

# Green Deal Newsletter #5

September 2021



## What's new?

- At the **IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille** (3-11 September), members approved a [Manifesto](#):
    - highlighting the central role of indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation of nature and biodiversity; the importance to build partnerships that enhance the capacity of States, civil society, Indigenous Peoples' Organisations, local communities, incl. women and youth, and to promote investments in nature, nature-positive economy and nature-based solutions;
    - urging governments to commit to ambitious conservation objectives, esp. by setting targets calling for at least 30% of the planet to be protected by 2030
    - recalling that nature-based solutions could provide around 30% of the mitigation required by 2030, while helping to protect vulnerable communities and countries from the impacts of climate change and contributing to conserving biodiversity;
    - committing to support the implementation of the first IUCN Global Indigenous Agenda for the Governance of Indigenous Lands, Territories, Waters, Coastal Seas and Natural Resources, a self-determined strategy developed and owned by Indigenous Peoples, as well as the establishment and implementation of the Great Blue Wall Initiative. France also announced that they would organise a 'One ocean summit' with the UN on the preservation of oceans and promote a treaty on plastic pollution.
  - IUCN approved on 10 September a [motion to protect 80% of the Amazon by 2025](#), in partnership with and recognising the leadership of indigenous peoples in the Amazon.
  - A [motion on "Protection of deep-ocean ecosystems and biodiversity through a moratorium on seabed mining"](#) was also adopted, to call on all state members to support a moratorium on deep-sea mining until rigorous and transparent impact assessments are carried out and the protection of the marine environment ensured.
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- In the [State of the Union address](#) at the EP on 15 September, President von der Leyen announced that the EU will double the funding to biodiversity in particular to most vulnerable countries. She also said that additional EUR 4 billion would be allocated to climate and environment in partner countries, emphasising our special duty especially towards LDCs, incl. the need to close the finance gap and finance both adaptation and mitigation.
  - At the **UNGA**, President Biden announced that **the US will significantly increase its international climate finance** to approx. USD 11.4 billion a year. President Xi announced that **China would end all financing of coal-fired power plants abroad** and redirect its support to green and low carbon energy.

The **US and the EU made a [joint pledge to cut global methane emissions](#) by at least 30% by 2030**, from global methane emissions based on 2020 levels. Boris Johnson said the UK would be one of the first to join the US-EU methane pledge, when it opens for more signatories at COP26.

At the [Leader's Pledge for Nature event](#) held during UNGA on 22 September co-hosted by the EU, **a USD 5 billion pledge was made to protect biodiversity**, incl. integration and management by indigenous communities.
  - In his [Summary and Statement of Action on the UN Food Systems Summit](#) on 23 September, UN Secretary-General underlined the unanimous recognition of the need to build on good practices, such as indigenous food systems, and to engage all stakeholders. He also stressed the need to urgently move from siloed action towards a systems approach, reminding that food systems generate 1/3 of all greenhouse gas emissions and are responsible for up to

80% of biodiversity loss. Given the intrinsic links between human health, animal health and the planet, he highlighted the need to address zoonotic diseases, using an integrated and systems-based one-health approach.

- Speaking at [Global Citizen Live](#), a 24-hour global event starting on September 25 to unite the world to defend the planet and defeat poverty, President von der Leyen, announced that the **EU is pledging EUR 140 million to support research in sustainable food systems** via CGIAR.
- At the [UN High-level Dialogue on Energy](#) on 24 September – the first leader-level meeting on energy under the auspices of the UN General Assembly in 40 years, commitments of more than USD 400 billion were announced in new finance and investments to increase renewables and access to electricity and clean cooking technologies.
- The [1<sup>st</sup> draft of a new Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (released in July), discussed under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), shows how to bridge the global biodiversity financing gap of around USD 700 billion per year. The gap would be filled by cutting harmful subsidies by 500 billion per year and by taking overall biodiversity financing from today's USD 80 billion to USD 200 billion per year. International flows (ODA + private finance + philanthropy) would be increased by USD 10 billion per year (i.e. a bit more than doubling current values according to OECD). This is the international context for the "EU doubling" of external support, and its focus on leveraging other international and domestic resources to achieve action at scale and implement the GBF while not depending on ODA for financing, as recalled by our DG.
- The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** [announced on 15 September](#) it is **setting up a development branch** to increase the impact of its activities outside the European Union, so as to strengthen its global development engagement. A new advisory group advising the EIB for its operations outside the EU will include EU development policy makers nominated by the Member States, the European Commission and the EEAS.
- Nearly 90 new companies have signed onto the [Climate Pledge](#), an Amazon-backed initiative that asks firms to commit to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2040, bringing the total number of business pledgers to 201.

## EU Policy Developments

### NEW

- The EU adopted on 7 September a [Green Bond framework](#), paving the way for an issuance of €250 billion in green bonds. The framework provides investors with confidence that the funds mobilised will be allocated to green projects and that the Commission will report on their environmental impact. The Commission will proceed with the **first green bond issuance** in the month of October, subject to market conditions. This launch coincided with the [Climate Bonds Initiative Conference](#), during which more standardisation was called for, incl. with clearer governmental guidance and better post-issuance reporting practices.
- The [NDICI-Global Europe Delegated Act](#) was published in the Official Journal and will enter into force on 10 October 2021. It sets out specific objectives and priority areas of cooperation for the geographic programmes, indicative thematic targets and indicative financial allocations for sub-regions.

### TO COME

- **Circular economy**
  - [Sustainable Products Initiative](#) under the Circular economy action plan is planned to be adopted in Q4, incl. a revision of the Ecodesign Directive. It aims to make products placed on the EU market durable, reusable, repairable, recyclable and energy-efficient. The initiative will also address the presence of harmful chemicals. To be complemented by an initiative on [Environmental performance of products & businesses – substantiating claims](#) using the Product/Organisation Environmental Footprint methods (green claims).
  - [Waste Shipment Regulation](#) under the Circular Economy Action Plan: this initiative has a strong international dimension, incl. to “guarantee that waste exported outside the EU is managed in an environmentally sound manner”, while addressing illegal shipments of waste within and outside the EU and “restricting the export of ‘green-listed’ waste to non-OECD countries [...]to that explicitly notify their willingness to receive waste from the EU and demonstrate their ability to treat it in an environmentally sustainable manner”.

- In the **energy and climate sectors**, new regulations and strategies are expected in December:
  - A legislative proposal to prevent methane leaks in the energy sector, as announced in the [EU methane strategy](#) adopted in October 2020.
  - Legislative revision of the third energy package for gas, through changes to the Directive concerning common rules in the market for natural gas and to the Regulation on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks.
  - [Revision of the energy performance of buildings Directive](#)
  - [Climate change - Restoring sustainable carbon cycles](#): this initiative aims to support the development of sustainable carbon removal solutions. It will propose an action plan to promote carbon farming and develop a regulatory framework for the certification of carbon removals.
  - [Efficient and green mobility package](#), incl. a revision of the Regulation on the trans-European transport network, a revision of the Directive on Intelligent Transport Systems, a New EU urban mobility framework, a Rail freight corridors initiative.
  
- In the **soil, forest and biodiversity sectors**, also expected for adoption by the end of the year:
  - [Nature restoration targets](#), legally binding measures under preparation for the EU.
  - New [EU soil strategy](#), incl. soil biodiversity and desertification, aiming to protect soil fertility, reduce erosion and sealing, increase organic matter, identify contaminated sites, restore degraded soils, define what constitutes 'good ecological status' for soils.
  - [Minimising the risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with products placed on the EU market](#), aiming to promote the consumption of products from deforestation-free supply chains in the EU and to reduce deforestation and forest degradation at global level, thus reducing GHG emissions and loss of biodiversity.
  - [Improving environmental protection through criminal law](#).

## Reports and events



### New reports

- The [UN synthesis report on "Nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement"](#) shows that:
  - Taking into account implementation of all the latest NDCs, the **total global GHG emission level in 2030 is expected to be 16.3% above 2010 level**. To be consistent with global emission pathways with no or limited overshoot of the 1.5°C goal, global net anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions need to decline by about 45% from 2010 level by 2030, reaching net zero around 2050. For limiting global warming to below 2°C, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions need to decrease by about 25% from 2010 level by 2030 and reach net zero around 2070.
  - In terms of **adaptation priorities**, the NDCs illustrate that Parties continue to focus on food production and nutrition security; freshwater resources; terrestrial and wetland ecosystems; human health; key economic sectors and services; disaster risk management and early warning; human habitats and urban areas; coastal areas and sea level rise; ocean ecosystems; and livelihoods and poverty.
  - Almost all Parties outlined **domestic mitigation measures** as key instruments for achieving mitigation targets of their NDCs and/or targets for sectors or areas, such as energy supply, transport, buildings, industry, agriculture, LULUCF and waste. Renewable energy generation was the most frequently mentioned, followed by measures for energy efficiency improvement.
  - Parties frequently indicated waste-to-energy, improved management of manure and herds, and fluorinated gas substitution as **key mitigation options relevant to reducing non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**. Parties often linked measures to the concept of circular economy, incl. reducing and recycling waste. Carbon pricing was identified as efficiently incentivising low-carbon behaviours and technologies by putting a price on GHG emissions.
  - In terms of measures for **enhancing carbon sequestration in soil or vegetation**: afforestation, reforestation and revegetation, sustainable forest management, reduced deforestation and forest degradation were most frequently indicated. Many developing country Parties referred to reducing deforestation as a priority with high mitigation potential, incl. by implementing REDD+ activities.
  - **Adaptation actions and economic diversification plans with mitigation co-benefits** include afforestation and reforestation activities, climate-smart agriculture, reducing food waste, vertical farming, adapting coastal ecosystems, conservation plans for protected areas, nature-based solutions, increasing the share of renewable

sources in energy generation, improving energy efficiency, carbon dioxide capture and storage, fuel switch and fuel price reforms in the transport sector, and moving to circular economy for better waste management.

- The **main areas of technology needs** were energy, agriculture, water, waste, transport, climate observation and early warning.
  - **Capacity-building** was identified as a prerequisite for NDC implementation, esp. in formulating policy, integrating mitigation and adaptation into sectoral planning processes, accessing finance.
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- A new [analysis by Climate Action Tracker](#) finds that **none of the largest greenhouse gas emitting countries have made sufficient plans** to meet what they agreed to in the 2015 Paris agreement and that the world is heading towards 3C temperature increase if present trends continue.
  - According to the UK and to Oxfam, **developed country governments will fail to provide the promised USD 100 billion a year in climate finance**, as current pledges and announced plans amount to yearly USD 93-95 billion by 2025 and [OECD figures](#) released on 17 September show that only USD 79.6 billion were mobilised in 2019.
  - A report was published in September on “[Climate Action to Transform Food Systems](#)”, ahead of the UN Food System Summit, by CGIAR, the World Food Programme and other international groups or funds. It looks at how food systems transformation is an essential aspect of climate action and sets out how to align climate action with efforts to promote more sustainable food systems. It also gives examples of emerging and established Climate Risk Reduction and Management initiatives able to reduce risks in food systems that are aggravated and compounded by climate change, while protecting livelihoods.
  - [IFAD’s Rural Development Report 2021](#) released on 21 September focuses on “**Transforming food systems for rural prosperity**.” It describes the systemic issues that have led to the situation we are in, identifies priorities for transforming our food systems, and provides recommended actions to achieve meaningful change.
  - In its report “[Forests, Food Systems, and Livelihoods: Trends, Forecasts, and Solutions to Reframe Approaches to Protecting Forests](#)” issued on 16 September, the Tropical Forest Alliance tracks the relationship between the rising demand for food and agricultural products and deforestation. It paints a picture of increasing demands on tropical forest landscapes, especially as yearly consumption of food and agriculture products rose at more than twice the rate of the increase in human population from 2001 to 2018. Recommendations made to tackle deforestation include combining supply- and demand-side measures as well as market and public policy measures.
  - The [Global Tree Assessment](#) was published on 1 September by Botanic Gardens Conservation International, presenting the conservation status of every known tree species worldwide. It shows that 30% of wild tree species are threatened with extinction, posing a risk of wider ecosystem collapse. The main causes are forest clearance for agriculture, logging, fires, residential and commercial developments, invasive pests and diseases, as well as climate change. Seven commodities cause half of worldwide deforestation: palm oil, soy (mostly for animal feed), cattle, wood fibre, cocoa, coffee and rubber.
  - A new [report on “A Multi-Billion-Dollar Opportunity: Repurposing agricultural support to transform food systems”](#) issued jointly by the FAO, the UNEP and the UNDP on 14 September, shows that approx. 87% of the world’s agricultural subsidies are harmful to people and the planet, while distorting the price of food. USD 470 billion worth of these subsidies annually are damaging the world’s ability to feed a growing population because they are economically and environmentally unsustainable. Among the heaviest subsidies, beef, milk, rice, and sugar are among the most emission-intensive to produce.
  - The [report “Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration”](#) published by the World Bank Group on 13 September consists of projections and analysis of internal climate migration for three new regions: East Asia and the Pacific, North Africa, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It finds that as early as 2030, some countries could see the emergence of migration “hotspots” –cities that will experience either a large influx or outflux of migrants as a result of climate, and that unchecked climate change could lead 216 million people to migrate within their own countries by 2050.
  - The report “[Last line of defence – The industries causing the climate crisis and attacks against land and environmental defenders](#)” released in September by Global Witness shows that 227 people were killed in 2020 while trying to protect forests, rivers and other ecosystems their livelihoods depended on, mostly in Colombia, Mexico, the Philippines and Brazil.

- A new study on “[Intergenerational inequities in exposure to climate extremes](#)”, published *Science*, shows that that a person born in 2020 will endure an average of 30 extreme heatwaves in their lifetime under a scenario that follows current climate pledges – seven times more than someone born in 1960. The study, based on extreme event projections from climate models, population and life expectancy data and global temperature trajectories, highlights a severe threat to the safety of young generations.

## CALENDAR



### Trainings, webinars, e-learning

- Trainings on “[Greening EU Cooperation I: The Basics](#)” and “[Greening EU cooperation II: Key Tools and instruments](#)”: these trainings present the rationale and tools for the integration of environment and climate change in EU development cooperation (incl. policy basis, latest facts and figures, the implications of the European Green Deal and international commitments).
- The online **workshop** “[Circular economy policy and business solutions to e-waste challenges in Africa at World Resource Forum \(WRF\) 21](#)” on 14 October aims to highlight opportunities for increasing circularity in Africa's e-waste value chain and it will illustrate best practices, highlight learning opportunities (notably from partnerships between formal and informal e-waste management actors), and provide recommendations on attracting investment for e-waste recycling across Africa. It is organised by the EU SWITCH to Green Facility and is part of the WRF 21 dialogue.
- The **Series of webinars N° 4** on "Greening EU Cooperation" organised by DG INTPA will include:
  - 26/10: Webinar N°1: Supporting national partners in greening public finance
  - 16/11: Webinar N°2: Integrated landscape management supporting a green and just transition
  - 23/11: Webinar N°3: Green & Sustainable cities
  - 30/11: Webinar N°4: Updates on Green Deal policy developments
  - 7/12 Webinar N°5: Zero Pollution Action Plan

All webinars in the series will be announced on [Capacity4Dev](#), registrations will be open from early October.

- Webinar on “[The Consumption Footprint indicator: assessing the environmental impact of the consumption patterns of EU, Member States and citizens](#)” (7 October, [Consumption Footprint Platform](#) already available). The webinar will aim at presenting this life-cycle assessment-based set of indicators, designed to monitor the evolution of the environmental impacts of EU production and consumption, to compare them against the limits of our planet and help in a transition towards sustainable production and consumption patterns.
- Presentation of the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) by DG SANTE on 6 October (and available on demand via EU Learn).



### Upcoming Events, conferences, meetings

- **4 October:** online discussion on “[EU methane legislation – How to reduce the unabated by 2030](#)” co-hosted by the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union and Deutsche Umwelthilfe, under the auspices of Jutta Paulus MEP
- **11-15 October:** high-level opening of [UN Biodiversity Conference](#) (COP 15) and online conference. The second part of the conference will be held in in-person in April-May 2022
- **12 October:** [World Migratory Bird Day](#)
- **12 October:** EP online event on “[49% renewables in buildings by 2030 – How to get there?](#)” organised by the intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (referred to below as EP intergroup)
- **14 October:** EP intergroup online event: “[The future of fighting against wildlife trafficking in Europe](#)”
- **14 October:** online event for the [Paper Launch “Greenhouse gas emissions from burning US-sourced biomass in the EU and UK”](#) released by Chatham House and Woodwell Climate Research Center
- **16 October:** [World Food Day](#)
- **27 October:** EP intergroup online event “[Greening raw materials policy](#)” in the context of the Circular Economy Action Plan
- **1-12 November:** Climate [COP26](#), Glasgow
- **5 November:** ‘[Forests, Food, Finance - Solutions for a Healthy Planet](#)’ discussions convened by the Global Landscape Forum with the UK Government on the sidelines of COP26

- **6 November:** [International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict](#)
- **16-18 November:** UNEP conference [SEA of Solutions 2021 on “Accelerating solutions to reduce plastic waste”](#)
- **1 December:** EP intergroup online event [“Boosting the Sustainable Products’ Initiative in the EU”](#)
- **5 December:** [World Soil Day](#)

## Past events, conferences, meetings

- **30 August:** [Biodiversity PreCOP](#) - a virtual event hosted by the Government of Colombia gathering States, international organizations, multilateral banks, women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities to discuss priorities and expectations for an ambitious and effective global biodiversity framework, with a focus on sustainable consumption and production patterns, mainstreaming and means of implementation.
- **1 September:** launch of the UNEP campaign [‘100 Days to #BeatPlasticPollution’](#), aiming to mobilise digitally-connected youth to adopt habits that will help turn the tide on the plastic pandemic.
- **1 September:** [Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution](#): the final statement highlighted the need for a Global Agreement.
- **2 September:** Online event [“Food. Nature. People”](#) on nature-positive solutions for food production.
- **3-11 September:** [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) in Marseille: high level presence incl. Commissioner Timmermans and Christine Lagarde from IMF. High-level event on biodiversity on the sidelines of the IUCN Congress, with the launch of the NaturAfrica initiative.
- **7 September:** [International Day of Clean Air for blue skies](#) on the theme of #HealthyAirHealthyPlanet
- **7 September:** EMG Nexus Dialogue on [“Sustainable Recovery through Sustainable Fashion: A Focus on the Environmental Dimensions”](#)
- **7 September:** The [Climate Vulnerable Forum](#) issued a [manifesto](#) on 7 September, calling for COP26 to deliver a [“Climate Emergency Pact”](#) to rebuild confidence in international climate cooperation.
- **13-15 September:** [UN High-level dialogue on energy](#)
- **13-15 September:** [World Circular Economy Forum](#) which will be held virtually in Canada
- **15 September:** [Accelerating sustainability in the textile value chain, inspiring action and behaviour change](#) - online side event that will be held by UNEP at the upcoming World Circular Economy Forum
- **14 September:** first [High Level Meeting of the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency](#).
- **16 September:** [Energy Action Day](#) – a UNEP online event
- **16 September:** [World Ozone Day](#)
- **21 September:** [Launch of UrbanShift: Transforming Cities for People and Planet through Integrated Urban Development](#), organised online as part of New York City Climate Week 2021
- **21-23 September:** [76th annual United Nations General Assembly](#), incl. on the agenda topics related to investments and financing for sustainable development, implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through sustainable consumption and production, as well as the implementation status of SDGs related to DRR, climate change, desertification, biological diversity, etc.
- **22 September:** [Leaders’ Pledge for Nature high-level event: “Transformative Action for Nature and People”](#), in the margins of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly. Government leaders and partners will present transformative initiatives, policies and financing to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030, incl. the announcement by our DG of the doubling of biodiversity financing.
- **23 September:** [UN Food System Summit](#)
- **22-23 September:** [GLF Amazonia: The Tipping Point - Solutions from the Inside Out](#), the largest-ever global conference on the Amazon Biome organised by the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF)
- **28 September:** EP online event on [“How cutting methane emissions quickly can slow global warming”](#): MEP Maria Spyraiki announced an EU inventory on methane emissions by end 2021, covering agriculture (biggest emitting sector) and the waste sector. Methane is responsible for 28% of all emissions (40% from livestock and crops) but is 80% more warming than CO<sub>2</sub>. This is based on a previous study published by the Environment Defense Fund [“Cutting Methane Emissions Quickly Could Slow Climate Warming Rate by 30%”](#).
- **28 September – 12 October:** [‘Take action for people and planet’](#), an online event organised by the UNEP, as part of the [#AnatomyofAction media challenge](#). The aim is to raise awareness and encourage more sustainable lifestyles, esp. considering that households are responsible for approximately 70% of GHG emissions.
- **29 September:** [International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste](#)

## Where to find more info?

- The new interactive [Platform on Life Cycle Assessment](#) (LCA) developed by the JRC offers a knowledge base for business and policy needs towards sustainable production and consumption.
- A new [study and interactive site “Rivers of Food”](#) was launched by the WWF: it highlights that 1/3 of global food production depends on rivers and outlines the four key ways that rivers support global food production, including freshwater fisheries, deltas, irrigation and flood recession agriculture.
- The new [Compendium of WHO and other UN guidance on health & environment](#) is a comprehensive collection of guidance from over 400 documents. It provides an overview and easy access of 500 actions and covers a broad range of areas such as air pollution, water, sanitation and hygiene, climate change, chemicals, radiation, or food systems.
- The **OECD** is developing a [new global Observatory on Financing Water Supply, Sanitation and Water Security](#), with the aim to create a repository of good practice, peer-to-peer learning, and horizon scanning for new developments related to financing water.
- As a reminder, you can find a lot of Green Deal documents here: P:\Green Deal or [online](#). Find [here](#) the Infographics of Green Deal TA facilities.

## Green (Deal) tip #5 – Greening your mobility

- 😊 The [European mobility week](#) was launched in September, with activities running until November. Don't miss the opportunity to rethink your travel habits! You can even book a hands-on training session in [multimodal commuting](#) in Brussels. If you ride your bike, look into the [Cycling safety advice](#) by Brussels-Capital Region, and more tips and useful websites in the June edition of the Green Deal Newsletter.

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