



What's New?

- The [UN Climate Ambition Summit](#), held on 20 September alongside the UN General Assembly in New York, aimed to showcase “first movers and doers” from government, business, finance, local authorities and civil society, to accelerate the decarbonisation of the global economy and deliver climate justice, in line with the United Nations Secretary-General’s [Climate Action Acceleration Agenda – a Roadmap for a Liveable Planet](#). The [Chair’s Summary](#) highlighted some countries’ actions and policies, including:
 - Bringing forward deadlines to net zero (Barbados, Austria, Iceland, Cook Islands, Denmark, Nepal, Portugal).
 - Setting and implementing more ambitious targets for their current NDCs (Brazil, Vietnam) and preparing economy wide NDCs with absolute emissions cuts for the next cycle (Thailand, Palau).
 - Moving to cleaner energies, incl.: no new coal and the acceleration of phasing out (Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Thailand and Vietnam), full phasing out of oil and gas (Colombia, State of California, Denmark, Marshall Island, Tuvalu), a ban on oil and gas expansion (Denmark, Iceland), the end of fossil fuel subsidies and a new policy to cap emissions by the oil and gas sector (Canada), the acceleration of the deployment of renewable energy (Austria, Cook Islands, Estonia, Pakistan, Palau, Portugal, Tuvalu), enhanced carbon pricing policies (Canada, EU).
 - Supporting climate justice including by meeting the USD 100 billion goal, replenishing the Green Climate Fund (with new contributions esp. from France, Spain, Slovakia and Iceland), operationalising the new loss and damage fund and ensuring universal early warning systems coverage by 2027 or earlier. The GCF committed to provide up to USD 1 billion to support the Early Warnings for all initiative if the 2nd replenishment is successful.
 - Two new Partnerships launched to deliver adaptation finance at pace and scale as part of the Secretary-General’s Adaptation Pipeline Accelerator: Tuvalu-Australia and Dominican Republic-Spain, aiming to provide a platform for governments, public and private financiers, and other stakeholders to transform the adaptation priorities of vulnerable developing countries into a pipeline of projects that are attractive for public and private investment.
 - The International Energy Agency’s announcing emission cuts needed to keep 1.5-aligned pathways: from 2022-2030, 19% for steel, 18% for aluminium and 21% for cement; from 2022-2050, respectively for the 3 sectors: 91%, 97% and 97%.
- Ahead of the Summit, the 20 members of the **High Ambition Coalition**¹ issued a [statement](#) at the UN General Assembly on 19 September, expressing their position ahead of COP28. Leaders more particularly:
 - Draw attention to this year’s unprecedented heat, floods, wildfires, cyclones and droughts –happening at just 1.1°C of warming; and emphasise that the Synthesis Report of the Global Stocktake must spur faster, stronger action to respond to the climate crisis.
 - Caution against using abatement technologies to green-light fossil fuel expansion and instead prioritise restoring and protecting carbon sinks and emphasise the need for drastic adaptation efforts worldwide.
 - Call for solidarity in mobilising trillions in climate finance because no country should have to choose between fighting poverty and fighting for our planet.

¹ Austria, Barbados, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, the Federated States of Micronesia, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Kenya, Marshall Islands, the Netherlands, Palau, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Spain, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

- Kicking off the UN General Assembly (UNGA) High-level Week, the **SDG Summit** held on 18-19 September adopted a [political declaration](#) reaffirming Member States' continued resolve and shared commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs. Heads of State and government *inter alia*:
 - Stress that the crisis of climate change and its impacts threaten the planet and people (incl. drought and extreme weather events, land loss and degradation, sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and the retreat of mountain glaciers, biodiversity loss, desertification, pollution, including plastic, air, and chemical pollution).
 - Resolve to address water scarcity, incl. availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
 - Recommit to making fundamental changes in consumption and production patterns.
 - Stress the urgency of enhancing ambition for climate action in terms of adaptation and mitigation – resolving to take concrete steps toward the operationalization of the new funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage by COP 28, and to promote a disaster risk-informed approach to sustainable development at the local, national, regional and global levels.
 - Commit to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 – welcoming the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as well as GBF Fund and calling for its timely operationalisation and capitalisation from all sources.
 - Commit to an integrated and coordinated approach to conserve, protect and restore the ocean, its ecosystems and its biodiversity.
- The **landmark high seas treaty, BBNJ**, agreed in June, was **open for signature** on 20 September at the UNGA
- The UN General Assembly also convened on 20 September its second [High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development](#) (FfD) since the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, with the aim to encourage public and private investment to align with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to promote innovative initiatives that target gaps in FfD. The SDG financing gap is at USD 3.9 trillion a year with a need to:
 - Support the [SDG Stimulus](#), for scaling up financing and investment in the SDGs by at least \$500 billion per year, primarily by massively scaling up affordable long-term financing by the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).
 - Create an effective debt workout mechanism, including by rechanneling an additional USD 100 billion of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), primarily through the MDBs.
 - Align national budgets with the SDGs.
- The [Africa Climate Summit](#) was held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 September. In the [African Leaders' Nairobi Declaration and Call to Action](#), Heads of State, *inter alia*:
 - Recall that Africa is not historically responsible for global warming, but bears the brunt of its effects, impacting lives, livelihoods, and economies.
 - Express their concern that despite Africa having an estimated 40% of the world's renewable energy resources, only USD 60 billion - i.e. 2% - of renewable energy investments in the last decade have come to Africa.
 - Call for the operationalisation of the Loss & Damage fund as agreed at COP 27 and resolve for a measurable Global Goal on Adaptation.
 - Call upon the international community to contribute to increasing Africa's renewable generation capacity from 56GW in 2022 to at least 300GW by 2030.
 - Propose for consideration a new SDR issue for climate crisis response of at least the same magnitude as the Covid19 issue (USD 650 billion).
 - Request better leveraging of the balance sheets of MDBs to scale up concessional finance to at least USD 500 billion per year.
 - Improve debt management, including 'debt pause clauses', the Global Expert Review on Debt, Nature and Climate proposed on the occasion of the Paris Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, measures to crowd in and de-risk private capital, such as blended finance instruments.
 - Urge world leaders to rally behind the proposal for a global carbon taxation regime including a carbon tax on fossil fuel trade, maritime transport and aviation.
 - Resolve to establish the Africa Climate Summit as a biennial event convened by African Union.

During the Africa Climate Summit, President von der Leyen and President of Kenya Ruto [launched](#) the **Green Hydrogen Strategy and Roadmap for Kenya**, with the support of Global Gateway.

- At the **G20 summit** in New Delhi on 9-10 September, Heads of State's [reaffirmed](#) their commitment to:
 - Take action for the effective implementation of the G20 2023 Action Plan to Accelerate Progress on the SDGs.

- Urgently address environmental crises, accelerate clean, sustainable, just, affordable and inclusive energy transitions, to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Lifestyles for Sustainable Development.
- Achieve the goal of mobilising jointly USD 100 billion climate finance per year by 2020, and annually through 2025 – calling on Parties to set an ambitious, transparent and trackable New Collective Quantified Goal (of climate finance in 2024 and endorsing the multi-year G20 Technical Assistance Action Plan and the voluntary recommendations made to overcome data-related barriers to climate investments.
- Implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the G20 Global Land Initiative and to end illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, in line with the Ocean 20 Dialogue.

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva [said](#) at the end of the summit that "G20 members must lead by example in **delivering on the promises of USD 100 billion per year for climate finance**, supported by strengthening the multilateral development banks".

- The **15th BRICS Summit** was held in South Africa from 22-24 August 2023 under the theme, 'BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism.' On sustainable development, in the [Johannesburg II Declaration](#), leaders *inter alia*:
 - Recognise the importance of implementing the SDGs in an integrated and holistic manner, *inter alia* through poverty eradication as well as combating climate change whilst promoting sustainable land use and water management, conservation of biological diversity, and the sustainable use of its components and the biodiversity and the fair and equitable sharing of related benefits.
 - Undertake to strive towards the implementation of all the global goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, in accordance with the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and national circumstances, and urge developed countries to provide adequate means of implementation.
 - Advocate for just equitable and sustainable transitions to a low carbon and low-emission economy, based on nationally defined development priorities, and emphasise the need for enhancing low-cost technology transfer and for additional financial resources from developed countries.
 - Welcome Brazil's candidacy to host COP30 as the year 2025 will be key to the very future of the global response to climate change.
- A new **UN global framework to reduce environmental risks from chemicals and waste** was [adopted](#) at a UN conference on 30 September. Based around 28 targets, it is designed to improve responsible management of chemicals and waste. These targets also aim to establish stronger connections with other important global agendas, including climate change, biodiversity, human rights and health.
- In her [State of the Union Speech](#) of 13 September, President von der Leyen stressed the reality of a burning planet. She recalled that the European Green Deal remains key for prosperity and announced the following initiatives for 2024:
 - Organise a series of Clean Transition Dialogues with the industry to develop an approach for each industrial ecosystem, including agriculture.
 - Propose a European Wind Power package to help alleviate challenges of the EU's wind industry; fast-track permitting even more and improve the auction systems.
 - Launch an anti-subsidy investigation into electric vehicles coming from China.
 - Launch a strategic dialogue on the future of agriculture in the EU.

The President also mentioned clean energy and green hydrogen as key areas to be developed.

- As her SOTEU speech omitted to mention the Farm to Fork strategy, **22 European NGOs** [urged](#) **President von der Leyen not to abandon the proposal for an EU legislative Framework for Sustainable Food Systems**, initially scheduled for the third quarter of this year.
- Under the Global Gateway umbrella, the EU [committed](#) on 15 September to **boost the Amazon Rainforest Protection Plan**. The Team Europe Initiative will coordinate EUR 260 million already pledged by Spain, Italy, Sweden, France, Germany and the Netherlands to curb deforestation in the Amazon.
- Meeting in Brussels on 28 September, the implementation body of the **Ghana-EU Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) on Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT)**, which brings together Ghanaian public authorities in charge of forest administration, the private sector, civil society and the European Commission, reached an [agreement](#) on the last steps towards issuing FLEGT licences, marking

a new chapter in the battle against illegal timber trade. Ghana will be the first country in Africa and second worldwide to provide the EU with export licences that verify the legality of their timber products.

- [French President Macron launched a 50-point ecological plan](#) on 25 September to reduce France's greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 and end the use of coal-fired power plants by 2027. Other measures include the acceleration of electric car production, new projects for offshore windfarms, and a map related to hydrogen gas and raw materials in France to lithium batteries.
- Prince **Mohammed bin Salman** [launched](#) the **Global Water Organization** on 4 September. It will have its headquarters in Riyadh and aims at enhancing global efforts to secure sustainable water resources.
- **Brazil's supreme court has blocked efforts to dramatically strip back Indigenous land rights** in what activists called a [historic victory](#) for the Brazil's original inhabitants and for the environment.
- In a Common Summit held in Cartagena (Colombia) beginning of September, several **public development banks, including the EIB, [committed](#) to working together on a Blue Finance Roadmap** to take rapid action on the protection and sustainable use of the ocean.
- The **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** is set to **make climate finance its top lending priority**, with plans to allocate USD 7 billion to 8 billion annually by 2030.
- Urgewald, a campaign group that tracks global fossil fuel finance, [estimates](#) that around USD 3.7 billion supplied by the **World Bank** in trade finance in 2022 **ended up funding oil and gas developments**.
- The world's **first methanol-powered cargo ship** was named by President von der Leyen at a [ceremony](#) held in Copenhagen in September. The Danish shipping and logistics company Maersk expects to operate a total of 25 green methanol-powered vessels by 2030.

EU Policy Developments

NEW

- On 1 October, the [Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism \(CBAM\) entered into application](#) in its transitional phase. It aims to equalise the price of carbon between domestic products and imports.
 - In its transitional phase, CBAM will only apply to imports of cement, iron and steel, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity and hydrogen. EU importers of those goods will have to report on the volume of their imports and the GHG emissions embedded during their production, but without paying any financial adjustment at this stage.
 - As of 2026, importers will need to buy and surrender the number of "CBAM certificates" corresponding to the GHGs embedded in imported CBAM goods. Detailed [reporting rules](#) were adopted on 17 August.
- The Commission adopted **measures that restrict microplastics intentionally added to products**, by [amending on 25 September Annex VII to the Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals \(REACH\) as regards synthetic polymer microparticles](#). The new rules will prevent the release to the environment of about half a million tonnes of microplastics.
- The Council adopted on 25 September its [position](#) on the proposed ["Euro 7" regulation](#), adopted by the Commission on 10 November 2022. It sets more adequate **rules for vehicle emissions from cars, vans, buses and trucks**, as well as limits for non-exhaust emissions such as particles from brakes and tyres.
- The European Parliament [approved the RefuelEU aviation rules](#) on 13 September, as part of the "Fit for 55 package", with the aim to increase the uptake of sustainable fuels in the aviation sector.
 - This new legislation plans that 70% of jet fuels at EU airports will have to be green by 2050.
 - The term 'sustainable aviation fuels' will include synthetic fuels, certain biofuels produced from agricultural or forestry residues (but not from crops), algae, bio-waste, used cooking oil or certain animal fats. Recycled jet fuels produced from waste gases and waste plastic are also considered 'green'.

- As of 2025, there will be an EU label for the environmental performance of flights, indicating the expected carbon footprint per passenger and the expected CO₂ efficiency per kilometre.
- MEPs also [adopted the update of the Renewable Energy Directive](#) on 12 September, which should lead to a 14.5% reduction by 2030 in greenhouse gas emissions of the transport sector, by using a greater share of advanced biofuels and increased use of renewable fuels of non-biological origin, such as hydrogen.
 - Renewables will have to make up 42.5% of the EU's energy consumption by 2030, with the aim of achieving 45%.
 - The legislation will also speed up procedures to grant permits for new renewable energy power plants, such as solar panels or wind turbines, or to adapt existing ones.
- The EP Industry Committee [adopted the Critical Raw Materials Act](#) on 7 September to secure the EU's transition towards a sustainable, digital and sovereign future. It will promote innovation along the entire value chain, support SMEs and boost research and development of alternative materials and more environmentally-friendly mining as well as production methods, while aiming to recycle at least 45% of each strategic raw material contained in waste.

COMING
SOON

- [Legislative Framework for Sustainable Food Systems](#) (FSFS), one of the flagship initiatives of the Farm to Fork Strategy, expected to be adopted end of 2023. Its goal is to accelerate the transition to sustainable food systems and to promote policy coherence at EU level and national level, while strengthening the resilience of food systems.

New Reports and publications

- A UN ground-breaking report, "[Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together](#)", was released on 13 September.
 - It finds that the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement are mutually reinforcing and that advancing their implementation simultaneously can have significant co-benefits for both agendas, with evidence pointing to the synergies between climate action and 80% of the SDG targets.
 - It highlights that numerous barriers are to be addressed, relating to knowledge (e.g. lack of methodologies, data, capacity), political and institutional (incl. governance, short-term political cycles) and economic (e.g. inadequacy of funding and competing priorities).
 - It recommends *inter alia* to enhance collective resilience through collaboration and cooperation with international organisations; develop a framework for action and use it to ensure a just transition; address the large investment gaps in the climate and development agendas; utilise COP 28 in Dubai to initiate and accelerate synergistic action on climate and SDGs and make it an essential part of reporting by Parties; prioritize the role of synergies in the work of the UN and international financial institutions, including an improved system for sharing information to help countries in their reporting responsibilities, enhanced cross-sectoral engagement in the UN's intergovernmental and capacity building efforts, and focused attention on climate and development synergies as well as climate resilient development pathways in the IPCC AR 7.
- A new [planetary boundaries framework update](#), "**Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries**", released by Science Advances on 13 September, shows that our planet is now well outside of the safe operating space for humanity:
 - Still in the green "safe" operating zone: stratospheric ozone levels; ocean acidification – however close to being breached; atmospheric aerosol loading – regionally exceeding the boundary.
 - In the yellow to red zone of increasing risk: freshwater change and land system change.
 - Climate change appears in between the red zone for CO₂ concentration and purple high-risk zone for radiative forcing (earth warming).
 - 3 other boundaries can be found in the purple high-risk zone: novel entities (e.g. synthetic chemicals and substances, anthropogenically mobilised radioactive materials, GMOs), biosphere integrity (genetic diversity) and biogeochemical flows (anthropogenic perturbation of global element cycles of nitrogen and phosphorus, especially by agriculture and industry).

- The UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released a new [report, “United in Science 2023”](#) on 14 September, which is a multi-organisation **high-level compilation of the latest weather-, climate- and water-related sciences and services for sustainable development**.
 - It shows that insufficient progress towards climate goals is slowing down the global fight against poverty, hunger and deadly diseases, as extreme weather events are a key factor in the spread of global hunger and economic impact. WMO also underscores the importance of the UN Early Warnings for All initiative aiming to ensure that everyone on Earth is protected from hazardous weather, water, or climate events through life-saving early warning systems by the end of 2027.
- A scientific [article](#) published in *Nature* on 23 August shows that “**Tropical forests are approaching critical temperature thresholds**”. The combination of climate change and local deforestation may already place the hottest tropical forest regions close to, or even beyond, a critical thermal threshold. Scientists urge to combine ambitious climate change mitigation goals and reduced deforestation to ensure that these important realms of carbon, water and biodiversity, stay below thermally critical thresholds.
- A new assessment [report by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service](#) was approved at IPBES 10 in September on **Invasive Alien Species (IAS)**. Key messages include:
 - IAS pose major global threats to nature – playing a key role in 60% of global plant and animal extinctions, as well as to food security, human health and economies – with an estimated cost of USD 423 billion.
 - IAS-related threats are increasing markedly in all regions of the world.
 - Management of biological invasions can reduce the number and impact of IAS, including initiatives on prevention and preparedness, eradication, containment and control, and adaptive management.
 - Integrated governance can limit the global problem through closer collaboration and coordination across sectors and countries; open and interoperable information systems to improve coordination and effectiveness; and increasing public awareness, engagement, and capacity building.
- New [research](#) by the High Level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy found that **ocean-based climate solutions can deliver up to 35% of the emissions cuts needed by 2050** to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, a significant increase from previous estimates.
 - These cuts could be obtained through the following actions in 7 sub-sectors: conserving and restoring coastal and marine ecosystems, scaling ocean-based renewable energy, decarbonising ocean-based transport, utilising low carbon ocean-based protein to reduce emissions from global diets, developing marine carbon dioxide removal and carbon capture and storage under the seabed, decarbonising ocean-based tourism, reducing offshore oil and gas.
- The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child issued on 28 August **new [guidance](#) affirming children’s right to a clean, healthy environment**.
- The FAO released its report on [Tracking progress on food and agriculture-SDG indicators 2023](#), including a detailed analysis for SDGs 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 14 and 15. The main findings are:
 - Food insecurity has increased significantly from 25.3% of the global population in 2019 to 29.6% in 2022. The proportion of persons facing chronic hunger in 2022 was about 9.2%, compared with 7.9% in 2019.
 - Although stunting has declined from 26.3% in 2012 to 22.3% in 2022, below the global target. In 2022, 6.8% children under 5 years of age were affected by wasting.
 - In 1/3 of the countries with available data, less than 50% of women and men have ownership or secure rights over agricultural land.
 - In 2021, the share of countries facing moderately to abnormally high food prices was 21.5%, down from the record high of 48% in 2020, but still above the 2015–2019 average (15.2%).
 - Water use efficiency increased from 2015 levels, especially in Oceania and Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia.
 - Global fish stocks are threatened by overfishing, pollution, poor management and other factors, including illegal fishing, with more than one-third of global stocks overfished in 2019.
 - Sustainability of global fishery resources has declined from 90 percent in 1974 to 64.6 percent in 2019.
 - Large forest area losses occurred over the past 20 years in Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, in particular in LDCs. Agricultural expansion is the direct driver of almost 90% of global deforestation, mostly for livestock grazing in Latin America and cropland expansion in sub-Saharan Africa.

- The UN Secretary-General issued a report on [“Making food systems work for people and planet - UN Food Systems Summit +2”](#) at the occasion of the UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment end of July, for which 101 countries submitting voluntary country reports, incl. from 35 countries classified as lower middle income and 19 classified as low-income. Among the highlights:
 - 70% of countries indicated their efforts to establish or strengthen food systems governance, particularly among low- and low-middle-income countries.
 - Regional-level initiatives emerged particularly in relation to harmonizing food safety standards and promoting trade unions (e.g. the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Pacific Community, the Association of Agricultural Research Institutions in the Near East & North Africa).
 - Low-income countries are the most challenged in mobilising financing and assessing financing gaps. In response, IFAD and the World Bank have developed a methodology to help decision-makers track Financial Flows to Food Systems (3FS).
 - The 3FS analysis of ODA conducted together with the OECD, shows that between 2018 and 2020, development partners increased ODA to food systems by about 10%, whereas in 2021 it decreased by 3 points.
 - African countries highlighted the significance of maximising benefits derived from regional free trade agreements, while encouraging the repurposing of unsustainable subsidies and incentives.
 - Many countries mentioned initiatives to boost nature-based solutions, including agroecology, organic farming, conservation agriculture and agroforestry, combined with land restoration, water management and soil health.
 - Challenges remain in funding, including by consolidating the currently fragmented finance architecture, in technical capacity and infrastructural gaps.
 - As a way forward, the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report emphasised the need for strategies that identify and minimize barriers to food systems transformation.
 - National Strategies and Development Plans can ensure that food systems are at the heart of actions for the 2030 Agenda and national climate commitments.

- [Data](#) analysed by the Copernicus Climate Change Service show **new heat records for summer 2023**:
 - Warmest June-July-August globally, with an average temperature of 16.77°C, 0.66°C above average. The European-average temperature for summer was 19.63°C, 0.83°C above average, and record-breaking high sea surface temperature anomalies in the North Atlantic and for the global ocean.
 - Above-average precipitation over most of western Europe and Türkiye, western and north-eastern North America, parts of Asia, Chile and Brazil, and north-western Australia.
 - In contrast, Iceland, the Alpine arc, northern Scandinavia, central Europe, large parts of Asia, Canada, southern North America and most of South America experienced drier-than-average conditions leading to wildfires.

- According to a [preliminary analysis](#) by the US National Snow and Ice Data Center, **the Antarctic sea ice reached a new record low**, with a maximum of 16.96 million km² on 10 September –about 1 million km² below the previous record low maximum set in 1986. Scientists explain that the loss of sea ice has far-reaching consequences for the planet, as sea ice helps protect the land-based ice from entering the ocean, while reflecting the sun’s energy back out to space. With receding sea ice, sea levels and global warming are both likely to increase more.

Calendar



Upcoming

- **16-20 October:** FAO [World Food Forum](#) in Rome
- **16-20 October:** [2023 Nutrition for Resilience Global Conference](#) “Ensuring Micronutrient Security in an Era of Complex Global Challenges”, to be held in a hybrid format in The Hague, Netherlands and online
- **23-27 October:** [2023 Circular Week](#)
- **30 November-12 December:** [COP28](#) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Past

- **24-26 July:** UN Food System “2023 Stocktaking Moment” (see summary in the textbox below)
- **9 August:** [International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples](#)
- **4-6 September:** [Africa Climate Summit](#), on the theme “Driving green growth & climate finance solutions for Africa and the world”
- **7 September:** [International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies](#)
- **18-26 September:** [UN General Assembly High-level week](#)
- **18-19 September:** [UN SDG Summit](#) - convened during the United Nations General Assembly - to review implementation of 2030 Agenda & SDGs
- **20 September:** FAO [High-level event on agrifood systems transformation](#), on the sidelines of UNGA
- **29 September:** [International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste](#)
- **12 October:** Biodiversity breakfast organized by the WB together with the Commission and the EIB to exchange on ways to ensure financing for nature and more to move from financing green projects to financing green economies, in a context of scarce resources (using e.g. bonds, debt swaps, translating nature into financing strategies, taxonomies, carbon markets, valuing nature and biodiversity services...).

- The [UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment](#) took place in Rome from 24 to 26 July, gathering 180 countries to measure progress made.
 - Since 2021, 126 countries adopted national pathways and 155 appointed food systems national convenors, demonstrating their commitment to transforming food systems.
 - 101 countries submitted voluntary progress reports, on the basis of which the UN Secretary-General issued a report on "[Progress on food systems transformation since the UN Food Systems Summit 2021](#)" (see more details under Reports below).
 - António Guterres made a [Call to Action for accelerated Food Systems Transformation \(FST\)](#), in which he called on leaders in governments, IFIs, farmer associations, business, civil society, scientific institutions, youth, indigenous farmers and the media to prioritize the implementation of future food systems around 6 areas (incorporating food systems strategies into national policies; food systems governance; research, data, innovation and technology; inclusion of women, young people and indigenous peoples; engagement of businesses; access to short and long-term finance, investments, budget support and debt restructuring).
 - The Secretary-General highlighted that a minimum of USD 15 billion of immediate investments should be made available, in collaboration with the IMF, the WB and IFIs, to provide countries with urgent support and social protection, in particular in African countries where hunger is twice the global average.
 - He called for the full operationalisation of the UN Global Crisis Response Group recommendation for a Food Import Facility and of the LDC 5 Food Stockholding Mechanism and stressed that trade barriers, harmful subsidies and export restrictions must be avoided, while ensuring the openness, integrity, market transparency and resilience of supply chains.
 - He recommended to align the implementation of national food systems transformation pathways with the continuous updates of National Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs) for climate action. As a priority, this should include the adaptation of food systems to climate change and ecosystem service losses, and investments in building the resilience of agricultural systems.

Training and e-learning

Training, webinars, e-learning

In case you missed them, you can catch up on European Green Deal series and other ‘greening’ courses:

- ‘European Green Deal - Greening EU cooperation’ webinar series N° 7:
 - [Non-Timber Forest Products and their Value Chains](#)
 - [Tracking climate and biodiversity funding – how to use Rio markers](#)

- [Accelerating the Circular Economy Transition](#)
- [Water & Energy Nexus](#)
- [Introduction to Carbon Markets](#)

🌱 [Greening EU Cooperation](#) – the series of webinars

🌱 The [E-course on Circular Economy](#) (5 modules)

More information can be found on Capacity4Dev group on Environment, Climate Change and Green Economy: [EU Trainings and Webinars](#) | [Capacity4dev \(europa.eu\)](#)

Tools available

- The [Copernicus Climate Change Service \(C3S\)](#): implemented by the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts on behalf of the European Commission, it publishes monthly climate bulletins on changes in global surface air temperature, sea ice cover and hydrological variables.

Green tip #20 – Green your search engine!

You may have noticed that the migration to the Welcome environment led to an automatic reset to Bing as your default search browser. In the other proposed browsers that you can choose from in the system, you will also find DuckDuckGo, which allows to make searches without being tracked online or targeted by ads. You might also want to switch to a **greener browser** such as **Ecosia**, which commits to plant trees for all the searches you make (they have already planted 150 million trees in over 35 countries).

- To change your browser (in only a few minutes):
 1. Perform a search in the address bar using the search engine you want to set as default (Ecosia or another one).
 2. Click on the 3 dots at the upper right corner of the screen and select “Settings”.
 3. On the left side on the screen, select “Privacy, search, and services”.
 4. Scroll down the page to reach the “Services” table, click on the arrow corresponding to “Address bar and search”.
 5. In the 3rd table, under “Search engine used in the address bar”, click on the scroll-down menu on the right (where Bing appears as default), to choose Ecosia in the list or another search engine you have opened in step 1.

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