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# 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit Interim Compliance Report

22 May 2023 to 3 December 2023

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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: Conservation Measures

“We stress our commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, ... nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.”

*G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.88 (94%)	

### Background

The Paris Agreement, adopted at the United Nations Climate Conference in Paris on 12 December 2015, was a critical turning point for global conservation policy.<sup>1187</sup> Under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, parties, including the G7 members, were encouraged to act towards conservation efforts. While The Paris Agreement is one example of contemporary push toward environmental protection, the issue of conservation has long been a priority matter amongst G7 leaders. Highlights follow:

At the 1981 Ottawa Summit, G7 leaders pledged to preserve the environment through long-term economic policies.<sup>1188</sup>

At the 1987 Venice Summit, G7 leaders pledged to “preserve a healthy environment and to pass it on to future generations.”<sup>1189</sup> Additionally, the G7 stated that the main environmental problems identified in expert reports should receive full attention.

At the 1988 Toronto Summit, G7 leaders agreed that “the protection and enhancement of the environment is essential.”<sup>1190</sup> G7 leaders endorsed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development which stressed that environmental considerations must be implemented in all areas of economic policymaking.

At the 1989 Paris Summit, G7 leaders stated that there is a necessity to preserve the global ecological balance.<sup>1191</sup> G7 leaders agreed that “decisive action is urgently needed to understand and protect the earth’s ecological

<sup>1187</sup> The Paris Agreement, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Paris) 12 December 2015. Access Date: 28 September 2022. [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf)

<sup>1188</sup> Declaration of the Ottawa Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 July 1981. Access Date 6 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1981ottawa/communique/index.html>

<sup>1189</sup> Venezia Economic Declaration, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 10 June 1987. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/communique/index.html#environment>

<sup>1190</sup> Toronto Economic Summit Economic Declaration, G7 information Centre (Toronto) 21 June 1988. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1988toronto/communique.html#environment>

<sup>1191</sup> Paris Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 1989. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/communique/index.html#environment>

balance.” Additionally, G7 leaders gave their support to the International Tropical Timber Organization to ensure the conservation of forests.

At the 1991 London Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the conservation of forests.<sup>1192</sup> Additionally G7 leaders stated that they remain concerned about the destruction of tropical rainforests and that they welcome progress made towards the development of a pilot program for the conservation of Brazilian rainforests.

At the 1993 Tokyo Summit, G7 leaders stated that environmental issues remain a high priority.<sup>1193</sup> The G7 leaders pledged to “continue to seek appropriate internationally agreed arrangements on the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests.”

At the 1997 Denver Summit G8 leaders stated that they were “determined to address the environmental challenges that will affect the quality of life of future generations.”<sup>1194</sup> Additionally G8 leaders stated that the United Nations confirm the role of and strengthen its environmental institutions.

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G8 Leaders affirmed “the crucial importance of global cooperation, and of better and more effective frameworks and practical efforts designed to sustainably manage and conserve forests.”<sup>1195</sup> G8 leaders also showed support for the United Nations’ work regarding forest conservation.

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, G8 leaders committed to “preserve a clean and sound environment for our children and grandchildren.”<sup>1196</sup>

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, G8 leaders reaffirmed their commitment towards the protection of the environment and sustainable development.<sup>1197</sup>

During Germany’s 2007 G8 presidency the leaders did not address conservation at the Heiligendamm Summit. However, on 17 March 2007, environmental ministers created the Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, which highlighted the need for effective conservation.<sup>1198</sup>

At the 2008 Hokkaido Summit, G8 leaders recognized the crucial importance of conservation, stating that they will “promote a co-benefits approach that will lead to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.”<sup>1199</sup> In addition, on 26 May 2008, environment ministers created the Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity, which reaffirmed G8 support for conservation and laid out plans to strengthen conservation efforts.<sup>1200</sup>

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<sup>1192</sup> Economic Declaration: Building World Partnership, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 July 1991. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1991london/communique/index.html#environment>

<sup>1193</sup> Economic Declaration: A Strengthened Commitment to Jobs and Growth, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 1993. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1993tokyo/communique/index.html#environment>

<sup>1194</sup> Denver Summit of the Eight Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>

<sup>1195</sup> Birmingham Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>

<sup>1196</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

<sup>1197</sup> Genoa Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommuniqué.html>

<sup>1198</sup> Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 March 2007. Access Date: 29 September 2023. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/g8\\_potsdam\\_initiative\\_en.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/g8_potsdam_initiative_en.pdf)

<sup>1199</sup> G8 Hokkaido Tokyo Summit Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

<sup>1200</sup> G8 Environment Ministers Meeting 2008 Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 May 2008. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/env080526-BD.html>

At the 2009 L'Aquila Summit, G8 leaders recognized the importance of innovation in environmental protection.<sup>1201</sup> Additionally, G8 leaders expressed deep concern over the desertification and degradation in drylands stating that “we will work with developing country partners to integrate effective Sustainable Land Management.”

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, G8 leaders stated that “green growth is an essential element to ensuring sustainable global growth, notably to promote resource efficiency and sound water management, fight climate change and conserve biodiversity.”<sup>1202</sup>

At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, G7 leaders committed to the protection of the marine environment from harmful effects such as deep-sea mining.<sup>1203</sup> Additionally, G7 leaders committed to improving resource efficiency for the protection of the environment.

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders gave their support to scientific work that enhances “global ocean observation and assessment for the science-based management, conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.”<sup>1204</sup>

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitments to conservation.<sup>1205</sup> Additionally, G7 leaders welcomed the aim of the IUCN World Conservation Congress and underlined the importance of the United Nations Treaty for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions. Furthermore, G7 leaders committed to the Metz Charter on Biodiversity, which had been released by their environment ministers earlier.<sup>1206</sup> The charter reaffirmed the G7 members’ commitments towards the conservation of the environment.

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders pledged to conserve global biodiversity and to increase “investment in the protection, conservation and restoration of nature.”<sup>1207</sup> Additionally, G7 leaders committed to the G7 2030 Nature Compact. The compact states that the G7 members “commit to the global mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.”<sup>1208</sup>

During Germany’s 2022 G7 presidency, the leaders did not address conservation at their Elmau Summit. However, at their meeting in Berlin G7 environment ministers committed to the G7 Ocean Deal, which reaffirmed their commitment to the conservation of the global ocean.<sup>1209</sup> They called for the conclusion of negotiations for an internationally legally binding instrument to ensure the effective conservation of global oceans.

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<sup>1201</sup> Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>

<sup>1202</sup> G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#climate>

<sup>1203</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

<sup>1204</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#climate>

<sup>1205</sup> Biarritz Chair's Summary on Climate, Biodiversity and Oceans, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/chairs-summary-climate.html>

<sup>1206</sup> Metz Charter on Biodiversity, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 May 2019. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2019-metz-charter-on-biodiversity.pdf>

<sup>1207</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: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communication.html>

<sup>1208</sup> G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

<sup>1209</sup> G7 Ocean Deal, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2022-ocean-deal.html>

At the 2023 Hiroshima Summit, G7 leaders committed to fulfill the goal of the “30 by 30” initiative to conserve 30% of marine and coastal areas and 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas by 2030.<sup>1210</sup> This pledge builds upon the Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework, which was adopted at the Hiroshima summit and calls to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030.

### Commitment Features

At the 2023 Hiroshima summit, leaders committed to “achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas, . . . nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.”<sup>1211</sup> There are three dimensions to this commitment for G7 members to receive full compliance: G7 members must 1) take action to achieve the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, 2) take action nationally and globally and 3) take action through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

### Definitions and Guidelines

“Effectively” is understood to mean “operating in a way that produces the intended result. It does not mean any effort, especially thoughtless ones.”<sup>1212</sup>

“Conserving” is understood to mean “to keep in a safe or sound state” and “to avoid the wasteful or destructive use of” something, in this case, terrestrial and inland water areas.<sup>1213</sup>

“Terrestrial” refers to things “relating to land, as distinct from air or water.”<sup>1214</sup> Terrestrial waters refers to lakes, rivers and groundwater. “Inland water areas” are understood to mean “aquatic-influenced environments located within land boundaries.”<sup>1215</sup> Examples of inland waters are “lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, groundwater, springs, cave waters, floodplains, as well as bogs, marshes and swamps, which are traditionally grouped as inland wetlands.”

According to the Convention on Biological Diversity, “protected areas” are defined as geographic areas “designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.”<sup>1216</sup>

According to the Convention on Biological Diversity, “other effective area-based conservation measures” are understood to mean geographic areas aside from protected areas, “which [are] governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services.”<sup>1217</sup>

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<sup>1210</sup> G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 28 September 2023.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2023hiroshima/230520-communication.html>

<sup>1211</sup> G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 29 September 2023.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2023hiroshima/230520-communication.html>

<sup>1212</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2023.

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

<sup>1213</sup> Conserve, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conserving>

<sup>1214</sup> Terrestrial, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/terrestrial>

<sup>1215</sup> Inland Waters Biodiversity, the Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal) 29 January 2008. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.cbd.int/waters/inland-waters/>

<sup>1216</sup> Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework, the Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/3/>

<sup>1217</sup> Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework, the Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/3/>

### General Interpretive Guidelines

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that have taken strong action during the compliance period to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally AND globally and have done so with actions that include promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Strong actions include allocating funding to designate and manage protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, establishing a new governmental department to handle environmental conservation and management, changes in domestic legislation to allocate protected areas, signing an international declaration with a plan for national implementation, and establishing international initiatives that use funding to support the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally and globally.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members have taken strong action during the compliance period to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas either nationally OR globally OR some of both/weaker AND may or may not have included measures to promote the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Weak actions for this commitment include verbally reaffirming to designate protected areas, attending a meeting regarding conservation and management or signing an international declaration without a plan for national implementation.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned if the G7 member has only taken weak actions nationally OR globally to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas AND has not taken actions to promote the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures OR has not taken any actions to address the commitment OR has taken actions antithetical to the commitment.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has only taken weak actions nationally or globally to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and has not taken actions to promote the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures or the G7 member has not taken any actions to address the commitment or the G7 member has taken actions antithetical to the commitment.
0	The G7 member has taken strong action to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas either nationally or globally or some of both and may or may not have included measures to promote the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
+1	The G7 member has taken strong action to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally and globally and has done so with actions that include promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

*Compliance Director: Mahek Kaur  
Lead Analyst: Ilya Goheen*

### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

On 2 June 2023, Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson and Mayor of the City of Leduc Bob Young announced CAD363,000 in federal funding for Leduc's Urban Tree Canopy Expansion project, as part of the

Government of Canada's Two Billion Trees Program.<sup>1218</sup> The funding will be used to plant 20,000 trees in Leduc's urban areas and "around restored wetland areas" to support biodiversity and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

On 5 July 2023, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Terry Duguid, on behalf of Minister Wilkinson, Manitoba's Minister of Natural Resources and Northern Development Greg Nesbitt and Manitoba's Minister of Environment and Climate Kevin Klein announced a joint agreement between the federal and Manitoba governments to plant one million trees annually.<sup>1219</sup> The federal government will contribute CAD8.85 million in funding under the Two Billion Trees Program to support this nine-year initiative.

On 24 July 2023, the Government of Canada and Mayor of Edmonton Amarjeet Sohi announced a joint initiative between the federal and municipal governments to plant 1.5 million trees in Edmonton.<sup>1220</sup> The federal government will provide CAD47.8 million in funding from the Two Billion Trees Program to support this initiative.

On 8 August 2023, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced CAD6.7 million in funding to support 22 Canadian environmental projects, in part to restore and manage over 1,029 hectares of habitat and monitor over 19 million hectares of habitat.<sup>1221</sup> Notable projects include the Kawartha Region Conservation Authority which aims to restore Ontario's Durham East Cross Conservation Area and Ciel et Terre which plans to improve "ecological function" in Quebec's Massé Stream.

On 16 August 2023, President of Nunatsiavut Johannes Lampe, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Northern Affairs and Minister responsible for PrairiesCan and CanNor Dan Vandal and Member of Parliament for Labrador Yvonne Jones announced over CAD3 million for "Inuit-led conservation and climate adaptation in Nunatsiavut, Newfoundland, and Labrador."<sup>1222</sup> Funding will be directed towards four initiatives which aim to combine "Indigenous knowledge [and] science-based climate information" to establish conservation measures and work towards the goal of effectively conserving and managing 30 per cent of land and water by 2030. On 22 August 2023, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Julie Dabrusin, on behalf of Minister Guilbeault, announced CAD4.8 million in funding from Canada's Enhanced Nature Legacy to support nature conservation in southern Ontario.<sup>1223</sup> Funding will be divided between a number of organizations including the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the University of Waterloo and Long Point

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<sup>1218</sup> City of Leduc to Plant 20,000 Trees as Part of the 2 Billion Trees Program, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 2 June 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/06/city-of-leduc-to-plant-20000-trees-as-part-of-the-2-billion-trees-program.html>

<sup>1219</sup> Government of Canada and Manitoba Collaborate to Plant 1 Million Trees Annually, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 5 July 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/07/government-of-canada-and-manitoba-collaborate-to-plant-1-million-trees-annually.html>

<sup>1220</sup> Government of Canada and Mayor Sohi Announce Joint Investment to Plant 1.5 Million Trees in Edmonton, Expanding the Urban Canopy and Contributing to Canada's 2 Billion Trees Program, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 24 July 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/07/minister-boissonnault-and-mayor-sohi-announce-joint-investment-to-plant-15-million-trees-in-edmonton-expanding-the-urban-canopy-and-contributing-to.html>

<sup>1221</sup> The Government of Canada invests \$6.7 million to support 22 environmental projects across Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 10 August 2023. Access Date: 16 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/08/the-government-of-canada-invests-67-million-to-support-22-environmental-projects-across-canada.htm>

<sup>1222</sup> Canada invests in Inuit-led climate adaptation and conservation in Nunatsiavut, Newfoundland and Labrador, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 16 August 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/08/canada-invests-in-inuit-led-climate-adaptation-and-conservation-in-nunatsiavut-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

<sup>1223</sup> Canada is investing \$4.8 million to support biodiversity conservation in southern Ontario, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 22 August 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/08/canada-is-investing-48-million-to-support-biodiversity-conservation-in-southern-ontario.html>

Biosphere Region which contribute to the conservation and management of terrestrial and inland water habitats.

On 22 August 2023, Minister Wilkinson and Prince Edward Island's Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Action Steven Myers announced nearly CAD3 million to plant 300,000 trees in Prince Edward Island (PEI).<sup>1224</sup> Of this, the federal government will provide CAD1.7 million dollars under the Two Billion Trees Program. This initiative aims to permanently expand urban and rural forest habitats in PEI.

On 24 August 2023, Minister of International Development Ahmed Hussen announced CAD200 million in funding to support the launch of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF).<sup>1225</sup> The GBFF, which aims to support nature restoration “and grow resilient economies,” will allocate up to 20 per cent of its funds towards “Indigenous and local action to protect and conserve biodiversity.”

On 24 August 2023, Minister Hussen announced an additional CAD22.8 million for the Global Environment Facility Assembly's Eight Replenishment to address issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.<sup>1226</sup> This announcement was made in light of the seventh Global Environment Facility Assembly which was co-hosted and chaired by Minister Hussen in Vancouver between 22 and 26 August 2023.

On 5 September 2023, Minister Guilbeault announced CAD2.19 million in funding for the Appalachian Corridor over the next three years, under the Community-Nominated Priority Places program.<sup>1227</sup> This initiative aims to reduce threats to 26 at-risk species by protecting and conserving habitats in the Northern Green Mountains region in southern Quebec.

On 6 September 2023, Minister of the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario Filomena Tassi announced the start of the Randle Reef Contaminated Sediment Remediation Project's third stage.<sup>1228</sup> Stage three aims to continue sustainably restoring and protecting the Great Lakes which provide clean drinking water to millions of Canadians and are crucial to the region's economic prosperity. Milestone Environmental Contracting Inc. was awarded a contract of CAD29.2 million for the first phase of stage three which entails “the installation of a multi-layered environmental cap” to isolate contaminated sediment.

On 15 September 2023, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Gary Anandasangaree announced a joint investment of over CAD1.1 million between the Canadian government and Friends of Rouge Watershed to plant 31,500 native trees in the Greater Toronto Area.<sup>1229</sup> The project aims to restore forest habitats between

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<sup>1224</sup> Government of Canada Announces 2 Billion Trees Funding to Plant 300,000 Trees in Prince Edward Island, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 22 August 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/08/government-of-canada-announces-2-billion-trees-funding-to-plant-300000-trees-on-prince-edward-island.html>

<sup>1225</sup> Canada announces contribution to Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to protect world's nature, Global Affairs Canada (Vancouver) 24 August 2023. Access Date: 16 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/08/canada-announces-contribution-to-global-biodiversity-framework-fund-to-protect-worlds-nature.html>

<sup>1226</sup> Canada announces contribution to Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to protect world's nature, Global Affairs Canada (Vancouver) 24 August 2023. Access Date: 16 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/08/canada-announces-contribution-to-global-biodiversity-framework-fund-to-protect-worlds-nature.html>

<sup>1227</sup> Protecting threatened species in the Northern Green Mountains of southern Quebec, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 5 September 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/09/protecting-threatened-species-in-the-northern-green-mountains-of-southern-quebec.html>

<sup>1228</sup> Cleaning up Lake Ontario: the final stage begins for the Randle Reef Remediation Project in Hamilton Harbour, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 6 September 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/09/cleaning-up-lake-ontario-the-final-stage-begins-for-the-randle-reef-remediation-project-in-hamilton-harbour.html>

<sup>1229</sup> The Government of Canada and the Friends of the Rouge Watershed Announce 2 Billion Trees Program Funding to Plant 31,500 Native Trees, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 15 September 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/09/the-government-of-canada-and-the-friends-of-the-rouge-watershed-announce-2-billion-trees-program-funding-to-plant-31500-native-trees.html>

“the Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Ontario,” in part by engaging 6,000 youth and community volunteers. The Government of Canada’s contribution to this project will be provided under the Two Billion Trees Program.

On 28 September 2023, Minister Guilbeault announced over CAD2.7 million in funding to support “24 projects that will advance Great Lakes priorities under the Freshwater Action Plan.”<sup>1230</sup> These projects will focus on restoring water quality and improving ecosystems in the Great Lakes Area of Concern.

On 10 October 2023, Minister of Indigenous Services Patty Hajdu announced CAD663,500 in funding under the Freshwater Action Plan to support the Thunder Bay Project.<sup>1231</sup> Funding will be divided between six projects focused on restoring water quality and improving ecosystems in the region.

On 10 October 2023, Member of Parliament for Halifax West Lena Metlege Diab and Minister of Environment and Climate Change for Nova Scotia Timothy Halman announced CAD28.5 million in federal funding as part of the Canada-Nova Scotia Nature Agreement.<sup>1232</sup> The three-year investment will help conserve and protect biodiversity, habitat and species at risk in Nova Scotia. The government expects that this agreement will allow for an additional 82,500 hectares of land to be conserved and protected in Nova Scotia by March 2026.

On 13 October 2023, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced the Northwest Territories Project Finance for Permanence which aims to double land conservation in the Northwest Territories.<sup>1233</sup> This initiative is expected to significantly contribute to Canada’s goal of conserving and managing 30 per cent of land and water by 2030. While final contributions have yet to be announced, the Government of Canada “made an initial floor commitment” of CAD100 million to support this project.

On 14 October 2023, Member of Parliament for Milton Adam van Koevorden, the Halton Region Conservation Authority and Trees for Halton Hills announced a joint investment of CAD1.6 million to plant over 122,000 trees in terrestrial and inland water areas in the Halton region.<sup>1234</sup> The Government of Canada’s contribution to this initiative is part of the Two Billion Trees Program.

On 20 October 2023, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Diane LeBouthillier announced CAD55.5 million to construct the Near-Shore Fishery Research Vessel in Gaspé.<sup>1235</sup> The vessel, which is expected to be active in 2027, will conduct critical research to guide future decisions regarding sustainable fisheries and healthy ecosystems in the St. Lawrence River and Gulf region.

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<sup>1230</sup> Government of Canada makes transformative investments to clean up and protect the Bay of Quinte and other areas of the Great Lakes, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 28 September 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/09/government-of-canada-makes-transformative-investments-to-clean-up-and-protect-the-bay-of-quinte-and-other-areas-of-the-great-lakes.html>

<sup>1231</sup> Canada invests in Thunder Bay projects to clean up and protect the Great Lakes, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 10 October 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/10/canada-invests-in-thunder-bay-projects-to-clean-up-and-protect-the-great-lakes.html>

<sup>1232</sup> Canada and Nova Scotia chart new path with Agreement to help protect and conserve nature, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 10 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/10/canada-and-nova-scotia-chart-new-path-with-agreement-to-help-protect-and-conserve-nature.html>

<sup>1233</sup> Canada reaches historic milestone on Indigenous-led land conservation in the Northwest Territories, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 13 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/10/canada-reaches-historic-milestone-on-indigenous-led-land-conservation.html>

<sup>1234</sup> New Federal Investment to Support Planting Over 122,000 Trees in the Halton Region, Contributing to 2 Billion Trees Commitment, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 14 October 2023. Access date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/10/new-federal-investment-to-support-planting-over-122000-trees-in-the-halton-region-contributing-to-2-billion-trees-commitment.html>

<sup>1235</sup> Government of Canada announces construction of the Canadian Coast Guard’s first-ever hybrid vessel in Gaspé, Canadian Coast Guard (Ottawa) 20 October 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-coast-guard/news/2023/10/government-of-canada-announces-construction-of-the-canadian-coast-guards-first-ever-hybrid-vessel-in-gaspe.html>

On 3 November 2023, the Governments of Canada and British Columbia (BC) and the First Nations Leadership Council signed the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation to support the protection and conservation of ecosystems in BC.<sup>1236</sup> The federal government will invest up to CAD500 million to support this initiative. Of this, CAD104 million will be provided under the Two Billion Trees Program for the restoration of habitats housing at-risk species and to manage wildfires and watershed areas.

On 10 November 2023, the government announced up to CAD8 million to conserve green areas in Montréal-Est.<sup>1237</sup> The selected area includes woodlands and other areas that can be converted into green spaces.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. This is evident through several government actions including investments in major reforestation projects in multiple provinces and multimillion-dollar investments to support the conservation of the Great Lakes.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Emily Hospedales*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

On 25 August 2023, Minister of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion Christophe Béchu, Secretary of State for the Sea Hervé Berville and Secretary of State to the Minister of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, responsible for Biodiversity Sarah El Haïry inaugurated the expansion of the Sept-Îles national nature reserve.<sup>1238</sup> This expansion of the total area from 280 hectares to 19,700 hectares will support the preservation of biodiversity in the area which hosts over a thousand underwater species and 122 plant species.

On 29 September 2023, Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Marc Fesneau and Secretary El Haïry announced the “hedge pact” which aims to preserve and develop hedges which are key for biodiversity and provide various environmental benefits, such as supporting critical pollinators and reducing soil erosion.<sup>1239</sup> The government will provide EUR110 million for the pact beginning in 2024.

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<sup>1236</sup> Government of Canada, British Columbia and the First Nations Leadership Council sign a historic tripartite nature conservation framework agreement, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 3 November 2023. Access Date: 16 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/11/government-of-canada-british-columbia-and-the-first-nations-leadership-council-sign-a-historic-tripartite-nature-conservation-framework-agreement.html>

<sup>1237</sup> The Government of Canada is committed to investing up to \$8 million to protect green spaces in Montréal-Est, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Montréal) 10 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/11/the-government-of-canada-is-committed-to-investing-up-to-8-million-to-protect-green-spaces-in-montreal-est.html>

<sup>1238</sup> La réserve naturelle nationale des Sept-Îles devient la plus grande de l'hexagone, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires and Ministère de la Transition énergétique (Paris) 25 August 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-sept-iles-devient-plus-grande-lhexagone>

<sup>1239</sup> Présentation par Sarah El Haïry et Marc Fesneau du « pacte en faveur de la haie » doté d'un budget de 110 M€ dès 2024, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires and Ministère de la Transition énergétique (Paris) 29 September 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/presentation-sarah-el-hairy-et-marc-fesneau-du-pacte-en-faveur-haie-dote-dun-budget-110-meu-des-2024>

On 12 October 2023, the government announced France’s 2024 green budget which includes an increase of EUR7 billion in payment credits for ecological transition and an overall budget of EUR10 billion.<sup>1240</sup> Of this, EUR1.2 billion in payment credits and an additional EUR2.1 billion will be devoted to the preservation of biodiversity and forests.

On 27 November 2023, Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne presented the new National Biodiversity Strategy, SNB 2030.<sup>1241</sup> While the first version of the SNB was presented during a national committee at the Ministry of Ecological Transition on 20 July 2023, an updated and final version of it has now been published to include 40 measures which directly address objectives such as reducing pressure on ecosystems, restoring degraded ecosystems, mobilizing all stakeholders and providing the means to achieve these goals.<sup>1242</sup> This new strategy for biodiversity and nature conservation includes elaborate ecological planning with concrete objectives that contribute to the overall goal of conserving and restoring 30 per cent of land and water areas by 2030.

France has fully complied to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. France took strong action toward the conservation and management of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally including through funding to preserve biodiversity and the expansion of a nature reserve.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Therese Angeline Reyes*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

On 12 June 2023, the government announced the launch of the “Connecting habitats – Erzgebirgskreis large-scale nature conservation project,” which aims to preserve and protect biodiversity in the Ore Mountains, which hosts meadows, wetlands and mixed mountain forests.<sup>1243</sup> The Federal Environment Ministry will provide EUR1.3 million between 2023 and 2025 to help fund this project.

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<sup>1240</sup> Le budget vert 2024 - Une hausse inédite de 7 Md€ des dépenses en faveur de la planification écologique, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires and Ministère de la Transition énergétique (Paris) 12 October 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/budget-vert-2024-hausse-inedite-7-mdeu-des-depenses-en-faveur-planification-ecologique>

<sup>1241</sup> Stratégie nationale biodiversité 2030, Gouvernement Français (Paris) n.d. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 27 November 2023. <https://biodiversite.gouv.fr/>

<sup>1242</sup> Stratégie nationale biodiversité 2030, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires and Ministère de la Transition énergétique (Paris) 27 November 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 27 November 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/strategie-nationale-biodiversite>; Stratégie Nationale Biodiversité 2030, Vivre en harmonie avec la nature, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires and Ministère de la Transition énergétique (Paris) November 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 27 November 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Doc-chapeau-SNB2030-HauteDef.pdf>

<sup>1243</sup> New major nature conservation project aims to secure species-rich cultural landscape in the central Ore Mountains, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 12 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/neues-naturschutzgrossprojekt-soll-artenreiche-kulturlandschaft-im-mittleren-erzgebirge-sichern>

On 17 July 2023, the Federal Environment Ministry and Federal Agency for Nature Conservation announced the “Grassland Diversity” project in the Ise lowlands in Lower Saxony.<sup>1244</sup> The project will receive EUR1.2 million in funding through the Federal Biological Diversity Program. The project is a joint initiative with the nature conservation organization Aktion Fischotterschutz e. V. and is intended to promote soil nutrients, maintain water and carbon reservoirs, and promote biodiversity in grasslands.

On 25 July 2023, Minister of Environment Steffi Lemke announced the launch of a forest conservation project in partnership with four Indian states.<sup>1245</sup> The Federal Environment Ministry will provide EUR17.5 million from the International Climate Initiative fund for the protection and restoration of forest landscapes.<sup>1246</sup> These funds will contribute to the “Restore, Conserve and Protect Forest and Tree Cover for NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) Implementation in India,” project headed by the Deutsch Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit. The objective is to restore 400,000 hectares of forests and forest landscapes in the four participating Indian states.

On 27 July 2023, the Federal Environment Ministry and Federal Agency for Nature Conservation announced approximately EUR1 million in funding, as part of the Federal Biological Diversity Program, for the North Rhine-Westphalia project.<sup>1247</sup> The project aims to support the protection and renaturation of moorland habitats in the Lower Rhine Bay.

On 8 September 2023, Minister Lemke announced the funding of EUR578,000 provided by the Federal Environment Ministry and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in support of the Federal Biological Diversity Program’s project “Bavaria’s Rarest Dry Habitat Species.”<sup>1248</sup> The State association for Bird Protection will facilitate the project in Bavaria until 2029 with the aim of protecting and connecting endangered dry locations and their typical habitat species.

On 20 September 2023, Minister Lemke announced a EUR40 million contribution to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to support the international protection and conservation of nature, in accordance with the commitment to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas by 2030.<sup>1249</sup>

On 29 September 2023, the government announced the Wispertaunus nature conservation project which aims to create natural forests to support biodiversity.<sup>1250</sup> The project will receive approximately EUR1.2 million in

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<sup>1244</sup>Vielfältiges Grünland schützt Klima und Arten, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 17 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date 29 November 2023. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/vielfaeltiges-gruenland-schuetzt-klima-und-arten>

<sup>1245</sup> Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke strengthens German-Indian co-operation on forest conservation, International Climate Initiative (Berlin) 28 July 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/iki-media/news/federal-environment-minister-steffi-lemke-strengthens-german-indian-cooperation-on-forest-conservation/>

<sup>1246</sup> Federal Environment Minister Lemke strengthens environmental cooperation with India, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 25 July 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.bmuv.de/en/pressrelease/federal-environment-minister-lemke-strengthens-environmental-cooperation-with-india>

<sup>1247</sup> Renaturierung von Moorlebensräumen in der Niederrheinischen Bucht, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 27 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/renaturierung-von-moorlebensraeumen-in-der-niederrheinischen-bucht>

<sup>1248</sup> "Bayerns Seltenste": Schutz seltener Arten auf selten gewordenen Trockenstandorten, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 8 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2023. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/bayerns-seltenste-schutz-seltener-arten-auf-selten-gewordenen-trockenstandorten>

<sup>1249</sup> Deutschland bringt mit 40 Millionen Euro den Global Biodiversity Framework Fund an den Start, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 20 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/deutschland-bringt-mit-40-millionen-euro-den-global-biodiversity-framework-fund-an-den-start>

<sup>1250</sup> Entwicklung eines Naturwaldverbundes: neues Naturschutzgroßprojekt im Wispertaunus, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 29 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/entwicklung-eines-naturwaldverbundes-neues-naturschutzgrossprojekt-im-wispertaunus>

funding by the Federal Environment Ministry, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the State of Hesse and the Frankfurt Zoological Society.

On 29 September 2023, the Federal Environment Ministry announced a call for municipal applications for funding related to “measures to adapt to the consequences of climate change.”<sup>1251</sup> Municipalities as well as other actors can apply for funding to develop nature-based solutions to protect, restore, conserve and sustainably use natural ecosystems such as forests, unsealed soils, natural bodies of water or green spaces within a city. The Federal Ministry for the Environment has committed EUR65 million from the Natural Climate Protection Action Program to be awarded for development projects.

On 5 October 2023, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Federal Foreign Office pledged a EUR2 billion investment to the Green Climate Fund at the conference for replenishment hosted in Bonn.<sup>1252</sup> The pledge contributes to the 228 supporting efforts of the Global Climate Fund to invest in coastal protection, reforestation, and other climate measures in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the islands of the Caribbean and Pacific.

On 5 October 2023, Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke opened the Competence Center for Natural Climate Protection.<sup>1253</sup> Under the supervision of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and in partnership with Zukunft-Umwelt-Gesellschaft gGmbH, the center is aims to implement the Natural Climate Protection Action Program by providing advice, information, and funding opportunities for environmental issues such as the protection of forests, floodplains, moors, and other natural areas.

On 26 October 2023 Federal Environment Minister granted EUR6.9 million from the Natural Climate Protection Action Program of the Federal Environment Ministry for the “Auenland Elbmarsche” project.<sup>1254</sup> The funding has been granted to Dr. Elisabeth Klock for the development of 100 hectares of floodplain habitats in the southern Elbe meadows and the ecological conversion of dike foreland at the Geesthache weir in the Elbmarsch joint municipality.

On 14 November 2023, Minister Lemke awarded several companies for supporting biodiversity and nature conservation.<sup>1255</sup> Of note, PERÚ PURO received the audience award for focusing on biodiversity through organic farming, protecting the rainforest and pursuing agroforestry on degraded lands.

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<sup>1251</sup> Neue kommunale Projekte mit naturbasierten Lösungen zur Klimaanpassung gesucht, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 29 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/neue-kommunale-projekte-mit-naturbasierten-loesungen-zur-klimaanpassung-gesucht>

<sup>1252</sup> Green Climate Fund pledging conference in Bonn: Signal of solidarity in climate action, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 5 October 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/gcf-financing-conference-signal-of-solidarity-in-climate-action-182158>

<sup>1253</sup> Bundesumweltministerin Lemke eröffnet Kompetenzzentrum Natürlicher Klimaschutz, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 5 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerin-lemke-eroeffnet-kompetenzzentrum-natuerlicher-klimaschutz>

<sup>1254</sup> Bundesumweltministerium startet erstes Modellprojekt zur Auenrenaturierung im Aktionsprogramm Natürlicher Klimaschutz, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 26 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerium-startet-erstes-modellprojekt-zur-auenrenaturierung-im-aktionsprogramm-natuerlicher-klimaschutz>

<sup>1255</sup> Bundesumweltministerin Lemke prämiiert Unternehmen für ihr Engagement zum Schutz der biologischen Vielfalt, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 14 November 2023. Translation provided by Google translate. Access Date: 26 December 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerin-lemke-praemiert-unternehmen-fuer-ihr-engagement-zum-schutz-der-biologischen-vielfalt>

On 20 November 2023, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection launched project “Forestguard.”<sup>1256</sup> The pilot project aims to utilize artificial intelligence, blockchain technology, and geographic information systems to develop transparent supply chains to reduce deforestation.

Germany has fully complied with achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Germany has entered into bilateral agreements with other states and contributed to international funds to promote terrestrial and inland waters and other area-based conservation measures globally. Germany has also launched national conservation projects to achieve these targets on a national level.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 1.

*Analyst: Eliana Tiritilli*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

On 6 June 2023, Minister of the Environment and Energy Security Gilberto Pichetto Fratin, in partnership with the Minister of Environment Quality Authority of Palestine, signed the new Memorandum of Understanding to renew collaboration in environmental protection and sustainable development.<sup>1257</sup> The memorandum aims to improve monitorization and strengthen the legal and institutional framework for environmental defense and protection. It outlines 13 joint initiatives, including the promotion of sustainable forest management, protection of biodiversity and reduction of environmental degradation and pollution prevention and control.<sup>1258</sup> The memorandum establishes a joint committee to promote coordination, submit project proposals, and determine future funding.

On 3 August 2023, Minister of Environment and Energy Security Gilberto Pichetto Fratin signed into effect a ministerial decree adopting the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030.<sup>1259</sup> The strategy sees the implementation of 18 actions, supporting the objective of protecting 30 per cent of terrestrial and marine areas.

On 21 November 2023, Minister Pichetto participated in a tree planting initiative called “A Tree for the Future.”<sup>1260</sup> As part of this initiative, Minister Pichetto and youth from various schools planted 2,000 trees to support reforestation and the management of terrestrial habitats.

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<sup>1256</sup> Mit Open-Source-Technologien zu entwaldungsfreien Lieferketten, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 20 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/mit-open-source-technologien-zu-entwaldungsfreien-lieferketten>

<sup>1257</sup> Cooperation, Italy and Palestine Renew Environmental Agreement, Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (Rome) 6 June 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.mase.gov.it/pagina/cooperation-italy-and-palestine-renew-environmental-agreement>

<sup>1258</sup> Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Development between the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security of the Italian Republic and the Environment Quality Authority of Palestine, Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (Rome) 6 June 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. [https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/sviluppo\\_sostenibile/palestina\\_nuovo\\_mou.pdf](https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/sviluppo_sostenibile/palestina_nuovo_mou.pdf)

<sup>1259</sup> Strategia Nazionale per la Biodiversità al 2030, Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica (Rome) 12 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.mase.gov.it/pagina/strategia-nazionale-la-biodiversita-al-2030>

<sup>1260</sup> Giornata degli Alberi: il Ministro Pichetto partecipa con i giovani a un’iniziativa di piantumazione, Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica (Rome) 21 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023. <https://www.mase.gov.it/comunicati/giornata-degli-alberi-il-ministro-pichetto-partecipa-con-i-giovani-uniniziativa-di>

On 3 December 2023, the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security announced that it is signing on as a member of the Amazon Bioeconomy and Forest Management Fund with a EUR5 million accession contribution.<sup>1261</sup> The Amazon Fund aims to support sustainable development and the protection of forests, biodiversity, and soil in the Amazon region.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Italy has taken strong action to fulfill its commitment on a national level through the National Biodiversity Strategy and internationally, by signing a memorandum to renew cooperation with Palestine and becoming a member of the Amazon Fund.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eliana Tiritilli*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally.

On 28 June 2023, the Ministry of the Environment and the Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Tourism discussed cooperation on climate change, air pollution and fluorocarbon countermeasures and on biodiversity conservation at the 15th Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue.<sup>1262</sup> Regarding the commitment to biodiversity conservation, Japan and Mongolia agreed to work together to adopt the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and take joint action to conserve and restore Zag shrubs.

On 8 July 2023, the Ministry of the Environment hosted the ninth Global Conference of the International Partnership for the Satoyama initiative.<sup>1263</sup> The Satoyama initiative is focused on nature conservation and sustainable environmental use. The conference was used to share details about this initiative and its support for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and discuss possible actions and initiatives for a new framework.

On 18 July 2023, the Ministry of the Environment and Indonesia's Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment held the seventh Joint Committee on Waste Treatment.<sup>1264</sup> The parties discussed a number of topics including waste and mangrove management and marine plastic pollution. Japan discussed the Japan International Cooperation Agency's mangrove conservation efforts in Indonesia and both countries agreed to continue cooperating in this regard.

On 31 August 2023, Minister Nishimura and the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Dang Quoc Khanh signed a letter of intent on cooperation in marine litter management.<sup>1265</sup> Alongside the Association of South East Asian Nations, China, and the Republic of Korea,

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<sup>1261</sup> COP28: il MASE aderisce al Fondo Amazzonia con cinque milioni, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica (Rome) 3 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 December 2023.

<https://www.mase.gov.it/comunicati/cop28-il-mase-aderisce-al-fondo-amazzonia-con-cinque-milioni>

<sup>1262</sup> Results of the 15th Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (Tokyo) 7 July 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press\\_01647.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_01647.html)

<sup>1263</sup> Holding of the Ninth Global Conference of the International Partnership for the SATOYAMA Initiative, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (Tokyo) 8 July 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press\\_01882.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press_01882.html)

<sup>1264</sup> Outcomes of the Joint Committee on Waste Treatment and the Joint Committee on Comprehensive Environmental Cooperation Package between the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, and the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment, Republic of Indonesia, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (Tokyo) 24 August 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press\\_01775.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_01775.html)

<sup>1265</sup> Cooperation with the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in the Field of Marine Litter Management, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (Tokyo) 31 August 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press\\_02115.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_02115.html)

Japan aims to reduce marine plastic debris through cooperative activities including the development of projects addressing marine litter around Vietnam, the collaboration to develop a marine litter management manual and the sharing of monitoring data of marine litter.

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Japan has taken weak actions to indicate its support of this commitment, through verbal affirmations for conservation measures and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. However, Japan has not taken concrete actions, nationally or globally, to conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Max Phan*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

On 25 May 2023, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced a GBP40 million biodiversity research program to support projects worldwide that conserve biodiversity and increase ecosystem resilience.<sup>1266</sup>

On 30 June 2023, The British Government launched the Special Survival Fund, whose budget of GBP25 million is dedicated toward funding new projects that support the conservation of wildlife habitats to reduce habitat loss, protect vulnerable ecosystems and create or connect high-biodiversity areas such as wetlands and grasslands.<sup>1267</sup>

On 20 July 2023, The British Government announced six joint projects with Natural England, supported by a GBP7.4 million budget, to restore natural landscapes.<sup>1268</sup> Spanning 176,000 hectares across England, the projects connect wildlife habitats and are designed to increase carbon storage, reduce flooding and increase the resilience of biodiverse ecosystems.

On 24 August 2023, Minister and Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Trudy Harrison pledged a contribution of GBP10 million to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.<sup>1269</sup> In accordance with the commitment to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, the UK supports the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to increase the protection of species and ecosystems and the sustainable management of the environment.

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<sup>1266</sup> £40 million biodiversity research programme opens for applications, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 26 May 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-million-biodiversity-research-programme-opens-for-applications>

<sup>1267</sup> Putting nature on road to recovery with Species Survival Fund, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 30 June 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/putting-nature-on-road-to-recovery-with-species-survival-fund>

<sup>1268</sup> Nature recovery projects to boost wildlife and access to nature, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 20 July 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nature-recovery-projects-to-boost-wildlife-and-access-to-nature>

<sup>1269</sup> UK among first countries to back new nature recovery fund, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 25 August 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-among-first-countries-to-back-new-nature-recovery-fund>

On 19 October 2023, The British Government announced the creation of a National Nature Reserve encompassing 31 existing nature reserves and 400 hectares of new land.<sup>1270</sup> The reserve is dedicated to conservation management, aiming to foster biodiversity in the area and increase public access to nature.

On 27 November 2023, the government announced an upcoming competition for communities to suggest local areas that should become a national forest.<sup>1271</sup> The winning forest will receive up to GBP10 million in support of this initiative.

On 29 November 2023, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs shared measures to help restore nature.<sup>1272</sup> Measures include plans to establish a new National Park and recover temperate rainforests in England. The government will provide GBP10 million to support National Parks and National Landscapes in 2024, while GBP5 million will be provided in 2023 for Protected Landscapes. The government will also be advancing 34 landscape recovery projects with each receiving approximately GBP25 million to support efforts to conserve peatland, woodlands and temperate forests.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). The United Kingdom has taken strong action to fulfill its commitment on a national level by funding of nature reserves and restoration projects and internationally by investing in the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and global conservation research programs.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 1.

*Analyst: Emily Hospedales*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures .

On 28 June 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced USD52 million in funding for 24 projects which aim, in part, to “protect and restore wetlands” in the San Francisco Bay.<sup>1273</sup> Projects include the California State Coastal Conservancy which will receive USD5.5 million to enable “the restoration of 2,100 acres of former salt ponds to 1,300 acres of tidal marsh and 800 acres of enhanced managed ponds.”

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<sup>1270</sup> Mendip Hills to be declared a “super” National Nature Reserve, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 19 October 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mendip-hills-to-be-declared-a-super-national-nature-reserve>

<sup>1271</sup> New forest for the nation to improve access to green space, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 27 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-forest-for-the-nation-to-improve-access-to-green-space>

<sup>1272</sup> Restoring our natural environment, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 29 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/restoring-our-natural-environment/restoring-our-natural-environment>

<sup>1273</sup> EPA Invests Over \$50 Million to Protect San Francisco Bay and Its Watersheds, Build Resilience to Climate Change, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 28 June 2023. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-invests-over-50-million-protect-san-francisco-bay-and-its-watersheds-build>

On 8 August 2023, President Joe Biden signed a proclamation designating the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument in Arizona.<sup>1274</sup> This declaration aims to honour Indigenous peoples and protect and conserve approximately one million acres of land in the Grand Canyon area.

On 6 September 2023, the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) met in Jakarta, Indonesia to discuss maritime cooperation.<sup>1275</sup> At the ASEAN-US Summit, the participating nations agreed to increase cooperation in the management of marine resources and enhance efforts in marine conservation.

On 18 September 2023, the United States and other nations bordering the Atlantic Ocean signed a declaration which included several commitments regarding scientific cooperation on ocean data.<sup>1276</sup> This declaration supports a deeper understanding of the Atlantic Ocean and potential conservation measures that can be taken to reduce plastic pollution and invasive weeds. Furthermore, it acknowledges the needs of coastal communities and promotes enhancing weather forecasting, which can help conserve and protect areas vulnerable to natural disasters.

On 20 September 2023, President Biden launched the American Climate Corps, an initiative that aims to help over 20,000 young people develop the necessary skills to pursue careers in climate, conservation, and clean energy sectors.<sup>1277</sup> The initiative aids national conservation by encouraging efforts in land restoration, increasing community resilience, and increasing access to and the implementation of clean energy.

On 23 October 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration released the implementation plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region (NSAR).<sup>1278</sup> This plan outlines domestic measures to conserve the Arctic and improve the livelihood of those in the region. The NSAR Implementation Plan (NSARIP) looks further into collaborating with stakeholders through 30 objectives and 200 actions. The NSARIP will be updated over time in accordance with the changing conditions in the Arctic.

On 1 November 2023, the EPA announced over USD3 million to fund 14 projects which aim to support coastal communities in Massachusetts.<sup>1279</sup> Projects include Nantucket Conservation Foundation which aims to restore and re-integrate “40 acres of former cranberry bog to self-sustaining natural wetlands.”

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<sup>1274</sup> FACT SHEET: President Biden Designates Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument, The White House (Washington D.C.) 8 August 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/08/08/fact-sheet-president-biden-designates-baaj-nwaavjo-itah-kukveni-ancestral-footprints-of-the-grand-canyon-national-monument/>

<sup>1275</sup> ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, The White House (Washington D.C.) 6 September 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/06/asean-u-s-leaders-statement-on-cooperation-on-the-asean-outlook-on-the-indo-pacific/>

<sup>1276</sup> Declaration on Atlantic Cooperation, The White House (Washington D.C.) 18 September 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/18/declaration-on-atlantic-cooperation/>

<sup>1277</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Launches American Climate Corps to Train Young People in Clean Energy, Conservation, and Climate Resilience Skills, Create Good-Paying Jobs and Tackle the Climate Crisis, The White House (Washington D.C.) 20 September 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/20/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-launches-american-climate-corps-to-train-young-people-in-clean-energy-conservation-and-climate-resilience-skills-create-good-paying-jobs-and-tackle-the-clima/>

<sup>1278</sup> FACT SHEET: Implementation Plan for the United States' National Strategy for the Arctic Region, The White House (Washington D.C.) 23 October 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/10/23/fact-sheet-implementation-plan-for-the-united-states-national-strategy-for-the-arctic-region/>

<sup>1279</sup> EPA and partners provide over \$3 million for 14 projects in Massachusetts coastal communities, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 1 November 2023. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-partners-provide-over-3-million-14-projects-massachusetts-coastal-communities>

On 16 November 2023, the Department of Justice lodged a civil complaint against Chameleon LLC and Gary V for violating the Clean Water Act.<sup>1280</sup> The complaint was filed on behalf of the EPA due to damages to 21 acres of wetlands near the Chickahominy and Pamunkey rivers. This represents a commitment by the EPA to protect inland water areas such as wetlands.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. The government has taken domestic action to restore land and wetland areas through policies such as the National Strategy for the Arctic Region and funding for initiatives including the California State Coastal Conservancy. The US has also taken international action through cooperation agreements that promote conservation practices.

Thus, the United States receives +1.

*Analyst: Therese Angeline Reyes*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

On 30 June 2023, the European Commission announced EUR106 million in funding to support climate neutrality and the restoration of nature.<sup>1281</sup> The funds will be split between 18 projects with various objectives, including protecting and restoring coastal and marine habitats and wetlands.

On 12 July 2023, the European Parliament adopted the EU Nature Restoration Law.<sup>1282</sup> The new law is aligned with the EU's commitment to restore at least 20 per cent of all EU land and sea areas by 2030. The Nature Restoration Law also aims to repair 80 per cent of European habitats which are in poor condition and restore nature to all ecosystems by 2050.<sup>1283</sup>

On 23 October 2023, the European Commission approved EUR742 million to support Czechia's sustainable forest management.<sup>1284</sup> With the aid of the Commission, Czechia aims to implement sustainable forest management techniques to protect biodiversity and forest soil, promote the growth of forests, and adapt forests to climate change. Sustainable techniques include systems designed to prevent and reduce soil erosion in deforested areas.

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<sup>1280</sup> United States Brings Civil Enforcement Action for Significant Damage to 21 Acres of Wetlands in Ashland, VA, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 16 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/united-states-brings-civil-enforcement-action-significant-damage-21-acres-wetlands>

<sup>1281</sup> EU Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters': €106 million for 18 new projects for protection, conservation, depollution and innovation, European Commission (Brussels) 30 June 2023. Access Date: 17 November 2023.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_3608](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3608)

<sup>1282</sup> Nature restoration law: MEPs adopt position for negotiations with Council, European Parliament (Brussels) 12 July 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230707IPR02433/nature-restoration-law-meps-adopt-position-for-negotiations-with-council>

<sup>1283</sup> Green Deal: pioneering proposals to restore Europe's nature by 2050 and halve pesticide use by 2030, European Commission (Brussels) 22 June 2022. Access Date: 3 November 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_22\\_3746](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_3746)

<sup>1284</sup> Commission approves EU742 million Czech State aid scheme to support sustainable forest management, European Commission (Brussels) 23 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_23\\_5205](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_5205)

On 27 October 2023, the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced the launch of the technical assistance facility as part of the Caribbean Sustainable Water Management and Clean Oceans programme.<sup>1285</sup> With EUR8.5 million in funding from the EU's Caribbean Investment Facility, the technical assistance facility will provide specialist technical support for implementing water, sanitation, solid waste, flood protection and clean ocean projects in 15 countries in the Caribbean. Furthermore, the EIB will financially support selected projects through an EUR150 million programme loan. Technical assistance and financial aid will support high-impact sustainable projects that aim to promote and protect climate and marine ecosystem resilience.

On 9 November 2023, the Council presidency and European Parliament agreed reached a provisional agreement regarding new rules for the Nature Restoration Law.<sup>1286</sup> While co-legislators have yet to formally adopt the agreement, the new rules aim to enhance the nature conservation. The law includes specific obligations that member states must meet for agricultural, forestry and urban ecosystems. The new rules include requirements for member states to regularly submit their restoration plans to the European Commission for review.

The European Union has complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. The EU has taken strong actions nationally and globally to preserve biodiversity, combat land degradation, and ensure the sustainability of vital ecosystems. The EU has invested in critical projects within its borders, such as the nature restoration law and Czechia's sustainable forest management plan. The EU has shown its dedication to global conservation through its funding for the Caribbean Sustainable Water Management and Clean Oceans Programme.

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

*Analyst: Max Phan*

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<sup>1285</sup> Global Gateway: Team Europe launches technical assistance to boost water, sanitation, solid waste, flood protection and clean oceans projects in the Caribbean, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 27 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-400-team-europe-launches-technical-assistance-boost-water-sanitation-solid-waste-flood-protection-clean-oceans-projects-caribbean>

<sup>1286</sup> Nature restoration: Council and Parliament reach agreement on new rules to restore and preserve degraded habitats in the EU, Council of the EU (Brussels) 9 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/11/09/nature-restoration-council-and-parliament-reach-agreement-on-new-rules-to-restore-and-preserve-degraded-habitats-in-the-eu/>