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WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE ANNUAL REVIEW 2020

Front cover:

The submissions of a record 1.1 million participants in the #Together4Forests campaign are handed over to European Commission First Vice-President Frans Timmermans and Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius during an NGO action in Brussels, December 2020.

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WWF is an independent conservation organisation, with over 30 million followers and a global network active through local leadership in nearly 100 countries. Our mission is to stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which people live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world’s biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

The European Policy Office contributes to the achievement of WWF’s global mission by leading the WWF network to shape EU policies impacting on the European and global environment.

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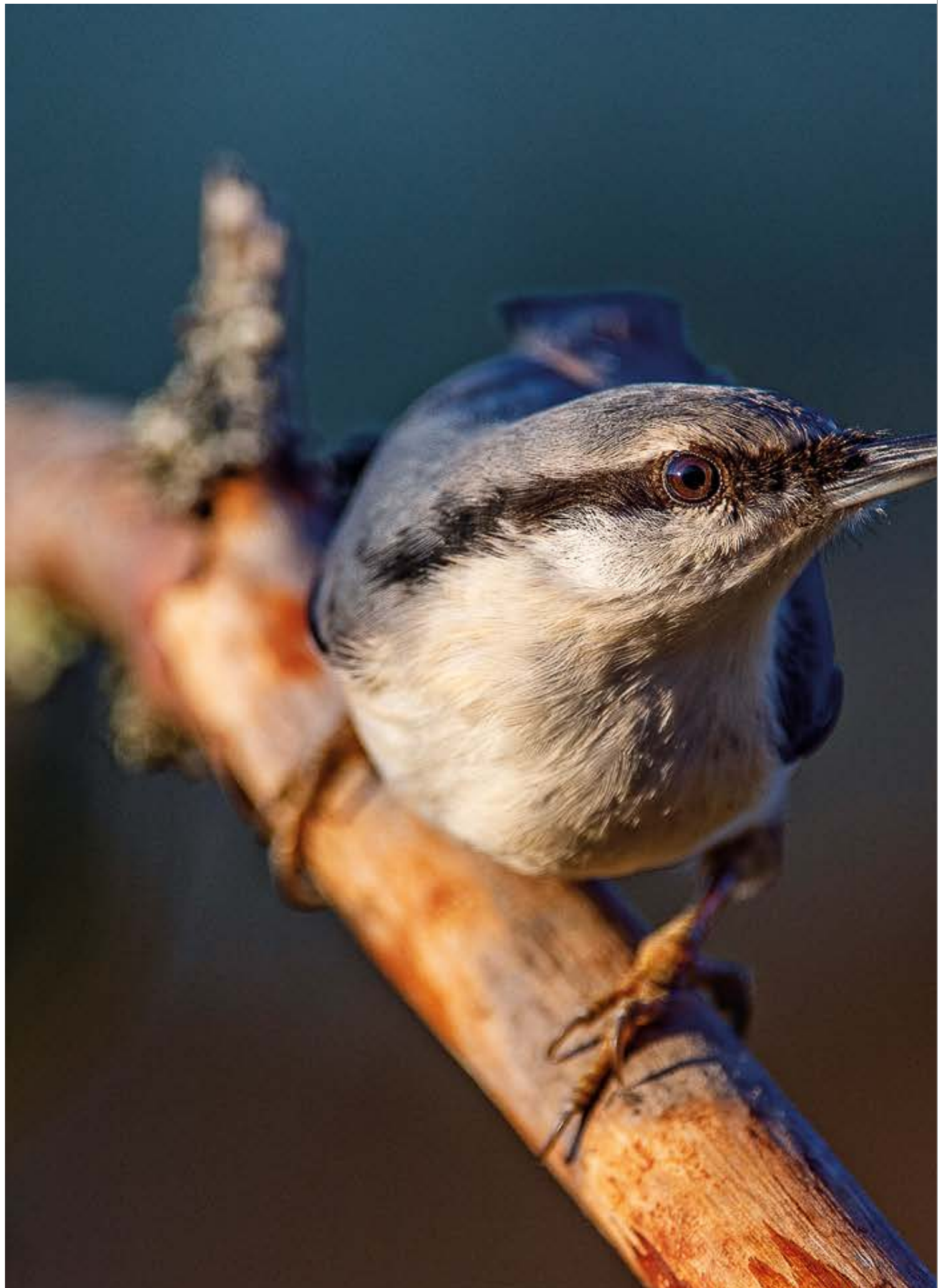
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“SCIENTISTS BELIEVE
THAT OUR DESTRUCTIVE
RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE
IS PUTTING US AT GREATER RISK
OF PANDEMIC DISEASES.

IF WE CONTINUE
ON OUR CURRENT PATHWAY,
THEN WHAT WE’VE EXPERIENCED
THIS YEAR MIGHT NOT BE
A ONE-OFF EVENT.”

Sir David Attenborough



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FOREWORDS



ESTER ASIN
DIRECTOR
WWF EUROPEAN
POLICY OFFICE

At this time last year, I wrote the foreword to our 2019 annual report with confidence we were entering a decade of action and delivery. No one could have ever imagined that a few months later, a virus would freeze our lives and societies with dramatic consequences for millions across the world.

The Covid-19 crisis has put the interlinkages between planetary and human health and our broken relationship with nature into sharp focus. Zoonotic diseases like Covid-19 jump from wildlife to humans, and their emergence is driven by deforestation and expansion of agricultural land, intensification of livestock production, increased harvesting of wildlife, as well as climate change.

Despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic and increased pressure to delay action, Commission President von der Leyen declared that the European Green Deal should be the ‘engine’ of Europe’s recovery, and the Commission moved forward with key proposals such as the EU biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies, and the EU climate law. An ambitious package for economic recovery from Covid-19 was also put forward. We welcomed the narrative of a “green and just recovery”, but cautioned that this must not lead us back to “business as usual”, where we continue depleting our natural world or enabling investments into destructive industries.

In 2020, we won some battles, but we are still some way off achieving the paradigm shift needed to lead us to a greener, healthier and fairer future. The €672.5 EU recovery fund earmarked 37% of the spending for climate action and explicitly acknowledged the “Do no harm” principle of the EU taxonomy. Fossil fuels were excluded from the Just Transition Fund. Climate targets for reducing emissions by 2030 were increased, but not to the level required by science.

The new EU budget includes a spending target for biodiversity, and the Commission committed to propose legally binding EU targets to restore degraded ecosystems on land and sea. On the other hand, the new Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), still being negotiated, is set to fall far short of halting the disastrous impacts of agriculture on biodiversity and climate.

WWF’s EU Wellbeing Economy report launched in September has been a key contribution to our work on post-Covid recovery, calling for the EU to shift to a ‘wellbeing economy’ by using the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a framework to achieve a just, socially inclusive recovery within planetary boundaries.

I strongly believe we will not go back to the “old normal”, a normal that was based on the depletion of natural resources, overconsumption, and social inequalities. Public pressure and mobilisation give me reason for hope. We saw millions coming together, virtually, at the occasion of WWF’s Earth Hour in March, and more than 1.3 million people signed up for a green and just recovery.

More than 160 organisations joined the WWF-led “Together4Forests” campaign for a strong EU law to remove deforestation and ecosystem destruction from our supply chains, and our call was supported by 1,193,652 citizens, making it the second largest public consultation in the history of the European Commission.

Our numerous achievements last year would not have been possible without the commitment of the WWF EU team and the WWF network. Like everywhere, WWF EU had to adapt quickly to working under a global pandemic: WWF’s Earth Hour, meetings, conferences and press briefings moved online, stunts and demonstrations were redesigned to respect social distancing.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank the many pandas, in Brussels and across our network, who have worked tirelessly to keep our organisation operational, impactful and relevant. Thank you for your resilience, creativity and energy. Thank you to all our partners, with whom we went the extra mile to continue to influence EU policy, and to our donors for their support and understanding.

Our journey for a nature positive, climate neutral and more just society may have been slightly disrupted, but it will not stop.

What was meant to be a ‘Super Year’, will be remembered by most as the year in which the convergence of climate and biodiversity crises reached a tipping point and exacerbated a devastating pandemic, claiming the lives, and livelihoods of millions of people around the world.

We know that the Covid-19 crisis is the symptom of a much deeper and longer-term disruption, and a reminder of the fragility of our planet and human-kind. We find ourselves in the midst of a *Planetary Emergency* and the existential risks are real. The key question today is how to ‘emerge’ from this emergency with a new holistic vision and game plan for building resilience to future shocks. The answer includes moving “beyond GDP” and valuing what is most essential: natural and human capital. Concretely, it means adopting new indicators for economic development, including wellbeing, as The Club of Rome has been advocating for the last 50 years, and as was most recently laid out in separate reports by The Club of Rome and WWF last year.

**“WE NEED TO
CREATE A NEW
VISION WHERE
THE BALANCE
BETWEEN
PEOPLE AND
NATURE IS
RESTORED”**

This also means ensuring science-based targets and timetables for decarbonisation, regenerative and circular economic progress that are comparable to the scale of the challenge at hand. In Europe, this means ensuring the implementation of the European Green Deal and truly creating a new economic paradigm. To ‘build back better’ post-Covid, we need to create a new vision where the wellbeing of all citizens is guaranteed and the balance between people and nature is restored.

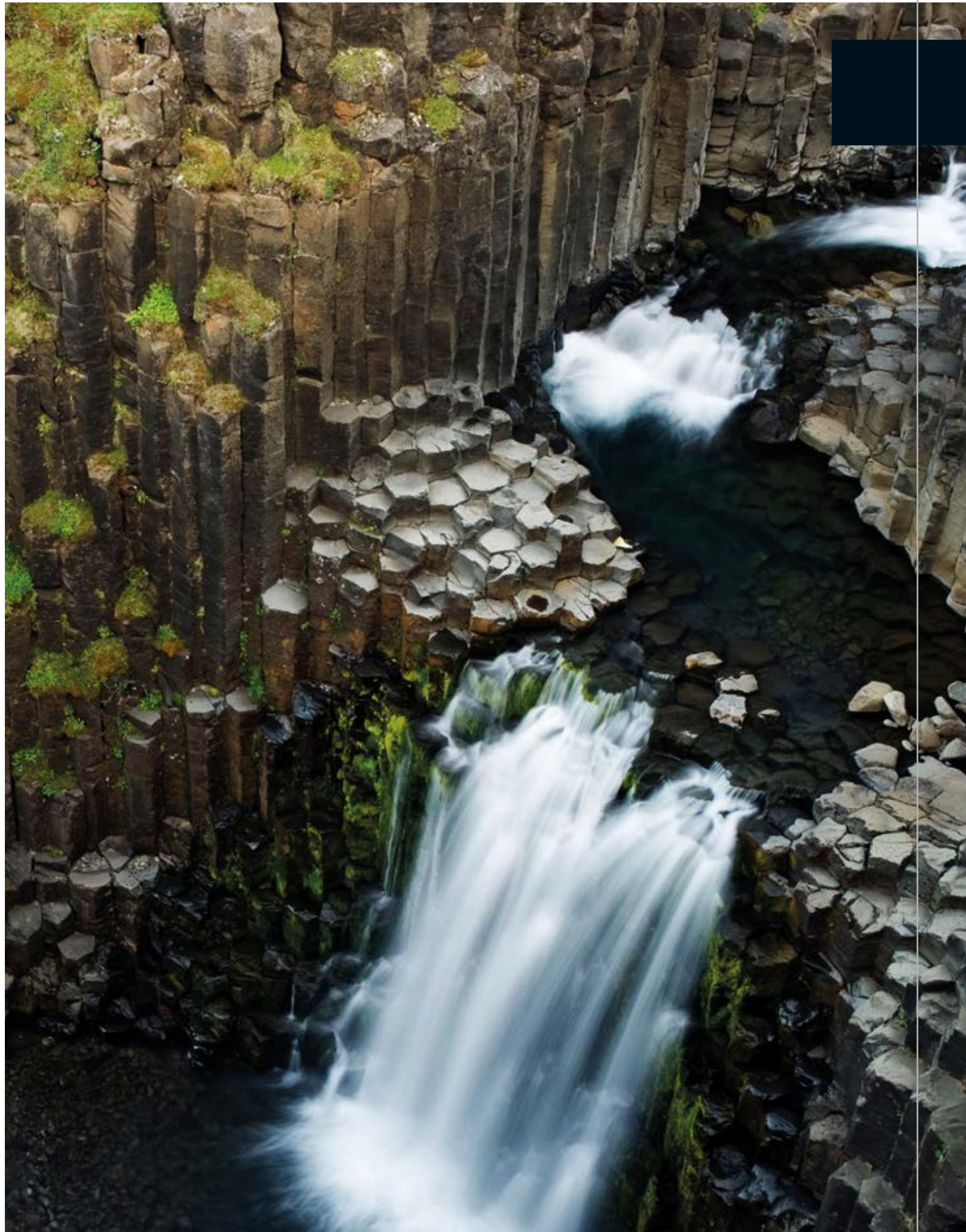
Science tells us that climate, biodiversity and human health are fully integrated and interdependent and that we will face many more crises. That is why people, planet and prosperity must be at the core of our planning if we wish to truly emerge from this emergency more resilient. The *Planetary Emergency Plan*, co-authored by The Club of Rome and Potsdam Institute in collaboration with WWF, provides just that: a roadmap for transformational action and a compass for nations to not only respond to the ongoing emergency but to emerge more resilient and regenerative.

Let us not forget that an important lesson from 2020 is the power of radical collaboration, value of co-creation and the possibility for transformational change across society, from new business and governance models to citizen partnerships and solidarity. Since its inception, WWF EU has been a key driving force behind significant environmental policy shifts at the European level and a critical friend to the EU institutions. Over the years, I have worked with the formidable WWF EU and wider WWF staff from across the world to ensure environmental leadership from policy-makers and business leaders alike. Most recently, our collaboration through the Planetary Emergency Partnership and joint call for action led to 80+ government leaders supporting the *Leaders’ Pledge for Nature* - an excellent example of what we can achieve together not just on an EU, but also on a global level.

Moving into the new year and this “Decade of Action”, much progress is still to be made. Leading into COP26, COP15, the UN Food Summit and so many other key international gatherings, 2021 must be the year for the European Union to cement its leadership on climate, biodiversity and social policies. Towards that aim, I know that the WWF EU will continue to be an essential partner in crime.



SANDRINE DIXON-DECLÈVE
CO-PRESIDENT
THE CLUB OF ROME



2020 HIGHLIGHTS FOR WWF IN EUROPE

JANUARY

With its **'just transition mechanism'**, the Commission aims to mobilise up to €100 billion to support regions reach climate neutrality.

MARCH

WWF campaigns for a **'green and just recovery'**, with economic stimulus packages guided by the European Green Deal.

The Commission's new **EU industrial strategy** promotes the decarbonisation of Europe's economy, zero-carbon technologies and energy efficiency.

The EU becomes the first region to propose a **climate law**, enshrining a climate neutrality target for 2050.

MAY

1.3 million people sign petitions for a green recovery.

The Commission's proposed **€ 1.85 trillion recovery package** confirms green ambition, but leaves backdoors open for unsustainable investments.

The Commission presents its **EU 2030 Biodiversity and Farm to Fork Strategies**, a potential turning point for nature in Europe.

The Commission announces a new legislative proposal for legally-binding **nature restoration targets** for 2021.

JUNE

Commissioner Sinkevičius announces that the **EU Water Framework Directive would not be opened** for revision, a major win for WWF's #ProtectWater campaign.

JULY

WWF supports a (socially distanced!) NGO action in Brussels calling for **no public money to go to fossil fuels**.

Member States endorse a **climate spending target of 30%** for both the next EU budget and the recovery fund.

SEPTEMBER

WWF's **Living Planet Report 2020** shows a decline of global wildlife populations by an average of 68% in less than 50 years.

WWF launches a new campaign to advocate for a strong EU law to combat imported deforestation: **#Together4Forests**.

The Commission proposes an **increased climate target** of -55% net emissions reductions.

The Parliament's Environment Committee votes in favour bringing **more transparency to fisheries** activities and seafood traceability.

WWF calls for the EU to pursue a **'Wellbeing Economy'**; Commission President recognises "limits of a model that values wealth above wellbeing".

OCTOBER

Member States fully endorse the **EU Biodiversity Strategy**.

Both MEPs and Member States disregarded the ecological emergency by designing a 'new' **Common Agricultural Policy** with little environmental credibility.

WWF and 150 organisations launched a manifesto calling for EU institutions to **end support to new hydropower plants** in Europe.

The European Parliament calls for a new law to **stop EU-driven deforestation** and nature destruction.

NOVEMBER

The Commission's **offshore renewable energy strategy** sends a strong signal in favour of sustainably deployment of offshore renewables.

The Commission's proposed **rules on sustainable investments** exclude fossil fuels, but not bad biomass and new hydropower.

The **European Investment Bank's** climate bank roadmap excludes support for airport expansion and fossil fuels.

A WWF report uncovers exactly when, where and how **unregulated fishing** is happening on the high seas of the Indian Ocean.

DECEMBER

The €672.5 billion EU recovery fund deal includes a spending target of **37% for climate-friendly projects**.

The submissions of a record **1.1 million participants** in #Together4Forests, are handed over to First VP Frans Timmermans and Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius.

EU lawmakers include a 30% target on climate change spending in the **new EU foreign aid instrument** (NDICI).

EU leaders agree on an **increased 2030 climate target** of 55% net emissions reductions.


Commission President takes charge of overseeing the implementation of the **Sustainable Development Goals**.



EU AFFAIRS

“The EU's response to the crisis will determine our wellbeing for generations to come. Decision makers must recognise that our economy should serve the public interest, not the other way around.”

TYCHO VANDERMAESEN,
HEAD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS,
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE



AS THE COVID-19 CRISIS HIT EUROPE, WWF FOCUSED ON POSITIONING THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL AS THE ENGINE FOR A GREEN AND JUST RECOVERY.

- WWF worked to ensure that EU and national economic stimulus packages - worth trillions of euros - would be designed to accelerate and fully implement the European Green Deal, thereby achieving a genuinely 'green and just recovery'.
- In particular, WWF called for a 50% climate and environment spending target for the entire EU budget, tracked using the EU taxonomy for sustainable investments criteria; as well as the application of the 'do no harm' principle to prevent funding polluting activities.
- With its report “Towards an EU Wellbeing Economy - a fairer, more sustainable Europe post Covid-19”, WWF aimed to spark a renewed debate on future economic policies, advocating for indicators which would measure our quality of life, wellbeing, health, and action on climate change and nature loss, rather than narrowly pursuing GDP growth.
- In April, a Green 10 statement was subsequently signed by more than 160 organisations, and we teamed up with leading campaigning organisations to run petitions for a green recovery, which are brought together on www.greenrecovery.eu, totalling 1.3 million signatures!

A GREEN & JUST EU RECOVERY

SERVES:
445 MIL
PEOPLE

Preparation OF A GREEN & JUST RECOVERY & RESILIENCE FACILITY

- 1. CLEAR, DETAILED GUIDELINES**
The Commission should share its assessment criteria for the plans.
- 2. DO NO HARM**
Activities must not harm the EU's environmental goals, and environmentally harmful activities must be excluded entirely.
- 3. ALL PLANS CONTRIBUTE TO THE GREEN TRANSITION**
Contribution to the digital transition should be assessed additionally, but separately.
- 4. TRANSPARENCY**
Member States provide clear public information on their plans. The Commission must communicate how plans are approved and funds disbursed.
- 5. PARTICIPATION & PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE**
Member States include everyone relevant in the design and implementation of their plans.

Bon appetit!

The Commission has said the EU Green Deal will be its compass for recovery. Therefore the Commission should only approve plans respecting the rules above.

Europe is following
the path to
KEEP
FOREVER



Recipe FOR TRULY GREEN & JUST RECOVERY & RESILIENCE PLANS

- 1. NO FOSSIL FUELS, INCLUDING FOSSIL GAS**
- 2. THE MOST VULNERABLE FIRST**
Prepare people and communities for the future, eg by reskilling, addressing energy poverty and restoring public goods and nature.
- 3. CLIMATE NEUTRAL COMPANIES**
Companies receiving aid must produce a serious plan to align with a 1.5° temperature rise limit, at least for high carbon sectors.
- 4. INVOLVE & EMPOWER LOCAL COMMUNITIES**
- 5. INVEST IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENOVATION**
To improve resilience, address inequality and deliver a local green transition.
- 6. INVEST IN SUSTAINABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY**
To meet EU goals and avoid climate disaster, at least €30 billion more per year is needed.
- 7. ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION**
Focus on sustainably diversifying the economy, including via SMEs.
- 8. 50% OF SPENDING SHOULD DIRECTLY HELP CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT GOALS**
Biodiversity should not be forgotten.



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WWF'S ASKS FOR A GREEN RECOVERY

- Full consistency with EU environmental targets, including on climate and biodiversity;
- A 50% climate and environment spending target for the EU budget as a whole, including all recovery funds;
- Spending to be tracked using the EU taxonomy criteria, which identifies sustainable activities;
- Application of 'do no harm' principle to prevent Member States from allocating funds to harmful activities, such as fossil fuels, new airports and motorways, or intensive agriculture;
- National recovery plans to systematically contribute to the green transition, by following the 'do no harm' approach, and ensuring at least 50% of funds to benefit climate and environment.

PLANS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY - LET'S BOUNCE FORWARD

Studies by authoritative economists have found that green projects create more jobs, deliver higher short-term returns per dollar spent and lead to increased long-term cost savings, by comparison with traditional fiscal stimulus.

Although unplanned, engaging to channel the trillions of economic stimulus made available at both EU and national levels into a real "green and just recovery" presented an important opportunity, and WWF EU acted fast to lead this work, rallying WWF offices around Europe and the Green 10 coalition of environmental NGOs for joint engagement.

Our advocacy set out to ensure that policy-makers would design both EU and national economic stimulus packages in a way that would accelerate and fully implement the European Green Deal, rather than 'bouncing back' to the unsustainable economic model of the pre-Covid world.

The backbone of WWF's work was our position paper "Building resilience: WWF recommendations for a just & sustainable recovery after Covid-19" published at the beginning of April, with detailed recommendations not only for the economic recovery packages, but also for the broader enabling policies and financial instruments at the EU's disposal.

We also mobilised the public and broader civil society. In April, a Green 10 statement was subsequently signed by more than 160 organisations, and we teamed up with leading campaigning organisations to run petitions for a green recovery, which are brought together on www.greenrecovery.eu, totalling 1.3 million signatures!

KEEPING THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL ON TRACK THROUGH A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

As Europe's economic crisis sparked by Covid-19 deepened, the fledgling beginnings of the European Green Deal risked being pushed aside in favour of an outdated economic growth model based on harmful industries and activities. With the EU and national governments discussing unprecedented economic stimulus packages, WWF engaged to ensure that the European Green Deal would serve as the 'engine' of a green and just recovery, channeling trillions of euros into sustainable investments.

OFF TO A GOOD START... BUT THEN COVID-19 HIT

The European Green Deal seemed off to a good start at the beginning of 2020, with the European Parliament not only backing the Commission's December proposals, but even pushing for higher ambition on several key issues, such as biodiversity, deforestation, oceans and agriculture.

However, when the first 100 days of the new Commission were up on 10 March, WWF's stocktaking found that, disappointingly, the environment and climate measures rolled out so far - from the sustainable investment plan to the EU climate law proposal - did not match up to the European Green Deal rhetoric. We thus reiterated our call to increase the EU's ambition on both climate action and nature restoration.

Since March, the Covid-19 health crisis has heavily affected the work of the European institutions and all other organisations in Brussels. This led to a delay of several key policy processes, including the critical proposals such as Biodiversity Strategy and Farm to Fork Strategy, and a new focus on economic recovery further risked derailing progress. It was time to ensure that the European Green Deal would indeed become the 'engine of recovery' as Commission President Ursula von der Leyen put it.

WWF
TEAMED UP
WITH LEADING
CAMPAIGNING
ORGANISATIONS
TO RUN
PETITIONS
FOR A GREEN
RECOVERY,
TOTTALLING
1.3
MILLION
SIGNATURES



© Eric de Milt / Greenpeace

When the EU recovery package was finally announced on 27 May, it consisted of a revised EU budget proposal, with an overall value of € 1.85 trillion. With this package, the Commission reaffirmed its ambition to achieve the European Green Deal, but many key elements were still missing, and backdoors were left open for unsustainable investments to continue. In particular, WWF criticised the lack of clear mechanisms for implementing and enforcing the green conditions to truly ensure that no money would go to harmful activities such as fossil fuels, new airports and motorways, or unsustainable farming; a spending target of only 25% for climate-friendly initiatives (half of the 50% called for by NGOs); and the total lack of a spending target for nature and biodiversity.

At a key meeting of the European Council in July, WWF supported a (socially distanced!) NGO action in Brussels calling for no public money to go to fossil fuels. NGOs called for a separate ‘exclusion list’ of polluting activities, in particular fossil fuels, to explicitly say which sectors must not receive support.

The Council improved on the European Commission’s proposal, supporting a climate spending target of 30% for both the EU budget and the recovery fund. In November, the European Parliament went further by supporting a 40% climate and biodiversity target for the recovery fund and also required the EU taxonomy to be used in order to track climate and biodiversity spending. However, WWF criticised the fact that MEPs had not explicitly excluded support for fossil fuels.

Eventually, the terms of the € 672.5 billion EU recovery fund (the so-called “Recovery and Resilience Facility”) agreed by the Parliament and Member States on 18 December after a frenzy of negotiations included a spending target of 37% for climate-friendly projects, and a reference to a methodology that blends the EU Taxonomy and the EU’s previous tool, the Rio Markers, to track how the money is spent, both of which WWF welcomed. However, the deal allowed for ‘alternative fuels’ such as biofuels to be counted as climate spending, and failed to include a spending target for biodiversity and nature, which would have provided a vital boost to Europe’s nature while also creating local jobs and boosting the green economy.

Starting in 2021, EU governments can submit their recovery plans to access the funds. This must happen in full compliance with the environmental requirements, and WWF will work across Europe to hold governments accountable for using the funds to accelerate and fully implement the European Green Deal.

A ‘WELLBEING ECONOMY’ FOR EUROPE

The EU’s response to the crisis will determine the wellbeing of current and future generations, but despite their green rhetoric, decision makers’ response to the crisis has predominantly focused on attempts to stimulate ‘conventional’ economic growth, based on an old-fashioned model which puts short-term economic growth above other factors like fairness and sustainability.

As a reaction to this, in September, WWF published a new report “Towards an EU Wellbeing Economy - a fairer, more sustainable Europe post Covid-19”, designed to spark a debate around how the EU measures progress and sets priorities for its economic policies. The trajectory of a ‘wellbeing economy’ would start by introducing indicators measuring our quality of life, wellbeing, health, and action on climate change and nature loss, rather than pursuing GDP growth, to determine whether the EU is successfully recovering from the crisis.

The EU has all the right tools in hand, with the SDGs adopted back in 2015 providing the perfect framework to achieve a wellbeing economy and a just, socially inclusive recovery, while respecting planetary boundaries.

In response to calls by civil society to present a coherent strategy to implement the SDGs and shift towards a wellbeing economy, the European Commission in November published a working document outlining its approach to delivering on the SDGs. This announced that President von der Leyen herself would now take on responsibility for coordinating these efforts through a ‘whole of government’ approach, requiring coherent action across the Commission. The announcement however failed to clarify how this would work in practice, how the EU would engage with civil society in the process and how the Commission’s better regulation rules would be reformed to finally prioritise sustainability over economic interests.

In 2021, WWF EU will, as a member of the new ‘Fit for the Future’ platform launched by the European Commission, strive to ensure that the better regulation agenda serves as a powerful vehicle for driving SDG implementation in Europe. And through initiatives like the 8th Environment Action Programme, we will advocate for a true paradigm shift towards an EU ‘wellbeing economy’.

“THE VIRUS [...] LAID BARE THE LIMITS OF A MODEL THAT VALUES WEALTH ABOVE WELLBEING. IT BROUGHT INTO SHARPER FOCUS THE PLANETARY FRAGILITY THAT WE SEE EVERY DAY THROUGH MELTING GLACIERS, BURNING FORESTS AND NOW THROUGH GLOBAL PANDEMICS.”

URSULA VON DER LEYEN,
PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION;
STATE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ADDRESS,
SEPTEMBER 2020





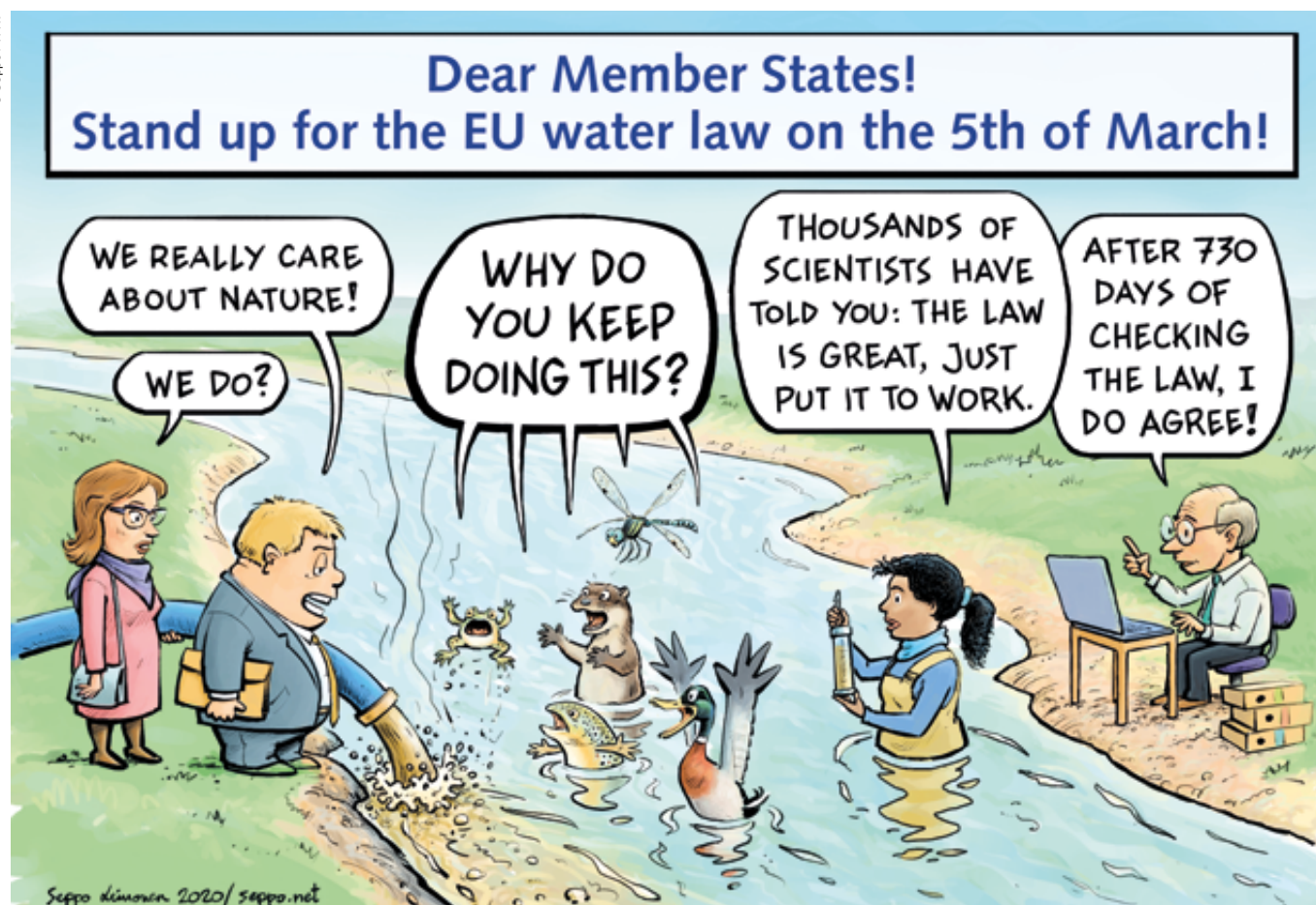
CAMPAIGNS

“Our campaigns have shown that together, NGOs can affect real change. What we lack in resources and access, we make up with ‘people power’, and our supporters' voices carry significant political weight!”

ANGELIKA PULLEN,
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR,
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

2020 SAW THE FINAL VICTORY OF WWF'S FRESHWATER CAMPAIGN, AS WELL AS THE START OF A NEW CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT DEFORESTATION

- Big win! After more than two years of campaigning by NGOs, EU Environment Commissioner Sinkevičius in June announced that the EU Water Framework Directive would not be opened for revision - a key victory for Europe's lakes and rivers!
- In September, WWF and more than 160 partners started a new campaign to advocate for a strong EU law to combat imported deforestation: #Together4Forests
- The campaign mobilised 1,193,652 people to participate in the Commission's public consultation on deforestation, making it the largest consultation on environmental matters ever
- 2021 will see the Commission's legislative proposal, and the #Together4Forests coalition will be watching closely!



CAMPAIGNING: SOCIALY DISTANCED, YET POWERFUL AS EVER!

2020 saw the final victory for the #ProtectWater campaign, when EU Environment Commissioner Sinkevičius announced that the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) would not be opened for revision - and the start of WWF's new campaign on deforestation, #Together4Forests.

A VICTORY FOR EUROPE'S RIVERS AND LAKES

In Europe, 60% of freshwater ecosystems are still not healthy due to poor implementation and enforcement of the WFD. Rather than putting all efforts into protecting and restoring these ecosystems by the law's 2027 deadline, Member States and the European Commission continued their debate around potentially 'opening' the legislation in order to weaken it.

The year kicked off a few weeks after the positive conclusions of the law's fitness check evaluation, which found the EU Water Framework Directive to be fit for purpose. The outcome concluded the two-year evaluation of the WFD.

Despite these conclusions, the final decision was not taken yet, so it was crucial to get Member States to signal their support through positive statements during the 5 March EU Environment Council, during which the WFD fitness check would be discussed. Campaigning resources were consolidated in the weeks ahead of the critical meeting, with WWF offices and NGOs specifically targeting national decision makers, highlighting the strong and consistent support to the non-opening of the Directive.



Over four weeks, hundreds of citizens sent personalised emails to Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius and Vice-President Frans Timmermans asking for a final positive decision to be made on the WFD.

This is a sample of the subject lines sent in by these engaged citizens.

Following this successful targeted advocacy push, several Member States - representing 64% of the EU population - voiced their support for the Directive and the positive fitness check conclusions.

However, the European Commission, and especially civil servants in DG Environment still needed much convincing, so sustained pressure remained crucial. Given the Covid-19 restrictions, we launched a targeted online citizen action to urge the Environment Commissioner to make a firm commitment to not opening the WFD ahead of 21 July, the symbolic 1,000 day milestone of the launch of fitness check procedure. This resulted in several hundreds of personal, individual messages by concerned citizens calling on the Commission to stand by the good evidence on the WFD and rapidly commit to sealing the deal on non-revision.

The final victory was announced on 22 June, when the EU's Commissioner for Environment, Ocean and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevičius stated to media that the WFD will be maintained in its current form, and that the Commission's efforts to meet the directive's objectives by 2027 will focus on implementation and enforcement. This decision had come nearly six months after the release of the fitness check results!

The success of the #ProtectWater campaign could not have been achieved without the support of 15 WWF European national offices, and a coalition of 130+ NGOs campaigning over more than 2.5 years - a massive thank you to all of those who participated. It is amazing to see how powerful the WWF network can be, and that together, several years after the success of #NatureAlert, we were able again to prevent the rollback of a crucial piece of EU environmental legislation.

"GOOD LEGISLATION IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE TAMPERED WITH. THE EU NEEDS THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE TO SAFEGUARD ITS WATER SUPPLY, HALT AND REVERSE BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE. [...] WITH 2027 RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE COMMISSION ON ENSURING THE LAW WORKS NOT JUST ON PAPER BUT IN PRACTICE TO BRING LIFE BACK TO OUR RIVERS AT LAST."

ESTER ASIN,
DIRECTOR OF WWF'S EUROPEAN POLICY,
SMART WATER MAGAZINE



#TOGETHER4FORESTS: TACKLING IMPORTED DEFORESTATION

GLOBALLY,
THE EU IS
RESPONSIBLE
FOR OVER
10%
OF FOREST
DESTRUCTION
THROUGH ITS
IMPORTS OF
COMMODITIES

2020 saw deforestation of the Amazon surge to a 12-year high, and a record-high number of fires tearing through this iconic rainforest and the Pantanal wetlands. This destruction is a lot closer to home than we think. It's in our homes: in the meat, eggs and dairy in our fridges, the ice cream in our freezers, the shampoo in our bathroom.

Globally, the EU is responsible for over 10% of forest destruction through its imports of commodities like meat, dairy, soy for animal feed, palm oil, coffee and cacao. However, right now, there is no way for consumers to know whether their purchases have contributed to deforestation.

WWF has long advocated for an EU law to address Europe's deforestation and nature destruction footprint. In 2020 we cranked it up a notch, launching the #Together4Forests campaign together with Greenpeace, ClientEarth, Conservation International and the Environmental Investigation Agency. So far, the campaign has been supported by more than one million citizens from across Europe and beyond and 160+ civil society groups.

The aim of the campaign is to secure a strong, ambitious EU deforestation law to protect

the world's forests and other ecosystems. The European Commission has pledged to propose new legislation to address deforestation in 2021, but the devil will be in the detail: to avoid shifting the destruction of nature to other vital natural habitats, this law must also protect grasslands, savannahs and wetlands, as well as forests. It must go way beyond voluntary measures and also ensure that the production of EU imports has not led to human rights violations. Finally, it is essential that this law also apply to the finance sector to stop investments in Europe from adding fuel to the fires often used to make space for industrial agriculture.

The campaign has gotten off to a roaring start: 1,193,652 people from around the world participated in #Together4Forests in 2020 to demand this strong new EU law. This came hot on the heels of the European Parliament calling on the Commission for a new law to protect the world's forests and, crucially, other ecosystems as well.

The campaign allowed people to quickly and easily submit recommended answers to the European Commission's public consultation on deforestation on their behalf. This was a one-shot opportunity for citizens and civil society to have their say before the Commission puts forward its legislative proposal in 2021. Together, these citizens made this the largest public consultation



on environmental issues in the history of the EU, and the second largest ever, sending a powerful message to EU leaders and policymakers.

These one million+ submissions were received on 14 December by Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, and Virginijus Sinkevičius, EU Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, with the ground outside of their offices decorated with 1,193 lanterns - each representing 1,000 people who had their say through #Together4Forests.

"As a policy maker, you have my commitment to take strong action to tackle deforestation in all our actions", Executive Vice-President affirmed during the handover. Needless to say, we will be watching closely as the Commission develops and puts forward its legislative proposal in 2021 to ensure citizens' wishes are granted. We will continue to advocate for the new EU deforestation law to be far-reaching, inclusive of vital ecosystems besides forests, and hold key sectors to account through mandatory, rather than purely voluntary, measures.

CLIMATE AND ENERGY

“With COP26 postponed, the EU could have put climate action on ice. Instead, also thanks to NGO and public pressure, the EU integrated climate policy into its recovery package and increased Europe’s climate ambition. This must now be stepped up.”

IMKE LÜBBEKE,
HEAD OF EU CLIMATE AND ENERGY POLICY,
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

IN 2020, WWF AND OTHERS WORKED HARD TO ENSURE THE EU PUSHED FORWARD ON CLIMATE POLICY, BUT IT NEEDS TO GO FURTHER AND FASTER IN 2021.

- **Climate law:** The EU became the first region to propose a climate law, enshrining a climate neutrality target for 2050. WWF wants a climate neutral EU by 2040
- **Higher targets:** EU leaders agreed on an increased target for 2030, of 55% net emissions reductions. WWF criticised the level and inclusion of natural carbon sinks in the target, making it lower overall
- **No fossil support:** Major EU regional funds were finalised with support for gas and all fossil fuels kicked out, which is crucial for a socially just transition to climate neutrality
- **Cleaner industry:** The EU’s industrial strategy promotes the decarbonisation of Europe’s economy, the need to push zero-carbon technologies and put energy efficiency first. But decarbonisation targets are needed.

EU CLIMATE ACTION MOVES FORWARD – EVEN WITHOUT COP26

The EU took steps forward on climate policy, but it needs to leap: in 2021, action must be amplified. Notable climate moments from 2020 include the EU proposing its first climate law to enshrine its 2050 climate neutrality target, agreeing an increase of its 2030 emissions reduction goal to 55% net reductions, supporting cleaned-up industry and finalising a fossil-fuel-free fund to help high-carbon regions decarbonise.

THE EU CLIMATE LAW: A KEY ELEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

In the 2015 Paris Agreement, signatories committed to updating their climate plans (known as a ‘nationally determined contribution’ or NDC) five years later. Which brings us to 2020 and the EU’s still outdated 40% emissions reductions target for 2030. WWF and others stepped up their advocacy, calling for the target to be rapidly and boldly increased. This would allow the EU to deliver the updated NDC early enough to inspire other countries to do likewise, and ensure the rapid and urgent emissions cuts the climate crisis requires could take place.

In March 2020, the European Commission published its first ever draft ‘EU climate law’. This was centred on a climate neutrality target for 2050 – ten years too late in WWF’s view, but still a commitment to be welcomed. However, the proposed climate law did not contain an updated 2030 goal.

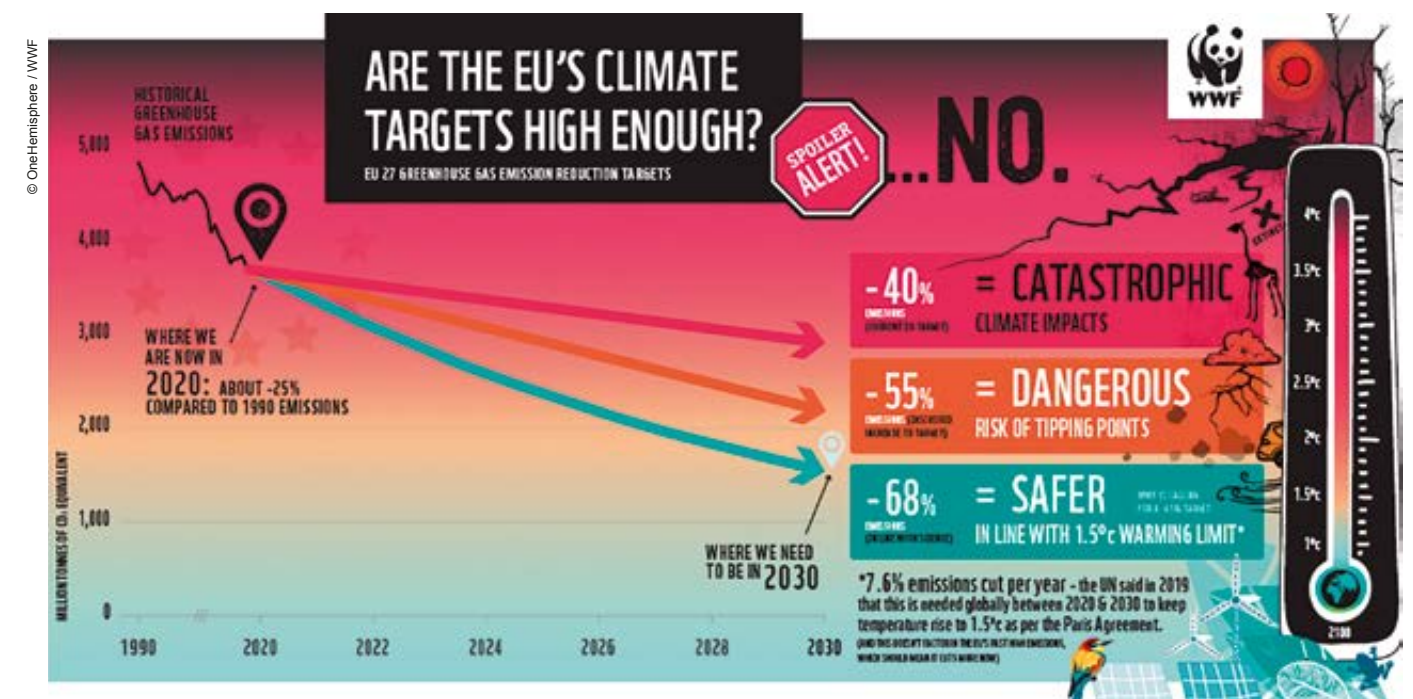
WWF and other NGOs called for a new, more ambitious 2030 target to be added to the climate law and agreed well before the end of the year. For WWF, the level of the target needed to be at least 65% emissions reductions. This is what climate science shows is the minimum in the EU to try and stay in line with the 1.5°C Paris Agreement goal globally – and that’s without taking past emissions into account. The European Commission meanwhile said it would propose a target of 50 or 55%, but that it wanted to assess the impacts of such a target first.

Other crucial elements WWF wanted but were missing from the proposed EU climate law were a commitment to align all other EU policies with our climate goals; an independent expert body, as included in the climate laws of most member states, to check our climate policies make sense; a five yearly review process for climate targets, and a ban on fossil fuel subsidies, advertising and sponsorship.

As the pandemic spread across Europe in March, and most countries went into lockdown, it looked increasingly difficult to ensure the 2030 target would get the attention it deserved, despite the Commission’s promised ‘impact assessment’ and the real media interest in WWF’s views on the topic. However, a major boost was given in April, at the Petersberg climate dialogue, hosted by Germany. Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke in favour of a emissions reduction target for 2030 – up from the 40% target today to “50% or 55%”. Given Germany’s economic and political weight and upcoming EU presidency, Chancellor Merkel’s words were crucial at that stage, and welcomed by WWF as a step in the right direction.

In September, the Commission released its impact assessment and made its proposal for the 2030 target increase: to 55% net emissions reductions, a move forward, but still not the 65% level that gives a better chance of tackling the climate emergency. In addition, turning it into a “net” emissions target for the first time – meaning carbon dioxide removals in the land use sector would count towards it – would translate into actual emissions reductions of only 50-53%. WWF and many others fiercely criticised this move, pointing out that using offsetting by forests to make up for weaker action in other sectors was unacceptable, and ignored the science that showed carbon stocks in soils and landscapes couldn’t simply be considered interchangeable with fossil fuel emissions. What’s more, the Commission’s assessment showed that even without adding new policies, the EU would cut emissions by 45-47% by 2030 already, making its 55% net proposal not that much more ambitious.

Soon afterwards, the European Parliament showed its better climate credentials when it



EU LEADERS FINALLY AGREED TO UPDATE THE TARGET TO **55%** NET REDUCTIONS, AFTER LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS

made several improvements to the draft EU climate law in plenary – most notably, a 60% emissions reduction target for 2030. Moreover, MEPs voted in favour of a scientific advisory body to scrutinise EU policies; more consistency between financial flows and EU climate policies, and for sectoral decarbonisation roadmaps towards climate neutrality: all points WWF has been calling for.

It fell to the EU leaders to take the big political decision on the 2030 target nature and level. Despite continued pressure from WWF offices and other groups, agreement was not reached in October due to objections from Poland and Hungary concerning how the changes due to the

new goal would be financed. Yet in December, EU leaders overcame their differences and finally agreed to update the target to 55% net reductions, after lengthy discussions.

The following week, EU Environment Ministers signed off on the EU’s updated NDC, centred on the newly agreed 55% net target for 2030. This meant that despite a difficult year, the EU managed to deliver on a tough ask – strengthening its climate plan by the end of 2020, as agreed in Paris in 2015. In 2021, WWF will push to have bold climate action and a shift to clean technologies in all sectors baked into the 2030 climate and energy laws as they are revised.



MAKING THE MOVE TO CLIMATE NEUTRALITY SOCIALLY FAIR

On 14 January the European Commission launched its proposal for a fund to help regions reach climate neutrality. The ‘just transition mechanism’ aims to mobilise up to €100 billion to support communities in regions whose economies are based on carbon-intensive activities, like coal mining.

The mechanism requires regional just transition plans to be compatible with EU climate and energy goals. This is a positive step, as it means Member States have no excuse not to sign up for climate neutrality. However, the mechanism was not clear enough on the need for regional plans to include timelines for the phase out of fossil fuels, including a phase-out date for coal of 2030 or earlier.

WWF worked closely on the Just Transition mechanism, also as co-lead of the Europe Beyond Coal campaign of NGOs, and as part of the ‘Regions beyond Coal’ project financed by the German government. WWF’s just transition actions this year included two high level events - one in person in February, and one online later on - with MEPs, the Commission, coal region mayors and media; joint letters; a documentary film; a photo database; film interviews and footage for media; op-eds; cartoons; media work, and a joint unbranded briefing warning against EU funding for gas.

Unfortunately, the EU’s proposed Just Transition Fund took a blow in September when MEPs did a dirty deal that would allow fossil gas projects to be eligible for funding. This position was contrary

to that of the European Commission, EU Member States and the EU Committee of the Regions, which all opposed the inclusion of gas.

However, following intensive advocacy by groups including WWF, the year ended on a very positive note when the EU institutions in trilogue reversed the Parliament’s position and agreed to exclude gas and all fossil fuels from the Just Transition Fund. What’s more, they also kicked nearly all gas out of the EU’s biggest regional fund, worth €240 billion. This is a great step for Europe’s regions’ economies and for their fair and sustainable development.

EU INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY - ENOUGH TO DRIVE DECARBONISATION?

On 10 March, the European Commission published a new EU industrial strategy. The strategy makes clear references to several elements that WWF sees as crucial. These include the importance of decarbonising Europe’s economy, the need for new markets for zero-carbon technologies, the ‘energy efficiency first principle’, and the Just Transition Platform - which is crucial for a socially fair transition.

However, in order to reach the climate neutrality goal while maintaining competitiveness, the strategy must do more. WWF called for clear intermediate and long-term decarbonisation targets to be set, an ‘Independent Observatory’ to monitor progress towards decarbonisation, and for civil society representatives to be included in the Clean Hydrogen Alliance – a group the European Commission has set up to promote the use of clean hydrogen - and similar



OFFSHORE RENEWABLES ARE CRUCIAL FOR CLIMATE ACTION, BUT MARINE ECOSYSTEMS MUST BE PROTECTED

bodies. WWF and other NGOs have joined the Alliance roundtable on hydrogen in industrial applications, but only to support the use of renewable hydrogen in specific sectors which are hard to decarbonise, like steel and aviation, and a rapid phase out of fossil fuels.

The European Parliament voted on its (non-legislative) position on industrial transformation in November. MEPs took a positive step by agreeing that industries must decarbonise in line with the EU’s climate targets, or they should not receive recovery funding. They also highlighted the need for greater energy efficiency and electrification, as well as the use of hydrogen made from renewable energy, to reduce industrial emissions.

However, MEPs missed out on important points like asking the Commission to make sure electrification and energy efficiency are always prioritised, and that hydrogen is made and used only when there is no sustainable alternative, such as for chemicals and steel.

This is because renewable hydrogen is a scarce resource, and WWF works together with other NGOs to call for a science-based approach in order to identify the best uses of it. For WWF, the Commission’s hydrogen strategy, released in July, risks delaying industrial decarbonisation by keeping the door wide open for fossil fuels such as gas - indeed, it considers hydrogen produced by gas with carbon capture and storage an option

until at least 2030. The strategy also fails to take into account the overall impact of producing hydrogen on the environment, water and biodiversity, so the production even of renewable hydrogen risks not being properly sustainable.

GOING OFFSHORE

While sustainable offshore renewables are crucial to achieve climate neutrality, pressure on marine ecosystems from offshore wind and other clean energy sources is increasing. The WWF climate and marine teams worked closely together this year to ensure that climate change and biodiversity loss can both be fought together.

A key opportunity for the EU to set the right direction was the launch of its offshore renewable energy strategy in November. The Strategy sent a strong signal in favour of sustainably deployed offshore renewables, and rightfully acknowledged the prominent role of ecosystem-based marine spatial planning. Yet, it was missing stronger commitments to protect our marine environment. This reinforced WWF’s belief that structures bringing together civil society and industry are key to getting the transition right. WWF is part of a platform of NGOs and industry stakeholders, moderated by the Renewables Grid Initiative, which aims to support offshore wind through ecosystem-based and inclusive marine spatial planning.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES

“We now have an opportunity to make our future finances flow sustainably. The EU is making progress, but polluting and harmful sectors still have far too much access to public and private funding.”

SÉBASTIEN GODINOT,
ECONOMIST,
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

DESPITE THE YEAR'S ECONOMIC TURBULENCE, THE EU STEERED TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY, BUT ENDED UP SOMEWHAT OFF COURSE.

- **No green light for fossil gas:** The EU's proposed rules on sustainable investments excluded fossil fuels thanks to massive campaigning by WWF and others. But bad biomass and new hydropower were given 'sustainable' status in the draft, despite the science.
- **Still banking on polluters:** The European Investment Bank published its climate bank roadmap, which excludes support for airport expansion and fossil fuels as urged by WWF. But it is not good enough - the EIB will still finance new roads and won't require its clients to adopt decarbonisation plans.
- **Turning money into action:** In 2020 the UN-convened Net Zero Asset Owners Alliance, which WWF supports, grew significantly. There are now 33 members who have committed to decarbonising their portfolios, managing a combined \$5.1 trillion in assets.



CLEANING UP THE COFFERS: STILL SOME WAY TO GO

As the pandemic triggered lockdowns across the globe, the EU's sustainable finance policies and commitments became more significant than ever. They have a key role both in shaping the EU's green recovery, and in setting the path for the economy which will emerge from the devastation. Yet too often polluting sectors retained a foothold in EU plans.

NO NEW MONEY FOR SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENTS

2020 began with disappointing news. The European Commission's plan for unlocking €1 trillion of sustainable investments over ten years was published on 14 January, but WWF found the plan to be empty, containing only funds that already exist, rather than the new money that is needed. WWF called for the funds to be made stricter in terms of climate and environment spending targets, and for the European Investment Bank (EIB) to launch a major green bonds programme to provide additional money.

BANKING ON ACTION

There was more movement in the world of EU-owned banks. In February, MEPs voted heavily in favour of the European Central Bank (ECB) taking climate action, showing the political consensus on the vital role of the ECB in the climate crisis. WWF called for the ECB to rapidly take forward the objectives set out by Christine Lagarde when she became President, such as making climate risk part and parcel of its activities, in particular of its monetary policy and prudential rules.

WWF campaigned all year on the European Investment Bank's climate bank roadmap, which aimed to set out the EIB's path to becoming the EU's 'climate bank'. In the end, the plan, published in November, was a mixed bag. While on the plus side it excluded support for airport expansion and fossil fuels, the EIB will nonetheless still finance new roads - which are harmful for the climate, the air and nature - and will not require its clients to adopt decarbonisation plans, which is a potential blank cheque for polluters. WWF will push for improvements to the roadmap in 2021.

A RED LIGHT FOR GREENWASHING

One of the biggest chunks of work for WWF this year were the EU's green finance rules - the 'taxonomy' - which aims to show if economic activities are sustainable. The European Commission's expert group, which WWF was a member of, had made strong and science-based recommendations like excluding fossil fuels and nuclear, burning trees and stumps for energy and most hydropower.

WWF and other NGOs campaigned strongly for the Commission to implement and improve on these recommendations, but following pressure from industry, in the end the Commission only followed the experts' advice up to a point. In its proposal on the climate section of the rules, published in November, the Commission did exclude gas and fossil fuels, but included bad biomass and new hydropower as 'sustainable'. WWF and other NGOs pushed hard to get the final version of the climate rules, which are expected in January 2021, improved so they are science-based and robust.

The taxonomy has also been key to WWF's work on a just and green recovery from the economic downturn triggered by Covid-19 (see p. 12). Since the beginning of the pandemic, WWF has been calling for the taxonomy to be used to guide EU recovery spending and screen out harmful investments. This would help to build a more sustainable and resilient EU economy.

However, due to strong opposition from Council and Commission to taxonomy-only tracking, climate spending will only be tracked using a blend of the taxonomy and the existing methodology, the so-called 'Rio Markers'. The same is true for the implementation of the EU recovery fund's 'Do No Harm' commitment. WWF has made detailed technical proposals on how to blend the taxonomy and the Rio Markers to avoid greenwashing.

In 2021, the other taxonomy criteria, notably those for biodiversity, freshwater and oceans



Visual from the NGO #StopFakeGreen campaign on the importance of a science-based taxonomy

will be drawn up. WWF will continue to play a central role in this through its advocacy and communications but also through its membership, as announced in October by the European Commission's, of the new EU Platform on sustainable finance.

Furthermore, WWF will be part of a subgroup which will produce recommendations on the usefulness of a taxonomy of unsustainable activities. The Commission is due to examine this in 2021.

ASSET OWNERS TAKE ACTION

WWF is continuing to support the UN-convened Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance, which brings together members who want to decarbonise their portfolios. In 2020 several new asset owners joined, bringing the members to 33 managing a combined \$5.1 trillion assets, from 12 members managing \$2.4 trillion when it was launched in September 2019.

NATURAL RESOURCES

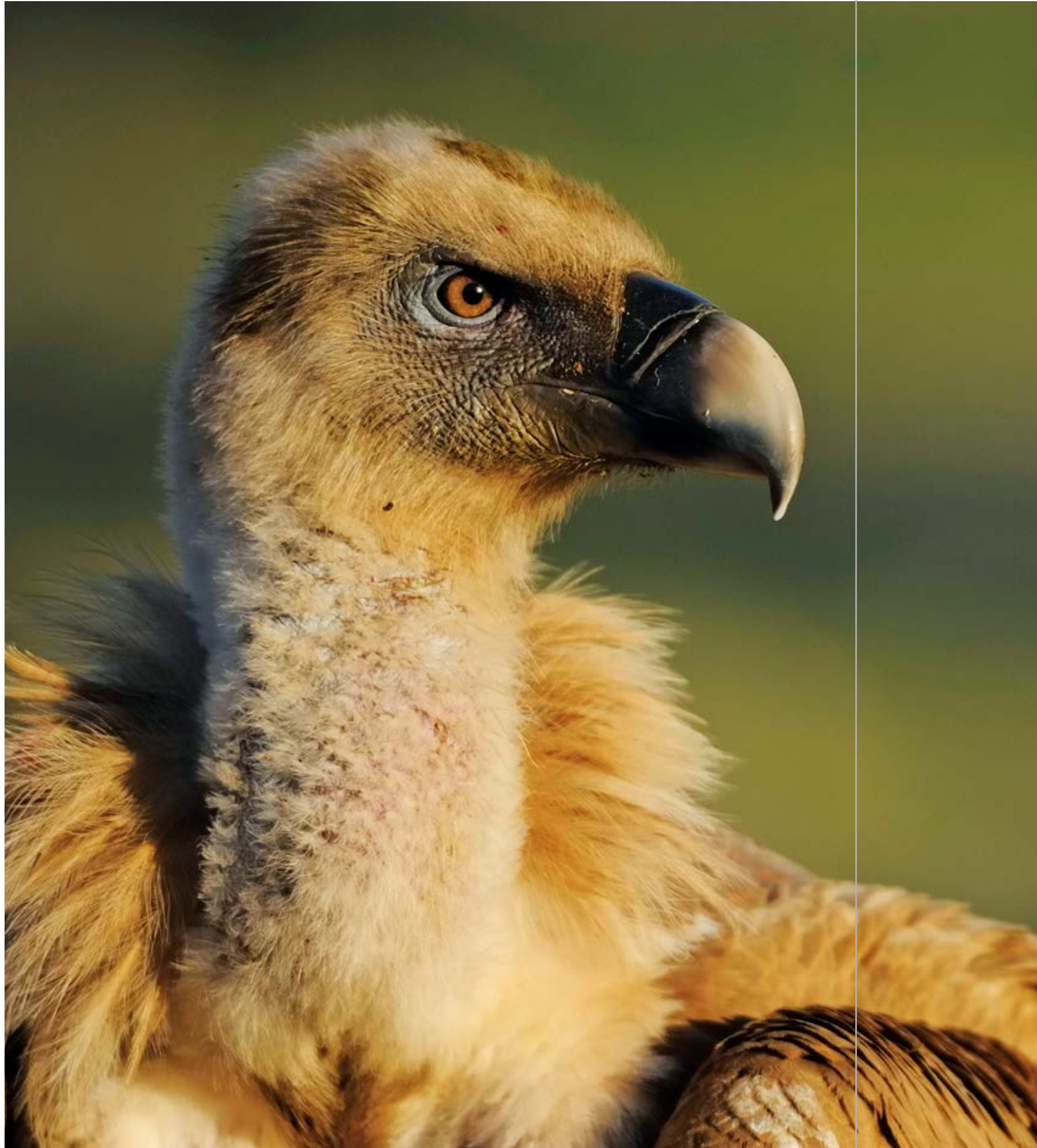
“In its European Green Deal, the Commission announced ambitious actions to protect and sustainably manage our natural world. It is up to Member States to make this a reality.”

ANDREAS BAUMÜLLER,
HEAD OF NATURAL RESOURCES,
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

NATURE IN EUROPE: TWO STEPS FORWARD, ONE STEP BACK

2020 has seen new impetus for nature conservation in Europe, with the announcement of key policy initiatives. However, the key threat to biodiversity - intensive agriculture - remains largely unchallenged.

- The European Commission released its long-awaited 2030 Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies, potential game-changers for nature in Europe; now much hinges on their implementation.
- In a major win for WWF, the Commission announced that it would propose a new law with legally-binding nature restoration targets in 2021.
- Both MEPs and Member States disregarded the ecological emergency and the objectives of the European Green Deal, by designing a ‘new’ Common Agricultural Policy with little environmental credibility.
- Following the victory of the #ProtectWater campaign, WWF focussed on better implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, and in particular on stopping the further expansion of new hydropower development in Europe.



BIODIVERSITY

2020 saw the release of the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, a potential game-changer for European nature

After a number of delays due to the outbreak of Covid-19, in May the European Commission published the EU 2030 Biodiversity and the Farm to Fork Strategies which, when fully implemented, can be a turning point for European nature. WWF welcomed the strategies and the new wave of essential and long overdue targets on topics such as protected areas, restoration of nature, organic farming and the reduction of agricultural chemicals. In October, the Biodiversity Strategy was fully endorsed by the Member States and now they must start with full and rapid implementation to reset our relationship with nature.

A major win for WWF was the announcement by the Commission to propose legally-binding nature restoration targets in 2021. WWF will be working hard to convince the Commission to propose an ambitious restoration law, setting a defined number of km² (at least 15% of land and sea) to be restored to high-quality and resilient nature and to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The commitment to restore at least 25,000 km of rivers to free-flowing rivers should also be included as one of the binding restoration targets.

PUTTING NATURE BACK ON THE MAP

WWF, along with a coalition of NGOs, led by Rewilding Europe and research institute iDiv, published a set of policy papers and a series of maps, ahead of the publication of the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, providing policy-makers with tools to decide why, where and how to restore nature using rewilding principles. As the European Commission set its sights on large-scale nature restoration, these maps can guide both the Commission and Member States with their nature restoration plans.

NATURE VIDEO TAKES SOCIAL MEDIA BY STORM

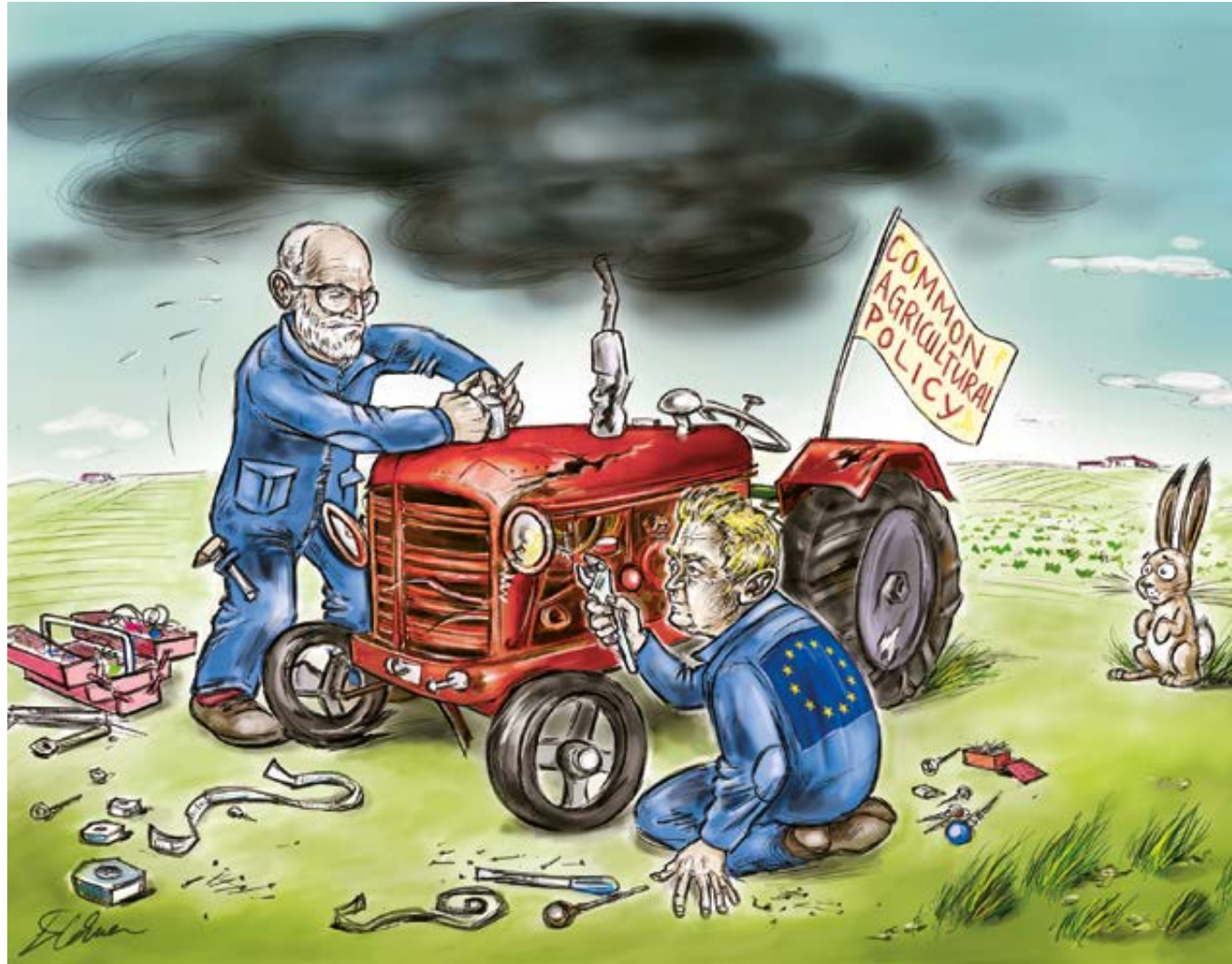
As the second phase of the *#NatureAlert* campaign drew to a close, WWF, with Birdlife, European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and Friends of the Earth, decided to go out with a bang! The final video in the campaign, *Bring Nature Back!* exceeded expectations, racking up 700,000 viewers on Twitter alone and bringing a surge of downloads to our policy briefing *Save biodiversity through the European Green Deal*.

LIVING PLANET REPORT 2020

In September, WWF published its flagship Living Planet Report 2020, which painted a dire picture of the state of wildlife on our planet, with global populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish suffering an average 68% decline in less than 50 years. In Europe and Central Asia, there has been an average 24% decline during the same time span. The report also demonstrated that the very factors believed to increase the planet's vulnerability to pandemics - including land-use change and the use and trade of wildlife - were also some of the drivers behind the decline. The publication of this report was a key media moment for WWF in 2020, with extensive coverage in both mainstream and EU media.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP, originally planned for 2020 but postponed to 2021 due to Covid 19, will be a pivotal meeting for biodiversity conservation, as a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be agreed upon for the upcoming decade. In January, the European Parliament voted in favour of a strong EU position at the CBD giving a clear signal that the EU must take a leadership role in the framework, ensuring tangible targets to protect and restore biodiversity, and to lead the way in a New Deal for Nature and People to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.



FOOD & AGRICULTURE

AN AGRICULTURAL POLICY AT ODDS WITH THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

It was a tumultuous year for the EU's flagship Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), worth around 1/3 of the EU budget. The year got off to a bumpy start as WWF forced the European Commission's hand to release a report on the impacts of the CAP on habitats, landscapes and biodiversity by filing an "Access to Documents" request. The report, which had been ready for months, was finally released and the findings were bleak. WWF responded with a hard hitting opinion piece calling for a drastic overhaul of the CAP, although this appeared to fall on deaf ears.

In a climactic October week, both the European Parliament and Council of the EU shut their eyes and ears to the biodiversity and climate crises, as well as to the European Green Deal, and

ploughed on with a CAP with little environmental credibility. Despite a just-published damning report by the European Environmental Agency on the State of Nature in the EU and immense pressure from youth activists through the last minute *#VoteThisCAPDown* campaign, the majority of MEPs voted in favour of a CAP dud deal. The deal, cooked up by EPP, S&D and Renew Europe, maintains largely the business-as-usual in the EU farm policy, right when we need urgent transformative change to meet our EU and global 2030 targets. The European Parliament voted against 10 amendments aiming to link the future of the CAP to the European Green Deal, with persistent advocacy of WWF and other NGOs leading to some partial wins.

In a surprisingly coordinated manner, during the same week the Council of the EU outdid the European Parliament and agreed an even worse position on the CAP. With the exception



of ring-fencing 20% of CAP direct payments to eco-schemes, the Council weakened each and every environmental component of the draft CAP regulation proposed by the European Commission in 2018. With trilogues – three-way negotiations between the Commission, Parliament and Council – underway it is now down to the European Commission to fight for its European Green Deal and take a very strong position to reinforce the EU framework in all possible ways. Additionally, in 2021 the Commission must work closely with Member States to avoid the national CAP Strategic Plans to operate against the European Green Deal.

THE FARM TO FORK STRATEGY - A RAY OF HOPE

In May the European Commission published its *Farm to Fork Strategy*, alongside the EU 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, with the announcement of substantial (but aspirational) targets such as 30% of Europe's farmland under organic farming by 2030 and a 50% pesticide reduction. To start putting wheels on these good intentions, a new requirement was announced for Member States

to set comparable targets when drafting Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) strategic plans. All in all, the Farm to Fork strategy gave a clear orientation that agriculture must transition towards nature-friendly farming and away from its high dependence on agricultural chemicals, but without a CAP aligned with the Farm to Fork strategy, these high hopes will likely remain mere aspirations.

THE EU HAS NO TIME TO LOSE ON FOOD LOSS AND WASTE

In July WWF and WRAP released the joint report *Halving food loss and waste in the EU by 2030: the major steps needed to accelerate progress*, which outlines the additional action still needed to put the EU on track to achieve SDG target 12.3 and halve food loss and waste by 2030. Eliminating food loss and waste to the largest extent possible, a key element of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy, is an urgent and indispensable step towards more sustainable food in the EU. The report includes recommendations for all stakeholders, including how to make the EU policy framework more conducive to food loss and waste reductions.



FRESH WATER

Following the victory of the #ProtectWater campaign, the attention and focus shifted to improving the implementation and enforcement of the Water Framework Directive, in order to reverse the dire trends of the EU's freshwater bodies, and bring life back to its rivers and lakes.

To follow up on the momentum of the campaign (see p. 18-19), the Living Rivers Europe coalition worked to gather support from MEPs to send a strong statement to the Commission on the need for improved implementation of EU water legislation. On 15 December, the European Parliament presented two oral questions to the Council of Ministers of the EU and to the Commission, asking what concrete actions the Commission and Member States will take in order to improve and enforce the implementation of the water legislation, ensuring that its objectives are achieved as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027. On 17 December, MEPs voted a motion for resolution asking for stricter enforcement of the EU water legislation.

In parallel, to keep the strong mobilisation of NGOs from the campaign, we worked to consolidate a strong position amongst partner organisations to push back against the further expansion of new hydropower development in Europe, one of the main abuses of the Water Framework Directive.

In October, we launched a manifesto for *No new hydropower in Europe*, calling for EU institutions to end their support to new hydropower in Europe, along with a massive 150 other organisations, including CAN-Europe and BirdLife. In it, we ask for public investments to be redirected towards upgrades of existing plants, energy efficiency measures, and lower impact renewable energy alternatives like wind and solar power. This manifesto helped start discussions at the highest level on the future of hydropower, and will inform important policy processes in 2021, such as the revision of the Energy and Environmental state Aid Guidelines.

FORESTS

Illegal logging accounts for as much as 10–30% of the total logging worldwide, with a growing involvement of organised crime. Forestry crime does not just destroy biodiversity, but it also threatens livelihoods, deprives states of income and undermines stable governance.

In 2013, the EU adopted the European Timber Regulation (EUTR) to halt illegal logging. However, loopholes in the EUTR and implementation gaps in EU countries have hindered a real change in practice.

The “EU Forest Crime Initiative” project is funded by the European Union’s Internal Security Fund (ISF) and started in March 2019. For the first time, this project brings together INTERPOL’s law enforcement expertise with WWF’s practical experience in supporting companies to avoid illegal wood trafficking. The objective is to enable effective law enforcement by stimulating networks that are able to detect forest crime and respond to it.

The project has a specific geographic focus on four exporting countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine) and two importing countries (Belgium and France). A survey of stakeholders from the environmental crime enforcement chain and civil society actors, and a workshop in Brussels in February 2020, have provided a better understanding of forestry crime in the different countries.

By the end of 2020, six country reports were published, each analysing gaps and identifying challenges along the enforcement chain.



OCEANS

“EU seas remain in poor health, and illegally fished products still end up on our market. Political impetus and concrete actions are urgently needed to secure a truly resilient ocean.”

DR ANTONIA LEROY,
HEAD OF OCEAN POLICY,
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

FROM FISHERIES TO MARINE PROTECTION, TO RENEWABLE ENERGY

WWF worked with a renewed cross-sectoral approach embraced by the European Commission to secure sustainable EU fisheries and to ensure the recovery of marine biodiversity by 2030.

Highlights include:

- Sounding the alarm over failed progress on three out of four SDG14 targets (Life Below Water)
- Proposing innovative and concrete actions to address and mitigate unsustainable and IUU fishing in the face of a changing climate
- Demonstrating the value of Marine Protected Areas to help mitigate the climate crisis and deliver good governance of our seas
- Exposing the gaps in existing legal frameworks that allow seafood being caught in the Indian Ocean without sustainable fisheries management or conservation measures to enter the EU market

A HOLISTIC VIEW OF OUR LAND AND SEA SYSTEMS

In 2020, overlaps between all marine issues emerged in key EU policy areas - from fisheries to marine protection, to renewable energy. WWF's work built on this cross-sectoral approach to secure sustainable EU fisheries and to ensure the recovery of marine biodiversity by 2030.

A CRY FOR GOOD OCEAN GOVERNANCE

38%
OF ALL 169
SDG TARGETS
ARE ONLY
ACHIEVABLE
WHEN THE
TARGETS
OF SDG14
HAVE BEEN
SUCCESSFULLY
ACCOMPLISHED

Five years on from the adoption of the UN 2030 Agenda, the WWF report *Improving international ocean governance* revealed the failed progress of European decision makers and the global signatories of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on SDG14, the Goal for conservation and sustainable use of our ocean. Collectively, the ten SDG14 targets aim to secure ocean resilience through robust protection of its diverse ecosystems and to safeguard its role as a vital carbon sink — outcomes which directly support livelihoods and economies tied to our seas. Three of the four SDG14 targets due in 2020 were not achieved, with the fourth target only partly achieved. Lack of monitoring and accurate reporting remains a critical issue for measuring success of all ten targets, and given the critical importance of the 'Life below Water' targets for all other SDGs, this failure puts at risk the success of the overall 2030 Agenda.

The report was well received by decision makers; and at the launch event in Brussels, both Portugal's Minister of the Sea and the acting Director General of DG MARE echoed WWF's calls for urgent action to address the challenges we face and to embrace the European Green Deal as the strategy for response.

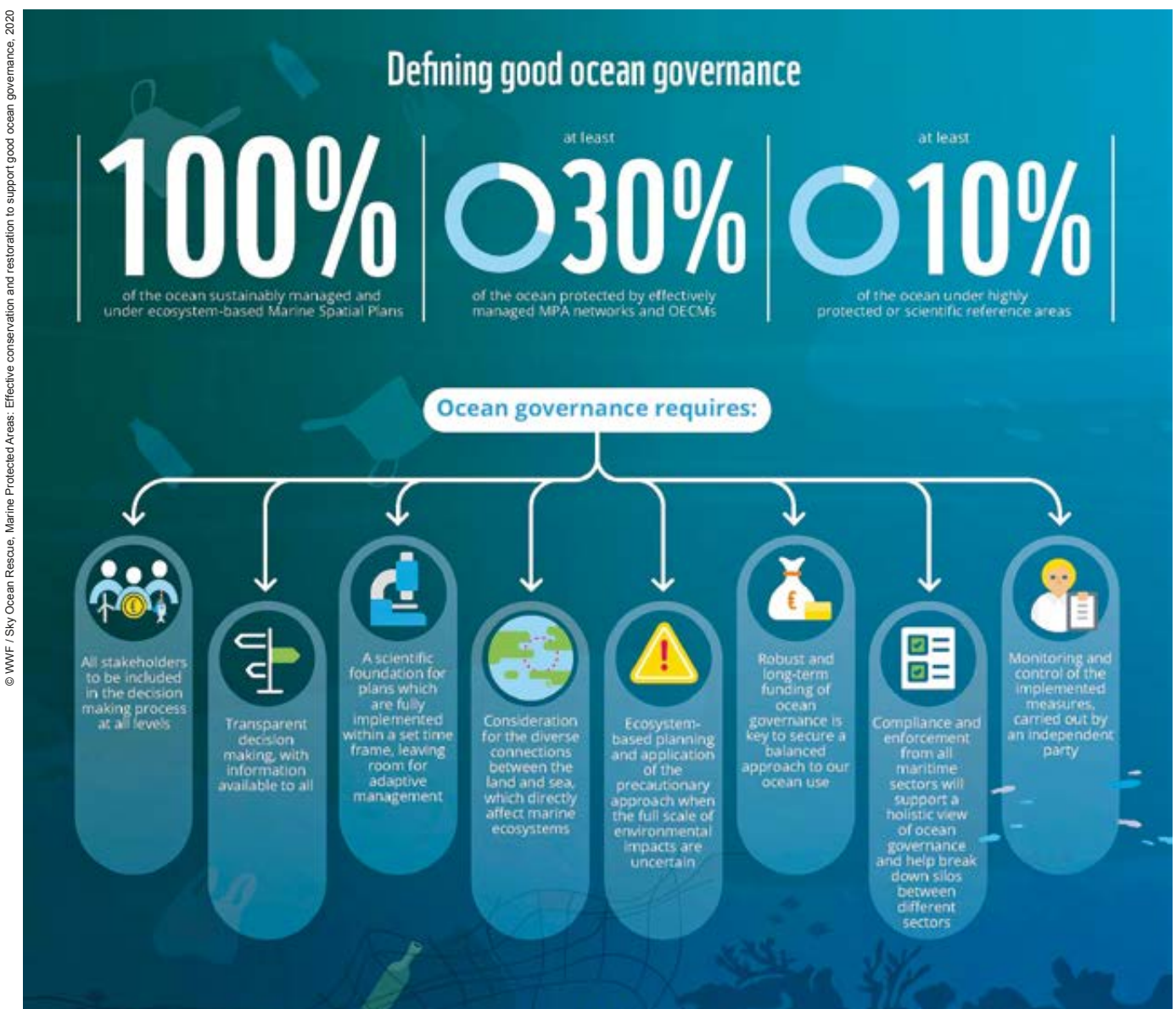
The WWF report was not the first moment the finger was pointed at poor ocean governance. The year kicked off with 102 environmental organisations, led by Seas At Risk, BirdLife Europe, ClientEarth, Oceana, Surfrider

Foundation Europe and WWF, launching *The Blue Manifesto*. This rescue plan lays out concrete actions which must be delivered by set dates in order to turn the tide on ever-degraded seas and coastlines. Key requirements include for a minimum 30% of the ocean to be highly or fully protected by 2030, a shift to low-impact fishing, securing a pollution-free ocean and planning of human activities that support the restoration of thriving marine ecosystems.

As their contribution to the discussion around a 'green recovery' from the Covid-19 crisis, leading NGOs urged decision makers to ensure that investments would contribute to a sustainable recovery at sea, as much as on land. Their report *Turning the tide on EU seas with a green recovery* calls for an end to capacity-enhancing, harmful financial incentives and subsidies in the fisheries sector to align with Green Deal ambitions.

In the immediate term, WWF is advocating for an ecosystem-based approach to apply within and across EU Member States' borders, as they work to meet the 31 March 2021 deadline for drawing up marine spatial plans. These plans seek to identify all existing human activities in EU waters and the most effective way of managing them, with consideration to land-sea interactions and establishing appropriate cross-border cooperation. An ecosystem-based approach can help deliver effective nature conservation and secure ocean resilience in light of the impacts of climate change, as well as support a Sustainable Blue Economy.

© WWF / Sky Ocean Rescue, Marine Protected Areas: Effective conservation and restoration to support good ocean governance, 2020



DRIVING SUSTAINABLE SEAFOOD SYSTEMS

On 1 January 2020, the EU officially missed its own deadline to make seafood catches within thresholds that allow species to replenish their populations, known as Maximum Sustainable Yield. Member States have failed to comply with articles of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) to make fisheries environmentally, economically and socially sustainable by 2020, and have fallen out of line of EU environmental legislation. These issues are exacerbated by illicit fishing activities, which were found to spike during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A WWF report entitled *Seafood Sustainability, Stability & Security* demonstrated how the climate crisis multiplies the impact of illegal fishing and its consequences on resources already affected by overfishing, putting cross-border stability and security at risk. The study proposes

innovative and concrete actions to decision makers, industry stakeholders and citizens to address and mitigate the impacts of unsustainable fisheries in the face of a changing climate. The report was launched at a webinar hosted by the Chair of the European Parliament Fisheries Committee, and a member of both the EP's Fisheries and Development Committees, and featured a panel with representatives from DG MARE, the African Confederation of Artisanal Fishing Organisations, Bolton Food and WWF. The discussion explored the close relationship between seafood sustainability, national stability and security issues around the world. Within the context of the EU's green recovery planning, the panel sought to address current shortcomings in control and seafood traceability systems which benefit illegal fishing and put local populations, legal fishers and unknowing consumers at risk. The messages echoed WWF's advocacy work with EU policy makers to amend the European Fisheries Control Regulation to promote better traceability of seafood products.

SINCE
1970, OUR
OCEAN HAS
ABSORBED
UP TO
93%
OF EXCESS
HEAT
FROM GHG
EMISSIONS
IN THE
ATMOSPHERE

MARINE PROTECTION - OUR ALLY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CLIMATE CRISIS

On the heels of UNGA 75 and the eve of the Biodiversity Summit, WWF launched two fact sheets presenting the value of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to help mitigate the climate crisis and deliver good governance of our seas. MPAs are scientifically demonstrated to fight both the climate and biodiversity crises. Not only do they alleviate the negative effects of climate change on marine ecosystems, capture carbon, protect coastlines from erosion and reduce water acidification, they also constitute vital sanctuaries for many threatened species. In turn, they support our communities by contributing to food security and safeguarding the landscapes many of us call home.

However, poor management and lack of sound planning of our seas continue to reduce the vast majority of MPAs to mere lines on a map. To ensure the resilience of our ocean in the face of unprecedented changes, it is imperative for the EU to deliver on its commitments to marine protection, both for SDG14 and in its own Biodiversity Strategy, setting a global precedent that will ultimately benefit both people and planet.

SHINING A LIGHT ON UNREGULATED FISHING

A breakthrough report from WWF and Trygg Mat Tracking has revealed exactly when, where and how unregulated fishing is happening on the high seas of the Indian Ocean, the impacts to threatened species and how far the activities are expanding. The study exposes the gaps in existing legal frameworks for fisheries in the Indian Ocean, leaving seafood caught in the absence of sustainable fisheries management or conservation open to being sold in key global market States, including the EU.

WWF is actively engaging with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations in the region, as well as the European Commission, to push for more coordination between various international and regional regulatory bodies to close these gaps and adopt more ambitious measures. The question of traceability and consumer information is a high priority at the EU level with the enforcement of the EU IUU regulation, the re-negotiation of the EU Control Regulation and the upcoming revision of the CFP.

IMPROVING EU FISHING ACTIVITIES OVERSEAS

WWF's advocacy work on how fisheries outside of EU waters operate also examined the other side of the African continent. Joint publications from BirdLife Europe, the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Arrangements and WWF, with from local partners in west Africa and in the Indian Ocean, presented recommendations for how EU Fisheries Agreements, as well as other foreign access agreements with coastal States can support the SDGs, and how evaluations of these Agreements can be improved to support sustainable practices and development. The joint recommendations were used by the Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC) as the basis for drafting their opinion on Agreement evaluations, which was approved in December. The LDAC proposal to strengthen the transparency and effectiveness of evaluations will now be submitted to the European Commission.

REFORMING THE EU FISHERIES CONTROL SYSTEM

In 2018, the European Commission proposed the revision of the fisheries control system, aimed at modernising and simplifying the rules for monitoring fisheries activities, and ensuring compliance with the CFP. Throughout 2020, this proposal was debated in the European Parliament, with over 1,200 amendments tabled to the draft report.

WWF is working with a coalition of NGOs to advocate for fully documented fisheries and a level playing field for all fishers in the EU. In particular, WWF is calling for the use of Remote Electronic Monitoring with cameras (REM) to be mandated within the EU fishing fleet to improve monitoring of what is being caught and accountability across fisheries.

In September, the EP Environment Committee voted in favour of key steps to bring more transparency to fisheries activities and traceability to seafood supply chains, including the requirement of vessel tracking and catch reporting for all vessels, REM, digitising seafood traceability systems, improving the sanctioning system, and making information on fisheries monitoring and control efforts public. The vote in the EP Fisheries Committee is scheduled for late January 2021.

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES

In November, the Commission's offshore renewable energy strategy recognised the increasing pressure on marine ecosystems from offshore renewable energy technologies, and sent a strong signal in favour of sustainably deployment. *For more information, see p. 27*



A woman in a red sari and purple headscarf is smiling and holding a rice seedling in a lush green field. The background shows a vast green landscape under a clear sky.

EU INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

“The EU should strengthen its ‘green diplomacy’ and support equitable international policies and frameworks which build synergies between biodiversity, climate action and the SDGs in order to improve long-term resilience.”

KATARINA MACEJAKOVA,
HEAD, EU DEVELOPMENT FUNDING & POLICY,
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

THE COMMISSION’S FOCUS ON INTEGRATING CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ACROSS EU EXTERNAL ACTION IS A GREAT START. NOW THIS MUST BE FOLLOWED THROUGH WITH CONCRETE ACTION.

- Having long advocated for an ambitious and comprehensive 50% spending target for climate and environment for development cooperation in the next EU budget (MFF), WWF welcomed the inclusion of a strong and legally binding ODA target of 93%, as well as a 30% target on climate change, and a new indirect biodiversity target.
- A WWF paper shows how European Green Deal can offer a framework for the EU to draw up the priorities for the new development cooperation instrument (NDICI) aiming at a green, equitable, socially just and resilient development.
- The NDICI regulation should be adopted as soon as possible so that the EU’s 2021-2027 development programmes can begin. NDICI programming should translate the Green Deal ambition into reality and include strengthened climate and environmental targets across all geographical and thematic programmes.

WANTED: EU LEADERSHIP ON 'GREEN DIPLOMACY'

The Covid-19 crisis has exposed systemic weaknesses in our societies and economies all around the world, deepening poverty and inequalities and hampering progress towards the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In its proposal for the European Green Deal, the Commission had put a welcome new emphasis on the EU's global leadership role by integrating climate and environmental issues across EU external action. The EU can and should indeed play a leading role by boosting its 'green diplomacy' efforts and supporting partner countries in meeting their climate and biodiversity objectives and delivering an inclusive and just transition of their economies and societies.

EXTERNAL ACTION IN THE NEXT EU BUDGET

WWF had long called for an ambitious and comprehensive 50% spending target for climate and environment for the development funding in the next EU budget (MFF) - including across future external financing instruments -, and for excluding support to fossil fuel related investments and actions that would cause environmental harm. This would contribute to much needed investments in the protection, restoration and sustainable management of natural resources, as well as climate change

mitigation and adaptation efforts, and deliver significant sustainable development benefits in developing countries.

As a result, WWF regretted the decision by the European Council in July 2020 to introduce substantial cuts to foreign aid in the new MFF, including a reduction of the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI) - the EU's new international development cooperation instrument. These cuts send an alarming signal about European solidarity with the rest of the world. There is a real danger that reducing the level of support to international cooperation will undermine the EU's role as a global actor, its ability to support partners' recovery from Covid-19, and its commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. We are particularly concerned about the reduction of resources for the thematic pillar of the NDICI which hosts funding for the programmes for Global Challenges, including climate change adaptation and global environmental action.

Further, it is extremely worrying to see Member States' efforts to make a part of EU development cooperation conditional on partner countries'

cooperation with EU migration politics. Such a move would have unforeseeable consequences for marginalised communities around the world and on the availability of much needed funds to tackle poverty, inequality and climate emergency.

We welcome Member States' endorsement of the political agreement reached with the European Parliament on the NDICI in December, paving the way for a final legal text in the first half of 2021. The NDICI is an essential tool to support EU partner countries and communities to achieve the SDGs, so we welcome in particular the inclusion of a strong and legally binding Official Development Assistance (ODA) target of 93%, strong targets on gender equality and human development, a 30% binding target on climate change, as well as a new indirect biodiversity target.

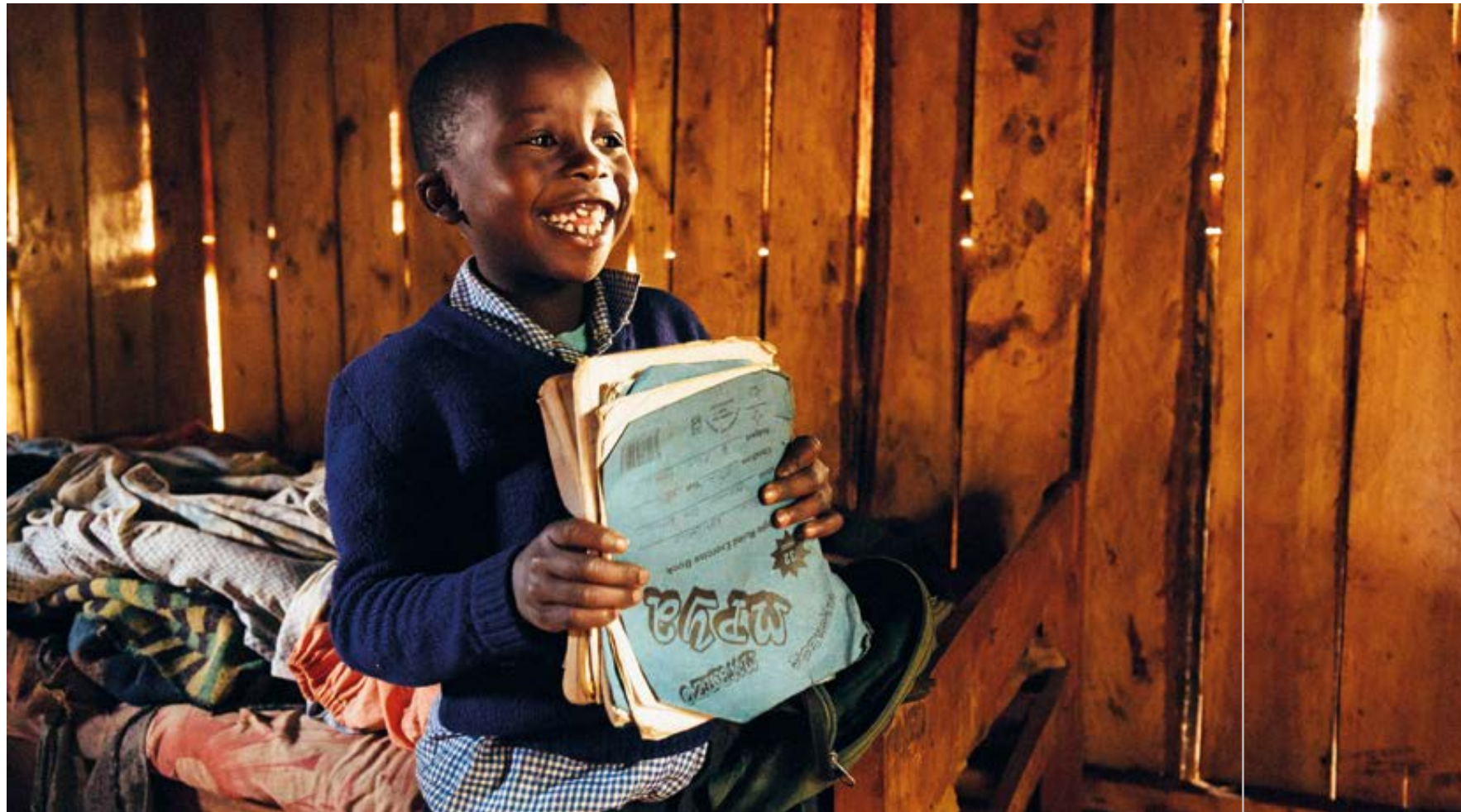
WWF will continue urging for a rapid finalisation and adoption of the NDICI regulation so that the EU's 2021-2027 external programmes can begin. We will continue asking for the political commitment to strengthen the thematic programmes for Global Challenges and an urgent injection of additional funds for these programmes.

THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL IN NDICI PROGRAMMING

With the European Green Deal as one of the new programmatic priorities of the NDICI, WWF has advocated for the Green Deal's principles and ambitions to guide the ongoing programming process of the NDICI, as well as the economic recovery from Covid-19 of partner countries outside Europe. This would deliver multiple benefits for climate mitigation, adaptation and nature protection, as well as a wide range of other sectors, for example health and human wellbeing. In addition, we have advocated for future trade agreements to include a binding, enforceable and ambitious dedicated chapter on sustainable development, especially for environmental and social provisions.

In February 2020, WWF co-signed an NGO statement laying out how the European Green Deal could help address the climate and biodiversity emergencies while better supporting people living in poverty in the Global South. In a second statement from May 2020, NGOs called on the EU to ensure that support to Covid-19 recovery in partner countries integrates climate





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THE 'NATURAFRICA' INITIATIVE MUST PROMOTE AN INTEGRATED AND INCLUSIVE APPROACH TO DELIVER MULTIPLE BENEFITS FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND BIODIVERSITY



© Sonja Ritter / WWF

and biodiversity objectives with the SDGs, tackles social inequalities, strengthens access to natural resources, and supports public services.

In September, WWF published a position paper on NDICI programming and delivery of the European Green Deal, demonstrating how the Green Deal can offer a framework for the EU to draw up the NDICI priorities in a way that helps tackle social inequalities, climate and environmental breakdown, and the need to improve long-term resilience, by taking a consistent approach across the board, and aiming clearly at green, equitable, socially just and resilient development and recovery plans in partner countries. This paper lays out WWF's principles and recommendations for prioritising and mainstreaming the environment and climate in the NDICI programming at country, regional and global level. The recommendations cover all key programmatic areas, from biodiversity, forests, freshwater and oceans, to food systems and climate.

In 2021, we will continue urging DG International Partnerships to present an overarching EU strategy to implement European Green Deal in the NDICI. We will be particularly attentive to proposals under 'NaturAfrica' so that the initiative promotes an integrated and inclusive

landscape approach to ensure ecological connectivity to deliver multiple benefits for local communities and biodiversity. We are also looking forward to supporting the development of Green Alliances, as a tool to mobilise partner countries around the objectives of the EU Green Deal and build political momentum at the global level on key issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss and sustainable development.

EMBEDDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONSERVATION

In 2019, WWF commissioned an independent panel of experts to review how we were responding to reports of human rights abuses by some government rangers in challenging and remote landscapes in Central Africa, India and Nepal. "Embedding Human Rights in Nature Conservation – from Intent to Action" is the resulting report. WWF has long recognised that conservation and human rights are at the heart of sustainable development, and we wanted a tough and unbiased evaluation of our efforts to continue to learn and improve our programmes.

Importantly, the panel found no evidence that WWF staff directed, participated in, or encouraged any abuses. When concerns were raised, our staff took actions to respond. The panel was also unsparing in its conclusion that we need to do more, especially on consistently creating accessible grievance mechanisms, more firmly engaging governments to uphold human rights, and strengthening our governance and management systems.

The reported abuses committed by some government rangers horrify us, and go against all the values we stand for. We feel deep and unreserved sorrow for those who have suffered. We are determined to do more to make communities' voices heard, to have their rights respected, and to consistently advocate for governments to uphold their human rights obligations. Our conviction is that the steps we are taking will help safeguard communities and the nature upon which they depend, and that we and our partners will deliver more lasting conservation as a result.

We embrace the panel's recommendations as important guidance in our evolution as a conservation organisation. Our Management Response details the specific actions we are taking in response to each of the panel's recommendations.

For more information, see www.panda.org/independentreview



The success of WWF’s policy work at EU level depends on funding for our critical programmes, a coordinated and supportive network and key stakeholder alliances.

WWF NETWORK

Throughout the year, many WWF offices provided WWF EU with their expertise and advocacy support. 18 network offices contributed financially to our operations. This support makes it possible to operate, make a real impact in Brussels and to help address issues raised by millions of WWF supporters around Europe and the world.

FOUNDATIONS

WWF EU is supported both financially and in terms of policy development by major foundations. We are grateful for the continued support from the European Climate Foundation, the KR Foundation, the MAVA Foundation, OCEANS 5 and the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

BUSINESS ALLIANCES

Our effectiveness is enhanced by our cooperation with leading business groups willing to join us in building common advocacy positions. We thank Sky Ocean Rescue for their support over the last three years.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND DEVELOPMENT AID AGENCIES

We receive an operational grant from the European Commission through the LIFE Programme, and project funding via Horizon 2020, the Development Education and Awareness Raising Programme (DEAR) and the Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs. The Norwegian Agency for Development continued to provide project funding for our marine work.

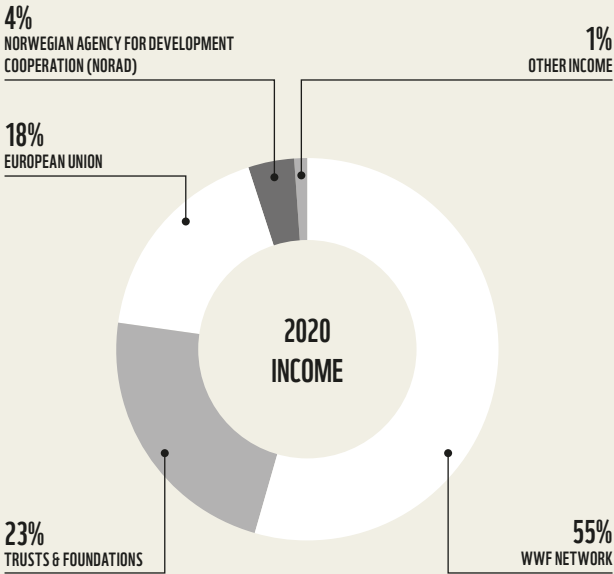
CIVIL SOCIETY

WWF EU works with other organisations in various alliances:

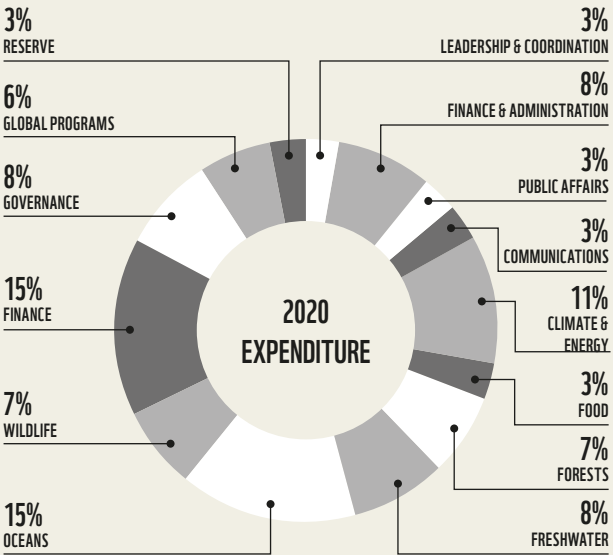
In the Green 10 coalition of the ten biggest EU environmental NGOs in Brussels; as a member of CONCORD, the European confederation of development NGOs; as a member of the Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, working on climate and energy issues; as part of the Sustainable Europe coalition, the Living Rivers Europe coalition, and as a member of the European Habitats Forum (EHF).

We also contribute to the following organisations: ECOS, Fédération des Associations Européennes (FAIB), Market Advisory Council, North Sea Advisory Council, the Coalition for Energy Savings, and the European Policy Centre.

OUR BUDGET
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2020



TOTAL INCOME	€ 4,788,563	100%
WWF Network	€ 2,626,071	55%
Trusts and Foundations	€ 1,089,331	23%
European Union	€ 851,581	18%
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)	€ 167,643	4%
Other Income	€ 53,938	1%



TOTAL EXPENDITURE	€ 4,788,563	100%
Leadership and coordination	€ 147,857	3%
Finance and administration	€ 370,226	8%
Public Affairs	€ 149,845	3%
Communications	€ 153,242	3%
Climate & Energy	€ 536,104	11%
Food	€ 160,946	3%
Forests	€ 344,375	7%
Freshwater	€ 398,996	8%
Oceans	€ 717,924	15%
Wildlife	€ 312,548	7%
Finance	€ 695,487	15%
Governance	€ 362,356	8%
Global Programs	€ 301,764	6%
Reserve	€ 136,893	3%



THE WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE TEAM*

* as of 1 January 2021

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Jabier Ruiz
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The WWF European Policy Office is made up of a truly international team representing 13 nationalities, with expertise ranging from biology to finance, from forestry to communications, from political sciences to accounting.

We are united in our passion and dedication to help take Europe firmly on a path to environmental sustainability. In 2020, we adapted quickly to the 'new normal' by ensuring a safe working environment and providing our staff with the necessary technical expertise, flexibility and management support. This enabled WWF EU to deliver at its best during this difficult time.

WWF EU is a great place to work, and we have been evaluated as the best working place for young professionals in Brussels by InternsGoPro!

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Head of Ocean Policy

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Marine Policy Officer

Alexandre Cornet
Ocean Policy Officer

Katrin Vilhelm Poulsen
Senior Seafood Policy Officer

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Economist

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Senior Policy Officer, Sustainable Finance

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Sustainable Investment Officer

Kaarina Kalle
Senior Europe Beyond Coal Finance & Utility Coordinator

Henry Eviston
Sustainable Finance Policy Officer

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Caroline Le Merle
EU Programme Funding Coordinator

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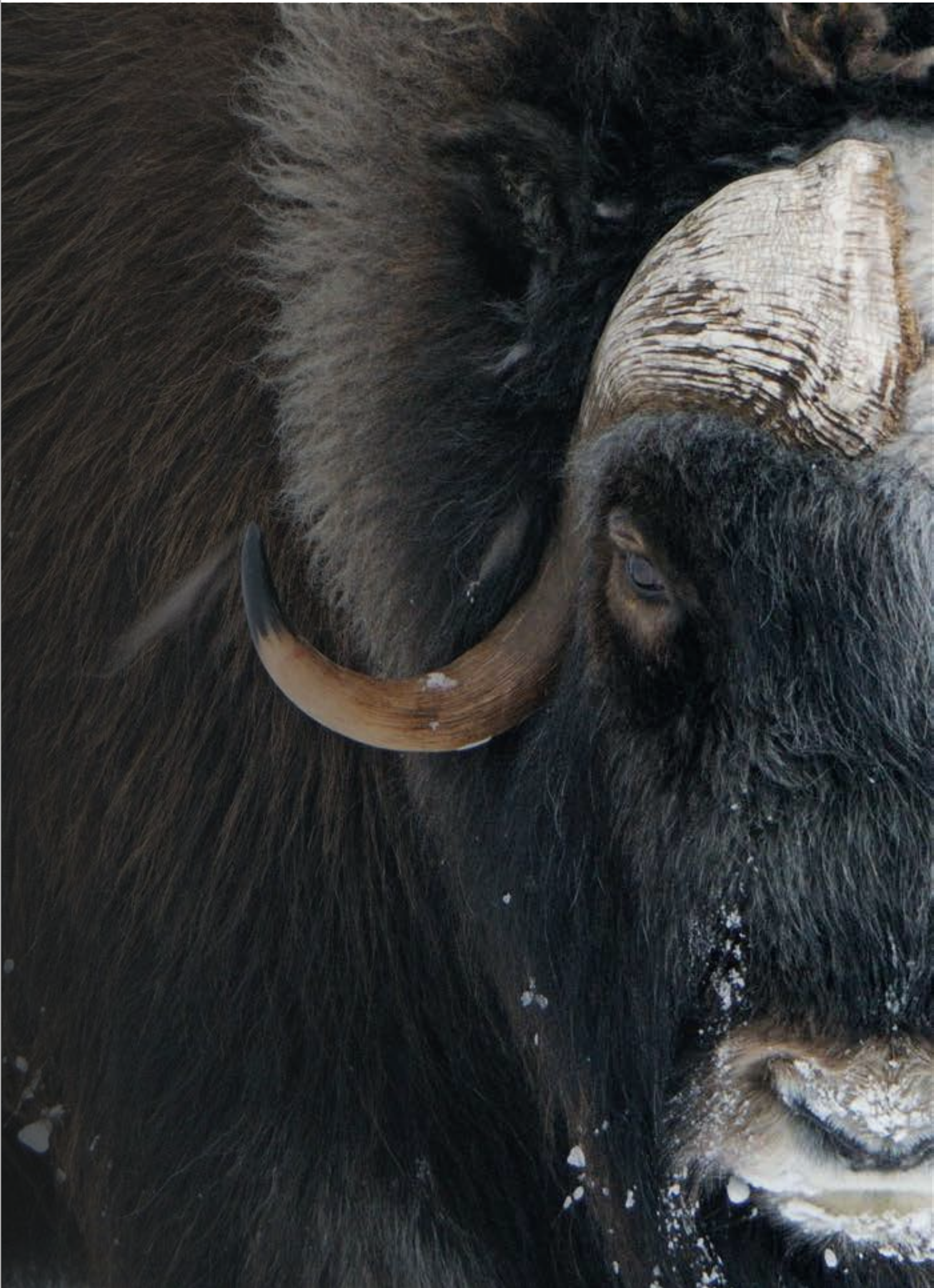
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**WWF'S MISSION IS
TO STOP THE DEGRADATION
OF THE PLANET'S
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
AND TO BUILD A FUTURE
IN WHICH HUMANS LIVE
IN HARMONY WITH
NATURE**



Working to sustain the natural
world for the benefit of people
and wildlife.

together possible™

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