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# 2023 G7 Hiroshima Summit Final Compliance Report

22 May 2023 to 15 May 2024

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## 8. Environment: Conservation Measures

“We stress our commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, ... nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.”

*G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

### Background

The Paris Agreement, adopted at the United Nations Climate Conference in Paris on 12 December 2015, was a critical turning point for global conservation policy.<sup>1777</sup> Under Article 5 of the Paris Agreement, parties, including the G7 members, were encouraged to act towards conservation efforts. While The Paris Agreement is one example of contemporary push toward environmental protection, the issue of conservation has long been a priority matter amongst G7 leaders. Highlights follow:

At the 1981 Ottawa Summit, G7 leaders pledged to preserve the environment through long-term economic policies.<sup>1778</sup>

At the 1987 Venice Summit, G7 leaders pledged to “preserve a healthy environment and to pass it on to future generations.”<sup>1779</sup> Additionally, the G7 stated that the main environmental problems identified in expert reports should receive full attention.

At the 1988 Toronto Summit, G7 leaders agreed that “the protection and enhancement of the environment is essential.”<sup>1780</sup> G7 leaders endorsed the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development which stressed that environmental considerations must be implemented in all areas of economic policymaking.

At the 1989 Paris Summit, G7 leaders stated that there is a necessity to preserve the global ecological balance.<sup>1781</sup> G7 leaders agreed that “decisive action is urgently needed to understand and protect the earth’s ecological

<sup>1777</sup> The Paris Agreement, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Paris) 12 December 2015. Access Date: 28 September 2022. [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf)

<sup>1778</sup> Declaration of the Ottawa Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 July 1981. Access Date 6 October 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1981ottawa/communique/index.html>

<sup>1779</sup> Venezia Economic Declaration, G7 Information Center (Toronto) 10 June 1987. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1987venice/communique/index.html#environment>

<sup>1780</sup> Toronto Economic Summit Economic Declaration, G7 information Centre (Toronto) 21 June 1988. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1988toronto/communique.html#environment>

<sup>1781</sup> Paris Economic Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 1989. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1989paris/communique/index.html#environment>

balance.” Additionally, G7 leaders gave their support to the International Tropical Timber Organization to ensure the conservation of forests.

At the 1991 London Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the conservation of forests.<sup>1782</sup> Additionally G7 leaders stated that they remain concerned about the destruction of tropical rainforests and that they welcome progress made towards the development of a pilot program for the conservation of Brazilian rainforests.

At the 1993 Tokyo Summit, G7 leaders stated that environmental issues remain a high priority.<sup>1783</sup> The G7 leaders pledged to “continue to seek appropriate internationally agreed arrangements on the management, conservation and sustainable development of forests.”

At the 1997 Denver Summit G8 leaders stated that they were “determined to address the environmental challenges that will affect the quality of life of future generations.”<sup>1784</sup> Additionally G8 leaders stated that the United Nations confirm the role of and strengthen its environmental institutions.

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G8 Leaders affirmed “the crucial importance of global cooperation, and of better and more effective frameworks and practical efforts designed to sustainably manage and conserve forests.”<sup>1785</sup> G8 leaders also showed support for the United Nations’ work regarding forest conservation.

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, G8 leaders committed to “preserve a clean and sound environment for our children and grandchildren.”<sup>1786</sup>

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, G8 leaders reaffirmed their commitment towards the protection of the environment and sustainable development.<sup>1787</sup>

During Germany’s 2007 G8 presidency the leaders did not address conservation at the Heiligendamm Summit. However, on 17 March 2007, environmental ministers created the Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, which highlighted the need for effective conservation.<sup>1788</sup>

At the 2008 Hokkaido Summit, G8 leaders recognized the crucial importance of conservation, stating that they will “promote a co-benefits approach that will lead to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.”<sup>1789</sup> In addition, on 26 May 2008, environment ministers created the Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity, which reaffirmed G8 support for conservation and laid out plans to strengthen conservation efforts.<sup>1790</sup>

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<sup>1782</sup> Economic Declaration: Building World Partnership, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 July 1991. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1991london/communique/index.html#environment>

<sup>1783</sup> Economic Declaration: A Strengthened Commitment to Jobs and Growth, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 1993. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1993tokyo/communique/index.html#environment>

<sup>1784</sup> Denver Summit of the Eight Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 June 1997. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1997denver/g8final.htm>

<sup>1785</sup> Birmingham Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>

<sup>1786</sup> G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

<sup>1787</sup> Genoa Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommunique.html>

<sup>1788</sup> Potsdam Initiative – Biological Diversity 2010, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 March 2007. Access Date: 29 September 2023. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/g8\\_potsdam\\_initiative\\_en.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/g8_potsdam_initiative_en.pdf)

<sup>1789</sup> G8 Hokkaido Tokyo Summit Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

<sup>1790</sup> G8 Environment Ministers Meeting 2008 Kobe Call for Action for Biodiversity, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 May 2008. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/env080526-BD.html>

At the 2009 L'Aquila Summit, G8 leaders recognized the importance of innovation in environmental protection.<sup>1791</sup> Additionally, G8 leaders expressed deep concern over the desertification and degradation in drylands stating that “we will work with developing country partners to integrate effective Sustainable Land Management.”

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, G8 leaders stated that “green growth is an essential element to ensuring sustainable global growth, notably to promote resource efficiency and sound water management, fight climate change and conserve biodiversity.”<sup>1792</sup>

At the 2015 Schloss Elmau Summit, G7 leaders committed to the protection of the marine environment from harmful effects such as deep-sea mining.<sup>1793</sup> Additionally, G7 leaders committed to improving resource efficiency for the protection of the environment.

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders gave their support to scientific work that enhances “global ocean observation and assessment for the science-based management, conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.”<sup>1794</sup>

At the 2019 Biarritz Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitments to conservation.<sup>1795</sup> Additionally, G7 leaders welcomed the aim of the IUCN World Conservation Congress and underlined the importance of the United Nations Treaty for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions. Furthermore, G7 leaders committed to the Metz Charter on Biodiversity, which had been released by their environment ministers earlier.<sup>1796</sup> The charter reaffirmed the G7 members’ commitments towards the conservation of the environment.

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders pledged to conserve global biodiversity and to increase “investment in the protection, conservation and restoration of nature.”<sup>1797</sup> Additionally, G7 leaders committed to the G7 2030 Nature Compact. The compact states that the G7 members “commit to the global mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.”<sup>1798</sup>

During Germany’s 2022 G7 presidency, the leaders did not address conservation at their Elmau Summit. However, at their meeting in Berlin G7 environment ministers committed to the G7 Ocean Deal, which reaffirmed their commitment to the conservation of the global ocean.<sup>1799</sup> They called for the conclusion of negotiations for an internationally legally binding instrument to ensure the effective conservation of global oceans.

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<sup>1791</sup> Responsible Leadership for a Sustainable Future, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2009. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-declaration.html>

<sup>1792</sup> G8 Declaration: Renewed Commitment for Freedom and Democracy, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-declaration-en.html#climate>

<sup>1793</sup> Leaders’ Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

<sup>1794</sup> G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html#climate>

<sup>1795</sup> Biarritz Chair's Summary on Climate, Biodiversity and Oceans, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/chairs-summary-climate.html>

<sup>1796</sup> Metz Charter on Biodiversity, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 May 2019. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2019-metz-charter-on-biodiversity.pdf>

<sup>1797</sup> Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué: Our Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better, G7 information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communication.html>

<sup>1798</sup> G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

<sup>1799</sup> G7 Ocean Deal, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2022. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/environment/2022-ocean-deal.html>

At the 2023 Hiroshima Summit, G7 leaders committed to fulfill the goal of the “30 by 30” initiative to conserve 30% of marine and coastal areas and 30% of terrestrial and inland water areas by 2030.<sup>1800</sup> This pledge builds upon the Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework, which was adopted at the Hiroshima summit and calls to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030.

### Commitment Features

At the 2023 Hiroshima summit, leaders committed to “achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas, . . . nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.”<sup>1801</sup> There are three dimensions to this commitment for G7 members to receive full compliance: G7 members must 1) take action to achieve the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, 2) take action nationally and globally and 3) take action through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

### Definitions and Guidelines

“Effectively” is understood to mean “operating in a way that produces the intended result. It does not mean any effort, especially thoughtless ones.”<sup>1802</sup>

“Conserving” is understood to mean “to keep in a safe or sound state” and “to avoid the wasteful or destructive use of” something, in this case, terrestrial and inland water areas.<sup>1803</sup>

“Terrestrial” refers to things “relating to land, as distinct from air or water.”<sup>1804</sup> Terrestrial waters refers to lakes, rivers and groundwater. “Inland water areas” are understood to mean “aquatic-influenced environments located within land boundaries.”<sup>1805</sup> Examples of inland waters are “lakes, rivers, ponds, streams, groundwater, springs, cave waters, floodplains, as well as bogs, marshes and swamps, which are traditionally grouped as inland wetlands.”

According to the Convention on Biological Diversity, “protected areas” are defined as geographic areas “designated or regulated and managed to achieve specific conservation objectives.”<sup>1806</sup>

According to the Convention on Biological Diversity, “other effective area-based conservation measures” are understood to mean geographic areas aside from protected areas, “which [are] governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes for the *in situ* conservation of biodiversity, with associated ecosystem functions and services.”<sup>1807</sup>

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<sup>1800</sup> G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 28 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2023hiroshima/230520-communication.html>

<sup>1801</sup> G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2023hiroshima/230520-communication.html>

<sup>1802</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2023. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2020.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf)

<sup>1803</sup> Conserve, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/conserving>

<sup>1804</sup> Terrestrial, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/terrestrial>

<sup>1805</sup> Inland Waters Biodiversity, the Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal) 29 January 2008. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.cbd.int/waters/inland-waters/>

<sup>1806</sup> Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework, the Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/3/>

<sup>1807</sup> Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework, the Convention on Biological Diversity (Montreal) n.d. Access Date: 29 September 2023. <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/3/>

### General Interpretive Guidelines

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be given to G7 members that have taken strong action during the compliance period to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally AND globally and have done so with actions that include promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Strong actions include allocating funding to designate and manage protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, establishing a new governmental department to handle environmental conservation and management, changes in domestic legislation to allocate protected areas, signing an international declaration with a plan for national implementation, and establishing international initiatives that use funding to support the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally and globally.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members have taken strong action during the compliance period to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas either nationally OR globally OR some of both/weaker AND may or may not have included measures to promote the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Weak actions for this commitment include verbally reaffirming to designate protected areas, attending a meeting regarding conservation and management or signing an international declaration without a plan for national implementation.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned if the G7 member has only taken weak actions nationally OR globally to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas AND has not taken actions to promote the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures OR has not taken any actions to address the commitment OR has taken actions antithetical to the commitment.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has only taken weak actions nationally or globally to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and has not taken actions to promote the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures or the G7 member has not taken any actions to address the commitment or the G7 member has taken actions antithetical to the commitment.
0	The G7 member has taken strong action to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas either nationally or globally or some of both and may or may not have included measures to promote the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
+1	The G7 member has taken strong action to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally and globally and has done so with actions that include promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

*Compliance Director: Mabek Kaur  
Lead Analyst: Ilya Goheen*

### Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

On 2 June 2023, Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson and Mayor of the City of Leduc Bob Young announced CAD363,000 in federal funding for Leduc’s Urban Tree Canopy Expansion project, as part of the

Government of Canada's Two Billion Trees Program.<sup>1808</sup> The funding will be used to plant 20,000 trees in Leduc's urban areas and "around restored wetland areas" to support biodiversity and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

On 5 July 2023, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Terry Duguid, on behalf of Minister Wilkinson, Manitoba's Minister of Natural Resources and Northern Development Greg Nesbitt and Manitoba's Minister of Environment and Climate Kevin Klein announced a joint agreement between the federal and Manitoba governments to plant one million trees annually.<sup>1809</sup> The federal government will contribute CAD8.85 million in funding under the Two Billion Trees Program to support this nine-year initiative.

On 24 July 2023, the Government of Canada and Mayor of Edmonton Amarjeet Sohi announced a joint initiative between the federal and municipal governments to plant 1.5 million trees in Edmonton.<sup>1810</sup> The federal government will provide CAD47.8 million in funding from the Two Billion Trees Program to support this initiative.

On 8 August 2023, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced CAD6.7 million in funding to support 22 Canadian environmental projects, in part to restore and manage over 1,029 hectares of habitat and monitor over 19 million hectares of habitat.<sup>1811</sup> Notable projects include the Kawartha Region Conservation Authority which aims to restore Ontario's Durham East Cross Conservation Area and Ciel et Terre which plans to improve "ecological function" in Quebec's Massé Stream.

On 16 August 2023, President of Nunatsiavut Johannes Lampe, Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Minister responsible for Parks Canada Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Northern Affairs and Minister responsible for PrairiesCan and CanNor Dan Vandal and Member of Parliament for Labrador Yvonne Jones announced over CAD3 million for "Inuit-led conservation and climate adaptation in Nunatsiavut, Newfoundland, and Labrador."<sup>1812</sup> Funding will be directed towards four initiatives which aim to combine "Indigenous knowledge [and] science-based climate information" to establish conservation measures and work towards the goal of effectively conserving and managing 30 per cent of land and water by 2030. On 22 August 2023, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Julie Dabrusin, on behalf of Minister Guilbeault, announced CAD4.8 million in funding from Canada's Enhanced Nature Legacy to support nature conservation in southern Ontario.<sup>1813</sup> Funding will be divided between a number of organizations including the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the University of Waterloo and Long Point

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<sup>1808</sup> City of Leduc to Plant 20,000 Trees as Part of the 2 Billion Trees Program, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 2 June 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/06/city-of-leduc-to-plant-20000-trees-as-part-of-the-2-billion-trees-program.html>

<sup>1809</sup> Government of Canada and Manitoba Collaborate to Plant 1 Million Trees Annually, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 5 July 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/07/government-of-canada-and-manitoba-collaborate-to-plant-1-million-trees-annually.html>

<sup>1810</sup> Government of Canada and Mayor Sohi Announce Joint Investment to Plant 1.5 Million Trees in Edmonton, Expanding the Urban Canopy and Contributing to Canada's 2 Billion Trees Program, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 24 July 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/07/minister-boissonnault-and-mayor-sohi-announce-joint-investment-to-plant-15-million-trees-in-edmonton-expanding-the-urban-canopy-and-contributing-to.html>

<sup>1811</sup> The Government of Canada invests \$6.7 million to support 22 environmental projects across Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 10 August 2023. Access Date: 16 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/08/the-government-of-canada-invests-67-million-to-support-22-environmental-projects-across-canada.htm>

<sup>1812</sup> Canada invests in Inuit-led climate adaptation and conservation in Nunatsiavut, Newfoundland and Labrador, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 16 August 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/08/canada-invests-in-inuit-led-climate-adaptation-and-conservation-in-nunatsiavut-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

<sup>1813</sup> Canada is investing \$4.8 million to support biodiversity conservation in southern Ontario, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 22 August 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/08/canada-is-investing-48-million-to-support-biodiversity-conservation-in-southern-ontario.html>



Biosphere Region which contribute to the conservation and management of terrestrial and inland water habitats.

On 22 August 2023, Minister Wilkinson and Prince Edward Island's Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Action Steven Myers announced nearly CAD3 million to plant 300,000 trees in Prince Edward Island (PEI).<sup>1814</sup> Of this, the federal government will provide CAD1.7 million dollars under the Two Billion Trees Program. This initiative aims to permanently expand urban and rural forest habitats in PEI.

On 24 August 2023, Minister of International Development Ahmed Hussen announced CAD200 million in funding to support the launch of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF).<sup>1815</sup> The GBFF, which aims to support nature restoration “and grow resilient economies,” will allocate up to 20 per cent of its funds towards “Indigenous and local action to protect and conserve biodiversity.”

On 24 August 2023, Minister Hussen announced an additional CAD22.8 million for the Global Environment Facility Assembly's Eight Replenishment to address issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution.<sup>1816</sup> This announcement was made in light of the seventh Global Environment Facility Assembly which was co-hosted and chaired by Minister Hussen in Vancouver between 22 and 26 August 2023.

On 5 September 2023, Minister Guilbeault announced CAD2.19 million in funding for the Appalachian Corridor over the next three years, under the Community-Nominated Priority Places program.<sup>1817</sup> This initiative aims to reduce threats to 26 at-risk species by protecting and conserving habitats in the Northern Green Mountains region in southern Quebec.

On 6 September 2023, Minister of the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario Filomena Tassi announced the start of the Randle Reef Contaminated Sediment Remediation Project's third stage.<sup>1818</sup> Stage three aims to continue sustainably restoring and protecting the Great Lakes which provide clean drinking water to millions of Canadians and are crucial to the region's economic prosperity. Milestone Environmental Contracting Inc. was awarded a contract of CAD29.2 million for the first phase of stage three which entails “the installation of a multi-layered environmental cap” to isolate contaminated sediment.

On 15 September 2023, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Gary Anandasangaree announced a joint investment of over CAD1.1 million between the Canadian government and Friends of Rouge Watershed to plant 31,500 native trees in the Greater Toronto Area.<sup>1819</sup> The project aims to restore forest habitats between

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<sup>1814</sup> Government of Canada Announces 2 Billion Trees Funding to Plant 300,000 Trees in Prince Edward Island, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 22 August 2023. Access Date: 1 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/08/government-of-canada-announces-2-billion-trees-funding-to-plant-300000-trees-on-prince-edward-island.html>

<sup>1815</sup> Canada announces contribution to Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to protect world's nature, Global Affairs Canada (Vancouver) 24 August 2023. Access Date: 16 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/08/canada-announces-contribution-to-global-biodiversity-framework-fund-to-protect-worlds-nature.html>

<sup>1816</sup> Canada announces contribution to Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to protect world's nature, Global Affairs Canada (Vancouver) 24 August 2023. Access Date: 16 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/08/canada-announces-contribution-to-global-biodiversity-framework-fund-to-protect-worlds-nature.html>

<sup>1817</sup> Protecting threatened species in the Northern Green Mountains of southern Quebec, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 5 September 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/09/protecting-threatened-species-in-the-northern-green-mountains-of-southern-quebec.html>

<sup>1818</sup> Cleaning up Lake Ontario: the final stage begins for the Randle Reef Remediation Project in Hamilton Harbour, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 6 September 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/09/cleaning-up-lake-ontario-the-final-stage-begins-for-the-randle-reef-remediation-project-in-hamilton-harbour.html>

<sup>1819</sup> The Government of Canada and the Friends of the Rouge Watershed Announce 2 Billion Trees Program Funding to Plant 31,500 Native Trees, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 15 September 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/09/the-government-of-canada-and-the-friends-of-the-rouge-watershed-announce-2-billion-trees-program-funding-to-plant-31500-native-trees.html>

“the Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Ontario,” in part by engaging 6,000 youth and community volunteers. The Government of Canada’s contribution to this project will be provided under the Two Billion Trees Program.

On 28 September 2023, Minister Guilbeault announced over CAD2.7 million in funding to support “24 projects that will advance Great Lakes priorities under the Freshwater Action Plan.”<sup>1820</sup> These projects will focus on restoring water quality and improving ecosystems in the Great Lakes Area of Concern.

On 10 October 2023, Minister of Indigenous Services Patty Hajdu announced CAD663,500 in funding under the Freshwater Action Plan to support the Thunder Bay Project.<sup>1821</sup> Funding will be divided between six projects focused on restoring water quality and improving ecosystems in the region.

On 10 October 2023, Member of Parliament for Halifax West Lena Metlege Diab and Minister of Environment and Climate Change for Nova Scotia Timothy Halman announced CAD28.5 million in federal funding as part of the Canada-Nova Scotia Nature Agreement.<sup>1822</sup> The three-year investment will help conserve and protect biodiversity, habitat and species at risk in Nova Scotia. The government expects that this agreement will allow for an additional 82,500 hectares of land to be conserved and protected in Nova Scotia by March 2026.

On 13 October 2023, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced the Northwest Territories Project Finance for Permanence which aims to double land conservation in the Northwest Territories.<sup>1823</sup> This initiative is expected to significantly contribute to Canada’s goal of conserving and managing 30 per cent of land and water by 2030. While final contributions have yet to be announced, the Government of Canada “made an initial floor commitment” of CAD100 million to support this project.

On 14 October 2023, Member of Parliament for Milton Adam van Koevreden, the Halton Region Conservation Authority and Trees for Halton Hills announced a joint investment of CAD1.6 million to plant over 122,000 trees in terrestrial and inland water areas in the Halton region.<sup>1824</sup> The Government of Canada’s contribution to this initiative is part of the Two Billion Trees Program.

On 20 October 2023, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Diane Lebouthillier announced CAD55.5 million to construct the Near-Shore Fishery Research Vessel in Gaspé.<sup>1825</sup> The vessel, which is expected to be active in 2027, will conduct critical research to guide future decisions regarding sustainable fisheries and healthy ecosystems in the St. Lawrence River and Gulf region.

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<sup>1820</sup> Government of Canada makes transformative investments to clean up and protect the Bay of Quinte and other areas of the Great Lakes, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 28 September 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/09/government-of-canada-makes-transformative-investments-to-clean-up-and-protect-the-bay-of-quinte-and-other-areas-of-the-great-lakes.html>

<sup>1821</sup> Canada invests in Thunder Bay projects to clean up and protect the Great Lakes, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 10 October 2023. Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/10/canada-invests-in-thunder-bay-projects-to-clean-up-and-protect-the-great-lakes.html>

<sup>1822</sup> Canada and Nova Scotia chart new path with Agreement to help protect and conserve nature, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 10 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/10/canada-and-nova-scotia-chart-new-path-with-agreement-to-help-protect-and-conserve-nature.html>

<sup>1823</sup> Canada reaches historic milestone on Indigenous-led land conservation in the Northwest Territories, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 13 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/10/canada-reaches-historic-milestone-on-indigenous-led-land-conservation.html>

<sup>1824</sup> New Federal Investment to Support Planting Over 122,000 Trees in the Halton Region, Contributing to 2 Billion Trees Commitment, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 14 October 2023. Access date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2023/10/new-federal-investment-to-support-planting-over-122000-trees-in-the-halton-region-contributing-to-2-billion-trees-commitment.html>

<sup>1825</sup> Government of Canada announces construction of the Canadian Coast Guard’s first-ever hybrid vessel in Gaspé, Canadian Coast Guard (Ottawa) 20 October 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-coast-guard/news/2023/10/government-of-canada-announces-construction-of-the-canadian-coast-guards-first-ever-hybrid-vessel-in-gaspe.html>

On 3 November 2023, the Governments of Canada and British Columbia (BC) and the First Nations Leadership Council signed the Tripartite Framework Agreement on Nature Conservation to support the protection and conservation of ecosystems in BC.<sup>1826</sup> The federal government will invest up to CAD500 million to support this initiative. Of this, CAD104 million will be provided under the Two Billion Trees Program for the restoration of habitats housing at-risk species and to manage wildfires and watershed areas.

On 10 November 2023, the government announced up to CAD8 million to conserve green areas in Montréal-Est.<sup>1827</sup> The selected area includes woodlands and other areas that can be converted into green spaces.

On 1 December 2023, Member of Parliament for West Vancouver – Sunshine Coast – Sea to Sky Country Patrick Weiler announced CAD12 million in funding for six projects to protect and restore aquatic ecosystems in British Columbia.<sup>1828</sup> Many of the projects focus on salmon restoration in inland water areas with CAD1,697,551 being allocated towards a four-year partnership with the Tla’amin Nation Government to restore and manage Pacific salmon populations in the Unwin Lake watershed. Funding will be provided under the Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Fund.

On 18 December 2023, Minister Guilbeault announced CAD1.1 million for nature conservation.<sup>1829</sup> Partners including Partners Nature Canada, Ontario Nature and BC Nature will work to increase locally protected areas as part of this initiative. Partners will also focus on increasing awareness about Canada’s commitment to conserving 30 per cent of land and water by 2030.

On 20 December 2023, Minister of National Revenue Marie-Claude Bibeau announced that the government will provide CAD2 million to fund 25 projects to protect fresh water including lakes and rivers.<sup>1830</sup> Of this, CAD98,000 will be allocated towards the Pays de Cocagne Sustainable Development Group to support freshwater restoration in riparian areas in the Cocagne watershed in Kent County, New Brunswick. Funding will be provided under the EcoAction Community Funding Program and aims to support the objectives of the Freshwater Action Plan.

On 26 January 2024, Minister Guilbeault announced approximately CAD12.8 million in funding for 27 initiatives to “conserve, restore, and enhance land management of wetlands, peatlands, and grasslands.”<sup>1831</sup> This project prioritizes Indigenous-led solutions for climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution by allocating

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<sup>1826</sup> Government of Canada, British Columbia and the First Nations Leadership Council sign a historic tripartite nature conservation framework agreement, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 3 November 2023. Access Date: 16 November 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/11/government-of-canada-british-columbia-and-the-first-nations-leadership-council-sign-a-historic-tripartite-nature-conservation-framework-agreement.html>

<sup>1827</sup> The Government of Canada is committed to investing up to \$8 million to protect green spaces in Montréal-Est, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Montréal) 10 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/11/the-government-of-canada-is-committed-to-investing-up-to-8-million-to-protect-green-spaces-in-montreal-est.html>

<sup>1828</sup> Protecting coastal aquatic ecosystems in British Columbia through important restoration work, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Gibsons) 1 December 2023. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2023/11/protecting-coastal-aquatic-ecosystems-in-british-columbia-through-important-restoration-work.html>

<sup>1829</sup> Partners working with municipalities across Canada to contribute to national conservation network, supporting nature and halting biodiversity loss, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 18 December 2023. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/12/partners-working-with-municipalities-across-canada-to-contribute-to-national-conservation-network-supporting-nature-and-halting-biodiversity-loss.html>

<sup>1830</sup> Government of Canada invests in community-based projects across the country to protect fresh water, Environment and Climate Change Canada (North Hatley) 20 December 2023. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2023/12/government-of-canada-invests-in-community-based-projects-across-the-country-to-protect-fresh-water.html>

<sup>1831</sup> Canada boosts conservation and restoration efforts with investments in 27 new Indigenous-Led Natural Climate Solutions, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 26 January 2024. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2024/01/canada-boosts-conservation-and-restoration-efforts-with-investments-in-27-new-indigenous-led-natural-climate-solutions.html>

funding towards Indigenous groups, nations and institutions like the Mikisew Cree First Nation and Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources.

On 31 January 2024, Minister Guilbeault announced approximately CAD66 million in funding for 42 projects as part of the Indigenous-Led Area-Based Conservation initiative to develop protected areas or focus on other effective area-based conservation measures.<sup>1832</sup> As part of this commitment, the Council of the Abitibiwinni First Nation will receive CAD1.4 million for a “cross-border Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area south of James Bay” in Ontario and Quebec while the Meadow Lake Tribal Council will receive CAD1.6 million to conserve lands in northern Saskatchewan. Both initiatives will be funded over a three-year period.

On 14 February 2024, Minister Guilbeault announced CAD3 million in funding for Birds Canada.<sup>1833</sup> Funding will be provided over a five-year period to improve their ability to “collect, analyze and share” data related to nature conservation. This initiative will also support Birds Canada’s world-renowned NatureCounts platform which provides data on biodiversity.

On 21 February 2024, the Government of Canada and Mushkegowuk Council announced that the feasibility assessment for a national marine conservation area in the western Weeneebeg (James Bay) and southwestern Washaybeyoh (Hudson Bay) regions has been completed.<sup>1834</sup> Both parties are hopeful that this is a positive step towards the establishment of the conservation area.

On 21 February 2024, Minister Wilkinson announced shared that the Nature Trust of British Columbia’s five-year Enhancing Estuary Resilience in Coastal BC project was endorsed by UNESCO.<sup>1835</sup> The project is a public-private partnership between the 12 First Nations, government, environmental organizations and academic institutions to enhance coastal biodiversity and resilience.

On 4 March 2024, Minister Guilbeault announced CAD7.5 million for the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk over the next five years.<sup>1836</sup> This funding will be used to support 56 projects centered around conservation to mitigate the decline of biodiversity, protect species at risk and facilitate the restoration of natural habitats across Canada.

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<sup>1832</sup> Forty-two Indigenous-led conservation projects across Canada receive federal funding to protect more nature, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 31 January 2024. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2024/01/forty-two-indigenous-led-conservation-projects-across-canada-receive-federal-funding-to-protect-more-nature.html>

<sup>1833</sup> Government of Canada invests \$3 million in citizen science and open data for birds and biodiversity, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 14 February 2024. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-invests-3-million-in-citizen-science-and-open-data-for-birds-and-biodiversity.html>

<sup>1834</sup> Government of Canada and Mushkegowuk Council successfully complete feasibility assessment and take a major step toward officially protecting western James Bay and southwestern Hudson Bay, Parks Canada (Kashechewan) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-and-mushkegowuk-council-successfully-complete-feasibility-assessment-and-take-a-major-step-toward-officially-protecting-wester.html>

<sup>1835</sup> Government of Canada announces UNESCO endorsement for British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund project, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Victoria) 21 February 2024. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2024/02/government-of-canada-announces-unesco-endorsement-for-british-columbia-salmon-restoration-and-innovation-fund-project.html>

<sup>1836</sup> Empowering key regional environmental groups to protect habitats and species at risk in Quebec and across Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Montreal) 4 March 2024. Access Date: 18 April 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2024/03/empowering-key-regional-environmental-groups-to-protect-habitats-and-species-at-risk-in-quebec-and-across-canada.html>

On 7 March 2024, Fisheries and Oceans Canada announced that they are undergoing efforts to protect Lophelia Reef also known as q̄auc̄iwisuxv.<sup>1837</sup> This entails the halting of all commercial and recreational fisheries that involve bottom contact within the region.

On 11 March 2024, Parliamentary Secretary van Koeverden on behalf of Minister Guilbeault announced an investment of approximately CAD10 million to support the expansion and development of new protected areas including provincial parks and conservation reserves in Ontario.<sup>1838</sup> Up to 170,000 hectares of land including forests and wetlands are expected to be protected through this initiative. Funding will be provided through the Enhanced Nature Legacy initiative which aims to conserve 30 per cent of the Canada's land and water by 2030.

On 15 March 2024, Minister Guilbeault and President of Nunatsiavut Johannes Lampe announced that a feasibility assessment has confirmed the viability of a new Inuit Protected Area in northern Labrador.<sup>1839</sup> While still in the planning stages, the envisioned zone seeks to preserve a portion of the Labrador Shelf Marine Region and protect the fjords in Torngat Mountains National Park. This possible protected area will extend across 16,791 square kilometers, a 0.29 per cent contribution to Canada's goal of conserving 30 per cent of land and water by 2030.

On 22 March 2024, Minister Guilbeault announced an allocation of more than CAD800,000 for the Community Interaction Program under the St. Lawrence Action Plan 2011–2026.<sup>1840</sup> **Funding will support the conservation of biodiversity, sustainability and improved water quality in the St. Lawrence River.**

On 3 April 2024, the Government of Canada and the Nation Micmac de Gespeg announced the signing of a Rights and Reconciliation Agreement with respect to Forillon National Park.<sup>1841</sup> The agreement, signed on 30 January 2024, will enable the Nation Micmac de Gespeg to share governance of the park ensuring conservation and protection and the preservation of cultural heritage.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. This is evident through several government actions including investments in major reforestation projects in multiple provinces and multimillion-dollar investments to support the conservation of the Great Lakes. Canada has also provided substantial funding for international initiatives like the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and Global Environment Facility Assembly's Eight Replenishment to support this commitment.

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<sup>1837</sup> Fisheries and Oceans Canada closes the first and only known live coral reef in Pacific Canada to all commercial and recreational bottom-contact fisheries, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Vancouver) 7 March 2024. Access Date: 18 April 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2024/03/fisheries-and-oceans-canada-closes-the-first-and-only-known-live-coral-reef-in-pacific-canada-to-all-commercial-and-recreational-bottom-contact-fis.html>

<sup>1838</sup> Canada and Ontario commit to significant collaboration on shared nature conservation goals, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Tiny) 11 March 2024. Access Date: 18 April 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2024/03/canada-and-ontario-commit-to-significant-collaboration-on-shared-nature-conservation-goals.html>

<sup>1839</sup> Nunatsiavut Government and Government of Canada take major step forward toward establishing Inuit Protected Area along the northern coast of Labrador, Parks Canada (Gatineau) 15 March 2024. Access Date: 18 April 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2024/03/nunatsiavut-government-and-government-of-canada-take-major-step-forward-toward-establishing-inuit-protected-area-along-the-northern-coast-of-labrador.html>

<sup>1840</sup> On World Water Day, the Government of Canada announces funding for new community projects to protect fresh water, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Repentigny) 22 March 2024. Access Date: 18 April 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2024/03/on-world-water-day-the-government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-new-community-projects-to-protect-fresh-water.html>

<sup>1841</sup> The Nation Micmac de Gespeg and the Government of Canada announce the signing of the Rights and Reconciliation Agreement with respect to Forillon National Park, Parks Canada (Gaspé) 3 April 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2024/04/the-nation-micmac-de-gespeg-and-the-government-of-canada-announce-the-signing-of-the-rights-and-reconciliation-agreement-with-respect-to-forillon-n.html>

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Emily Hospedales*

**France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

On 25 August 2023, Minister of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion Christophe Béchu, Secretary of State for the Sea Hervé Berville and Secretary of State to the Minister of Ecological Transition and Territorial Cohesion, responsible for Biodiversity Sarah El Haïry inaugurated the expansion of the Sept-Îles national nature reserve.<sup>1842</sup> This expansion of the total area from 280 hectares to 19,700 hectares will support the preservation of biodiversity in the area which hosts over a thousand underwater species and 122 plant species.

On 29 September 2023, Minister of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Marc Fesneau and Secretary El Haïry announced the “hedge pact” which aims to preserve and develop hedges which are key for biodiversity and provide various environmental benefits, such as supporting critical pollinators and reducing soil erosion.<sup>1843</sup> The government will provide EUR110 million for the pact beginning in 2024.

On 12 October 2023, the government announced France’s 2024 green budget which includes an increase of EUR7 billion in payment credits for ecological transition and an overall budget of EUR10 billion.<sup>1844</sup> Of this, EUR1.2 billion in payment credits and an additional EUR2.1 billion will be devoted to the preservation of biodiversity and forests.

On 27 November 2023, Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne presented the new National Biodiversity Strategy, SNB 2030.<sup>1845</sup> While the first version of the SNB was presented during a national committee at the Ministry of Ecological Transition on 20 July 2023, an updated and final version of it has now been published to include 40 measures which directly address objectives such as reducing pressure on ecosystems, restoring degraded ecosystems, mobilizing all stakeholders and providing the means to achieve these goals.<sup>1846</sup> This new strategy for biodiversity and nature conservation includes elaborate ecological planning with concrete objectives that contribute to the overall goal of conserving and restoring 30 per cent of land and water areas by 2030.

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<sup>1842</sup> La réserve naturelle nationale des Sept-Îles devient la plus grande de l'hexagone, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires and Ministère de la Transition énergétique (Paris) 25 August 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/reserve-naturelle-nationale-des-sept-iles-devient-plus-grande-lhexagone>

<sup>1843</sup> Présentation par Sarah El Haïry et Marc Fesneau du « pacte en faveur de la haie » doté d’un budget de 110 M€ dès 2024, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires and Ministère de la Transition énergétique (Paris) 29 September 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/presentation-sarah-el-hairy-et-marc-fesneau-du-pacte-en-faveur-haie-dote-dun-budget-110-meu-des-2024>

<sup>1844</sup> Le budget vert 2024 - Une hausse inédite de 7 Md€ des dépenses en faveur de la planification écologique, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires and Ministère de la Transition énergétique (Paris) 12 October 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/budget-vert-2024-hausse-inedite-7-mdeu-des-depenses-en-faveur-planification-ecologique>

<sup>1845</sup> Stratégie nationale biodiversité 2030, Gouvernement Français (Paris) n.d. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 27 November 2023. <https://biodiversite.gouv.fr/>

<sup>1846</sup> Stratégie nationale biodiversité 2030, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires and Ministère de la Transition énergétique (Paris) 27 November 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 27 November 2023.

<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/strategie-nationale-biodiversite>; Stratégie Nationale Biodiversité 2030, Vivre en harmonie avec la nature, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires and Ministère de la Transition énergétique (Paris) November 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 27 November 2023.

<https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/sites/default/files/Doc-chapeau-SNB2030-HauteDef.pdf>

On 5 December 2023, the French Development Agency and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN (Association of East Asian Nations) and East Asia signed a Memorandum of Understanding for sustainable development in East and South-east Asia.<sup>1847</sup> In part, this partnership will focus on environmental issues such as biodiversity conservation, energy transition and climate change.

On 9 December 2023, Minister Béchu, Minister of Forest Economy of the Republic of Congo Rosalie Matondo and European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Virginijus Sinkevičius announced USD50 million for a partnership for nature conservation and managing deforestation in the Republic of Congo.<sup>1848</sup> This partnership will focus on biodiversity especially in “mangroves, peatlands and forests” and will support the implementation of the National Afforestation and Reforestation Program. This initiative also aims to protect and conserve nature to work towards the objective of conserving 30 per cent of land and water by 2030.

On 18 December 2023, the Government of France welcomed the adoption of a resolution pertaining to the UN Ocean Conference by the UN General Assembly.<sup>1849</sup> The resolution was introduced by the government and Costa Rica to “[establish] the terms” on the conference which will take place in 2025.

On 15 March 2024, Minister Béchu announced a regional Conference of the Parties (COP) for the Pays de la Loire region.<sup>1850</sup> The COP will focus on ecological transition including conserving biodiversity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

On 6 May, Secretary Berville visited the Coat an Hay forest to officially announce the creation of a new biological reserve as part of the National Biodiversity Strategy.<sup>1851</sup> The reserve covers 28 hectares of the Coat an Hay forest and contributes significantly to France’s goal of protecting biodiversity and 10% of its national territory.

France has fully complied to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. France has taken action toward the conservation and management of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally through funding to preserve biodiversity, the expansion of a nature reserve and the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030. France has also taken international action through a partnership with the Republic of Congo for nature conservation and sustainable development initiatives in East and South-east Asia.

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<sup>1847</sup> AFA et ERIA Signent un Mémorandum D’entente pour Favoriser le Développement Durable Dans la Région de l’ASEAN, Agence Française de Développement (Paris) 5 December 2023. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/communiquede-presse/afd-et-eria-signent-un-memorandum-dentente-pour-favoriser-le-developpement-durable-dans-la-region-de-lasean?origin=/fr/actualites/communiquede-presse?page=5>

<sup>1848</sup> La République du Congo, la France et l’Union Européenne annoncent un partenariat de 50 millions de dollars pour soutenir son ambition en faveur de la conservation de la biodiversité et du climat, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires (Paris) 9 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/republique-du-congo-france-et-lunion-europeenne-annoncent-partenariat-50-millions-dollars-soutenir>

<sup>1849</sup> Environment – France welcomes the UN General Assembly’s adoption of the resolution concerning the Ocean Conference (18 December 2023), Ministère de l’Europe et des Affaires Étrangères (Paris) 18 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 March 2024. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/news/article/environment-france-welcomes-the-un-general-assembly-s-adoption-of-the>

<sup>1850</sup> Territorialisation de la planification écologique: Christophe Béchu and Christelle Morançais lancent la COP de la région Pays de la Loire, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires (Paris) 15 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 May 2024. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/territorialisation-planification-ecologique-christophe-bechu-et-christelle-morancais-lancent-cop>

<sup>1851</sup> Hervé Berville s’est rendu dans les Côtes-d’Armor pour inaugurer la réserve biologique dirigée de Coat an Hay, Ministère de la Transition écologique et de la Cohésion des Territoires (Paris) 6 May 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/herve-berville-sest-rendu-dans-cotes-darmor-inaugurer-reserve-biologique-dirigee-coat-hay>

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Therese Angeline Reyes*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

On 12 June 2023, the government announced the launch of the “Connecting habitats – Erzgebirgskreis large-scale nature conservation project,” which aims to preserve and protect biodiversity in the Ore Mountains, which hosts meadows, wetlands and mixed mountain forests.<sup>1852</sup> The Federal Environment Ministry will provide EUR1.3 million between 2023 and 2025 to help fund this project.

On 17 July 2023, the Federal Environment Ministry and Federal Agency for Nature Conservation announced the “Grassland Diversity” project in the Ise lowlands in Lower Saxony.<sup>1853</sup> The project will receive EUR1.2 million in funding through the Federal Biological Diversity Program. The project is a joint initiative with the nature conservation organization Aktion Fischotterschutz e. V. and is intended to promote soil nutrients, maintain water and carbon reservoirs, and promote biodiversity in grasslands.

On 25 July 2023, Minister of Environment Steffi Lemke announced the launch of a forest conservation project in partnership with four Indian states.<sup>1854</sup> The Federal Environment Ministry will provide EUR17.5 million from the International Climate Initiative fund for the protection and restoration of forest landscapes.<sup>1855</sup> These funds will contribute to the “Restore, Conserve and Protect Forest and Tree Cover for NDC (Nationally Determined Contributions) Implementation in India,” project headed by the Deutsch Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit. The objective is to restore 400,000 hectares of forests and forest landscapes in the four participating Indian states.

On 27 July 2023, the Federal Environment Ministry and Federal Agency for Nature Conservation announced approximately EUR1 million in funding, as part of the Federal Biological Diversity Program, for the North Rhine-Westphalia project.<sup>1856</sup> The project aims to support the protection and renaturation of moorland habitats in the Lower Rhine Bay.

On 8 September 2023, Minister Lemke announced the funding of EUR578,000 provided by the Federal Environment Ministry and the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation in support of the Federal Biological

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<sup>1852</sup> New major nature conservation project aims to secure species-rich cultural landscape in the central Ore Mountains, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 12 June 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/neues-naturschutzgrossprojekt-soll-artenreiche-kulturlandschaft-im-mittleren-erzgebirge-sichern>

<sup>1853</sup> Vielfältiges Grünland schützt Klima und Arten, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 17 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date 29 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/vielfaeltiges-gruenland-schuetzt-klima-und-arten>

<sup>1854</sup> Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke strengthens German-Indian co-operation on forest conservation, International Climate Initiative (Berlin) 28 July 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.international-climate-initiative.com/en/iki-media/news/federal-environment-minister-steffi-lemke-strengthens-german-indian-cooperation-on-forest-conservation/>

<sup>1855</sup> Federal Environment Minister Lemke strengthens environmental cooperation with India, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 25 July 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/federal-environment-minister-lemke-strengthens-environmental-cooperation-with-india>

<sup>1856</sup> Renaturierung von Moorlebensräumen in der Niederrheinischen Bucht, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 27 July 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/renaturierung-von-moorlebensraeumen-in-der-niederrheinischen-bucht>



Diversity Program's project "Bavaria's Rarest Dry Habitat Species."<sup>1857</sup> The State association for Bird Protection will facilitate the project in Bavaria until 2029 with the aim of protecting and connecting endangered dry locations and their typical habitat species.

On 20 September 2023, Minister Lemke announced a EUR40 million contribution to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to support the international protection and conservation of nature, in accordance with the commitment to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas by 2030.<sup>1858</sup>

On 29 September 2023, the government announced the Wispertaunus nature conservation project which aims to create natural forests to support biodiversity.<sup>1859</sup> The project will receive approximately EUR1.2 million in funding by the Federal Environment Ministry, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, the State of Hesse and the Frankfurt Zoological Society.

On 29 September 2023, the Federal Environment Ministry announced a call for municipal applications for funding related to "measures to adapt to the consequences of climate change."<sup>1860</sup> Municipalities as well as other actors can apply for funding to develop nature-based solutions to protect, restore, conserve and sustainably use natural ecosystems such as forests, unsealed soils, natural bodies of water or green spaces within a city. The Federal Ministry for the Environment has committed EUR65 million from the Natural Climate Protection Action Program to be awarded for development projects.

On 5 October 2023, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Federal Foreign Office pledged a EUR2 billion investment to the Green Climate Fund at the conference for replenishment hosted in Bonn.<sup>1861</sup> The pledge contributes to the 228 supporting efforts of the Global Climate Fund to invest in coastal protection, reforestation, and other climate measures in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the islands of the Caribbean and Pacific.

On 5 October 2023, Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke opened the Competence Center for Natural Climate Protection.<sup>1862</sup> Under the supervision of the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and in partnership with Zukunft-Umwelt-Gesellschaft gGmbH, the center aims to implement the Natural Climate Protection Action Program by providing advice, information, and funding opportunities for environmental issues such as the protection of forests, floodplains, moors, and other natural areas.

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<sup>1857</sup> "Bayerns Seltenste": Schutz seltener Arten auf selten gewordenen Trockenstandorten, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 8 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bayerns-seltenste-schutz-seltener-arten-auf-selten-gewordenen-trockenstandorten>

<sup>1858</sup> Deutschland bringt mit 40 Millionen Euro den Global Biodiversity Framework Fund an den Start, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 20 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/deutschland-bringt-mit-40-millionen-euro-den-global-biodiversity-framework-fund-an-den-start>

<sup>1859</sup> Entwicklung eines Naturwaldverbundes: neues Naturschutzgroßprojekt im Wispertaunus, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 29 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 17 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/entwicklung-eines-naturwaldverbundes-neues-naturschutzgrossprojekt-im-wispertaunus>

<sup>1860</sup> Neue kommunale Projekte mit naturbasierten Lösungen zur Klimaanpassung gesucht, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 29 September 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/neue-kommunale-projekte-mit-naturbasierten-loesungen-zur-klimaanpassung-gesucht>

<sup>1861</sup> Green Climate Fund pledging conference in Bonn: Signal of solidarity in climate action, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 5 October 2023. Access Date: 30 October 2023. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/gcf-financing-conference-signal-of-solidarity-in-climate-action-182158>

<sup>1862</sup> Bundesumweltministerin Lemke eröffnet Kompetenzzentrum Natürlicher Klimaschutz, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 5 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerin-lemke-eroeffnet-kompetenzzentrum-natuerlicher-klimaschutz>

On 26 October 2023 Federal Environment Minister granted EUR6.9 million from the Natural Climate Protection Action Program of the Federal Environment Ministry for the “Auenland Elbmarsche” project.<sup>1863</sup> The funding has been granted to Dr. Elisabeth Klock for the development of 100 hectares of floodplain habitats in the southern Elbe meadows and the ecological conversion of dike foreland at the Geesthache weir in the Elbmarsch joint municipality.

On 14 November 2023, Minister Lemke awarded several companies for supporting biodiversity and nature conservation.<sup>1864</sup> Of note, PERÚ PURO received the audience award for focusing on biodiversity through organic farming, protecting the rainforest and pursuing agroforestry on degraded lands.

On 20 November 2023, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection launched project “Forestguard.”<sup>1865</sup> The pilot project aims to utilize artificial intelligence, blockchain technology, and geographic information systems to develop transparent supply chains to reduce deforestation.

On 30 November 2023, the Government of Germany presented the 2030 Strategy for the International Climate Protection Initiative which finances climate and biodiversity programs worldwide.<sup>1866</sup> As part of the strategy, the initiative will focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, climate adaptation, preserving carbon sinks and protecting biodiversity in fourteen priority countries.

On 4 December 2023, Minister Lemke signed a joint declaration of intent with Brazil’s Environment Minister Marina Silva to pursue cooperation on environmental policy.<sup>1867</sup> As part of the declaration, the ministers launched a project to combat mercury poisoning in the Amazon, for which the Federal Environment Ministry is making up to EUR30 million available. Additionally, a joint environmental forum will be created to facilitate development projects to restore forest ecosystems, particularly in the Amazon region.

On 9 December 2023, Minister Lemke and Environment Minister of the United Arab Emirates Mariam Almheiri signed a declaration of intent to cooperate on sustainable mangrove management and protection for

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<sup>1863</sup> Bundesumweltministerium startet erstes Modellprojekt zur Auenrenaturierung im Aktionsprogramm Natürlicher Klimaschutz, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 26 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2023.

<https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerium-startet-erstes-modellprojekt-zur-auenrenaturierung-im-aktionsprogramm-natuerlicher-klimaschutz>

<sup>1864</sup> Bundesumweltministerin Lemke prämiert Unternehmen für ihr Engagement zum Schutz der biologischen Vielfalt, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 14 November 2023. Translation provided by Google translate. Access Date: 26 December 2023.

<https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerin-lemke-praemiert-unternehmen-fuer-ihre-engagement-zum-schutz-der-biologischen-vielfalt>

<sup>1865</sup> Mit Open-Source-Technologien zu entwaldungsfreien Lieferketten, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 20 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 November 2023. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/mit-open-source-technologien-zu-entwaldungsfreien-lieferketten>

<sup>1866</sup> Internationale Klimaschutzinitiative (IKI): Bundesregierung legt Strategie bis 2030 vor, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 11 November 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/internationale-klimaschutzinitiative-iki-bundesregierung-legt-strategie-bis-2030-vor>

<sup>1867</sup> Bundesumweltministerin Lemke schlägt neues Kapitel der umweltpolitischen Kooperation mit Brasilien auf, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 4 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 January 2024.

<https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerin-lemke-schlaegt-neues-kapitel-der-umweltpolitischen-kooperation-mit-brasilien-auf-xxx>

African states.<sup>1868</sup> This partnership comes as part of the objectives of the Mangrove Breakthrough to protect 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030.

On 11 January 2024, the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation and the Federal Environment Ministry announced EUR3.65 million in funding for six projects under the Federal Biological Diversity Program.<sup>1869</sup> Projects include municipal biodiversity strategies, a nationwide allotment garden project and facade-integrated habitat systems.

On 16 January 2024, the Federal Environment Ministry announced applications for the federal Blue Compass prize.<sup>1870</sup> The competition is organized jointly by the Federal Environment Ministry and the Federal Environment Agency and makes available EUR25,000 to winning projects. The competition is designed to encourage innovative climate prevention and adaptation projects, including concepts for dealing with renatured moors and forests and the cultivation of climate-adapted plant varieties.

On 24 January 2024, Minister of Food and Agriculture Cem Özdemir allocated EUR10.7 million for rewetting the moors and planting resilient wetland grasses.<sup>1871</sup> This will support moorland conservation and contribute to decreased greenhouse gas emissions.

On 1 February 2024, the Federal Environment Ministry announced a new grant program to promote biological diversity within municipalities.<sup>1872</sup> The financing measures will provide municipalities with subsidies that cover up to 90 per cent of costs. This funding is being made available as part of the Natural Climate Protection Action Program and is intended to enhance preservation and biodiversity by planting trees, creating natural parks and urban forests, and renaturalizing small inner-city bodies of water.

On 4 March 2024, the Federal Environment Ministry signed an agreement with the Federal Forestry Business Unit of the Federal Institute for Real Estate Tasks (BImA) to ban logging in old beech forests on federal land near Dübener Heide.<sup>1873</sup> The initiative will be supported by EUR20 million in funding made available through the Natural Climate Protection Action Program. The agreement also stipulates that BImA will purchase suitable areas for protection to support biodiversity and strengthen habitat resilience.

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<sup>1868</sup> Bundesumweltministerium verkündet auf der COP28 neue Kooperation mit den Vereinten Arabischen Emiraten zu Mangrovenschutz in afrikanischen Ländern, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 9 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerium-verkuen-det-auf-der-cop28-neue-kooperation-mit-den-vereinten-arabischen-emiraten-zu-mangrovenschutz-in-afrikanischen-laendern>

<sup>1869</sup> Grünere Städte für mehr biologische Vielfalt und besseres Klima, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 11 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/gruener-staedte-fuer-mehr-biologische-vielfalt-und-besseres-klima>

<sup>1870</sup> Bundespreis "Blauer Kompass" startet in neue Wettbewerbsrunde, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 16 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 February 2024. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundespreis-blauer-kompass-startet-in-neue-wettbewerbsrunde>

<sup>1871</sup> BMEL fördert Wiedervernässung von Mooren mit 10,7 Millionen Euro, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (Berlin) 24 January 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 May 2024. <https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2024/010-moore-bescheiduebergabe.html>

<sup>1872</sup> Natürlicher Klimaschutz: BMUV und KfW unterstützen Kommunen mit neuem Zuschussprogramm, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 1 February 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 February 2024. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/natuerlicher-klimaschutz-bmu-und-kfw-unterstuetzen-kommunen-mit-neuem-zuschussprogramm>

<sup>1873</sup> Bundesumweltministerium und BImA schützen alte Buchenwälder im Bundesforst, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 4 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 March 2024. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerium-und-bima-schuetzen-alte-buchenwaelder-im-bundesforst>

On 19 March 2024, Minister Lemke appointed 16 scientists to create a new Scientific Advisory Board for Natural Climate Protection.<sup>1874</sup> The board will provide the Environment Ministry with independent scientific advice from a variety of experts to further protect and restore lands, bodies of water and green spaces in accordance with the Natural Climate Protection Action Program.

On 2 April 2024, the Federal Environment Ministry announced funding calls amounting to EUR24 million for the “AI Lighthouses” initiative.<sup>1875</sup> The project aims to encourage the development of digital applications and artificial intelligence to further environmental protection strategies and maximise opportunities to conserve biodiversity, soil, water and clean air.

On 19 April 2024, the Federal Environment Ministry announced EUR200 million for 122 municipal projects promoting the protection of biodiversity in natural areas.<sup>1876</sup> The funding is made available through the Natural Climate Protection Action Program to help support municipalities in contributing to climate protection by restoring and preserving ecosystems.

On 29 April 2024, the Federal Environment Ministry for the Environment and the Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture jointly announced EUR130 million, made available through the Natural Climate Protection Action program to support forest owners and municipalities in implementing sustainable management practices to contribute to habitat and species protection.<sup>1877</sup>

On 30 April 2024, Minister Özdemir announced EUR1.8 million to the toMOORow initiative to support the rewetting of moors, contributing to moorland biodiversity conservation.<sup>1878</sup>

On 2 May 2024, Minister Lemke and State Secretary in the Ministry of Climate Protection, Agriculture, Rural Areas and Environment of the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Elisabeth Aßmann announced EUR7 million in total funding for two projects supporting moorland protection, in line with Germany’s Natural Climate Protection Action program.<sup>1879</sup>

Germany has fully complied with achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Germany has entered into bilateral agreements with other states and contributed

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<sup>1874</sup> Bundesumweltministerin Steffi Lemke beruft Wissenschaftlichen Beirat für Natürlichen Klimaschutz, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 19 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 May 2024. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerin-steffi-lemke-beruft-wissenschaftlichen-beirat-fuer-natuerlichen-klimaschutz>

<sup>1875</sup> BMUV startet dritten Förderaufruf der Initiative "KI-Leuchttürme," Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 2 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bmu-startet-dritten-foerderaufruf-der-initiative-ki-leuchttuerme>

<sup>1876</sup> BMUV fördert Projekte für Natürlichen Klimaschutz in ländlichen Kommunen mit knapp 200 Millionen Euro, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 19 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 April 2024. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/bmu-foerdert-projekte-fuer-natuerlichen-klimaschutz-in-laendlichen-kommunen-mit-knapp-200-millionen-euro>

<sup>1877</sup> Mehr Klimaschutz im Wald: Bund stellt rund 130 Millionen Euro für Waldbesitzende zur Verfügung, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (Berlin) 29 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2024/040-klimaangepasstes-waldmanagement.html>

<sup>1878</sup> Özdemir übergibt 1,8 Millionen Euro Förderung für Wiedervernässung von Mooren, Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft (Berlin) 30 April 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2024/042-moore.html>

<sup>1879</sup> Fördermittelbescheide über rund 7 Millionen für Moorschutz in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern übergeben, Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz (Berlin) 2 May 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/foerdermittelbescheide-ueber-rund-7-millionen-fuer-moorschutz-in-mecklenburg-vorpommern-uebergeben>

to international funds to promote terrestrial and inland waters and other area-based conservation measures globally. Germany has also launched national conservation projects to achieve these targets on a national level.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eliana Tiritilli*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

On 6 June 2023, Minister of the Environment and Energy Security Gilberto Pichetto Fratin, in partnership with the Minister of Environment Quality Authority of Palestine, signed the new Memorandum of Understanding to renew collaboration in environmental protection and sustainable development.<sup>1880</sup> The memorandum aims to improve monitorization and strengthen the legal and institutional framework for environmental defense and protection. It outlines 13 joint initiatives, including the promotion of sustainable forest management, protection of biodiversity and reduction of environmental degradation and pollution prevention and control.<sup>1881</sup> The memorandum establishes a joint committee to promote coordination, submit project proposals, and determine future funding.

On 3 August 2023, Minister of Environment and Energy Security Gilberto Pichetto Fratin signed into effect a ministerial decree adopting the National Biodiversity Strategy 2030.<sup>1882</sup> The strategy sees the implementation of 18 actions, supporting the objective of protecting 30 per cent of terrestrial and marine areas.

On 21 November 2023, Minister Pichetto participated in a tree planting initiative called “A Tree for the Future.”<sup>1883</sup> As part of this initiative, Minister Pichetto and youth from various schools planted 2,000 trees to support reforestation and the management of terrestrial habitats.

On 3 December 2023, the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security announced that it is signing on as a member of the Amazon Bioeconomy and Forest Management Fund with a EUR5 million accession contribution.<sup>1884</sup> The Amazon Fund aims to support sustainable development and the protection of forests, biodiversity, and soil in the Amazon region.

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<sup>1880</sup> Cooperation, Italy and Palestine Renew Environmental Agreement, Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (Rome) 6 June 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.mase.gov.it/pagina/cooperation-italy-and-palestine-renew-environmental-agreement>

<sup>1881</sup> Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in the Field of Sustainable Development between the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security of the Italian Republic and the Environment Quality Authority of Palestine, Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (Rome) 6 June 2023. Access Date: 4 November 2023. [https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/sviluppo\\_sostenibile/palestina\\_nuovo\\_mou.pdf](https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/archivio/allegati/sviluppo_sostenibile/palestina_nuovo_mou.pdf)

<sup>1882</sup> Strategia Nazionale per la Biodiversità al 2030, Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica (Rome) 12 October 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 November 2023. <https://www.mase.gov.it/pagina/strategia-nazionale-la-biodiversita-al-2030>

<sup>1883</sup> Giornata degli Alberi: il Ministro Pichetto partecipa con i giovani a un’iniziativa di piantumazione, Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica (Rome) 21 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023. <https://www.mase.gov.it/comunicati/giornata-degli-alberi-il-ministro-pichetto-partecipa-con-i-giovani-uniniziativa-di>

<sup>1884</sup> COP28: il MASE aderisce al Fondo Amazzonia con cinque milioni, Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica (Rome) 3 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 December 2023. <https://www.mase.gov.it/comunicati/cop28-il-mase-aderisce-al-fondo-amazzonia-con-cinque-milioni>

On 27 December 2023, the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security announced EUR113 million for 52 forestation projects that aim to plant over 2.5 million plants across 14 metropolitan cities.<sup>1885</sup> The projects are part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan's Urban and extra-urban forestry plan which aims to plant 4.5 million "forest propagation material" by the end of 2024.

On 20 March 2024, representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forests attended an event organized by the Life4Pollinators project to discuss the importance of restoring habitats to protect the life of key pollinators and to develop a strategic plan to enhance protected areas in Italy.<sup>1886</sup>

On 21 March 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Sovereignty and Forestry announced the launch of the National Forestry Information System.<sup>1887</sup> The system combines information from public and private to collect necessary data to further the implementation of the National Forestry Strategy.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Italy has taken strong action to fulfill its commitment on a national level through the National Biodiversity Strategy and demonstrated commitment to reforestation and internationally, by signing a memorandum to renew cooperation with Palestine and becoming a member of the Amazon Fund.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eliana Tiritilli*

#### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally.

On 28 June 2023, the Ministry of the Environment and the Mongolian Ministry of Environment and Tourism discussed cooperation on climate change, air pollution and fluorocarbon countermeasures and on biodiversity conservation at the 15th Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue.<sup>1888</sup> Regarding the commitment to biodiversity conservation, Japan and Mongolia agreed to work together to adopt the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and take joint action to conserve and restore Zag shrubs.

On 8 July 2023, the Ministry of the Environment hosted the ninth Global Conference of the International Partnership for the Satoyama initiative.<sup>1889</sup> The Satoyama initiative is focused on nature conservation and sustainable environmental use. The conference was used to share details about this initiative and its support for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and discuss possible actions and initiatives for a new framework.

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<sup>1885</sup> PNRR: MASE, con Piano forestazione 2,5 milioni di nuove piante nelle città metropolitane, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica (Rome) 27 December 2023. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 January 2024.

<https://www.mase.gov.it/comunicati/pnrr-mase-con-piano-forestazione-25-milioni-di-nuove-piante-nelle-citta-metropolitane>

<sup>1886</sup> Le Aree Protette - Esperienze virtuose per contrastare il declino degli impollinatori, Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica (Rome) 20 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2024.

<https://www.mase.gov.it/notizie/le-aree-protette-esperienze-virtuose-contrastare-il-declino-degli-impollinatori>

<sup>1887</sup> Foreste. Masaf, al via nuovo Sistema Informativo Forestale Nazionale (SINFor), Ministero dell'agricoltura, della sovranità alimentare e delle foreste (Rome) 21 March 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 20 April 2024.

[https://www.politicheagricole.it/foreste\\_sinfor](https://www.politicheagricole.it/foreste_sinfor)

<sup>1888</sup> Results of the 15th Japan-Mongolia Environmental Policy Dialogue, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (Tokyo) 7 July 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press\\_01647.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_01647.html)

<sup>1889</sup> Holding of the Ninth Global Conference of the International Partnership for the SATOYAMA Initiative, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (Tokyo) 8 July 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press\\_01882.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press_01882.html)

On 18 July 2023, the Ministry of the Environment and Indonesia's Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment held the seventh Joint Committee on Waste Treatment.<sup>1890</sup> The parties discussed a number of topics including waste and mangrove management and marine plastic pollution. Japan discussed the Japan International Cooperation Agency's mangrove conservation efforts in Indonesia and both countries agreed to continue cooperating in this regard.

On 31 August 2023, Minister Nishimura and the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Dang Quoc Khanh signed a letter of intent on cooperation in marine litter management.<sup>1891</sup> Alongside the Association of South East Asian Nations, China, and the Republic of Korea, Japan aims to reduce marine plastic debris through cooperative activities including the development of projects addressing marine litter around Vietnam, the collaboration to develop a marine litter management manual and the sharing of monitoring data of marine litter.

On 18 December 2023, Minister of the Environment Shintaro Ito and Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Philippines Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga signed a memorandum of understanding on environmental cooperation.<sup>1892</sup> Areas of cooperation include air, quality and water management, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation.

On 20 February 2024, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) announced nine loan agreements to provide Official Development Assistance to India.<sup>1893</sup> As part of this commitment, JICA will provide JPY26.133 million to fund a "climate change response and ecosystem services enhancement" project in Rajasthan. This project will focus on developing biodiversity and forest conservation and restoration in Rajasthan state.

On 26 February 2024, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in Tokyo.<sup>1894</sup> Partnership areas include sustainable forest management and use of forest resources through innovations, knowledge exchange, training and research.

On 26 February 2024, JICA and the Government of Tunisia signed a grant agreement for Japan to provide JPY3.208 million in aid to develop an Advanced Sewage Treatment Plant in Gabes.<sup>1895</sup> This project will support the conservation of water resources.

On 8 March 2024, the Ministry of the Environment announced the establishment of a Technical Support Unit (TSU) for the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Task Force

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<sup>1890</sup> Outcomes of the Joint Committee on Waste Treatment and the Joint Committee on Comprehensive Environmental Cooperation Package between the Ministry of the Environment, Japan, and the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Investment, Republic of Indonesia, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (Tokyo) 24 August 2023. Access Date: 3 December 2023. [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press\\_01775.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_01775.html)

<sup>1891</sup> Cooperation with the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in the Field of Marine Litter Management, Ministry of the Environment of Japan (Tokyo) 31 August 2023. Access Date: 5 November 2023. [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press\\_02115.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_02115.html)

<sup>1892</sup> Signing of Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Environmental Protections by Japan and the Republic of the Philippines, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 18 December 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2024. [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press\\_02268.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_02268.html)

<sup>1893</sup> Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreements with India: Contributing to the deepening of bilateral relations and mutual development between Japan and India by supporting India's achievement of the SDGs, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 20 February 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20240220\\_31.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20240220_31.html)

<sup>1894</sup> The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions, and Water Management Signed the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Tokyo) 26 February 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/inter\\_relate/feb\\_26.html](https://www.maff.go.jp/e/policies/inter_relate/feb_26.html)

<sup>1895</sup> Signing of Grant Agreement with Tunisia: Contributing to the sustainable use of water resources through the construction of an advanced sewage treatment plant and the utilization of the treated waste water as industrial water, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 29 February 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20240229\\_41.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/information/press/2023/20240229_41.html)

(IPBES) on Scenarios and Models of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.<sup>1896</sup> The TSU will assist the IPBES to assess biodiversity and ecosystem projects as well as progress related to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. Japan has taken strong action to support the conservation and management of terrestrial and inland water areas globally through JICA's funding for an environmental project in Rajasthan, India and through a partnership agreement with the Philippines. Japan has also taken weak actions nationally and globally through verbal affirmations for conservation measures and the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Max Phan*

### **United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

On 25 May 2023, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced a GBP40 million biodiversity research program to support projects worldwide that conserve biodiversity and increase ecosystem resilience.<sup>1897</sup>

On 30 June 2023, the UK government launched the Special Survival Fund, whose budget of GBP25 million is dedicated toward funding new projects that support the conservation of wildlife habitats to reduce habitat loss, protect vulnerable ecosystems and create or connect high-biodiversity areas such as wetlands and grasslands.<sup>1898</sup>

On 20 July 2023, the UK government announced six joint projects with Natural England, supported by a GBP7.4 million budget, to restore natural landscapes.<sup>1899</sup> Spanning 176,000 hectares across England, the projects connect wildlife habitats and are designed to increase carbon storage, reduce flooding and increase the resilience of biodiverse ecosystems.

On 24 August 2023, Minister and Parliamentary Under-Secretary in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Trudy Harrison pledged a contribution of GBP10 million to the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.<sup>1900</sup> In accordance with the commitment to effectively conserve and manage at least 30 per

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<sup>1896</sup> Establishment of Technical Support Unit for IPBES Task Force on Scenarios and Models of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 8 March 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press\\_02516.html](https://www.env.go.jp/en/press/press_02516.html)

<sup>1897</sup> £40 million biodiversity research programme opens for applications, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 26 May 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-million-biodiversity-research-programme-opens-for-applications>

<sup>1898</sup> Putting nature on road to recovery with Species Survival Fund, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 30 June 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/putting-nature-on-road-to-recovery-with-species-survival-fund>

<sup>1899</sup> Nature recovery projects to boost wildlife and access to nature, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 20 July 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nature-recovery-projects-to-boost-wildlife-and-access-to-nature>

<sup>1900</sup> UK among first countries to back new nature recovery fund, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 25 August 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-among-first-countries-to-back-new-nature-recovery-fund>



cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, the UK supports the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund to increase the protection of species and ecosystems and the sustainable management of the environment.

On 19 October 2023, the UK government announced the creation of a National Nature Reserve encompassing 31 existing nature reserves and 400 hectares of new land.<sup>1901</sup> The reserve is dedicated to conservation management, aiming to foster biodiversity in the area and increase public access to nature.

On 27 November 2023, the UK government announced an upcoming competition for communities to suggest local areas that should become a national forest.<sup>1902</sup> The winning forest will receive up to GBP10 million in support of this initiative.

On 29 November 2023, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs shared measures to help restore nature.<sup>1903</sup> Measures include plans to establish a new National Park and recover temperate rainforests in England. The government will provide GBP10 million to support National Parks and National Landscapes in 2024, while GBP5 million will be provided in 2023 for Protected Landscapes. The government will also be advancing 34 landscape recovery projects with each receiving approximately GBP25 million to support efforts to conserve peatland, woodlands and temperate forests.

On 2 December 2023, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero Claire Coutinho announced GBP85 million in funding to address deforestation, methane emissions and clean energy.<sup>1904</sup> Of this, GBP35 million will go towards the Amazon Fund to support forests in Brazil.

On 11 January 2024, the UK government announced GBP463,647 in funding for Sellafield Ltd. to support nature restoration.<sup>1905</sup> Funding will be provided over a three-year period, partly to support the restoration of riverbanks in Dub Beck.

On 31 January 2024, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced environmental measures as part of its commitment to protect 30 per cent of land and water by 2030.<sup>1906</sup> Measures include a new framework for national parks and protected areas and a ban on bottom trawling in 13 Marine Protected Areas.

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<sup>1901</sup> Mendip Hills to be declared a “super” National Nature Reserve, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 19 October 2023. Access Date: 31 October 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/mendip-hills-to-be-declared-a-super-national-nature-reserve>

<sup>1902</sup> New forest for the nation to improve access to green space, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 27 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-forest-for-the-nation-to-improve-access-to-green-space>

<sup>1903</sup> Restoring our natural environment, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 29 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/restoring-our-natural-environment/restoring-our-natural-environment>

<sup>1904</sup> UK leads global action to protect rainforests, cut methane emissions and advance low carbon technologies, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (London) 2 December 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-leads-global-action-to-protect-rainforests-cut-methane-emissions-and-advance-low-carbon-technologies>

<sup>1905</sup> Sellafield Ltd funding boost for local environmental projects, Sellafield Ltd (London) 11 January 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sellafield-ltd-funding-boost-for-local-environmental-projects>

<sup>1906</sup> Nature recovery to be accelerated as the government delivers on measures to protect land and sea, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 31 January 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nature-recovery-to-be-accelerated-as-the-government-delivers-on-measures-to-protect-land-and-sea>

On 7 February 2024, the Environmental Agency and the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced GBP1.3 million in funding to lowland peat soils in northern UK.<sup>1907</sup> Projects will focus on water-management and climate change adaptation in peatlands.

On 16 February 2024, Natural England and Clinton Devon Estates announced the extension of the Pebblebed Heaths National Nature Reserve.<sup>1908</sup> This will result in the incorporation of “90 [hectares] of wetland in the lower Otter valley” within the National Nature Reserve. This announcement comes as part of the King’s Series on National Nature Reserves.

On 23 February 2024, the UK government announced GBP25 million in funding for 40 projects to reduce flood risks across the nation.<sup>1909</sup> Projects will focus on “natural processes such as planting trees and creating wetlands,” land management and nature restoration.

On 4 March 2024, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced hedgerow regulations for over 100,000 kilometres of hedgerows.<sup>1910</sup> Regulations will focus on protecting hedgerows which in turn supports wildlife habitats, slows soil erosion, reduces water run-off, absorbs carbon and supports pollinators.

On 5 March 2024, the Environment Agency announced a GBP1 million project to enhance wildlife and water quality in the Billingham Beck Valley Country Park habitat.<sup>1911</sup> The project aims to restore wetlands and sees the opening of 55 kilometres of the river for fish and community access.

On 21 March 2024, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Secretary Coutinho announced that the Government of the UK has pledged GBP6 million to support Zambia’s forest protection, emissions reduction and poverty alleviation initiatives.<sup>1912</sup> Funding will support COP26’s mission to “halt and reverse” forest loss in 90 per cent of global forests by 2030.

On 23 March 2024, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced up to GBP7 million for rural green spaces and community projects across England.<sup>1913</sup> Through the Community Green Spaces Fund, grants of up to GBP75,000 will support the restoration and preservation of green spaces and establishment of community orchards, gardens and play areas.

On 9 April 2024, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced that up to GBP11 million in fines and penalties to water companies for breaching environmental regulations will go towards the

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<sup>1907</sup> North projects awarded funding to improve lowland peat soils, Environment Agency, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 7 February 2024. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/north-projects-awarded-funding-to-improve-lowland-peat-soils>

<sup>1908</sup> Devon National Nature Reserve extension to boost nature recovery, Natural England (London) 16 February 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/devon-national-nature-reserve-extension-to-boost-nature-recovery>

<sup>1909</sup> 40 projects to benefit from £25 million funding for natural flood management, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 23 February 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/40-projects-to-benefit-from-25-million-funding-for-natural-flood-management>

<sup>1910</sup> Hedgerow regulations to be brought into law to protect wildlife, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 4 March 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hedgerow-regulations-to-be-brought-into-law-to-protect-wildlife>

<sup>1911</sup> £1m project to bring boost for wildlife and water quality starts, Environment Agency (London) 5 March 2024. Access Date: 18 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1m-project-to-bring-boost-for-wildlife-and-water-quality-starts>

<sup>1912</sup> UK protecting forests with £6 million boost for Zambia, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (London) 21 March 2024. Access Date: 18 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-protecting-forests-with-6-million-boost-for-zambia>

<sup>1913</sup> Rural community green spaces to be rejuvenated through new government investment, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 23 March 2024. Access Date: 18 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rural-community-green-spaces-to-be-rejuvenated-through-new-government-investment>

Water Restoration Fund.<sup>1914</sup> This will support initiatives to protect biodiversity, enhance water environment and increase access to blue and green spaces.

On 12 April 2024, Minister Spencer announced the River Wye Preservation Plan to protect and conserve the river.<sup>1915</sup> Strategies for this initiative include appointing a ‘River Champion,’ reducing pollution and ordering large-scale poultry farms to transport manure elsewhere to avoid causing excess pollution. This project will receive up to GBP35 million in funding.

On 9 May 2024, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced GBP11.5 million in funding through the Water Environment Improvement Fund for 180 local projects to promote habitat restoration, tree planting, and sustainable flood management.<sup>1916</sup> The projects aim to clean up England’s rivers and lakes to enhance community protection from flooding and revitalise fragmented habitats, improving 300km of English rivers and 160 hectares of inland and coastal waters.

On 9 May 2024, the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee published its updated UK Biodiversity Framework for 2024.<sup>1917</sup> The framework outlines four primary objectives for UK biodiversity policy and further aligns the UK’s conservation approach with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity framework.<sup>1918</sup> The plan reiterates the UK’s commitment to protect 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas by 2030.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. The United Kingdom has taken strong action to fulfill its commitment on a national level by funding nature reserves and restoration projects and internationally by investing in the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund and global conservation research programs.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Emily Hospedales*

### **United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

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<sup>1914</sup> Crackdown on water firms sees millions invested into local action, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 9 April 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/crackdown-on-water-firms-sees-millions-invested-into-local-action>

<sup>1915</sup> New multi-million pound action plan launched to protect the River Wye, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 12 April 2024. Access Date: 18 April 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-multi-million-pound-action-plan-launched-to-protect-the-river-wye>

<sup>1916</sup> Government to fund 180 local projects to boost water quality, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 9 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-fund-180-local-projects-to-boost-water-quality>

<sup>1917</sup> UK Biodiversity Framework 2024, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (Peterborough) 9 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://hub.jncc.gov.uk/assets/19a729f6-440e-4ac6-8894-cc72e84cc3bb>

<sup>1918</sup> UK Biodiversity Framework JNCC on behalf of the Four Countries’ Biodiversity Group (4CBG), Joint Nature Conservation Committee (Peterborough) 9 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/19a729f6-440e-4ac6-8894-cc72e84cc3bb/uk-biodiversity-framework.pdf>

On 28 June 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced USD52 million in funding for 24 projects which aim, in part, to “protect and restore wetlands” in the San Francisco Bay.<sup>1919</sup> Projects include the California State Coastal Conservancy which will receive USD5.5 million to enable “the restoration of 2,100 acres of former salt ponds to 1,300 acres of tidal marsh and 800 acres of enhanced managed ponds.”

On 8 August 2023, President Joe Biden signed a proclamation designating the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument in Arizona.<sup>1920</sup> This declaration aims to honour Indigenous peoples and protect and conserve approximately one million acres of land in the Grand Canyon area.

On 6 September 2023, the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) met in Jakarta, Indonesia to discuss maritime cooperation.<sup>1921</sup> At the ASEAN-US Summit, the participating nations agreed to increase cooperation in the management of marine resources and enhance efforts in marine conservation.

On 18 September 2023, the United States and other nations bordering the Atlantic Ocean signed a declaration which included several commitments regarding scientific cooperation on ocean data.<sup>1922</sup> This declaration supports a deeper understanding of the Atlantic Ocean and potential conservation measures that can be taken to reduce plastic pollution and invasive weeds. Furthermore, it acknowledges the needs of coastal communities and promotes enhancing weather forecasting, which can help conserve and protect areas vulnerable to natural disasters.

On 20 September 2023, President Biden launched the American Climate Corps, an initiative that aims to help over 20,000 young people develop the necessary skills to pursue careers in climate, conservation, and clean energy sectors.<sup>1923</sup> The initiative aids national conservation by encouraging efforts in land restoration, increasing community resilience, and increasing access to and the implementation of clean energy.

On 23 October 2023, the Biden-Harris Administration released the implementation plan for the National Strategy for the Arctic Region (NSAR).<sup>1924</sup> This plan outlines domestic measures to conserve the Arctic and improve the livelihood of those in the region. The NSAR Implementation Plan (NSARIP) looks further into collaborating with stakeholders through 30 objectives and 200 actions. The NSARIP will be updated over time in accordance with the changing conditions in the Arctic.

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<sup>1919</sup> EPA Invests Over \$50 Million to Protect San Francisco Bay and Its Watersheds, Build Resilience to Climate Change, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 28 June 2023. Access Date: 17 November 2023.

<sup>1920</sup> FACT SHEET: President Biden Designates Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument, The White House (Washington D.C.) 8 August 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/08/08/fact-sheet-president-biden-designates-baaj-nwaavjo-itah-kukveni-ancestral-footprints-of-the-grand-canyon-national-monument/>

<sup>1921</sup> ASEAN-U.S. Leaders' Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, The White House (Washington D.C.) 6 September 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/06/asean-u-s-leaders-statement-on-cooperation-on-the-asean-outlook-on-the-indo-pacific/>

<sup>1922</sup> Declaration on Atlantic Cooperation, The White House (Washington D.C.) 18 September 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/18/declaration-on-atlantic-cooperation/>

<sup>1923</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Launches American Climate Corps to Train Young People in Clean Energy, Conservation, and Climate Resilience Skills, Create Good-Paying Jobs and Tackle the Climate Crisis, The White House (Washington D.C.) 20 September 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/09/20/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-launches-american-climate-corps-to-train-young-people-in-clean-energy-conservation-and-climate-resilience-skills-create-good-paying-jobs-and-tackle-the-clima/>

<sup>1924</sup> FACT SHEET: Implementation Plan for the United States' National Strategy for the Arctic Region, The White House (Washington D.C.) 23 October 2023. Access Date: 30 November 2023. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/10/23/fact-sheet-implementation-plan-for-the-united-states-national-strategy-for-the-arctic-region/>

On 1 November 2023, the EPA announced over USD3 million to fund 14 projects which aim to support coastal communities in Massachusetts.<sup>1925</sup> Projects include Nantucket Conservation Foundation which aims to restore and re-integrate “40 acres of former cranberry bog to self-sustaining natural wetlands.”

On 16 November 2023, the Department of Justice lodged a civil complaint against Chameleon LLC and Gary V for violating the Clean Water Act.<sup>1926</sup> The complaint was filed on behalf of the EPA due to damages to 21 acres of wetlands near the Chickahominy and Pamunkey rivers. This represents a commitment by the EPA to protect inland water areas such as wetlands.

On 6 December 2023, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)’s Forest Service announced USD68 million for 120 agreements with Tribal Nations in areas such as forest management and animal harvesting.<sup>1927</sup> Projects for forest management will focus on using Indigenous traditional knowledge to protect and manage nature.

On 6 December 2023, the USDA’s Forest Service announced a USD20 million partnership with American Forests to improve the forestation of National Forest over a five-year period.<sup>1928</sup> The project will focus on climate-resilient restoration planning, nursery production, increasing seed production and increase human resource development in the forestry sector.

On 19 December 2023, the White House announced new actions to conserve and restore national forests.<sup>1929</sup> Among these is a proposal from the USDA to modify all 128 forest land management plans in the US to develop a national management strategy. The USDA’s Forest Service is also calling for the Northwest Forest Plan to be adapted to include climate-resilient practices for forest ecosystems.

On 20 December 2023, the Department of the Interior announced a partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey and National Aeronautics and Space Administration called the Landsat 2030 International Partnership Initiative.<sup>1930</sup> This initiative will focus on using the satellite Landsat to investigate Earth’s landscape and address issues like tropical deforestation and coral reef degradation.

On 25 January 2024, the USDA’s Farm Service Agency announced that the Forest Management Incentive will provide farmers and private landowners with funding to manage forests using brush management, weed

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<sup>1925</sup> EPA and partners provide over \$3 million for 14 projects in Massachusetts coastal communities, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 1 November 2023. Access Date: 17 November 2023.

<sup>1926</sup> United States Brings Civil Enforcement Action for Significant Damage to 21 Acres of Wetlands in Ashland, VA, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 16 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023.

<sup>1927</sup> At White House Tribal Nations Summit, USDA Fulfills Long-Standing Tribal Requests to Strengthen Food Sovereignty and Expand Indigenous Roles in Forest Management, Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 6 December 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/newsroom/releases/white-house-tribal-nations-summit-usda-fulfills-long-standing-tribal>

<sup>1928</sup> American Forests Partners with USDA Forest Service to Expand Reforestation across National Forests, Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 6 December 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/newsroom/releases/american-forests-partners-usda-forest-service-expand-reforestation>

<sup>1929</sup> FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Advances Commitment to Protect Old Growth Forests on National Forest System Lands, White House (Washington D.C.) 19 December 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/12/19/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-advances-commitment-to-protect-old-growth-forests-on-national-forest-system-lands/>

<sup>1930</sup> Interior Department Announces Landsat 2030 International Partnership Initiative, U.S. Department of the Interior (Washington D.C.) 20 December 2023. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-landsat-2030-international-partnership-initiative>

control, prescribed burning and other methods.<sup>1931</sup> This funding will be available to those enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program.

On 8 February 2024, the Department of the Interior announced over USD157 million in funding for nature restoration.<sup>1932</sup> This funding will support land and water restoration in 206 ecosystems across the country and in US territories. Funding will be provided under the new Infrastructure Law and contributes to President Joe Biden's Investing in America agenda.

On 12 February 2024, the USDA announced the Working Lands Climate Corps initiative, which aims to provide service opportunities to 100 members of the American youth.<sup>1933</sup> The initiative will provide participants with opportunities to tackle climate change in rural areas within the country. As part of the American Climate Corps, the project also aims to provide the youth with sufficient training to obtain good-paying careers in the clean energy and climate resilience economy.

On 15 February 2024, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service announced USD7 million in funding for the Texas Agricultural Land Trust.<sup>1934</sup> Funding will go towards land conservation and management in the Nueces River Watershed.

On 20 February 2024, the USDA's Forest Service announced USD500 million to address wildfires across the country.<sup>1935</sup> Of this, USD400 million will go towards the management of 21 priority landscapes while USD100 million will fund the Collaborative Wildfire Risk Reduction Program to improve forest health and reduce the risk of wildfires in 24 states. Funding will be provided under the Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Law and contributes to President Joe Biden's "Investing in America Agenda."

On 26 February 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration announced USD119 million in funding for nature conservation and restoration projects across the country.<sup>1936</sup> Project proposals for this initiative are being accepted until 4 April 2024.

On 27 February 2024, the Department of the Interior announced USD195 million to protect and restore national parks while adapting them to climate-resilient practices.<sup>1937</sup> Funding will support over 40 projects

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<sup>1931</sup> USDA Encourages Producers Participating in Conservation Reserve Program to Consider Forest Management Incentive, Farm Service Agency U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 25 January 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024.

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/news-room/news-releases/2024/usda-encourages-producers-participating-in-conservation-reserve-program-to-consider-forest-management-incentive>

<sup>1932</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$157 Million from Investing in America Agenda to Restore Our Nation's Lands and Waters, U.S. Department of the Interior (Columbia) 8 February 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-more-157-million-investing-america-agenda>  
<sup>1933</sup> As part of President Biden's American Climate Corps, USDA Launches New Working Lands Climate Corps to Train Future Conservation and Climate Leaders on Climate-Smart Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 12 February 2024. Access Date: 3 March 2024. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2024/02/12/part-president-bidens-american-climate-corps-usda-launches-new>

<sup>1934</sup> USDA NRCS Awards Grant to Texas Agricultural Land Trust to Safeguard Texas's Nueces River Watershed, Natural Resources Conservation Service U.S. Department of Agriculture (San Antonio) 15 February 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/texas/news/usda-nrcs-awards-grant-to-texas-agricultural>

<sup>1935</sup> USDA Announces \$500 Million to Confront the Wildfire Crisis as Part of Investing in America Agenda, Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture (San Diego) 20 February 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/newsroom/releases/usda-announces-500-million-confront-wildfire-crisis-part-investing>

<sup>1936</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces Up to \$119 Million Available for Locally Led Conservation Projects through the 2024 America the Beautiful Challenge, U.S. Department of the Interior (Raleigh) 26 February 2024. Access Date: 11 March 2024. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-119-million-available-locally-led-conservation>

<sup>1937</sup> Interior Department Announces \$195 Million for America's National Parks through President Biden's Investing in America Agenda, U.S. Department of the Interior (Washington D.C.) 27 February 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-195-million-americas-national-parks-through-president>

across the country including projects for climate-resilient forestry, protecting coral health and restoring sagebrush ecosystems.

On 4 March 2024, the USDA announced that agricultural producers and private landowners could sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program between 4 March and 29 March 2024.<sup>1938</sup> This program aims to conserve wildlife habitats and provides benefits such as carbon sequestration and improved water quality and soil health.

On 12 March 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency announced USD43.5 million for the restoration and protection of the San Francisco Bay, its watersheds and wetlands.<sup>1939</sup> Of this, USD38 million will go towards the Agency's San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund. The remaining USD5.5 million will be divided between a number of organizations that focus on restoration and climate resilience.

On 27 March 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency announced USD206 million over the next four years for the preservation and restoration of the Chesapeake Bay.<sup>1940</sup> Of this, USD193 million will go towards The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to restore fish, wildlife, plants and habitats while USD13 million will be allocated to The Chesapeake Bay Trust to improve watersheds in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland Coastal Bays and Youghiogheny River.

On 3 April 2024, the USDA announced USD1.5 billion for the 2024 fiscal year to support farmers, ranchers and forest landowners with nature conservation and climate solutions.<sup>1941</sup> Funding is being provided through the Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act and will go towards the Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

On 10 April 2024, Environmental Protection Agency Deputy Administrator Janet McCabe announced USD35 million to restore the St. Louis River in Minnesota.<sup>1942</sup> Funding will support the clean-up of "dioxin-contaminated sediment" in the Thomson Reservoir.

On 16 April 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency announced USD84 million for a Great Lakes Cleanup Project.<sup>1943</sup> Beginning in April, the project will remove 70,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the Lower Rouge River Old Channel near Detroit. The Environmental Protection Agency will provide USD51 million for this initiative, while the remainder is covered by Honeywell International, Inc.

On 18 April 2024, the Department of the Interior announced the Public Lands Rule, which aims to help the Bureau of Land Management to conserve and restore wildlife habitats and facilitate responsible

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<sup>1938</sup> USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program General Signup for 2024, U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Services Agency (Alexandria) 4 March 2024. Access Date: 18 March 2024. <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Louisiana/news-releases/usda-announces-conservation-reserve-program-general-signup-for-2024>

<sup>1939</sup> EPA Investing Over \$43 Million in New Funding to Protect and Restore San Francisco Bay and Its Watersheds, United States Environmental Protection Agency (San Francisco) 12 March 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-investing-over-43-million-new-funding-protect-and-restore-san-francisco-bay-and>

<sup>1940</sup> Biden-Harris Administration announces \$206 million to selectees to protect and restore Chesapeake Bay through community partnerships, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Philadelphia) 27 March 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-206-million-selectees-protect-and-restore>

<sup>1941</sup> USDA Makes \$1.5 Billion Available to Help Farmers Advance Conservation and Climate-Smart Agriculture as Part of President Biden's Investing in America Agenda, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Mankato) 3 April 2024. Access Date: 18 April 2024.

<https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2024/04/03/usda-makes-15-billion-available-help-farmers-advance-conservation>

<sup>1942</sup> EPA Deputy Administrator Announces \$35 Million Sediment Cleanup to Restore St. Louis River in Minnesota, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 10 April 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-deputy-administrator-announces-35-million-sediment-cleanup-restore-st-louis-river>

<sup>1943</sup> EPA Announces \$84 Million Great Lakes Cleanup Project in Rouge River Near Detroit to Begin in April, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 16 April 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-84-million-great-lakes-cleanup-project-rouge-river-near-detroit-begin-0>

development.<sup>1944</sup> This new legislation refines the ideas in the initial proposal made in April 2023 incorporating Indigenous knowledge and scientific data on land management to restore and protect public lands.

On 19 April 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration launched the Conservation.gov website. The website aims to help Americans connect with adequate resources, information and opportunities to support locally led land and water conservation in the United States.<sup>1945</sup> Some key features this website contains are an American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas, a page for volunteer opportunities and a financial assistance tool wherein eligible users can request federal financial assistance on conservation initiatives.

On 19 April 2024, the Department of the Interior took action to preserve the Arctic region.<sup>1946</sup> These steps taken in cooperation with other local and federal authorities ensure maximum protection of 13 million acres of Special Areas in the western Arctic through the Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Rule.

On 23 April 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration announced an investment of USD70 million in America Agenda for National Fish Passage Program projects.<sup>1947</sup> The funding will support 49 projects in 29 states which aim to improve fish passage by restoring and revitalising aquatic habitats and increasing climate resilience.

On 2 May 2024, President Biden signed a proclamation to extend the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument by 105,919 acres to further conserve the area's cultural history, protect biodiversity, increase public access to nature and aid the creation of a sustainable outdoor economy.<sup>1948</sup> Furthermore, the Department of Agriculture announced USD2.3 million in funding as part of the Great American Outdoors Act to restore barracks and provide the necessary services for National Forest staff to strengthen protection.

On 3 May 2024, the Department of Agriculture announced the 28 organisations selected to host members of the Working Lands Climate Corps (WLCC).<sup>1949</sup> As part of the American Climate Corps, the WLCC aims to teach young people the importance of conservation and climate-smart agriculture solutions. The 28 organisations will host and train over 100 young WLCC members, equipping them with the necessary technical and interpersonal skills to become future climate leaders.

On 8 May 2024, the Interior Department announced more than USD87 million to fund conservation and national wildlife projects, conserving and restoring 325,823 acres of wetland and upland habitats for migratory

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<sup>1944</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Finalizes Strategy to Guide Balanced Management, Conservation of Public Lands, U.S. Department of the Interior (Washington D.C.) 18 February 2024. Access Date: 18 April 2024.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-strategy-guide-balanced-management-conservation>

<sup>1945</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Launches Conservation.gov, Showcasing and Supporting the Rapid Acceleration of Locally Led Efforts to Conserve, Protect and Restore Lands and Waters across America, The White House (Washington, D.C.) 19 April 2024. Access Date: 19 April 2024. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/news-updates/2024/04/19/biden-harris-administration-launches-conservation-gov-showcasing-and-supporting-the-rapid-acceleration-of-locally-led-efforts-to-protect-and-restore-lands-and-waters-across-america/>

<sup>1946</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Takes Critical Action to Protect Alaska Native Subsistence, Lands and Wildlife, U.S. Department of the Interior (Washington D.C.) 19 April 2024. Access Date: 29 April 2024. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-takes-critical-action-protect-alaska-native-subsistence>

<sup>1947</sup> Biden-Harris Administration Announces More Than \$70 Million from Investing in America Agenda for National Fish Passage Program Projects to Address Climate Resilience and Strengthen Local Economies, U.S. Department of the Interior (Washington D.C.) 23 April 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-announces-more-70-million-investing-america-agenda>

<sup>1948</sup> USDA Celebrates President Biden's 105,919-acre Expansion of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 2 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2024/05/02/usda-celebrates-president-bidens-105919-acre-expansion-san-gabriel>

<sup>1949</sup> USDA Announces 28 Host Organizations to Train Future Conservation and Climate Leaders, as part of President Biden's American Climate Corps, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 3 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2024/05/03/usda-announces-28-host-organizations-train-future-conservation-and>



birds across the US, Canada and Mexico.<sup>1950</sup> Of this, USD84.3 million will be made available through grants as part of the North American Conservation Act and USD2.7 million provided through the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund will aid the conservation of two national wildlife refuges.

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. The government has taken domestic action to restore land and wetland areas through policies such as the National Strategy for the Arctic Region. The US government has also provided sufficient funding for initiatives including the California State Coastal Conservancy and several initiatives and projects in line with goals of the Biden administration. The US has also taken international action through cooperation agreements that promote conservation practices.

Thus, the United States receives +1.

*Analyst: Therese Angeline Reyes*

### **European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

On 30 June 2023, the European Commission announced EUR106 million in funding to support climate neutrality and the restoration of nature.<sup>1951</sup> The funds will be split between 18 projects with various objectives, including protecting and restoring coastal and marine habitats and wetlands.

On 12 July 2023, the European Parliament adopted the EU Nature Restoration Law.<sup>1952</sup> The new law is aligned with the EU's commitment to restore at least 20 per cent of all EU land and sea areas by 2030. The Nature Restoration Law also aims to repair 80 per cent of European habitats which are in poor condition and restore nature to all ecosystems by 2050.<sup>1953</sup>

On 23 October 2023, the European Commission approved EUR742 million to support Czechia's sustainable forest management.<sup>1954</sup> With the aid of the Commission, Czechia aims to implement sustainable forest management techniques to protect biodiversity and forest soil, promote the growth of forests, and adapt forests to climate change. Sustainable techniques include systems designed to prevent and reduce soil erosion in deforested areas.

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<sup>1950</sup> Interior Department Announces More Than \$87 Million for Wetland Conservation Projects and National Wildlife Refuges, U.S. Department of the Interior (Washington D.C.) 8 May 2024. Access Date: 15 May 2024.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-announces-more-87-million-wetland-conservation-projects-and>

<sup>1951</sup> EU Mission 'Restore our Ocean and Waters': €106 million for 18 new projects for protection, conservation, depollution and innovation, European Commission (Brussels) 30 June 2023. Access Date: 17 November 2023.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_23\\_3608](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3608)

<sup>1952</sup> Nature restoration law: MEPs adopt position for negotiations with Council, European Parliament (Brussels) 12 July 2023.

Access Date: 2 November 2023. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230707IPR02433/nature-restoration-law-meps-adopt-position-for-negotiations-with-council>

<sup>1953</sup> Green Deal: pioneering proposals to restore Europe's nature by 2050 and halve pesticide use by 2030, European Commission (Brussels) 22 June 2022. Access Date: 3 November 2023. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_22\\_3746](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_3746)

<sup>1954</sup> Commission approves EU742 million Czech State aid scheme to support sustainable forest management, European Commission (Brussels) 23 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_23\\_5205](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_23_5205)

On 27 October 2023, the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced the launch of the technical assistance facility as part of the Caribbean Sustainable Water Management and Clean Oceans programme.<sup>1955</sup> With EUR8.5 million in funding from the EU's Caribbean Investment Facility, the technical assistance facility will provide specialist technical support for implementing water, sanitation, solid waste, flood protection and clean ocean projects in 15 countries in the Caribbean. Furthermore, the EIB will financially support selected projects through an EUR150 million programme loan. Technical assistance and financial aid will support high-impact sustainable projects that aim to promote and protect climate and marine ecosystem resilience.

On 9 November 2023, the Council presidency and European Parliament agreed reached a provisional agreement regarding new rules for the Nature Restoration Law.<sup>1956</sup> While co-legislators have yet to formally adopt the agreement, the new rules aim to enhance the nature conservation. The law includes specific obligations that member states must meet for agricultural, forestry and urban ecosystems. The new rules include requirements for member states to regularly submit their restoration plans to the European Commission for review.

On 22 February 2024, the European Commission announced EUR233 million in funding for 12 Strategic Projects under the EU's LIFE programme to support the environment and climate adaptation.<sup>1957</sup> Projects include working towards protecting 30 per cent of Ireland's marine ecosystems by 2030 and restoring 1,400 hectares of peatland in Austria.

On 27 February 2024, the European Parliament adopted the Nature Restoration Law after a final vote.<sup>1958</sup> The law requires EU members to restore 30 per cent of selected habitats including forests, grasslands and wetlands by 2030 with additional commitments for 2040 and 2050. This law will contribute to the EU's goal of restoring 20 per cent of land and water by 2030.

On 19 March 2024, the Legal Affairs Committee of the European Parliament approved a bill which requires "EU and non-EU companies with over 1000 employees and 450 million turnovers" to take due diligence and reduce their adverse impacts on human rights and the environment.<sup>1959</sup> Regarding the environment, the bill requires companies to reduce or stop impacts related to biodiversity loss, pollution and the destruction of natural heritage.

On 20 March 2024, the European Commission adopted a strategic plan for 2025-2027 for Horizon Europe.<sup>1960</sup> In part, the plan will focus on the green transition with 10 per cent of Horizon Europe's budget between 2025-

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<sup>1955</sup> Global Gateway: Team Europe launches technical assistance to boost water, sanitation, solid waste, flood protection and clean oceans projects in the Caribbean, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 27 October 2023. Access Date: 3 November 2023. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2023-400-team-europe-launches-technical-assistance-boost-water-sanitation-solid-waste-flood-protection-clean-oceans-projects-caribbean>

<sup>1956</sup> Nature restoration: Council and Parliament reach agreement on new rules to restore and preserve degraded habitats in the EU, Council of the EU (Brussels) 9 November 2023. Access Date: 14 December 2023. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/11/09/nature-restoration-council-and-parliament-reach-agreement-on-new-rules-to-restore-and-preserve-degraded-habitats-in-the-eu/>

<sup>1957</sup> Commission invests over €233 million in Strategic Environment and Climate Projects across Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 22 February 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_24\\_949](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_24_949)

<sup>1958</sup> Nature restoration: Parliament adopts law to restore 20% of EU's land and sea, European Parliament (Brussels) 27 February 2024. Access Date: 12 March 2024. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20240223IPR18078/nature-restoration-parliament-adopts-law-to-restore-20-of-eu-s-land-and-sea>

<sup>1959</sup> First green light to new bill on firms' impact on human rights and environment, European Parliament (Brussels) 19 March 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20240318IPR19415/first-green-light-to-new-bill-on-firms-impact-on-human-rights-and-environment>

<sup>1960</sup> Horizon Europe strategic plan 2025-2027 for research and innovation to underpin journey to a green, digital and resilient future, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_1572](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_1572)

2027 being allocated towards biodiversity initiatives. The plan also lists new public-private partnerships including Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future and Raw Materials for the Green and Digital Transition.

On 10 April 2024, the European Parliament adopted the European Commission's proposal for a Soil Monitoring Law which aims to ensure healthy soils in the EU by 2050.<sup>1961</sup> This will support the preservation and restoration of biodiversity, lands and water resources while reducing pollution.

On 16 April 2024, the European Union announced EUR3.5 billion in funding for 40 projects to protect the ocean and ensure sustainability in 2024.<sup>1962</sup> These include projects for sustainable fisheries, the development of marine protected areas and the preservation of marine ecosystems.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to achieving the target of effectively conserving and managing at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, nationally and globally, according to national circumstances and approaches through promoting the designation and management of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. The EU has taken strong actions nationally and globally to preserve biodiversity, combat land degradation, and ensure the sustainability of vital ecosystems. The EU has invested in critical projects within its borders, such as the nature restoration law and Czechia's sustainable forest management plan. The EU has shown its dedication to global conservation through its funding for the Caribbean Sustainable Water Management and Clean Oceans Programme.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

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<sup>1961</sup> Soil health: Parliament sets out measures to achieve healthy soils by 2050, European Parliament (Brussels) 10 April 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20240408IPR20304/soil-health-parliament-sets-out-measures-to-achieve-healthy-soils-by-2050>

<sup>1962</sup> EU announces €3.5 billion worth of commitments to protect the ocean and promote sustainability at Our Ocean Conference in Greece, European Commission (Athens) 16 April 2024. Access Date: 5 May 2024. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_24\\_2049](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_2049)