

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 Second Interim Compliance Report

27 August 2019 — 3 June 2020

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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		0	
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.63 (81%)	

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 2015.³³⁷⁷ In addition, over 30 per cent of corals are now at risk from bleaching, and 60 per cent of vertebrate populations have disappeared since 1970.³³⁷⁸ 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.³³⁷⁹

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.³³⁸⁰

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 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

³³⁷⁷ 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>

³³⁷⁸ 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>

³³⁷⁹ 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

³³⁸⁰ 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>

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.³³⁸¹

Commitment Feature

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.³³⁸² Given this, there are numerous policies and actions related to the above that can be counted toward 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.³³⁸³

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.³³⁸⁴ Actions that count toward 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 toward compliance. For compliance efforts toward 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 a score of +1 or 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 toward 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 toward any of the three aforementioned areas.

³³⁸¹ 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

³³⁸² 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

³³⁸³ 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

³³⁸⁴ 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

Note: Actions taken between 13 April and 3 June 2020 have been included in this report but were not included in the version sent out for stakeholder feedback.

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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Lead Analyst: Vibbor Rohatgi*

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, 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.³³⁸⁵ The funding will enable the company to implement new equipment to transform waste into biofertilizer and renewable energy.³³⁸⁶ 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.³³⁸⁷

In October 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to plant two billion trees and reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.³³⁸⁸ To attain and measure progress toward the latter, Prime Minister Trudeau said that his government would enact five-year targets.³³⁸⁹

From December 2 to 13, at COP25 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson announced CAD5 million to support World Bank's Partnership for Market Implementation.³³⁹⁰ This funding will

³³⁸⁵ 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>.

³³⁸⁶ 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>.

³³⁸⁷ 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>

³³⁸⁸ 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>

³³⁸⁹ 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>

³³⁹⁰ 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.³³⁹¹ This funding is part of Canada's CAD2.65 billion commitment to help developing countries adapt to climate change.³³⁹²

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.³³⁹³ The Powering Past Coal Alliance aims to encourage the phase out of traditional coal power.³³⁹⁴

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.³³⁹⁵ The Plastics Charter brings together businesses, civil society organizations, and governments who are committed to take action against plastic pollution.³³⁹⁶

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.³³⁹⁷

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.³³⁹⁸

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.³³⁹⁹ Thus, Canada is close to fulfilling Target 1 of the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets set in 2015 in response to the

³³⁹¹ 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>

³³⁹² 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>

³³⁹³ 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>

³³⁹⁴ 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>

³³⁹⁵ 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>

³³⁹⁶ 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>

³³⁹⁷ 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>

³³⁹⁸ 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>

³³⁹⁹ 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's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.³⁴⁰⁰

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 2022-2023.³⁴⁰¹ 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.³⁴⁰²

On 20 January 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced a funding of CAD100,000 for Assiniboine Park Conservancy and CAD100,000 for Eco-West Canada.³⁴⁰³ The funding will enable youth to raise develop skills and raise awareness of climate change and will allow small and medium sized enterprises to support communities in developing climate action plans.³⁴⁰⁴ 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.³⁴⁰⁵

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.³⁴⁰⁶ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Climate Action Fund to the Youth Climate Lab.³⁴⁰⁷

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.³⁴⁰⁸ The composting

³⁴⁰⁰ 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>

³⁴⁰¹ 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>

³⁴⁰² 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>

³⁴⁰³ 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>

³⁴⁰⁴ 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>

³⁴⁰⁵ 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>

³⁴⁰⁶ 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>

³⁴⁰⁷ 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>

³⁴⁰⁸ 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.³⁴⁰⁹ The funding is part of Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund.³⁴¹⁰

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.³⁴¹¹ The funding is part of the Climate Action Fund.³⁴¹²

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.³⁴¹³ Notably, the funding will go toward protecting the province's old-growth forest that is home to many species at risk such as rusty blackbird and Canada warbler.³⁴¹⁴ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Canada Nature Fund.³⁴¹⁵

On 21 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced signed two agreements with the province of British Columbia and the West Moberly and Saulteau 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.³⁴¹⁶ The

³⁴⁰⁹ 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>

³⁴¹⁰ 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>

³⁴¹¹ 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>

³⁴¹² 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>

³⁴¹³ 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>

³⁴¹⁴ 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>

³⁴¹⁵ 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>

³⁴¹⁶ 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.³⁴¹⁷

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.³⁴¹⁸ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Climate Action Fund to Science North.³⁴¹⁹

On 4 March 2020, Member of Parliament (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.³⁴²⁰ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Climate Action Fund.³⁴²¹

On 4 March 2020, MP for Saint John-Rochester 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.³⁴²² The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund.³⁴²³

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.³⁴²⁴ The funding is part of the Government of Canada's Low Carbon Economy Fund.³⁴²⁵

³⁴¹⁷ 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>

³⁴¹⁸ 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>

³⁴¹⁹ 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>

³⁴²⁰ 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>

³⁴²¹ 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>

³⁴²² 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>

³⁴²³ 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>

³⁴²⁴ 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>

³⁴²⁵ 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 Tłı̨ch̨ 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.³⁴²⁶ 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.³⁴²⁷

On 11 May 2020, the Government of Canada announced the Large Employer Emergency Financing Facility (LEEFF) to provide loans to employers with annual revenues of more than CAD300 million to enable them to pay employees through the pandemic.³⁴²⁸ In order to qualify for this program, companies need to disclose sustainability goals and climate action plans.³⁴²⁹

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 [COP] 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.³⁴³⁰ The initiative enables researchers, entrepreneurs and members of civil society to cooperate and combat systemic challenges related to climate change.³⁴³¹

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), France joined the European Union and 20 Mediterranean Coastal States to commit to making the Mediterranean

³⁴²⁶ News Release: Government of Canada Partners with Tłı̨ch̨ 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>

³⁴²⁷ 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>

³⁴²⁸ Federal government offers bridge loans — not 'bailouts' — for big businesses hit by COVID-19, CBC (Toronto) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/bridge-financing-big-business-1.5564218>

³⁴²⁹ Federal government offers bridge loans — not 'bailouts' — for big businesses hit by COVID-19, CBC (Toronto) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/bridge-financing-big-business-1.5564218>

³⁴³⁰ 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>

³⁴³¹ 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>

Sea an Emission Control Area Zone.³⁴³² Under this commitment, the Government of 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.³⁴³³

On 2-5 December 2019, at COP21, signatories, including France, adopted new and updated strategies for the protection of monk seal, rays, and sharks in the Mediterranean.³⁴³⁴ The signatories also established “Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)” in France, Italy, Spain, and Slovenia.³⁴³⁵ The SPAMI sites also include a corridor for the movement of Cetaceans.³⁴³⁶

On 19 December 2019, 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.³⁴³⁷ 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).³⁴³⁸ The CAP is the EU’s partnership between society and farmers in Europe and supports agriculture, livelihoods of farmers and promotes sustainable farming.³⁴³⁹

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.³⁴⁴⁰ 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 2020.³⁴⁴¹ The SNBC and PPE

³⁴³² 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>.

³⁴³³ 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>.

³⁴³⁴ 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>.

³⁴³⁵ 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>

³⁴³⁶ 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>

³⁴³⁷ 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>

³⁴³⁸ 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>

³⁴³⁹ 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

³⁴⁴⁰ 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>

³⁴⁴¹ 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>

are part of the French Strategy for Energy and the Climate which was presented in November 2018.³⁴⁴²

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.³⁴⁴³ The plans will support a low carbon economy, generate high-skilled jobs and revive France's manufacturing sector.³⁴⁴⁴

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 and companies, signed a European Pact that takes action against plastic waste and promotes a low-plastic and circular economy.³⁴⁴⁵ 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 2025.³⁴⁴⁶

On 18 May 2020, the Governments of France and Germany put forward a series of actions intended to support the sustainable recovery of the European Union from the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴⁴⁷ Among these actions, the two nations propose an increase in the stringency of EU's 2030 emission reduction goals, an expansion of the EU ETS to all sectors of the economy and a minimum carbon price on the EU ETS, a recovery that prioritizes climate and the environment, and important consideration to biodiversity conservation.^{3448,3449}

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.

³⁴⁴² 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>

³⁴⁴³ "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>

³⁴⁴⁴ "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>

³⁴⁴⁵ 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>

³⁴⁴⁶ 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>

³⁴⁴⁷ France and Germany united for the sustainable recovery of the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-and-germany-united-for-the-sustainable-recovery-of-the-european-union>

³⁴⁴⁸ France and Germany united for the sustainable recovery of the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-and-germany-united-for-the-sustainable-recovery-of-the-european-union>

³⁴⁴⁹ Climate protection at the heart of the Covid-19 post crisis, Government of France (Paris) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-protection-at-the-heart-of-the-covid-19-post-crisis>

Thus, France has received a score of +1.

Analyst: Minghan Sun

Germany: 0

Germany 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 4 September 2019, the German Cabinet adopted the Federal Action Programme for Insect Protection, aiming to reverse the trend of decline in insect biodiversity in Germany in a comprehensive manner.³⁴⁵⁰ The programme defines the government's goals and measures in various fields of action.³⁴⁵¹ Key measures include the investment of EUR100 million annually for the promotion of insect protection, e.g. in the agricultural landscape, and for research on insects, protection and restoration of insect habitats in all landscape areas, revised guidelines for the use of pesticides, enhancement of insect-friendly light sources, as well as promoting the engagement for insects in all areas of the society.³⁴⁵²

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.³⁴⁵³ 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.³⁴⁵⁴

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.³⁴⁵⁵ The initiative enables researchers, entrepreneurs and members of civil society to cooperate and combat systemic challenges related to climate change.³⁴⁵⁶

On 11 November 2019, the Federal Environment Ministry launched a global competition to find ideas for climate action in order to support developing and emerging countries in reducing

³⁴⁵⁰ Information Material Issues by the Federal Government, The Federal Government (translated) (Berlin), 4 September 2019. Access Date: 4 June 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/service/gesetzesvorhaben/aktionsprogramm-insektenschutz-1581358>.

³⁴⁵¹ Information Material Issues by the Federal Government, The Federal Government (translated) (Berlin), 4 September 2019. Access Date: 4 June 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/service/gesetzesvorhaben/aktionsprogramm-insektenschutz-1581358>.

³⁴⁵² Information Material Issues by the Federal Government, The Federal Government (translated) (Berlin), 4 September 2019. Access Date: 4 June 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/service/gesetzesvorhaben/aktionsprogramm-insektenschutz-1581358>.

³⁴⁵³ 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>

³⁴⁵⁴ 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>

³⁴⁵⁵ 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>

³⁴⁵⁶ 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>

greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change and conserve biodiversity.³⁴⁵⁷ Applications are invited in 13 topic areas, including international forest conservation and a range of topics relating to the conservation of biodiversity. A total of EUR 240 million have been made available from International Climate Initiative (IKI) funds for projects implementing the Paris Agreement and on biological diversity.³⁴⁵⁸

On 13 November 2019, Germany's Bundestag adopted the Gesetzentwurf Direktzahlungen-Durchführungsgesetz, a law on direct payments. This law makes more investment available for climate, environment and animal protection through the EU-Common Agricultural Policy.³⁴⁵⁹

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.³⁴⁶⁰ The decision however was criticized by opposition party members and scientists as not being ambitious enough to allow Germany to achieve its 2030 targets.³⁴⁶¹

On 3 December 2019, the Federal Environment Ministry announced that Germany had been accepted as a member of the International Coral Protection Initiative, and that Germany is committed to the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs.³⁴⁶²

On 7 December 2019, the Federal Environment Ministry, with the Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), launched a support program for local projects that protect the climate and biodiversity, with a focus on supporting small non-profit organisations and initiatives in developing countries.³⁴⁶³ The goal is to select, by 2025, more than 100 small projects through international calls for proposals that will be awarded a grant of up to EUR 100,000 each, provided by the International Climate Initiative.³⁴⁶⁴

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.³⁴⁶⁵ 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

³⁴⁵⁷ Launch of international competition on climate action and biological diversity (BMU), 11 November 2019. Access date: 14 June 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/launch-of-international-competition-on-climate-action-and-biological-diversity>.

³⁴⁵⁸ Launch of international competition on climate action and biological diversity (BMU), 11 November 2019. Access date: 14 June 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/launch-of-international-competition-on-climate-action-and-biological-diversity>.

³⁴⁵⁹ Gesetzentwurf Direktzahlungen-Durchführungsgesetz (Bundestag), 13 November 2013. Access date: 14 June 2020. <https://www.bundestag.de/parlament/plenum/abstimmung/abstimmung?id=631>.

³⁴⁶⁰ 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>

³⁴⁶¹ 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>

³⁴⁶² Bundesumweltministerium unterstützt die Internationale Korallenschutzinitiative (Berlin), 3 December 2019. Access date: 14 June 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerium-unterstuetzt-die-internationale-korallenschutzinitiative>.

³⁴⁶³ New support programme for local small-scale projects in developing countries (BMU), 7 December 2019. Access date: 14 June 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/new-support-programme-for-local-small-scale-projects-in-developing-countries>.

³⁴⁶⁴ New support programme for local small-scale projects in developing countries (BMU), 7 December 2019. Access date: 14 June 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/new-support-programme-for-local-small-scale-projects-in-developing-countries>.

³⁴⁶⁵ 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>

programme by investing in clean technology, and managing traffic more efficiently through increased usage of rail and electric vehicles.³⁴⁶⁶

On 19 December 2019, 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.³⁴⁶⁷ 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).³⁴⁶⁸ The CAP is the EU's partnership between society and farmers in Europe and supports agriculture, livelihoods of farmers and promotes sustainable farming.³⁴⁶⁹

On 15 January 2020, the German Cabinet adopted the National Bioeconomy Strategy, an umbrella strategy that provides a coherent framework for the transition toward a biobased sustainable economic system.³⁴⁷⁰ This model of bioeconomy aimed at spreading the use of biological resources and eco-friendly production procedures to every aspect of the German economy.³⁴⁷¹

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 2038.³⁴⁷² 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 2038.³⁴⁷³

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.³⁴⁷⁴ The plans will support a low carbon economy and generate high skilled jobs.³⁴⁷⁵

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 and companies, signed a European Pact that takes action against plastic

³⁴⁶⁶ 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>

³⁴⁶⁷ 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>

³⁴⁶⁸ 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>

³⁴⁶⁹ 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

³⁴⁷⁰ 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>

³⁴⁷¹ 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>

³⁴⁷² 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>

³⁴⁷³ Ending coal-generated power, Federal Government of Germany (Berlin). Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/kohleausstiegsgesetz-1717014>

³⁴⁷⁴ "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>

³⁴⁷⁵ "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>

waste and promotes a low-plastic and circular economy.³⁴⁷⁶ 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 2025.³⁴⁷⁷

On 13 May 2020, Germany announced it had joined the Global Ocean Alliance, an international initiative to place at least 30 per cent of the world's seas and oceans under marine protection measures by 2030.³⁴⁷⁸

On 18 May 2020, the Governments of France and Germany put forward a series of actions intended to support the sustainable recovery of the European Union from the COVID-19 pandemic.^{3479,3480} Among these actions, the two nations propose an increase in the stringency of EU's 2030 emission reduction goals, an expansion of the EU ETS to all sectors of the economy and a minimum carbon price on the EU ETS, a recovery that prioritizes climate and the environment, and important consideration to biodiversity conservation.^{3481,3482,3483}

On 19 May 2020, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation released its Natural Nature report which stated that one-third of the biodiversity in Germany is in poor condition, with insect species such as dragonflies, butterflies and beetles declining significantly.³⁴⁸⁴ With the findings of the report, Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze wants to pass insect protection legislation in late 2020 that will focus on pesticide use and other agricultural practices.³⁴⁸⁵

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. However, it has not taken any efforts to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies.

³⁴⁷⁶ 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>

³⁴⁷⁷ 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>

³⁴⁷⁸ Germany joins Global Ocean Alliance for marine protection (BMU), 13 May 2020. Access date: 14 June 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-joins-global-ocean-alliance-for-marine-protection/>

³⁴⁷⁹ France and Germany united for the sustainable recovery of the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-and-germany-united-for-the-sustainable-recovery-of-the-european-union>

³⁴⁸⁰ Emerging stronger from the crisis, Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/dt-franz-initiative-1753890>

³⁴⁸¹ France and Germany united for the sustainable recovery of the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-and-germany-united-for-the-sustainable-recovery-of-the-european-union>

³⁴⁸² Climate protection at the heart of the Covid-19 post crisis, Government of France (Paris) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-protection-at-the-heart-of-the-covid-19-post-crisis>

³⁴⁸³ Emerging stronger from the crisis, Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/dt-franz-initiative-1753890>

³⁴⁸⁴ One-third of animal species in Germany in bad shape, says new government report, Euractiv (Brussels) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/one-third-of-animal-species-in-germany-are-in-bad-shape-says-new-government-report/>

³⁴⁸⁵ One-third of animal species in Germany in bad shape, says new government report, Euractiv (Brussels) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/energy-environment/news/one-third-of-animal-species-in-germany-are-in-bad-shape-says-new-government-report/>

Thus, Germany has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Minghan Sun

Italy: 0

Italy 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 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.³⁴⁸⁶ Each year, teachers at all grade levels will be required to include 33 hours of education about climate change and related topics.³⁴⁸⁷ This policy has made Italy the first country to mandate education on climate change in schools.³⁴⁸⁸

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.³⁴⁸⁹

On 2-5 December 2019, at COP21 signatories, including Italy, adopted new and updated strategies for the protection of monk seal, rays, and sharks in the Mediterranean.³⁴⁹⁰ The signatories also established “Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMI)” in France, Italy, Spain, and Slovenia.³⁴⁹¹ The SPAMI sites also include a corridor for the movement of Cetaceans.³⁴⁹²

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.³⁴⁹³ The plastic tax aims to discourage the consumption and production of plastic and is set to be effective will on 1 July 2020.^{3494,3495}

³⁴⁸⁶ 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/>.

³⁴⁸⁷ 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/>.

³⁴⁸⁸ 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/>.

³⁴⁸⁹ 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>.

³⁴⁹⁰ 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>.

³⁴⁹¹ 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>.

³⁴⁹² 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>.

³⁴⁹³ 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>

³⁴⁹⁴ 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>

On 9 April, 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.^{3496,3497}

Italy has taken some actions to strengthen and improve current biodiversity strategies and address the main pressures of biodiversity through the Barcelona Convention but has not taken efforts that offer co-benefits to another global challenge.

Thus, Italy has received a score of 0.

Analyst: Mavis 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.^{3498,3499} This funding is part of a wider pledge of USD9.78 billion provided by 27 countries in the first replenishment of the fund.³⁵⁰⁰ 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.³⁵⁰¹

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.³⁵⁰² 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

³⁴⁹⁵ 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

³⁴⁹⁶ 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/>

³⁴⁹⁷ 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/>

³⁴⁹⁸ 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>

³⁴⁹⁹ 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/96ea94f9-d8f7-1ce1-198c-3f7fe1f47c30

³⁵⁰⁰ 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>

³⁵⁰¹ 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>

³⁵⁰² Press Release: 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>

biodiversity.³⁵⁰³ 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.³⁵⁰⁴

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.³⁵⁰⁵ To enable progress toward 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.³⁵⁰⁶ Overall, these techniques will help countries meet their marine biodiversity conservation targets, their Aichi Biodiversity Targets and a number of Sustainable Development Goals.³⁵⁰⁷

On 24 January 2020, the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) announced their fourth selection of ten projects for their Financing Programme.³⁵⁰⁸ These projects are based in seven partner countries, including Ethiopia, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Chile, Thailand, and the Philippines and are focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency improvement.³⁵⁰⁹ The JCM was established in 2013 to disseminate Japan's low carbon technologies to developing countries around the world³⁵¹⁰ 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.³⁵¹¹

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.³⁵¹² The agreement will provide Fiji with a loan of up to JPY5 billion to support the country's Stand-by Loan

³⁵⁰³ 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>

³⁵⁰⁴ 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>

³⁵⁰⁵ 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>

³⁵⁰⁶ 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>

³⁵⁰⁷ 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>

³⁵⁰⁸ 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/>

³⁵⁰⁹ 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/>

³⁵¹⁰ 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/>

³⁵¹¹ 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/>

³⁵¹² 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

for Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation.³⁵¹³ The loan finance post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation initiatives and support disaster risk reduction policies in Fiji.³⁵¹⁴

On 21 February 2020, the JCM issued credits between Cambodia and Japan for the first time.³⁵¹⁵ The supported project will increase energy efficiency through the installation of ultra-lightweight solar panels at an International School in Cambodia.³⁵¹⁶

On 5 March 2020, the JCM issued credits between Saudi Arabia and Japan for the first time.³⁵¹⁷ 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.³⁵¹⁸

On 30 March 2020, the Ministry of the Environment (MOEJ) updated their “Practical Guide for Scenario Analysis in line with TCFD [Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures] Recommendations” to support companies in assessing their climate-related opportunities.³⁵¹⁹ This updated guide now includes Key Points of Practice, Practical Examples from twelve companies that the MOEJ supports, and additional materials that can be used for scenario analysis.³⁵²⁰

On 30 March 2020, the Global Warming Prevention Headquarters announced Japan’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) for the Paris Agreement.³⁵²¹ The NDC includes Japan’s target to reduce emissions by 26 per cent below 2013 levels by 2030.³⁵²² The target is unchanged from the one submitted in 2015 for the Paris Agreement.³⁵²³

³⁵¹³ 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

³⁵¹⁴ 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

³⁵¹⁵ 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>

³⁵¹⁶ 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>

³⁵¹⁷ 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>

³⁵¹⁸ 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>

³⁵¹⁹ 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>

³⁵²⁰ 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>

³⁵²¹ 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>

³⁵²² 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>

³⁵²³ 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

On 30 March 2020, JICA signed an ODA loan with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.³⁵²⁴ The agreement will provide the Philippines up to JPY4.409 billion to support the Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project (II).³⁵²⁵ 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.³⁵²⁶

On 31 March 2020, JICA signed ODA loan agreements with the Government of the Republic of Indonesia.³⁵²⁷ 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.³⁵²⁸ Among other objectives, this will help conserve the aquatic environment of the city.³⁵²⁹ The second agreement provides JPY7.299 billion to improve urban flood control systems in selected cities in Indonesia to enhance flood disaster prevention.³⁵³⁰

On 31 March 2020, JICA signed a loan agreement with Brazilian pulp and paper manufacture company Klabin S.A.³⁵³¹ 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.³⁵³² Klabin S.A. supports reforestation and conserves more than 40 per cent of its forests as natural forests.³⁵³³

³⁵²⁴ 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

³⁵²⁵ 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

³⁵²⁶ 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

³⁵²⁷ 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

³⁵²⁸ 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

³⁵²⁹ 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

³⁵³⁰ 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

³⁵³¹ 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

³⁵³² 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

³⁵³³ 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

On 24 April 2020, the MOEJ launched a pilot program that aims to increase the number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are achieved through the Ministry's projects.³⁵³⁴ In addition to the achievement of SDGs in disaster risk reduction and climate change, the pilot program will ensure projects achieve other socioeconomic SDGs.³⁵³⁵

On 25 May 2020, JICA signed a grant agreement with the Government of Nepal that will provide funding of up to JPY1.17 billion to develop a Digital Elevation Model and Orthophoto in an attempt to mitigate damages from natural disasters in Southern Nepal.³⁵³⁶

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.³⁵³⁷ 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.³⁵³⁸

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.³⁵³⁹ This funding is part of UK's International Biodiversity Fund that will provide financial

³⁵³⁴ Press Release: MOEJ Launches Innovative Pilot Program for Mainstreaming SDGs into its Project Cycle, Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (Tokyo) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020.

<https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2444.html>

³⁵³⁵ Press Release: MOEJ Launches Innovative Pilot Program for Mainstreaming SDGs into its Project Cycle, Ministry of the Environment Government of Japan (Tokyo) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020.

<https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2444.html>

³⁵³⁶ Press Release: Signing of Grant Agreement with Nepal: Providing a Digital Elevation Model and Orthophoto and contributing to the strengthening of disaster resilience, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 25 May 2020. Access Date: May 29 2020. https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2020/20200525_31_en.html

³⁵³⁷ 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>

³⁵³⁸ 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>

³⁵³⁹ 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.³⁵⁴⁰

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.³⁵⁴¹

On 24 September 2019, UK Prime Minister Johnson announced an International Biodiversity Fund.³⁵⁴² This International Biodiversity Fund will support a tripling for Defra's renowned Darwin Initiative, increased funding for work to tackle the illegal wildlife trade, including the illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and a new GBP100m Biodiverse Landscapes Fund to tackle the main drivers of biodiversity loss in up to five global biodiversity hotspots.³⁵⁴³ The International Biodiversity Fund also includes a GBP30 million extension to the Forest Governance Markets and Climate Programme to help stop deforestation by tackling illegal logging and helping promote the legal timber trade.³⁵⁴⁴

On 24 September 2019, the Government of UK announced the creation of the Global Ocean Alliance to protect wildlife in the world's ocean.³⁵⁴⁵ This alliance, consisting of 10 countries, seeks to address issues such as warming sea temperatures, plastic pollution and extinction of marine species.³⁵⁴⁶ 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 2020.³⁵⁴⁷

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.³⁵⁴⁸

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.³⁵⁴⁹ As part of this scheme,

³⁵⁴⁰ 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>

³⁵⁴¹ 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>

³⁵⁴² UK Aid to double efforts to tackle climate change, Relief Web (New York) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/uk-aid-double-efforts-tackle-climate-change>.

³⁵⁴³ UK Aid to double efforts to tackle climate change, Relief Web (New York) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/uk-aid-double-efforts-tackle-climate-change>.

³⁵⁴⁴ UK Aid to double efforts to tackle climate change, Relief Web (New York) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 1 June 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/uk-aid-double-efforts-tackle-climate-change>.

³⁵⁴⁵ 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>

³⁵⁴⁶ 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>

³⁵⁴⁷ 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>

³⁵⁴⁸ 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>

GBP50 million will be used to provide landowners and farmers an incentive to plant more trees and create new woodland.³⁵⁵⁰

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.³⁵⁵¹ The SPAs, to be established in Solent and Middlesbrough, will safeguard seabirds from recreational human activities.³⁵⁵²

On 21 January 2020, Prime Minister Johnson and Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta agreed on a strategic partnership focused on economic prosperity, security, sustainable development and climate change between 2020 and 2025.³⁵⁵³ Both the UK and Kenya are committed to demonstrating global leadership, tackling climate change and environmental issues such as climate finance and biodiversity.³⁵⁵⁴

On 19 February 2020, the Prime Minister Johnson announced GBP220 million International Biodiverse Landscapes Fund at the 2019 UN General Assembly.³⁵⁵⁵ The fund includes an allotment of GBP100 million that will support conservation and restoration projects in five global biodiversity hotspots.³⁵⁵⁶

On 4 March 2020, the Government of the UK invested GBP37 million to develop electric machines in UK's most polluting industries, contributing to the UK's zero-emission goal by 2050.³⁵⁵⁷ GBP30 million will be used to establish research and development centres in Nottingham, Sunderland, Newport, and Strathclyde.³⁵⁵⁸ The remaining funding will enable automotive manufacturers to obtain parts to design the electric machines.³⁵⁵⁹

³⁵⁴⁹ 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>

³⁵⁵⁰ 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>

³⁵⁵¹ 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>

³⁵⁵² 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>

³⁵⁵³ 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>

³⁵⁵⁴ 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>

³⁵⁵⁵ 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>

³⁵⁵⁶ 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>

³⁵⁵⁷ 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>

³⁵⁵⁸ 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>

³⁵⁵⁹ 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>

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).³⁵⁶⁰ The CDRI is a partnership between private sector organizations, governments, academia, banks and UN agencies and aims to develop climate and disaster resilient infrastructure.³⁵⁶¹

On 21 April 2020, the Government of the UK implemented new import regulations to protect the UK's forestry and horticulture industries from plant pests and diseases such as Emerald Ash Borer, Xylella, and plane tree wilt.³⁵⁶²

On 4 May 2020, the Government of the UK launched a GBP14 million fund to enable licensed zoos and aquariums to continue animal welfare and conservation efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁵⁶³

On 21 May 2020, the Government of the UK launched a GBP40 million Clean Growth Fund to support the development of clean, low-carbon technologies such as biofuels, renewable heating and energy storage systems.³⁵⁶⁴ The funding will support the Government of UK's plan to reach Net Zero emissions by 2050.

On 22 May 2020, the Government of the UK announced GBP3.4 million to fund conservation projects that will tackle jaguar poaching in Bolivia, improve cooperation among enforcement agencies to safeguard elephants, pangolins, and chimpanzees in Nigeria and support enforcement and communities in Indonesia, Guatemala and Nepal.³⁵⁶⁵ The funding is part of the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge (IWT) Fund that supports international projects that tackle illegal wildlife trade.³⁵⁶⁶

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 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.

³⁵⁶⁰ 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>

³⁵⁶¹ 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>

³⁵⁶² Press Release: Strict new controls to protect the UK's trees and plants against damaging threats, Government of UK (London) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/strict-new-controls-to-protect-the-uks-trees-and-plants-against-damaging-threats>

³⁵⁶³ Press Release: £14 million financial support for England's zoos unveiled, Government of UK (London) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/14-million-financial-support-for-englands-zoos-unveiled>

³⁵⁶⁴ Press Release: Government launches new £40 million Clean Growth Fund to supercharge green start-ups, Government of UK (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-40-million-clean-growth-fund-to-supercharge-green-start-ups>

³⁵⁶⁵ Press Release: Funding boost to crack down on the Illegal Wildlife Trade, Government of UK (London) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-boost-to-crack-down-on-the-illegal-wildlife-trade>

³⁵⁶⁶ Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund, Government of UK (London) 4 August 2015. Access Date: 31 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/illegal-wildlife-trade-iwt-challenge-fund>

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.³⁵⁶⁷ The bill includes amendments to the “Reforestation Trust Fund” and “Reforest America Grant Program” that demand reforestation practices enhance forest health, resilience, and biodiversity.³⁵⁶⁸

On 19 September 2019, President Donald Trump’s Administration announced a revoke of California’s vehicle emission standards.³⁵⁶⁹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Andrew Wheeler states that the decision will enable “much-needed regulatory certainty for the automotive industry.”³⁵⁷⁰ California’s vehicle emission standards are considered to be more stringent than those of many other states.³⁵⁷¹

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.³⁵⁷² The Delta is a fragile ecosystem and is home to the Delta Smelt, a threatened species for California Fish.³⁵⁷³

On 4 November 2019, the United States submitted formal notification to the United Nations to begin the withdrawal process from the Paris Agreement.³⁵⁷⁴ The withdrawal will be complete one year after the date of delivery of the notification.³⁵⁷⁵ The notification follows President Trump’s

³⁵⁶⁷ 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>

³⁵⁶⁸ 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>

³⁵⁶⁹ 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>

³⁵⁷⁰ 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>

³⁵⁷¹ 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>

³⁵⁷² 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>

³⁵⁷³ 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>

³⁵⁷⁴ 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>

³⁵⁷⁵ 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>

decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement in June 2017 due to the economic impacts of the Agreement on national businesses.³⁵⁷⁶

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.³⁵⁷⁷ The act highlights that the Green Climate Fund ensures conservation of biodiversity and critical habitats.³⁵⁷⁸

On 18 November 2019, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the allocation of USD30 million toward grants to support coastal resilience projects that reduce the impact of rising sea levels and extreme weather by strengthening natural ecosystems.³⁵⁷⁹

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.³⁵⁸⁰ The program also specifically allows for the removal of invasive species from the reefs.³⁵⁸¹

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.³⁵⁸² 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.³⁵⁸³ The act also allocated USD100 million to combat wildlife poaching and trafficking and sets aside USD151 million for aquatic ecosystem restoration.³⁵⁸⁴

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.³⁵⁸⁵

³⁵⁷⁶ 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>

³⁵⁷⁷ 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>

³⁵⁷⁸ 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>

³⁵⁷⁹ 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>

³⁵⁸⁰ 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/>

³⁵⁸¹ 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/>

³⁵⁸² 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>

³⁵⁸³ 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>

³⁵⁸⁴ 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>

³⁵⁸⁵ 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>

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.^{3586,3587} The rule states that bodies of water which are considered ephemeral, such as waste treatment systems and groundwater, are not subject to federal regulation.^{3588,3589}

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.³⁵⁹⁰ The act authorizes the prioritization of reforestation or prevention programs in developing regions whose biodiversity would be significantly impacted by deforestation.³⁵⁹¹

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.³⁵⁹² The action plan includes measures to promote public and low-carbon transport and the development of clean fuels and transport systems.³⁵⁹³

On 17 March 2020, the NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced the allocation of USD43 million toward grants to support the coastal resilience of local communities and wildlife habitats that faced natural disasters in 2018.³⁵⁹⁴ The funding will support natural infrastructure projects that increase resilience from future disasters.³⁵⁹⁵

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

³⁵⁸⁶ 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>

³⁵⁸⁷ 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>

³⁵⁸⁸ 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>

³⁵⁸⁹ 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>

³⁵⁹⁰ Trillion Trees Act, Congress.Gov, 12 February 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020.

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

³⁵⁹¹ Trillion Trees Act, Congress.Gov, 12 February 2020. Access Date: 14 April 2020.

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

³⁵⁹² 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>

³⁵⁹³ 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>

³⁵⁹⁴ 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>

³⁵⁹⁵ 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>

purpose of making vehicles more affordable for customers.³⁵⁹⁶ Carbon dioxide emissions standards will increase 1.5 per cent per year as opposed to the former increase of 5 per cent per year.³⁵⁹⁷

On 19 May 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency announced a grant of USD1,834,555 to the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) to reduce flooding and enhance fish and aquatic wildlife habitat at Colonial Park and Venoy Dorsey Park along the Lower Rouge River, Michigan.³⁵⁹⁸ The funding is part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) that aims to protect and restore the Great Lakes.³⁵⁹⁹

On 21 May 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency issued draft ambient water quality criteria as that states and authorized tribes can use to reduce excess nutrients in lakes and reservoirs and ensure the protection of public health and aquatic biodiversity from algal blooms.³⁶⁰⁰

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 United States 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.³⁶⁰¹ On the other hand, in the Atlantic and North Sea, limits to fishing quotas that enable the

³⁵⁹⁶ 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>

³⁵⁹⁷ 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>

³⁵⁹⁸ News Release: EPA announces over \$1.8 million for habitat restoration work at Rouge River Area of Concern, Environmental Protection Agency (Detroit) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-over-18-million-habitat-restoration-work-rouge-river-area-concern>

³⁵⁹⁹ About, Great Lakes Restoration, United States Government (Washington), n.d. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.glri.us/node/256>

³⁶⁰⁰ News Release: EPA Releases Draft Criteria to Help Protect Lakes and Reservoirs, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-draft-criteria-help-protect-lakes-and-reservoirs>

³⁶⁰¹ 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/>

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.^{3602,3603}

On 14 November 2019, the European Investment Bank committed to a new strategy for environmental sustainability and climate action.³⁶⁰⁴ 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.³⁶⁰⁵ The bank will also end financial support for fossil fuel energy projects after 2020.³⁶⁰⁶

On 28 November 2019, the European Parliament declared a climate and environmental emergency in the European Union and globally.³⁶⁰⁷ 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.³⁶⁰⁸

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), the European Union and 21 Mediterranean Coastal States committed to making the Mediterranean Sea an Emission Control Area Zone for Sulphur Oxides.^{3609,3610}

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 2050.³⁶¹¹ 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

³⁶⁰² 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>

³⁶⁰³ 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>

³⁶⁰⁴ 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>

³⁶⁰⁵ 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>

³⁶⁰⁶ 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>

³⁶⁰⁷ 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/20191121IPR67110/the-european-parliament-declares-climate-emergency>

³⁶⁰⁸ 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/20191121IPR67110/the-european-parliament-declares-climate-emergency>

³⁶⁰⁹ 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>.

³⁶¹⁰ 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>

³⁶¹¹ 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

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.³⁶¹² Poland did not commit to the neutrality objective but will have the opportunity to do so in June 2020 once the European Commission has published Climate law.^{3613,3614}

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.³⁶¹⁵ 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.³⁶¹⁶

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.³⁶¹⁷ As part of this resolution, the Members of the European Parliament called on the European Commission to introduce EU-wide pesticides reduction targets and more financial support for research on the causes of bee decline.³⁶¹⁸

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.³⁶¹⁹ The EU ETS aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

³⁶¹² 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.

³⁶¹³ 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.

³⁶¹⁴ 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>.

³⁶¹⁵ 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.

³⁶¹⁶ 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/>.

³⁶¹⁷ 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/>.

³⁶¹⁸ 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/>.

³⁶¹⁹ 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>.

from power generation and carbon-intensive industries and allows links to other comparable, mandatory emission trading systems.³⁶²⁰

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.³⁶²¹ The Parliament also voted in support of the Sustainable Europe Investment Plan that will generate investments to finance a just transition for fossil fuel dependent regional economies' Europe.^{3622,3623} The resolution also included a call for a World Trade Organization-compliant mechanism that prevents carbon leakage.³⁶²⁴

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.³⁶²⁵ 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.^{3626,3627}

On 23 January 2020, the European Parliament adopted a resolution pushing for climate change to be a central consideration for the review of monetary policy by the European Central Bank (ECB), citing that ECB policies must comply with the Paris agreement.^{3628,3629} The resolution also highlighted that a significant proportion of ECB's bond purchases occur in carbon-intensive sectors.³⁶³⁰

³⁶²⁰ 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>.

³⁶²¹ 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>.

³⁶²² 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>.

³⁶²³ 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

³⁶²⁴ 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>.

³⁶²⁵ 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.

³⁶²⁶ 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.

³⁶²⁷ 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>

³⁶²⁸ 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>.

³⁶²⁹ 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

³⁶³⁰ 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>.

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.³⁶³¹ The projects will foster climate resilience, restore ecosystems and promote sustainable finance as part of the European Green Deal.³⁶³² The funding is part of the LIFE Programme that supports climate action in the EU.³⁶³³

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 Sustainable Development Goals.³⁶³⁴ The country reports also areas of support that the Just Transition Fund can support.³⁶³⁵

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.³⁶³⁶ The European Climate Law also includes pathways to reach the target and tools measure progress.³⁶³⁷

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.³⁶³⁸

On 20 May 2020, the European Commission adopted a new Biodiversity Strategy and a Farm to Fork Strategy aligned with the European Green Deal.³⁶³⁹ The Biodiversity Strategy is part of EU’s recovery plan from the COVID-19 pandemic and will set binding targets to restore degraded habitats, improve the condition of European forests and restore pollinators on agriculture land.³⁶⁴⁰ The Farm to Fork Strategy aims to transform the EU food system through a minimum 20 per cent

³⁶³¹ 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

³⁶³² 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

³⁶³³ 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

³⁶³⁴ 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.

³⁶³⁵ 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.

³⁶³⁶ 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.

³⁶³⁷ 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.

³⁶³⁸ 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>.

³⁶³⁹ Press Release: Reinforcing Europe’s resilience: halting biodiversity loss and building a healthy and sustainable food system, European Commission (Brussels) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_884

³⁶⁴⁰ Press Release: Reinforcing Europe’s resilience: halting biodiversity loss and building a healthy and sustainable food system, European Commission (Brussels) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_884

reduction in the use of fertilizers, a 50 per cent reduction in antimicrobial sales and a 50 per cent reduction in pesticide use.³⁶⁴¹

On 28 May 2020, the European Commission presented a proposal for a public sector loan facility that will provide EUR25-30 billion in funding to support the transition to a climate-neutral economy.³⁶⁴² The facility is part of the Just Transition Mechanism.³⁶⁴³

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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³⁶⁴¹ Press Release: Reinforcing Europe's resilience: halting biodiversity loss and building a healthy and sustainable food system, European Commission (Brussels) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_884

³⁶⁴² Press Release: Commission proposes a public loan facility to support green investments together with the European Investment Bank, European Commission (Brussels) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_930

³⁶⁴³ Press Release: Commission proposes a public loan facility to support green investments together with the European Investment Bank, European Commission (Brussels) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 30 May 2020.
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_930