



# INTPA-NEAR Environment & Climate Week

27-31 March 2023  
Brussels, Belgium



# Key takeaways and recommendations

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# Opening session

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- It is urgent to act. This is a **historical moment**. We have a narrow window of opportunity.
- We need **system change** of economies and societies. Important sectors are energy, agri-food and land use, cities.
- To get the transition right we need to both to decarbonise, decouple from resource use and support nature positive economies and societies in a fair transition.
- This is about aligning policies, actions and investments with our climate and biodiversity goals. Creating an enabling environment. Move beyond *do no harm* to *do good*. Increase impact (TEI, EFSD+, landscape approach, change the way we produce and consume...). Mobilise more funds.
- Good news is that the **transition is happening** in many parts of the world- but needs to accelerate. Narrative matters- around a **win-win partnership**
- Important to be **coherent** when we act (e.g. importance of Trade)

# Greening EU Cooperation

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- **Mainstreaming environment and climate change** is key to reach the objectives of the EU Green Deal and the climate and biodiversity targets. This cuts across sectors and does not apply just to traditional contributing sectors such as energy, forests or water. It is a 360° effort.
- To achieve a systemic change, we need to embed climate and environmental goals at the core of any action from the **very early stage of design**.
- The facilities of the **Green Deal Knowledge Hub** are available to support delegations. The earlier we mobilize them, the better.

# Climate adaptation and Disaster Risk Management

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- There are inherent **limits** to adaptation. **Loss and damages** from extreme events will become more frequent and more severe in coming years. Economic **growth** and poverty reduction are at risk.
- We have analysed three possible strands of action:
- **Early warning systems** – Well-functioning EWS are capable of massively reduce life and financial losses. Only **half** of the countries globally are protected by Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems and the situation is even worse in LDCs and SIDS. The TEI Adaptation and Resilience in Africa and TA Türkiye that works on this
- **Disaster Risk Finance** - Countries and individuals must have adequate strategies in place to prepare and respond. There are **many** financial instruments available: from bonds, to contingency funds to insurance products. Initiatives like the G7 Global Shield – supported by the EU - contribute to identify the right mix.
- **Nature-based Solutions** – NBS such as agro-ecology or restoration of coastal ecosystems allow to tackle **multiple goals** at once – e.g., mitigation, adaptation, biodiversity, food security, disaster risk reduction. They are cost-effective and community led. Lots of plus!

# Climate Change Mitigation

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- More than 75% of GHG emissions come from energy used in a variety of sectors. **Reducing energy related emissions is key everywhere** – including in countries that are not emitting today but they will do tomorrow. We should go beyond renewable generation (eg enhance energy efficiency, clean cooking or tackle methane emissions)
- **Nationally Determined Contributions** are key docs to structure EU support on climate issues. The EU is well positioned to strengthen capacities for enhanced transparency and in designing and implementing Measurement Reporting and Verification systems (MRVs) - including with reference to forest carbon absorption.
- Compliance **carbon markets** (eg Paris Agreement Art. 6) and voluntary carbon markets are different things. The EU does not formally support VCM at the moment, but we recognise they can be a source of income for partners. Support from our side can be directed towards MRVs and capacity building for partners to properly assess market options and make informed choices.

# Regional meetings

- ✓ Regional sessions are useful moment to exchange experience: learn  
Some cross cutting issues/ challenges
- ✓ Engaging with the private sector.
- ✓ Still questions about Global Gateways' implementation
- ✓ For **EFSD+** to be truly transformative, EUDs must have a central role in building the pipeline of projects, identifying **innovative approaches and stakeholders**.  
Engaging with the private sectors is key to this approach.
- ✓ Complexities with the implementation of TEIs
- ✓ A call for a one commission approach
  
- ✓ Many opportunities / a lot of knowledge to share

# Green Finance

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- Strong private sector mobilization for a sustainable finance agenda will need credible frameworks and instruments. **Sustainable Finance Advisory Hub** and **Global Green Bond Initiative** here to support partner countries on their demand. Make sure to promote them!
- **EUDs have a role to play on EFSD/EFSD+** blending and guarantees by engaging in policy dialogue for a conducive environment, insisting on priorities with the banks, following pipelines, monitoring investments on the ground and ensuring visibility.
- Making **infrastructure investments “greener”** under the **Global Gateway** requires early-stage feasibility studies for nature-based solutions and climate-proofing. Make sure to request the impact assessment and climate vulnerability assessment before engaging in large-scale projects, and remember that you can consult the Greening Facility for support.
- MDBs are increasingly looking at **biodiversity** with a focus on driving net positive gains. The EFSD+ includes innovative PIPs such as DFCD Aya or Carbon Sinks. EUDs can stimulate more pipelines through work on financing frameworks, tenure security and encouraging partnerships between DFIs and NGOs.

# Circular Economy

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- Circular Economy, the oldest economy concept on Earth, **offers solutions for a systemic change** that aligns with nature. By changing the way, we produce and consume, it facilitates **decoupling of economic growth from resource use. SUFFICIENCY! Economy compass needs to be well being and planetary**
- The **EU aspires to lead** the transition to a circular economy **by example**. Ambition of EU Circular Economy Action Plan II is **for progress in Europe to trigger progress at the international level**, too.
- Circular Economy offers a **pathway that simultaneously delivers on multiple goals: contributing to economic development, social progress and tackling the planetary crisis** (biodiversity, climate change, pollution and resource scarcity).
- The private sector **is an essential partner to drive the transition**. The work of EU Delegations is important in **aligning investments with the green, notably circular agenda**. Need **to build pipelines of green and circular project approaches** in all sectors, beyond energy and waste.

# Life on Earth

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- The **Global Biodiversity Framework** (GBF) has the potential to be a game changer for halting and reversing biodiversity loss and putting nature on a path to recovery. Need an effective implementation through the engagement of all governments, the whole of society and the whole of economy. Action within this decade is decisive.
- EU committed to work on the implementation of the GBF internally and externally, in particular through capacity development actions in partner countries at all levels.
- Resource mobilisation** efforts have to work on several fronts. The mobilisation of EU cooperation resources should continue (7 billion EUR for the period 2021-2027). Besides, a crucial role is to be played by **innovative financing** through MDBs and private sector.
- Delegations have a key role to play to deliver on GBF and succeed in **mainstreaming biodiversity across all cooperation programmes.**

# Life on Earth

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## **Indigenous peoples and local communities: Inclusive approaches in conservation**

Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities deserves specific attention in conservation programmes in view of their importance. **Championing community-rights based approaches**, guaranteeing tenure rights, protecting environmental defenders and building capacity for participation, conservation and sustainable use are key.

- **Biodiversity knowledge management and capacity building**

- JRC provides several tools and initiatives to support actions and policy dialogues
- EUDs can contribute to a **more effective policy-science interface** by formulating their knowledge needs. This can facilitate evidence-based decision-making and amplify the impact of scientific knowledge on local capacities and policy outcomes.

**The Integrated landscape approach** is an effective model to reconcile human development and nature integrity. This was illustrated through examples presented by the DRC Delegation. We need to put **people** (the diversity of stakeholders) at the heart of these approaches. **New skills** (Mediation, facilitation, negotiation and legal skills) are critical ingredients to ILM



# Life on Earth

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## Forests:

- **Preserving and sustainably managing forest** is key to meet our objectives on climate (synergies with NDC and MRV systems!), Biodiversity, sustainability.
- We need **holistic and integrated approach** to scale-up our impact, combining demand side measures (proposed Regulation on deforestation) with support to partner countries;
- **Forest Partnerships** will provide holistic support to partner countries. We need to attract innovative finance - increased levels of finance and investments are urgently needed. We can tap into Innovative finance instruments, including EFSD+ guarantees, green bonds, and carbon and biodiversity positive credits, alongside increased domestic resource mobilisation.

## Combatting wildlife trafficking:

- Opportunity to improve **synergies** between interventions, and in particular pay attention to wildlife crimes in support to the justice sector and anticorruption interventions

## Regenerative land management:

- A focus on drivers of land degradation and (economic) incentives for land restoration is key when designing Actions + need to take into account local contexts

# Working with Nature

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- There are many challenges but also opportunities to implement biodiversity-actions not only on sectors that are the usual contributors to biodiversity enhancement, such as agriculture and water, but in **all sectors**, where such opportunities may be less evident, such as energy and cities. For instance, nature-based solutions are the one that can be applied to the largest number of sectors. However, lack of expertise and awareness generate a lack of trust in this approach.
- To harness such benefits, biodiversity needs to be integrated **from the start** of the design of the project and not as a side effect. Cooperation with private sector and public consultation, as inclusive as possible, are key to succeed and can sometimes even contribute to overcome obstacles such as mistrust of innovative solutions and lack of “whole-of-government” approach.

# Water and Oceans

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- ✓ Ocean is **increasingly strategic** for responding to human needs and increasingly seen as such
- ✓ Need for **support from INTPA for dealing with transboundary and global issues** related to ocean
- ✓ Need to urgently embed along with circular economy, the concept of **sobriety** instead of keeping focusing on economic growth, otherwise all our discourses are vain
  
- ✓ Marine/coastal restoration: ensuring **long-term conservation, management, and monitoring of restored areas** is KEY if we want restoration efforts not to be wasted
- ✓ Making blue economy activities + sustainable -> being **innovative but in many different ways**: tapping into potential of other existing initiatives (e.g. Copernicus), seeing value in what was before seen as waste or pollution (fish waste, sargassum influx...), using AI (ex for aquaculture feed) and new technologies in a smart way...
- ✓ **Some activities can't** really be "greened" and **compatible with global environmental commitments** (offshore O&G)
  
- ✓ **Transboundary cooperation** is a tool for contributing to sustainable development, international peace and security
- ✓ The **Nexus approach** identifies mutually beneficial responses between sectors
- ✓ **Water is to adaptation what energy is to mitigation**
- ✓ There is a **changing landscape** with regards to the **water finance**

# Thank You!



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