

The  
G7 Research Group  
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College  
in the University of Toronto presents the

## 2019 G7 Biarritz Summit Interim Report

27 August 2019 — 20 December 2019

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

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

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

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



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## 19. Environment: Biodiversity

“Leaders endorsed the G7 Metz Charter on Biodiversity and committed to take swift action on biodiversity, either individually or jointly, in the run up to COP15 [15th Conference of the Parties] of the Convention on Biological Diversity.”

*Metz Charter on Biodiversity*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany		0	
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average	+0.63 (81%)		

### Background

Biodiversity loss is amongst the most serious risks facing the globe today due to land-use change, over-exploitation of natural resources, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change. Between 2010 and 2015, natural forests declined by 6.5 million hectares per year, and natural wetlands declined by 35 per cent between 1970 and 2015.<sup>1863</sup> In addition, over 30 per cent of corals are now at risk from bleaching, and 60 per cent of vertebrate populations have disappeared since 1970.<sup>1864</sup> The Germany Presidency in 2007 elevated biodiversity on the G8 agenda through the Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, which outlined specific activities concerning science, industry, trade, funding and marine protection to reduce significantly the loss of biodiversity to 2010. This initiative developed and implemented national targets and strategies to achieve the 2010 target and beyond.<sup>1865</sup>

In 2008 the Japanese G8 Presidency ensured, through its Kobe Call for Action, that biodiversity remained high on the political agenda. Building on this, G8 Environment Ministers released the Carta di Siracusa on Biodiversity during their meeting in Sicily in 2009, which pledged to consider investments in green infrastructure and highlighted the initial elements for a post-2010 biodiversity target.<sup>1866</sup>

In May 2019, G7 members acknowledged the importance of biodiversity in “playing a vital role in maintaining life-sustaining systems” and released the Metz Charter on Biodiversity, building upon

<sup>1863</sup> Biodiversity: Finance and the Economic and Business Case for Action, OECD (2019), Report prepared for the G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting, 5-6May 2019. Access Date: 24 November 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/biodiversity/G7-report-Biodiversity-Finance-and-the-Economic-and-Business-Case-for-Action.pdf>

<sup>1864</sup> Biodiversity: Finance and the Economic and Business Case for Action, OECD (2019), Report prepared for the G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting, 5-6May 2019. Access Date: 24 November 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/biodiversity/G7-report-Biodiversity-Finance-and-the-Economic-and-Business-Case-for-Action.pdf>

<sup>1865</sup> Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, Government of Germany, March 2007. Access Date: 24 November 2019. [https://www.bmu.de/fileadmin/bmu-import/files/english/pdf/application/pdf/potsdam\\_initiative\\_en.pdf](https://www.bmu.de/fileadmin/bmu-import/files/english/pdf/application/pdf/potsdam_initiative_en.pdf)

<sup>1866</sup> A boost for biodiversity from the G8, International Union for Conservation for Nature, 27 April 2009. Access Date: 24 November 2019. <https://www.iucn.org/content/boost-biodiversity-g8>

previous initiatives, including the outcomes of 14th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Sharm El Sheik in 2018 and the Sharm El Sheik Declaration. It noted that most of the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Targets were not on track to be achieved by 2020, and would jeopardize the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals, emphasizing that urgent action was required.<sup>1867</sup>

### **Commitment Feature**

The Metz Charter is a broad document that incorporates a number of aspects linked to pressures on biodiversity. This includes habitat change, deforestation and forest degradation, the spread of invasive alien species, terrestrial and marine pollution (including by microplastics and nutrients), over exploitation of natural resources (including overfishing, illegal logging, poaching and illegal trade in wildlife) and climate change.<sup>1868</sup> Given this, there are numerous policies and actions related to the above that can be counted towards compliance for this commitment such as efforts at reforestation and habitat protection. Actions can also be within the scope of the Paris climate agreement to address climate mitigation and resilience, the G7 Oceans Plastics Charter to address marine litter or any others seen to address biodiversity loss through nature or science-based solutions, governance and law enforcement, planning, conservation policies, ecosystem-based management and knowledge development and sharing.<sup>1869</sup>

Swift implementation denotes actions and tools that are implemented in an ambitious manner that are in line with 2030 Agenda and take into account the speed and scale of biodiversity loss, climate change, natural disasters and threats to the ecosystem. These actions can be taken in partnership with other countries and stakeholders or individually in order to be considered compliant.<sup>1870</sup> Actions that count towards compliance can be a policy framework, or a policy working group aimed at biodiversity policy implementation. Individual or joint financial, or policy implementation efforts to take swift action to enhance, or improve current biodiversity strategies, policies, action plans and research programs. Financial allocation, and fiscal policy action is also able to count towards compliance. For compliance efforts towards policies that offer co-benefits to other global challenges are included, such as those regarding climate change, ecosystem protection and disaster risk reduction.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must take action in three main areas. The first is to take efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies. The second is to take efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity. The final area is to take efforts that offer co-benefits to another global challenge, such as climate change, ecosystem degradation and natural disasters.

To achieve a score of 0, or partial compliance, G7 members must take action towards two of the three aforementioned areas of strengthening and improving current biodiversity strategies, taking efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity, and taking efforts that offer co-benefits to another global challenge, such as climate change, ecosystem degradation and natural disasters

A score of -1, or non-compliance will be assigned to a G7 member who takes action in one of the three aforementioned areas. A score of non-compliance will also be assigned if a G7 member fails to take any action towards any of the three aforementioned areas.

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<sup>1867</sup> Metz Charter on Biodiversity, 6 May 2019. Access Date: 14 October 2019. [https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06\\_EN\\_Biodiversity\\_Charter.pdf](https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf)

<sup>1868</sup> Metz Charter on Biodiversity, 6 May 2019. Access Date: 14 October 2019. [https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06\\_EN\\_Biodiversity\\_Charter.pdf](https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf)

<sup>1869</sup> Metz Charter on Biodiversity, 6 May 2019. Access Date: 14 October 2019. [https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06\\_EN\\_Biodiversity\\_Charter.pdf](https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf)

<sup>1870</sup> Metz Charter on Biodiversity, 6 May 2019. Access Date: 14 October 2019. [https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06\\_EN\\_Biodiversity\\_Charter.pdf](https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf)

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G7 member has taken action in only one of the three components of strengthening and improving current biodiversity strategies, addressing the main pressures of biodiversity offering co-benefits to another global challenge.
0	G7 member has taken action in two of the three components of strengthening and improving current biodiversity strategies, addressing the main pressures of biodiversity offering co-benefits to another global challenge.
+1	G7 member has taken action in all three components of strengthening and improving current biodiversity strategies, addressing the main pressures of biodiversity offering co-benefits to another global challenge.

*Compliance Director: Laila Kanji  
Lead Analyst: Vibhor Rohatgi*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 4 September 2019, then Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna announced CAD3 million in funding for the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc.<sup>1871</sup> The funding will enable the company to implement new equipment to transform waste into biofertilizer and renewable energy.<sup>1872</sup> The funding comes from the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy.<sup>1873</sup>

In October 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to plant two billion trees and reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To attain and measure progress towards the latter, Prime Minister Trudeau claims that his government would enact five-year targets.<sup>1874</sup>

On 23 October, 2019, despite strong opposition particularly from Western Canada and Indigenous nations, at the press conference in Ottawa, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, "we will be continuing with the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion."<sup>1875</sup> Trudeau promises that any profits generated from the expansion and existing pipeline will be used to fund initiatives that address climate change.<sup>1876</sup>

<sup>1871</sup> News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc, Government of Canada (Saint-Pie) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-centre-de-traitement-de-la-biomasse-de-la-monteregie-inc.html>.

<sup>1872</sup> News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc, Government of Canada (Saint-Pie) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-centre-de-traitement-de-la-biomasse-de-la-monteregie-inc.html>.

<sup>1873</sup> News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc, Government of Canada (Saint-Pie) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-centre-de-traitement-de-la-biomasse-de-la-monteregie-inc.html>.

<sup>1874</sup> The Carbon Brief Profile: Canada, The Carbon Brief (London) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.carbonbrief.org/the-carbon-brief-profile-canada>

<sup>1875</sup> Trudeau extends olive branch to Western Canada, vows to build Trans Mountain despite opposition, CBC News (Ottawa) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/trudeau-western-canada-trans-mountain-1.5332365>.

<sup>1876</sup> Trudeau extends olive branch to Western Canada, vows to build Trans Mountain despite opposition, CBC News (Ottawa) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/trudeau-western-canada-trans-mountain-1.5332365>.

From December 2 to 13, at COP25 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson announced CAD5 million to support World Bank's Partnership for Market Implementation.<sup>1877</sup> This funding will support developing countries in the development and implementation of carbon pricing tools.<sup>1878</sup> This funding is part of Canada's CAD2.65 billion commitment to help developing countries adapt to climate change.<sup>1879</sup>

On 10 December 2019, at COP25, Minister Wilkinson welcomed six new members to the Powering Past Coal Alliance, including governments from the Philippine Province of Ilocos Norte, Greece and New Taipei City, and financial-sector actors. The Powering Past Coal Alliance aims to encourage the phase out of traditional coal power.<sup>1880</sup>

On 11 December 2019, at COP25, Minister Wilkinson welcomed the newest endorsees of the Ocean's Plastic Charter Chile, Finland, Rwanda, and Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund.<sup>1881</sup> The Plastics Charter brings together businesses, civil society organizations, and governments who are committed to take action against plastic pollution.<sup>1882</sup>

On 16 December 2019, the Government of Canada announced funding of CAD1.4 million to support efforts to safeguard the threatened Eastern Hemlock forests in the Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site.<sup>1883</sup>

On 20 December 2019, Minister Wilkinson, in collaboration with Natural Resources Minister Seamus O'Regan, announced plans for a strategic assessment process for new thermal coal mine projects under the Impact Assessment Act.<sup>1884</sup>

Canada has strengthened and improved current biodiversity strategies through efforts to safeguard the threatened Eastern Hemlock forests in the Kejimikujik National Park, and has taken efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity through the Oceans Plastic Charter. Canada has also taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenge of climate change through, for instance,

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<sup>1877</sup> News Release: Canada announces support for new carbon-pricing initiative at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-announces-support-for-new-carbon-pricing-initiative-at-cop25.html>

<sup>1878</sup> News Release: Canada announces support for new carbon-pricing initiative at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-announces-support-for-new-carbon-pricing-initiative-at-cop25.html>

<sup>1879</sup> News Release: Canada announces support for new carbon-pricing initiative at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-announces-support-for-new-carbon-pricing-initiative-at-cop25.html>

<sup>1880</sup> News Release: Canada welcomes new members to the Powering Past Coal Alliance at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-welcomes-new-members-to-the-powering-past-coal-alliance-at-cop25.html>

<sup>1881</sup> News Release: Canada spearheads global action to reduce plastic pollution at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-spearheads-global-action-to-reduce-plastic-pollution-at-cop25.html>

<sup>1882</sup> News Release: Canada spearheads global action to reduce plastic pollution at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-spearheads-global-action-to-reduce-plastic-pollution-at-cop25.html>

<sup>1883</sup> News Release: Government of Canada invests to protect Eastern Hemlock forests in Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site, Government of Canada (Maitland Bridge) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-invests-to-protect-eastern-hemlock-forests-in-kejimikujik-national-park-and-national-historic-site.html>

<sup>1884</sup> News Release: Canada launches strategic assessment of thermal coal mining, Government of Canada (Gatineau) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-launches-strategic-assessment-of-thermal-coal-mining.html>

proposing targets for net-zero emissions by 2050 and announcing federal funding for World Bank's Partnership for Market Implementation.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Manis Han*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP15] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 1 October 2019, France's Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Frédérique Vidal, and the German Minister of Education and Research, Anja Karliczek, announced the French-German version of the "Make our Planet Great Again" initiative at Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac.<sup>1885</sup> The initiative enables researchers, entrepreneurs and members of civil society to cooperate and combat systemic challenges related to climate change.<sup>1886</sup>

On 2-5 December 2019, at the Conference of the Parties to The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), France joined the European Union and 20 Mediterranean Coastal States to commit to making the Mediterranean Sea an Emission Control Area Zone.<sup>1887</sup> Under this commitment, the Government of France will only allow ships in the Mediterranean to use fuel with 0.1 per cent sulphur and will develop ports that use electricity and alternative fuels.<sup>1888</sup>

On 2-5 December 2019, at the Conference of Parties to Barcelona Convention, signatories, including France, adopted new and updated strategies for the protection of monk seal, rays, and sharks in the Mediterranean.<sup>1889</sup> The signatories also established "Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)" in France, Italy, Spain, and Slovenia.<sup>1890</sup> The SPAMI sites also include a corridor for the movement of Cetaceans.<sup>1891</sup>

France has taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies through COP21 of the Barcelona Convention and has taken efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity

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<sup>1885</sup> Climate: new international projects, the Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-new-international-projects>

<sup>1886</sup> Climate: new international projects, the Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-new-international-projects>

<sup>1887</sup> France welcomes the commitment of all Mediterranean countries to ensure low pollution from ships in the Mediterranean, the Government of France (Paris) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-welcomes-the-commitment-of-all-mediterranean-countries-to-ensure-low-pollution-from-ships>.

<sup>1888</sup> France welcomes the commitment of all Mediterranean countries to ensure low pollution from ships in the Mediterranean, the Government of France (Paris) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-welcomes-the-commitment-of-all-mediterranean-countries-to-ensure-low-pollution-from-ships>.

<sup>1889</sup> Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

<sup>1890</sup> Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>

<sup>1891</sup> Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>

through its commitments to tackle pollution in the Mediterranean and minimize the environmental impact of sporting events through the Charter 15 of eco-responsible commitments. France has also taken efforts to offer co-benefits to the global challenge of climate change through the “Make our Planet Green Again” initiative.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Minghan Sun*

### **Germany: 0**

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

As of 20 September 2019, the German Cabinet passed the Climate Action Programme 2030, a national strategy that aims to get Germany on track to reach its 2030 target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55 per cent of the 1990 levels.<sup>1892</sup> Notable elements of the Climate Action Programme include a carbon pricing scheme on emissions from the heating and transport sectors, promotion programmes such as subsidies and grants to spur development of energy-efficient technology, increased federal investment in public transport and railways, and the phasing out of coal-fired power stations.<sup>1893</sup>

On 1 October 2019, France’s Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Frédérique Vidal, and the German Minister of Education and Research, Anja Karliczek, announced the French-German version of the “Make our Planet Great Again” initiative at Musée du Quai Branly – Jacques Chirac.<sup>1894</sup> The initiative enables researchers, entrepreneurs and members of civil society to cooperate and combat systemic challenges related to climate change.<sup>1895</sup>

On 15 November 2019, the Climate Action Programme was enshrined into legislation when it passed the vote in the lower house of the German Parliament.<sup>1896</sup> The decision however was criticized by opposition party members and scientists as not being ambitious enough to allow Germany to achieve its 2030 targets.<sup>1897</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the German Cabinet adopted the Federal Government of Germany’s Energy Efficiency Strategy 2050 that aims to limit the consumption of energy derived from fossil fuels.<sup>1898</sup> Specifically, the Strategy aims at reducing primary energy consumption in the industrial sector, creating tax incentives for household energy-saving measures, pursuing a national decarbonisation

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<sup>1892</sup> Climate Action Programme 2030, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/climate-action/klimaschutzprogramm-2030-1674080>

<sup>1893</sup> Climate Action Programme 2030, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/climate-action/klimaschutzprogramm-2030-1674080>

<sup>1894</sup> Climate: new international projects, the Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-new-international-projects>

<sup>1895</sup> Climate: new international projects, the Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-new-international-projects>

<sup>1896</sup> Germany Passes Climate-Protection Law to Ensure 2030 Goals, the New York Times (New York) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/15/world/europe/germany-climate-law.html>

<sup>1897</sup> Germany Passes Climate-Protection Law to Ensure 2030 Goals, the New York Times (New York) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/15/world/europe/germany-climate-law.html>

<sup>1898</sup> The More Energy-efficient, the More Sustainable, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/neue-energieeffizienzstrategie-1708646>



programme by investing in clean technology, and managing traffic more efficiently through increased usage of rail and electric vehicles.<sup>1899</sup>

Germany has taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenge of climate change, as well as tackle a main pressure to biodiversity through its Climate Action Programme and Energy Efficiency Strategy 2050. However, it has not taken any efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies.

Thus, Germany has received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Minghan Sun*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 5 November 2019, the Italian Minister of Education Lorenzo Fioramonti announced that, starting in the 2020-2021 school year, Italian students in every grade will learn about climate change and sustainability.<sup>1900</sup> Each year, teachers at all grade levels will be required to include 33 hours of education about climate change and related topics.<sup>1901</sup> This policy has made Italy the first country to mandate education on climate change in schools.<sup>1902</sup>

On 2-5 December 2019, at the 21st Conference of the Parties to The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), Italy joined the other signatories to the Convention in committing to making the Mediterranean Sea an Emission Control Area) Zone for sulphur oxide.<sup>1903</sup>

On 2-5 December 2019, at the 21st COP to Barcelona Convention, signatories, including Italy, adopted new and updated strategies for the protection of monk seal, rays, and sharks in the Mediterranean.<sup>1904</sup> The signatories also established “Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean

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<sup>1899</sup> The More Energy-efficient, the More Sustainable, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/neue-energieeffizienzstrategie-1708646>

<sup>1900</sup> Italy Mandates Climate Change Education for All Students, Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center (New York) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/italy-mandates-climate-change-education-for-all-students/>.

<sup>1901</sup> Italy Mandates Climate Change Education for All Students, Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center (New York) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/italy-mandates-climate-change-education-for-all-students/>.

<sup>1902</sup> Italy Mandates Climate Change Education for All Students, Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center (New York) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/italy-mandates-climate-change-education-for-all-students/>.

<sup>1903</sup> Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

<sup>1904</sup> Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

Importance (SPAMI)” in France, Italy, Spain, and Slovenia.<sup>1905</sup> The SPAMI sites also include a corridor for the movement of Cetaceans.<sup>1906</sup>

Italy has taken some actions to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies and address the main pressures of biodiversity through the Barcelona Convention but has not taken efforts that offer co-benefits to another global challenge.

Thus, Italy has received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Mavis Han*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 7 July 2019, the Global Environment Centre Foundation launched the JCM Global Match platform to promote the dissemination of low and zero-carbon technologies in 17 countries.<sup>1907</sup> The Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) was established in 2013 to disseminate Japan’s low carbon technologies to developing countries around the world<sup>1908</sup> Through the JCM, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in partner countries generates credits that Japan can use for the achievement of their own emission reduction targets.<sup>1909</sup> The Global Match platform allows sellers and buyers of these low- and zero-carbon technologies to find companies and make appointments to meet at JCM seminars.<sup>1910</sup> The platform ensures appropriate partnerships are formed and will be available for financial institutions and consulting firms as well.<sup>1911</sup>

On 25 November 2019, Japan announced a contribution of USD1.5 billion to replenish the Green Climate Fund (GCF) over the next four years, at its first high-level pledging conference.<sup>1912,1913</sup> This funding is part of a wider pledge of USD9.78 billion provided by 27 countries in the first

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<sup>1905</sup> Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

<sup>1906</sup> Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

<sup>1907</sup> Website launch: A new online match-making platform for low-/zero-carbon technology projects in developing countries, The Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka) 19 July 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. [http://gec.jp/jcm/news/global\\_match190719/](http://gec.jp/jcm/news/global_match190719/).

<sup>1908</sup> Overview of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), The Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka). Date of Access: 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <http://gec.jp/jcm/about/>.

<sup>1909</sup> Preliminary Selection Result for Financing Programme for JCM Model Projects in FY2019 (1st Selection), The Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka) 27 June 2019. Date of Access: 19 December 2019. <http://gec.jp/jcm/kobo/mp190405/>.

<sup>1910</sup> Website launch: A new online match-making platform for low-/zero-carbon technology projects in developing countries, the Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka) 19 July 2019. [http://gec.jp/jcm/news/global\\_match190719/](http://gec.jp/jcm/news/global_match190719/).

<sup>1911</sup> Website launch: A new online match-making platform for low-/zero-carbon technology projects in developing countries, the Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka) 19 July 2019. [http://gec.jp/jcm/news/global\\_match190719/](http://gec.jp/jcm/news/global_match190719/).

<sup>1912</sup> Countries step up ambition: Landmark boost to coffers of the world’s largest climate fund, Green Climate Fund (Paris) 25 October 2019. Date of Access: 21 December 2019. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/countries-step-up-ambition-landmark-boost-to-coffers-of-the-world-s-largest-climate-fund>

<sup>1913</sup> First Replenishment of the Green Climate Fund Summary Pledge Table (in millions), Green Climate Fund (Paris) 25 October 2019. Date of Access: 21 December 2019. [https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/24868/First\\_replenishment\\_of\\_the\\_Green\\_Climate\\_Fund\\_\\_Summary\\_pledge\\_table.pdf/96ea94f9-d8f7-1ce1-198c-3f7fe1f47c30](https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/24868/First_replenishment_of_the_Green_Climate_Fund__Summary_pledge_table.pdf/96ea94f9-d8f7-1ce1-198c-3f7fe1f47c30)

replenishment of the fund.<sup>1914</sup> The resources from the fund will help developing countries mitigate the impacts of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to global warming.<sup>1915</sup>

On 28 November 2019, the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) designed a roadmap to develop a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity in Chiba, Japan.<sup>1916</sup> The proposed plan will support Japan, China, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Korea, the NOWPAP Member States, in the conservation and international cooperation of marine biodiversity.<sup>1917</sup> It will be ensured that the plan is adopted by the Member States up until the end of 2021, thereby meeting targets of the NOWPAP and Convention of Biological Diversity.<sup>1918</sup>

On 10 December 2019, the NOWPAP announced high priority actions for the future conservation of marine biodiversity that include conserving biological habitats, plankton species, and environmental DNA.<sup>1919</sup> To enable progress towards these actions, scientists from the NOWPAP member states will develop distribution maps of coastal habitat to determine causes of habitat decline, databases of species and natural ecosystems and tools to monitor coastal habitat.<sup>1920</sup> Overall, these techniques will help countries meet their marine biodiversity conservation targets, their Aichi Biodiversity Targets and a number of Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>1921</sup>

Japan has taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies through the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity. Japan has also taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenges of climate change by, for instance, launching the JCM Global Match platform and funding the GCF.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Maryam Rehman*

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<sup>1914</sup> Countries step up ambition: Landmark boost to coffers of the world's largest climate fund, Green Climate Fund (Paris) 25 October 2019. Date of Access: 21 December 2019. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/countries-step-up-ambition-landmark-boost-to-coffers-of-the-world-s-largest-climate-fund>

<sup>1915</sup> Countries step up ambition: Landmark boost to coffers of the world's largest climate fund, Green Climate Fund (Paris) 25 October 2019. Date of Access: 21 December 2019. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/countries-step-up-ambition-landmark-boost-to-coffers-of-the-world-s-largest-climate-fund>

<sup>1916</sup> Press Release: Designing a roadmap to develop the Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 28 November 2019. Date of Access: 21 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/designing-roadmap-develop-regional-action-plan-marine-and-coastal-marine>

<sup>1917</sup> Designing a roadmap to develop the Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 28 November 2019. Date of Access: 21 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/designing-roadmap-develop-regional-action-plan-marine-and-coastal-marine>

<sup>1918</sup> Designing a roadmap to develop the Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 28 November 2019. Date of Access: 21 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/designing-roadmap-develop-regional-action-plan-marine-and-coastal-marine>

<sup>1919</sup> High priority activities identified for future marine biodiversity conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 10 December 2019. Date of Access: 20 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/high-priority-activities-identified-future-marine-biodiversity-conservation>

<sup>1920</sup> High priority activities identified for future marine biodiversity conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 10 December 2019. Date of Access: 20 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/high-priority-activities-identified-future-marine-biodiversity-conservation>

<sup>1921</sup> High priority activities identified for future marine biodiversity conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 10 December 2019. Date of Access: 20 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/high-priority-activities-identified-future-marine-biodiversity-conservation>

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 24 August 2019, the Government of UK announced GBP5 million funding into the research and development of low carbon transport.<sup>1922</sup> As one of the recipients of the funding, Cardiff University will launch a transport research network to bring together academic and industry experts to identify decarbonization challenges.<sup>1923</sup>

On 26 August 2019, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Boris Johnson announced GBP10 million to help tackle deforestation in the Amazon.<sup>1924</sup> As part of a series of announcements, the Prime Minister also announced an increase in UK's contribution to the Green Climate Fund and funding of GBP7 million to protect marine ecosystems around Britain's overseas territories.<sup>1925</sup>

On 23 September 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson launched a GBP220 million fund to save the endangered species as the snow leopard, Sumatran tiger, black rhino and African elephant from extinction.<sup>1926</sup> This funding is part of UK's International Biodiversity Fund that will provide financial assistance to projects aimed at strengthening law enforcement and discourage poaching and the consumption of illegally traded products.<sup>1927</sup>

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced at the United Nations General Assembly that the British scientists will be able to utilize GBP1 billion funding to support the development and testing of new technology targeted at tackling climate change in developing countries.<sup>1928</sup>

On 24 September 2019, the Government of UK announced the creation of the Global Ocean Alliance to protect wildlife in the world's ocean.<sup>1929</sup> This alliance, consisting of 10 countries, seeks to

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<sup>1922</sup> Cardiff's new transport research network receives £1m UK Government cash boost to turn vehicles green, Government of UK (London) 24 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cardiffs-new-transport-research-network-receives-1m-uk-government-cash-boost-to-turn-vehicles-green>

<sup>1923</sup> Cardiff's new transport research network receives £1m UK Government cash boost to turn vehicles green, Government of UK (London) 24 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cardiffs-new-transport-research-network-receives-1m-uk-government-cash-boost-to-turn-vehicles-green>

<sup>1924</sup> Press Release: PM steps up UK efforts to protect the Amazon rainforest, Government of UK (London) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-efforts-to-protect-the-amazon-rainforest>

<sup>1925</sup> Press Release: PM steps up UK efforts to protect the Amazon rainforest, Government of UK (London) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-efforts-to-protect-the-amazon-rainforest>

<sup>1926</sup> Press Release: PM launches new action plan to save the natural world, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-new-action-plan-to-save-the-natural-world>

<sup>1927</sup> Press Release: PM launches new action plan to save the natural world, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-new-action-plan-to-save-the-natural-world>

<sup>1928</sup> Press Release: British scientists to help tackle climate change through new £1 billion fund, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-scientists-to-help-tackle-climate-change-through-new-1-billion-fund>

<sup>1929</sup> Press Release: UK creates global alliance to help protect the world's ocean, Government of UK (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-creates-global-alliance-to-help-protect-the-worlds-ocean>

address issues such as warming sea temperatures, plastic pollution and extinction of marine species.<sup>1930</sup> The Global Ocean Alliance will push for the strengthening of existing globally agreed targets and call for the 30by30 initiative, an initiative that aims to increase the proportion of Marine Protected Areas to increase to 30 per cent of the global ocean by 2030, to be adopted at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity conference and introduced into international law through the High Seas Treaty in 2020.<sup>1931</sup>

On 2 November 2019, the Government of UK announced an investment of GBP315 million as part of the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF) to support heavy industry reduce carbon emissions through the adoption of energy efficient technology.<sup>1932</sup>

On 4 November 2019, the government of UK launched the Woodland Carbon Guarantee Scheme to increase tree planting rates in an attempt to boost carbon sequestration. As part of this scheme, GBP50 million will be used to provide landowners and farmers an incentive to plant more trees and create new woodland.<sup>1933</sup>

The UK has taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies and address the main pressures of biodiversity through the ban on plastic straws and stirrers, the Global Ocean Alliance, and GBP220 million fund to save the endangered species as the snow leopard, Sumatran tiger, black rhino and African elephant from extinction. The UK has also taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenges of climate change, through the Industrial Strategy and IETF, and ecosystem degradation, through the Urban Tree Challenge and funding of GBP10 million to help tackle deforestation in the Amazon.

Thus, UK has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: April Mu*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 10 September 2019, the House of Representatives introduced the “Climate Stewardship Act of 2019,” which provided incentives for agricultural producers to carry out climate stewardship practices and to provide for increased reforestation across the United States, among other purposes. The bill includes amendments to the “Reforestation Trust Fund” and “Reforest America Grant Program” that demand reforestation practices enhance forest health, resilience, and biodiversity.<sup>1934</sup>

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<sup>1930</sup> Press Release: UK creates global alliance to help protect the world’s ocean, Government of UK (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-creates-global-alliance-to-help-protect-the-worlds-ocean>

<sup>1931</sup> Press Release: UK creates global alliance to help protect the world’s ocean, Government of UK (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-creates-global-alliance-to-help-protect-the-worlds-ocean>

<sup>1932</sup> Press Release: Heavy industry to cut 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions with new tech, Government of UK (London) 2 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/heavy-industry-to-cut-2-million-tonnes-of-carbon-emissions-with-new-tech>

<sup>1933</sup> Press Release: Government launches new scheme to boost tree planting, Government of UK (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-scheme-to-boost-tree-planting>

<sup>1934</sup> Climate Stewardship of Act, Congress.Gov, 10 September 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4269/all-info>

On 19 September 2019, President Donald Trump's Administration announced a revoke of California's vehicle emission standards. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler states that the decision will enable "much-needed regulatory certainty for the automotive industry." California's vehicle emission standards are considered to be more stringent than those of many other states.<sup>1935</sup>

On 22 October 2019, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced habitat and water management measures for the San Francisco Bay Delta, effectively diverting large amounts of water from the Delta for irrigation. The Delta is a fragile ecosystem and is home to the Delta Smelt, a threatened species for California Fish.<sup>1936</sup>

On 4 November 2019, the United States submitted formal notification to the United Nations to begin the withdrawal process from the Paris Agreement. The withdrawal will be complete one year after the date of delivery of the notification. The notification follows President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement in June 2017 due to the economic impacts of the Agreement on national businesses.<sup>1937</sup>

On 5 November 2019, the House of Representatives introduced the "Green Climate Fund Authorization Act of 2019," which proposed to authorize appropriations for climate financing, especially in regards to the commitments the United States made to the Green Climate Fund and the Paris climate agreement. The act highlights that the Green Climate Fund ensures conservation of biodiversity and critical habitats.<sup>1938</sup>

On 18 November 2019, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the allocation of USD30 million towards grants to support coastal resilience projects that reduce the impact of rising sea levels and extreme weather by strengthening natural ecosystems.<sup>1939</sup>

On 9 December 2019, the NOAA announced the project "Mission: Iconic Reefs," which provides resources for a decades-long effort to revitalize the reefs of the Florida Keys and their highly diverse marine ecosystem. The program also specifically allows for the removal of invasive species from the reefs.<sup>1940</sup>

On 20 December 2019, President Trump signed into law the "Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020," which authorized an extensive list of appropriations for government agencies and branches. The act allocated USD315 million for biodiversity conservation programs and detailed that the funds cannot be used to support the expansion of industrial scale extractive activity into tropical

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<sup>1935</sup> California vows fightback after Trump voids state's right to set emissions rule, The Guardian, 19 September 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/sep/19/california-trump-vehicle-emissions-standards-cars>

<sup>1936</sup> Trump Administration Moves to Lift Protections for Fish and Divert Water to Farms, The New York Times, 22 October 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/22/climate/trump-delta-smelt.html>

<sup>1937</sup> Paris climate accords: US notifies UN of intention to withdraw, BBC News, 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-50297029>

<sup>1938</sup> Green Climate Fund Authorization Act of 2019, Congress.Gov, 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4986/text?r=46&s=1>

<sup>1939</sup> NOAA, NFWF announce \$30million in grants to support coastal resilience efforts across nation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 18 November 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-nfwf-announce-30-million-in-grants-to-support-coastal-resilience-efforts-across>

<sup>1940</sup> NOAA, partners announce launch groundbreaking Florida Keys coral reef restoration effort, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 9 December 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/coral-disease/>

forests. The act also allocated USD100 million to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking and sets aside USD151 million for aquatic ecosystem restoration.<sup>1941</sup>

The U.S. has partially complied with its commitment to support swift action on biodiversity through its efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies. However, the U.S. has also given formal notification of its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, are weakening vehicle emission standards, and threatening fish and other wildlife to increase irrigation for farms in California.

For these reasons, the United States receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Kiyala Amos-Flom*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 14 October 2019, the Agrifish Council agreed that six of the ten most commercially important fish stocks in the Baltic sea will be managed through the maximum sustainability yields principle, although the European Commission had initially put forward proposals for reductions in eight stocks.<sup>1942</sup> On the other hand, in the Atlantic and North Sea, limits to fishing quotas that enable the EU to meet its pledge to end overfishing by 2020 have not been enacted, with some species' quotas such as Haddock in the North Sea being increased.<sup>1943,1944</sup>

On 14 November 2019, the European Investment Bank committed to a new strategy for environmental sustainability and climate action. This includes EUR1 trillion of investment in climate and environmental action from 2021 to 2030, an increase in the share of financial support to climate action, and alignment of all European Investment Bank financial activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement.<sup>1945</sup> The bank will also end financial support for fossil fuel energy projects after 2020.<sup>1946</sup>

On 28 November 2019, the European Parliament declared a climate and environmental emergency in the European Union and globally.<sup>1947</sup> The declaration calls for all future legislative and budgetary

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<sup>1941</sup> Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Congress.gov, 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1865/text>

<sup>1942</sup> EU Council follows Commission's Line, Trims Baltic Fishing Quota, Euractiv (Brussels) 15 October 2019. Accessed: 20 December 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/eu-council-follows-commissions-line-trims-baltic-fishing-quota/>

<sup>1943</sup> EU ministers opt to continue overfishing, despite 2020 deadline, The Guardian (London) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/18/eu-ministers-opt-to-continue-overfishing-despite-2020-deadline>

<sup>1944</sup> Haggling begins as EU prepares to set 2020 fishing quotas, The Guardian (London) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/16/eu-2020-fishing-quotas>

<sup>1945</sup> Press Release: EU Bank launches ambitious new climate strategy and Energy Lending Policy, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-313-eu-bank-launches-ambitious-new-climate-strategy-and-energy-lending-policy>

<sup>1946</sup> Press Release: EU Bank launches ambitious new climate strategy and Energy Lending Policy, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-313-eu-bank-launches-ambitious-new-climate-strategy-and-energy-lending-policy>

<sup>1947</sup> Press Release: The European Parliament declares climate emergency, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20191121IPR67110/the-european-parliament-declares-climate-emergency>

proposals to align with objective of limiting global warming to under 1.5°C, to reach climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest and reduce global emissions from shipping and aviation.<sup>1948</sup>

On 12 December 2019, the European Council endorsed the “European Green Deal,” a broad growth strategy that includes the objective of achieving a climate-neutral European Union by 2050.<sup>1949</sup> Significant commitments under the Green Deal include the European “Climate Law” to enshrine the neutrality objective in legislation by March 2020, a plan for an increase in the ambition of the European Union’s greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, and a EUR100 billion ‘Just Transition Mechanism’ fund to help countries and sectors dependent on fossil fuels and “carbon-intensive processes” to move to renewable energy sources.<sup>1950</sup> Poland did not commit to the neutrality objective but will have the opportunity to do so in June 2020 once the European Commission has published Climate law.<sup>1951,1952</sup>

The Green Deal also includes commitments to present a biodiversity strategy for 2030, to be presented in March 2020 in preparation for COP15 of the Convention of Biological Diversity.<sup>1953</sup> The deal also includes a zero-tolerance approach to unreported and illegal fishing, that will be based and new product labelling rules to encourage the consumption of deforestation-free agricultural products.<sup>1954</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the European parliament voted for a resolution to strengthen the European Union Pollinators Initiative adopted in 2018 to further protect pollinators from the numerous causes of their decline including industrial farming, habitat loss, pesticide usage and invasive species.<sup>1955</sup> As

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<sup>1948</sup> Press Release: The European Parliament declares climate emergency, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20191121IPR67110/the-european-parliament-declares-climate-emergency>

<sup>1949</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green New Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019 [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf)

<sup>1950</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green New Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf).

<sup>1951</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green New Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf).

<sup>1952</sup> European Green Deal to press ahead despite Polish targets opt-out, The Guardian (Brussels) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/13/european-green-deal-to-press-ahead-despite-polish-targets-opt-out>.

<sup>1953</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green New Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf).

<sup>1954</sup> EU Commission unveils ‘European Green Deal’: Key points, Euractiv (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/eu-commission-unveils-european-green-deal-the-key-points/1410205/>.

<sup>1955</sup> Parliament urges cuts in pesticide use to save Europe’s pollinators, Euractiv (Brussels) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/parliament-urges-cuts-in-pesticide-use-to-save-europes-pollinators/>.



part of this resolution, the MEPs called on the European Commission to introduce EU-wide pesticides reduction targets and more financial support for research on the causes of bee decline.<sup>1956</sup>

The EU has taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies through implementing the maximum sustainability yield principle in the Baltic Sea and the Green Deal and has taken efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity through the single-use plastic ban and European Union Pollinators Initiative. The EU has also taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenges of climate change, through for instance, the Green Deal and the European Investment Bank strategy for environmental sustainability and climate action, and ecosystem degradation through the EU Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World's Forests.

Thus, EU has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Sam Bowers*

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<sup>1956</sup> Parliament urges cuts in pesticide use to save Europe's pollinators, Euractiv (Brussels) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/parliament-urges-cuts-in-pesticide-use-to-save-europes-pollinators/>.