

Green Deal Newsletter #3

June 2021



What's new?

- **EDDs** took place on 14 and 15 June under the banner of 'The Green Deal for a Sustainable Future'. 17 thematic segments, project presentations, lab debates and practitioner interviews, provided crucial insights into ongoing efforts and powerful ideas to 'build back greener' from the COVID-19 pandemic. A record number of 10 600 participants can attest to the quality of the sessions and the richness of debate that took place.
- **The High-level group on biodiversity**, formed by 13 international experts, presented their [recommendations](#) at the EDD closing ceremony: 8 main streams of action were identified in 4 thematic domains: Conservation of critical ecosystems; Restoration of degraded lands and seas; Sustainable food systems ('nature-positive' practices); Legal wildlife use; and as part as 4 cross-cutting issues: knowledge base and capacity building; indigenous peoples and local communities; multilateral environment agreements; sustainable green finance.
- At the **Carbis Bay G7 Summit on 11-13 June**, leaders agreed to "protect our planet by supporting a green revolution that creates jobs, cuts emissions and seeks to limit the rise in global temperatures to 1.5 degrees. We commit to net zero no later than 2050, halving our collective emissions over the two decades to 2030, increasing and improving climate finance to 2025; and to conserve or protect at least 30 percent of our 1land and oceans by 2030. We acknowledge our duty to safeguard the planet for future generations." A [new Initiative on Infrastructure](#) was also set up.
- At an **EU-Canada summit** on 15 June, Canada and the EU reiterated in a [joint statement](#) their commitment towards fighting climate change and protecting the environment, incl. by:
 - Scaling up efforts to meet the USD 100 billion per year climate finance goal through to 2025, as well as finance contributing to climate adaptation action;
 - Taking concrete steps towards an absolute end to new direct government support for unabated international thermal coal power generation in third countries by the end of 2021;
 - Pursuing the adoption of an ambitious global framework to conserve, protect and restore biodiversity at the next UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) and ambitious outcomes at the UN Food Systems Summit;
 - Fighting deforestation and forest degradation; and working towards a new global treaty on plastics, incorporating a life cycle approach, including to combat oceans plastic pollution.
- The **EU-US summit** on the same day issued a [joint statement](#) that set as an objective to protect our planet and foster green growth, incl. by:
 - Establishing an EU-US High-Level Climate Action Group and cooperating on sustainable finance, including by providing the private sector with usable tools and metrics;
 - Promoting clean energy innovation in Mission Innovation as well as sustainable food systems, including climate smart agricultural systems; working towards a Transatlantic Green Technology Alliance to foster cooperation on development and deployment of green technologies, and promote markets to scale such technologies;
 - Committing to the same financial objectives as mentioned above for Canada, incl. ending direct government support to thermal coal power generation in third countries by end of 2021, incl. through ODA, export finance, investment and financial and trade promotion support.

- The **8th meeting of the Expert group on climate change and development** of 5 May confirmed MS and Commission agreement on a joint approach to climate action, including on balancing funding for adaptation and mitigation. More specifically: at the upcoming UNFCCC COP26, it will be essential to address climate financing, incl. raising quantity, committing to funding beyond 2025 and engaging more closely with Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and other Development Finance Institutions, as well as the growing ambition gap and the need to increase action on adaptation. Collecting and sharing information will be needed. Joint MS-Commission flagship initiatives or programmes on Paris alignment could be presented at COP26.
- The **One Health High Level Expert Panel (OHHLEP)** was set up jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Its aim is to provide policy relevant scientific assessment on the emergence of health crises arising from the human-animal-ecosystem interface, as well as research gaps; and guidance on development of a long-term strategic approach to reducing the risk of zoonotic pandemics, with an associated monitoring and early warning framework.

EU Policy Developments

NEW:

- The new **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe** was adopted on 9 June. 30% of its overall financial envelope should be allocated to climate objectives. It will contribute to the overall MFF target of 7.5 % annual spending to biodiversity in 2024 and 10 % in 2026 and 2027. It also stresses the need to integrate environment, ecosystems and biodiversity conservation, climate change, disaster risk reduction and preparedness objectives in policies, plans and investments, as well as to promote agro-ecology in order to protect ecosystems and biodiversity and enhance environmental and social resilience. Energy sector policy and market reforms are also to be encouraged with partner countries.
- The **Environment Council of 10 June** approved **Council conclusions on “Forging a climate-resilient Europe – the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change”**. More particularly, including:
 - the need to increase climate resilience through adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity protection, contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring food security;
 - the importance of balancing mitigation and adaptation, with specific focus on adaptation in LDCs, Small Island Developing States and Africa.
 - a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach is essential for achieving climate resilience in fragile and conflict-affected countries;
 - the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships with public and private entities, including for sharing and applying of knowledge, expertise and innovations (e.g. InsuResilience Global Partnership);
- A Staff Working Document on **“Closing the climate protection gap - Scoping policy and data gaps”** was published on 10 June. The SWD is part of the knowledge base underpinning the EU Climate Adaptation Strategy, and some of the measures to be taken under the upcoming Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy. It addresses financial preparedness at macroeconomic level as well as microeconomic risk management.
- **Climate proofing guidelines** (responding to the renewed guidance requested in the **Adaptation Strategy**) will be published soon by the Commission, covering InvestEU, the Connecting Europe Facility, the Regional Development Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the Just Transition Fund.

TO COME:

- The new **EU Directive on Single-use plastics** will entry into force on 2 July.
- The **FIT for 55¹ package** of measures is planned to be adopted in July, including a reform of ETS to adjust to 55% reduction of emissions by 2050, land use, revisions of several directives, e.g. aviation emissions incl. their possible

¹ The Commission will table a **Fit for 55 package** to reduce emissions by at least 55% by 2030 covering various policy areas – from renewables to energy efficiency, energy performance of buildings, land use, energy taxation, effort sharing and emissions trading.

inclusion within ETS; Carbon Border Mechanism (CBM) has not been included in the package yet (political discussions ongoing).

- The **EU Forest strategy** is planned to be adopted in July (ISC deadline 25/6). It builds on the biodiversity strategy, and mostly focuses on the EU but external aspect have been proposed by DG INTPA.
- **Legislation on deforestation-free supply chains** has been delayed (Q3); it aims to minimise EU contribution to deforestation and forest degradation worldwide, and to reduce deforestation and forest degradation at global level, thus reducing GHG emissions and loss of biodiversity; it includes citizens' awareness raising, promoting products, financial incentives.
- The new **EU soil strategy**, which includes soil biodiversity and avoiding the threat of desertification, is planned to be adopted Q3.
- The **Renewed sustainable finance strategy**, the establishment of an **EU green bond standard** and the **Anti-money laundering legislative package** are expected to be adopted beginning of July. The strategy builds on the action plan on financing sustainable growth and aims to provide policy tools to ensure that financial system supports the transition of businesses towards sustainability. INTPA's proposal to create a high-level expert group has been taken on board.
- The Commission plans to present a **legislative proposal to empower consumers for the green transition** with better information on products' sustainability and better protection against practices such as greenwashing, as well as a legislative proposal on the substantiation of green claims based on the [Environmental Footprint methods](#).

INTPA Green Deal policy team

The **Green Deal policy team met on 22 June. Joanna Drake, DDG DG ENV, was invited to present recent and future developments related to the Green Deal with a focus on the zero pollution action plan.** The meeting also discussed the impact of the Green Deal policy developments on partner countries, the outcome of programming on Green Deal implementation (including in reaching climate or biodiversity targets) as well as preparations for upcoming COPs. Minutes are available on the Green Deal drive.

Reports and events



New reports

- The **EP Resolution of 9 June** "[EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives](#)", provides a detailed report with concrete recommendations for action, in which the EP:
 - Stresses that the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of holistically applying the **'One Health'** principle in policymaking and the need for transformative changes across society;
 - Notes that the underlying causes of pandemics include the same global environmental changes that drive biodiversity loss and climate change (e.g. land use change and legal and illegal wildlife trade and consumption);
 - Points out that the risk of pandemics can be significantly lowered by reducing human activities that drive biodiversity loss and that the **cost of reducing the risk of pandemics** is estimated to be 100 times lower than the cost of responding to them²;
 - Underlines that actions under the Biodiversity Strategy 2030 must **tackle all 5 main direct drivers** (changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species);

² In that context, the EP urges the Commission to fully take into account the scientific evidence, reports and recommendations on zoonosis and pandemics, including the [IPBES #Pandemics Report: Escaping the 'Era of Pandemics'](#), the UNEP report '[Preventing the next pandemic – Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission](#)', and the tripartite concept note of the World Health Organization (WHO), the FAO and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on '[Sharing responsibilities and coordinating global activities to address health risks at the animal-human-ecosystems interfaces partnership, to combat human-animal-environment health risks](#)';

- Stresses that indirect drivers should also be tackled, such as unsustainable production and consumption patterns, population dynamics, trade, technological innovations and governance models;
- **Recommends at least 10 % annual spending on biodiversity under the MFF from 2021 onwards;**
- Calls on the Commission to reinforce biodiversity within EU youth programmes and to launch a **Green Erasmus programme** as part of the overall Erasmus programme;
- Calls the Commission to play a major role in the UN's Decade of Ocean Science and to provide funding for deep-sea ecosystems and biodiversity;
- Calls to facilitate capacity-building to beneficiary countries under NDICI and Aid for Trade (incl. knowledge transfer, technology sharing, skills training) to implement the CBD, CITES and other conventions.

- A [press release issued on 27 May by the World Meteorological Organization](#) stressed that annual mean global (land and sea) mean near-surface temperature is likely to be at least 1°C warmer than preindustrial levels³ in each of the coming 5 years and is very likely to be within the range 0.9 – 1.8°C. There is about 40% chance that one of the next 5 years will be at least 1.5°C warmer than preindustrial levels and the odds are increasing with time.
- UNEP released a report on “[Becoming #GenerationRestoration: Ecosystem Restoration for People, Nature and Climate](#)” on 3 June. It shows how ecosystem restoration is one of the most important ways of delivering nature-based solutions for societal challenges, esp. to prevent poverty, support food security through agroforestry and restoring marine fish populations, mitigating and building resilience to climate change, preventing biodiversity loss. Requirements include the introduction of natural capital accounting and the creation of an enabling environment for private sector investment (incl. PPPs).
- A joint study on “[Future Perspectives on Land for Eastern Africa: pilot study focusing on Ethiopia and Kenya](#)” was published on 8 June by UNDP, PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, the JRC and Wageningen University & Research, together with stakeholders in Kenya and Ethiopia.
- IPBES-IPCC [Workshop Report on Biodiversity and Climate Change](#) was made available on 10 June. 12 biodiversity and climate experts participated in a four-day virtual workshop to examine the synergies and trade-offs between biodiversity protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- A UNDRR “[Special Report on Drought 2021](#)” was released on 17 June. The report highlights how drought is now widespread and on the verge of becoming the next pandemic if countries do not take urgent action on water and land management and tackling the climate emergency. This Global Assessment Report explores the systemic nature of drought and its impacts on achievement of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the SDGs and human and ecosystems health and wellbeing.
- UNEP published a report on “[Governing Coastal Resources: Implications for a Sustainable Blue Economy](#)” on 18 June. This global study produced by the UNEP/International Resource Panel uses a framework of Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, Response (DPSIR) to assess how global scale drivers are pushing the development of land-based activities (pressures), which in turn affect the quality and availability (state) of coastal resources. The impact of changing coastal resources on several sustainable blue economy sectors is analysed, with a review of existing coastal governance approaches.

CALENDAR



Trainings, webinars, e-learning

- [Series of webinars N°3: European Green Deal - Greening EU Cooperation](#) (Environment and Climate Change).
- INTPA Academy series of [webinars on climate-smart agriculture, crop production, livestock production, soil and land management](#), and more.
- INTPA Academy [webinar presenting the Environment-friendly Cookbook](#) released by the EU Climate Staff for Climate group, with information, tips and green recipes.

³ Defined as the 1850-1900 average.

- Webinar "[Carbon Credits for Communities, Conservation and Climate](#)" held by the Biodiversity Research Institute on 11 June and available on Capacity4Dev. The aim of this webinar is to showcase successful examples from rangelands in Eastern and Southern African where soil carbon initiatives are giving local communities an incentive to invest in land management practices that reverse land degradation, build resilience to climate change, enhance biodiversity conservation and create opportunities for sustainable socio-economic development. It also highlights the opportunities in West and Central Africa.
- UNEP webinar "[Governing Coastal Resources: Implications for a Sustainable Blue Economy](#)" held on 23 June by the International Resource Panel.

Upcoming Events, conferences, meetings

- **30 June:** EP Intergroup event on "[EU Green Deal ambitions: What do we want and need from EU forests?](#)"
- **30 June:** UNEP High-Level Event – "[Nature Within Cities and Cities Within Nature](#)", on the benefits of Nature-based Solutions for cities
- **30 June:** [Sustainable Cocoa Dialogue - High-level conference](#), co-organised by the EUDEL and the government of Ghana
- **Summer 2021:** launch of the Youth Sounding Board, under the auspices of Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen
- **1 July:** CGIAR webinar on "[Training resources and capacity building needs for landscape restoration in Kenya](#)"
- **6-15 July:** [High Level Political Forum](#) for SDG follow-up and review
- **9 July:** Water and health meeting held by the presidency of Slovenia, with Commissioner – Launch of the Water booklet prepared by INTPA F2
- **12-13 July:** [The EU Platform on Sustainable Finance presents:](#) proposed "Social Taxonomy" (12 July) and proposed "Significantly Harmful" & "No Significant Impact" Taxonomies (13 July)
- **26-28 July:** UN Food Systems pre-Summit (Italy)
- **26-30 July:** IPCC 54th Session and approval of Working Group I contribution to the 6th Assessment Report '[AR6 Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis](#)'
- **3-11 September:** [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) to be held in a hybrid format in Marseille
- **13 September:** [UN Food System Summit](#)
- **13-15 September:** [UN High-level dialogue on energy](#)
- **11-24 October:** high-level opening of [UN Biodiversity Conference](#) (COP 15), Kunming, China
- **1-12 November:** Climate [COP26](#), Glasgow

Past events, conferences, meetings

- **31 May:** Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) online event "[Harnessing Inclusive Multilateralism for International Development](#)", including an address by Commissioner Urpilainen.
- **31 May-4 June:** the [Green week](#) virtual conference was attended by 5,300 persons, while around 80,000 participated in the 600 partner events in 44 countries around Europe. Highlights of the week included: reducing single-use plastics, the sound management of chemicals and waste (2 sessions organised by DG INTPA); and paying for pollution. Conclusions [here](#) and recap by UNEP [here](#).
- **1 June:** '[The urgency to step up climate adaptation action](#)', event co-organised by the European Commission (DG CLIMA and RTD) and the EP Intergroup to discuss enablers for the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change and the Horizon Europe Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change.
- **1 June:** European Policy Centre event "[Creating a healthier future for our planet - The role of innovation and partnerships](#)"
- **3 June:** online event '[Water, Wetlands and Fires: Innovative solutions for Green Recovery in South America](#)' organised by Wetlands International.
- **3 June:** Friends of Europe online event "[Fine-tuning the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism](#)".
- **5 June:** [UN Decade on Restoration](#) launched officially on Earth Day.
- **8 June:** [World Oceans Day](#) - UN online event '[The ocean: life and livelihoods](#)', including sessions on 'A Changing Ocean', 'Creating Sustainable Livelihoods', 'Blue Economy and Private Sector Impact'
- **8 June:** 3 online events organized by the Ocean Climate Platform and the Conservatoire du littoral: '[Adaptation to climate change in coastal areas](#)'; '[The time for solutions](#)'; '[European Mapping](#)'
- **10 June:** online event organised by Devex: '[Cities Can: accelerating progress towards the SDGs](#)'

- **10 June:** [Third Multi-stakeholder Roundtable on Sustainable Cocoa](#) in Ghana, focusing on “Coordination towards a sustainable cocoa sector”, and following the first two roundtables on “Traceability, transparency and accountability with regards to child labour”, and “Deforestation traceability in the cocoa value chain”.
- **10 June:** Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) online event “[Traceability across circular value chains: How to unlock its potential and mitigate challenges?](#)”
- **15 June:** EP Intergroup event on "[Partnerships for healthy ecosystems & sustainable fisheries - Collaboration between environmental NGOs, the fishing industry & science driving sustainability](#)"
- **15-16 June:** the [EDDs](#) gathered 10,600 participants from 160 different countries, 46% participants were females.
- **16 June:** EP online event “[Plastics pollution: Are biodegradable plastics a solution?](#)” To get the gist of the issue, you can read the pdf transcript of the presentation by Miriam Weber and Michael Sander.

Where to find more info?

- UNEP-WCMC [Platform Ocean+ Habitats](#) (revamped version launched on World Ocean Day on 8 June): It provides information on the location and distribution of key marine and coastal habitats, as well as track the global conservation status of these habitats and connect them with the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), therefore highlighting new priority areas for protection.
- The [Knowledge Centre for Biodiversity](#) supports policymaking by providing relevant information and bringing together researchers, policymakers, NGOs, industry and citizens.
- The [Women’s Empowerment in Agriculture](#) Index enables researchers and development practitioners to understand and measure women’s empowerment in agriculture, which is essential to ensure progress in achieving the SDGs, especially in the current sanitary and economic crisis.
- INTPA Academy e-learning courses, webinars, factsheets and other resources on [climate change and desertification](#), [environment, biodiversity and green economy](#), [agriculture and fisheries](#), [food security](#), etc.
- As a reminder, you can also find a lot of GD documents here [P:\Green Deal](#) or [online](#). Find [here](#) the Infographics of Green Deal TA facilities.

Green (Deal) tip #3 - Green commuting

As going back to the office starts, you might want to unleash your green creativity and set new habits to get there. Finding alternatives to your car might not only help you save time and money, but also reduce your impact on the environment and get fitter!

- ☺ Walking might be an option for some of you. Health specialists recommend 45 minutes’ exercise per day.
- ☺ Cycling is also a very pleasant and healthy way to commute, especially during the summer time! You can find more information here on [Regional cycling routes](#); [Villo! Bike-sharing service](#); [Showers in Commission buildings](#); [Commission service bikes](#); [Cycling safety advice](#) by Brussels-Capital Region; Cycling courses in the [EU Learn catalogue](#)
- ☺ Apart from public transport, you can also try car pooling, e.g. on the [Carpool](#) website.

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