



# 2022 G20 Bali Summit Final Compliance Report

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From 17 November 2022 to 21 August 2023

6 September 2023

Feedback, as always, is welcome and is kept anonymous.  
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### 13. Environment: Land Protection

“We recognize the effort made by a number of countries to ensure that at least 30% of global land...are conserved or protected by 2030 and we will help to make progress towards this objective in accordance with national circumstances.”

*G20 Bali Leaders’ Declaration*

#### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China		0	
France		0	
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Türkiye		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.55 (78%)	

#### Background

Land degradation is currently one of the world’s most concerned global issues and must be rapidly and adequately addressed by countries collaboratively in order to combat climate change. During the past two centuries, land degradation has accelerated as a result of increased pressures of agricultural and livestock production including overcultivation, overgrazing, forest conversion and other unsustainable agricultural techniques; urbanization; deforestation; and extreme weather events like droughts and coastal surges.<sup>2478</sup> According to the 2022 United Nations Sustainable Development Report, over 10 million hectares of forest are destroyed every year.<sup>2479</sup> Land degradation negatively impacts everyone through food insecurity and higher prices, environmental hazards like extreme weather events, and the loss of ecosystem services. Not only human, but also global biodiversity is affected as around 40000 species are under the risk of extinction over the coming decades. Hence, the international community should commit to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), land degradation also significantly contributes to significant loss in global gross product.<sup>2480</sup> Environmentalists believed that expansion of crop and grazing lands into native degradation are the main

<sup>2478</sup> Climate Change: Land Degradation and Desertification, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. 4 December 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2023. <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/climate-change-landdegradation-and-desertification>

<sup>2479</sup> Goal 15 | United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (New York) n.d. Access Date: 30 January 2023.

<sup>2480</sup> Assessment Report on Land Degradation and Restoration | Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Germany) n.d. Access Date: 30 January 2023.

driving factors. If the current trend of land degradation along with soil erosion continues, over 90 per cent of the world's land areas could become degraded by 2050, and would likely force around 700 million people to relocate.<sup>2481</sup>

Efforts to combat land degradation may include “agroecology, conservation measures, agroforestry and integrated animal and crop production systems that promote soil organic matter accumulation and nutrient cycling, ... and measures that enhance soil carbon storage in managed landscapes.”<sup>2482</sup>

At the 2010 Seoul Summit, G20 leaders committed to protecting the global marine environment and to “support country-led green growth policies that promote environmentally sustainable global growth.”<sup>2483</sup> This Summit's importance was the first G20 Summit to explicitly highlight environmental issues, despite the fact that it addressed marine environments and sustainable green growth.

At the 2011 Cannes Summit, G20 leaders further committed to protecting marine environments by preventing accidents related to offshore oil and gas exploration, and marine transportation.<sup>2484</sup>

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 leaders committed to fighting climate change and recognized the need to adapt agricultural techniques to impacts of climate change through soil fertility enhancement and agroforestry.<sup>2485</sup>

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders recognized the need of and committed to working together to address environmental protection and climate change.<sup>2486</sup>

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders also announced intentions to “collaborate closely on climate and energy issues to successfully address the challenges of environmental protection.”<sup>2487</sup> The leaders also included the target of implementing voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of land, fisheries and forests, even if it was in the context of food security.

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders affirmed the need to “foster coherence between mitigation action, adaptation measures, environmental protection, and resilient infrastructure” to tackle climate change, and to consider each country's circumstances.<sup>2488</sup>

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 leaders committed to “building a more environmentally sustainable and inclusive future for all people” and reiterated support for tackling environmental challenges like biodiversity loss.<sup>2489</sup> The 2020 Riyadh Summit was the first G20 Summit that committed to tackling land degradation. Also, the 2020 Riyadh Summit launched the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats. The G20 Global Initiative includes reducing land

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<sup>2481</sup> Global Symposium on Soil Erosion Key Messages, Food and Agriculture Organization (Rome) n.d. Access Date: 7 December 2021. <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/soil-erosion-symposium/key-messages/en/>

<sup>2482</sup> Combating Land Degradation – Securing A Sustainable Future, United Nations Development Programme (New York) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2023. <https://www.undp.org/publications/combating-landdegradation-securing-sustainable-future>

<sup>2483</sup> The G20 Seoul Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 30 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-10-seoul.html>

<sup>2484</sup> The G20 Cannes Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 3 November 2011. Access Date: 30 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-11-cannes.html>

<sup>2485</sup> The G20 Los Cabos Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 June 2012. Access Date: 30 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-12-loscabos.html>

<sup>2486</sup> The 2013 G20 St. Petersburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) March 2014. Access Date: 30 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-13-stpetersburg.html>

<sup>2487</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 30 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>2488</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 26 May 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>2489</sup> The 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2023. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-20-riyadh.html>

degradation, biodiversity conservation, mitigating the effect of climate change, contributing to food security and providing jobs to local populations.<sup>2490</sup>

At the 2021 Rome Summit, G20 leaders also committed to achieving “a 50 per cent reduction of degraded land by 2040, on a voluntary basis.” They established the target to adhere to the Leader’s Pledge for Nature and to ensure that at least 30% of global land and global sea are conserved or protected by 2030.<sup>2491</sup>

### Commitment Features

At the 2022 Bali Summit, leaders committed to: “recogniz[ing] the effort made by a number of countries to ensure that at least 30 per cent of global land ... are conserved or protected by 2030 and we will help to make progress towards this objective in accordance with national circumstances.”<sup>2492</sup>

“To recognize” is to be understood as to acknowledge formally. It should be interpreted to mean explicit acknowledgement of something.<sup>2493</sup>

“To ensure” is to be understood as to make something happen.<sup>2494</sup>

“To conserve” is to be understood as to avoid wasteful or destructive use of.<sup>2495</sup>

“To be protected” is to be understood as to cover or shield from exposure, injury, damage, or destruction.<sup>2496</sup>

“To help” is to be understood as to give assistance or support to.<sup>2497</sup>

G20 member, in terms of commitments to land protection, are to be assessed with regards to the G20 Bali Leaders Declaration’s commitment to protecting at least 30% of global land.

In the context of land protection, actions are considered a “strong commitment” when it directly addresses and/or combats one of three key commitment areas: conserving and halting land degradation, promoting resilient and sustainable land management/preservation systems, and restoring degraded land. Examples include, but are not limited to: grants, loans, subsidies, or other modes of financial assistance/contributions towards relevant actors, both domestic and foreign; the passing of new relevant legislation, programs, and/or initiatives; the strengthening, amplifying, and/or scaling up of existing relevant legislation, programs, and/or initiatives; and more.

Actions are considered “partial commitment” when they make steps towards combating one of the three key commitment areas but have not completed the action fully. This includes, but is not limited to, drafting and proposing legislation that has yet to be passed and implemented, partially fulfilling a financial pledge, and more.

Weak compliance, on the other hand, entails unsubstantiated actions that provide no greater impact on the G20 member’s state. This includes, but is not limited to, showing verbal commitment and/or support for one of the three commitment areas, making financial and/or capital pledges but failing to fulfill said pledges, and more.

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<sup>2490</sup> G20 race to reduce land degradation begins | United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Germany) 30 November 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2023. <https://www.unccd.int/news-stories/press-releases/g20-race-reduce-land-degradation-begins>

<sup>2491</sup> G20 Rome Leader’s Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 30 January 2023. (<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/211031-declaration.html>)

<sup>2492</sup> G20 Bali Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Research Group (Toronto) 15-16 November 2022. Access Date: 30 January 2023. [https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/gtwenty\\_new/about\\_g20/previous-summit-documents/2022-bali/G20%20Bali%20Leaders%27%20Declaration,%2015-16%20November%202022.pdf](https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/gtwenty_new/about_g20/previous-summit-documents/2022-bali/G20%20Bali%20Leaders%27%20Declaration,%2015-16%20November%202022.pdf)

<sup>2493</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2023. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>2494</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2023. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>2495</sup> Conserve, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 30 January 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conserv>

<sup>2496</sup> Protect, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 30 January 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/protected>

<sup>2497</sup> Help, Merriam-Webster. Access Date: 30 January 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/help>

In order to receive a full compliance score of +1, G20 members must take strong actions in two or more of the three key commitments: 1) halting and/or reversing the loss, degradation, and destruction of land; 2) preserving, supporting, and promoting the development of sustainable and resilient land management/preservation systems; and 3) restoring and reviving previously degraded and/or destroyed land.

A partial compliance score of 0 will be given to G20 members who take strong actions in one or two of the three key components: 1) halting and/or reversing the loss, degradation, and destruction of land; 2) preserving, supporting, and promoting the development of sustainable and resilient land management/preservation systems; and 3) restoring and reviving previously degraded and/or destroyed land.

A score of no compliance of –1 will be given to G20 members who do not take any strong actions in any of the three key components: 1) halting and/or reversing the loss, degradation, and destruction of land; 2) preserving, supporting, and promoting the development of sustainable and resilient land management/preservation systems; and 3) restoring and reviving previously degraded and/or destroyed land.

### Scoring Guidelines

–1	The G20 member has not taken ANY strong action in any of the three key components: halting or reversing land loss, degradation and destruction; 2) preserving, supporting or promoting the development of sustainable and resilient land management or preservation; or 3) restoring and reviving degraded or destroyed land.
0	The G20 member has taken strong action in ONE or TWO of the three key components.
+1	The G20 member has taken strong action in TWO or MORE of the three key components.

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### Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 17 November 2022, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Juan Cabandié announced the creation of the Fundación Parques, an organization created in collaboration with the National Parks Administration (APN) to generate resources and build strategies to assist in the management of protected areas.<sup>2498</sup> The foundation will serve to improve parks' infrastructure, protection, care, and restoration.

On 24 November 2022, Minister Cabandié, announced an ARS300 million investment for the “More works, better parks” initiative that aims to strengthen the infrastructure of the country’s protected areas and national parks.<sup>2499</sup>

On 28 November 2022, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development announced Minister Cabandié’s signing of the NOA Cuyo II project which aims to address specific areas of dry ecoregions.<sup>2500</sup> These practices intend on preventing land degradation, restoring soil productivity, and making sustainable use of water resources.

<sup>2498</sup>Cabandié announced the creation of the Parques Foundation. Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 17 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 17 March 2023.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-anuncio-la-creacion-de-la-fundacion-parques>

<sup>2499</sup>Cabandié announced an investment of more than \$300 million for works in national parks. Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 24 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 17 March 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-anuncio-una-inversion-de-mas-de-300-millones-para-obras-en-parques-nacionales>

<sup>2500</sup>Cabandié spoke in Ushuaia on biodiversity cities and signed agreements for the Common House Plan and for dry lands, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 28 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 17 March 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-diserto-en-ushuaia-sobre-biodiverciudades-y-firmo-convenios-del-plan-casa-comun-y>

On 8 February 2023, Minister Cabandié met with Governor Sergio Ziliotto to sign a series of agreements aimed at strengthening combat and forest fire prevention tasks in La Pampa for ARS149 million.<sup>2501</sup> The money transfer aims to provide the province with financial assistance to buy equipment related to firefighting, such as a forest fire engine.

On 16 February 2023, Minister Cabandié met with Governor Omar Perotti to sign a series of agreements aimed at strengthening fire management tasks in the province of Santa Fe for ARS423 million.<sup>2502</sup> The goal is to provide the National Fire Management Service with a large infrastructure to combat the fire outbreaks in the Delta islands.

On 4 March 2023, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, through the National Fire Management Service delivered a large helicopter to combat active fires in the Paraná Delta.<sup>2503</sup> This is part of the Ministry's prolonged efforts to deal with the fire outbreaks throughout the country. Additionally, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development inaugurated a communal nursery for the production of native forest and ornamental species.<sup>2504</sup> The initiative will also serve as an educational space, providing guided tours, training, and awareness activities for the local community.

On 6 March 2023, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development recognized Marismas del Tuyú as a nature reserve, adding a new protected area to the province of Buenos Aires.<sup>2505</sup> The Reserve totals more than 350 hectares of protected area, aiming to conserve particular environments and species.

On 29 March 2023, the Chamber of Deputies recognized Laguna El Palmar as a national park.<sup>2506</sup> The park will add more than 700,000 hectares to Argentina's system of protected areas.

On 5 April 2023, Minister Cabandié and Governor Gustavo Sáenz signed the Project for the Recovery of Landscapes and Livelihoods in Argentina agreement.<sup>2507</sup> The goal is to improve the management and resilience of ecosystems in selected conservation and production landscapes and seascapes.

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<sup>2501</sup>Cabandié and Ziliotto signed agreements to strengthen fire management in La Pampa for \$149 million, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 8 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 15 March 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-y-ziliotto-firmaron-convenios-para-fortalecer-el-manejo-del-fuego-en-la-pampa-por>

<sup>2502</sup>Cabandié and Perotti signed agreements to strengthen firefighting and presented equipment for waste management, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 16 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: March 15 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-y-perotti-firmaron-convenios-para-fortalecer-el-combate-de-incendios-y-presentaron>

<sup>2503</sup>Environment sent the Chinook helicopter to fight the fires in the Delta, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 4 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: March 16 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-envio-el-helicoptero-chinook-para-combatir-los-incendios-en-el-delta-0>

<sup>2504</sup>Environment advances with the implementation of the Common House Program in the province of Santa Fe, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 4 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: March 16 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-avanza-con-la-implementacion-del-programa-casa-comun-en-la-provincia-de-santa-fe-1>

<sup>2505</sup>Ambiente celebrates the creation of the Marismas del Tuyú Wild Nature Reserve in the province of Buenos Aires, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 6 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: March 19 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-celebra-la-creacion-de-la-reserva-natural-silvestre-marismas-del-tuyu-en-la>

<sup>2506</sup>New national park: Laguna El Palmar, in Chaco, joins the system of protected areas, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 29 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: April 10 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nuevo-parque-nacional-laguna-el-palmar-en-chaco-se-suma-al-sistema-de-areas-protegidas-0>

<sup>2507</sup>Nation invests in infrastructure for national parks in Salta, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 5 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 15 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nacion-invierte-en-infraestructura-para-parques-nacionales-en-salta>

On 14 April 2023, Minister Cabandié and Mayor Jorge Ferraresi signed a National Parks Administration (APN) initiative.<sup>2508</sup> The agreement aims to provide municipal governments with the technical capacity and resources to further protect natural areas in urban and peri-urban environments.

On 16 April 2023, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development carried out a national survey pertaining to sustainable land management.<sup>2509</sup> The survey aims to compile a number of strategies aiming to prevent and mitigate desertification as well as rehabilitate areas experiencing land degradation.

On 30 April 2023, the National Steering Committee of the Small Donations Program (PPD) announced the approval of 47 environmental initiatives.<sup>2510</sup> Of these initiatives, 16 focused on land degradation specifically in relation to community development and care of the native forest.

On 9 May 2023, Minister Cabandié presented “Sustainable Use of the Forest: Contributions from Argentine Forestry,” a publication focused on sustainable management of forests.<sup>2511</sup> The book aims to provide policymakers with tools to guide decision-making in forest management, creating sustainable management plans, development, and conservation.

On 22 May 2023, Minister Cabandié announced a program which seeks to develop new protected areas in Paraná Delta based on natural and cultural heritage.<sup>2512</sup> The goal is to conserve new areas, strengthen existing ones, and promote sustainable development in Paraná Delta.

On 2 June 2023, Minister Cabandié and Mayor Juan Ignacio Ustarroz signed an agreement that aims to promote municipal reserves.<sup>2513</sup> This initiative enables local governments to possess the technical capacity and resources to strengthen protected natural areas in urban environments.

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. Argentina has taken strong actions to halt land degradation through continuous efforts to prevent further outbreak of perpetual forest fires. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has released numerous announcements, reports, and news updates to promote land sustainability as well. While some efforts were made to rehabilitate previously degraded areas, Argentina fails to take strong actions in restoring degraded or destroyed land.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Selia Sanchez*

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<sup>2508</sup>Cabandié and Ferraresi signed Avellaneda’s adherence to an inter-institutional program to promote municipal reserves, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 14 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 15 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-y-ferraresi-firmaron-la-adhesion-de-avellaneda-un-programa-interinstitucional-para>

<sup>2509</sup>Environment launched a survey of good practices for sustainable land management, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 16 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 21 April 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-lanzo-un-relevamiento-de-buenas-practicas-para-el-manejo-sostenible-de-tierras>

<sup>2510</sup> 47 initiatives of the Small Donations Program were approved. Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: April 30 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/fueron-aprobadas-47-iniciativas-del-programa-pequenas-donaciones>

<sup>2511</sup> Cabandié presented a book dedicated to forestry at the CCK, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 9 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: May 15 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-presento-en-el-cck-un-libro-dedicado-la-silvicultura>

<sup>2512</sup> The Network of Reserves and Protected Areas of the Paraná Delta Biocorridor was presented, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 22 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: June 3 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-presento-la-red-de-reservas-y-areas-protegidas-del-biocorredor-del-delta-del-parana-0>

<sup>2513</sup> Cabandié and Ustarroz sealed Mercedes; adherence to the program that promotes municipal reserves. Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 2 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: June 3 2023. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-y-ustarroz-sellaron-la-adhesion-de-mercedes-al-programa-que-fomenta-las-reservas>



### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 22 December 2022, Australia's eighth National Communication on Climate Change and the fifth Biennial Report were submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which provided a national picture of Australia's progress to meet its commitments to reduce emissions and adapt and respond to climate change.<sup>2514</sup> The documents provided a comprehensive update on the range of Australia's commitment to climate change under the UNFCCC and provided information on Australia's greenhouse gas emission trends and projections against Australia's 2030 target, while also committing to the development of a net zero by 2050 plan.

On 9 January 2023, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office announced that a combination of wet conditions and the careful use of water for the environment had created the optimal circumstance for waterbird breeding in order to rebuild waterbird populations with the help of state governments, First Nations peoples, and local landholders.<sup>2515</sup>

On 16 January 2023, the Government delivered on its commitment to support the development of a hydrogen hub in the Townsville region, which will support Australia's transition to a clean energy economy, create jobs, and encourage decarbonisation in hard-to-abate areas.<sup>2516</sup> With the grant program, the Australian government's plan to invest in hydrogen hubs is now more than AUD525 million.

On 31 January 2023, Climate Change and Energy Minister Chris Bowen and Dutch Minister for Climate and Energy Rob Jetten signed a Memorandum of Understanding to support the development of a renewable hydrogen supply chain from Australia to Europe, demonstrating Australia's commitment to working with international partners to advance shared clean energy interests and to support emerging clean energy industries.<sup>2517</sup> This memorandum will help to establish a large-scale hydrogen network between both countries.

On 8 February 2023, Minister Bowen visited counterparts across the United Arab Emirates and Europe to promote Australia's climate action and clean investment potential, to strengthen partnerships and discuss the path forward to achieve net zero emissions.<sup>2518</sup>

On 8 February 2023, to help maintain bird breeding conditions at the Narran Lakes, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder entered into an agreement to release water from private on farm storages into the wetland via the Narran River due to the decline in waterbird populations across the Murray-Darling Basin since the 1980s.<sup>2519</sup>

On 22 February 2023, the Government announced its approach to bridge the gap in the Murray-Darling Basin to achieve sustainable diversion limits as part of the Basin Plan, which is an important step to continue

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<sup>2514</sup> Australia's 8th National Communication on Climate Change, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 16 January 2023. Access Date: 31 March 2023.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/australias-8th-national-communication-on-climate-change>

<sup>2515</sup> Waterbird Breeding Bonanza in the Basin, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office (Basin) 9 January 2023. Access Date: 31 March 2023. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/waterbird-breeding-bonanza-in-basin>

<sup>2516</sup> Townsville Region Hydrogen Hub Grant Guidelines Available, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 16 January 2023. Access Date: 31 March 2023.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/townsville-region-hydrogen-hub-grant-guidelines-available>

<sup>2517</sup> Australia and the Netherlands Sign Milestone Renewable Hydrogen Agreement, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Port of Rotterdam) 31 January 2023. Access Date: 31 March 2023.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/australia-netherlands-sign-milestone-renewable-hydrogen-agreement>

<sup>2518</sup> Minister Bowen's Trip to Europe and the United Arab Emirates, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 8 February 2023. Access Date: 31 March 2023.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/minister-bowens-trip-to-europe-and-the-uae>

<sup>2519</sup> Collective Effort Helps Bird Breeding at Narran Lakes, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (Murray-Darling Basin) 8 February 2023. Access Date: 31 March 2023. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/collective-effort-helps-bird-breeding-narran-lakes>

to return water to the environment and deliver upon the Australian government's commitment to complete the Basin Plan.<sup>2520</sup> The bridge gap target of 49.2 gigalitres will consist of 46 gigalitres of surface water and 3.2 gigalitres of groundwater.

On 24 February 2023, the National Soil Carbon Innovation Challenge opened up the second round of grant guidelines.<sup>2521</sup> The Challenge aims to encourage industries and researchers to develop lower-cost accurate technological solutions for soil organic carbon measurements. In addition to reducing net greenhouse gas emissions, sequestering carbon in soils will improve farm productivity through better nutrient and water retention, and boosts resilience to drought and erosion. It will also support more land managers to participate in carbon farming and contribute to Australia's commitment to reducing emissions by 43 per cent by 2030 and to net zero by 2050.

On 28 February 2023, as part of an Australian Government funded Reef Trust project, the revegetation of the Kolan Riverbank is underway.<sup>2522</sup> The project aims to prevent 7000 tonnes of sediment from entering the Great Barrier Reef yearly, as sediment run-off is a major contributor to poor water quality in the reef and sediment can smother coral and impact on light-dependent animals and plants. The project has helped to restore and stabilize the riverbank and significantly reduce sediment run-off.

On 2 March 2023, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the New South Wales Department of Planning and Environment began working on a new project that brings together First Nations peoples, private landholders, environmental water managers, and scientists to work out the best way to restore the ecological and cultural values of the Great Cumbung Swamp.<sup>2523</sup> The plan will determine the environmental water requirements of the wetlands and then set out actions and strategies for how those needs can be met.

On 16 March 2023, it was announced that three research projects will share AUD6 million in grants to help Australian farmers reduce methane emissions from livestock under the Methane Emissions Reduction in Livestock program, in which each project will conduct trials on the effectiveness of a range of approaches for delivering methane-reducing feed supplements to grazing livestock.<sup>2524</sup>

On 24 March 2023, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water undertook audits of entities exporting regulated waste material to ensure they are complying with legislation to prevent materials from being dumped overseas.<sup>2525</sup> Waste export restrictions on materials under the Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020 contributes to the Australian Government's commitment to better protecting the environment.

On 31 March 2023, the Parliament passed the Safeguard Mechanism Amendment Bill 2023 to establish the framework for key elements of the Safeguard Mechanism reforms, which will ensure Australia's 215 largest

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<sup>2520</sup> Strategic Water Purchasing to Bridge the Gap Within the Murray-Darling Basin, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 22 February 2023. Access Date: 1 April 2023.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/strategic-water-purchasing-bridge-gap-mdb>

<sup>2521</sup> National Soil Carbon Innovation Challenge: Round 2 Grant Guidelines Now Available, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 24 February 2023. Access Date: 1 April 2023.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/nscic-round-2-grant-guidelines-available>

<sup>2522</sup> Tonnes of Good News for the Reef, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 28 February 2023. Access Date: 1 April 2023. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/tonnes-of-good-news-for-reef>

<sup>2523</sup> Plan to Protect the Great Cumbung Swamp, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (Basin) 2 March 2023. Access Date: 1 April 2023. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/plan-to-protect-the-great-cumbung-swamp>

<sup>2524</sup> MERIL Program Awards \$6 million to Support Reducing Emissions from Livestock, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 16 March 2023. Access Date: 1 April 2023.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/meril-program-awards-6-million-support-reduced-emissions-livestock>

<sup>2525</sup> Audits to Verify Industry Compliance with Waste Export Regulations, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 24 March 2023. Access Date: 1 April 2023.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/audits-verify-industry-compliance-waste-export-regulation>

emitters to play their part in meeting the climate targets of 43 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050.<sup>2526</sup>

On 12 April 2023, an online course was released to help industry professionals learn about water efficiency labelling and to stay up to date with legal obligations under the Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act.<sup>2527</sup> The Act encourages more efficient domestic water use, aims to reduce demand for drinking water in Australia, and sets water efficiency and labelling requirements so that consumers can make more informed decisions about water efficiency.

On 13 April 2023, Australia's State of Hydrogen 2022 Report was submitted, which reported on the state of Australia's hydrogen industry, covering the path for a clean hydrogen future for Australia.<sup>2528</sup> The report showed that Australia has the resources, technical skills, and the track record with industrial partners in order to become a global hydrogen powerhouse.

On 14 April 2023, Australia submitted its first National Inventory Report under the Paris Agreement, fulfilling Australia's greenhouse gas inventory reporting requirement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.<sup>2529</sup> It provides the basis for tracking the progress towards Australia's Paris Agreement emissions reduction targets by estimating Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions for the period 1989 to 2021, in which there was a 27 per cent decrease of emissions since 1989.

On 19 April 2023, Minister Bowen, announced the country's first National Electric Vehicle Strategy to increase the uptake of electric vehicles to reduce emissions.<sup>2530</sup> The key priority of the strategy is to commit to introducing a Fuel Efficiency Standard for all Australians, setting an average carbon emissions limit that will decrease over time.

On 20 April 2023, the Government invested an additional AUD150 million to improve the quality of water flowing into the Great Barrier Reef.<sup>2531</sup> Funding will support initiatives to protect and restore land in catchments with the largest amount of fine sediment runoff to improve water quality and to protect the resilience of the Reef against climate change.

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. Australia has taken many strong actions to protect, conserve, and rehabilitate ecosystems through establishing grants for research and conservation projects and adopting strategies to meet global climate protection goals. It has committed funding, integrated local and First Nations people's perspectives, and collaborated with partner countries to establish strategies for the protection of ecosystems.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Acacia Khanicheb-Peiries*

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<sup>2526</sup> Safeguard Mechanism: Protecting out Net Zero by 2050 Future, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 31 March 2023. Access Date: 1 April 2023.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/safeguard-mechanism-protecting-our-net-zero-by-2050-future>

<sup>2527</sup> Online Course Launched to Promote Water Efficiency for Developers, Builders and Plumbers, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 12 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/online-course-launched-promote-water-efficiency>

<sup>2528</sup> State of Hydrogen 2022, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 13 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/state-of-hydrogen-2022>

<sup>2529</sup> Australia's First National Inventory Report under the Paris Agreement, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 14 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023.

<https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/australias-first-national-inventory-report-under-paris-agreement>

<sup>2530</sup> Australia's First National Electric Vehicle Strategy, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 19 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/australias-first-national-electric-vehicle-strategy>

<sup>2531</sup> Improving Water Quality to Protect the Great Barrier Reef, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Canberra) 20 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/about/news/improving-water-quality-to-protect-the-great-barrier-reef>

**Brazil: 0**

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 1 January 2023, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva signed into action Decree No. 11.369, officially repealing Decree No. 10.966: Support Program for the Development of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining and the Interministerial Commission for the Development of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining.<sup>2532</sup> Decree No. 11.369 halts the encouragement of mining in Indigenous land and protected areas, an act previously implemented by former President Jair Bolsonaro. Following the same date, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva signed into Action Decree No. 11.367. Among the multiple provisions, the act established the Permanent Interministerial Commission for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation, re-established the Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation the Legal Amazon (PPCDAm), and enhanced current Action Plans for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation in the Cerrado, Atlantic Forest, Caatinga, Pampa, and Pantanal regions.

On 1 January 2023, President Lula da Silva signed into action Decree No. 11.372, amending provisions to Decree No. 10.224, the act that regulates the governance of the National Environment Fund.<sup>2533</sup> The new Decree changed the governing structure of the National Environment Fund to include more ministerial positions and representation from other government entities.

On 1 January 2023, President Lula da Silva signed into action Decree No. 368, an act that amended Decree No. 6.527 to provide governance over the Amazon Fund.<sup>2534</sup> According to the decree, the Brazilian Development Bank will now begin raising donations from developed countries for the Amazon Fund.

On 16 January 2023, President Lula da Silva launched Brazil's first-ever deforestation raid in compliance with his pledge to end the surging destruction of forests inherited from his predecessor, former President Jair Bolsonaro.<sup>2535</sup>

On 17 January 2023, Minister of the Environment and Climate Change Marina Silva stressed that Brazil wants to lead a global initiative on forests.<sup>2536</sup> The government is already working to resume actions to combat deforestation and the restructuring of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. The government has signed decrees into action and implemented measures to ensure that land is conserved and protected at only the national level. It has enacted laws that work towards land recovery and prevention of land degradation, and it has shown support for boosting environmental preservation.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

<sup>2532</sup> DECRETO Nº 11.369, DE 1º DE JANEIRO DE 2023, Diário Oficial da União (Brasília) 2 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 March 2023. <https://www.in.gov.br/web/dou/-/decreto-n-11.369-de-1-de-janeiro-de-2023-455351563>

<sup>2533</sup> DECRETO Nº 11.372, DE 1º DE JANEIRO DE 2023, Diário Oficial da União (Brasília) 2 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 March 2023. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/decreto-n-11.372-de-1-de-janeiro-de-2023-455355521>

<sup>2534</sup> DECRETO Nº 11.368, DE 1º DE JANEIRO DE 2023, Diário Oficial da União (Brasília) 02 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 March 2023. <https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/decreto-n-11.368-de-1-de-janeiro-de-2023-455354971>

<sup>2535</sup> Exclusive: Brazil launches first anti-deforestation raids under Lula bid to protect Amazon, Reuters (Brasília) 22 January 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/first-brazil-logging-raids-under-lula-aim-curb-amazon-deforestation-2023-01-19/>

<sup>2536</sup> Marina Silva reafirma que o Brasil vai voltar ao protagonismo global das políticas ambientais, Ministério do Meio Ambiente e Mudança do Clima (Brasília) 18 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/marina-silva-reafirma-que-o-brasil-vai-voltar-ao-protagonismo-global-das-politicas-ambientais>

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 7 December 2022, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the investment of up to CAD800 million to support four Indigenous-led conservation initiatives.<sup>2537</sup> The funding will begin in 2023-24 and continue over the course of seven years. Ultimately, this could help protect up to one million square kilometres of land, a major contribution towards Canada's goal of conserving 30 per cent of land by 2030.

On 9 December 2022, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada Steven Guilbeault announced that the federal government would recognize numerous federally managed properties that are contributing to national conservation goals.<sup>2538</sup> These properties are a model for how others can ultimately achieve land sustainability.

On 9 December 2022, Minister Guilbeault and the Director of the Indigenous Leadership Initiatives, Valérie Courtois jointly announced the establishment of the First Nations National Guardian Network.<sup>2539</sup> This network would help expand and support First Nation Guardians initiatives, so individual Guardians can easily work together rather than on their own. First Nation Guardians initiatives help protect land, water, and ice across Indigenous territories.

On 13 December 2022, Minister Guilbeault announced an investment of up to CAD90 million to expand the Natural Heritage Conservation Program.<sup>2540</sup> The funds will be distributed over the course of three years, aiming to protect an additional 180,000 hectares of ecologically sensitive land and establish new protected areas across Canada.

On 14 December 2022, Minister Guilbeault and Yukon Minister of Environment Nils Clarke announced the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement, featuring a federal investment of CAD20.6 million.<sup>2541</sup> This agreement aims to further nature conservation and land protection in the Yukon territory.

On 14 December 2022, Minister of Guilbeault, Manitoba Minister of Environment, Climate, and Parks Jeff Wharton, and executive director of the Seal River Watershed Alliance Stephanie Thorassie announced their commitment to work together to develop a feasibility assessment for an Indigenous protected area in the Seal River Watershed.<sup>2542</sup> This would help protect one of the world's largest remaining ecologically intact watersheds.

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<sup>2537</sup> Protecting more nature in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Toronto) 7 December 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/12/07/protecting-more-nature-partnership-indigenous-peoples>

<sup>2538</sup> Government of Canada recognizing federal land and water to contribute to 30 by 30 nature conservation goals, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/12/government-of-canada-recognizing-federal-land-and-water-to-contribute-to-30-by-30-nature-conservation-goals.html>

<sup>2539</sup> Introducing the New First Nations Guardians Network, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/12/introducing-the-new-first-nations-guardians-network.html>

<sup>2540</sup> The Government of Canada to protect more ecologically sensitive land by boosting the Natural Heritage Conservation Program, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 13 December 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/12/the-government-of-canada-to-protect-more-ecologically-sensitive-land-by-extending-the-natural-heritage-conservation-program.html>

<sup>2541</sup> Canada and Yukon chart new path with agreement to help protect and conserve nature, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 14 December 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/12/canada-and-yukon-chart-new-path-with-agreement-to-help-protect-and-conserve-nature.html>

<sup>2542</sup> Governments of Canada and Manitoba and Four First Nations Zero in on a New Indigenous Protected Area in one of the World's Largest Ecologically Intact Watersheds, Manitoba (Winnipeg) 14 December 2022. Access Date: 18 March 2023. <https://news.gov.mb.ca/news/index.html?item=57097>

On 26 January 2023, Minister Guilbeault announced a federal investment of over CAD8 million to protect and enhance three critical nature spaces in Ontario, about CAD3.5 million will be contributed to the Cootes to Escarpment EcoPark System, over CAD1.05 will be utilized to build improved multi-use rails to better connect The Meadoway to Rouge National Urban Park.<sup>2543</sup>

On 14 April 2023, Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson, announced a contribution of CAD331,000, through the 2 Billion Trees Program, to the Osoyoos Indian Band Nk'Mip Creek Wildfire Restoration project.<sup>2544</sup> Among other provisions, the project will plant 70,000 trees on the Osoyoos Band Reserve land.

On 17 April 2023, Member of Parliament for Windsor–Tecumseh Irek Kusmierczyk announced the opening of a new national park in Windsor, Ontario.<sup>2545</sup> The Windsor Urban National Park will be developed on traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy, and will contribute to the completion of the Ojibway Shores land transfer from Transport Canada to Park Canada, which aims to support and foster more First Nations' leadership in land conservation and restoration.

On 18 April 2023, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced that it would begin regulation at the Emerald Ash border in Gaspésie, Quebec, in order to prevent the spread of invasive species. According to the CFIA, preventing the spread of invasive species is important to preserving forest land, native plants, and Canada's forestry sector.

On 18 April 2023, Minister Wilkinson and Minister of Forests of British Columbia Bruce Walston announced the signing of a Contribution Agreement under the 2 Billion Trees Program for the 2023 tree planting season.<sup>2546</sup> Under this agreement, Canada and British Columbia will provide CAD80 million to plant 37 million trees in the current year.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. Canada has launched several initiatives to further nature conservation and land protection across the country, determining how to best preserve and expand Canada's diverse ecosystem. Moreover, the federal government has also been extensively working with provincial governments and indigenous communities to further land protection.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Kristi Deki*

## **China: 0**

China has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 28 November 2022, President Xi Jinping announced China's intention to increase bilateral cooperation and collaboration with Mongolia on desertification control, sustainable development, and environmental

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<sup>2543</sup> Government of Canada to protect nature in Ontario, Newswire (Toronto) 26 January 2023. Access Date: 26 May 2023. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-to-protect-nature-in-ontario-835767142.html>

<sup>2544</sup> Osoyoos Indian Band Restores Land Affected by Wildfire Through Tree-Planting Project, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 14 April 2023. Access Date: 9 May 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/04/osoyoos-indian-band-restores-land-affected-by-wildfire-through-tree-planting-project.html>

<sup>2545</sup> Parks Canada and partners take big steps toward a new national urban park in Windsor, Parks Canada (Windsor) 17 April 2023. Access Date: 9 May 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2023/04/parks-canada-and-partners-take-big-steps-toward-a-new-national-urban-park-in-windsor.html>

<sup>2546</sup> Minister Wilkinson and Minister Ralston Announce Two-year Plan to Plant Over 37 Million Trees in British Columbia Under the Two Billion Trees Program and Kick Off 2023 Tree-Planting Season, Government of Canada - Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 14 April 2023. Access Date: 9 May 2023 <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/04/minister-wilkinson-and-minister-ralston-announce-two-year-plan-to-plant-over-37-million-trees-in-british-columbia-under-the-two-billion-trees-progr.html>

protection at President Khurelsukh's state visit to China.<sup>2547</sup> China applauds Mongolia's "Billion Trees" initiative and pledged its plan to establish a cooperation center to combat desertification and land degradation along with Mongolia.

On 12 December 2022, President of the United Nations Biodiversity conference and Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu noted that China has made significant progress in wildlife conservation and environmental protection. Minister Huang noted that China has completed a total of 64 million hectares of afforestation.<sup>2548</sup>

On 19 January 2023, the State Council Information Office announced the establishment of five new national parks, supporting the consecutive growth of China's forest coverage ratio.<sup>2549</sup> The national parks establishment shrinks the desertified areas, and contributes to the zero net land degradation goal.

On 12 March 2023, the National Afforestation Committee reported that China has reached a 24 per cent forest coverage rate with 231 million hectares of forests. The National Afforestation Committee updated that 3.83 million hectares of trees were planted, and 3.21 million hectares of degraded land were treated over the past year.<sup>2550</sup> An additional 63,000 square kilometers of soil erosion control area is also added to continue the afforestation efforts.

On 5 April 2023, President Xi participated in a voluntary tree planting activity and emphasized the importance of prioritizing green development. Xi called for national efforts to plant trees, specifically calling on all organizations to create new, convenient models allowing the general public to participate throughout the year.<sup>2551</sup> This action promotes awareness of afforestation from corporations to individuals, contributing to ecosystem conservation.

On 8 May 2023, Yuli County mobilized social participation and installed Drip irrigation facilities, in Bayingolin Mongolian autonomous prefecture in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.<sup>2552</sup> The effort contributes to fighting desertification, and combats against wind-sand hazards.

On 7 June 2023, President Xi presided over a symposium promoting the construction of ecological projects, and called for efforts to strengthen the restoration of degraded land. Xi learned about the progress in the Three-North Shelterbelt Forest Program (TSFP), and stressed the importance of enhancing the program.<sup>2553</sup> The focus on TSFP stresses the commitment towards sand control and ecological restoration.

China has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. China has taken strong actions to protect, conserve ecosystems and to halt land degradation through continuous efforts by the implementation of afforestation projects. It also shows cooperation and collaboration with partner countries to establish strategies for sustainable development.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Nerissa Feng*

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<sup>2547</sup> President Xi Jinping Holds Talks with Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 24 April 2023. [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx\\_662805/202211/t20221128\\_10981916.html](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/zxxx_662805/202211/t20221128_10981916.html)

<sup>2548</sup> China's biodiversity conservation goals better than average: COP15 president, China Daily (Montreal) 12 December 2023. Access Date: 26 April 2023. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202212/12/WS6396dd83a31057c47eba3fc4.html>

<sup>2549</sup> China has set up new-type protected area system: white paper, China Daily (Beijing) 19 January 2023. Access Date: 26 April 2023. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202301/19/WS63c8d83da31057c47ebaa9fb.html>

<sup>2550</sup> China's forest coverage rate hits 24%, China Daily (Beijing) 12 March 2023. Access Date: 26 April 2023. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202303/12/WS640d64b0a31057c47ebb3e3f.html>

<sup>2551</sup> Xi calls for afforestation efforts during tree planting activity, China Daily (Beijing) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 27 April 2023. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202304/05/WS642d436ba31057c47ebb8725.html>

<sup>2552</sup> China writes new chapters of desertification control, People's Daily (Beijing) 9 June 2023. Access Date: 12 June 2023. <http://en.people.cn/n3/2023/0609/c90000-20029661.html>

<sup>2553</sup> Xi urges sustained efforts to curb desertification, The State Council Information Office (Beijing) 6 June 2023. Access Date: 10 June 2023. [http://english.scio.gov.cn/topnews/2023-06/07/content\\_86558342.htm](http://english.scio.gov.cn/topnews/2023-06/07/content_86558342.htm)

**France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 29 November 2022, Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Marc Fesneau launched the General Assembly of the Landes de Gascogne forest massif, which was approved by the State.<sup>2554</sup> This forest ecological planning project supports the development and implementation for a fortified, strategic approach towards the conservation and replanting of the forest. Thus far, proposals for this forest renewal have endowed at the national level with EUR150 million within the framework of France 2030. The main goals of this project are to fight fires better, better prevent fires and to manage damaged areas after fires, thus creating a more resilient forest massif.

On 2 December 2022, the Government, along with the European Union, negotiated a treaty on the elimination of plastic pollution towards an intergovernmental committee for the first time in Punta del Este, Uruguay.<sup>2555</sup> This potential treaty covers the whole life cycle of plastics, with efforts to reduce, eliminate and ban plastics and problematic substances (additives and chemical products), including microplastics and single-use plastic.

On 19 December 2022, France joined 195 countries at the United Nations Biodiversity conference on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. At this conference, an outline of the strategic framework for biodiversity was adopted for the 2020-2030 period.<sup>2556</sup> Alongside the other 116 member states of the Coalition for High Ambition for Nature and Peoples, France (a co-chair) adopted this agreement and a new implementation mechanism in order to protect 30 per cent of land and 30 per cent of maritime areas by 2030.

On 3 March 2023, the Government launched the Libreville Plan, an initiative aimed at achieving an agreement between forest countries and the international community.<sup>2557</sup> Among the provisions, a fundamental pillar of the plan is the objective to protect forest land through the development of greater projects and technology, such as carbon sequestration and national park development. The Libreville Plan is the product of the One Forest Summit, held in Libreville as a follow-up to the UN Biodiversity Conference and the 30by30 goal outlined at the G20 summit.

On 13 March 2023, the Government launched a new information campaign concerning legal bush clearing obligations, which ran until mid-May. This duty pertains solely to 46 departments which are classified as at risk of forest and vegetation fires and the aim of this new campaign is to make these landowners aware of the legal obligation. Clearing of bush is proven to be the best way to prevent initiation and spread of fires. Hence, this campaign was decided upon after the powerful fires in France during the summer of 2022 in order to protect land and the environment overall.<sup>2558</sup>

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<sup>2554</sup> Chantier de planification écologique forêt : l'Etat accompagne les élus et acteurs forestiers du massif des Landes de Gascogne dans l'élaboration et la mise en œuvre d'une stratégie renforcée de protection et de replantation de la forêt, Ministère de l'agriculture et de la Souveraineté Alimentaire (Paris) 29 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date : 21 April 2023. <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/chantier-de-planification-ecologique-foret-letat-accompagne-les-elus-et-acteurs-forestiers-du>

<sup>2555</sup> La France accueillera les négociations sur l'élimination de la pollution par les plastiques en 2023, Ministère de l'Europe et des affaires étrangères (Paris) 6 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 April 2023. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/news/article/france-will-host-negotiations-on-the-elimination-of-plastic-pollution-in-2023>

<sup>2556</sup> COP15 Biodiversité : La France salue un accord ambitieux, réaliste et applicable et continuera de porter des engagements forts aux niveaux national et international, Gouvernement (Paris) 19 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 April 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/cop15-biodiversite-france-salue-accord-ambitieux-realiste-et-applicable-et-continuera-porter-des>

<sup>2557</sup> The Libreville Plan, Élysée (Paris) 2 March 2023. Access Date: 8 May 2023 <https://www.elysee.fr/en/emmanuel-macron/2023/03/02/the-libreville-plan>

<sup>2558</sup> Feux de forêt : lancement d'une nouvelle campagne d'information sur les obligations légales de débroussaillage, Gouvernement (Paris) 13 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 April 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/lancement-campagne-old>



France has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. France has taken actions to protect and restore vulnerable forested areas which host ecosystems and promote biodiversity. Most notably, legislatively approving large scale forest replanting; reforming existing legislature; pursuing intergovernmental treaty negotiations including the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework as well as the treaty involving the elimination of plastic pollution. However, much of these frameworks and verbal pledges are yet to be followed through; hence, France falls short in taking meaningful physical action.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Emily Hospedales*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 8 December 2022, Federal Finance Minister Christian Lindner, Minister Steffi Lemke and the Prime Ministers of the states of Brandenburg, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia signed a new administrative agreement on the financing of lignite remediation in East Germany.<sup>2559</sup> From 2023 to 2027, EUR1.44 billion will be provided to address the consequences of lignite mining by recultivating previous lignite coal mines.

On 14 December 2022, Minister Lemke and German Development Minister Svenja Schulze announced EUR85 million in funding to support the conservation effects of indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs) at the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.<sup>2560</sup> The Ministry of Environment also announced increases in funding towards the Global ICCA Support Initiative. The funding will contribute to implementing a 30x30 protected area target, and ensuring indigenous peoples and local communities can participate in the decision-making process for conservation efforts.

On 24 January 2023, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation announced EUR455,000 for a joint project in the Wesel district.<sup>2561</sup> This is a joint project between the Biological Station in Wesel district and local authorities to develop measures that protect species-rich habitats in industrial, commercial and post-mining landscapes.

On 31 January 2023, Minister Lemke recognized “Oranienbaumer Heide” pasture land as a top United Nations Decade project. The initiative restored ecosystems in Saxony-Anhalt, Germany.<sup>2562</sup>

On 17 February 2023, the Federal Environment for the Ministry promoted a “Forum der Vielfalt” to strengthen the protection and conservation of diversity in the West Mecklenburg Baltic Sea Coast and

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<sup>2559</sup> Bundesministerien und Länder schließen neues Verwaltungsabkommen zur Braunkohlesanierung, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 08 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/bundesministerien-und-laender-schliessen-neues-verwaltungsabkommen-zur-braunkohlesanierung>

<sup>2560</sup> Weltnaturkonferenz in Montreal: Deutschland stärkt indigene Völker und lokale Gemeinschaften beim Naturschutz, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 15 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/weltnaturkonferenz-in-montreal-deutschland-staerkt-indigene-voelker-und-lokale-gemeinschaften-beim-naturschutz>

<sup>2561</sup> BMUV und BfN fördern Insektenschutz im Kreis Wesel, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 24 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/bmuv-und-bfn-foerdern-insektenschutz-im-kreis-wesel>

<sup>2562</sup> Steffi Lemke zeichnet Weidelandchaft Oranienbaumer Heide als UN-Dekade-Projekt aus, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 31 January 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/steffi-lemke-zeichnet-weidelandchaft-oranienbaumer-heide-als-un-dekade-projekt-aus>

Lübeck Basin region. The Federal Ministry for the Environment and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation also committed EUR950,000 for the large-scale nature conservation project.<sup>2563</sup>

On 22 February 2023, Minister Lemke presented a funding certificate with the states of Brandenburg and Saxony-Anhalt for the renaturation of the lower Havel lowlands. An additional EUR28.9 million have been made available by 2033 to create wetlands and reconnect oxbows.<sup>2564</sup>

On 10 March 2023, the Federal Environment for the Ministry provided EUR4.4 million from the Wilderness Fund to support the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) Foundation's purchase of 1,200 hectares in western Vogelsberg in central Hesse.<sup>2565</sup> NABU purchases conservation areas in Germany to develop them as a habitat for endangered and rare species.

On 17 March 2023, the Federal Environment for the Ministry and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation provided EUR1.8 million for two new agroforestry projects.<sup>2566</sup> The "SEBAS" project will receive approximately EUR1.4 million. Project "Bäume auf den Acker" will receive EUR430,000.

On 29 March 2023, the Federal Cabinet adopted the "Aktionsprogramm Natürlicher Klimaschutz (ANK)."<sup>2567</sup> ANK is a national climate protection action program intended to strengthen the resilience and condition of ecosystems including moors, grasslands, forests, and floodplains in Germany. The government committed EUR4 billion to finance the action program. ANK utilizes financial incentives and alliances with nature conservationists and landowners to support voluntary natural climate protection measures.

On 6 April 2023, the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Protection and the Federal Ministry for the Environment launched the International Climate Initiative (IKI) Medium Grants funding program to fund climate protection and conservation projects in developing countries.<sup>2568</sup> An allocation of EUR8 million was spent for project funding. The IKI Medium Grants promote Global North-South cooperation and contribute to the Paris Climate Protection Agreement.<sup>2569</sup>

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<sup>2563</sup> Biologische Vielfalt an der Ostseeküste stärken, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 17 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/biologische-vielfalt-an-der-ostseekueste-staerken>

<sup>2564</sup> Bundesumweltministerium fördert die Lebensader Untere Havel mit weiteren rund 29 Millionen Euro, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 22 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerium-foerdert-die-lebensader-untere-havel-mit-weiteren-rund-29-millionen-euro>

<sup>2565</sup> BMUV fördert Erweiterung des Wildnisgebietes "Laubacher Wald – Westlicher Vogelsberg", Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 10 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bmu-foerdert-erweiterung-des-wildnisgebietes-laubacher-wald-westlicher-vogelsberg>

<sup>2566</sup> Bäume auf den Acker: 1,8 Millionen Euro für mehr Biodiversität, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 17 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/baeume-auf-den-acker-18-millionen-euro-fuer-mehr-biodiversitaet>

<sup>2567</sup> Lemke: Mit Natürlichem Klimaschutz Ökosysteme stärken und gegen Klimakrise angehen, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 29 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/lemke-mit-natuerlichem-klimaschutz-oekosysteme-staerken-und-gegen-klimakrise-angehen>

<sup>2568</sup> Internationales Förderprogramm für NGOs: IKI Medium Grants startet vierten Ideenwettbewerb für Projekte in Entwicklungsländern, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 06 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/internationales-foerderprogramm-fuer-ngos-iki-medium-grants-startet-vierten-ideenwettbewerb-fuer-projekte-in-entwicklungslaendern>

<sup>2569</sup> Internationales Förderprogramm für NGOs: IKI Medium Grants startet vierten Ideenwettbewerb für Projekte in Entwicklungsländern, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 06 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/internationales-foerderprogramm-fuer-ngos-iki-medium-grants-startet-vierten-ideenwettbewerb-fuer-projekte-in-entwicklungslaendern>

On 24 April 2023, Minister Lemke presented an award for restoring the North Western Pomeranian forest landscape.<sup>2570</sup> As a UN Decade Project, the initiative aimed to build and secure parts of the forest ecosystem deemed of national importance and worthy of protection.

On 4 May 2023, the Federal Ministry for the Environment and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation committed EUR321,000 towards funding the “RANGER” project.<sup>2571</sup> As a part of the Federal Biological Diversity Programme, the project aimed to improve the quality of protected area management by rangers in nature parks, biosphere reserves, and national parks.

On 5 May 2023, the Federal Ministry for the Environment and the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg provided EUR22 million towards Germany’s first large-scale urban nature conservation project.<sup>2572</sup> Approximately 300 measures will be implemented to protect and develop nationally significant landscapes.

On 12 May 2023, at the annual five-party meeting, the environment ministers of Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, and Switzerland discussed climate protection, waste management and the restoration of natural habitats.<sup>2573</sup> The environment ministers reached an agreement on global pollution and climate protection policies.

On 8 June 2023, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Council of Ministers adopted new OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.<sup>2574</sup> The updated guidelines require companies to align their activities with international environmental goals and formulate recommendations to address the protection of the climate and sensitive ecosystems.

On 12 June 2023, the Federal Ministry for the Environment started the large-scale nature conservation project to preserve and develop the Ore Mountains.<sup>2575</sup> The project is aimed to improve water retention and connect various natural landscapes

On 16 June 2023, Federal Development Minister Svenja Schulze, Federal Economics Minister Robert Habeck, Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke and Minister of State in the Federal Foreign Office Anna Lührmann with the Colombian Foreign Minister Álvaro Leyva Durán signed a partnership on climate and energy. The partnership intends to protect natural ecosystems and increase sustainable development through jointly setting environmental standards and developing additional policies for global climate protection.<sup>2576</sup>

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<sup>2570</sup> Steffi Lemke zeichnet Nordvorpommersche Waldlandschaft als UN-Dekade-Projekt aus, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 24 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/steffi-lemke-zeichnet-nordvorpommersche-waldlandschaft-als-un-dekade-projekt-aus>

<sup>2571</sup> Mehr Qualität in der Schutzgebietsbetreuung durch Rangerinnen und Ranger, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 04 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/mehr-qualitaet-in-der-schutzgebietsbetreuung-durch-rangerinnen-und-ranger>

<sup>2572</sup> Rund 22,5 Millionen Euro Förderung für mehr Artenvielfalt und Naturerleben in Hamburg, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 05 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/rund-225-millionen-euro-foerderung-fuer-mehr-artenvielfalt-und-naturerleben-in-hamburg>

<sup>2573</sup> Treffen der deutschsprachigen Umweltministerinnen und Umweltminister, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 12 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/treffen-der-deutschsprachigen-umweltministerinnen-und-umweltminister>

<sup>2574</sup> Neue Leitlinien für mehr Nachhaltigkeit in Unternehmen, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 08 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/neue-leitlinien-fuer-mehr-nachhaltigkeit-in-unternehmen>

<sup>2575</sup> Neues Naturschutzgroßprojekt soll artenreiche Kulturlandschaft im mittleren Erzgebirge sichern, Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 12 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 June 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/neues-naturschutzgrossprojekt-soll-artenreiche-kulturlandschaft-im-mittleren-erzgebirge-sichern>

<sup>2576</sup> Deutschland und Kolumbien vereinbaren Klima- und Energiepartnerschaft (Berlin) 16 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/deutschland-und-kolumbien-vereinbaren-klima-und-energiepartnerschaft>

On 19 June 2023, Minister Lemke and Chinese Environment Minister Huang Runqiu committed to a partnership to tackle climate change. Both countries committed to bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the areas of preserving ecosystems and managing the use of natural resources.<sup>2577</sup>

On 13 July 2023, the federal government approved the first nationwide climate adaptation law. The law establishes a preventative framework at the local, state, and federal levels to coordinate adaptation measures.<sup>2578</sup>

On 14 July 2023, the Federal Ministry for the Environment published the first municipal funding program. The initiative intends to financially support municipal investments in natural climate protection and strengthen diverse ecosystems. Up to EUR100 million will be made available for the funding program.<sup>2579</sup>

On 14 July 2023, the Federal Ministry for the Environment and the KfW launched a funding program to support commercial companies implementing climate protection measures. The KfW will provide conditional loans for eligible companies. The initiative encourages commercial companies to integrate ecosystem protection principles into their operational environment.<sup>2580</sup>

On 27 July 2023, Minister Lemke launched the German-Indian cooperation project on forest protection. The Federal Environment Ministry will receive EUR17.5 million to restore forest landscapes in four Indian states. The project intends to restore forest and woodland, contribute to international climate goals, and accelerate global ecosystem restoration initiatives.<sup>2581</sup>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. Germany has taken strong actions to protect, conserve, and rehabilitate ecosystems through investing in conservation projects and adopting strategies to meet global climate protection goals. It has committed funding, integrated indigenous and local perspectives, and liaised with partner countries to establish strategies for the protection and recultivation of diverse ecosystems.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irene Wu*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 1 February 2023, Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2023-24 in Parliament.<sup>2582</sup> The budget included pledges to various environmentally conscious initiatives. A commitment of INR2200 crore was made to increase availability of high-quality planting

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<sup>2577</sup> Deutsch-Chinesische Umweltpartnerschaft entwickelt sich weiter (Berlin) 19 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/deutsch-chinesische-umweltpartnerschaft-entwickelt-sich-weiter>

<sup>2578</sup> Bundesregierung verabschiedet erstes bundesweites Klimaanpassungsgesetz (Berlin) 13 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesregierung-verabschiedet-erstes-bundesweites-klimaanpassungsgesetz>

<sup>2579</sup> Natürlicher Klimaschutz hilft Kommunen gegen die Folgen der Klimakrise (Berlin) 14 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/natuerlicher-klimaschutz-hilft-kommunen-gegen-die-folgen-der-klimakrise>

<sup>2580</sup> Natürlicher Klimaschutz in Unternehmen für besseren Klimaschutz und mehr Natur (Berlin) 14 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/natuerlicher-klimaschutz-in-unternehmen-fuer-besseren-klimaschutz-und-mehr-natur>

<sup>2581</sup> Bundesumweltministerin Lemke startet deutsch-indische Kooperation zum Waldschutz (Berlin) 27 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerin-lemke-startet-deutsch-indische-kooperation-zum-waldschutz>

<sup>2582</sup> HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UNION BUDGET 2023-24, Ministry of Finance (New Delhi) 1 February 2023. Access Date: 16 March 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1895315>

material for horticultural crops as part of the Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program. The Agriculture Accelerator Fund was announced, as part of an effort to support agriculture-focused startups in rural areas, although no specific financial pledge was made. Another INR35000 crore was also pledged for other net-zero objectives. The Green Credit Programme, as part of the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative and the Environmental Protection Act, was announced, aiming to incentivize sustainable business practices and climate action in the areas of waste management, forest and ecosystem services, and water quality. Finally, the PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth was announced, promoting the proper and balanced use of chemical and alternative fertilizers.

On 4 February 2023, Union Minister Bhupender Yadav launched the “Save Wetlands Campaign,” which will take place over the next year and will include various wetlands conservation actions such as building citizen partnerships.<sup>2583</sup>

On 10 February 2023, the first meeting of the Environment Climate Sustainability Working Group was held, focused on stopping land degradation and supporting ecosystem restoration.<sup>2584</sup> Technical documents on reducing waste in the steel sector were introduced, although no official policies or programs were immediately implemented.

On 13 March 2023, Minister Ashwini Kumar Choubey announced the transfer of State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) Fund.<sup>2585</sup> The CAMPA fund compensates and encourages Indian states to take more measures to protect forestry and assist forests in their natural regeneration process.

On 16 March 2023, Minister Choubey announced that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched Mission Sahbhagita.<sup>2586</sup> The mission encourages proper wetland use through an ownership approach with its communities. It was also announced that the Ministry is currently implementing the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems, which encourages States to undertake wetlands conservation activities such as in-situ cleaning and de-weeding through a cost-sharing framework, exactly 165 wetlands across the country are covered under this action.

On 16 March 2023, Minister Choubey announced that the Ministry has prepared a National Action Plan to minimize forest fires following a study on the vulnerability of forests to fires over the past 17 years.<sup>2587</sup> The Plan enhanced fire fighting capabilities and is expected to improve forest recovery after a fire event.

On 17 March 2023, the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region (NCR) & Adjoining Areas via Direction No. 72. directed all Captive Thermal Power Plants in the NCR to co-fire 5 per cent biomass-based pellets with coal by at least 30 September 2023, and at least 10 per cent by 31 December 2023.<sup>2588</sup> Co-firing biomass with coal aims to reduce coal consumption, and therefore reduce land pollution associated with coal mining and coal combustion.

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<sup>2583</sup> Shri Bhupender Yadav launches ‘Save Wetlands Campaign’ as a “whole of society” approach for wetlands conservation, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 4 February 2023. Access Date: 16 March 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1896301>

<sup>2584</sup> Shri Hardeep Singh Puri addresses the First Environment Climate Sustainability Working Group (ECSWG) meeting at Bengaluru. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 10 February 2023. Access Date: 16 March 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1898039>

<sup>2585</sup> CAMPA funds utilized for compensating the loss of forest land and ecosystem services by raising of compensatory afforestation and improving quality of forests, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 13 March 2023. Access Date: 16 March 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1906384>

<sup>2586</sup> Mission Sahbhagita to enable a society ownership approach for participatory conservation and wise use of Wetlands, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 16 March 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1907683>

<sup>2587</sup> National Action Plan on Forest Fire empowers all stakeholders to reduce vulnerability of forests against fire hazards, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 16 March 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1907678>

<sup>2588</sup> CAQM directs all Captive Thermal Power Plants in NCR to target at least 5% co-firing of biomass pellets with coal by 30.09.2023 and at least 10% by 31.12.2023, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 20 March 2023. Access Date: 16 April 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1908870>

On 27 March 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced that it is implementing the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems scheme, which includes provisions for the conservation and management of wetlands in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments.<sup>2589</sup> It did not yet specify any specific funding amounts and did not go into detail about the provisions.

On 12 April 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced that the National Museum of Natural History of New Delhi and the State Museum of Lucknow signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work together in the direction of environment conservation and environment education.<sup>2590</sup> The main goal of this program is to raise awareness about environmental conservation among young people in India in an effort to curb future land degradation.

On 20 May 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced the inauguration of Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM) at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education.<sup>2591</sup> The CoE-SLM hopes to address land degradation issues through sustainable land management practices including technical support, capacity building, and knowledge sharing at the national and sub-national levels.

India has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. It has also created sustainable land preservation systems such as the “Save Wetlands Campaign.” Finally, India has taken steps to restore previously degraded land through initiatives including Mission Sahbhagita and the CAMPA Fund.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sujit Magesh*

### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 19 December 2022, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced their intention to enter a framework agreement for up to USD50 million.<sup>2592</sup> This aims to support Indonesia in its endeavors in land and forest conservation.

On 17 February 2023, MOEF partnered with the World Resources Institute to achieve the objectives of the FOLU (Forestry and Other Land Uses) Net Sink 2030, which aims to decrease carbon emissions from the FOLU industry.<sup>2593</sup> The partnership will involve technical dialogue on FOLU monitoring systems;

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<sup>2589</sup> National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) scheme implemented for conservation and management of wetlands (includes lakes) in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 27 March 2023. Access Date: 16 April 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1911129>

<sup>2590</sup> National Museum of Natural History and State Museum, Lucknow sign MoU to work for environment education and conservation, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 12 April 2023. Access Date: 16 April 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1916068>

<sup>2591</sup> Shri Bhupender Yadav Inaugurates Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management at Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education in Dehradun. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi). 20 May 2023. Access Date: 16 April 2023. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1925988>

<sup>2592</sup> MOEF and USAID Announce New Climate Partnership to Support Indonesia's FOLU Net Sink 2030 Operational Plan. U.S. Agency for International Development (Washington DC). December 19 2022. Access Date: March 19 2023. <https://www.usaid.gov/indonesia/press-releases/dec-19-2022-moef-and-usaid-announce-new-climate-partnership-support-indonesias-folu-net-sink-2030-operational-plan>

<sup>2593</sup> Indonesia, WRI join forces to achieve FOLU Net Sink 2030 targets. Indonesia Business Post (Jakarta). February 21, 2023. Access Date: March 19 2023. [https://indonesiabusinesspost.com/insider/indonesia-wri-join-forces-to-achieve-folu-net-sink-2030-targets/?nsl\\_bypass\\_cache=a753eabe0394ec255e602631e1f63214](https://indonesiabusinesspost.com/insider/indonesia-wri-join-forces-to-achieve-folu-net-sink-2030-targets/?nsl_bypass_cache=a753eabe0394ec255e602631e1f63214)

exchange of knowledge and experience to strengthen the technical alignment of FOLU monitoring systems; and collaboration in international fora on issues of mutual interest.

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. Indonesia has partnered with various organizations and states to set up frameworks and systems to halt land degradation, such as its agreement with USAID. These indicate meaningful action towards land preservation.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sujit Magesh*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 11 January 2023, Minister of the Environment and Energy Security Gilberto Pichetto claimed that national parks are important aspects of Italy, and the protection of parks are crucial to a more sustainable economic management.<sup>2594</sup>

On 28 February 2023, Italy pledged to support the environment, including land and soil recovery program through financial resources, and the revitalization of small-scale sustainable family farming.<sup>2595</sup>

On 28 April 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry announced the creation of Supply Chain Contracts in the forestry sector, with the aim of encouraging a greener economy in compliance with the protection and conservation of biodiversity and forests.<sup>2596</sup> This call promotes a more innovative and green developmental policy, ensuring positive effects on the forests.

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. Italy has taken actions to protect and support forests and promote biodiversity, including through governmental subsidies that encourage producers to protect and conserve forests. However, it has not taken sufficiently strong actions to achieve full compliance.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Nerissa Feng*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 15 December 2022, Minister of the Environment Nishimura Akihiro announced an investment of JPY117 billion for conservation efforts from 2023 to 2025 in developing countries.<sup>2597</sup>

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<sup>2594</sup> Parchi, Pichetto on the 100th anniversary of the Abruzzo, Lazio and Molise National Park: "Green heart of central Italy", Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (Rome) 11 January 2023. Access Date: 2 May 2023.

<https://www.mase.gov.it/notizie/parchi-pichetto-sui-100-anni-del-parco-nazionale-abruzzo-lazio-e-molise-cuore-verde-dell>  
<sup>2595</sup> Report from Italy to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), UNCCD (Bonn) 28 February 2023. Access Date: 1 May 2023. <https://www.unccd.int/our-work-impact/country-profiles/italy>

<sup>2596</sup> Forestry: applications for subsidies to support supply chain contracts are underway, Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry (Rome) 28 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. [https://www.politicheagricole.it/foreste\\_contrattifiliera](https://www.politicheagricole.it/foreste_contrattifiliera)

<sup>2597</sup> Statement by Nishimura Akihiro, Minister of the Environment, Japan, at the High-Level Segment of CBD COP15, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 15 December 2022. Access Date: 15 March 2023. [https://www.env.go.jp/en/focus/statement/statement\\_20221215.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/focus/statement/statement_20221215.html)

On 26 January 2023, Japan and the European Commission held the 19th High-Level Dialogue on Environment to discuss biodiversity, circular economy and plastics, and pollution.<sup>2598</sup> Working in progress towards the EU-Japan Green Alliance, the conference discussed further methods of environmental protection, especially regarding plastic and waste pollution on land.

On 13 March 2023, the Ministry of the Environment, the Embassy of Japan in Thailand, and the Institute for Global Environment Strategies hosted the 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development.<sup>2599</sup> The goal for the forum was: “Actions to Harnessing Synergies between the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals: Enhancing City to City Collaboration in the Asia-Pacific Region.” The event focused on city-to-city collaboration on a number of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 15, Life on Land, and SDG 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities.

On 21 April 2023, the International Atomic Energy Agency announced the 1st Experts Meeting on Volume Reduction and Recycling of Removed Soil, a conference to be held at the request of the Ministry of Environment.<sup>2600</sup> Among others, the meeting will discuss the recycling and final disposal of removed soil from land.

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. Japan has established a clear plan to achieve the 30by30 target, which will be placed into action this year. However, since the establishment of the 30by30 target, they have not committed any strong actions in halting land degradation, promoting the sustainable use of land, or fulfilling said 30x30 target.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Kristi Deki*

#### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 21 November 2022, Minister of Environment Wha-jin Han introduced an incentive to encourage local farmers on how to dispose of agricultural waste properly.<sup>2601</sup> The Ministry announced that it will collect agricultural waste from rural farms alongside private organizations. The ministry awarded KRW10 million to the local government that showed excellent achievement in collecting agricultural waste. The Ministry revealed its plans to increase the number of joint collection centers to 13,000 by 2026.

On 12 January 2023, Minister Han met with the chief of the Jogye Order, Korea’s biggest Buddhist sect, to discuss cooperation efforts in protecting the new Palgongsan national park through ecological and cultural resources.<sup>2602</sup>

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<sup>2598</sup> Outcomes of 19th Japan-EU High-Level Dialogue on Environment, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 26 January 2023. Access Date: 9 May 2023 [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press\\_00965.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_00965.html)

<sup>2599</sup> The 10th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) Side Event : Actions to Harnessing Synergies between the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals: Enhancing City to City Collaboration in the Asia-Pacific Region, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 13 March 2023. Access Date: 9 May 2023 [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press\\_01204.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_01204.html)

<sup>2600</sup> AEA-MOE Japan 1st Experts Meeting on Volume Reduction and Recycling of Removed Soil Arising from Decontamination Activities, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 21 April 2023. Access Date: 9 May 2023

<sup>2601</sup> The Ministry of Environment Will Collect Agricultural Waste Together with the Private Sector, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 21 November 2022. Access Date: 29 April 2023. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=50&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1562200&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>2602</sup> Environment Minister Made a Courtesy Call to Ven Jinwook, the Executive Chief of the Jogye Order, Korea’s Biggest Buddhist Sect, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 12 January 2023. Access Date: 29 April 2023. <https://m.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do;jsessionid=STQKYGxDvHtOfDg6oENI3pbu.mehome1?pagerOffset=24&maxPageItems=6&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=460&orgCd=&boardMasterId=523&boardCategoryId=3&boardId=1577060&decorator=>



On 27 January 2023, Minister Han introduced a plan to provide Korean companies direct financial support of KRW106.7 billion to assist with their environmental, social and governance (ESG) performance.<sup>2603</sup>

On 2 February 2023, Minister Han announced the ministry's annual plans for nature conservation and Korea's national plans to expand protected national areas by 2030.<sup>2604</sup> The Ministry designated an outstanding number of ecological areas as nature reserves to expand the number of natural resources in Korea. Palgongsan Provincial Park will become Korea's 23rd national Park.

On 14 February 2023, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Chung Hwang-keun announced a new program "Living in Rural Areas" for urban citizens to encourage citizens to learn sustainable techniques regarding rural agriculture and cultivation.<sup>2605</sup> The program aims to train urban citizens who are choosing to re-locate to rural neighbourhoods in Korea and to reinvigorate rural lands.

On 27 February 2023, the Ministry of Environment announced it will be enforcing stricter measures to target and prevent organized illegal dumping and abandoned waste on empty land.<sup>2606</sup> The Ministry announced it will implement the "Intelligent Waste Management System" used to observe companies dumping hazardous waste on land to track the illegal dumping.

On 3 March 2023, Minister Han announced that five environmental bills were approved in the National Assembly's plenary session.<sup>2607</sup> The Construction Waste Act set the legal standards for imposing penalties on business for wrongful dumping of construction and toxic waste.

On 7 April 2023, the Ministry of Environment amended the Environmental Impact Assessment System to help foster harmony between development and conservation efforts.<sup>2608</sup> The amendments improved the criteria for the assessment by increasing the reliability and flexibility of the system management.

On 25 April 2023, the Ministry of Environment launched a new initiative to promote ecotourism and land preservation in the country.<sup>2609</sup> The 2023 Spring Ecotourism Program will take place in 29 ecological sites specifically chosen to educate the public on the importance of sustainability and land conservation through domestic ecotourism programs.

On 10 May 2023, the Ministry of Environment, the Cultural Heritage Administration, the Governor of Gyeongsangnam-do, and the Mayor of Changnyeong-gun announced that 30 crested ibis were released into

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<sup>2603</sup> The Ministry of Environment Assists Companies in Meeting their ESG Goals, Korea.net (Seoul) 27 January 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.korea.net/Government/Briefing-Room/Press-Releases/view?articleId=1576470&type=N&insttCode=A260112>

<sup>2604</sup> Environment Ministry to Create a Healthy Natural Environment, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 13 February 2023. Access Date: 29 April 2023.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1580220&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>2605</sup> Living in Rural Areas in 2023 Begins, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (Tokyo) 14 February 2023. Access Date: 29 April. [https://www.mafra.go.kr/sn3hcv\\_v2023/skin/doc.html?fn=DE35AD72-1693-DF2A-DB6F-C804792A74DC.docx&rs=/sn3hcv\\_v2023/atcmmnfl/bbs/202303/](https://www.mafra.go.kr/sn3hcv_v2023/skin/doc.html?fn=DE35AD72-1693-DF2A-DB6F-C804792A74DC.docx&rs=/sn3hcv_v2023/atcmmnfl/bbs/202303/)

<sup>2606</sup> Minister of Environment Inspected Illegal Waste Sites, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 27 February 2023. Access Date: 29 April 2023.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1583100&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>2607</sup> Five Environmental Bills Passed by the National Assembly, Including the Special Act on the Improvement of Air Quality in Air Control Zones, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 3 March 2023. Access Date: 29 April 2023.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1584650&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>2608</sup> The Ministry of Environment will Improve the Environmental Impact Assessment System to increase Field Efficiency, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 7 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1593300&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>2609</sup> Let's Visit Amazing Ecotourism Destinations, Ministry of Environment (Tokyo) 25 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1596790&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

the wild to restore endangered wildlife and enhance domestic biodiversity.<sup>2610</sup> The release of the crested ibis is part of a routine release program since 2012.

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. It has commenced planning and research to tackle issues affecting Korea's ecosystems, committed strong actions in halting the degradation of land, and made progress towards land preservation and protection.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Yasmine Nasereddin*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 6 December 2022, the National Guard and Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), seized a number of logs, alleged to be acquired illegally.<sup>2611</sup> This is part of Mexico's National Public Security Strategy to combat deforestation and illegal logging.

On 14 December 2022, the SEMARNAT and the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP) announced the entry of the Bahía de Loreto National Park, the Selva El Ocote Biosphere Reserve, and the Cabo Pulmo National Park to the Green List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.<sup>2612</sup> The List includes recognized protected areas that result in the conservation of biodiversity, benefiting humans and the environment.

On 27 December 2022, the SEMARNAT decreed 17 sea turtle nesting beaches as Protected Natural Areas.<sup>2613</sup> The goal is to protect 6,637 hectares of nesting and reproduction areas of sea turtles for the preservation of their natural elements and environmental services.

On 13 February 2023, the SEMARNAT announced the operation of a virtual platform developed in Iztacihuatl Popocatepetl National Park to encourage service providers, tourists, and mountaineers to register and book their visits virtually in an effort to avoid saturation of the Protected Natural Area (ANP).<sup>2614</sup> The platform intends to promote sustainable tourism and the conservation of ecosystems and their biodiversity in national parks.

On 20 February 2023, the SEMARNAT, through the CONANP, certified the Ejidos Río Frío de los Fresnos, Soledad de la Palma, San José de los Olivos and Balcón de la Bandera as ANP, contributing 23,892

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<sup>2610</sup> 30 Crested Ibis, an Endangered Species, Will be Released Back into their Natural Habitats of Upo Wetland, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 10 May 2023. Access date: 18 June

2023. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1599780&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>2611</sup> National Guard and Profepa Dismantle Apparent Illegal Logging Center in Mexico City, Federal Attorney of Environmental Protection (Mexico City) 6 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: April 10 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/profepa/prensa/guardia-nacional-y-profepa-desmantelan-aparente-centro-de-tala-ilegal-en-ciudad-de-mexico-321388?idiom=es>

<sup>2612</sup> Three federal ANPs enter the Green List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 14 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 15 March 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/ingresan-tres-anp-federales-a-la-lista-verde-de-la-union-internacional-para-la-conservacion-de-la-naturaleza-321977?idiom=es>

<sup>2613</sup> Semarnat decreed 17 sea turtle nesting beaches as Protected Natural Areas with the category of Sanctuaries, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 27 December 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 15 March 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/la-semarnat-decreto-17-playas-de-anidacion-de-tortugas-marinas-como-areas-naturales-protegidas-con-la-categoria-de-santuarios-322580?idiom=es>

<sup>2614</sup> Conanp promotes sustainable tourism in High Mountain ANP, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 13 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 16 March 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/la-conanp-fomenta-el-turismo-sustentable-en-anp-de-alta-montana-326178?idiom=es>

hectares of land to the Areas Voluntarily Destined for Conservation (ADVC).<sup>2615</sup> The aim of this action is to increase the country's protected areas.

On 1 March 2023, the SEMARNAT, through the CONANP, launched a campaign to prevent forest fires in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve.<sup>2616</sup> Through the rehabilitation and maintenance of rural roads, opening and maintenance of fire breaks, and other actions, CONANP and the National Forestry Commission aim to prevent and deal with forest fires threatening the conservation of the Selva Maya.

On 2 March 2023, the Government announced its initiative to combat illegal logging.<sup>2617</sup> The initiative aims to protect the human right to a healthy environment by strengthening provisions in the Federal Penal Code to further establish consequences for environmental damage and deterioration caused by illegal logging activities.

On 14 April 2023, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources María Luisa Albores González and Governor Evelyn Salgado Pineda, signed a coordination agreement.<sup>2618</sup> The aim is to guide sustainable land use by ordering the state of Guerrero in accordance with human settlement programs and urban developments.

On 8 May 2023, the SEMANAT, through the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (CONANP), declared Peña Colorada, within the state of Querétaro, as a protected natural area.<sup>2619</sup> Additionally, this decree seeks to protect the state's forests, preserve the soil, and regulate the climate in the area.

On 16 May 2023, the SEMANAT and the Government of Hidalgo signed a Coordination Framework Agreement.<sup>2620</sup> The agreement seeks to strengthen action to restore ecosystems and achieve sustainable protection of federally and state-recognized protected areas. The state of Hidalgo is committed to protecting a total of 134,000 hectares of conserved area.

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. Mexico has taken strong actions to preserve areas of land through conservation efforts. Mexico has also taken significant action by passing relevant legislation and initiatives to halt further land degradation.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

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<sup>2615</sup>Semarnat, through Conanp, certifies common areas of the Sierra de Guerrero as Areas Voluntarily Destined for Conservation, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 20 February 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/la-semarnat-a-traves-de-la-conanp-certifica-ejidotes-de-la-sierra-de-guerrero-como-areas-destinadas-voluntariamente-a-la-conservacion-327168?idiom=es>

<sup>2616</sup>Forest fire prevention campaign begins in the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (Mexico City) 1 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 10 March 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/conanp/prensa/inicia-campana-prevencion-de-incendios-forestales-en-la-reserva-de-la-biosfera-sian-ka-an?idiom=es>

<sup>2617</sup>The Government of Mexico seeks to strengthen the law to punish and deter illegal logging, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 2 March 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/busca-gobierno-de-mexico-fortalecer-la-ley-para-sancionar-y-disuadir-la-tala-ilegal?idiom=es>

<sup>2618</sup>Semarnat and Guerrero sign Coordination Agreement for the Ecological Planning of the state, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 14 April 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: 21 April 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/semarnat-y-guerrero-firman-convenio-de-coordinacion-para-el-ordenamiento-ecologico-del-estado?idiom=es>

<sup>2619</sup> Conanp declares Peña Colorada, in the state of Querétaro, a Protected Natural Area, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 8 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: May 15 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/conanp-declara-pena-colorada-en-el-estado-de-queretaro-area-natural-protegida-333329?idiom=es>

<sup>2620</sup> Semarnat and the Government of Hidalgo strengthen collaboration to carry out environmental protection and restoration actions. Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Mexico City) 16 May 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access date: June 3 2023. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/semarnat-y-gobierno-de-hidalgo-fortalecen-colaboracion-para-realizar-acciones-de-proteccion-y-restauracion-ambiental?idiom=es>

**Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 20 February 2023, in a meeting with other deputy ministers, the Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak introduced a budget for the Clean Country federal project, which seeks to eliminate dangerous sites of accumulated damage, especially landfills.<sup>2621</sup> The project seeks to eliminate hazardous waste sites, such as landfill sites within the boundaries of cities, including industrial waste storage facilities, landfills and production sites of enterprises that have ceased to exist. There will be an increase in the budget allocated to this project, from RUB 4 billion to RUB 30 billion. The project plans to eliminate 53 landfills before the end of 2023. Under the Clean Country federal project, the Russian Government seeks to reduce the number of administrative procedures and choose optimal technological solutions while eliminating the greatest number of hazardous facilities.

On 16 March 2023, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak met with the Energy Minister of Saudi Arabia, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, in which they discussed their cooperation within the Russian-Saudi Intergovernmental Commission in the oil and gas industry, including in achieving goals to maintain market stability.<sup>2622</sup> Russia and Saudi Arabia also stressed their commitment to the decision by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to reduce oil production by 2 million barrels a day until the end of 2023.

On 3 April 2023, Deputy Prime Minister Novak, co-chaired the 48th meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee, in which they reaffirmed their commitment to the decision to limit oil production by 2 million barrels a day until the end of 2023.<sup>2623</sup> However, as oil reserves have been increasing and there is an oil surplus in the market, Russia will only reduce their oil output by 500,000 barrels a day.<sup>2624</sup>

On 9 May 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin met with President of Kyrgyzstan, Sadyr Japarov, in which it was established that Russian nuclear energy corporation Rosatom was doing extensive work to reclaim former uranium mining sites in Kyrgyzstan, and that Russia planned to develop a new assistance program until 2032 with Kyrgyzstan.<sup>2625</sup>

On 22 May 2023, Deputy Prime Minister Novak announced that to expand the production of refined products in the face of large petrochemical imports and to preserve Russian sovereignty in the sector, the Russian government is implementing many incentives to facilitate the implementation of petrochemical products.<sup>2626</sup> This includes a reverse excise tax on ethane and liquefied hydrocarbon gases. Furthermore, the government plans on building several petrochemical plants in the Arctic and the Far East.

On 4 June 2023, Deputy Prime Minister Novak co-chaired the thirty-fifth ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and non-OPEC countries.<sup>2627</sup> Participating countries, including Russia, agreed on adjusting oil production to RUB40.46 million barrels of oil per day from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. They also confirmed the importance of full conformity to the deal's

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<sup>2621</sup> Meeting with Deputy Prime Ministers on Current Issues, The Russian Government (Moscow) 20 February 2023. Access Date: 20 March 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/47825/#47825>

<sup>2622</sup> Alexander Novak Meets with Energy Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, The Russian Government (Riyadh) 16 March 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48001/>

<sup>2623</sup> Alexander Novak holds a session of the OPEC Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee, The Russian Government (Moscow) 3 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48148/>

<sup>2624</sup> Alexander Novak holds a session of the OPEC Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee, The Russian Government (Moscow) 3 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48148/>

<sup>2625</sup> Mikhail Mishustin's meeting with President of Kyrgyzstan Sadyr Japarov, The Russian Government (Moscow) 9 May 2023. Access Date: June 14 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48435/>

<sup>2626</sup> Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, The Russian Government (Moscow) 22 May 2023. Access Date: 14 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48541/>

<sup>2627</sup> Alexander Novak co-chairs the 35th ministerial meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC countries, The Russian Government (Moscow) 4 June 2023. Access Date: 14 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48659/>

terms and the need for countries exceeding production quotas to pay compensation. Deputy Prime Minister Novak also established that Russia will adjust oil production levels to 9.828 million barrels per day as well as an additional extension of Russia's voluntary reduction of 500,000 barrels per day until the end of December 2024.

On 5 June 2023, Deputy Prime Minister Viktoria Abramchenko introduced three national environmental projects; the preservation of Unique Bodies of Water, the recovery of the Volga, and the preservation of Lake Baikal.<sup>2628</sup> The recovery of the Volga aims to reduce the amount of waste water dumped into the Volga by 66.7 per cent to ensure the stable functioning of the Lower Volga's water resources and to preserve ecosystems of the Volga-Akhtuba flood plain. Deputy Prime Minister Abramchenko also advocated for the building of purification works and the implementation of the project reduced the volume of untreated runoff in the Volga River by 30 per cent. The Lake Baikal project aims to eliminate the accumulated environmental damage from the Baikal Pulp and Paper Mill. As part of the environmental national project, volunteers are also cleaning river banks.

On 8 June 2023, Prime Minister Mishustin and Tajikistan's Prime Minister, Kokhir Rasulzoda met in Sochi, in which Prime Minister Rasulzoda established that Tajikistan expected to increase investments and industrial cooperation with Russia, especially on a range of projects in the mining, metallurgic, oil and gas sectors.<sup>2629</sup>

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. Russia has not introduced many actions to improve current initiatives to maintain land quality, and its current actions do not have a clear expected effect on emissions.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Acacia Khanicheb-Peiries*

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 24 November 2022, the Chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs announced a development plan for the Darin and Tarout Island that aims to preserve and promote the island's environment, heritage, and eco-tourism.<sup>2630</sup> The development plan budgeted at SAR2.644 billion includes qualitative initiatives that seek to revive the natural and environmental sites on the island. The Kingdom plans to plant the largest mangrove forest on the shores of the Persian Gulf.

On 29 December 2022, the Green Riyadh project commenced its tree planting initiative in residential neighbourhoods.<sup>2631</sup> The project aims to increase green space in the city by planting over 7.5 million trees in over 120 residential neighbourhoods. The project planted 623,000 trees and bushes in 54 parks, 61 schools, 121 mosques and 78 parking sites in the Al-Aziziyah neighbourhood.

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<sup>2628</sup> Meeting with deputy prime ministers on current issues, The Russian Government (Moscow) 5 June 2023. Access Date: 14 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48660/>

<sup>2629</sup> Mikhail Mishustin's meeting with the Prime Minister of Tajikistan, Kokhir Rasulzoda, The Russian Government (Sochi) 8 June 2023. Access Date: 14 June 2023. <http://government.ru/en/news/48699/>

<sup>2630</sup> HRH Crown Prince Accredits Development Approach for Darin and Tarout Island; Approves Establishing Development Corporation for Island, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2404071#2404071>

<sup>2631</sup> Green Riyadh Project Embarks on Tree-Planting Campaign, Arab News (Riyadh) 27 December 2022. Access Date: 29 April 2023. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2222971/saudi-arabia>

On 11 February 2023, the Green Riyadh project started its second phase of planting at the Al-Naseem neighbourhood.<sup>2632</sup> The kingdom announced that it will invest SAR11 billion over 10 years. The trees will establish a water network to irrigate trees and reuse 100 per cent of the treated water.

On 20 February 2023, the Chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs announced the establishment of the Strategic Office to Develop the Northern Borders Region.<sup>2633</sup> The office is responsible to develop initiatives and projects that contribute to the Kingdom's Sustainable Development goals.

On 23 March 2023, the Deputy Minister for Water at the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture, Dr. Abdulaziz Alshaibani stated that the Kingdom is on track to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Goals by 2030.<sup>2634</sup> The Kingdom allocated USD80 billion for water projects in the country to preserve water resources and the environment.

On 12 April 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture announced the successful impact of the Kingdom's investment in planting Taif roses on the economy and the local environment.<sup>2635</sup> The Sustainable Agricultural Rural Development Programme led to the harvest of 550 million roses in the Sarawat Mountains by increasing the cultivation of flowers in the area.

On 16 April 2023, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology launched 6U CubeSat satellite through the SpaceX Transporter-7 rideshare mission to help with land observation research.<sup>2636</sup> The satellite aims to collect data across the terrestrial, coastal, and ocean ecosystems to assist the Kingdom in monitoring the country's state of vegetation, soil, and water.

On 15 May 2023, the Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen announced the launched of an application system to report environmental violations.<sup>2637</sup> This includes violations that impact wildlife, meteorology, environmental compliance, and vegetation. Once a violation is submitted it will be transferred to appropriate authorities within 180 seconds.

On 5 June 2023, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture held a special seminar with the help of the United Nations Environment Program to advocate for the role of academia in advancing environmental sustainability.<sup>2638</sup> The Deputy Minister of Environment Dr. Osama Faqeeha stressed the importance of using academic and scientific institutions to address various environmental issues such as biodiversity and land conservation.

On 7 June 2023, the Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture Abdulrahman bin Abdulmohsen stressed the importance of Arab solidarity in tackling environmental issues in the Middle East at the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Executive Boars of the Arab Center for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Zones in

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<sup>2632</sup> Green Riyadh Reaches its Second Station, Al-Naseem Neighbourhood, Arab News (Riyadh) 11 February 2023. Access Date 29 April 2023. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2248756/saudi-arabia>

<sup>2633</sup> HRH the Crown Prince Announces Establishing Strategic Office to Develop Northern Borders Region, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 20 February 2023. Access Date: 29 April 2023. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2427935#2427935>

<sup>2634</sup> Saudi Arabia on Track to Achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (Riyadh) 23 March 2023. Access Date 29 April 2023. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News6012020.aspx>

<sup>2635</sup> Ministry of Environment: Investment in Taif Roses Amounts to SAR64 Million in Saudi Market, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 12 April 2023. Access Date: 29 April 2023. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2443316>

<sup>2636</sup> KAUST Launches Advanced 6U Satellite to Endorse Earth Observation Researches, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 16 April 2023. Access date: 29 April 2023. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2444534>

<sup>2637</sup> AlFadley Launches an Application to Receive Reports of Environmental Violations, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (Riyadh) 15 May 2023. Access date: 18 June 2023. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/news312.aspx>

<sup>2638</sup> MEWA Emphasizes the Important Role of Academia in Advancing Environmental Sustainability, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (Riyadh) 5 June 2023. Access date: 18 June 2023. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/ennews247.aspx>

Riyadh.<sup>2639</sup> The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expressed their commitment to multilateral cooperation in tackling environmental issues.

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. It has done so at the national level by making investments in a variety of local initiatives aimed at achieving the country's Sustainable Development Goals.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Yasmine Nasereddin*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to ensure that at least 30% of global land is conserved or protected by 2030.

On 2 February 2023, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment Barbara Creecy called on all South Africans to collaborate in the protection of wetlands as South Africa observes World Wetlands Day.<sup>2640</sup> The aim of this call to action was to raise awareness and to increase South Africans' understanding of the critical importance of these ecosystems. According to a National Biodiversity Assessment, wetlands are the most threatened ecosystems in South Africa, with 79 per cent being threatened.

On 5 April 2023, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Barbara Creecy, welcomed the declaration of Middelpunt Nature Reserve as South Africa's 29th Ramsar site. Middelpunt will hence be added to the Ramsar Convention's List of Wetlands of International Importance wherein countries agree to establish and oversee a management framework aimed at conserving the wetland and ensuring its wise use. This means that the ecological character of Middelpunt Nature Reserve will be maintained. Each Ramsar site is managed by national and provincial government departments and conservation agencies, cities, and private landowners. Furthermore, there is often support from a variety of non-governmental organizations.<sup>2641</sup>

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to ensuring that land is conserved or protected by 2030. South Africa has taken actions to protect and publicly promote the protection and significance of wetlands, especially with regards to their importance in protecting biodiversity. However, no actions have been taken in the protection and conservation of forested areas; hence, South Africa falls short in taking meaningful physical action.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Emily Hospedales*

### **Türkiye: 0**

Türkiye has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 16 November 2022, Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change Murat Kurum held bilateral meetings with Egyptian foreign minister and president of the 27th United Nations Climate

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<sup>2639</sup> AlFadley Calls for Arab Solidarity in Facing Environmental Challenges and Water Scarcity in the Arab World, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture (Riyadh) 7 June 2023. Access date: 18 June 2023.

<https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/ennews246.aspx>

<sup>2640</sup> Protecting more nature in partnership with Indigenous Peoples, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau (Montreal) 7 December 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2022/12/07/protecting-more-nature-partnership-indigenous-peoples>

<sup>2641</sup> Middelpunt Nature Reserve designated as South Africa's 29th wetland of international importance, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (Pretoria) 5 April 2023. Access Date: 23 April 2023. [https://www.dffe.gov.za/mediarelease/creecy\\_middelpuntnaturereservewetlanddecalration](https://www.dffe.gov.za/mediarelease/creecy_middelpuntnaturereservewetlanddecalration)

Conference Samih Shukri, German Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke and Pakistani Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman regarding joint efforts in combating climate change.<sup>2642</sup>

On 6 December 2022, Minister Kurum attended the opening of the “Green Transformation Seminar in Industry.”<sup>2643</sup> Minister Kurum announced that Türkiye would encourage industrial facilities to make climate and environment-friendly production, which would promote sustainable usage of industrial land and industrial zones.

On 22 March 2023, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Burak Akçapar and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece Konstantinos Fragkogiannis met in Ankara for the fourth round of discussions on the Joint Action Plan regarding the Positive Agenda between the two countries.<sup>2644</sup> Of the many items discussed, a detailed update was provided regarding environmental affairs.

On 19 July 2023, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry delivered a statement urging citizens to avoid actions that can result in fires in forests agricultural lands in order to prevent land degradation.<sup>2645</sup> This statement followed a summer of wildfires across the country.

Türkiye has partially complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. Türkiye has made an effort to conserve existing land, but the effort to restore destroyed land or invest in land conservation efforts has been minimal.

Thus, Türkiye receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Kristi Deki*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 1 December 2022, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority announced GBP200,000 in funding towards the Cumbria Coastal Community Forest project, an initiative to create up to 150 hectares of new woodland by planting trees along the western coast of Cumbria.<sup>2646</sup> This funding is in addition to GBP1.1 million previously committed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

On 15 December 2022, Environment Secretary Thérèse Coffey announced up to GBP29 million in funding towards developing countries in delivering the “30by30” target, which is the goal to protect at least 30 per cent of global land by 2030.<sup>2647</sup> She also announced up to GBP5 million in funding towards projects that studied and restored nature in the Overseas Territories.

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<sup>2642</sup> Joint Steps to be Taken in the Fight Against Climate Change Discussed, Republic of Türkiye (Ankara) 16 November 2022. Access Date: 9 May 2023 <https://ab.csb.gov.tr/en/joint-steps-to-be-taken-in-the-fight-against-climate-change-discussed-news-279496>

<sup>2643</sup> Green Transformations in Industry, Republic of Türkiye (Ankara) 06 December 2022. Access Date: 9 May 2023

<sup>2644</sup> Joint Statement on the Türkiye-Greece Positive Agenda 4th Meeting, 22 March 2023, Ankara, Republic of Turkey (Ankara) 22 March 2023. Access Date: 9 May 2023 <https://www.mfa.gov.tr/turkiye-yunanistan-iv-pozitif-gundem-toplantisi-ortak-aciklamasi--22-mart-2023--ankara.en.mfa>

<sup>2645</sup> Minister urges vigilance, protecting forests after recent fires in Türkiye, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 19 July 2023. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkiye/minister-urges-vigilance-protecting-forests-after-recent-fires-in-turkiye/news>

<sup>2646</sup> NDA announces £200,000 boost for Cumbria’s Coastal Community Forest, UK Government (London), 01 December 2022. Access Date: 27 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nda-announces-200000-boost-for-cumbrias-coastal-community-forest>

<sup>2647</sup> Efforts to protect habitat and wildlife around the world boosted by £34 million of UK government funding, UK Government (London) 15 December 2022. Access Date: 27 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/efforts-to-protect-habitat-and-wildlife-around-the-world-boosted-by-34-million-of-uk-government-funding>



On 31 January 2023, the United Kingdom published the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023 to restore nature and improve environmental quality.<sup>2648</sup> Within the plan, provisions include a pledge to transform the management of 70 per cent of the UK countryside by incentivizing farmers to adopt nature-friendly farming practices. Using the support of the government, 65 to 80 per cent of landowners and farmers will be encouraged to adopt such practices on at least 10 to 15 per cent of their land by 2030 and to restore 30,000 miles of hedgerows by 2037. The plan also commits to increasing access to green spaces such as woodlands, wetlands, parks and rivers.<sup>2649</sup> To date, the United Kingdom has already restored wildlife habitats the size of Dorset and invested more than GBP 750 million in tree-planting and peatland restoration through the Nature for Climate Fund.<sup>2650</sup>

On 16 February 2023, the United Kingdom Environmental Agency announced a project to plant thousands of trees and hedgerow seedlings in Castlehill, East Hull.<sup>2651</sup> The project aims to create 7 hectares of woodland habitat and over 5 kilometres of new hedgerows.

On 20 February 2023, the Climate Change Hub was launched by DEFRA, Forest Research, Scottish Forestry and Welsh Government.<sup>2652</sup> It aims to support the forest industry to make better, more informed and sustainable decisions when it comes to tree planting and woodland management.

On 17 March 2023, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority partnered with Nuclear Waste Services to officially commence the Cumbria Coastal Community Forest project by hosting the first tree-planting event.<sup>2653</sup> In partnership with Cumbria Woodlands, a total of 720 trees were planted.

On 11 April 2023, the Forestry Commission announced the re-opening of the Forestry Commission's Tree Production Capital Grant, which aims to increase investment in domestic tree production in England.<sup>2654</sup> In accordance with the England Trees Action Plan, which aims to increase tree planting rates by the end of the current Parliament, the Grant provides funding towards efforts to build nursery capacity and grow long-term tree seed and sapling supply. Up to GBP5 million will be awarded to tree and sapling suppliers.

On 17 April 2023, the Environmental Agency announced successful progress in the Lower Otter Restoration Project, an initiative that aims to create more woodland and restore more wild landscape through planting trees and hedgerows.<sup>2655</sup> As of 17 April, over 23,000 saplings have been planted.

On 29 April 2023, the Government opened the Darwin Plus Strategic Initiative, a program that aims to financially bolster existing nature recovery projects in the UK Overseas Territories.<sup>2656</sup> Up to GBP3 million will be awarded through the Darwin Plus Strategic Fund to projects that strengthen habitat recovery.

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<sup>2648</sup> Environmental Improvement Plan 2023: Executive Summary, UK Government (London) 7 February 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan/environmental-improvement-plan-2023-executive-summary>

<sup>2649</sup> Ambitious roadmap for a cleaner, greener country, UK Government (London) 31 January 2023. Access Date: 27 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ambitious-roadmap-for-a-cleaner-greener-country>

<sup>2650</sup> Efforts to protect habitat and wildlife around the world boosted by £34 million of UK government funding, UK Government (London) 15 December 2022. Access Date: 27 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/efforts-to-protect-habitat-and-wildlife-around-the-world-boosted-by-34-million-of-uk-government-funding>

<sup>2651</sup> Thousands of trees to be planted at flood defence project in East Hull, UK Government (London) 16 February 2023. Access Date: 27 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-trees-to-be-planted-at-flood-defence-project-in-east-hull>

<sup>2652</sup> New climate change hub launched for forestry sector, UK Government (London) 20 February 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-climate-change-hub-launched-for-forestry-sector--2>

<sup>2653</sup> NDA and NWS celebrate first planting of Cumbria Coastal Community Forest at Pelham House, UK Government (London) 17 March 2023. Access Date: 27 March 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nda-and-nws-celebrate-first-planting-of-cumbria-coastal-community-forest-at-pelham-house>

<sup>2654</sup> Grant to boost domestic tree production re-opens, UK Government (London) 11 April 2023. Access Date: 8 May 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/grant-to-boost-domestic-tree-production-re-opens>

<sup>2655</sup> New trees to benefit community, wildlife and environment in the Lower Otter, UK Government (London) 17 April 2023. Access Date: 8 May 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-trees-to-benefit-community-wildlife-and-environment-in-the-lower-otter>

<sup>2656</sup> Boost for nature recovery as new multi-million-pound grant scheme opens, UK Government (London) 29 April 2023. Access Date: 8 May 2023 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-for-nature-recovery-as-new-multi-million-pound-grant-scheme-opens>

On 20 July 2023, the Environment Agency launched the Seaford to Eastbourne Nature Recovery Project to promote, among other aims, habitat creation across 12,000 hectares of land.<sup>2657</sup>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. It has made investments in several projects aimed at restoring nature focusing specifically on land restoration, including through reforestation and the creation of natural reserves. It has also implemented projects to take a proactive approach to land protection, such as the Climate Change Hub.

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

*Analyst: Ysabel Atienza*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 1 December 2022, the White House Council of Environmental Quality and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy jointly announced the requirement for Federal Agencies to incorporate Indigenous Knowledge in environmental rulemaking and co-management of lands and waters.<sup>2658</sup>

On 15 December 2022, the US Department of State articulated that the United States committed significant financial investments towards conserving 30 per cent of land by 2030.<sup>2659</sup> Under the America the Beautiful Challenge the Biden administration committed US1 billion to offer support to ecosystem restoration projects across the country. Additionally, the US Agency for International Development invested US\$319.5 million internationally to conserve biodiversity and critical ecosystems.

On 19 December 2022, the Biden administration announced the United States' commitment to protect biodiversity and halt nature loss. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act allocated US\$12.4 billion in funds for nature-deprived communities to promote equitable access to green spaces.<sup>2660</sup> The budget supports the completion of forest protection projects commenced in support of the Tribal Forest Protection Act.<sup>2661</sup>

On 27 January 2023, the Department of State announced a competition encouraging organizations to submit applications for projects that address the impact of environmental degradation in the Middle East and North Africa region.<sup>2662</sup> Organizations can receive up to US\$1.75 million in funding.

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<sup>2657</sup> Seaford to Eastbourne Nature Recovery Project launches, Environment Agency (London) 20 July 2023. Access Date: 31 August 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/seaford-to-eastbourne-nature-recovery-project-launches>

<sup>2658</sup> White House Releases First-of-a-Kind Indigenous Knowledge Guidance for Federal Agencies, The White House (Washington D.C.) 1 December 2022. Access Date: 29 April 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/news-updates/2022/12/01/white-house-releases-first-of-a-kind-indigenous-knowledge-guidance-for-federal-agencies/>

<sup>2659</sup> Highlighting US Efforts to Combat the Biodiversity Crisis, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 15 December 2022. Access Date: 29 April 2023. <https://www.state.gov/highlighting-u-s-efforts-to-combat-the-biodiversity-crisis/>

<sup>2660</sup> Countries Follow US Lead and Set Global Goal to Protect at Least 30% of Lands and Waters by 2030, The White House (Washington D.C.) 19 December 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/news-updates/2022/12/19/countries-follow-u-s-lead-and-set-global-goal-to-protect-at-least-30-of-lands-and-waters-by-2030/>

<sup>2661</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Invests More than \$12 Million in Support of the Tribal Forest Protection Act, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 10 March 2023. Access Date: 29 April 2023. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2023/03/10/biden-harris-administration-invests-more-12-million-support-tribal>

<sup>2662</sup> Enabling Civil Society Efforts to Combat Climate Change and Protect the Environment, US Department of State (Washington D.C.) 27 January 2023. Access Date: 29 April 2023. <https://www.state.gov/enabling-civil-society-efforts-to-combat-climate-change-and-protect-the-environment/>

On 7 March 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pledged USD65 million in funding for cleanup projects at mining sites in Montana.<sup>2663</sup> The funding will be available through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The cleanup projects are to ensure that the surrounding environment and public health are protected.

On 9 March 2023, the Biden administration released the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2024. The budget pledged US5 billion to restore national forests and mitigate wildfire risk.<sup>2664</sup> The President allocated USD1.2 billion to the Department of Agriculture to enhance conservation programs and farm environmental sustainability.

On 17 March 2023, the EPA announced plans for the revegetation of Blue Mountain as part of the Palmerton Zinc Pile Superfund Site remediation.<sup>2665</sup> The plan includes aerial seeding of 12 native grasses, 25 species of native wildflowers, pine, and sumac seeds. The aerial application will cover more than 365 acres of land where vegetation is lacking.

On 7 April 2023, the EPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry to improve bilateral cooperation to ensure environmental protection between the two countries.<sup>2666</sup> The partnership established a framework for collaboration and information sharing on a range of environmental issues.

On 11 April 2023, the EPA fined Northern Star LLC USD600,000 for improper disposal of hazardous materials at a gold mine in Alaska.<sup>2667</sup> Strict enforcement of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act is applied to ensure accountability for companies who fall below the standards set in the Act. Northern Star is also required to safely remove any hazardous waste in the area and is responsible for the cleanup of any contamination.

On 13 April 2023, the EPA announced that it will award USD1.8 million in funds to the Delaware Inland Bays Program to aid with the restoration of coastal lands.<sup>2668</sup> The Agency will also award the Maryland Coastal Bays with USD1.8 million to help restore coastal habitats.<sup>2669</sup> The funds are allocated as part of President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

On 5 May 2023, the United States Environmental Protection Agency launched a USD20 million program to clean up contaminated lands in Alaska.<sup>2670</sup> The agency determined that the land is contaminated with

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<sup>2663</sup> EPA Announces Additional \$65 Million for Superfund Cleanup Projects at Montana Mining Sites, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 7 March 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023.

<sup>2664</sup> Statement by Secretary Vilsack on the President's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, US Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 9 March 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2023/03/09/statement-secretary-vilsack-presidents-fiscal-year-2024-budget>

<sup>2665</sup> Aerial Application to Restore Vegetation at Superfund Site Occurring on Blue Mountain, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 17 March 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/aerial-application-restore-vegetation-superfund-site-occurring-blue-mountain>

<sup>2666</sup> EPA and Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Enhance Environmental Cooperation, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 7 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-indonesian-ministry-environment-and-forestry-sign-memorandum-understanding>

<sup>2667</sup> Northern Star (Pogo) LLC Penalized \$600,000 for Hazardous Waste Management Violations, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 11 April 2023. Access Date 30 April 2023.

<sup>2668</sup> EPA Awards \$1.8 Million to Help Restore Delaware Inland Bays Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 13 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-18-million-help-restore-delaware-inland-bays-under-bipartisan>

<sup>2669</sup> EPA Awards \$1.8 Million to Help Restore Maryland Coastal Bays Under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 13 April 2023. Access Date: 30 April 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-18-million-help-restore-maryland-coastal-bays-under-bipartisan>

<sup>2670</sup> EPA Launches \$20M Program to Address Contaminated Lands in Alaska, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 5 May 2023. Access date: 18 June 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-launches-20m-program-address-contaminated-lands-alaska>

pollutants such as arsenic, asbestos, lead, mercury, and much more. The funds will be available to local tribes, corporations, and NGOs willing to address the pollution.

On 19 May 2023, the EPA alongside federal partners will host public sessions to gather public opinion on Great Lakes restoration and protection.<sup>2671</sup> The agency announced the stages of its restoration plan which will take place until 2029.

On 25 May 2023, the Biden administration pledged over USD16.2 million in funds to address the pollution at Brownfields sites in Maine.<sup>2672</sup> The goal is to revitalize dangerous and polluted sites into sustainable and environmentally just places.

On 30 May 2023, the EPA awarded USD65 million tender to Tetra Tech to support and coordinate clean ups at abandoned uranium mines in the Navajo area.<sup>2673</sup> The contract will ensure that the public health and environmental risks and threats posed by the abandoned mines are reduced.

On 31 May 2023, the EPA introduced stronger standards to improve oil spill responses.<sup>2674</sup> The amended rules are intended to improve safety and effectiveness of oil spill clean ups. The amendments also encourage the development of safer chemical and biological products.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. It has done so at the national and international level through investment, community action, and research. It has worked with international partners to ensure that the effects of land protection are far-reaching.

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

*Analyst: Yasmine Nasereddin*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances.

On 6 December 2022, the European Parliament reached a deal on a new law to ensure products causing deforestation are not sold on the EU market.<sup>2675</sup> The new legislation includes products that are fed with, contain, or made using cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, soya and wood. Companies must issue a due diligence statement showing their supply chains are not connected to forest degradation.

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<sup>2671</sup> EPA to Engage the Public on Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Priorities, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 19 May 2023. Access date: 18 June 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-engage-public-great-lakes-restoration-and-protection-priorities>

<sup>2672</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces Over \$16.2M for Cleanup and Assessment at Polluted Brownfields Sites in Maine, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 25 May 2023. Access date: 18 June 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-over-162m-cleanup-and-assessment-polluted>

<sup>2673</sup> EPA Awards Tetra Tech \$65 Million Contract to Support Cleanups of Navajo Abandoned Uranium Mines, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 30 May 2023. Access date: 18 June 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-tetra-tech-65-million-contract-support-cleanups-navajo-abandoned-uranium>

<sup>2674</sup> EPA Announces Stronger Standards to Improve Oil Spill Responses, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 30 May 2023. Access date: 18 June 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-stronger-standards-improve-oil-spill-responses>

<sup>2675</sup> Deal on new law to ensure products causing deforestation are not sold in the EU, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 06 December 2022. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20221205IPR60607/deal-on-new-law-to-ensure-products-causing-deforestation-are-not-sold-in-the-eu>

On 9 March 2023, the European Commission announced an investment of more than EUR116 million for the LIFE Programme's environment and climate Strategic Projects.<sup>2676</sup> The funding will support nature conservation and restoration in Belgium and Poland; water quality and waste management in Slovakia and Finland; climate change adaptation in Estonia, Spain, and Italy; and climate change mitigation in Poland.

On 14 March 2023, the European Parliament adopted a new carbon sink goal for the land use change and forestry sector. The new target for greenhouse gas reduction in 2030 increased to 57 per cent.<sup>2677</sup>

On 28 June 2023, the European Commission and the High Representative adopted a Joint Communication containing a comprehensive plan for addressing the growing threats of climate change and environmental degradation on peace, security, and defence. The Joint Communication intends to provide a new outlook and establish a framework for responding to climate and security challenges. Priorities include enhancing climate adaptation measures, reinforcing international partnerships, operationalizing the response to the climate and security nexus, and strengthening the implementation of policies.<sup>2678</sup>

On 5 July 2023, the Commission adopted a series of measures to increase the sustainable use of plant and soil natural resources. These measures are a part of the European Green Deal. They intend to address the environmental damages of soil contamination by developing a comprehensive monitoring framework, as well as identifying, assessing, and repairing contaminated land.<sup>2679</sup>

On 17 July 2023, Members of the Parliament voted in favour of the EU nature restoration law. The legislation contains a long-term recovery plan for restoring damaged ecosystems in Europe. The law intends to cover 20 per cent of the European Union's land and sea areas with ecosystem restoration initiatives by 2030.<sup>2680</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to help to make progress towards the objective of ensuring that at least 30 per cent of global land are conserved or protected by 2030 in accordance with national circumstances. The European Union has taken strong actions to protect, conserve, and rehabilitate ecosystems. Most notably, prohibiting the sale of products causing deforestation, reforming existing legislation, pursuing joint agreements including the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework, funding ecosystem conservation and restoration projects, and adopting new carbon sink goals. The European Union has made significant progress as a leader in mitigating the effects of land degradation and supporting ecosystem restoration.

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

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<sup>2676</sup> LIFE programme: EU invests more than €116 million in nature, environment and climate Strategic Projects, European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_1526](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_1526)

<sup>2677</sup> Parliament adopts new carbon sinks goal that increases EU 2030 climate ambition, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 14 March 2023. Access Date: 19 March 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230310IPR77223/parliament-adopts-new-carbon-sinks-goal-that-increases-eu-2030-climate-ambition>

<sup>2678</sup> EU proposes comprehensive new outlook on threats of climate change and environmental degradation on peace, security and defence (Brussels) 28 June 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_3492](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3492)

<sup>2679</sup> European Green Deal: more sustainable use of plant and soil natural resources (Brussels) 05 July 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_3565](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3565)

<sup>2680</sup> Nature restoration law: MEPs adopt position for negotiations with Council (Strasbourg) 12 July 2023. Access Date: 21 August 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230707IPR02433/nature-restoration-law-meps-adopt-position-for-negotiations-with-council>