



What's New?

On the sidelines of the [UN General Assembly](#) held in New York on 21-26 September:

- The “[Countdown to COP15: Landmark Leaders’ Event for a Nature-Positive World](#)” was convened on 20 September. [New commitments](#) were unveiled:
 - Chancellor Scholz announced that Germany will increase its biodiversity funding massively to EUR 1.5 billion per year, “to send a strong signal for an ambitious outcome of the biodiversity COP15”. This represents an increase of EUR 0.87 billion from the German’s average funding planned over 2016-2020.
 - Ecuador, Gabon, the Maldives and the UK presented the [10 Point Plan for Financing Biodiversity](#). The EU supported it.
 - Australia announced that they are joining the [Leaders’ Pledge for Nature](#) endorsed by 93 countries.
 - Denmark pledged over USD13 million to support developing countries having experienced losses caused by climate disruptions, becoming the first country to offer "loss and damage" compensation.
- Additionally, President von der Leyen announced at the Global Citizen Festival on 24 September that the **doubling of the Commission's funding to global biodiversity will amount to EUR 7 billion (2021-27)**.
- Vice-President Timmermans attended the **UN ministerial meeting on shaping an Africa-led Just and Equitable Energy Transition**, where he emphasised that Africa can develop its own energy resources and sell not only green hydrogen but also green steel to the world.
- On 21 September 2022, UN Secretary-General and the President of Egypt convened an [Informal High-Level Roundtable on Climate Change](#) ahead of COP 27 in Sharm el-Sheikh:
 - Leaders agreed that COP 27 must be a milestone for the delivery of concrete progress and outcomes.
 - On adaptation and finance, they called on developed countries to provide clarity on how they intend to double adaptation finance to USD40 billion a year, as well as for concrete actions to remove barriers and simplify access to climate finance, particularly for highly indebted developing countries. The critical role of Multilateral Development Banks and International Financial Institutions in supporting transition was recognised, but meaningful reforms are still needed to ensure that these institutions take more risk, increase private finance mobilisation and deliver adaptation support to all developing countries.
- The [Global Food Security Summit](#) was held on 20 September, bringing together leaders from 18 countries, representing all regions, to step up international cooperation in response to the global food crisis. While over 100 United Nations Member States have endorsed the [Roadmap for Global Food Security – Call to Action](#) launched last June, leaders highlighted the need for additional donations. They also urged to accelerate efforts to build sustainable and resilient agricultural sectors and food systems, incl. via a just and equitable energy transition and investments in research and technology.
- A meeting of the [UN Global Early Warning Initiative to Implement Climate Adaptation](#) was organised by the World Meteorological Organisation on 21 September. As 3.3 to 3.6 billion people live in contexts highly vulnerable to climate change and global temperatures continue to rise, this meeting stressed the importance for the international community to act to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within the next five years.

- In her [State of the Union address](#) to the European Parliament on 14 September, President von der Leyen stressed, among other topics, the need to invest further in renewable energy, esp. hydrogen, and to lead globally on climate adaptation and protecting our nature
- At a High-level roundtable on the margins of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings, jointly organised by Commissioners Urpilainen and Sinkevičius on 14 October, the World Bank mentioned that **nature loss is ranked among the top 3 highest financial risks** for government and business leaders in the next 10 years horizon, and there is a USD700 billion investment gap per year. They also stressed that ODA alone cannot address this financial gap, it should be linked with eliminating/redirecting harmful subsidies and increasing synergies between biodiversity, climate and development finance.
- The **World Bank** has introduced a **new umbrella trust fund for results-based climate initiatives**, which includes providing grants to low-income countries that are on target in reducing carbon emissions.
- The UN General Assembly has designated **13 October** as **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction** to promote a global culture of disaster risk reduction.
- At the **Africa Adaptation Summit** in Rotterdam on 5 September, the main outcome was to outline a 5-point “[Adaptation Breakthrough for Africa at COP27](#)”, recognising that Africa is at a tipping point, still not having recovered from the Covid crisis driving 25 million persons into poverty and the food crisis all the more severely felt as Africa imports 80% of its food. It also restated that Africa is the most vulnerable continent to climate change, while causing less than 3% of GHG emissions. Doubling adaptation finance as agreed at COP26 is crucial, incl. by capitalising the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP), incl. the USD250 million resourcing need of the AAP’s Upstream Financing Facility.
- **Australia passed its landmark [Climate Change Bill](#)** on 8 September, in which it reaffirms its target to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 43% from 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero by 2050.
- The **U.S. aim to deploy 15GW of floating offshore wind capacity by 2035** and deep-water leases will be offered specifically for floating wind projects – building on the country’s existing goal of 30GW of offshore wind by 2030. However, should Republicans gain a congressional majority in the November midterm elections, they might target implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act passed this summer and its billions in energy and climate spending.
- **Historic [net-zero international flight goal](#) by 2050** was agreed on 7 October regarding carbon emissions by 193 States, following two weeks of intensive diplomacy at the UN agency’s 41st Assembly.
- Due to the **drought in the Horn of Africa**, more than [3.5 million children are at risk of dropping out of school](#) according to UNICEF.
- On 19 September, Greenpeace, the WWF and other organisations such as and Transport & Environment **[demanded a review of the decision to include gas and nuclear power in EU’s taxonomy](#)**. If not done by February, the groups said they will take the case to the European Court of Justice.
- A group of environmental organisations has [called for World Bank President to be fired](#) following remarks he made on 20 September on whether he believed in human-driven climate change. David Malpass responded that he is not a climate denier.
- [Climate activists are "baffled"](#) over Egypt's decision to have Coca-Cola –a major plastic producer, sponsor COP27 to be held next November in Sharm el-Sheikh.

EU Policy Developments

NEW

- On 13 September, the EP adopted extensive [amendments on the proposal for a Regulation on commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation](#). These amendments aim to expand the scope of the proposed regulation.
- The European Parliament voted a [resolution on a New EU Forest Strategy for 2030 – Sustainable Forest Management in Europe](#) on 13 September. The EP stressed the urgent need to protect and increase forest and ecosystem resilience, incl. through measures to increase the capacity to adapt to climate change, as well as the need to reduce the EU's consumption of wood. The EP insisted that monocultures, which are less resilient to pests and diseases, should not be supported by EU funds.
- The EP adopted on 15 September a [resolution on the Consequences of drought, fire, and other extreme weather phenomena: increasing the EU's efforts to fight climate change](#). *Inter alia*, it:
 - Underlines that the EU must continue to adapt its food systems in order to make them more resilient in the long run, incl. with drought-resistant varieties and more sustainable water use in agriculture.
 - Highlights the positive role of agroecology, agroforestry and organic production systems in safeguarding water and diversifying production to avoid total crop failures.
 - Stresses the impact of the climate crisis on biodiversity and ecosystem resilience, and the subsequent impacts for public health - therefore insisting on the importance of a One Health Approach.
 - Calls for a comprehensive EU water strategy, incl. guidelines on the management of transnational shared river basins, and with the aim to ensure a balanced prioritisation between water uses.
 - Calls for closer cooperation with international partners on the issue of droughts, wildfires and other climate change impacts and calls on the EU to strive for enhanced dialogue incl. at COP27, in order to exchange knowledge (e.g. via early warning systems) and mutually improve drought management.
- MEPs voted on 14 September to raise the share of renewables in the EU's final energy consumption to 45% by 2030, under the [revision of the Renewable Energy Directive](#) (RED) – a target also backed by the European Commission under its "RepowerEU" package.
- MEPs also backed the [revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive](#) (EED), that sets energy-saving targets in both primary and final energy consumption in the EU. MEPs raised the EU target for reducing final and primary energy consumption: MS final energy consumption is reduced collectively by at least 40% by 2030 and 42.5% in primary energy consumption compared to 2007 projections. In the transport sector, deploying renewables should lead to a 16% reduction in GHG emissions, via higher shares of advanced biofuels and a higher quota for renewable fuels of non-biological origin such as hydrogen.
- [Council Conclusions on Climate Finance](#) were adopted on 4 October 2022. *Inter alia*, they:
 - Highlight progress on EU initiatives on Sustainable Finance and on climate mainstreaming in the EU budget
 - Highlight the persistent challenge for partner countries to mobilise sustainable finance at scale and affordable costs.
 - Renew the strong commitment made by the EU and MS to deliver on the collective USD100 billion per year climate finance mobilisation goal
 - Stress the need to address loss and damage associated with negative impacts of climate change, and welcome the launch of the Glasgow Dialogue as well as initiatives such as the G7 Global Shield against Climate Risks.
- The [Commission Work Programme for 2023](#) was adopted on 18 October, incl. further Green Deal actions:
 - a comprehensive reform of the EU electricity market
 - a new European Hydrogen Bank
 - action to reduce waste and the environmental impact of waste, with a focus on food and textile waste
 - a comprehensive framework for sustainable food systems, including enhanced animal welfare legislation

- further greening freight transport
 - a targeted revision of the legislation on the registration, evaluation and authorisation of chemicals.
- The Commission adopted on 4 October the [Youth Action Plan in EU external action for 2022-2027](#) –the first-ever policy framework for a strategic partnership with young people around the world to build a more resilient, inclusive and sustainable future. It includes tools to enable the participation of young people in decision-making and policy dialogues on climate, environment and disaster risk reduction.

COMING
SOON

- **Council Conclusions on Biodiversity** were [discussed in July](#) during an informal ENVI meeting and will be adopted at Environment Council meeting on 24 October. They should ensure a strong and ambitious position for the EU at the UN Biodiversity Conference to be held in Montreal in December, also in view of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) expected to be adopted during the conference.
- A **Communication on fertilisers** is expected to be adopted on 9 November.
- **Zero pollution package (Q4)** incl.:
 - A revision of the Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging
 - Revised lists of surface and groundwater pollutants for integrated water management
 - A revision of EU ambient air quality legislation
 - A revision of Annexes IV and V of the Regulation on Persistent Organic Pollutants (REFIT)
- **Plastics package (Q4)** incl.:
 - Policy framework for bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics
 - Restriction on microplastics
 - Measures to reduce the release of microplastics in the environment
- **Circular Economy Package II (Q4)** incl.:
 - Review of the Packaging and packaging waste directive;
 - Proposal for a Regulation on substantiating environmental claims using the Product/ Organisation Environmental Footprint methods
 - Review of the Urban Wastewater Treatment directive
- **Climate measures package (Q4)** incl.:
 - EU framework for harmonised measurement of transport and logistics emissions
 - A review of the CO2 emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles
 - Carbon removal certification
- **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (Q4)**, providing for nearly 50,000 EU companies to comply with detailed EU sustainability reporting standards – compared to the 11,000 companies currently subject to existing requirements. Those companies will have to report on how sustainability issues affects their business and the impact of their activities on people and the environment.
- [Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the conversion of the Farm Accountancy Data Network into a Farm Sustainability Data Network](#) (Q4): this initiative will expand the scope of current data collecting, to include data on their environmental and social practices, which will improve the sustainability of EU farmers, in line with the objectives of the CAP, the Green Deal and its farm to fork and biodiversity strategies.

New Reports and publications

- A [ground-breaking study](#) published in *Science* on 9 September shows that “**Exceeding 1.5°C global warming could trigger multiple climate tipping points**”.

- Climate Tipping Points (CTPs) are conditions beyond which changes in a part of the climate system become self-perpetuating. Triggering CTPs leads to significant, policy-relevant impacts, including substantial sea level rise and carbon release.
 - The study identifies 9 global “core” tipping elements which contribute substantially to Earth system functioning: the collapse of the Greenland ice sheet, Arctic, West and East Antarctic ice sheets, collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation and of convection in the Labrador and Irminger seas, dieback of the Amazon rainforest, permafrost collapse, coral reef die-off; as well as 7 regional “impact” tipping elements which can affect substantially human welfare, incl. the boreal forest die-off and changes to the west African monsoon.
 - It shows that the Paris Agreement goal of limiting warming to preferably 1.5°C is not safe as 1.5°C and above risks crossing multiple tipping points. Currently we head towards 2 to 3°C.
 - 5 CTPs are within their lower range of possibility at current warming of ~1.1°C (esp. ice sheet collapse and sea circulation collapse), while 6 CTPs become likely at 1.5 to <2°C warming, incl. die-off of the Amazon rainforest and of coral reefs, and widespread abrupt permafrost thaw.
- The [Living Planet Report 2022](#) published by WWF in October on the state of global vertebrate wildlife populations warns of a **“code red” situation for the planet and humanity**, esp. given:
 - A shocking 69% decrease in monitored wildlife populations around the world between 1970 and 2018
 - Latin America shows the greatest regional decline in average population abundance (94%)
 - Freshwater species populations face the greatest overall global decline (83%)
 - Land-use change, esp. for agriculture, is the biggest current threat to nature, destroying or fragmenting the natural habitats of many plant and animal species on land, in freshwater and in the sea.
 - Climate change is likely to become the dominant cause of biodiversity loss in the coming decades if we are unable to limit warming to 1.5°C: rising temperatures are already driving mass mortality events, as well as the first extinctions of entire species.
 - Achieving net-zero loss for nature is not enough: there is a need for a nature- or net-positive goal to restore nature and not simply halt its loss.
 - The **Amazon is facing a tipping point crisis** as deforestation and high degradation combined have already reached 26% of the region, with resulting savannisation, as revealed by a report published by COICA/RAISG/Stand. Earth: [“Amazonia against the clock: a regional assessment on where and how to protect 80% by 2025”](#). The loss of Amazonian ecosystems also threatens to cause the extinction of up to 1 million species, while putting also at risk the lives of indigenous and local communities.
 - In a new study released on 5 September, [“Hunger in a heating world: how the climate crisis is fuelling hunger in an already hungry world”](#), the NGO Oxfam examined 10 of the world’s worst climate hotspots, afflicted by drought, floods, severe storms and other extreme weather. It found their **rates of extreme hunger had more than doubled in the past 6 years**.
 - Global warming made **extreme droughts 20 times more likely in the Northern Hemisphere in 2022**, according to a [new report](#) released by World Weather Attribution on 4 October. For West-Central Europe, that human-induced climate change made the 2022 root zone soil moisture drought about 3-4 times more likely, and the surface soil moisture drought about 5-6 times more likely.
 - In another [report](#) published on 19 October, Oxfam estimates that the **“true value” of climate finance** provided in 2020 was only USD21-24.5 billion against a reported figure of USD68.3 billion provided by richer countries –whereas the global climate finance target is supposed to be USD100 billion a year. Oxfam research found that instruments such as loans are being reported at face value, ignoring repayments. Currently, loans are dominating over 70% provision of public climate finance, adding to the debt crisis. Moreover, funded projects often have less climate-focus than reported.
 - The annual [“WMO Air Quality and Climate Bulletin”](#) is the report in which the World Meteorological Organisation analyses the state of air quality and its connections to climate change, reflecting on the geographical distribution of and changes in the levels of traditional pollutants. This year, it shows more specifically how **wildfires worsen air quality**, with wide-ranging consequences for both human health

and ecosystems. Due to climate change, an increase of 50% in the number of wildfires is expected by 2100, a scenario not yet considered by existing air quality control strategies.

- The Global Mangrove Alliance released its [annual report “The State of the World’s Mangroves 2022”](#), a compilation of the most current information available on mangrove forests and action to reverse the downward trends impacting coastal trees and local communities who depend on them. It explains that Mangroves are the most efficient carbon capture and storage systems on the planet – currently storing carbon equivalent to over 21 billion tons of CO₂. Preventing just 1% of mangrove loss would lock 200 million tons of carbon instead of releasing it in the atmosphere, with benefits for biodiversity and for local fishing activity, as well as increased protection against storms and floods.
- The [Global Registry of Fossil Fuels was launched](#) on 19 September by Carbon Tracker and Global Energy Monitor – as the first public database of emissions from reserves, production and use. Its [analysis reveals](#) that 3.5tn tons of GHG will be emitted if some countries allow their reserves of coal, oil and gas to be extracted and used. The US and Russia have enough fossil fuel reserves to single-handedly use the world’s remaining carbon budget (400-500bn tons) before reaching 1.5°C, while the total of these countries (incl. China, Australia and India) have enough fossil fuel to exceed this budget 7 times over.

Calendar



Upcoming

- **6-18 November:** [UN climate change conference 2022 \(COP 27\)](#) in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt
- **5-17 December:** [15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties \(COP 15\) to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#) in Montreal, Canada
- **21 March:** [International Day of Forests](#)
- **22 March:** [World Water Day](#)
- **22-24 March:** [UN Water Conference](#) in New-York
- **March 2023:** Climate and environment week organised by DG INTPA with EU Delegations
- **22 April:** [Earth Day](#)



Past

- **7-9 September:** [World BioEconomy Forum 2022](#), with talks on climate and climate mitigation
- **20 September:** [Countdown to COP15: Landmark Leaders’ Event for a Nature-Positive World](#)
- **5-7 October:** [9th OECD Forum on Green Finance and Investment](#), virtual conference
- **12 October:** [World Migratory Bird Day](#)
- **13 October:** [International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)
- **16 October:** [World Food Day](#)

Training and e-learning

Trainings, webinars, e-learning

- Webinar on [Sustainable Forest Management \(SFM\) in EU International Partnerships](#) (self-enrolment)
- Quick tips to integrate environment and climate change into key water sectors: available for [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene](#), and for [Water Resources Management](#)

- 🌱 'European Green Deal - Greening EU cooperation' webinar series N°6:
[Greening EU Cooperation](#) – the other 5 series of webinars
- 🌱 The [E-course on Circular Economy](#) (5 modules)

Tools available

- 🌱 The [Global Registry of Fossil Fuels](#) is the world's first database for tracking global fossil fuel production, oil and gas reserves, as well as emissions. Based on data for more than 50,000 fields in 89 countries, it proposes interactive maps and graphs incl. on production scenarios or carbon intensity (emissions).
- 🌱 The [Copernicus Sentinels](#) are a series of next-generation Earth observation missions developed by the European Space Agency on behalf of the European Commission/Copernicus, respectively covering 1: land and ocean monitoring, 2: vegetation, soil and coastal areas, 3: marine observation, 4, 5 and 5P: air quality monitoring incl; atmospheric measurements, 6: sea-surface height measurements.
- 🌱 The [Global Mangrove Watch](#) is an online platform based on remote sensing data and tools for monitoring mangroves. It offers interactive maps showing where and what changes there are to mangroves across the world.

Green tip #13 – Switch off!

Here are a few tips to save energy in the office or when teleworking:

- **Switch off** your computer and other appliances at the end of the day, incl. your docking station at the office and your router/modem at home. It will also help you to disconnect!
- **Switch off the light** when you leave a room, or even work without them if the daylight is enough.
- **Unplug** "vampire electronics" once they are fully charged, e.g. your cell phone or your laptop. Once fully charged, they will still draw in energy if they are left plugged in.
- Choose "**Hibernate**" in the Power menu (the one you use to switch off your computer) when you make a break during the day or leave for a meeting. It will save energy use.
- **Avoid screen savers** as they are considered "energy wasters": your computer must provide twice as much energy to light up your computer screen when the screensaver option is turned on.
- **Use the Wi-Fi** instead of your mobile data whenever possible, as it is approximately 50 to 60% more energy-efficient than a 4G connexion. 5G is even more energy-consuming. If you know you'll be out of a Wi-Fi zone, think of doing your downloads beforehand when you're still on Wi-Fi.
- In meetings, **prefer audio** as it can save 5 to 10 times more bandwidth and energy consumption compared to the video. You can just switch on your camera when you need to talk.
- **Switch off the air conditioning** in your office and/or lower the heating level (even at home, 18°C can very well do!). **Wear 'seasonal' clothes**, the same way you buy seasonal fruit and veggies!

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