



WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE ANNUAL REVIEW 2021

Front cover:

Participants in the #Run4Nature action organised by WWF and YEE in October 2021, calling on the European Commission to raise the ambition of the upcoming EU nature restoration law.

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WWF is an independent conservation organisation, with more than 30 million followers and a global network active through local leadership in over 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.

Layout: bitter grafik, Hamburg

Published in February 2022 by WWF – World Wide Fund For Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund), Brussels, Belgium. Any reproduction in full or in part must mention the title and credit the above-mentioned publisher as the copyright owner.

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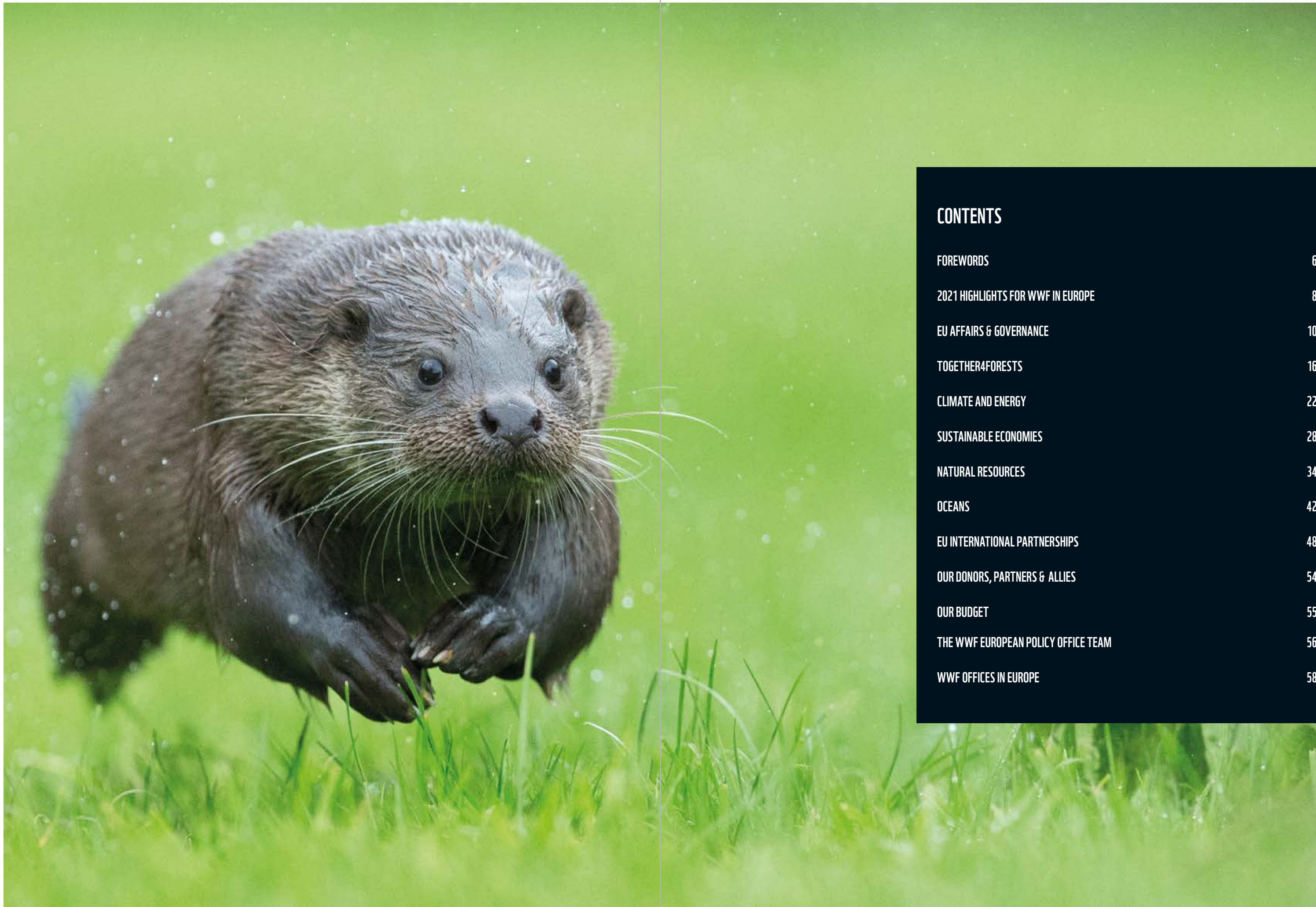
During 2021, the WWF European Policy Office has received EU funding via the following grants:

- Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement number: 785087 — InvECAT
- Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) LIFE19 NGO/SGA/BE/100016 — Operating Grant
- Raising public awareness of development issues and promoting development education in the European Union under Grant Agreement number: EuropeAid/160048/DH/ACT/MULTI — Eat4Change
- Raising public awareness of development issues and promoting development education in the European Union under Grant Agreement number: EuropeAid/151103/C/ACT/MULTI — Fish Forward 2
- Research Executive Agency (REA) NUMBER 862480 — SHOWCASE
- Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement number: 894345 — LEVEL EEI
- European Commission, Directorate-General Migration and Home Affairs under Grant Agreement number: 821579 — Forest Crime

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“HUMANITY
IS WAGING WAR
ON NATURE.
THIS IS SUICIDAL.
NATURE ALWAYS
STRIKES BACK -
AND IT IS ALREADY
DOING SO
WITH GROWING
FORCE AND FURY”

António Guterres



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FOREWORDS



ESTER ASIN MARTINEZ
DIRECTOR
WWF EUROPEAN
POLICY OFFICE

We started the year with the fresh memory of lighting candles of hope to celebrate the 1.2 million citizens who supported the *#Together4Forests* campaign, and called for a strong law to tackle EU driven deforestation and nature destruction. The campaign, supported by 160 organisations including many WWF offices, has put deforestation high in the EU political agenda. The Commission's proposal for a new deforestation law, published in November 2021, created the foundations to minimise the impact of EU consumption on the world's forests. However, loopholes remain and must be closed in the co-decision process in 2022.

2021 may also be well remembered as the year where 'science-based' policies were side-lined. Whereas the public narrative on delivering the European Green Deal has been maintained, we observed many legislative proposals falling short of what is required to bring about systemic change and to put us on the path to a net-zero and nature-positive society and economy.

The first ever EU climate law was adopted in April, but the final deal reflected politics rather than science. The agreed 55% net emissions reduction target is far below what science dictates. During the summer, we were reminded of our own fragility in the face of climate and environmental breakdown, with forest fires in Southern Europe and devastating floods in Belgium and Germany. While the Commission was publishing the flawed 'Fit for 55' climate package, the reality of climate change was hitting the heart of Europe.

The European Parliament took a strong stand on ambitious biodiversity protection and restoration in the EU. One of the highlights of Commission President Von der Leyen's State of the European Union speech in September was the announcement that the EU would double its external funding for biodiversity. Yet, delays in the publication of the draft restoration law raised concerns about the level of ambition, the urgency needed, and clear measurable restoration and protection targets for land, rivers and seas areas.

Another striking example for the disconnect between the stated ambition of the European Green Deal and concrete initiatives has been the development of the EU taxonomy, which

aims to determine which investments are sustainable in order to mobilise the trillions needed for the green transition. The process to come up with secondary legislation, the so-called 'delegated acts', has been plagued by lobbying from vested interests. In April, following the flawed final proposal for the climate taxonomy delegated act published by the Commission, we decided to temporarily suspend our work within the EU Sustainable Finance Platform in opposition, alongside other NGOs members. As I write these lines, the fight on the second delegated act goes on regarding the inclusion of gas and nuclear as sustainable, driven largely by aggressive lobbying by individual governments on behalf of their pet industries.

Covid-19 has prompted us to reflect on our own WWF EU advocacy, communications and campaigns. This year, we 'took back the streets', running for nature restoration with young people, or symbolically burying the taxonomy. At the first ever 'Youth Summit', we supported young voices to speak loud and clear about a future without deforestation.

The impact achieved last year would not have been possible without our many partners and allies. More than ever, we built powerful alliances in 2021 with NGOs, scientists, and industry. We have worked to ensure the path to climate-neutrality is also a path to a just Europe, where everybody is part of that change and can benefit from a brighter future. That is why WWF joined the newly created European Just Transition Alliance in 2021.

I am always thankful to the amazing WWF network, to the many colleagues in national and regional offices working with us on a daily basis. It has been rewarding to see the level of mobilisation on EU policies and campaigns at national level, despite the challenges still posed by Covid. Thank you to our donors who support us to bring about positive change. And to the WWF EU pandas, who despite lockdown and working from home, have shown resilience, commitment and the capacity to adjust.

We will be there at every step of the many legislative processes in 2022 to bring about a 'new normal' which puts the wellbeing of people and planet at the center of the EU's priorities and policy-making.

In 2021, we saw the power of the global WWF network joining forces in fighting one of the greatest challenges for biodiversity and climate: deforestation. The *#Together4Forests* campaign, a collaboration between the WWF's European offices - led by WWF EU -, WWF Brazil and many other partners, has been instrumental in urging the EU to adopt a strong law against deforestation.

Forests and other ecosystems in Brazil are under extreme pressure in a political and economic context that encourages the devastation of natural areas. The production of commodities for export - in particular soy and meat - has been one of the main drivers of nature destruction.

The Brazilian government, rather than fighting for our country's nature, has instead contributed to the devastation. In the Amazon, deforestation and fires have increased significantly since the current administration took office in 2019. In the last three years,

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deforestation has broken all previous records, totalling 32,000 km², an area larger than Belgium. The Cerrado, Brazil's second-largest biome and most biodiverse savannah globally, has already lost half 50% of its original vegetation. And, even worse, the legal and institutional changes introduced by the current administration will reinforce this trend for a long time to come, even beyond a potential change in power.

Brazil is the leading supplier of soy and beef to European markets. In the case of meat, two-thirds of the product exported to the EU came from three large Brazilian traders that do not monitor their thousands of indirect suppliers - which facilitates the flow of meat produced in areas of deforestation in the Amazon. Soy expansion has been the main driver of deforestation in the Cerrado, and the EU is importing ever more soy from this natural ecosystem - 16 m tons in 2021 alone.

As one of the biggest importers of soy and beef from Brazil, the EU can and must play a decisive role in stopping this destruction. Indeed, the only way to save Brazil's nature will be to exclude Brazilian products linked to environmental crimes from foreign markets. International pressure on economic activities has proven to be crucial in combating deforestation and deterring new environmental setbacks. Therefore, the EU must introduce a robust and restrictive deforestation law, and international cooperation within multiple organisations - including the WWF network through the *#Together4Forests* campaign - will be critical for reaching that goal.

Without solid legislation, EU consumers will continue to unwittingly contribute to the devastation of the Amazon and the Cerrado. 2022 will show how serious the EU is to curb the footprint of its consumption on nature in Brazil and around the world.

We look forward to continuing our cooperation with WWF EU to bring about a strong law which will make a real difference for Brazil's precious ecosystems.



MAURICIO VOIVODIC
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WWF BRAZIL

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY

A new WWF report reveals that an area twice the size of the UK has been **lost to deforestation** in just over a decade, with 10% of global deforestation linked to EU demand for products like beef, soy and palm oil.

FEBRUARY

WWF launches a publication **providing nature restoration case studies**, at a high-level event attended by EU Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius.

Over 500 scientists and 40,000 citizens push for the **burning of trees for energy** - which does massive damage to the climate and to nature - to no longer be eligible for subsidies.

MARCH

A new WWF report presents steps to be taken to minimize the negative impact of Europe's existing **hydropower plants** on freshwater species and habitats.

225 scientists, financial institutions and NGOs sound the alarm about a proposal by the European Commission to **classify new fossil gas projects as environmentally sustainable** under the EU Taxonomy.

In their vote on the EU Control Regulation, MEPs call for all seafood on the EU market to be **digitally traceable from net to plate**.

APRIL

A new WWF report makes international headlines, showing that the EU is one of the world's largest **importers of tropical deforestation** and associated emissions, second only to China.

More than 100,000 people submit calls for an **ambitious EU nature restoration law** during the Commission's public consultation through an NGO campaign.

New WWF research demonstrates the massive potential of **barrier removal in European rivers**: 50,000 km could be made free-flowing once again.

The EU agrees its **first ever climate law** enshrining climate neutrality, but the agreed target of 55% net emissions reductions is insufficient.

Following the flawed final proposal for the **climate taxonomy delegated act**, WWF temporarily suspends its work within the EU Sustainable Finance Platform in opposition.

MAY

Trilogues conclude on the **€ 17.5 bn Just Transition Fund** to lessen the social impacts of the energy transition in regions dependent on high-carbon industries like coal mining and power.

With its communication on a **sustainable blue economy** in the EU, the European Commission adds a much needed 'blue dimension' to the European Green Deal.

JUNE

In its long-awaited position on the **2030 Biodiversity Strategy**, Parliament endorses the strategy and calls for legally-binding nature restoration targets

In the final negotiations, EU farm ministers sabotage attempts to strengthen the **environmental elements of the new Common Agriculture Policy (CAP)**.

According to WWF's calculations, **EU governments lost € 54 bn to free emissions allowances** between 2013 and 2019 under the Emissions Trading System (ETS).

The new **Global Europe instrument** has the potential to make the green transition a reality through increased climate and biodiversity targets for external action.

JULY

The EU's **Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy** aims to bring the EU financial system more in line with the EU Green Deal, but largely fails to put words into action.

The Commission's **'Fit for 55' climate package** falls far short of what is needed, even though it goes further than anything that has come before.

43% of **EU fishers earned below the national minimum** in 2018, a groundbreaking new WWF report reveals.

AUGUST

In a series of factsheets, WWF highlights the **benefits of nature restoration** for human health and wellbeing, the economy, and the climate.

With Europe still reeling from historic floods, a new WWF/Deltares report outlines how **Nature-based Solutions** can help reduce the impact of such disasters.

SEPTEMBER

WWF and more than 150 civil society groups write to the EU, urging it not to label **fossil gas as a green investment**.

WWF analysis of **local 'just transition' plans** shows that, worryingly, European regions want to reward polluters rather than exclude them in the shift towards climate neutrality.

In her State of the European Union speech, Commission President Von der Leyen announces a doubling of **EU external funding for biodiversity**.

OCTOBER

In the face of immense industry pressure, the European Parliament overwhelmingly defends the **EU Farm to Fork strategy** for a sustainable transformation of food systems.

90% of assessed **river basins will still be unhealthy by 2027**, new WWF research reveals, in breach of the legally binding EU target under the Water Framework Directive.

Runners at **#Run4Nature**, a symbolic relay race around the European Commission headquarters, call on the EU to adopt a robust nature restoration law.

NOVEMBER

NGOs publish a sobering assessment of draft **CAP 'eco-scheme' proposals**, which shows that fewer than 20% are likely to deliver on their environmental objectives.

The European Commission's long-awaited **proposal for an EU deforestation law** lays solid foundations to address the destructive impact of EU consumption, but loopholes remain.

WWF publishes 10 reasons why the **EU taxonomy** might go from 'hall of fame to wall of shame', and holds a mock funeral to protest against an inclusion of gas and nuclear power as 'sustainable' investments.

DECEMBER

The final deal on the EU's **8th Environment Action Programme** puts wellbeing at the heart of EU policy making, but fails to include a deadline for ending fossil fuel subsidies.

150 NGOs urge the Commission to include ambitious 2030 targets in the upcoming **nature restoration proposal**.

With the IUU Fishing Coalition, WWF proposes a globally harmonised seafood traceability tool to **curb illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing**.

Late on 31 December, the European Commission circulates a plan that would classify fossil gas and nuclear power as 'sustainable' investments in the **EU Taxonomy**.

A full-page background image showing a person from behind, walking a black dog on a paved path through a dense forest. The person is wearing a red shirt, black pants, and a backpack. The path is surrounded by lush green trees and ferns.

EU AFFAIRS & GOVERNANCE

“In 2021 the EU agreed to shift towards a ‘wellbeing economy’ with people and nature at its heart, and the European Commission must now act to make this happen. We need a framework that goes ‘beyond GDP’ to guide policy making, and eradicate absurdities like public subsidies for fossil fuels and other polluting industries once and for all.”

TYCHO VANDERMAESEN
HEAD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

WWF HAS CONTINUED TO CALL ON THE EU TO OPERATIONALISE ITS MOVE TOWARDS A ‘WELLBEING ECONOMY’ TO UNDERPIN THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL OBJECTIVES.

Covid-19 has illustrated the urgent need for a fundamental rethink of the way in which we define ‘progress’ in our societies, and the European Green Deal and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must be used to guide us towards a new, more sustainable, model for EU policy making.

- In 2021, WWF has continued to work to ensure that the policies and laws underpinning the European Green Deal match its ambition.
- WWF has called for a fundamental change in EU policy-making and for a transition towards a ‘wellbeing economy’, which starts from the idea that public interests should determine economics and not the other way around.
- The 8th Environment Action Programme agreed by the EU reflected many of WWF’s asks, including provisions for putting human and planetary wellbeing, rather than GDP growth, at the heart of EU policy making.
- However, the final deal failed to set an end date for public subsidies for fossil fuels and other environmentally harmful activities, despite repeated pledges to phase out such finance.

BETTER POLICIES FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

The Covid-19 pandemic and its ramifications are forcing governments to rethink the way in which we define ‘progress’ in our societies, and to use the objectives of the European Green Deal and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide us towards a new, more sustainable, economic model.

Against this backdrop, WWF has been calling for a transition towards a ‘wellbeing economy’, which starts from the idea that public interests should determine economics and not the other way around. Rather than pursuing economic growth through narrowly defined indicators such as GDP, a wellbeing economy monitors and values what truly matters: our health, nature, education, and communities. Through the EU’s 8th Environment Action Programme, the review of the EU’s Better Regulation Agenda, and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, WWF ensured great strides were made towards this objective in 2021.

A NEW ENVIRONMENT ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE EU

Environment Action Programmes (EAP) set out the broad direction and structure of EU environmental policy, putting in place the

enabling conditions to guarantee that policies can achieve their objectives. The 8th EAP, which was adopted in 2021, sets out the direction for EU environmental and climate policy action until 2030, with the aim of building on the European Green Deal.

Unfortunately, the [original proposal by the Commission from October 2020](#) lacked the overall ambition and forward-looking actions to achieve the stated long-term aim of ‘living well, within the means of our planet’.

In particular, WWF advocated for a shift to a sustainable wellbeing economy by putting in place ‘beyond GDP’ indicators; a legally binding deadline to phase out fossil fuel and all other environmentally harmful subsidies; a strengthening of the 8th EAP’s enabling conditions and environmental governance with a focus on better implementation of existing law and accounting for the cost of inaction; as well as regular assessments of progress.

Both the Council and the Parliament strengthened the Commission’s proposal. In March, EU [Environment ministers endorsed the Council negotiating position](#) on the 8th EAP. However, WWF still criticised Member States for failing to operationalise the idea of a ‘wellbeing economy’ and for the lack of deadlines for phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies.

The [European Parliament position](#), adopted in July, went further, including proposals which would make it legally binding for all Member States to phase out fossil fuel subsidies by 2025 and all other environmentally harmful subsidies by 2027. Parliament also included the shift towards a sustainable wellbeing economy within planetary boundaries, making explicit the steps to enable this shift. This result was a resounding success, and fully in line with WWF’s advocacy goals on this file.

Finally, after months of negotiations, at the beginning of December, the [European institutions came to a deal](#) which takes big strides on strengthening future environment policy making. The new 8th EAP includes provisions for putting human and planetary wellbeing, rather than GDP growth, at the heart of EU policy making- a major win for WWF and the European Parliament.

However, shamefully, EU governments resisted calls from Parliament and civil society to set an end date for public finance for fossil fuels and environmentally harmful activities, despite EU leaders having - over the course of more than two decades - repeatedly stated their intention to phase such finance out. Over € 52 bn of taxpayers’ money goes annually to fossil fuels alone. WWF criticised this failure, which came in the wake of COP26 in Glasgow, and would have been the first concrete opportunity for the EU to live up to the renewed climate commitments.





HOLDING THE EU TO ACCOUNT ON SDG IMPLEMENTATION

WWF continued to hold the EU to account on delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Six years on from their adoption, the EU is still lagging behind on meeting its obligations, and especially on goals related to biodiversity (SDG 15), climate action (SDG 13) and clean energy (SDG 7), as highlighted by the European Commission's annual SDG monitoring report, published in June.

At the end of 2020, the European Commission committed to taking a 'whole of government' approach to the SDGs, recognising that individual actions and policies will not be enough to address the interlinkages among SDGs. This approach has yet to be seen in practice. Member States adopted [Council conclusions](#) in June which reflected WWF's recommendations to strengthen the 'whole of government' approach and policy coherence for sustainable development, as well as the re-establishment of a multi-stakeholder platform to advise the Commission on the implementation of the goals, to ensure full participation of civil society.

ADVOCATING FOR AN IMPROVED 'BETTER REGULATION' AGENDA

The way the European Commission assesses and balances the economic, social and environmental impacts of new and existing policies shapes the quality and ambition of the policy proposals it puts forward. For this reason, WWF continues to scrutinise the EU's 'Better Regulation' rules, which govern how the Commission develops its policies.

In April, the European Commission presented its Better Regulation communication. WWF [called for](#) the Commission to deliver on its commitment in the European Green Deal to ensure all EU policies contribute towards a sustainable and climate neutral future, and for the SDGs to be mainstreamed in all policies. Jointly with ETUC, WWF published a [paper](#) reacting to the changes announced, such as 'One in, one out' and making sure all policies respect a 'do no significant harm' test in relation to the European Green Deal.

As part of the 8th EAP, WWF advocated for improvements to the Better Regulation rules, which were reflected in the final text – particularly the need for the cost of inaction to be taken into account, and for policies to be guided by a 'think sustainability first' approach.

An aerial photograph of a lush tropical forest. A wide, dark river flows through the center of the image, surrounded by dense green trees. In the far distance, a prominent, conical volcano rises above the horizon under a clear sky. The foreground shows the intricate patterns of the forest canopy and the winding path of the river.

TOGETHER4FORESTS

“Our efforts have paid off. The Commission’s proposal for an EU deforestation law has shown that when 180 NGOs speak with one voice, we cannot be ignored. But the work is not over yet: The *#Together4Forests* campaign will continue to mobilise intensively to ensure the EU adopts strong legislation.”

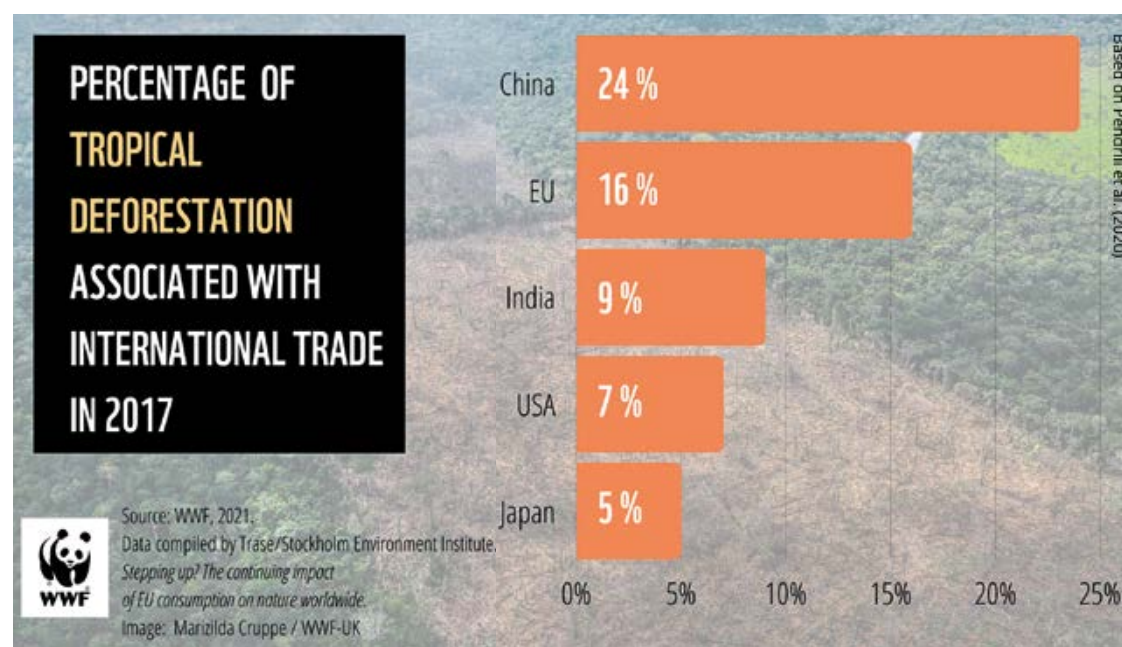
LIESBETH VAN DEN BOSSCHE
EU CAMPAIGN MANAGER
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

2021 SAW THE LAUNCH OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION’S LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL FOR AN EU LAW ON GLOBAL DEFORESTATION

- Not slacking off: After successfully mobilising 1.2 million people to participate in the European Commission’s public consultation on deforestation, the *#Together4Forests* campaign continued to influence decision-makers - publicly and behind the scenes!
- WWF brought together business leaders, legislators and NGO representatives in a multi-stakeholder event on the EU’s footprint on global deforestation. It offered an engaging debate on the role of the private sector and the need for far-reaching legislation.
- From Reuters to Deutsche Welle, WWF’s report ‘Stepping up: The continuing impact of EU consumption on nature’ made headlines around the world, revealing that the EU is one of the largest importers of tropical deforestation, second only to China.
- The European Commission presented its long-awaited proposal for an EU deforestation law, getting the legislative process off to a strong start.

#TOGETHER4FORESTS: KEEPING DEFORESTATION OFF OUR PLATES

European consumption of soy, beef, palm oil and other commodities is responsible for more than 10% of global deforestation. From the milk in our morning cappuccino, to the roast chicken on Sundays, what we eat is accelerating biodiversity loss and climate change. This is why WWF ramped up its EU-wide campaign *#Together4Forests*, to advocate for a strong EU legislation to ensure that the food on our plates does not come at the expense of our planet and its people.

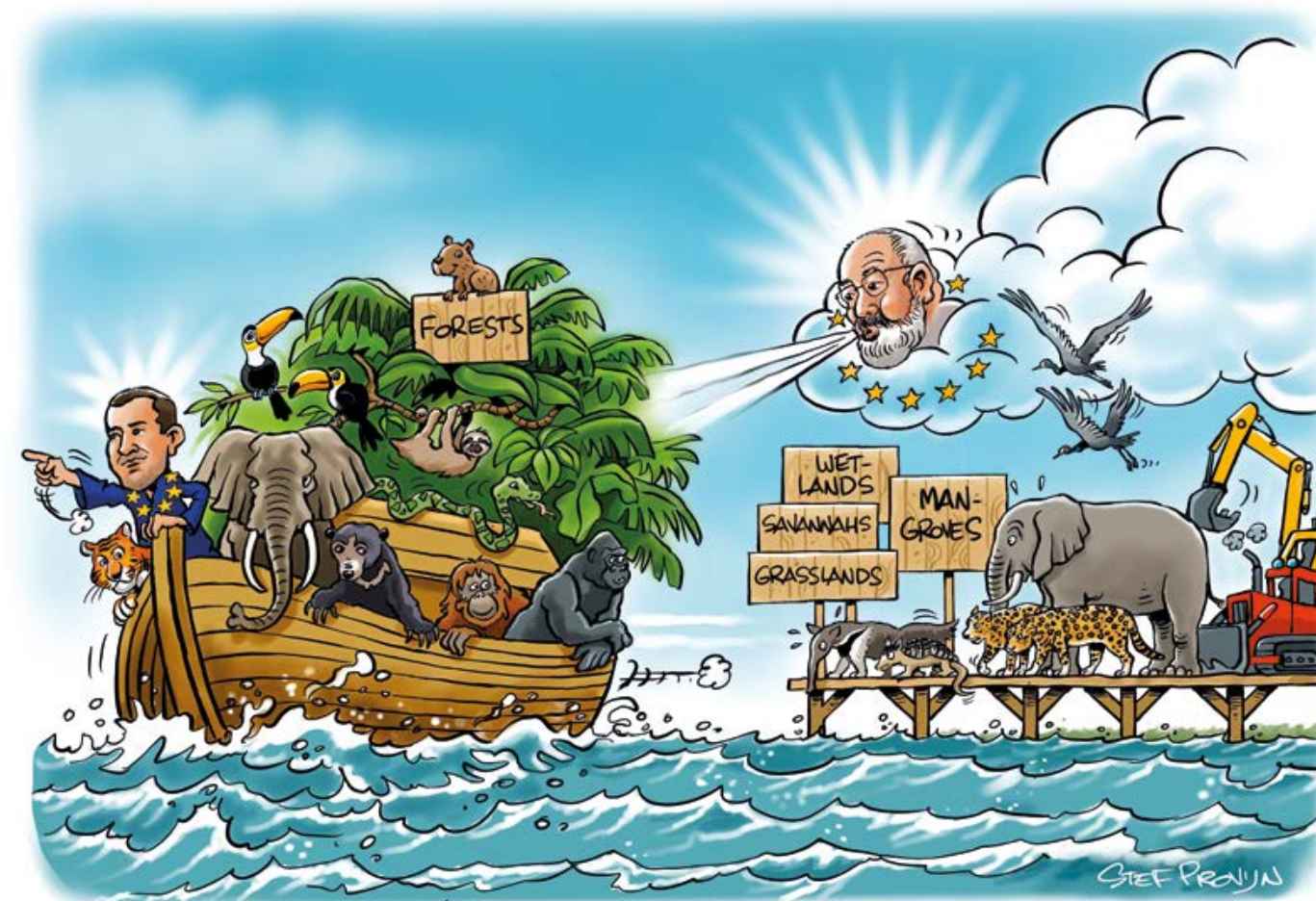


The Amazon rainforest is now emitting more carbon dioxide than it is able to absorb and only 6% of Sumatra's iconic peatland remains unconverted or not degraded. Around the world, forests and other natural ecosystems such as savannahs, grasslands and wetlands are being destroyed at an alarming rate, with tremendous consequences for our planet. The EU is massively contributing to this destruction.

Following the European Commission's successful public consultation on deforestation in 2020, where 1.2 million people demanded a strong EU law through the *#Together4Forests*

campaign, WWF continued to influence decision-makers and to engage citizens from across Europe.

The year kicked off with the publication of *'Deforestation fronts: Drivers and responses in a changing world'*, showing that an area twice the size of the UK has been lost to deforestation in a decade. Agricultural expansion is threatening some crucial forests and other natural ecosystems, such as the Amazon, the Brazilian Cerrado and Borneo. An array of commodities imported into the EU, including soy and rubber, are sourced from these regions.



If natural ecosystems beyond forests miss the boat, unique animal species will be left behind

The EU is one of the biggest importers of deforestation and associated emissions, second only to China, as revealed by WWF's report *'Stepping up: The continuing impact of EU consumption on nature'*, published in April. Based on data and insights compiled by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) and through the transparency initiative (Trase), the EU was responsible for 16% of deforestation associated with international trade in 2017, totalling 203,000 hectares and 116 m tCO₂. The report was very well received, making headlines across the world - and showing that the EU needs to take bold action to address its footprint.

Tackling deforestation requires the participation of citizens, legislators, and companies alike. In May 2021, WWF EU organised the event 'The EU's footprint on global deforestation: Open stakeholder exchange on a new EU law'. With more than 180 attendees from the public and private sector, this event offered an engaging and lively debate on the need for far-reaching legislation and challenges for implementation.

Together with other Brussels based NGOs, WWF released a briefing on EU legislation, laying out in more detail the key elements that are needed for strong new legislation. With this paper, the campaign pushed the European Commission for an ambitious legislative proposal, which should

include not only forests but also other precious natural ecosystems such as savannahs and wetlands.

Shocking findings by DETER, a satellite-based system that detects deforestation in real time, developed by the Brazilian National Institute for Space Research (INPE), showed that more than 3,700 km² of land, over twice the size of London, were destroyed between January and August 2021 in the Brazilian Cerrado - an increase of 25% compared to the same period the year before. The EU is indirectly complicit in this destruction: Almost a quarter of EU soy imports are sourced from this highly biodiverse savannah.

TACKLING ILLEGAL LOGGING AND IMPROVING FOREST MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE

Illegal logging remains a significant problem, accounting for an estimated 10–30% of all logging worldwide, with a growing involvement of organised crime. This destroys precious biodiversity, but it also threatens livelihoods, deprives states of income and undermines stable governance. The EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), which aims to reduce illegal logging by ensuring

IN 2018,
70%
OF EU IMPORTED
SOY LINKED TO
DEFORESTATION
AND CONVERSION
CAME FROM
THE BRAZILIAN
CERRADO

that no illegal timber or timber products can be sold in the EU, came into force in 2013, but it presents some loopholes and implementation gaps in EU countries that have hindered a real change. In its report [‘Lifting it up - How to make the EU Timber Regulation \(EUTR\) ‘fit for purpose’](#) published in April 2021, WWF advocated for improvements on extending due diligence obligations to traders, ensuring better implementation, and expanding the scope of the EUTR to include all products containing wood.

In order to reinforce better implementation of the EUTR, WWF was part of the consortium implementing the [‘EU Forest Crime Initiative’](#), a project funded by the European Union’s Internal Security Fund (ISF) between 2019 and 2021. For the first time, this project brought together INTERPOL’s law enforcement expertise and Client Earth’s legal analysis with WWF’s practical experience in supporting companies to avoid illegal wood trafficking.

The initiative - which had a geographic focus on four exporting countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine) and two importing countries (Belgium and France) - aimed to enable effective law enforcement by stimulating networks that are able to detect forest crime and respond to it.

WWF EU, in cooperation with WWF Germany, took the lead in the organisation of the final (virtual) project workshop, which brought together close to 200 participants from 25 countries.

The workshop aimed to disseminate the initiative’s outcomes and lessons learned to stakeholders across the EU, and to improve the effectiveness of efforts to fight illegal logging by generating spill-over effects to other EU Member States, and by strengthening existing and creating new networks.

In July, the European Commission presented its EU Forest Strategy, the drafting of which came under intense scrutiny from some Member States and the forest industry. Reacting to the strategy, [WWF expressed cautious optimism](#) but warned that the text had been watered down due to external pressure.

In the same vein, WWF also [reacted to the publication of a Court of Auditors’ report](#) which found that EU policies intended to address biodiversity and climate change in forests are often not being implemented or adequately enforced. We called on the European Commission and EU Member States to step up actions to ensure EU forests are genuinely protected.

EAT4CHANGE: GIVING YOUTH A VOICE

One of the main highlights in the autumn was WWF’s engagement with young citizens - after all they are the future and they must have a say in policy! [WWF invited committed young activists](#) from across Europe and Latin America to the *Eat4Change*’s Youth Summit in Brussels. *Eat4Change* is a WWF-led, international project co-funded by the EU, striving for a shift towards more sustainable food production practices and diets.

During the summit, participants had the opportunity to discuss the different ways deforestation impacts their lives and how future EU legislation should put an end to the destruction of nature. The group formed a powerful interconnected community and organised a [symbolic street action](#) in front of the European Parliament urging national-decision makers to support far-reaching legislation. What’s more, these young activists managed to successfully influence some members of the European Parliament, who committed to pushing for the inclusion of non-forests ecosystems in the law.

Also under the *#Eat4Change* project, WWF commissioned a [poll showing that 7 in 10 Europeans want deforestation off the EU market](#). The survey also revealed that over half of Europeans are trying to eat more sustainably but feel there are barriers to doing so, including unclear labelling and lack of information on the environmental and social impacts of what they buy.

A NEW DEFORESTATION LAW IS PROPOSED!

As the launch of the legislative proposal for an EU deforestation law edged nearer, the Commission was increasingly pressured by different stakeholders, who tried to water down key elements of the proposal. But WWF and its allies did not slack off: More than 56 NGOs from the *#Together4Forests* campaign issued a public letter urging the European Commission not to weaken upcoming deforestation legislation.

Finally, on 17 November, the European Commission presented its long-awaited proposal for a law tackling EU-driven deforestation. [The proposal is not perfect](#), it has some flaws that need to be ironed out, but it has got the law off to a strong start. The text includes strong elements, such as requiring all products entering the EU market to be genuinely sustainable (i.e. free

© Adam Miklos / WWF



Young activists performing as trees during a street action in front of the European Parliament

from deforestation and forest degradation) in addition to being legal by the producing country’s standards. In addition, all products must be traceable down to their place of origin, i.e. where they were produced or harvested. The proposal also foresees strong measures to enforce the legislation across the EU.

However, the proposed law contains loopholes which lower the EU’s big opportunity to keep nature destruction off the market. In particular, the Commission’s legislative proposal limits the scope of the new law to forests, with the possibility of extending it to other natural ecosystems, such as savannas and grasslands, as part of the first review of the law. Unfortunately, this means that the EU could jeopardise its chances to effectively tackle biodiversity loss and global climate change. This is why WWF will continue to fight tooth and nail for the inclusion of non-forests ecosystems from the start!

The EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), has been integrated into the Commission’s legislative proposal. The EU deforestation law is a unique opportunity to address the shortcomings and inconsistencies of the EUTR and ensure the preservation of the forests that shape Europe’s landscapes!

In 2022, the EU deforestation law will be discussed by national governments and members of the European Parliament in order to agree on a final text. WWF will be watching closely and will continue to advocate for this law to be far-reaching, capable of ensuring the protection of the world’s forests and other ecosystems, and of safeguarding the human rights of the people that depend on them.

“This law was a central promise of the European Green Deal, and it is one of the key building blocks of global climate and biodiversity action. it is critical that the level of ambition is maintained and strengthened by the other institutions.”

ANKE SCHULMEISTER-OLDENHOVE
SENIOR POLICY OFFICER, FORESTS
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

CLIMATE AND ENERGY

“The pace of climate action picked up in 2021, but we’re still walking when we need to sprint. While COP26 and the EU’s 2030 climate proposals brought some progress, we are way off track for keeping temperature rise to 1.5°C. What’s more, the EU and national governments is not yet doing enough to ensure the most vulnerable understand and reap the benefits of a net-zero society.”

IMKE LÜBBEKE
HEAD OF CLIMATE AND ENERGY
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE



CLIMATE ACTION FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

The impacts of climate change are clearer every day, and the public continues to stand strong behind meaningful climate action. In 2021 we saw EU leaders and governments begin to do more, but overall it's still far too little, and too slow.

- COP26 just about kept our climate goals alive, but globally we're still way off track in terms both of emissions reduction and climate financing. All countries must step up their pledges this year, including the EU.
- The EU made new climate proposals for 2030. These are a step forward, but still fall far short in terms of cutting emissions and protecting the vulnerable. All European citizens must be part of the shift to climate neutrality, with no-one left behind.
- In 2022, the EU must increase our climate and energy targets, ensure polluters finally pay and industry really starts to decarbonise, and end harmful 'renewable' energies like tree burning and hydropower.

WHILE IT
STEPPED UP
ON CLIMATE
FINANCE, THE
EU SEEMED
TO TURN ITS
BACK ON THE
POOREST
REGIONS AT
COP26



© David Bebb / WWF-UK

COP26 KEEPS 1.5°C ON A LIFELINE

Delayed by a year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the COP26 climate summit finally took place in Glasgow (UK) in November 2021.

WWF [advocated hard](#) in the run-up to the event, including through meetings with Commission Executive Vice-President Timmermans. We focused on pushing national governments outside the EU to increase their climate pledges and getting the rules governing how countries' climate plans will be calculated and measured finalised.

WWF had a strong presence and visibility at the summit, garnering over 11,000 media mentions internationally. We helped organise many events, including around the concept of a socially fair shift to climate neutrality, or 'just transition' [with European coal region mayors](#).

In terms of the outcome of COP26, WWF's [overall take](#) was that it did - just about - keep the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels alive, but failed to increase the pace and scale of climate action as required.

The final 'Glasgow Climate Pact' is far from perfect. On the positive side, it asks countries to increase their climate pledges by 2022. This was supported by the EU and is crucial for reducing emissions in time to stop the worst impacts of the climate emergency.

This COP also marked the first time that fossil fuel subsidies were mentioned in an approved decision text, as well as the need to hike up clean energy investments while ensuring a just transition - all elements supported by the EU. However, WWF was deeply disappointed by the watering-down of the language on coal from 'phase-out' to 'phase-down' by India and China.

Bad decisions included the EU and other historical emitters refusing pleas by vulnerable countries already fighting the impacts of climate change to provide financial help. This came on top of the failure by rich countries to collectively meet the USD100bn per year climate finance target for 2020 - to the disappointment of the EU.

The next year will be critical as countries plan their updated climate plans. In the EU, WWF will keep pushing for higher targets for emissions reduction and sustainable renewables, an end to free pollution, and finance for socially fair climate action.

EU CLIMATE LAW ENSHRINES TARGETS

The EU's first ever 'Climate Law' came into force in September. This [new law](#) enshrines the bloc's 2050 climate neutrality goal and its updated 2030 target, of 55% net greenhouse emissions reductions by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.

WWF had repeatedly criticised the 55% net target as too low and unscientific. Emissions reductions of at least 65% are needed, with removals kept separate.

The Climate Law agreement came after many months of advocacy by WWF, including social media campaigns, multiple press briefings with other NGOs and detailed media work. While the final Law is not as strong as it should be, it is still a definite step forward.

One strong aspect of the Law is that it requires an independent Scientific Advisory Board to be set up to scrutinise EU policy measures for consistency with climate goals. To help make this Board as strong and sound as possible, WWF ran a [mini-campaign](#) around the EU's call for scientists to apply to be members.

'FIT FOR 55' NEEDS A MAKEOVER

The Climate Law set the EU's overall 55% net climate target for 2030, but to show how to reach this goal, the EU Commission [published in July](#) a set of proposals known as the 'Fit for 55' package.

WWF worked intensively on issues from the overall target level, to the EU's carbon market - the Emissions Trading System (ETS) - and the rules on what is considered a 'renewable' energy source. WWF found the proposals to be wider ranging than anything the EU had done previously, but still falling far short of what the climate science demands.

Glimmers of progress - such as the proposal to bring international shipping under the ETS, and for all revenues to be spent on climate action - were overshadowed by the multitude of flaws. These start with the too low climate, renewables and energy efficiency targets themselves. As well as the call for a 2030 emissions reduction target of [at least 65% on 1990 levels](#), WWF is calling for a renewable energy target of 50%, and for an energy efficiency target of 40% by 2030.

MIND THE TREES

On renewable energy, only truly sustainable sources should be counted. WWF - along with other NGOs and supported by [hundreds of scientists](#) - is pushing for the burning of trees for energy - which does massive damage to the climate and to nature - no longer to be eligible for subsidies. Similarly hydropower, which breaks up Europe's rivers and stops fish from reproducing, should not qualify as a 'renewable' source. We continue to [actively make these points](#), including as part of a joint media action highlighting the risk of the current EU rules to trees in the EU area of Brussels in 2021.

POLLUTERS
MUST FINALLY
[BE MADE TO
PAY](#), AND THE
MONEY USED
FOR SOCIALLY
FAIR CLIMATE
ACTION



**THE BURNING
OF TREES
FOR ENERGY -
WHICH DOES
MASSIVE
DAMAGE TO
THE CLIMATE
AND TO
NATURE -
SHOULD NO
LONGER BE
SUBSIDISED**

Land and trees can help tackle climate change by absorbing carbon. This is covered by an EU file known as 'Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry' (LULUCF). Here WWF is calling for a separate and higher target for carbon dioxide removal by sinks, to be delivered via nature-based solutions such as ecosystem restoration.

TIGHTENING CARBON MARKET HOLES

On the EU Emissions Trading System revision, WWF wants the current system of free pollution allowances for heavy industry under the ETS to be phased out. WWF calls for it to be replaced by the forthcoming 'Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism' (CBAM) in some sectors. The CBAM is a carbon border tariff the EU wants to levy on incoming goods from countries with less stringent climate rules. Having one system replace the other would still support industry while ensuring it is pushed to decarbonise.

Despite this, the European Parliament declared itself to be [against this](#) suggested replacement of one compensation system by another via a non-legislative vote. WWF will [continue to stress](#) the importance of measures which push decarbonisation.

A key aspect of ending free allocation of allowances is it means higher amounts of allowances will be traded on the market, generating more revenues for Member States. WWF [published a report](#) showing EU governments lost € 54 bn to free allowances from 2013-2019 (see graph above for how this

number breaks down between Member States). What's more, of the money they did get, much was not spent on climate-friendly measures. WWF published a cartoon and [an article](#) explaining the loopholes of the system - including the very loose reporting requirements - and calling for them to be tightened to make more money available for the climate.

PUTTING PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE

The EU also proposed extending the ETS to cover transport and buildings. WWF has strong concerns about this as a carbon price in these sectors could directly impact consumers. To compensate for such potential impacts, the EU made a proposal for a Social Climate Fund (SCF). This is valued at € 72.2 bn from 2025 to 2032.

WWF is calling for the Social Climate Fund and the ETS revenues to be used to drive change. For example for sustainable renewables and transport, or energy efficiency measures - all of which would help deliver on the EU's 2030 climate and energy targets.

The Social Climate Fund should also provide time and support to help citizens support and get on board with the transition to a net-zero carbon Europe.

EVERYBODY COUNTS

WWF is also pushing for the 'effort sharing regulation' (ESR), which sets national targets for

emissions reductions in non-ETS sectors, to be maintained, and was [part of an online campaign](#) with other NGOs on this.

WWF will continue to be highly active in advocacy and communications on these files as they are discussed by ministers and the European Parliament in 2022.

WWF is also considering how to use the Fit for 55% package to win improvements to EU climate governance, for example by strengthening National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and requiring that all EU countries adopt a national climate neutrality target.

JUST TRANSITION

In addition to organising the events at COP26, and working closely on the Social Climate Fund proposal (see previous pages) WWF continued to run the Regions Beyond Coal project, financed by the German Environment Ministry (EUKI).

As part of this, we organised the fourth meeting of the Forum of Mayors - a group of coal city mayors who want to plan their post-coal futures - at the end of September.

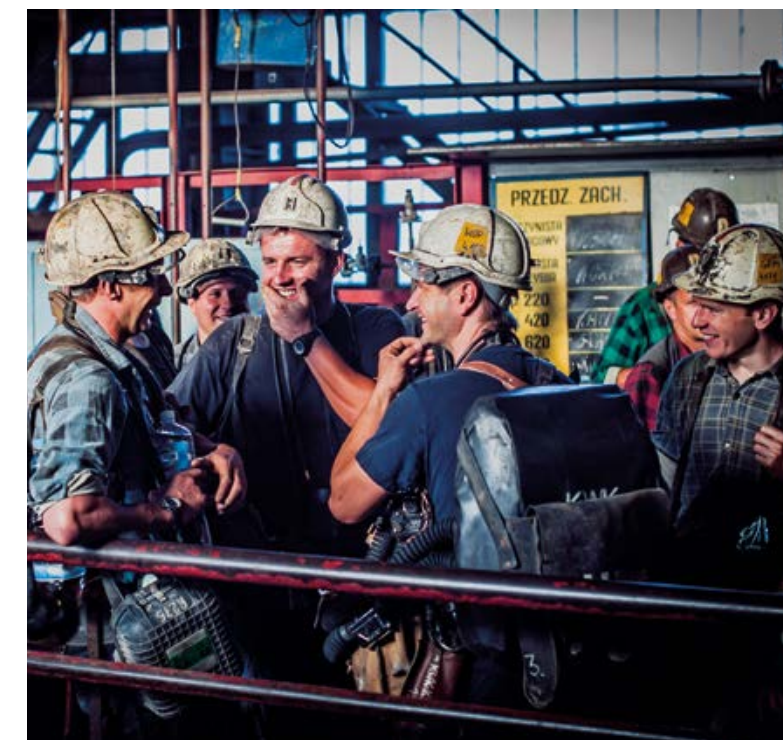
Hosted by Stara Zagora in Bulgaria, [the event](#) brought together EU Commission Executive First Vice President Timmermans with mayors from coal communities and hundreds of people from local administrations, business and NGOs.

71 coal city mayors from 11 European countries have [signed](#) a declaration in support of a sustainable future, promising to work to achieve zero carbon emissions in their municipalities. In April, we [published a report](#) looking at some European coal regions, showing that clean jobs can replace those linked to coal.

In February [we launched](#) a 'scorecard' tool, available online for anyone to use to assess their draft or final local level just transition plans - which are being prepared by Member States to apply for the EU's € 17.5 bn just transition fund.

In September, we published [an analysis](#) of 14 of these plans, with mixed results. Nine of the plans do not commit to ending fossil gas use by 2035, and eight will not have ended coal or oil shale by 2030. WWF and others wrote to the European Commission to urge for the plans to be brought in line with EU climate goals and sustainability and social principles.

On the current high energy bills, WWF is [publicly and clearly](#) making the point that they are linked to the surge in gas prices. To protect people and the climate, switching away from gas to



renewables is essential. WWF [signed a manifesto](#) with other NGOs calling for an end to fossil gas by 2035 in the EU.

HYDROGEN

WWF continues to be active within the Clean Hydrogen Alliance - a platform set up by the EU - to make sure the European Commission and EU governments [prioritise renewable hydrogen over fossil-based hydrogen](#).

OFFSHORE RENEWABLES

WWF calls for [offshore renewable energy development](#) to be combined with careful protection of nature.

In November [we reacted](#) to the report by the European Parliament's ITRE committee on offshore renewable energy. On the positive side, the report put energy efficiency first, which is key for climate action. It also supported information sharing between sectors, communities and industries that rely on a healthy ocean.

However, the report was not clear enough on where renewable energy projects may go. Offshore renewables should not be placed in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) - areas set aside to protect sea life.

For more details on WWF's work on offshore renewables, see the Oceans chapter (p. 42).

**OFFSHORE
RENEWABLE
ENERGY IS
ESSENTIAL,
BUT IT MUST
BE COMBINED
WITH CAREFUL
PROTECTION
OF NATURE**



SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES

“Where the Commission has not delayed policy action to make our financial system consistent with the Paris Agreement, it has engaged in greenwashing of harmful activities, such as fossil fuels. WWF will use 2022 to fix some of these mistakes.”

SEBASTIEN GODINOT
SENIOR ECONOMIST
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

HARNESSING THE POWER OF FINANCE TO CHANNEL INVESTMENTS INTO SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES

In 2021 WWF worked to bring investments into line with the EU's climate, environmental and social objectives by mobilising financial support for sustainable economic activities and discouraging or ending support for harmful ones.

- We played an active role in the political negotiations and technical work on the EU Taxonomy. We called for a science-based taxonomy that would benefit climate and nature.
- We have pushed the European Commission to publish an ambitious proposal on corporate governance and directors' obligations and to follow the timeline set in the EU Green Deal and the Action Plan on Sustainable Finance.
- We engaged with EU policymakers to ensure that meaningful, mandatory corporate sustainability reporting is put in place, especially in sectors that have a high impact on the environment.



MORE IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER

In 2021, the Commission released the renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy and kickstarted many legislations on sustainable finance. However, the year was mostly marked by the blatant greenwashing of the EU Taxonomy, a green investment guidebook that aims to show which economic activities are sustainable.

YOU CAN'T USE AN OLD MAP TO EXPLORE A NEW WORLD

The renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy published this year includes several positive steps that WWF welcomed, but [we raised concerns](#) about how and when the strategy commitments will be implemented. They have to be completed by legislative changes with an ambitious timeline.

In April, the Commission published its long-awaited proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive. WWF provided [concrete recommendations](#) to EU policymakers on corporate disclosure, a set of rules that will require companies to disclose information on their environmental and social impacts and risks. One of our key demands is that companies be required to publish short, medium and long-term science-based sustainability targets. The directive is now in the hands of the Council and the European Parliament.

More sustainable finance legislations were planned this year, but not all of them were completed. The publication of the Commission's proposal on Sustainable Corporate Governance, which was already delayed until October, has been postponed again to February or March 2022. In light of this recent delay and the lack of information around it, WWF and other organisations have voiced their concerns to the European Commission.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION POSTPONED THE HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO INCLUDE FOSSIL GAS AND NUCLEAR ENERGY IN THE TAXONOMY IN A SECOND LIST PLANNED FOR THE END OF 2021



© Paul Musiol / Greenpeace

RIP EU TAXONOMY

This year, the main focus of WWF's work was the EU's green finance rules - the EU Taxonomy - a green investment guidebook that aims to show which economic activities are sustainable. The development of the EU taxonomy has been plagued by industry lobbying and vested interests. WWF had to push back against many efforts from private industry and Member States to weaken the sustainability standards of the 'Delegated Acts' - the pieces of legislation which set out the sector-specific criteria in the taxonomy.

WWF has consistently called for a science-based taxonomy, based on criteria devised by the Commission's group of experts, known as the EU Platform on Sustainable Finance. This is why, when we saw the European Commission's final proposal for the first Delegated Act, we decided to [suspend our work within the Platform](#) and to [oppose the final version](#).

Though many of the criteria were robust, this first set of rules greenwashed industrial logging and burning trees for energy as 'sustainable' investments, which revealed significant problems in the taxonomy development process. After some positive signals from the European Commission [we resumed our work with the Platform](#). Neither the European Council nor the European Parliament opposed this first list of sustainable activities, and it officially became EU law in December.

The European Commission postponed the highly controversial decision on whether or not to include fossil gas and nuclear energy in the taxonomy in a second list planned for the end of 2021. A toxic alliance led by France, Poland and Hungary [aggressively lobbied the European Commission to protect their pet industries](#). To counter this, WWF [coordinated an open letter to the Commission](#), which was signed by 226 scientists, financial institutions and NGOs urging

the Commission's leadership to stand up to the pressure of private sector lobbies and Member States. In addition, WWF held a [mock funeral for the EU Taxonomy](#) to put further pressure on the Commission and raised concerns in the media.

The battle is far from over. The Commission may decide in early 2022 on the inclusion of gas and nuclear power. For the first list, the text contains review clauses for both bioenergy and forestry, which is the opportunity to bring the rules in line with climate science as soon as 2022. Furthermore, if gas and nuclear are included in the second Delegated Act, we will call on the European Parliament and the Council to reject it.

ENGAGING WITH ASSET OWNERS

WWF continued its work with asset owners - like pension funds and insurers - to channel the trillions of euros of people's money that they manage into sustainable investments. We notably finalised a [WWF paper on credible net-zero commitments from financial institutions](#). Additionally, WWF collected the analyses of over 150 investment managers to publish a [resource guide for asset owners](#) to help them select, appoint, and monitor investment managers who will ensure that their investments align with the Paris climate goals.

We took another step forward in engaging with asset owners by organising a series of four webinars to help them understand their impact on climate change. Our work with asset owners concluded with [an analysis](#) based on WWF's climate action survey 2021, which reviewed European asset owners' net-zero targets.



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NATURAL RESOURCES

“The jury is still out on the European Green Deal: Can it open a new era which goes beyond rhetoric and communication? At the end of 2021, citizens are still waiting for a real shift to ensure a respectful use of the natural resources of our planet.”

ANDREAS BAUMÜLLER
HEAD OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

NATURE IN EUROPE: FROM PROTECTION TO RESTORATION

The European Green Deal 2020 injected new hope for nature conservation in Europe, and important policy initiatives were announced. Unfortunately, the EU missed a unique opportunity to challenge the most significant threat to Europe's biodiversity - intensive agriculture - by chipping away at the environmental ambition of the reformed Common Agriculture Policy (CAP).

- Ahead of the European Commission's proposal for an EU nature restoration law (expected in early 2022), WWF and other NGOs actively campaigned for strong law, and this call was supported by more than 100,000 citizens.
- As a major win for WWF (and nature!), the European Parliament adopted a strong position on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030, in spite of attempts by industry lobbyists to water down some key elements.
- Both MEPs and Member States disregarded the ecological emergency by clinching a disappointing deal on the CAP which risks perpetuating a business-as-usual approach to agriculture, rather than supporting an agro-ecological transition in EU farming.
- Based on the current drafts of national river basin management plans, 90% of Europe's river basins will still be unhealthy by 2027. The plans must be significantly improved.



BIODIVERSITY

The fight for an ambitious EU nature restoration law continues

The European Commission is [finalising its proposal](#) for the EU nature restoration law, expected in early 2022. WWF, along with a coalition of NGOs, has been actively advocating for the inclusion of strong and measurable targets and for the law to provide new obligations, to complement the restoration requirements in existing legislation, like the EU Nature Directives.

In February, WWF launched a publication, [‘Nature restoration: Helping people, biodiversity & climate’](#), that brings nature restoration to life through a collection of real-world examples, in a high-level virtual event joined by Virginijus Sinkevičius, EU Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries. This report goes beyond biodiversity and climate with a focus on local people, from the flourishing ecotourism in Romania to local cooperation with fishers in France. All of the stories clearly demonstrate that nature restoration benefits people and the planet alike.



100,000+ VOICES FOR NATURE RESTORATION

Between January and April, the Commission asked the public to give their opinion on what nature restoration across the EU should look like. WWF supported a campaign led by Birdlife Europe to engage citizens in this public consultation, which mobilised over 100,000 people to submit calls for an ambitious law.

In June, following intense WWF advocacy work until the very last minute, the European Parliament [adopted a strong position](#) on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. Attempts from conservative MEPs and industry lobbyists to water down the paragraphs on the protection and restoration of forests failed, and in the end, Parliament called for an ambitious implementation of the Strategy and endorsed legally-binding nature restoration.

In the run-up to the vote, WWF, with the active involvement of the WWF network across Europe, convinced several key MEPs to endorse the report. We also continually informed EU media on the developments to ensure accurate coverage both in the lead-up to and following the vote. Our reaction

was covered widely in EU media, as well as several Member States.

Between July and August, WWF [published three factsheets](#) on the benefits of nature restoration for human health and wellbeing, the economy, and the climate.

Ahead of the first part of the UN Biodiversity talks (CBD COP) in October, we also called on the EU to lead the way to an ambitious agreement on the global biodiversity framework - including by adopting an ambitious restoration law at home.

GET MOVING FOR NATURE

That same month, WWF [organised a relay run](#) around the European Commission's headquarters in Brussels to highlight the links between human health and nature restoration. Done in partnership with Youth and Environment Europe, the run culminated in a meeting with Commissioner Sinkevičius. The runners – many of them children and young people – urged the Commissioner to present a law that is credible, ambitious and targeted in order to make a real difference and bring back Europe's nature for the benefit of the planet and the people.

In December, WWF and over 150 other NGOs [sent a letter](#) to the European Commission, urging Vice-President Frans Timmermans and Commissioner Sinkevičius to include ambitious 2030 targets in the proposal. In the face of the climate and biodiversity crises, we cannot afford to delay restoring large swaths of Europe's degraded ecosystems.

STANDING UP FOR FORESTS IN THE EU

In July, the European Commission presented its EU Forest Strategy, the drafting of which came under intense scrutiny from some Member States and the forest industry. Reaction to the final version of the strategy, [WWF expressed cautious optimism](#) about the final strategy but warned that it was watered down due to external pressure.

In October, WWF also [reacted to the publication](#) of a Court of Auditors' report which found that EU policies intended to address biodiversity and climate change in forests are very often not being implemented or adequately enforced. We called on the European Commission and the Member States to step up actions to ensure EU forests are genuinely protected.

COMMISSIONER SINKEVICIUS MET WITH #RUN4NATURE PARTICIPANTS CALLING FOR A STRONG RESTORATION LAW



© Peter Chadwick / WWF

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

THE FINAL CAPDOWN

The Common Agriculture Policy (CAP), the EU's oldest and costliest policy, has been at the centre of heated backroom debates over what its future should look like. In June, after months of protracted negotiations, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament [reached a political agreement](#) on the reform of the CAP, much to the dismay of those hoping for a more planet-friendly path for EU farming.

In the run-up to the agreement, WWF warned about the Member States' detrimental approach to the negotiations, as ministers adamantly chipped away at a more robust EU framework that could have forced them to follow the European Green Deal and increase the environmental ambition of the CAP. We [urged](#) the Parliament and the European Commission to take a stronger position, but the final deal, clinched in the last days of the Portuguese presidency of the Council, risks perpetuating a business-as-usual approach to agriculture, rather than supporting an agro-ecological transition in EU farming.

ALL EYES ON THE GROUND

The weakness of the deal agreed at the EU level does not imply that all hope is lost. Across the EU, WWF's offices are calling on national agricultural and environmental authorities to implement the CAP in a way that could still make a big difference on the ground. This could be achieved, for instance, by devoting the so-called eco-scheme funds to farmers who manage farmland with techniques that benefit biodiversity, convert to organic farming or adopt carbon-friendly practices like agroforestry.

In November, as the Member States finalised their national strategic plans - which outline how the CAP money will be spent - we [published an assessment](#) of the draft eco-scheme proposals, conducted jointly with Birdlife Europe and EEB. Of the 166 eco-schemes we looked at, less than 20% are likely to deliver on their environmental objectives. With the deadline fast approaching, we urged the Member States to improve their proposals and the Commission to assess them very critically when it reviews them in early 2022.

PARLIAMENT ENDORSES FARM TO FORK

The EU Farm to Fork strategy can be a game-changer because it breaks through silos and brings together multiple policy initiatives that aim to make the food system more sustainable. Doing so will make it easier for European consumers to buy food that is less damaging to the environment – something the majority already tries to do but finds difficult.

The Farm to Fork, alongside the Biodiversity Strategy, [celebrated its first anniversary](#) in May. In the following months, as the European Parliament prepared to vote on its own-initiative report on the Farm to Fork, WWF successfully called on the MEPs to withstand industry pressure and endorse the strategy's ambition. In October, the Parliament adopted its report and overwhelmingly endorsed the Farm to Fork.

Even if the vote is non-binding, it provides a clear mandate for the European Commission to move forward with the implementation of its transformative vision for how to minimise the health and environmental impacts of our food systems and make them more resilient to climate change.

FRESHWATER

This year marked the final sprint for Member States to finalise their river basin management plans for the next six years. Those plans will determine whether Member States will be able to reach the target set by the Water Framework Directive to bring all freshwaters to a ‘good status’ by 2027.

WWF mobilised various NGOs around Europe to screen the Member States’ draft ‘River Basin Management Plans’ - the key tools for implementing the EU Water Framework Directive - and assess them against the objectives of the law.

In June, we released the resulting report ‘[The Final Sprint](#)’, which analysed the first draft plans and found that only two out of 13 river basins would achieve a ‘good status’ by 2027. In October, we published the [second edition of the report](#), which, this time, analysed 21 draft plans. Our research revealed that 90% of the river basins studied will still be unhealthy by 2027 unless the final plans are significantly improved.

**RIVER BARRIERS
ARE ONE OF THE
LEADING CAUSES OF
THE MORE THAN
80%
DECLINE IN
FRESHWATER
BIODIVERSITY**

The fish and wildlife that live in our rivers are still under threat. According to a recent briefing by the European Environment Agency (EEA), river barriers, like hydroelectric dams, are one of the leading causes of the more than 80% decline in freshwater biodiversity and the loss of 55% of monitored migratory fish populations in Europe.

Right now, state aid for hydropower projects is allowed - meaning taxpayers’ money is spent on it, despite the damage it does to fish and freshwater life. In 2021, the European Commission revised its energy and environment state aid guidelines (CEEAG). Building upon our [hydropower manifesto](#), which over 150 NGOs supported, WWF called on the European Commission to no longer allow hydropower facilities to be eligible for state aid.

Unfortunately, there was no present under the Christmas tree for our rivers this year. The Commission published the CEEAG’s revision at the end of the year, and the new state aid guidelines will not improve river protection against hydropower projects. Instead, hydropower - and even nuclear and gas - is now labelled as a ‘green investment’.

Nevertheless, there is still hope for Europe’s rivers. In April, WWF published a report demonstrating the [massive potential of barrier removal](#) to restore free-flowing rivers in Europe, with 50,000 km of rivers in Europe showing a high and good potential to be made free-flowing once again. All we need is to break down the barriers, physically and metaphorically.



OCEANS

“Already home to some of the busiest seas on Earth, Europe is now witnessing a ‘blue gold rush’. Striking a balance between sustainable maritime activities and space for nature is essential. A healthy ocean puts food on our plates, and is a key ally to overcome the climate and biodiversity crises.”

DR ANTONIA LEROY
HEAD OF OCEAN POLICY
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

FINDING A BALANCE FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE IN OUR OCEAN

WWF continues to champion sustainable fisheries and seafood, and is working to ensure that achieving a climate-neutral EU by 2040 does not put the health of marine ecosystems at risk. Highlights include:

- Pioneering research on the socio-economic impacts of EU fisheries
- Supporting seafood trade companies from 20 Member States to call for legislation that secures fisheries transparency and seafood traceability in the EU
- Advocating for offshore renewable energy projects to support a healthy and resilient ocean
- Proposing a globally harmonised seafood traceability tool to curb illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

KEEPING EU FISHERIES UNDER CONTROL

2021 was intensely focused on the revision of the EU fisheries control system – the system of monitoring, inspection and enforcement for fishing operations in EU waters, and activities of the EU fleet globally.

The revision has put several key elements at stake and [one particularly alarming loophole](#) to effective fisheries management has been opened: the relaxation of reporting rules which would allow up to 40% of catches to go missing from records, and up to 50% in the case of tuna.

WWF, working with a coalition of eight other NGOs, is advocating for all fishing vessels to be required to report everything they catch, including sensitive and protected

species. Currently, over 49,000 [EU small-scale vessels](#) (those less than 12 metres long) remain mostly off fisheries authorities’ radars, obscuring the sustainable management of fisheries and life in our seas. A robust fisheries control system should mandate vessel tracking and catch reporting systems on all EU vessels, including [onboard cameras](#) for those which are deemed at highest risk of not complying with the rules. Furthermore, all seafood products available in the EU market, regardless of whether they are fresh or processed, wild-caught or aquaculture, of EU origin or imported, must be [digitally traceable from net to plate](#) to ensure that no illegally-caught seafood ends up on citizens’ plates.

Seafood industry stakeholders have also spoken up about the need for strong fisheries control in the EU. With WWF guidance and support, wholesalers, retailers and food

distribution companies representing 20 Member States and seafood trade both within and outside of Europe delivered a statement to the European Commission, national ministers and MEPs on the importance of seafood traceability and onboard cameras to help secure truly sustainable seafood in the EU market.

The European Commission, European Parliament and the Council have been engaged in trilogue negotiations since the summer, with the outcome for the new EU fisheries control system anticipated in 2022. WWF is advocating for improved and digitised traceability for all seafood products available in the EU, strong management measures to secure truly sustainable fisheries and proportionate sanctions to apply to those who break the rules. The success of implementing the EU Common Fishery Policy (CFP), which seeks to sustainably manage European fishing fleets and conserve fish stocks for present and future generations, depends on an effective control and enforcement system.

A GLOBAL SYSTEM FOR SEAFOOD TRACEABILITY

Successfully tracing seafood back to the point of catch not only ensures that fishers, processors, distributors and retailers are complying with relevant national and regional legal obligations, it helps combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, one of the largest global threats to the sustainable management of fisheries.

Many of the world’s most valuable fish stocks, such as tuna, which are also the most heavily affected by IUU fishing and often subject to overfishing, fall under the purview of regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs), the international organisations that regulate fishing activities in regions of the high seas. With an active role in 16 RFMOs, the EU is one of the most prominent actors in RFMOs worldwide.

In a joint report with the Environmental Justice Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Oceana, and the Pew Charitable Trusts, WWF led [an assessment of catch documentation schemes \(CDS\)](#), one of the tools utilised by RFMOs for improving seafood traceability and fighting IUU fishing. While all CDS require critical information to be recorded and transferred throughout the supply chain, the study revealed the extent to which each RFMO currently applies different standards with unique and often resource-intensive requirements. As a result, global progress to trace seafood along supply chains has been slow, leaving products consumed in the EU at risk of illicit origins.



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The report ‘[Seafood Traceability: Aligning RFMO catch documentation schemes to combat IUU fishing](#)’ proposes a baseline model for aligning and expanding CDS coverage globally to close the traceability loopholes. This first step of implementing processes across RFMOs for mutual recognition and interoperability of their systems could, ultimately, facilitate establishing a single, harmonised global CDS. This will increase efficiency for operators and authorities alike to curb IUU fishing, while decreasing administrative burden. It will also ensure that seafood on consumers’ plates does not put the resilience of the ocean, its resources or the food security and livelihoods of people who depend on it at risk.

TRACING SEAFOOD BACK TO THE POINT OF CATCH HELPS COMBAT ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING

ONLY **6**
OF THE 22
COASTAL
MEMBER
STATES
MET THE
DEADLINE
TO SUBMIT
PLANS FOR
SUSTAINABLE
SEA BASIN
MANAGEMENT

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HAND IN HAND: HEALTHY SEAS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

31 March 2021 marked the deadline for all Member States to submit their national plans for sustainable management and conservation of their seas. However, [only six Member States were on time](#), with the remaining two-thirds failing to comply with the deadline. In the plans that were submitted, critical gaps remain for how they will help meet key policy targets such as achieving Good Environmental Status in all EU waters as per the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (an objective whose deadline already passed in 2020) and protecting at least 30% of EU seas by 2030, including 10% strictly protected, as set out in the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) plays an important role for ensuring a balance between human activities in marine and coastal areas, and space for nature to thrive. In 2021, MSP

discussions in Brussels were closely focused on one key aspect of the use of European seas: offshore renewable energy. To limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C as set in the Paris Agreement, the EU must achieve climate neutrality by 2040, thereby eliminating fossil fuels and achieving a 100% renewables-based energy supply as soon as possible.

WWF is advocating for offshore renewable energy projects to be rooted in [an ecosystem-based approach](#) to their planning and operation – that is, that they must be considered within the broader context of our ocean’s degrading health as a result of overexploitation of resources, pollution, acidification and habitat destruction, to name a few causes. Beyond implications for biodiversity, failing to adopt an ecosystem-based approach to help curb this trend is problematic from a climate perspective, as the ocean plays a vital role in regulating our planet’s climate.

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In particular, WWF is advocating for renewable energy developments to [not be placed within Marine Protected Areas \(MPAs\)](#) or other areas that are ecologically valuable for sensitive species and habitats, as infrastructure such as wind turbines in these areas risk fragmenting important habitat structures, in turn diminishing ecosystem resilience to climate change.

The European Parliament has been preparing its response to the European Commission’s EU Strategy on Offshore Renewable Energy (published in November 2020). While [the position of the EP Committee on Industry, Research and Energy](#) called on the European Commission to intervene on Member State delays to sustainable sea basin management plans, it failed to adopt a clear position on renewable energy projects within MPAs. A plenary vote on the Committee’s report is expected in early 2022.

MSP can be an effective tool for the sustainable development of at-sea activities and support

the European Green Deal, while simultaneously ensuring there is space for nature to thrive and recover. Provided an ecosystem-based approach to MSP is applied, Member States can actively support both a sustainable blue economy in the EU and the preservation of marine ecosystems and services.

NOT SMOOTH SAILING FOR ALL EU FISHERIES

To coincide with the revision of the EU Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the WWF report [‘Socio-economic impacts of the EU Common Fisheries Policy’](#) evaluated the success of the CFP to conserve marine biological resources in balance with delivering high socio-economic performance, including fairness, profit, employment and compliance. It is the first NGO report of its kind to examine the socio-economic dimension of fisheries.

[The study](#) found that 43% of fishers in the bloc earned below national minimum wage in 2018, with the figure rising to 70% for those engaged in small-scale fisheries (vessels under 12 metres long). Further, between 2012 and 2018, the fleets of 15 Member States recorded net negative profits. While it is common for businesses to experience occasional losses, it is highly unlikely that operations would continue with such results. A fair standard of living is only one of the mandatory socio-economic objectives included in the CFP, which the study found to be often overlooked in practice.

However, the analysis also found a correlation between increased monitoring and control of fisheries, and decreasing cases of non-compliance with the rules of the CFP. This indicates that continued investment in fleet monitoring and control is necessary

Half of the infringements by EU vessels in 2018 engaged towed bottom-contacting fishing gear, which consume more fuel per unit of catch than other gear types, and are highly destructive to marine ecosystems and the seabed’s carbon storage systems.

WWF is calling for EU Member States to further investigate the socio-economic landscapes of their fisheries to devise tailored and appropriate next steps which support enforcement of the rules that will help ensure our seafood is sustainably harvested. This includes the elimination of the high rates of fuel tax exemption for bottom-contacting gear, as they are completely out of step with the EU objective for Good Environmental Status of its marine waters and the targets laid out in the EU Biodiversity Strategy.

NEARLY
HALF
OF EU FISHERS
EARN UNDER
NATIONAL
MINIMUM
WAGE

A woman wearing a traditional conical hat and a dark blue shirt is working in a rice field. She is holding a bundle of rice stalks. The background shows a vast field of rice plants under a clear blue sky.

EU INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

“The European Commission’s pledge to double its external funding for biodiversity sends a very important political signal ahead of the international biodiversity negotiations. We hope that this will inspire others to up their game in return, in order to help bridge the global \$700bn funding gap on biodiversity.”

KATARINA MACEJAKOVA
HEAD OF EU INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS
WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE

IN 2021, THE EU PAVED THE WAY FOR SIGNIFICANT INCREASES OF MUCH NEEDED FUNDING FOR BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE IN OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD.

- The objectives of the European Green Deal were integrated in the EU’s newly adopted ‘Global Europe’ instrument, the EU’s main financial instrument for external action, and its programming, translating into higher spending on biodiversity and climate.
- In September, President von der Leyen announced a doubling of EU external funding for biodiversity, in particular for the most vulnerable countries, and the allocation of an additional € 4bn for climate finance until 2027.
- WWF is urging the EU to tackle major drivers of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation in Africa through an integrated people-centred approach under the upcoming ‘NaturAfrica’ initiative, which puts rights and needs of local communities and indigenous peoples at the core of environmental and development efforts.



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MAKING THE GREEN DEAL WORK FOR EXTERNAL ACTION

In 2021, the EU strengthened its global leadership role by integrating the ambition of the European Green Deal in the newly adopted Global Europe instrument and programming, including significant increases in biodiversity funding and additional pledges for climate adaptation. WWF has provided input at every stage of the process.

THE NEED FOR A NEW GENERATION OF GREEN ALLIANCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

The EU is the largest donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and a major player in international environmental and development agreements, with significant influence over global policies. WWF has been advocating for the EU to step up its ‘green diplomacy’ efforts, by working with partner countries on a ‘new generation of green alliances and partnerships’ to help them meet their climate and biodiversity objectives and deliver an inclusive and just transition of their economies and societies.

EXTERNAL ACTION IN THE NEXT EU BUDGET

Higher investments are needed in the protection, restoration and sustainable management of natural resources, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in the EU’s partner countries. In 2021, WWF therefore continued [its advocacy work towards ambitious spending targets](#) for climate and environment under the Global Europe instrument, the EU’s main financial instrument for external action (previously called ‘Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument’ - NDICI) in the new 2021-2027 EU budget (MFF).

We have advocated for an integrated and inclusive landscape approach to nature protection and climate action that ensures ecological connectivity to deliver multiple benefits for local communities and critical biodiversity. Indeed, we believe that EU external action should incentivise investments that deliver benefits for climate mitigation, adaptation and nature protection, but also for health, livelihoods, regional economies and equality. The EU can play an important role

in working with partner governments and civil society to advocate and promote the recognition of indigenous people and local communities (IPLCs) who have been custodians of their lands over generations and intend to conserve these areas effectively for the long-term, by supporting their efforts to secure rights and strengthen the governance systems of their territories to build sustainable economies.

MORE FUNDING FOR GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE ACTION

During the 2021 State of the European Union Address in September, Commission President von der Leyen announced a doubling of EU external funding for biodiversity, in particular for the most vulnerable countries, and the allocation of an additional € 4bn for climate finance until 2027. The pledge means that close to 10% of the EU’s external budget of € 79.5bn for 2021-27 will go towards biodiversity, and the climate action allocations have increased to

35% (roughly € 28bn). In addition, during the UNFCCC COP26 in Glasgow in November, the EU committed to allocate € 1bn to the Global Forest Finance Pledge for deforestation work, a quarter of which in the Congo basin, to support partner countries to conserve, restore and ensure the sustainable management of forests. It also announced a new pledge of € 100 m in finance for the Adaptation Fund that will strike a better balance between climate mitigation and adaptation, particularly in the most vulnerable countries and for the benefit of their most vulnerable populations.

Against the backdrop of worsening environmental crises, the EU is taking a big and necessary step towards securing a nature-positive world through transformative actions and funding that will be key for partner countries to implement their biodiversity protection plans and to cope with climate related problems. The EU is already a major donor for biodiversity and climate finance but with the urgent need to scale up financing from all sources, including private and public funds, it is sending a very important political signal, and will hopefully inspire other parties.

COMMISSION PRESIDENT VON DER LEYEN ANNOUNCED A DOUBLING OF EU EXTERNAL FUNDING FOR BIODIVERSITY



THE NEW GLOBAL EUROPE INSTRUMENT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO MAKE THE GREEN TRANSITION A REALITY

In a vote in the European Parliament in October, MEPs endorsed a report (prepared by the Development Committee) calling for the EU to take seriously its responsibility towards halting global biodiversity loss in its development cooperation. The report calls on the EU to continue to reduce its biodiversity footprint worldwide, while also addressing the complex roots of biodiversity loss by focusing its external development policies on conservation, the sustainable use of resources, and the restoration of damaged ecosystems.

As the European Commission presented in 2021 a legislative proposal on deforestation (see p. 20) and other measures to stop products and commodities associated with deforestation or forest degradation from entering the EU market, Global Europe programmes should ensure that partner countries are supported in their compliance to these new requirements, but also to engage in a transition towards more sustainable land use.

THE NEW GLOBAL EUROPE INSTRUMENT

The Global Europe instrument (formerly NDICI), which was adopted in June 2021, has the potential to make the green transition a reality. WWF welcomed the instrument's increased climate and biodiversity targets for external action.

WWF has been advocating for the Green Deal's principles and ambitions to guide the programming process and implementation of all Global Europe programmes, as well as the economic recovery from Covid-19. We supported WWF offices across the world in their engagement with EU Delegations to ensure that environment, biodiversity and climate are prioritised.

The programming of the Global Europe instrument was concluded in December 2021 following the adoption of country, regional and thematic multi-annual indicative programmes (MIPs), which set out priority areas for EU cooperation with partner countries and regions around the world for 2021-27. WWF provided input to these MIPs, and considers that they will significantly contribute to climate action, biodiversity protection and green transition.

WWF also participated in the consultation processes on the new regional programmes covering [Sub-Saharan Africa](#), [Asia-Pacific](#), [Latin America](#) and Neighbourhood, and engaged in various consultations on the global thematic programmes such as [Global Challenges programme](#).

In addition, we provided inputs to the European Parliament DEVE/AFET strategic geopolitical dialogue with International Partnerships Commissioner Jutta Urpilainen on the Global Europe implementation in October.

TACKLING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN AFRICA

Africa has been a special focus of WWF's work, and we have provided input on the ongoing revision of the EU conservation policy for Africa - 'Larger than elephants'. Further, WWF has been advocating for the EU to tackle major drivers of biodiversity loss and environmental degradation in Africa through an integrated people-centred approach, notably in its new flagship 'NaturAfrica' initiative, which was announced during the IUCN congress in September 2021 and will be launched in 2022.

We have called for the initiative to support well managed protected area networks that involve and respect the rights of communities and indigenous peoples and link the well-being of people and nature through effective and participatory land use planning. This includes nature restoration, sustainable agriculture and freshwater resource management, infrastructure and other economic sectors where conservation drives inclusive green economic growth.

Ahead of the African Union (AU) and EU Ministerial meeting in October 2021 in Kigali, WWF, along with other NGOs, submitted joint recommendations suggesting priority areas for the future Africa - EU Green Transition partnership. Founded on the principles of climate and environmental action, the new EU - Africa Partnership Strategy must be strongly based

on the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity and relevant African conventions and environmental policies. The 6th EU-AU Summit is scheduled to take place in February 2022.

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT DAYS

The 14th edition of the [European Development Days](#) on 'The Green Deal for a Sustainable Future' took place virtually in June 2021. With six sessions ranging from sustainable and inclusive management of fisheries, farming with biodiversity, circular economy, bankable nature solutions and showcasing conservation projects in Russia and China, WWF was actively involved in this year's edition. All WWF sessions are available for replay on www.wwf.eu.

EMBEDDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONSERVATION

At global level, WWF has continued to address the recommendations of the 2020 independent review of its response to allegations of human rights abuses by some government rangers in Central Africa, India and Nepal. The review panel found no evidence that WWF staff directed, participated in or encouraged any abuses. But it also concluded that we must do more to ensure community voices are heard and their rights respected, as well as advocate for governments to uphold their human rights obligations as part of our efforts to better embed human rights into nature conservation.

In response to the recommendations, WWF has continued to implement strengthened [environmental and social safeguards](#) in all major landscapes to manage risk and safeguard human rights in conservation projects; established grievance mechanisms in every country; appointed an independent ombudsperson; reinforced human rights training for WWF staff; shared an affirmative human rights statement with key government partners and embedded human rights into any new contracts; joined a global coalition seeking UN recognition of the right to a healthy environment; and conducted a [public consultation](#) on our recently revised draft social policies.

WWF is also a founding member of the '[Global Code of Conduct for Rangers](#)' by the International Ranger Federation and the Universal Ranger Support Alliance.

For more information and a detailed one year progress report, please consult wwf.panda.org/independentreview.

WWF HAS BEEN ADVOCATING FOR THE EU TO TACKLE MAJOR DRIVERS OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND NATURE DEGRADATION IN AFRICA



OUR DONORS, PARTNERS & ALLIES

The success of WWF’s policy work at EU level depends on external funding for our priority work, a coordinated and supportive network and strong alliances with key stakeholders and partners.

WWF NETWORK

Throughout the year, many WWF offices provided WWF EU with their expertise and advocacy support. We are particularly grateful to the 17 network offices which contributed financially to our policy and communications activities and campaigns. This support makes it possible for WWF EU to engage in a broad range of policy and legislative processes and represent the voices and concerns of 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, OCEANS 5, the Walton Family Foundation and the Ocean Azul Foundation.

BUSINESS ALLIANCES

Our effectiveness is enhanced by our cooperation with leading business groups and individual companies joining forces with WWF to build common advocacy positions and carry out joint activities.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND DEVELOPMENT AID AGENCIES

We receive an operational grant from the EU Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) 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.

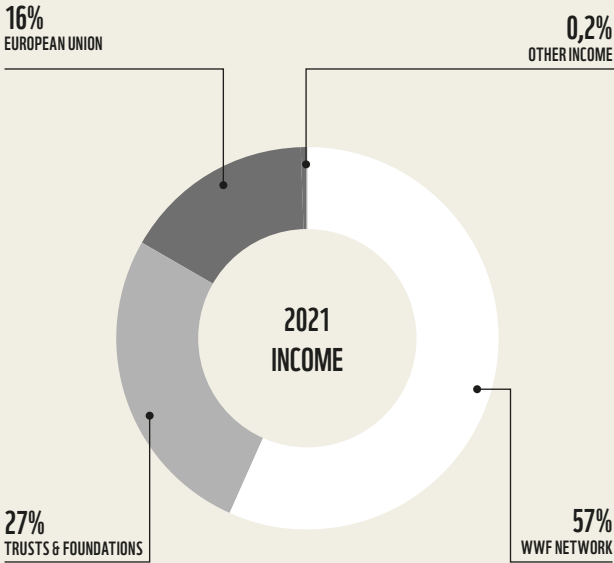
CIVIL SOCIETY

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; as part of the Sustainable Europe coalition, the Living Rivers Europe coalition, and as a member of the European Habitats Forum (EHF) and the Offshore Coalition for Energy and Nature. WWF is also a member of the EU IUU Fishing Coalition and the EU Fisheries Control Coalition.

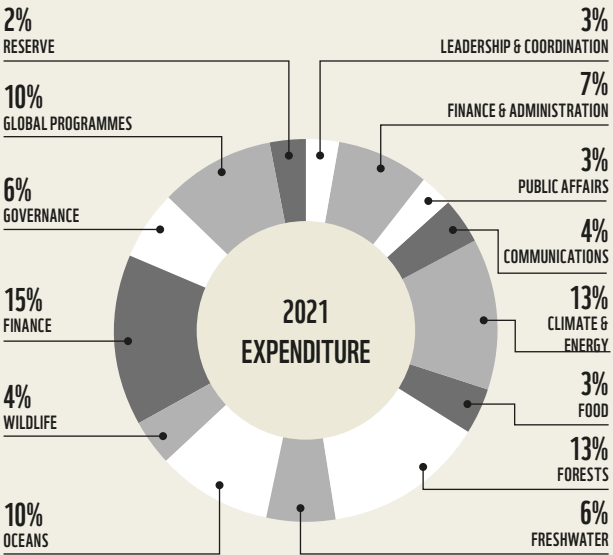
We also contribute to the following organisations: Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS), Fédération des Associations Européennes (FAIB), Market Advisory Council, North Sea Advisory Council, Long Distance Advisory Council (LDAC), and the Coalition for Energy Savings.

OUR BUDGET

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2021



TOTAL INCOME	€ 4,974,830	100%
WWF Network	€ 2,817,796	57%
Trusts & Foundations	€ 1,350,726	27%
European Union	€ 797,689	16%
Other Income	€ 8,619	0,2%



TOTAL EXPENDITURE	€ 4,974,830	100%
Leadership & Coordination	€ 144,222	3%
Finance & Administration	€ 371,854	7%
Public Affairs	€ 133,200	3%
Communications	€ 189,776	4%
Climate & Energy	€ 623,165	13%
Food	€ 171,840	3%
Forests	€ 664,301	13%
Freshwater	€ 300,854	6%
Oceans	€ 508,669	10%
Wildlife	€ 198,245	4%
Finance	€ 740,178	15%
Governance	€ 309,996	6%
Global Programmes	€ 495,158	10%
Reserve	€ 123,372	2%



THE WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE TEAM*

* as of 1 January 2022

LEADERSHIP

Ester Asin
Director

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Tycho Vandermaesen
Head, Public Affairs

Rebecca Humphries
Senior Public Affairs Officer

COMMUNICATIONS

Angelika Pullen
Communications Director

Sarah Azau
Media & Communications Manager

Liesbeth Van den Bossche
EU Campaign Manager

Larissa Milo-Dale
Senior Communications Officer, Marine

Alejandra Morales
Senior Communications Officer, Deforestation

Bartosz Brzezinski
Communications Officer, Biodiversity & Agriculture

Inès Abbas
Communications Officer, Water & Sustainable Finance

Florence Danthine
Communications Assistant

Raquel Sancho Rovira
Campaign Officer

CLIMATE & ENERGY

Imke Lübbecke
Head, Climate & Energy

Alex Mason
Senior Policy Officer, Climate & Energy

Katie Treadwell
Energy Policy Officer

Camille Maury
Policy Officer, Decarbonisation of Industry

Romain Laugier
Climate & Energy Policy Officer

Shirley Matheson
Global NDC Enhancement Coordinator

Jonathan Packroff
Climate & Energy Policy Assistant

OCEANS

Dr Antonia Leroy
Head of Ocean Policy

Odran Corcoran
Marine Policy Officer

Agnieszka Korbel
Seafood Policy Officer

Helena Rodrigues
Ocean Policy Officer

Louis Lambrechts
Ocean Policy Assistant

The WWF European Policy Office is made up of a truly international team representing 12 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 2021, we continued to be adaptable and work in a highly unpredictable, ensuring a safe working environment and providing our staff with the necessary technical expertise, flexibility and management support. This enabled us to deliver at our best even 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!

OPERATIONS

Florence Mouné
HR Manager

Léa Teheux
Finance Manager

Laurence Jacques
Finance Officer

Denis Portael
IT Manager

Diana Rubini
Assistant to the Director; Green 10 Coordinator

NATURAL RESOURCES

Andreas Baumüller
Head, Natural Resources

Anke Schulmeister
Senior Forest Policy Officer

Sabien Leemans
Senior Biodiversity Policy Officer

Jabier Ruiz
Senior Policy Officer, Agriculture & Food

Claire Baffert (maternity leave)
Senior EU Policy Officer, Water

Giulia Riedo (maternity cover)
EU Policy Officer, Water

Audrey Chambaudet
Policy Officer, Wildlife Trade & Wildlife Crime

Hortense Le Merle
Project Officer

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES

Sébastien Godinot
Senior Economist

Julia Linares
Senior Sustainable Finance Policy Officer

Henry Eviston
Sustainable Finance Policy Officer

Mathilde Nonnon
Sustainable Finance Policy Assistant

EU INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Katarina Macejakova
Head, EU International Partnerships

Caroline Lemerle
EU Programme Funding Coordinator

Muriel Uden
EU Partnerships Assistant

WWF OFFICES IN EUROPE

Austria
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TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE



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

together possible™

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WWF European Policy Office, 123 rue du Commerce, 1000 Brussels.

For contact details and further information, please visit our website at www.wwf.eu