

The
G7 Research Group
at the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy at Trinity College
in the University of Toronto presents the

2019 G7 Biarritz Summit Final Compliance Report

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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit



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19. Environment: Biodiversity

“Leaders endorsed the G7 Metz Charter on Biodiversity and committed to take swift action on biodiversity, either individually or jointly, in the run up to COP15 [15th Conference of the Parties] of the Convention on Biological Diversity.”

Metz Charter on Biodiversity

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.88 (94%)	

Background

Biodiversity loss is amongst the most serious risks facing the globe today due to land-use change, over-exploitation of natural resources, pollution, invasive alien species and climate change. Between 2010 and 2015, natural forests declined by 6.5 million hectares per year, and natural wetlands declined by 35 per cent between 1970 and 2015.³⁸⁵⁸ In addition, over 30 per cent of corals are now at risk from bleaching, and 60 per cent of vertebrate populations have disappeared since 1970.³⁸⁵⁹ The Germany Presidency in 2007 elevated biodiversity on the G8 agenda through the Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, which outlined specific activities concerning science, industry, trade, funding and marine protection to reduce significantly the loss of biodiversity to 2010. This initiative developed and implemented national targets and strategies to achieve the 2010 target and beyond.³⁸⁶⁰

In 2008 the Japanese G8 presidency ensured, through its Kobe Call for Action, that biodiversity remained high on the political agenda. Building on this, G8 Environment Ministers released the Carta di Siracusa on Biodiversity during their meeting in Sicily in 2009, which pledged to consider investments in green infrastructure and highlighted the initial elements for a post-2010 biodiversity target.³⁸⁶¹

In May 2019, G7 members acknowledged the importance of biodiversity in “playing a vital role in maintaining life-sustaining systems” and released the Metz Charter on Biodiversity, building upon

³⁸⁵⁸ Biodiversity: Finance and the Economic and Business Case for Action, OECD (2019), Report prepared for the G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting, 5-6May 2019. Access Date: 24 November 2019.

<https://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/biodiversity/G7-report-Biodiversity-Finance-and-the-Economic-and-Business-Case-for-Action.pdf>

³⁸⁵⁹ Biodiversity: Finance and the Economic and Business Case for Action, OECD (2019), Report prepared for the G7 Environment Ministers’ Meeting, 5-6May 2019. Access Date: 24 November 2019.

<https://www.oecd.org/environment/resources/biodiversity/G7-report-Biodiversity-Finance-and-the-Economic-and-Business-Case-for-Action.pdf>

³⁸⁶⁰ Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety, Government of Germany, March 2007. Access Date: 24 November 2019.

https://www.bmu.de/fileadmin/bmu-import/files/english/pdf/application/pdf/potsdam_initiative_en.pdf

³⁸⁶¹ A boost for biodiversity from the G8, International Union for Conservation for Nature, 27 April 2009. Access Date: 24 November 2019. <https://www.iucn.org/content/boost-biodiversity-g8>

previous initiatives, including the outcomes of 14th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Sharm El Sheik in 2018 and the Sharm El Sheik Declaration. It noted that most of the CBD's Aichi Biodiversity Targets were not on track to be achieved by 2020, and would jeopardize the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the UN 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals, emphasizing that urgent action was required.³⁸⁶²

Commitment Features

The Metz Charter is a broad document that incorporates a number of aspects linked to pressures on biodiversity. This includes habitat change, deforestation and forest degradation, the spread of invasive alien species, terrestrial and marine pollution (including by microplastics and nutrients), over exploitation of natural resources (including overfishing, illegal logging, poaching and illegal trade in wildlife) and climate change.³⁸⁶³ Given this, there are numerous policies and actions related to the above that can be counted towards compliance for this commitment such as efforts at reforestation and habitat protection. Actions can also be within the scope of the Paris climate agreement to address climate mitigation and resilience, the G7 Oceans Plastics Charter to address marine litter or any others seen to address biodiversity loss through nature or science-based solutions, governance and law enforcement, planning, conservation policies, ecosystem-based management and knowledge development and sharing.³⁸⁶⁴

Swift implementation denotes actions and tools that are implemented in an ambitious manner that are in line with 2030 Agenda and take into account the speed and scale of biodiversity loss, climate change, natural disasters and threats to the ecosystem. These actions can be taken in partnership with other countries and stakeholders or individually in order to be considered compliant.³⁸⁶⁵ Actions that count towards compliance can be a policy framework, or a policy working group aimed at biodiversity policy implementation. Individual or joint financial, or policy implementation efforts to take swift action to enhance, or improve current biodiversity strategies, policies, action plans and research programs. Financial allocation, and fiscal policy action is also able to count towards compliance. For compliance efforts towards policies that offer co-benefits to other global challenges are included, such as those regarding climate change, ecosystem protection and disaster risk reduction.

To achieve full compliance, G7 members must take action in three main areas. The first is to take efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies. The second is to take efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity. The final area is to take efforts that offer co-benefits to another global challenge, such as climate change, ecosystem degradation and natural disasters.

To achieve a score of 0, or partial compliance, G7 members must take action towards two of the three aforementioned areas of strengthening and improving current biodiversity strategies, taking efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity, and taking efforts that offer co-benefits to another global challenge, such as climate change, ecosystem degradation and natural disasters

A score of -1, or non-compliance will be assigned to a G7 member who takes action in one of the three aforementioned areas. A score of non-compliance will also be assigned if a G7 member fails to take any action towards any of the three aforementioned areas.

³⁸⁶² Metz Charter on Biodiversity, 6 May 2019. Access Date: 14 October 2019. https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf

³⁸⁶³ Metz Charter on Biodiversity, 6 May 2019. Access Date: 14 October 2019. https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf

³⁸⁶⁴ Metz Charter on Biodiversity, 6 May 2019. Access Date: 14 October 2019. https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf

³⁸⁶⁵ Metz Charter on Biodiversity, 6 May 2019. Access Date: 14 October 2019. https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/2019.05.06_EN_Biodiversity_Charter.pdf

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G7 member has taken action in only one of the three components of strengthening and improving current biodiversity strategies, addressing the main pressures of biodiversity offering co-benefits to another global challenge.
0	G7 member has taken action in two of the three components of strengthening and improving current biodiversity strategies, addressing the main pressures of biodiversity offering co-benefits to another global challenge.
+1	G7 member has taken action in all three components of strengthening and improving current biodiversity strategies, addressing the main pressures of biodiversity offering co-benefits to another global challenge.

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Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 4 September 2019, then Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna announced CAD3 million in funding for the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc.³⁸⁶⁶ The funding will enable the company to implement new equipment to transform waste into biofertilizer and renewable energy.³⁸⁶⁷ The funding comes from the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund which supports projects that contribute to generate jobs, fuel clean growth and reduce emissions in Canada and is part of Canada's Climate Action Plan.³⁸⁶⁸

In October 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to plant two billion trees and reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.³⁸⁶⁹ To attain and measure progress towards the latter, Prime Minister Trudeau claims that his government would enact five-year targets.³⁸⁷⁰

From December 2 to 13, at COP25 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson announced CAD5 million to support World Bank's Partnership for Market Implementation.³⁸⁷¹ This funding will

³⁸⁶⁶ News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc, Government of Canada (Saint-Pie) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-centre-de-traitement-de-la-biomasse-de-la-monteregie-inc.html>

³⁸⁶⁷ News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc, Government of Canada (Saint-Pie) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-centre-de-traitement-de-la-biomasse-de-la-monteregie-inc.html>

³⁸⁶⁸ News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc, Government of Canada (Saint-Pie) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-centre-de-traitement-de-la-biomasse-de-la-monteregie-inc.html>

³⁸⁶⁹ The Carbon Brief Profile: Canada, The Carbon Brief (London) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.carbonbrief.org/the-carbon-brief-profile-canada>

³⁸⁷⁰ The Carbon Brief Profile: Canada, The Carbon Brief (London) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.carbonbrief.org/the-carbon-brief-profile-canada>

³⁸⁷¹ News Release: Canada announces support for new carbon-pricing initiative at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-announces-support-for-new-carbon-pricing-initiative-at-cop25.html>

support developing countries in the development and implementation of carbon pricing tools.³⁸⁷² This funding is part of Canada's CAD2.65 billion commitment to help developing countries adapt to climate change.³⁸⁷³

On 10 December 2019, at COP25, Minister Wilkinson welcomed six new members to the Powering Past Coal Alliance, including governments from the Philippine Province of Ilocos Norte, Greece and New Taipei City, and financial-sector actors.³⁸⁷⁴ The Powering Past Coal Alliance aims to encourage the phase out of traditional coal power.³⁸⁷⁵

On 11 December 2019, at COP25, Minister Wilkinson welcomed the newest endorsees of the Ocean's Plastic Charter Chile, Finland, Rwanda, and Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund.³⁸⁷⁶ The Plastics Charter brings together businesses, civil society organizations, and governments who are committed to take action against plastic pollution.³⁸⁷⁷

On 16 December 2019, the Government of Canada announced funding of CAD1.4 million to support efforts to safeguard the threatened Eastern Hemlock forests in the Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site.³⁸⁷⁸

On 20 December 2019, Minister Wilkinson, in collaboration with Natural Resources Minister Seamus O'Regan, announced plans for a strategic assessment process for new thermal coal mine projects under the Impact Assessment Act.³⁸⁷⁹

In January 2020, Canada has protected approximately 12 percent of inland waters and terrestrial areas has exceeded the target of protecting 10 percent of coastal and marine areas.³⁸⁸⁰ Thus, Canada is close to fulfilling Target 1 of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets set in 2015 in response to the

³⁸⁷² News Release: Canada announces support for new carbon-pricing initiative at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-announces-support-for-new-carbon-pricing-initiative-at-cop25.html>

³⁸⁷³ News Release: Canada announces support for new carbon-pricing initiative at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-announces-support-for-new-carbon-pricing-initiative-at-cop25.html>

³⁸⁷⁴ News Release: Canada welcomes new members to the Powering Past Coal Alliance at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-welcomes-new-members-to-the-powering-past-coal-alliance-at-cop25.html>

³⁸⁷⁵ News Release: Canada welcomes new members to the Powering Past Coal Alliance at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-welcomes-new-members-to-the-powering-past-coal-alliance-at-cop25.html>

³⁸⁷⁶ News Release: Canada spearheads global action to reduce plastic pollution at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-spearheads-global-action-to-reduce-plastic-pollution-at-cop25.html>

³⁸⁷⁷ News Release: Canada spearheads global action to reduce plastic pollution at COP25, Government of Canada (Madrid) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-spearheads-global-action-to-reduce-plastic-pollution-at-cop25.html>

³⁸⁷⁸ News Release: Government of Canada invests to protect Eastern Hemlock forests in Kejimikujik National Park and National Historic Site, Government of Canada (Maitland Bridge) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-invests-to-protect-eastern-hemlock-forests-in-kejimikujik-national-park-and-national-historic-site.html>

³⁸⁷⁹ News Release: Canada launches strategic assessment of thermal coal mining, Government of Canada (Gatineau) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 26 December 2019. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-launches-strategic-assessment-of-thermal-coal-mining.html>

³⁸⁸⁰ Meeting Canada's 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets, National Environmental Treasure (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.oursafetynet.org/2020/01/27/meeting-canadas-biodiversity-goals-and-targets/>

Aichi Biodiversity Targets and United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.³⁸⁸¹

On 18 January 2020, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD16.1 million to enable the Purcell Mountain Range to become a protected area by 2022-2023.³⁸⁸² The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Canada Nature Fund that supports Indigenous organizations, not for profits, territories and provinces that are protecting Canada's landscapes, ecosystems and biodiversity such as Species at Risk.³⁸⁸³

On 20 January 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced a funding of CAD100,000 for Assiniboine Park Conservancy and CAD100,000 for Eco-West Canada.³⁸⁸⁴ The funding will enable youth to raise develop skills and raise awareness of climate change and will allow small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to support communities in developing climate action plans.³⁸⁸⁵ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Climate Action Fund which annually provides up to CAD3 million to fund climate action and climate awareness projects by youth, students, indigenous peoples and organizations, small and medium sized-organizations and not for profits.³⁸⁸⁶

On 10 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced CAD200,000 to finance the inception of the FutureXChange program that supports 15 young Canadians to develop climate projects featuring climate policy and Indigenous Traditional Knowledge.³⁸⁸⁷ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Climate Action Fund to the Youth Climate Lab.³⁸⁸⁸

On 11 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced funding of up to CAD6 million that will finance the development of a composting centre in the City of Peterborough.³⁸⁸⁹ The composting

³⁸⁸¹ 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada, biodivcanada (Ottawa) n.d. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://biodivcanada.chm-cbd.net/2020-biodiversity-goals-and-targets-canada>

³⁸⁸² News Release: BC's Central Purcell Mountains part of Canada's largest investment in nature in Canadian history, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 January 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/01/bcs-central-purcell-mountains-part-of-canadas-largest-investment-in-nature-in-canadian-history.html>

³⁸⁸³ Canada Nature Fund, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/fund.html>

³⁸⁸⁴ News Release: New Climate Action Funding Announced for Youth and Businesses in Manitoba, Government of Canada (Winnipeg) 20 January 2020. Access date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/01/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-youth-and-businesses-in-manitoba.html>

³⁸⁸⁵ News Release: New Climate Action Funding Announced for Youth and Businesses in Manitoba, Government of Canada (Winnipeg) 20 January 2020. Access date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/01/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-youth-and-businesses-in-manitoba.html>

³⁸⁸⁶ News Release: New Climate Action Funding Announced for Youth and Businesses in Manitoba, Government of Canada (Winnipeg) 20 January 2020. Access date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/01/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-youth-and-businesses-in-manitoba.html>

³⁸⁸⁷ News Release: Government of Canada Announces Support for Youth Climate Lab, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 10 February 2020. Access date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-youth-climate-lab.html>

³⁸⁸⁸ News Release: Government of Canada Announces Support for Youth Climate Lab, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 10 February 2020. Access date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-youth-climate-lab.html>

³⁸⁸⁹ News Release: Government of Canada announces support for the City of Peterborough's Climate Action Initiatives, Government of Canada (Peterborough) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-city-of-peterboroughs-climate-action-initiatives.html>

centre will divert 32,000 tonnes of organic debris and create jobs in the city.³⁸⁹⁰ The funding is part of Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund³⁸⁹¹.

On 18 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced funding of CAD250,000 that will enable the Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region convene a meeting to raise awareness among and empower First Nations to lead climate action efforts in Yukon.³⁸⁹² The funding is part of the Climate Action Fund.³⁸⁹³

On 20 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson and Prince Edward Island's Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change Brad Trivers announced an investment of CAD1.4 million to conserve the 4400 hectares of forests, wetlands and other important habitat, expand protected areas and create more conservation areas in Prince Edward Island.³⁸⁹⁴ Notably, the funding will go towards protecting the province's old-growth forest that is home to many species at risk such as rusty blackbird and Canada warbler.³⁸⁹⁵ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Canada Nature Fund.³⁸⁹⁶

On 21 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced signed two agreements with the province of British Columbia and the West Moberly and Sauleau First Nations that will enables measures such as recreational management, habitat restoration and protection, and maternal penning to be implemented to recover and stabilize populations of the Southern Mountain Caribou.³⁸⁹⁷ The

³⁸⁹⁰ News Release: Government of Canada announces support for the City of Peterborough's Climate Action Initiatives, Government of Canada (Peterborough) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-city-of-peterboroughs-climate-action-initiatives.html>

³⁸⁹¹ News Release: Government of Canada announces support for the City of Peterborough's Climate Action Initiatives, Government of Canada (Peterborough) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

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³⁸⁹² News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region, Government of Canada (Whitehorse) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-assembly-of-first-nations-yukon-region.html>

³⁸⁹³ News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region, Government of Canada (Whitehorse) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-assembly-of-first-nations-yukon-region.html>

³⁸⁹⁴ News Release: The Government of Canada invests in protected areas in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/the-government-of-canada-invests-in-protected-areas-in-prince-edward-island.html>

³⁸⁹⁵ News Release: The Government of Canada invests in protected areas in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/the-government-of-canada-invests-in-protected-areas-in-prince-edward-island.html>

³⁸⁹⁶ News Release: The Government of Canada invests in protected areas in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/the-government-of-canada-invests-in-protected-areas-in-prince-edward-island.html>

³⁸⁹⁷ News Release: New conservation agreements signed to protect Southern Mountain Caribou in British Columbia, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/new-conservation-agreements-signed-to-protect-southern-mountain-caribou-in-british-columbia.html>

agreements are part of Section 11 of the Species at Risk Act and establish cooperation between Canada and British Columbia to recover the Southern Mountain Caribou.³⁸⁹⁸

On 21 February 2020, the Minister of Health Patty Hajdu, on behalf of the Minister Wilkinson, announced CAD100,000 in funding to enable 2900 students to attend events and participate in school programs that increase understanding and awareness of climate change.³⁸⁹⁹ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Climate Action Fund to Science North.³⁹⁰⁰

On 4 March 2020, MP for Windsor-Tecumseh Irek Kusmierczyk, on behalf of the Minister Wilkinson, announced funding of CAD125,000 to enable University of Windsor law students to organize two conferences in which members of the community and youth will learn legal features of climate change mitigation in municipalities.³⁹⁰¹ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Climate Action Fund.³⁹⁰²

On 4 March 2020, MP for Saint John-Rochesay Wayne Long, on behalf of Minister Wilkinson, announced an investment of CAD4 million that will fund the development of a heating and cooling system that uses renewable energy in a commercial complex in Saint John and enable energy retrofits to take place in 50 municipal buildings.³⁹⁰³ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund.³⁹⁰⁴

On 4 March 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced funding of up to CAD2.3 million that will enable the expansion of a biomass heating system to two additional buildings.³⁹⁰⁵ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund.³⁹⁰⁶

³⁸⁹⁸ News Release: New conservation agreements signed to protect Southern Mountain Caribou in British Columbia, Government of Canada (Vancouver) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/new-conservation-agreements-signed-to-protect-southern-mountain-caribou-in-british-columbia.html>

³⁸⁹⁹ News Release: New Climate Action Funding Announced for Science North, Government of Canada (Thunder Bay) 21 February 2020. Access date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-science-north.html>

³⁹⁰⁰ News Release: New Climate Action Funding Announced for Science North, Government of Canada (Thunder Bay) 21 February 2020. Access date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-science-north.html>

³⁹⁰¹ News Release: New climate action funding announced for Windsor law students, Government of Canada (Windsor) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-windsor-law-students.html>

³⁹⁰² News Release: New climate action funding announced for Windsor law students, Government of Canada (Windsor) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-windsor-law-students.html>

³⁹⁰³ News Release: Government of Canada announces support for the City of Saint John and Saint John Energy's Climate Change Initiatives, Government of Canada (Saint John) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-city-of-saint-john-and-saint-john-energys-climate-change-initiatives.html>

³⁹⁰⁴ News Release: Government of Canada announces support for the City of Saint John and Saint John Energy's Climate Change Initiatives, Government of Canada (Saint John) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-city-of-saint-john-and-saint-john-energys-climate-change-initiatives.html>

³⁹⁰⁵ News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Government of Yukon, Government of Canada (Whitehorse) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-government-of-yukon.html>

³⁹⁰⁶ News Release: Government of Canada supports climate action by the Government of Yukon, Government of Canada (Whitehorse) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-government-of-yukon.html>

On 6 March 2020, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD2 million to enable the Tłı̨ch̓ Government to establish more than 22,000 km² of conservation land between Great Slave Lake and Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories that is home to 16 species at risk including boreal caribou.³⁹⁰⁷ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Canada Nature Fund that supports Indigenous organizations, not for profits, territories and provinces that are protecting Canada's landscapes, ecosystems and biodiversity such as Species at Risk.³⁹⁰⁸

Canada has strengthened and improved current biodiversity strategies through efforts to safeguard the threatened Eastern Hemlock forests in the Kejimikujik National Park and has taken efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity through the Oceans Plastic Charter and Canada Nature Fund. Canada has also taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenge of climate change through, for instance, proposing targets for net-zero emissions by 2050, announcing federal funding for World Bank's Partnership for Market Implementation, and supporting projects through the Climate Action Fund.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Mavis Han

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP15] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 1 October 2019, France's Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Frédérique Vidal, and the German Minister of Education and Research, Anja Karliczek, announced the French-German version of the "Make our Planet Great Again" initiative at Musée du Quai Branly - Jacques Chirac.³⁹⁰⁹ The initiative enables researchers, entrepreneurs and members of civil society to cooperate and combat systemic challenges related to climate change.³⁹¹⁰

On 2-5 December 2019, at the Conference of the Parties to The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), France joined the European Union and 20 Mediterranean Coastal States to commit to making the Mediterranean Sea an Emission Control Area Zone.³⁹¹¹ Under this commitment, the Government of

³⁹⁰⁷ News Release: Government of Canada Partners with Tłı̨ch̓ First Nation to Protect Culturally Important Land in the Northwest Territories, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 March 2020. Access date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-partners-with-tcho-first-nation-to-protect-culturally-important-land-in-the-northwest-territories.html>

³⁹⁰⁸ Canada Nature Fund, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 16 April 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/nature-legacy/fund.html>

³⁹⁰⁹ Climate: new international projects, the Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-new-international-projects>

³⁹¹⁰ Climate: new international projects, the Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-new-international-projects>

³⁹¹¹ France welcomes the commitment of all Mediterranean countries to ensure low pollution from ships in the Mediterranean, the Government of France (Paris) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-welcomes-the-commitment-of-all-mediterranean-countries-to-ensure-low-pollution-from-ships>

France will only allow ships in the Mediterranean to use fuel with 0.1 per cent sulphur and will develop ports that use electricity and alternative fuels.³⁹¹²

On 2-5 December 2019, at the Conference of Parties to Barcelona Convention, signatories, including France, adopted new and updated strategies for the protection of monk seal, rays, and sharks in the Mediterranean.³⁹¹³ The signatories also established “Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)” in France, Italy, Spain, and Slovenia.³⁹¹⁴ The SPAMI sites also include a corridor for the movement of Cetaceans.³⁹¹⁵

On 19 December 2020, the ministers of agriculture of France, Germany and Spain issued a joint statement regarding the critical role of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the context of the European Green Deal.³⁹¹⁶ The joint statement made a reference to the deteriorating biodiversity in Europe and in response urged for the creation of a fixed minimum threshold for areas of ecological interest (GAEC 9).³⁹¹⁷ The CAP is the EU’s partnership between society and farmers in Europe and supports agriculture, livelihoods of farmers and promotes sustainable farming.³⁹¹⁸

On 20 January 2020, the Government of France opened public consultations for the National Low-Carbon Strategy (SNBC) and the Multiannual Energy Programme (PPE), which are France’s strategic plan for achieving the country’s carbon neutrality goal by 2050 and France’s trajectory of energy usage and consumption for the next decade, respectively.³⁹¹⁹ The draft SNBC and PPE have incorporated newest developments into their policy framework, notably including the adoption of the Energy-Climate Act in September 2019 and the Anti-Waste Act on 8 January 2020.³⁹²⁰ The SNBC and PPE are part of the French Strategy for Energy and the Climate which was presented in November 2018.³⁹²¹

³⁹¹² France welcomes the commitment of all Mediterranean countries to ensure low pollution from ships in the Mediterranean, the Government of France (Paris) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-welcomes-the-commitment-of-all-mediterranean-countries-to-ensure-low-pollution-from-ships>.

³⁹¹³ Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

³⁹¹⁴ Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>

³⁹¹⁵ Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>

³⁹¹⁶ Future CAP in the context of the European Green Deal, Government of France (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/future-cap-in-the-context-of-the-european-green-deal>

³⁹¹⁷ Future CAP in the context of the European Green Deal, Government of France (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/future-cap-in-the-context-of-the-european-green-deal>

³⁹¹⁸ The common agricultural policy at a glance, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cap-glance_en

³⁹¹⁹ French Strategy for Energy and the Climate: launch of public consultations, Government of France (Paris) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-strategy-for-energy-and-the-climate-launch-of-public-consultations>

³⁹²⁰ French Strategy for Energy and the Climate: launch of public consultations, Government of France (Paris) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-strategy-for-energy-and-the-climate-launch-of-public-consultations>

³⁹²¹ French Strategy for Energy and the Climate: launch of public consultations, Government of France (Paris) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 13 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/french-strategy-for-energy-and-the-climate-launch-of-public-consultations>

On 3 February 2020, the plans to establish a European EV Battery Sector and give rise to a French-German EV battery manufacturing facility were set in motion.³⁹²² The plans will support a low carbon economy, generate high-skilled jobs and revive France's manufacturing sector.³⁹²³

On 6 March 2020, the Governments of France, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, Sweden, Portugal, Spain, and Slovenia, along with NGOs and companies, signed a European Pact that takes action against plastic waste and promotes a low-plastic and circular economy.³⁹²⁴ Notably, the pact includes goals such as increasing the capacity of recycling by 25 per cent by 2025 and ensuring single-use plastics and plastic packaging include at least 30 per cent recycled plastic by 2025.³⁹²⁵

France has taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies through COP21 of the Barcelona Convention and has taken efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity through its commitments to tackle pollution in the Mediterranean, minimize the environmental impact of sporting events through the Charter 15 of eco-responsible commitments, and by the signing of the European Pact on plastic pollution. France has also taken efforts to offer co-benefits to the global challenge of climate change through the "Make our Planet Green Again" initiative and the French Strategy for Energy and the Climate.

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Minghan Sun

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In September 2019, the German Cabinet passed the Climate Action Programme 2030, a national strategy that aims to get Germany on track to reach its 2030 target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55 per cent of the 1990 levels.³⁹²⁶ Notable elements of the Climate Action Programme include a carbon pricing scheme on emissions from the heating and transport sectors, promotion programmes such as subsidies and grants to spur development of energy-efficient technology, increased federal investment in public transport and railways, and the phasing out of coal-fired power stations.³⁹²⁷

³⁹²² "Airbus-style consortium" for batteries: ambitious European plans are up and running, Government of France (Paris) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/airbus-style-consortium-for-batteries-ambitious-european-plans-are-up-and-running>

³⁹²³ "Airbus-style consortium" for batteries: ambitious European plans are up and running, Government of France (Paris) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/airbus-style-consortium-for-batteries-ambitious-european-plans-are-up-and-running>

³⁹²⁴ A European Pact to control use of plastic and promote a circular economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

³⁹²⁵ A European Pact to control use of plastic and promote a circular economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

³⁹²⁶ Climate Action Programme 2030, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/climate-action/klimaschutzprogramm-2030-1674080>

³⁹²⁷ Climate Action Programme 2030, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/climate-action/klimaschutzprogramm-2030-1674080>

On 1 October 2019, France’s Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation, Frédérique Vidal, and the German Minister of Education and Research, Anja Karliczek, announced the French-German version of the “Make our Planet Great Again” initiative at Musée du Quai Branly – Jacques Chirac.³⁹²⁸ The initiative enables researchers, entrepreneurs and members of civil society to cooperate and combat systemic challenges related to climate change.³⁹²⁹

On 15 November 2019, the Climate Action Programme was enshrined into legislation when it passed the vote in the lower house of the German Parliament.³⁹³⁰ The decision however was criticized by opposition party members and scientists as not being ambitious enough to allow Germany to achieve its 2030 targets.³⁹³¹

On 18 December 2019, the German Cabinet adopted the Federal Government of Germany’s Energy Efficiency Strategy 2050 that aims to limit the consumption of energy derived from fossil fuels.³⁹³² Specifically, the Strategy aims at reducing primary energy consumption in the industrial sector, creating tax incentives for household energy-saving measures, pursuing a national decarbonisation programme by investing in clean technology, and managing traffic more efficiently through increased usage of rail and electric vehicles.³⁹³³

On 19 December 2020, the ministers of agriculture of Germany, France and Spain issued a joint statement regarding the critical role of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the context of the European Green Deal.³⁹³⁴ The joint statement made a reference to the deteriorating biodiversity in Europe and in response urged for the creation of a fixed minimum threshold for areas of ecological interest (GAEC 9).³⁹³⁵ The CAP is the EU’s partnership between society and farmers in Europe and supports agriculture, livelihoods of farmers and promotes sustainable farming.³⁹³⁶

On 15 January 2020, the German Cabinet adopted the National Bioeconomy Strategy, an umbrella strategy that provides a coherent framework for the transition towards a biobased sustainable economic system.³⁹³⁷ This model of bioeconomy aimed at spreading the use of biological resources and eco-friendly production procedures to every aspect of the German economy.³⁹³⁸

³⁹²⁸ Climate: new international projects, the Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-new-international-projects>

³⁹²⁹ Climate: new international projects, the Government of France (Paris) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-new-international-projects>

³⁹³⁰ Germany Passes Climate-Protection Law to Ensure 2030 Goals, the New York Times (New York) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/15/world/europe/germany-climate-law.html>

³⁹³¹ Germany Passes Climate-Protection Law to Ensure 2030 Goals, the New York Times (New York) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 31 December 2019. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/15/world/europe/germany-climate-law.html>

³⁹³² The More Energy-efficient, the More Sustainable, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/neue-energieeffizienzstrategie-1708646>

³⁹³³ The More Energy-efficient, the More Sustainable, Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/neue-energieeffizienzstrategie-1708646>

³⁹³⁴ Future CAP in the context of the European Green Deal, Government of France (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/future-cap-in-the-context-of-the-european-green-deal>

³⁹³⁵ Future CAP in the context of the European Green Deal, Government of France (Paris) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/future-cap-in-the-context-of-the-european-green-deal>

³⁹³⁶ The common agricultural policy at a glance, European Commission (Brussels) n.d. Access Date: 17 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cap-glance_en

³⁹³⁷ For An Economy Based On Resource Cycle Management, Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/biooekonomie-1712668>

³⁹³⁸ For An Economy Based On Resource Cycle Management, Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/biooekonomie-1712668>

On 29 January 2020, the German Cabinet adopted the Act to Reduce and End Coal-Fired Power Generation, the draft legislation which outlined the Coal Commission's goal of completely ending coal-generated power in Germany by 2038.³⁹³⁹ The Coal Commission laid out a steady reduction plan distinguishing between an anthracite and lignite phase-out by 2030 and a coal-fired power phase-out by the end of 2038.³⁹⁴⁰

On 3 February 2020, the plans to establish a European EV Battery Sector and give rise to a French-German EV battery manufacturing facility were set in motion.³⁹⁴¹ The plans will support a low carbon economy and generate high skilled-jobs.³⁹⁴²

On 6 March 2020, the Governments of France, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Denmark, Italy, Netherlands, Greece, Lithuania, Latvia, Sweden, Portugal, Spain, and Slovenia, along with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and companies, signed a European Pact that takes action against plastic waste and promotes a low-plastic and circular economy.³⁹⁴³ Notably, the pact includes goals such as increasing the capacity of recycling by 25 per cent by 2025 and ensuring single-use plastics and plastic packaging include at least 30 per cent recycled plastic by 2025.³⁹⁴⁴

On 29 June 2020, Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze held a hybrid event at the Federal Environment Ministry in Berlin to discuss how Germany and its international partners can promote the conservation and restoration of biodiversity and functioning ecosystems with high-level guests and experts.³⁹⁴⁵ The Federal Environment Ministry also announced it aims to establish a global biodiversity framework and will be working to combat wildlife trafficking, as a part of efforts to prevent and control future pandemics stemming from animals.³⁹⁴⁶

On 1 July 2020, Germany assumed its two-year presidency of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), and announced that they will focus on addressing key environmental problems in the Baltic Sea, improve the protection of marine species, habitats and further develop marine protected areas, and use the post-COVID-19 economy recovery to ensure progress on marine protection and

³⁹³⁹ Spelling Out the Coal Exit – Germany's Phase-out Plan, Clean Energy Wire (Berlin) 31 January 2020. Access Date: April 15, 2020. <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/spelling-out-coal-phase-out-germanys-exit-law-draft>

³⁹⁴⁰ Ending coal-generated power, Federal Government of Germany (Berlin). Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/kohleausstiegsgesetz-1717014>

³⁹⁴¹ "Airbus-style consortium" for batteries: ambitious European plans are up and running, Government of France (Paris) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/airbus-style-consortium-for-batteries-ambitious-european-plans-are-up-and-running>

³⁹⁴² "Airbus-style consortium" for batteries: ambitious European plans are up and running, Government of France (Paris) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/airbus-style-consortium-for-batteries-ambitious-european-plans-are-up-and-running>

³⁹⁴³ A European Pact to control use of plastic and promote a circular economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

³⁹⁴⁴ A European Pact to control use of plastic and promote a circular economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 17 April 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

³⁹⁴⁵ Schulze: "Prevention and Control of Pandemics Requires Commitment to Nature Conservation and Species Protection," Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/schulze-prevention-and-control-of-pandemics-requires-commitment-to-nature-conservation-and-species/>

³⁹⁴⁶ Schulze: "Prevention and Control of Pandemics Requires Commitment to Nature Conservation and Species Protection," Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/schulze-prevention-and-control-of-pandemics-requires-commitment-to-nature-conservation-and-species/>

environmental issues.³⁹⁴⁷ It will ensure that future HELCOM decisions are specifically reviewed for their relevance to biological diversity and the climate, and for their suitability.³⁹⁴⁸ Specifically, it will be working under the heading “Working together for our sea – the Baltic Sea” with other Baltic Sea countries and the European Union to protect the Baltic Sea through an intensified cooperation with relevant NGOs, stakeholder groups, and science.³⁹⁴⁹ It will also harmonise HELCOM goals with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, strengthen ties between HELCOM and other stakeholders in the region, and push for closer links between HELCOM’s work and other global processes and goals.³⁹⁵⁰

On 10 July 2020, the German government announced that it will continue to offset emissions of all official travel through investments in international climate projects, and will rely even more on virtual meetings in the future.³⁹⁵¹ It also announced that it will offset all emissions generated during Germany’s EU Council Presidency through purchasing emission reduction credits.³⁹⁵² It will also ensure that all events hosted during the presidency are guided by the Federal Environment Agency and Federal Environment Ministry’s sustainability criteria, to minimise the impact on the environment and climate.³⁹⁵³ The implementation of this climate-neutral presidency will be assessed after its conclusion, with the findings being made available for future Presidencies and the German government to support their shift towards a climate-neutral administration.³⁹⁵⁴

On 17 July 2020, the Federal Environment Ministry announced EUR 68 million in funding to support 29 projects in 25 developing and newly industrialising countries from the International Climate Initiative.³⁹⁵⁵ The initiative will support relief efforts for protected areas and biodiversity and

³⁹⁴⁷ “Germany Takes over HELCOM Chairmanship,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-takes-over-helcom-chairmanship/>

³⁹⁴⁸ “Germany Takes over HELCOM Chairmanship,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-takes-over-helcom-chairmanship/>

³⁹⁴⁹ “Germany Takes over HELCOM Chairmanship,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-takes-over-helcom-chairmanship/>

³⁹⁵⁰ “Germany Takes over HELCOM Chairmanship,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-takes-over-helcom-chairmanship/>

³⁹⁵¹ “German Government Offsetting Emissions of All Official Travel and Germany’s EU Council Presidency,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/german-government-offsetting-emissions-of-all-official-travel-and-germanys-eu-council-presidency/>

³⁹⁵² “German Government Offsetting Emissions of All Official Travel and Germany’s EU Council Presidency,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/german-government-offsetting-emissions-of-all-official-travel-and-germanys-eu-council-presidency/>

³⁹⁵³ “Germany’s Council Presidency will be Climate Neutral and Sustainable,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germanys-council-presidency-will-be-climate-neutral-and-sustainable/>

³⁹⁵⁴ “Germany’s Council Presidency will be Climate Neutral and Sustainable,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germanys-council-presidency-will-be-climate-neutral-and-sustainable/>

³⁹⁵⁵ “Global Green Recovery and the International Climate Initiative,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/global-green-recovery-and-the-international-climate-initiative-1/>

promote a climate-friendly economic recovery process amid the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁹⁵⁶ The support package will also focus on a broad range of topics including immediate action to preserve the conservation performance of protected areas and biodiversity hotspots, implementing climate projects that promote jobs to stabilise the economy, covering expenses for economic advisers to ensure that sustainability, climate action and biodiversity conservation are included in decisions to steer recovery measures along environmentally friendly lines, and lastly preventing future pandemics by conserving biodiversity hotspots and forests to lower the zoonotic risk of pandemics similar to COVID-19 from emerging.³⁹⁵⁷

Germany has taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenge of climate change through the Act to Reduce and End Coal-Fired Power Generation and Energy Efficiency Strategy 2050, as well as tackle a main pressure to biodiversity through its Climate Action Programme. It has also taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies through their HELCOM chairmanship and International Climate Initiative.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Minghan Sun

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 5 November 2019, the Italian Minister of Education Lorenzo Fioramonti announced that, starting in the 2020-2021 school year, Italian students in every grade will learn about climate change and sustainability.³⁹⁵⁸ Each year, teachers at all grade levels will be required to include 33 hours of education about climate change and related topics.³⁹⁵⁹ This policy has made Italy the first country to mandate education on climate change in schools.³⁹⁶⁰

On 2-5 December 2019, at the 21st COP to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), Italy joined the other signatories to the Convention in committing to making the Mediterranean Sea an Emission Control Area) Zone for sulphur oxide.³⁹⁶¹

On 2-5 December 2019, at the 21st COP to Barcelona Convention, signatories, including Italy, adopted new and updated strategies for the protection of monk seal, rays, and sharks in the

³⁹⁵⁶ Global Green Recovery and the International Climate Initiative, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/global-green-recovery-and-the-international-climate-initiative-1/>

³⁹⁵⁷ Global Green Recovery and the International Climate Initiative, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/global-green-recovery-and-the-international-climate-initiative-1/>

³⁹⁵⁸ Italy Mandates Climate Change Education for All Students, Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center (New York) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/italy-mandates-climate-change-education-for-all-students/>.

³⁹⁵⁹ Italy Mandates Climate Change Education for All Students, Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center (New York) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/italy-mandates-climate-change-education-for-all-students/>.

³⁹⁶⁰ Italy Mandates Climate Change Education for All Students, Hunter College New York City Food Policy Center (New York) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.nycfoodpolicy.org/italy-mandates-climate-change-education-for-all-students/>.

³⁹⁶¹ Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

Mediterranean.³⁹⁶² The signatories also established “Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)” in France, Italy, Spain, and Slovenia.³⁹⁶³ The SPAMI sites also include a corridor for the movement of Cetaceans.³⁹⁶⁴

On 16 December 2019, the Senate of the Republic of Italy voted on the 2020 Budget Law which includes a EUR 0.45/kg tax on single-use plastic packaging that is produced or imported to Italy.³⁹⁶⁵ The plastic tax aims to discourage the consumption and production of plastic and is set to be effective will on 1 July 2020.^{3966,3967}

On 9 April 2020, the Government of Italy was one of the original 10 signatories, in addition to Austria, Finland, Denmark, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, Latvia, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, in a letter that calls for the European Green Deal to be a central aspect of the EU’s economic recovery from COVID-19.^{3968,3969}

On 31 July 2020, the Government of Italy adopted a provision that constitutes the regulatory instrument for the new text on radiation protection in Italy, that will protect both the environment and citizens’ health against the potential risk of radiation.³⁹⁷⁰ In response to this new provision, Minister of the Environment Sergio Costa added that a primary importance is the contamination of the environment, because it is also recognized as a threat to human health and an effective radiation protection system must provide complete protection through ensuring that environmental control standards not only prevent the transfer of radionuclides from the environment to humans, but also ensure that measures safeguard biological diversity, ensure species conservation, and protect health and the natural state of habitats, ecosystems and communities in general.³⁹⁷¹

³⁹⁶² Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

³⁹⁶³ Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

³⁹⁶⁴ Barcelona Convention - COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), United Nations Environment Programme (Naples) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 December 2019. <http://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>.

³⁹⁶⁵ Italy to introduce plastic tax in 2020, ENDS Europe (London) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2020 <https://www.endsurope.com/article/1669495/italy-introduce-plastic-tax-2020>

³⁹⁶⁶ Italy to introduce plastic tax in 2020, ENDS Europe (London) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2020 <https://www.endsurope.com/article/1669495/italy-introduce-plastic-tax-2020>

³⁹⁶⁷ Italy to introduce proportional tax on plastic items, EY Global (London) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 14 April 2020. https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/ey-italy-to-introduce-proportional-tax-on-plastic-items

³⁹⁶⁸ Four more EU nations back a green post-coronavirus recovery, Climate Home News (London) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/04/20/four-eu-nations-back-green-post-coronavirus-recovery/>

³⁹⁶⁹ European Green Deal must be central to a resilient recovery after Covid-19, Climate Home News (London) 9 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/04/09/european-green-deal-must-central-resilient-recovery-covid-19/>

³⁹⁷⁰ The New Text on Radiation Protection in Italy is in Force, to Protect Health and the Environment, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 13 August 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/e-vigore-il-nuovo-testo-sulla-radioprotezione-italia-tutela-della-salute-e-dell-ambiente>

³⁹⁷¹ The New Text on Radiation Protection in Italy is in Force, to Protect Health and the Environment, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 13 August 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/e-vigore-il-nuovo-testo-sulla-radioprotezione-italia-tutela-della-salute-e-dell-ambiente>

On 31 July 2020, the Ministry of the Environment announced EUR4.5 million for financing interventions aimed at adapting and mitigating to climate change in Italian marine protected areas.³⁹⁷² Specifically, the funds will be directed to energy efficiency interventions in public real estate and for the creation of sustainable land and marine infrastructures and mobility services.³⁹⁷³

On 6 August 2020, the Ministry of the Environment signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Corepla to launch an experimental environmental project to manage marine litter specifically around the mouths of major Italian rivers and marine protected areas, in an effort to take concrete action toward cleaning up the sea from plastic waste and protecting it.³⁹⁷⁴

On 11 August 2020, the Ministry of the Environment announced that six eco-bales out of 40 bales containing 1.2 tons of plastic each, have been recovered from the seabed of the Gulf of Follonica in less than a week.³⁹⁷⁵ This initiative, undertaken by the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Civil Protection Department and the Ministry of the Environment is showing as the most effective solution to protect this sea from a potential environmental disaster.³⁹⁷⁶

Italy has taken some actions to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies and address the main pressures of biodiversity through the Barcelona Convention. It has also taken action to offer co-benefits to another global challenge of ecosystem degradation through adopting its new provision on radiation protection.

Thus, Italy has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Maris Han

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 25 November 2019, Japan announced a contribution of USD1.5 billion to replenish the Green Climate Fund (GCF) over the next four years, at its first high-level pledging conference.^{3977,3978} This

³⁹⁷² Climate: 4.5 Million Euros For Adaptation Projects in Protected Marine Areas, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 22 August 2020.

<https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/clima-4-5-milioni-di-euro-progetti-di-adattamento-nelle-aree-marine-protette>

³⁹⁷³ Climate: 4.5 Million Euros For Adaptation Projects in Protected Marine Areas, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 22 August 2020.

<https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/clima-4-5-milioni-di-euro-progetti-di-adattamento-nelle-aree-marine-protette>

³⁹⁷⁴ Sea: Minambiente-Corepla Protocol Against Marine Litter Also in Protected Marine Areas, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 22 August 2020.

<https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/mare-protocollo-minambiente-corepla-contro-marine-litter-anche-nelle-aree-marine-protette>

³⁹⁷⁵ The Eco-Bales Recovered from the Seabed of the Gulf of Follonica Rise to Six (Rome) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 22 August 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/salgono-sei-le-ecoballe-recuperate-dai-fondali-del-golfo-di-follonica>

³⁹⁷⁶ The Eco-Bales Recovered from the Seabed of the Gulf of Follonica Rise to Six (Rome) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 22 August 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/salgono-sei-le-ecoballe-recuperate-dai-fondali-del-golfo-di-follonica>

³⁹⁷⁷ Countries step up ambition: Landmark boost to coffers of the world's largest climate fund, Green Climate Fund (Paris) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/countries-step-up-ambition-landmark-boost-to-coffers-of-the-world-s-largest-climate-fund>

funding is part of a wider pledge of USD9.78 billion provided by 27 countries in the first replenishment of the fund.³⁹⁷⁹ The resources from the fund will help developing countries mitigate the impacts of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to global warming.³⁹⁸⁰

On 28 November 2019, the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) designed a roadmap to develop a Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity in Chiba, Japan.³⁹⁸¹ The proposed plan will support Japan, China, the Russian Federation, and the Republic of Korea, the NOWPAP Member States, in the conservation and international cooperation of marine biodiversity.³⁹⁸² It will be ensured that the plan is adopted by the Member States up until the end of 2021, thereby meeting targets of the NOWPAP and Convention of Biological Diversity.³⁹⁸³

On 10 December 2019, the NOWPAP announced high priority actions for the future conservation of marine biodiversity that include conserving biological habitats, plankton species, and environmental DNA.³⁹⁸⁴ To enable progress towards these actions, scientists from the NOWPAP member states will develop distribution maps of coastal habitat to determine causes of habitat decline, databases of species and natural ecosystems and tools to monitor coastal habitat.³⁹⁸⁵ Overall, these techniques will help countries meet their marine biodiversity conservation targets, their Aichi Biodiversity Targets and a number of Sustainable Development Goals.³⁹⁸⁶

On 24 January 2020, the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) announced their fourth selection of ten projects for their Financing Programme.³⁹⁸⁷ These projects are based in seven partner countries, including Ethiopia, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Chile, Thailand, and the Philippines and are

³⁹⁷⁸ First Replenishment of the Green Climate Fund Summary Pledge Table (in millions), Green Climate Fund (Paris) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. https://www.greenclimate.fund/documents/20182/24868/First_replenishment_of_the_Green_Climate_Fund_Summary_pledge_table.pdf

³⁹⁷⁹ Countries step up ambition: Landmark boost to coffers of the world's largest climate fund, Green Climate Fund (Paris) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/countries-step-up-ambition-landmark-boost-to-coffers-of-the-world-s-largest-climate-fund>

³⁹⁸⁰ Countries step up ambition: Landmark boost to coffers of the world's largest climate fund, Green Climate Fund (Paris) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/countries-step-up-ambition-landmark-boost-to-coffers-of-the-world-s-largest-climate-fund>

³⁹⁸¹ Designing a roadmap to develop the Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/designing-roadmap-develop-regional-action-plan-marine-and-coastal-marine>

³⁹⁸² Designing a roadmap to develop the Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/designing-roadmap-develop-regional-action-plan-marine-and-coastal-marine>

³⁹⁸³ Designing a roadmap to develop the Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity Conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 21 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/designing-roadmap-develop-regional-action-plan-marine-and-coastal-marine>

³⁹⁸⁴ High priority activities identified for future marine biodiversity conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/high-priority-activities-identified-future-marine-biodiversity-conservation>

³⁹⁸⁵ High priority activities identified for future marine biodiversity conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/high-priority-activities-identified-future-marine-biodiversity-conservation>

³⁹⁸⁶ High priority activities identified for future marine biodiversity conservation, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (Chiba) 10 December 2019. Date of Access: 20 December 2019. <https://www.unenvironment.org/nowpap/news/press-release/high-priority-activities-identified-future-marine-biodiversity-conservation>

³⁹⁸⁷ Preliminary Selection Result for Financing Programme for JCM Model Projects in FY2019 (4th Selection), The Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <http://gec.jp/jcm/kobo/mp200124/>

focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency improvement.³⁹⁸⁸ The JCM was established in 2013 to disseminate Japan's low carbon technologies to developing countries around the world³⁹⁸⁹ Through the JCM, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in partner countries generates credits that Japan can use for the achievement of their own emission reduction targets.³⁹⁹⁰

On 21 February 2020, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed an official development assistance (ODA) loan agreement with the Government of the Republic of Fiji.³⁹⁹¹ The agreement will provide Fiji with a loan of up to JPY5 billion to support the country's Stand-by Loan for Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation.³⁹⁹² The loan finance post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation initiatives and support disaster risk reduction policies in Fiji.³⁹⁹³

On 21 February 2020, the JCM issued credits between Cambodia and Japan for the first time.³⁹⁹⁴ The supported project will increase energy efficiency through the installation of ultra-lightweight solar panels at an International School in Cambodia.³⁹⁹⁵

On 5 March 2020, the JCM issued credits between Saudi Arabia and Japan for the first time.³⁹⁹⁶ The project supported by these credits will help reduce energy consumption in the Chlor-Alkali Production Plant through the installation of a high efficiency electrolyzer.³⁹⁹⁷

On 30 March 2020, the Ministry of the Environment updated their "Practical Guide for Scenario Analysis in line with TCFD Recommendations" to support companies in assessing their climate-related opportunities.³⁹⁹⁸ This updated guide now includes Key Points of Practice, Practical Examples

³⁹⁸⁸ Preliminary Selection Result for Financing Programme for JCM Model Projects in FY2019 (4th Selection), The Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <http://gec.jp/jcm/kobo/mp200124/>

³⁹⁸⁹ Overview of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), The Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka). Date of Access: 18 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <http://gec.jp/jcm/about/>.

³⁹⁹⁰ Preliminary Selection Result for Financing Programme for JCM Model Projects in FY2019 (1st Selection), The Joint Crediting Mechanism (Osaka) 27 June 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <http://gec.jp/jcm/kobo/mp190405/>.

³⁹⁹¹ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan with Fiji: Contributing to immediate recovery from natural disasters, together with mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221_11_en.html

³⁹⁹² Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan with Fiji: Contributing to immediate recovery from natural disasters, together with mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221_11_en.html

³⁹⁹³ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan with Fiji: Contributing to immediate recovery from natural disasters, together with mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221_11_en.html

³⁹⁹⁴ Press Release: 1st issuance of credits from the Joint Crediting Mechanism between Cambodia and Japan, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2438.html>

³⁹⁹⁵ Press Release: 1st issuance of credits from the Joint Crediting Mechanism between Cambodia and Japan, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2438.html>

³⁹⁹⁶ Press Release: 1st issuance of credits from the Joint Crediting Mechanism between Saudi Arabia and Japan, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2437.html>

³⁹⁹⁷ Press Release: 1st issuance of credits from the Joint Crediting Mechanism between Saudi Arabia and Japan, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2437.html>

³⁹⁹⁸ Press Release: MOEJ updates "Practical guide for Scenario Analysis in line with TCFD recommendations", Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2439.html>

from twelve companies that the MOEJ supports, and additional materials that can be used for scenario analysis.³⁹⁹⁹

On 30 March 2020, the Global Warming Prevention Headquarters announced Japan's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the Paris Agreement.⁴⁰⁰⁰ The NDC includes Japan's target to reduce emissions by 26 per cent below 2013 levels by 2030.⁴⁰⁰¹ The target is unchanged from the one submitted in 2015 for the Paris Agreement.⁴⁰⁰²

On 30 March 2020, JICA signed an official development assistance (ODA) loan with the Government of the Philippines.⁴⁰⁰³ The agreement will provide the Philippines up to JPY4.409 billion to support the Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project (II).⁴⁰⁰⁴ This project will strengthen resilience to and speed-up recovery from large-scale earthquakes in the Metro Manila transportation network, specifically by replacing the Guadalupe and Lambingan bridges with bridges that have improved seismic design specifications.⁴⁰⁰⁵

On 31 March 2020, JICA signed ODA loan agreements with the Government of Indonesia.⁴⁰⁰⁶ The first agreement provides JPY57.061 billion to support the Jakarta Sewerage Development Project that includes the construction of a sewer network and wastewater treatment plant in Jakarta.⁴⁰⁰⁷ Among other objectives, this will help conserve the aquatic environment of the city.⁴⁰⁰⁸ The second

³⁹⁹⁹ Press Release: MOEJ updates "Practical guide for Scenario Analysis in line with TCFD recommendations", Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 8 April 2020.

<http://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2439.html>

⁴⁰⁰⁰ Press Release: About the Global Warming Countermeasures Promotion Headquarters of "Japan's NDC (contribution decided by the country)", Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date:

<https://www.env.go.jp/press/107941.html>

⁴⁰⁰¹ Press Release: About the Global Warming Countermeasures Promotion Headquarters of "Japan's NDC (contribution decided by the country)", Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (Tokyo) 30 March 2020. Access Date:

<https://www.env.go.jp/press/107941.html>

⁴⁰⁰² Climate Action Tracker Japan: Japan, Climate Action Tracker (Berlin) 22 July 2015. Access Date: 15 April 2020.

https://climateactiontracker.org/media/documents/2018/4/CAT_2015-07-22_CountryAssessment_Japan.pdf

⁴⁰⁰³ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with the Philippines: Contributing to the reduction of the disaster risk in Metro Manila with Japanese technology, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 3 April 2020.

Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200403_21.html

⁴⁰⁰⁴ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with the Philippines: Contributing to the reduction of the disaster risk in Metro Manila with Japanese technology, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 3 April 2020.

Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200403_21.html

⁴⁰⁰⁵ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with the Philippines: Contributing to the reduction of the disaster risk in Metro Manila with Japanese technology, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 3 April 2020.

Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200403_21.html

⁴⁰⁰⁶ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with Indonesia: Supporting the construction of a large-scale wastewater treatment plant for Jakarta and efforts for flood disaster prevention measures, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_21.html

⁴⁰⁰⁷ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with Indonesia: Supporting the construction of a large-scale wastewater treatment plant for Jakarta and efforts for flood disaster prevention measures, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_21.html

⁴⁰⁰⁸ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with Indonesia: Supporting the construction of a large-scale wastewater treatment plant for Jakarta and efforts for flood disaster prevention measures, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020.

https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_21.html

agreement provides JPY7.299 billion to improve urban flood control systems in selected cities in Indonesia to enhance flood disaster prevention.⁴⁰⁰⁹

On 31 March 2020, JICA signed a loan agreement with Brazilian pulp and paper manufacture company Klabin S.A.⁴⁰¹⁰ The USD72 million will expand Klabin S.A.'s existing factory in Paraná State and promote planned forest management to develop sustainable forest industry in Brazil and strengthen its supply chains.⁴⁰¹¹ Klabin S.A. supports reforestation and conserves more than 40 per cent of its forests as natural forests.⁴⁰¹²

Japan has taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies through the NOWPAP Regional Action Plan on Marine and Coastal Marine Biodiversity. Japan has also taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenges of climate change and disaster risk reduction by, for instance, providing financial support to developing countries through the the JCM, funding the GCF, and providing ODA loans through JICA.

Thus, Japan has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Maryam Rehman

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced GBP10 million to help tackle deforestation in the Amazon.⁴⁰¹³ As part of a series of announcements, the Prime Minister also announced an increase in UK's contribution to the Green Climate Fund and funding of GBP7 million to protect marine ecosystems around Britain's overseas territories.⁴⁰¹⁴

On 23 September 2019, Prime Minister Johnson launched a GBP220 million fund to save the endangered species as the snow leopard, Sumatran tiger, black rhino and African elephant from extinction.⁴⁰¹⁵ This funding is part of UK's International Biodiversity Fund that will provide financial

⁴⁰⁰⁹ Press Release: Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with Indonesia: Supporting the construction of a large-scale wastewater treatment plant for Jakarta and efforts for flood disaster prevention measures, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo), 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_21.html

⁴⁰¹⁰ Press Release: Signing of loan agreement for sustainable forest industry support project in Brazil (Private Sector Investment and Finance): First co-financing with IDB Invest, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_10_en.html

⁴⁰¹¹ Press Release: Signing of loan agreement for sustainable forest industry support project in Brazil (Private Sector Investment and Finance): First co-financing with IDB Invest, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_10_en.html

⁴⁰¹² Press Release: Signing of loan agreement for sustainable forest industry support project in Brazil (Private Sector Investment and Finance): First co-financing with IDB Invest, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 7 April 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200401_10_en.html

⁴⁰¹³ Press Release: PM steps up UK efforts to protect the Amazon rainforest, Government of UK (London) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-efforts-to-protect-the-amazon-rainforest>

⁴⁰¹⁴ Press Release: PM steps up UK efforts to protect the Amazon rainforest, Government of UK (London) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-efforts-to-protect-the-amazon-rainforest>

⁴⁰¹⁵ Press Release: PM launches new action plan to save the natural world, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-new-action-plan-to-save-the-natural-world>

assistance to projects aimed at strengthening law enforcement and discourage poaching and the consumption of illegally traded products.⁴⁰¹⁶

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Johnson announced at the United Nations General Assembly that the British scientists will be able to utilize GBP1 billion funding to support the development and testing of new technology targeted at tackling climate change in developing countries.⁴⁰¹⁷

On 24 September 2019, the Government of UK announced the creation of the Global Ocean Alliance to protect wildlife in the world's ocean.⁴⁰¹⁸ This alliance, consisting of 10 countries, seeks to address issues such as warming sea temperatures, plastic pollution and extinction of marine species.⁴⁰¹⁹ The Global Ocean Alliance will push for the strengthening of existing globally agreed targets and call for the 30by30 initiative, an initiative that aims to increase the proportion of Marine Protected Areas to increase to 30 per cent of the global ocean by 2030, to be adopted at COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity conference and introduced into international law through the High Seas Treaty in 2020.⁴⁰²⁰

On 2 November 2019, the Government of UK announced an investment of GBP315 million as part of the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF) to support heavy industry reduce carbon emissions through the adoption of energy efficient technology.⁴⁰²¹

On 4 November 2019, the Government of UK launched the Woodland Carbon Guarantee Scheme to increase tree planting rates in an attempt to boost carbon sequestration.⁴⁰²² As part of this scheme, GBP50 million will be used to provide landowners and farmers an incentive to plant more trees and create new woodland.⁴⁰²³

On 16 January 2020, the Environment Minister Rebecca Pow announced that the UK government established and extended Special Protection Areas (SPAs) to protect rare and vulnerable seabirds.⁴⁰²⁴

⁴⁰¹⁶ Press Release: PM launches new action plan to save the natural world, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-launches-new-action-plan-to-save-the-natural-world>

⁴⁰¹⁷ Press Release: British scientists to help tackle climate change through new £1 billion fund, Government of UK (London) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-scientists-to-help-tackle-climate-change-through-new-1-billion-fund>

⁴⁰¹⁸ Press Release: UK creates global alliance to help protect the world's ocean, Government of UK (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-creates-global-alliance-to-help-protect-the-worlds-ocean>

⁴⁰¹⁹ Press Release: UK creates global alliance to help protect the world's ocean, Government of UK (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-creates-global-alliance-to-help-protect-the-worlds-ocean>

⁴⁰²⁰ Press Release: UK creates global alliance to help protect the world's ocean, Government of UK (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-creates-global-alliance-to-help-protect-the-worlds-ocean>

⁴⁰²¹ Press Release: Heavy industry to cut 2 million tonnes of carbon emissions with new tech, Government of UK (London) 2 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/heavy-industry-to-cut-2-million-tonnes-of-carbon-emissions-with-new-tech>

⁴⁰²² Press Release: Government launches new scheme to boost tree planting, Government of UK (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-scheme-to-boost-tree-planting>

⁴⁰²³ Press Release: Government launches new scheme to boost tree planting, Government of UK (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-scheme-to-boost-tree-planting>

⁴⁰²⁴ Press Release: New protections for thousands of seabirds, Government of UK (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-protections-for-thousands-of-seabirds--2>

The SPAs, to be established in Solent and Middlesborough, will safeguard seabirds from recreational human activities.⁴⁰²⁵

On 21 January 2020, Prime Minister Johnson and President Kenyatta agreed on a strategic partnership focused on economic prosperity, security, sustainable development and climate change between 2020 and 2025.⁴⁰²⁶ Both the UK and Kenya are committed to demonstrating global leadership, tackling climate change and environmental issues such as climate finance and biodiversity.⁴⁰²⁷

On 19 February 2020, Prime Minister Johnson announced GBP220 million International Biodiverse Landscapes Fund at the 2019 UN General Assembly.⁴⁰²⁸ The fund includes an allotment of GBP100 million that will support conservation and restoration projects in five global biodiversity hotspots.⁴⁰²⁹

On 4 March 2020, the Government of the UK invested GBP37 million dollars to develop electric machines in UK's most polluting industries, contributing to the UK's zero-emission goal by 2050.⁴⁰³⁰ GBP30 million will be used to establish R&D centres in Nottingham, Sunderland, Newport, and Strathclyde.⁴⁰³¹ The remaining funding will enable automotive manufacturers to obtain parts to design the electric machines.⁴⁰³²

On 20 March 2020, the Government of the UK announced that the UK became the first co-chair of the Governing Council of the Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).⁴⁰³³ The CDRI is a partnership between private sector organizations, governments, academia, banks and UN agencies and aims to develop climate and disaster resilient infrastructure.⁴⁰³⁴

The UK has taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies and address the main pressures of biodiversity through the ban on plastic straws and stirrers, the Global Ocean Alliance, and GBP220 million fund to save the endangered species as the snow leopard, Sumatran

⁴⁰²⁵ Press Release: New protections for thousands of seabirds, Government of UK (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-protections-for-thousands-of-seabirds--2>

⁴⁰²⁶ Press Release: UK-Kenya Strategic Partnership 2020 to 2025: joint statement, Government of UK (London) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kenya-strategic-partnership-2020-2025>

⁴⁰²⁷ Press Release: UK-Kenya Strategic Partnership 2020 to 2025: joint statement, Government of UK (London) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kenya-strategic-partnership-2020-2025>

⁴⁰²⁸ Press Release: UK Biodiverse landscapes fund 2021-2026, Government of UK (London) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-biodiverse-landscapes-fund-2021-2026>

⁴⁰²⁹ Press Release: UK Biodiverse landscapes fund 2021-2026, Government of UK (London) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-biodiverse-landscapes-fund-2021-2026>

⁴⁰³⁰ Press Release: Government backs cleaner planes, ships and automobile with GBP 37 million boost, Government of UK (London) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-cleaner-planes-ships-and-automobiles-with-37-million-boost>

⁴⁰³¹ Press Release: Government backs cleaner planes, ships and automobile with GBP 37 million boost, Government of UK (London) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-cleaner-planes-ships-and-automobiles-with-37-million-boost>

⁴⁰³² Press Release: Government backs cleaner planes, ships and automobile with GBP 37 million boost, Government of UK (London) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-cleaner-planes-ships-and-automobiles-with-37-million-boost>

⁴⁰³³ Press Release: UK becomes co-chair of India-led global climate initiative, Government of UK (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-co-chair-of-india-led-global-climate-initiative>

⁴⁰³⁴ Press Release: UK becomes co-chair of India-led global climate initiative, Government of UK (London) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 10 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-co-chair-of-india-led-global-climate-initiative>

tiger, black rhino and African elephant from extinction. The UK has also taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenges of climate change, ecosystem degradation and disaster risk reduction through the Industrial Strategy and IETF, the Urban Tree Challenge, funding of GBP10 million to help tackle deforestation in the Amazon and co-chairing the Coalition of Disaster Risk infrastructure.

Thus, UK has received a score of +1.

Analyst: April Mu

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 10 September 2019, the House of Representatives introduced the “Climate Stewardship Act of 2019,” which provided incentives for agricultural producers to carry out climate stewardship practices and to provide for increased reforestation across the United States, among other purposes.⁴⁰³⁵ The bill includes amendments to the “Reforestation Trust Fund” and “Reforest America Grant Program” that demand reforestation practices enhance forest health, resilience, and biodiversity.⁴⁰³⁶

On 19 September 2019, President Donald Trump’s Administration announced a revoke of California’s vehicle emission standards.⁴⁰³⁷ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler states that the decision will enable “much-needed regulatory certainty for the automotive industry.”⁴⁰³⁸ California’s vehicle emission standards are considered to be more stringent than those of many other states.⁴⁰³⁹

On 22 October 2019, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced habitat and water management measures for the San Francisco Bay Delta, effectively diverting large amounts of water from the Delta for irrigation.⁴⁰⁴⁰ The Delta is a fragile ecosystem and is home to the Delta Smelt, a threatened species for California Fish.⁴⁰⁴¹

On 4 November 2019, the United States submitted formal notification to the United Nations to begin the withdrawal process from the Paris Agreement.⁴⁰⁴² The withdrawal will be complete one

⁴⁰³⁵ Climate Stewardship of Act, Congress.Gov, 10 September 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4269/text>

⁴⁰³⁶ Climate Stewardship of Act, Congress.Gov, 10 September 2019. Access Date: 10 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4269/text>

⁴⁰³⁷ California vows fightback after Trump voids state’s right to set emissions rule, The Guardian, 19 September 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/sep/19/california-trump-vehicle-emissions-standards-cars>

⁴⁰³⁸ California vows fightback after Trump voids state’s right to set emissions rule, The Guardian, 19 September 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/sep/19/california-trump-vehicle-emissions-standards-cars>

⁴⁰³⁹ California vows fightback after Trump voids state’s right to set emissions rule, The Guardian, 19 September 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/sep/19/california-trump-vehicle-emissions-standards-cars>

⁴⁰⁴⁰ Trump Administration Moves to Lift Protections for Fish and Divert Water to Farms, The New York Times, 22 October 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/22/climate/trump-delta-smelt.html>

⁴⁰⁴¹ Trump Administration Moves to Lift Protections for Fish and Divert Water to Farms, The New York Times, 22 October 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/22/climate/trump-delta-smelt.html>

⁴⁰⁴² Paris climate accords: US notifies UN of intention to withdraw, BBC News, 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-50297029>

year after the date of delivery of the notification.⁴⁰⁴³ The notification follows President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement in June 2017 due to the economic impacts of the Agreement on national businesses.⁴⁰⁴⁴

On 5 November 2019, the House of Representatives introduced the "Green Climate Fund Authorization Act of 2019" which proposed to authorize appropriations for climate financing, especially in regard to the commitments the United States made to the Green Climate Fund and the Paris climate agreement.⁴⁰⁴⁵ The act highlights that the Green Climate Fund ensures conservation of biodiversity and critical habitats.⁴⁰⁴⁶

On 18 November 2019, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the allocation of USD30 million towards grants to support coastal resilience projects that reduce the impact of rising sea levels and extreme weather by strengthening natural ecosystems.⁴⁰⁴⁷

On 9 December 2019, the NOAA announced the project "Mission: Iconic Reefs," which provides resources to revitalize the reefs of the Florida Keys and their diverse marine ecosystem.⁴⁰⁴⁸ The program also specifically allows for the removal of invasive species from the reefs.⁴⁰⁴⁹

On 20 December 2019, President Trump signed into law the "Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020," which authorized an extensive list of appropriations for government agencies and branches.⁴⁰⁵⁰ The Act allocated USD315 million for biodiversity conservation programs and detailed that the funds cannot be used to support the expansion of industrial scale extractive activity into tropical forests.⁴⁰⁵¹ The act also allocated USD100 million to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking and sets aside USD151 million for aquatic ecosystem restoration.⁴⁰⁵²

⁴⁰⁴³ Paris climate accords: US notifies UN of intention to withdraw, BBC News, 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-50297029>

⁴⁰⁴⁴ Paris climate accords: US notifies UN of intention to withdraw, BBC News, 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-50297029>

⁴⁰⁴⁵ Green Climate Fund Authorization Act of 2019, Congress.Gov, 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4986/text?r=46&s=1>

⁴⁰⁴⁶ Green Climate Fund Authorization Act of 2019, Congress.Gov, 5 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4986/text?r=46&s=1>

⁴⁰⁴⁷ NOAA, NFWF announce \$30million in grants to support coastal resilience efforts across nation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 18 November 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-nfwf-announce-30-million-in-grants-to-support-coastal-resilience-efforts-across>

⁴⁰⁴⁸ NOAA, partners announce launch groundbreaking Florida Keys coral reef restoration effort, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 9 December 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/coral-disease/>

⁴⁰⁴⁹ NOAA, partners announce launch groundbreaking Florida Keys coral reef restoration effort, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 9 December 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/coral-disease/>

⁴⁰⁵⁰ Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Congress.gov, 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1865/text>

⁴⁰⁵¹ Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Congress.gov, 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1865/text>

⁴⁰⁵² Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, Congress.gov, 20 December 2019. Access Date: 12 January 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1865/text>

On 6 January 2020, the Senate introduced the “Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act of 2020,” which proposed to establish a pilot program to protect the biodiversity of native plant species in several National Park Service regions.⁴⁰⁵³

On 23 January 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the “Navigable Waters Protection Rule,” which cut back federal limits on pollution in wetlands and smaller waterways with the goal of providing new, clear definitions on what bodies of water are under federal control.^{4054,4055} The rule states that bodies of water which are considered ephemeral, such as waste treatment systems and groundwater, are not subject to federal regulation.^{4056,4057}

On 12 February 2020, the House of Representatives introduced the Trillion Trees Act, which proposed to establish forest management, reforestation, and utilization practices which enable the capture and storage of greenhouse gases in accordance with the United Nations Environment Programme’s Trillion Trees Initiative.⁴⁰⁵⁸ The Act authorizes the prioritization of reforestation or prevention programs in developing regions whose biodiversity would be significantly impacted by deforestation.⁴⁰⁵⁹

On 10 March 2020, the House of Representatives introduced the Moving Towards a Safe Climate Act, which proposed a national strategic action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector with the intent to adhere to the commitments of the U.S. under the Paris Agreement.⁴⁰⁶⁰ The action plan includes measures to promote public and low-carbon transport and the development of clean fuels and transport systems.⁴⁰⁶¹

On 17 March 2020, the NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the allocation of USD43 million towards grants to support the coastal resilience of local communities

⁴⁰⁵³ Native Plant Species Pilot Program Act of 2020, Congress.Gov, 6 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3150/text>

⁴⁰⁵⁴ News Release: EPA and Army Deliver on President Trump’s Promise to Issue the Navigable Waters Protection Rule – A New Definition of WOTUS, Environmental Protection Agency (Pittsburgh) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-deliver-president-trumps-promise-issue-navigable-waters-protection-rule-1>

⁴⁰⁵⁵ Trump Administration Cuts Back Federal Protections for Streams and Wetlands, NPR, 23 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/01/23/798809951/trump-administration-is-rolling-back-obama-era-protections-for-smaller-waterways>

⁴⁰⁵⁶ Trump Administration Cuts Back Federal Protections for Streams and Wetlands, NPR, 23 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/01/23/798809951/trump-administration-is-rolling-back-obama-era-protections-for-smaller-waterways>

⁴⁰⁵⁷ News Release: EPA and Army Deliver on President Trump’s Promise to Issue the Navigable Waters Protection Rule – A New Definition of WOTUS, Environmental Protection Agency (Pittsburgh) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-army-deliver-president-trumps-promise-issue-navigable-waters-protection-rule-1>

⁴⁰⁵⁸ Trillion Trees Act, Congress.Gov, 12 February 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5859/text>

⁴⁰⁵⁹ Trillion Trees Act, Congress.Gov, 12 February 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5859/text>

⁴⁰⁶⁰ Moving Towards a Safe Climate Act, Congress.Gov, 10 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6171/text>

⁴⁰⁶¹ Moving Towards a Safe Climate Act, Congress.Gov, 10 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6171/text>

and wildlife habitats that faced natural disasters in 2018.⁴⁰⁶² The funding will support natural infrastructure projects that increase resilience from future disasters.⁴⁰⁶³

On 30 March 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the finalization of the Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient (SAFE) Vehicles Rule, which weakened auto emissions standards for the purpose of making vehicles more affordable for customers.⁴⁰⁶⁴ Carbon dioxide emissions standards will increase 1.5 per cent per year as opposed to the former increase of 5 per cent per year.⁴⁰⁶⁵

The US has taken efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity through the Climate Stewardship Act of 2019 and Mission: Iconic Reefs. The U.S. has also taken efforts that offer co-benefit another challenge such as climate change and disaster risk reduction through the Green Climate Fund Authorization Act of 2019, the Trillion Trees Act, and grants provided by NOAA. However, the U.S. has not strengthened or improved current biodiversity strategies and has also given formal notification of its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, are weakening vehicle emission standards, and threatening fish and other wildlife to increase irrigation for farms in California.

Thus, the U.S. has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Kiyala Amos-Flom

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to take swift action on biodiversity in the run-up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties [COP] to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

On 14 October 2019, the Agrifish Council agreed that six of the ten most commercially important fish stocks in the Baltic sea will be managed through the maximum sustainability yields principle, although the European Commission had initially put forward proposals for reductions in eight stocks.⁴⁰⁶⁶ On the other hand, in the Atlantic and North Sea, limits to fishing quotas that enable the EU to meet its pledge to end overfishing by 2020 have not been enacted, with some species' quotas such as Haddock in the North Sea being increased.^{4067,4068}

⁴⁰⁶² More than \$43 million in coastal resilience grants announced, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 17 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/more-than-43-million-in-coastal-resilience-grants-announced>

⁴⁰⁶³ More than \$43 million in coastal resilience grants announced, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, 17 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.noaa.gov/media-release/more-than-43-million-in-coastal-resilience-grants-announced>

⁴⁰⁶⁴ Trump Administration Weakens Auto Emissions Standards, NPR, 31 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/31/824431240/trump-administration-weakens-auto-emissions-rolling-back-key-climate-policy>

⁴⁰⁶⁵ Trump Administration Weakens Auto Emissions Standards, NPR, 31 March 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/31/824431240/trump-administration-weakens-auto-emissions-rolling-back-key-climate-policy>

⁴⁰⁶⁶ EU Council follows Commission's Line, Trims Baltic Fishing Quota, Euractiv (Brussels) 15 October 2019. Accessed: 20 December 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/eu-council-follows-commissions-line-trims-baltic-fishing-quota/>

⁴⁰⁶⁷ EU ministers opt to continue overfishing, despite 2020 deadline, The Guardian (London) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/18/eu-ministers-opt-to-continue-overfishing-despite-2020-deadline>

⁴⁰⁶⁸ Haggling begins as EU prepares to set 2020 fishing quotas, The Guardian (London) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/16/eu-2020-fishing-quotas>

On 14 November 2019, the European Investment Bank committed to a new strategy for environmental sustainability and climate action.⁴⁰⁶⁹ This includes EUR1 trillion of investment in climate and environmental action from 2021 to 2030, an increase in the share of financial support to climate action, and alignment of all European Investment Bank financial activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement.⁴⁰⁷⁰ The bank will also end financial support for fossil fuel energy projects after 2020.⁴⁰⁷¹

On 28 November 2019, the European Parliament declared a climate and environmental emergency in the European Union and globally.⁴⁰⁷² The declaration calls for all future legislative and budgetary proposals to align with objective of limiting global warming to under 1.5°C, to reach climate neutrality by 2050 at the latest and reduce global emissions from shipping and aviation.⁴⁰⁷³

On 2-5 December 2019, at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention), the European Union and 21 Mediterranean Coastal States committed to making the Mediterranean Sea an Emission Control Area Zone for Sulphur Oxides.^{4074,4075}

On 12 December 2019, the European Council endorsed the European Green Deal, a broad growth strategy that includes the objective of achieving a climate-neutral European Union by 2050.⁴⁰⁷⁶ Significant commitments under the Green Deal include the European Climate Law to enshrine the neutrality objective in legislation by March 2020, a plan for an increase in the ambition of the European Union's greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, and a EUR100 billion Just Transition Mechanism fund to help countries and sectors dependent on fossil fuels and "carbon-intensive processes" to move to renewable energy sources.⁴⁰⁷⁷ Poland did not commit to the neutrality

⁴⁰⁶⁹ Press Release: EU Bank launches ambitious new climate strategy and Energy Lending Policy, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-313-eu-bank-launches-ambitious-new-climate-strategy-and-energy-lending-policy>

⁴⁰⁷⁰ Press Release: EU Bank launches ambitious new climate strategy and Energy Lending Policy, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-313-eu-bank-launches-ambitious-new-climate-strategy-and-energy-lending-policy>

⁴⁰⁷¹ Press Release: EU Bank launches ambitious new climate strategy and Energy Lending Policy, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-313-eu-bank-launches-ambitious-new-climate-strategy-and-energy-lending-policy>

⁴⁰⁷² Press Release: The European Parliament declares climate emergency, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20191121PR67110/the-european-parliament-declares-climate-emergency>

⁴⁰⁷³ Press Release: The European Parliament declares climate emergency, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20191121PR67110/the-european-parliament-declares-climate-emergency>

⁴⁰⁷⁴ France welcomes the commitment of all Mediterranean countries to ensure low pollution from ships in the Mediterranean, the Government of France (Paris) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-welcomes-the-commitment-of-all-mediterranean-countries-to-ensure-low-pollution-from-ships>.

⁴⁰⁷⁵ Barcelona Convention – COP21 (Naples, 2-5 December 2019), UN Environment (Nairobi) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 29 April 2020. <https://web.unep.org/unepmap/barcelona-convention-cop21-naples-2-5-december-2019>

⁴⁰⁷⁶ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green New Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019 https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf

⁴⁰⁷⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green New Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf.

objective but will have the opportunity to do so in June 2020 once the European Commission has published Climate law.^{4078,4079}

The Green Deal also includes commitments to present a biodiversity strategy for 2030, to be presented in March 2020 in preparation for COP15 of the Convention of Biological Diversity.⁴⁰⁸⁰ The deal also includes a zero-tolerance approach to unreported and illegal fishing, that will be based and new product labelling rules to encourage the consumption of deforestation-free agricultural products.⁴⁰⁸¹

On 18 December 2019, the European Parliament voted for a resolution to strengthen the European Union Pollinators Initiative adopted in 2018 to further protect pollinators from the numerous causes of their decline including industrial farming, habitat loss, pesticide usage and invasive species.⁴⁰⁸² As part of this resolution, the MEPs called on the European Commission to introduce EU-wide pesticides reduction targets and more financial support for research on the causes of bee decline.⁴⁰⁸³

On January 1 2020, the European Union formalized Switzerland's membership of the Union's emissions trading system (EU ETS), making Switzerland the first country from outside the European Union to join the cap and trade scheme.⁴⁰⁸⁴ The EU ETS aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power generation and carbon-intensive industries and allows links to other comparable, mandatory emission trading systems.⁴⁰⁸⁵

On 15 January 2020, the European Parliament adopted its position to support the European Green Deal and called for more ambitious 2030 emission reduction targets.⁴⁰⁸⁶ The Parliament also voted in support of the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan that will generate investments to finance a just

⁴⁰⁷⁸ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green New Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf.

⁴⁰⁷⁹ European Green Deal to press ahead despite Polish targets opt-out, The Guardian (Brussels) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/dec/13/european-green-deal-to-press-ahead-despite-polish-targets-opt-out>.

⁴⁰⁸⁰ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the European Green New Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf.

⁴⁰⁸¹ EU Commission unveils 'European Green Deal': Key points, Euractiv (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/eu-commission-unveils-european-green-deal-the-key-points/1410205/>.

⁴⁰⁸² Parliament urges cuts in pesticide use to save Europe's pollinators, Euractiv (Brussels) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/parliament-urges-cuts-in-pesticide-use-to-save-europes-pollinators/>.

⁴⁰⁸³ Parliament urges cuts in pesticide use to save Europe's pollinators, Euractiv (Brussels) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/agriculture-food/news/parliament-urges-cuts-in-pesticide-use-to-save-europes-pollinators/>.

⁴⁰⁸⁴ Press Release: Linking of Switzerland to the EU emissions trading system - entry into force on 1 January 2020, European Council (Brussels) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/09/linking-of-switzerland-to-the-eu-emissions-trading-system-entry-into-force-on-1-january-2020>.

⁴⁰⁸⁵ Press Release: Linking of Switzerland to the EU emissions trading system - entry into force on 1 January 2020, European Council (Brussels) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 12 April 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/09/linking-of-switzerland-to-the-eu-emissions-trading-system-entry-into-force-on-1-january-2020>.

⁴⁰⁸⁶ Press Release: Parliament supports European Green Deal and pushes for even higher ambitions, European Parliament (Brussels) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 15 January 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200109IPR69902/parliament-supports-european-green-deal-and-pushes-for-even-higher-ambitions>.

transition for fossil fuel dependent regional economies' Europe.^{4087,4088} The resolution also included a call for a WTO-compliant mechanism that prevents carbon leakage.⁴⁰⁸⁹

On 16 January 2020, the European Parliament adopted a resolution supporting the European Commission's political guidelines calling for the EU's global efforts to reduce biodiversity loss in the next five years.⁴⁰⁹⁰ Notably, the resolution calls on the Commission to make the protection of nature a priority in the Green Deal, integrate biodiversity into climate policies, and develop the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy that sets binding targets to combat the main causes of biodiversity loss in EU and globally by 2030.^{4091,4092}

On 23 January 2020, the European Parliament adopted a resolution pushing for climate change to be a central consideration for the European Central Bank (ECB)'s review of monetary policy, citing that ECB policies must comply with the Paris agreement.^{4093,4094} The resolution also highlighted that a significant proportion of ECB's bond purchases occur in carbon-intensive sectors.⁴⁰⁹⁵

On 17 February 2020, the European Commission announced funding of EUR101.2 million to support 10 environmental projects in Greece, Ireland, France, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Spain, Slovakia, and Czech Republic.⁴⁰⁹⁶ The projects will foster climate resilience, restore ecosystems and

⁴⁰⁸⁷ Press Release: Parliament supports European Green Deal and pushes for even higher ambitions, European Parliament (Brussels) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 15 January 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200109IPR69902/parliament-supports-european-green-deal-and-pushes-for-even-higher-ambitions>.

⁴⁰⁸⁸ Financing the green transition: The European Green Deal Investment Plan and Just Transition Mechanism, European Commission (Brussels) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/01/14-01-2020-financing-the-green-transition-the-european-green-deal-investment-plan-and-just-transition-mechanism

⁴⁰⁸⁹ Press Release: Parliament supports European Green Deal and pushes for even higher ambitions, European Parliament (Brussels) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 15 January 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200109IPR69902/parliament-supports-european-green-deal-and-pushes-for-even-higher-ambitions>.

⁴⁰⁹⁰ European Parliament resolution of 16 January 2020 on the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, European Parliament (Brussels) 09 January 2020. Access Date 12 April 2020. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0015_EN.pdf.

⁴⁰⁹¹ European Parliament resolution of 16 January 2020 on the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, European Parliament (Brussels) 09 January 2020. Access Date 12 April 2020. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2020-0015_EN.pdf.

⁴⁰⁹² European Parliament shows determination on biodiversity protection, WWF European Policy Office (Brussels) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. <https://www.wwf.eu/?uNewsID=358331>

⁴⁰⁹³ Parliament urges ECB to put climate at heart of strategy review, Euractiv (Brussels) 13 February 2020. Access Date 11 April 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/parliament-urges-ecb-to-put-climate-at-heart-of-strategy-review>.

⁴⁰⁹⁴ Report on the European Central Bank Annual Report for 2018, European Parliament (Brussels) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2020-0016_EN.html#title2

⁴⁰⁹⁵ Parliament urges ECB to put climate at heart of strategy review, Euractiv (Brussels) 13 February 2020. Access Date 11 April 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/parliament-urges-ecb-to-put-climate-at-heart-of-strategy-review>.

⁴⁰⁹⁶ EU invests more than €100 million in new LIFE Programme projects to promote a green and climate-neutral Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-invests-more-100-million-new-life-programme-projects-promote-green-and-climate-neutral_en

promote sustainable finance as part of the European Green Deal.⁴⁰⁹⁷ The funding is part of the LIFE Programme that supports climate action in the EU.⁴⁰⁹⁸

On 26 February 2020, the European Commission released its “Winter Package” of 28 country reports highlighting the how member states have used economic and employment policies to meet the UN SDGs.⁴⁰⁹⁹ The country reports also areas of support that the Just Transition Fund can support.⁴¹⁰⁰

On 4 March 2020, the European Commission proposed the legislation of the European Climate Law and therefore set a target to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050 as part of the European Green Deal.⁴¹⁰¹ The European Climate Law also includes pathways to reach the target and tools measure progress.⁴¹⁰²

On 26 March 2020, the 27 EU heads of state issued a call to the European Commission to consider the Green Deal, sustainable growth, and digital aspects as part of the recovery plan from the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴¹⁰³

The EU has taken efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies through proposing the EU 2030 Biodiversity strategy and implementing the maximum sustainability yield principle in the Baltic Sea and has taken efforts to address the main pressures of biodiversity through the single-use plastic ban and European Union Pollinators Initiative. The EU has also taken efforts that offer co-benefits to the global challenges of climate change, through for instance, the Green Deal and the European Investment Bank strategy for environmental sustainability and climate action, and ecosystem degradation through the EU Communication on Stepping up EU Action to Protect and Restore the World’s Forests.

Thus, EU has received a score of +1.

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⁴⁰⁹⁷ EU invests more than €100 million in new LIFE Programme projects to promote a green and climate-neutral Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-invests-more-100-million-new-life-programme-projects-promote-green-and-climate-neutral_en

⁴⁰⁹⁸ EU invests more than €100 million in new LIFE Programme projects to promote a green and climate-neutral Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-invests-more-100-million-new-life-programme-projects-promote-green-and-climate-neutral_en

⁴⁰⁹⁹ Press Release: Winter Package competitive sustainability at the heart of the European Semester, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_320.

⁴¹⁰⁰ Press Release: Winter Package competitive sustainability at the heart of the European Semester, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_320.

⁴¹⁰¹ Communication from the Europe Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_335.

⁴¹⁰² Press Release: Committing to climate-neutrality by 2050: Commission proposes European Climate Law and consults on the European Climate Pact, European Commission (Brussels) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_335.

⁴¹⁰³ EU Leaders back ‘Green Transition’ in Pandemic Recovery Plan, Euractiv (Brussels) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 11 April 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/eu-leaders-back-green-transition-in-pandemic-recovery-plan>.