-on-governments-support-to-protect-the-worlds-oceans-with-boost-for-marine-recovery>

<sup>999</sup> Government seeks views on extending world-leading ivory ban to protect hippos, walruses and narwhals, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 17 July 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-seeks-views-on-extending-world-leading-ivory-ban-to-protect-hippos-walruses-and-narwhals>

<sup>1000</sup> Boost to drive investment in Essex, Norfolk and Lincolnshire environment, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Environment Agency and Natural England (London) 21 July 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-to-drive-investment-in-essex-norfolk-and-lincolnshire-environment>

<sup>1001</sup> Eurasian Curlews released on the Sandringham Estate, Natural England (London) 27 July 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eurasian-curlews-released-on-the-sandringham-estate>

<sup>1002</sup> Leicestershire beauty spot declared SSSI, Natural England (London) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/leicestershire-beauty-spot-declared-sssi>

On 30 July 2021, Natural England launched a new scheme in Yorkshire to help conserve local populations of great crested newts and promote sustainable development.<sup>1003</sup> The scheme created a network of ponds across Yorkshire to provide habitat for the great crested newt; 37 ponds were created or restored.

On 10 August 2021, the UK government opened a consultation on plans for new Local Nature Recovery Strategies across England.<sup>1004</sup> The Local Nature Recovery Strategies aimed to “drive up the recovery of local landscapes and wildlife” and support nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change, including tree-planting or the restoration of peatland for carbon sequestration.

On 15 August 2021, DEFRA introduced a ban on the import and export of detached shark fins and products containing them.<sup>1005</sup> The ban will promote shark conservation and challenge unsustainable fishing practices.

On 16 August 2021, the Environment Agency launched a public consultation on a flood risk activity permit application from Natural England as part of a project to restore Hoveton Great Broad and Hudson’s Bay in Norfolk.<sup>1006</sup> The permit is a prerequisite to the installation of permeable fish barriers that would allow water fleas to clean and restore the aforementioned water bodies without interference from fish entering the Broad.

On 25 August 2021, DEFRA and Natural England launched a consultation on the reintroduction of beavers into the wild in England.<sup>1007</sup> This consultation is a step toward further reintroductions and establishing native beaver populations.

On 22 September 2021, five UK statutory nature agencies published a report that stated that “[greater] action, investment and embracing natural solutions are crucial to halting biodiversity loss by 2030.”<sup>1008</sup> In the report, the agencies outlined how the UK can meet its commitments in the Leaders’ Pledge for Nature and ensure that recovery of biodiversity is prioritized on the path to net zero.

On 22 September 2021, Natural England, Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Trust, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Forestry England, National Trust, Rempstone Estate, and the RSPB agreed to a 20-year vision, a Memorandum of Understanding and the first-ever joint management plan for a ‘super’ National Nature Reserve.<sup>1009</sup>

On 22 September 2021, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that the Biodiversity Landscapes Fund will invest in six of the most environmentally critical landscapes, spanning eighteen countries, to help to combat

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<sup>1003</sup> New innovative scheme to protect newts and promote sustainable development is rolled out across Yorkshire, Natural England (London) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-innovative-scheme-to-protect-newts-and-promote-sustainable-development-is-rolled-out-across-yorkshire>

<sup>1004</sup> Local communities urged to help shape the natural world around them, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Natural England (London) 10 August 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-communities-urged-to-help-shape-the-natural-world-around-them>

<sup>1005</sup> Government to introduce world-leading ban on shark fin trade, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Natural England (London) 15 August 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-introduce-world-leading-ban-on-shark-fin-trade>

<sup>1006</sup> New consultation for Norfolk habitat restoration project, Environment Agency and Natural England (London) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-consultation-for-norfolk-habitat-restoration-project>

<sup>1007</sup> Landmark consultation launched on the reintroduction of beavers in England, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Natural England (London) 25 August 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/landmark-consultation-launched-on-the-reintroduction-of-beavers-in-england>

<sup>1008</sup> It’s not too late to reverse biodiversity decline by 2030, UK’s five leading nature bodies say, Natural England and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (London) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/its-not-too-late-to-reverse-biodiversity-decline-by-2030-uks-five-leading-nature-bodies-say>

<sup>1009</sup> Partners agree 20-year vision for Purbeck Heaths super NNR, Natural England (London) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/partners-agree-20-year-vision-for-purbeck-heaths-super-nnr>

climate change and protect rare and endangered species.<sup>1010</sup> The fund will be considered Official Development Assistance as part of the UK's commitment to international development.

On 29 September 2021, Natural England designated the Cotswold Water Park as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, offering greater protection for the park's biodiverse populations of waterbirds and aquatic plants.<sup>1011</sup>

On 1 October 2021, the UK government announced funding for conservation projects to protect species including tigers, orangutans and pangolins.<sup>1012</sup> The Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund (WTCF) will provide seventeen projects with over GBP7 million in funding. The WTCF "provides essential support to projects that tackle illegal wildlife trade for the benefit of wildlife, nature, local communities and economies, and global security."

On 5 October 2021, DEFRA published the Implementation Plan for the Healthy Bees Plan 2030 which outlines guidelines for beekeepers, bee farmers, bee associations and government to protect and augment populations of honeybees.<sup>1013</sup>

On 14 October 2021, Natural England reported that the Environment Agency approved the Hoveton Great Broad Restoration Project.<sup>1014</sup> This project will help to reverse pollution in Norfolk broad and aid in ecosystem restoration.

On 15 October 2021, the Environment Agency and Natural England published a report by the Catchment Based Approach's Chalk Stream Restoration Group.<sup>1015</sup> The report outlines recommendations of how chalk streams can be restored, enhanced and looked at ways to restore the River Rase.

On 2 November 2021, the UK pledged GBP1.5 billion over five years to the Global Forest Finance Pledge.<sup>1016</sup> The funding includes GBP350 million allocated to tropical forests in Indonesia, GBP200 million to the LEAF Coalition and up to GBP300 million to the Amazon.

On 5 November 2021, the Environment Agency along with other environmental organisations released and published environment handbooks that outlined guidance for how to carry out best practice in regards to estuarine and coastal habitat creation projects across the UK and Ireland.<sup>1017</sup>

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<sup>1010</sup> Honduras to benefit from lifeline for some the world's most precious biodiverse habitats, British Embassy Guatemala City (Guatemala City) 23 September 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/honduras-to-benefit-from-lifeline-for-some-the-worlds-most-precious-biodiverse-habitats>

<sup>1011</sup> Cotswold Water Park confirmed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, Natural England (London) 29 September 2021. Access Date: 20 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cotswold-water-park-confirmed-as-a-site-of-special-scientific-interest>

<sup>1012</sup> UK commits additional £7.2 million to tackling illegal wildlife trade, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Natural England (London) 1 October 2021. Access Date: 21 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-commits-additional-72-million-to-tackling-illegal-wildlife-trade>

<sup>1013</sup> A boost for bees as Defra works with beekeepers to implement the Healthy Bees Plan 2030, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Natural England (London) 5 October 2021. Access Date: 21 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/a-boost-for-bees-as-defra-works-with-beekeepers-to-implement-the-healthy-bees-plan-2030>

<sup>1014</sup> Ambitious project to reverse decades of pollution in Norfolk broad, Natural England (London) 14 October 2021. Access Date: 21 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ambitious-project-to-reverse-decades-of-pollution-in-norfolk-broad>

<sup>1015</sup> Chalk stream strategy launched to protect 'England's rainforests', Environment Agency and Natural England (London) 15 October 2021. Access Date: 21 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chalk-stream-strategy-launched-to-protect-englands-rainforests>

<sup>1016</sup> \$12 billion donor support to halt and reverse forest loss and protect land rights, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Cabinet Office (London) 3 November 2021. Access Date: 21 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/12-billion-donor-support-to-halt-and-reverse-forest-loss-and-protect-land-rights>

On 10 November 2021, the UK government passed legislation that intends to “clean up the country’s air, restore natural habitats, increase biodiversity, reduce waste and make better use of [its] resources.”<sup>1018</sup> The UK hopes to halt the decline in species by 2030, which will necessitate new developments to “improve or create habitats for nature, and tackle deforestation overseas.”

On 3 December 2021, the Environment Agency announced that it planted over six hundred trees in Suffolk in 2021 and plans to plant over 500 trees between December 2021 and March 2022.<sup>1019</sup>

On 16 December 2021, the Environment Agency announced the initiation of survey work as part of a pilot program tracing native and non-native crayfish in North East and Yorkshire rivers.<sup>1020</sup> The GBP20,000 National Crayfish Monitoring Programme will utilise environmental DNA surveying to identify the presence of native white-clawed crayfish, invasive signal crayfish and crayfish plague.

On 18 December 2021, DEFRA, Natural England and the Welsh Government announced plans to seek consultations on a proposed ban on the use of peat in horticulture in England and Wales, in an effort to protect precious peatland habitats and meet net-zero carbon targets.<sup>1021</sup>

The UK has fully complied with its commitment to support and drive the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and to tackle climate change. The UK has taken consistent strong action to promote biodiversity domestically and internationally, including through the reintroduction of threatened species back into the wild, passing of legislation to protect endangered species, initiatives to thwart negative externalities brought by climate change and degradation of ecosystems and initiatives to restore wildlife habitats and reforestation efforts.

Thus, the UK receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tanmaya Ramprasad*

#### **United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to support and drive the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and to tackle climate change.

On 21 June 2021, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack issued a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) proclamation to recognize the designation of the week of June 21–27, 2021 as National Pollinator

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<sup>1017</sup> Restoration Handbooks published to give best practice advice on creating new estuarine and coastal habitats, Environment Agency (London) 5 November 2021. Access Date: 21 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restoration-handbooks-published-to-give-best-practice-advice-on-creating-new-estuarine-and-coastal-habitats>

<sup>1018</sup> World-leading Environment Act becomes law, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency and Natural England (London) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 21 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law>

<sup>1019</sup> More than 1,000 trees to be planted in Suffolk, Environment Agency (London) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 21 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-than-1000-trees-to-be-planted-in-suffolk>

<sup>1020</sup> Pilot project aims to help safeguard native white-clawed crayfish, Environment Agency (London) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 21 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pilot-project-aims-to-help-safeguard-native-white-clawed-crayfish>

<sup>1021</sup> Plans to phase out the use of peat in the amateur horticulture sector, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency and Natural England (London) 18 December 2021. Access Date: 21 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plans-to-phase-out-the-use-of-peat-in-the-amateur-horticulture-sector>

Week.<sup>1022</sup> The proclamation aids in the protection and conservation of birds, bats, bees and other insects that play an important role in producing more than 100 crops grown in the United States.

On 15 July 2021, the USDA announced the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy.<sup>1023</sup> As part of the new strategy, the USDA ended large-scale old-growth timber sales on the Tongass National Forest and shifted focus to “support forest restoration, recreation and resilience, including for climate, wildlife habitat and watershed improvement.”

On 9 September 2021, the USDA announced an investment of USD464 million to build or improve renewable energy infrastructure.<sup>1024</sup> The funding will allow agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems, reducing their contribution to biodiversity decline and the climate emergency.

On 30 September 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that they will provide USD1,855,200 to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.<sup>1025</sup> This funding will be used to restore water quality that was degraded from surface runoff.

On 30 September 2021, the EPA announced that they will provide USD1.2 million to the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.<sup>1026</sup> This funding will help to restore water quality.

On 4 October 2021, the EPA announced that they will provide USD1.78 to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.<sup>1027</sup> The funding will help to restore water quality in rivers.

On 4 October 2021, the EPA announced that they will provide almost USD5 million to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.<sup>1028</sup> The funding will help to improve and restore the water quality in rivers and streams.

On 5 October 2021, the EPA announced that they will provide USD2.3 million to the Maryland Department of Environment.<sup>1029</sup> The funding will help to restore water quality.

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<sup>1022</sup> Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Issues USDA Proclamation Recognizing National Pollinator Week, Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 22 January 2022. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/06/21/agriculture-secretary-tom-vilsack-issues-usda-proclamation>

<sup>1023</sup> USDA Announces Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy, Initiates Action to Work with Tribes, Partners and Communities, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 22 January 2022. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/07/15/usda-announces-southeast-alaska-sustainability-strategy-initiates>

<sup>1024</sup> USDA Invests \$464 Million in Renewable Energy Infrastructure to Help Rural Communities, Businesses and Ag Producers Build Back Better, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 9 September 2021. Access Date: 22 January 2022. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/09/09/usda-invests-464-million-renewable-energy-infrastructure-help-rural>

<sup>1025</sup> EPA awards \$1.8 million to West Virginia to control polluted runoff, restore water quality, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 30 September 2021. Access Date: 8 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-18-million-west-virginia-control-polluted-runoff-restore-water-quality-0>

<sup>1026</sup> EPA awards \$1.2 million to Delaware to control polluted runoff, restore water quality, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 30 September 2021. Access Date: 8 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-12-million-delaware-control-polluted-runoff-restore-water-quality>

<sup>1027</sup> EPA awards \$1.78 million to Virginia to control polluted runoff, restore water quality, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 4 October 2021. Access Date: 8 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-178-million-virginia-control-polluted-runoff-restore-water-quality>

<sup>1028</sup> EPA awards almost \$5 million to Pennsylvania to control polluted runoff, restore water quality, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 4 October 2021. Access Date: 8 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-almost-5-million-pennsylvania-control-polluted-runoff-restore-water-quality>

On 5 October 2021, the EPA announced that they will provide USD1 million to the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment.<sup>1030</sup> The funding will be used to help restore water quality in rivers.

On 7 October 2021, the EPA announced that they will provide USD500,000 to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.<sup>1031</sup> The funding will be used to enhance the states wetlands, state parks and forests.<sup>1032</sup>

On 7 October 2021, the USDA released its climate adaptation and resilience plan outlining how the department will prepare for current and future impacts of climate change.<sup>1033</sup> The new plan will “[integrate] climate change into USDA’s planning and decision making”, invest in soil and forest health to build resilience, provide accessible climate data at regional and local levels, support climate-related research and development, and broaden outreach and education to promote adaptation strategies.

On 7 October 2021, the EPA announced that they are providing USD667,621 to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.<sup>1034</sup> This funding will be used to support wetlands protection, as well as to preserve water quality and natural resources. Some funding will also be used to assess the health and state of the wetlands in order to determine which areas need to be restored.

On 7 October 2021, the EPA announced that they are providing USD299,362 to the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.<sup>1035</sup> This funding will be used to support wetlands protection, as well as to preserve water quality and natural resources. Some funding will also be used to assess the health and state of the wetlands in order to determine which areas need to be restored.

On 7 October 2021, the EPA announced that they are providing USD599,273 to the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.<sup>1036</sup> The funding will be used to support wetlands protection, as well as to preserve water quality and natural resources.

On 12 October 2021, the EPA announced that they are providing USD144,202 in federal funding to the Maryland Department of Environment.<sup>1037</sup> The funding will be used to enhance Delaware’s wetlands and “protect, retore or enhance” coastal habitats.

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<sup>1029</sup> EPA awards \$2.3 million to Maryland to control polluted runoff, restore water quality, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 5 October 2021. Access Date: 8 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-23-million-maryland-control-polluted-runoff-restore-water-quality>

<sup>1030</sup> EPA awards \$1 million to the District of Columbia to control polluted runoff, restore water quality, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 5 October 2021. Access Date: 8 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-1-million-district-columbia-control-polluted-runoff-restore-water-quality-0>

<sup>1031</sup> EPA awards nearly \$500k to Pennsylvania to enhance wetlands on state parks, forests, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 8 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-nearly-500k-pennsylvania-enhance-wetlands-state-parks-forests>

<sup>1032</sup> EPA awards nearly \$500k to Pennsylvania to enhance wetlands on state parks, forests, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 8 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-nearly-500k-pennsylvania-enhance-wetlands-state-parks-forests>

<sup>1033</sup> USDA Announces Plan to Integrate Climate Adaptation Into its Missions and Programs, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 22 January 2022. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/10/07/usda-announces-plan-integrate-climate-adaptation-its-missions-and>

<sup>1034</sup> EPA awards \$668K to Virginia for wetlands protection, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 8 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-668k-virginia-wetlands-protection>

<sup>1035</sup> EPA awards \$300K to West Virginia for wetlands protection, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 8 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-300k-west-virginia-wetlands-protection>

<sup>1036</sup> EPA awards \$600,000 to Delaware for wetlands protection, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 8 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-600000-delaware-wetlands-protection>

<sup>1037</sup> EPA awards \$144,000 to Maryland to enhance wetlands, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 12 October 2021. Access Date: 8 February 2022. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-144000-maryland-enhance-wetlands>

On 20 October 2021, the USDA and the Department of the Interior announces actions to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and surrounding watershed in Northeastern Minnesota as the area is vital to the National Wilderness Preservation System.<sup>1038</sup> Some of the actions included a twenty-year withdrawal of key portions of the national forest lands from under mineral and geothermal leasing laws, prohibiting any prospective permits or leases in the area.

On 2 November 2021, the US and the United Arab Emirates officially launched the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate) alongside thirty-one countries and over forty-eight non-government partners.<sup>1039</sup> AIM for Climate is intended to raise global climate ambition and increase investment and public-private involvement in climate-smart agriculture and food systems.

On 19 November 2021, the USDA announced that it is taking steps to repeal the 2020 Alaska Roadless Rule and “restore protections to more than nine million acres of inventoried roadless areas on the Tongass National Forest.”<sup>1040</sup>

On 17 December 2021, the USDA, Department of the Interior and Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency announced the establishment of a Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission.<sup>1041</sup> The Commission will recommend “federal policies and strategies to effectively prevent, mitigate, suppress and manage wildland fires, including the rehabilitation of land affected from wildland fires.”

On 10 January 2022, the USDA invested USD50 million in 118 partnerships to expand access to conservation assistance for climate-smart agriculture and forestry.<sup>1042</sup> The funding is aimed to support projects that prioritize “[improving] soil health and water quality, [providing] habitat for at-risk wildlife, [improving] natural resources and productivity on agricultural lands and/or [building] and strengthening local and regional food systems and markets.

On 12 January 2022, the USDA announced “a USD9 million investment in new Cooperative Extension and USDA Climate Hubs partnerships to bolster climate research, connect and share climate-smart solutions directly with the agricultural community.”<sup>1043</sup>

On 13 January 2022, the USDA announced USD225 million in funding for the Regional Conservation Program.<sup>1044</sup> Initiatives by the Regional Conservation Program leverage collective resources to find solutions to address natural resource challenges on agricultural land.

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<sup>1038</sup> Biden Administration Takes Action to Complete Study of Boundary Waters Area Watershed, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 20 October 2021. Access Date: 22 January 2022. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/10/20/biden-administration-takes-action-complete-study-boundary-waters>

<sup>1039</sup> Launching Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 20 October 2021. Access Date: 22 January 2022. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/11/02/launching-agriculture-innovation-mission-climate>

<sup>1040</sup> USDA Announces Steps to Restore Roadless Protections on Tongass National Forest, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 19 November 2021. Access Date: 3 January 2022. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/11/19/usda-announces-steps-restore-roadless-protections-tongass-national>

<sup>1041</sup> USDA, DOI, and FEMA Jointly Establish New Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 17 December 2021. Access Date: 3 January 2022. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2021/12/17/usda-doi-and-fema-jointly-establish-new-wildland-fire-mitigation>

<sup>1042</sup> USDA Invests \$50 million in Partnerships to Improve Equity in Conservation Programs, Address Climate Change, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 10 January 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2022. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2022/01/10/usda-invests-50-million-partnerships-improve-equity-conservation>

<sup>1043</sup> USDA Invests \$9M to Expand Reach and Increase Adoption of Climate-Smart Practices, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 12 January 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2022. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2022/01/12/usda-invests-9m-expand-reach-and-increase-adoption-climate-smart>

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to protect and conserve ecosystems through the investment of vast amounts of financial capital into initiatives focused on the protection and conservation of habitats. It has also fully complied with its commitment to tackle climate change with its consistent flow of financial aid to organizations and rural farmlands to improve and enact climate-smart agricultural practices.

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

*Analyst: Tanmaya Ramprasad*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to support and drive the protection, conservation and restoration of ecosystems critical to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and environmental degradation and to tackle climate change.

On 17 June 2021, the European Commission endorsed Denmark's EUR1.5 billion recovery and resilience plan, "paving the way for the EU to disburse EUR1.5 billion in grants under the Recovery and Resilience Facility over the period 2021-2026."<sup>1045</sup> Strengthening environmental protection and protecting biodiversity are highlighted as priorities in Denmark's green and digital recovery.

On 17 June 2021, the European Commission endorsed Greece's EUR30.5 billion recovery and resilience plan to support Greece's green and digital transition.<sup>1046</sup> The plan includes investments towards fire prevention and a national reforestation programme to enhance biodiversity protection.

On 18 June 2021, the European Commission endorsed Luxembourg's EUR93 million recovery and resilience plan to support Luxembourg's green and digital transition.<sup>1047</sup> Under the plan, 61 per cent of expenditures will support climate goals, including a plan to encourage municipalities to protect biodiversity and the environment.

On 21 June 2021, the European Commission endorsed Austria's EUR3.5 billion recovery and resilience plan to support Austria's green and digital transition.<sup>1048</sup> Under the plan, 59 per cent of the expenditures will support climate goals, including investments towards biodiversity.

On 22 June 2021, the European Commission endorsed Italy's EUR191.5 billion recovery and resilience plan to support Italy's green and digital transition.<sup>1049</sup> As a part of the plan, 37 per cent of expenditures will support climate-related objectives, including biodiversity protection.

On 23 June 2021, the European Commission endorsed Belgium's EUR5.9 billion recovery and resilience plan to support its green and digital transition.<sup>1050</sup> The plan will invest directly in the preservation of biodiversity in

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<sup>1044</sup> USDA to Invest up to \$225 Million in Partner-Driven Conservation on Agricultural and Forest Land, U.S Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 13 January 2022. Access Date: 22 January 2022. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2022/01/13/usda-invest-225-million-partner-driven-conservation-agricultural>

<sup>1045</sup> NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Denmark's EUR1.5 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 19 January 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_3024](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3024)

<sup>1046</sup> NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Greece's EUR30.5 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 19 January 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_3022](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3022)

<sup>1047</sup> NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Luxembourg's EUR93 million recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 19 January 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_3047](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3047)

<sup>1048</sup> NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Austria's recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 19 January 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_3052](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3052)

<sup>1049</sup> NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses Italy's EUR191.5 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 19 January 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_3126](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3126)

<sup>1050</sup> Questions and answers: European Commission endorses Belgium's EUR5.9 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 19 January 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_21\\_3148](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_3148)

protected areas, enhancement of resilient forest management, creation of wetlands, ecological restoration operations and development of green infrastructure.

On 23 June 2021, the European Commission endorsed France's EUR39.4 billion recovery and resilience plan to support its green and digital transitions.<sup>1051</sup> Under the plan, 46 per cent of expenditures will support climate goals, including investments in protected areas, ecological restoration, forest management and expansion of wooded areas to preserve biodiversity.

On 14 July 2021, the European Commission adopted proposals to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 per cent by 2030. The EU Forest Strategy plans to plant 3 billion trees across Europe by 2030 and support foresters and the forest-based bioeconomy to "improve the quality, quantity and resilience of EU forests."<sup>1052</sup>

On 22 September 2021, President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen announced the EU will double its external funding for biodiversity in the EU's new seven-year budget, prioritizing the most vulnerable countries.<sup>1053</sup> The funding aims to support a more effective new Global Biodiversity Framework and to strengthen cooperation on biodiversity protection.

On 8 October 2021, the European Commission launched a public consultation to evaluate and revise the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking.<sup>1054</sup> The public consultation will collect information from citizens and stakeholder organizations about the effectiveness and added value of the Action Plan in minimizing wildlife trafficking.

On 12 October 2021, the European Commission issued a guidance document under the Habitats Directive for the protection of animals, including wolves, bears and dolphins.<sup>1055</sup> The new document includes recent Court of Justice rulings, which will help to ensure more effective implementation of biodiversity protection rules in the EU. The new guidance document serves to assist Member States in the implementation of the Habitats Directive.

On 29 October 2021, Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius called for world leaders "to address climate change and biodiversity loss in an integrated manner" ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference.<sup>1056</sup>

On 17 November 2021, the European Commission adopted three new initiatives for the implementation of the European Green Deal.<sup>1057</sup> The new initiatives include "new rules to curb EU-driven forestation, as well as

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<sup>1051</sup> NextGenerationEU: European Commission endorses France's EUR39.4 billion recovery and resilience plan, European Commission (Brussels) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 19 January 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_3153](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3153)

<sup>1052</sup> European Green Deal: Commission proposes transformation of EU economy and society to meet climate ambitions, European Commission (Brussels) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_3541](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_3541)

<sup>1053</sup> EU at UNGA: Leading the movement for a nature-positive, carbon neutral and equitable, Directorate-General for Environment (Brussels) 22 September 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/eu-unga-leading-movement-nature-positive-carbon-neutral-and-equitable-world-2021-09-22\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/eu-unga-leading-movement-nature-positive-carbon-neutral-and-equitable-world-2021-09-22_en)

<sup>1054</sup> European Green Deal: Commission launches public consultation on the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking, Directorate-General for Environment (Brussels) 8 October 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/european-green-deal-commission-launches-public-consultation-eu-action-plan-against-wildlife-2021-10-08\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/european-green-deal-commission-launches-public-consultation-eu-action-plan-against-wildlife-2021-10-08_en)

<sup>1055</sup> Habitats Directive: New guidance on protected species, Directorate-General for Environment (Brussels) 12 October 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/habitats-directive-new-guidance-protected-species-2021-10-12\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/habitats-directive-new-guidance-protected-species-2021-10-12_en)

<sup>1056</sup> Bridging COP26 and COP15: EU highlights the need to tackle the nature and climate crises together, Directorate-General for Environment (Brussels) 29 October 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/bridging-cop26-and-cop15-2021-10-29\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/bridging-cop26-and-cop15-2021-10-29_en)

new rules to facilitate intra-EU waste shipments to promote circular economy and tackle the export of illegal waste and waste challenges to third countries...[and] a new Soil strategy to have all European soils restored, resilient, and adequately protected by 2050.” The new initiatives aim to lower the global impact on biodiversity loss.

On 25 November 2021, the European Commission approved over EUR290 million of investment in 132 projects under the LIFE programme for the environment and climate action<sup>1058</sup> The new LIFE projects will contribute to the EU’s green recovery after Covid-19 and aid in efforts to recover Europe’s biodiversity by 2030 and make Europe climate-neutral by 2050.

On 9 December 2021, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency announced a project to publish a data tool called ‘MapMyTree’ for organizations to contribute to the pledge of planting three billion trees by 2030 and to register and keep track of their contribution to the EU’s target.<sup>1059</sup> The MapMyTree data tool forms part of the EU’s Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and aims to “increase the EU forest area and resilience, enhance biodiversity and help with climate change mitigation and adaptation.”

On 15 December 2021, the Commission launched two online tracking tools to measure progress made in implementing the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.<sup>1060</sup> Both tracking tools aim to strengthen EU governance in the biodiversity sector by “improving the knowledge and evidence base for biodiversity policy, increasing accountability for implementation, ensuring transparent and effective progress monitoring and review.”

On 16 December 2021, the European Commission banned most forms of trade in ivory as part of its Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to fight environmental crime and protect biodiversity.<sup>1061</sup> The only form of trade in ivory allowed in the EU market will be for the reparation of objects already containing ancient ivory.

On 21 December 2021, the European Commission’s College of Commissioners endorsed new guidelines on aid for States with respect to climate, environmental protection and energy.<sup>1062</sup> The guidelines support the “protection and restoration of biodiversity” and cover aid for “biodiversity and for the remediation of environmental damage.”

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. The European Union has taken strong steps in protecting and conserving ecosystems, restoring ecosystems and halting and reversing biodiversity loss by creating guidelines to assist the Member States in creating the EU

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<sup>1057</sup> European Green Deal: Commission adopts new proposals to stop deforestation, innovate sustainable waste management and make soils healthy for people, nature and climate, Directorate-General for Environment (Brussels) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_5916](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_5916)

<sup>1058</sup> LIFE Programme: More than EUR290 million in EU funding for nature, environment and climate action projects, European Commission (Brussels) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 19 January 2022. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_6178](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6178)

<sup>1059</sup> Biodiversity: Three billion additional trees by 2030 – launch of MapMyTree tool, Directorate-General for Environment (Brussels) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/mapmytree-new-data-tool-count-planted-trees-europe-2021-12-09\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/mapmytree-new-data-tool-count-planted-trees-europe-2021-12-09_en)

<sup>1060</sup> Commission launches new tools for strengthened EU biodiversity governance, Directorate-General for Environment (Brussels) 15 December 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/commission-launches-new-mechanisms-strengthened-eu-biodiversity-governance-2021-12-15\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/commission-launches-new-mechanisms-strengthened-eu-biodiversity-governance-2021-12-15_en)

<sup>1061</sup> Ivory trade: Commission updates rules to end most forms of ivory trade in the EU, Directorate-General for Environment (Brussels) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_21\\_6887](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_6887)

<sup>1062</sup> EU endorses new climate, environmental protection and energy guidelines for state aid, New Europe (Brussels) 23 December 2021. Access Date: 27 December 2021. <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/eu-endorses-new-climate-environmental-protection-and-energy-guidelines-for-state-aid/>

Forest Strategy and Soil Strategy, funding the recovery and resilience plan of most Member States and banning most forms of ivory trade within the EU.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

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