



WWF

ANNUAL  
REVIEW

EU

2018



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WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organisations, with over five million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries.

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

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

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# FOREWORD



Ester Asin  
Director  
WWF European  
Policy Office

It's an honour to present my first annual report as Director of the WWF European Policy Office. If I've joined WWF at this point in time, it's because I believe that deep changes in our societies are not only needed, but possible - changes in the way we live, produce our food, consume, move, design policies, and in the way public and private funds are spent. The best way to better protect Europe and its people is by tackling climate change and by "making nature great again", instead of erecting fences. We can decarbonise our economies and create jobs that will be sustainable and drive a 'just' energy transition; we can protect our nature and the resources it provides; we can move to an attitude of 'less is more' to make sure our consumption of

natural resources stays within planetary boundaries.

Our annual report highlights how these changes can happen through policy, campaigns and communications work. How we mobilise the sound expertise of EPO and the WWF global and European network to achieve impact, and how we engage with different stakeholders, including the private sector, citizens, and allies from other civil society organisations.

As one of the few global players still believing in multilateralism, the EU should remain a global standard-setter on environmental policies. As the current European Commission enters into the final stages of its mandate, its recent publication of the much awaited Reflection Paper on SDGs has paved the way to put sustainability at the core of the next Commission's priorities and aligning the environmental, economic and social agendas. 2019 will be a special year for those who believe in the European project - the stakes for our

planet, and for Europe itself, have never been higher. This is why WWF launched its call for a *"European Sustainability Pact – for a safer, more competitive and responsible EU"*. As a response to the looming challenges, and to the anxiety about the EU's future, we urge future EU leaders and elected representatives to put people's wellbeing in a thriving environment at the centre of their thinking. Globally, in the coming two years, we have an opportunity to put our world on a pathway to a truly sustainable future – to strike a New Deal for Nature and People. If we get it right, we can create an unstoppable movement for nature, and inspire the EU to take a leadership role in driving such a deal.

I started my journey in the panda family in October 2018, and I am inspired every day by the passion and commitment to protect our planet for this and the future generations. 2019 will be a special year for EPO too, as we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary. 30 years of outstanding policy,



Andrea Kohl  
handed the baton  
of EPO leadership  
to Ester Asin  
in October 2018

communications and campaign work which would have not been possible without the past and present EPO teams, and the WWF network. I'd like to particularly thank Andrea Kohl, who led EPO as Interim Director throughout 2018, and every member of the team, for making this office and this organisation a unique place to work. Thank you to our partners, the national and regional offices of WWF, and our friends in

civil society. "Together Possible" is WWF's motto, and I genuinely believe this to be true.

*Ester Asin*



Karmenu Vella,  
European Commissioner  
for Environment,  
Maritime Affairs  
and Fisheries

## GUEST FOREWORD

**O**n nature, we, as a society, need to be supporting life before we end up on life-support. Preserving, protecting and improving the state of nature are fundamental for the EU. Nature and the economy are intertwined. The basis for sustainable and healthy economic growth is the recognition of this fact. Acting on this is the

best investment for the long-term stability and security of our continent and our planet.

Human activities are pushing beyond the planet's boundaries. Our appetite remains insatiable as our resources shrink. We must urgently address our production and consumption patterns if we are to avoid ecological collapse. WWF's 2018 Living Planet Report further emphasised the need for action.

WWF has been instrumental in raising this awareness for many decades, delivering scientific facts and evidence-based messages to a broad range of audiences, including EU decision-makers. I have grown to appreciate the organisation as a valuable partner during my time as European Commissioner for the last five years.

I have witnessed, first-hand, the significant support that WWF's policy advocacy and campaigning work has had on policy decisions. This includes the #NatureAlert campaign a couple of years

ago, which contributed to the Commission's decision not to jeopardise the EU nature laws.

WWF's analysis of the state of implementation of the directives issued last year provided helpful input to identify the main priorities in this regard. 2018 brought several successes for enforcing compliance with EU laws and driving protection of some of Europe's most precious natural areas. These include infringement procedures led by the Commission (such as against the Polish government over logging in the Białowieża forest and the recently launched court case against Spain over the destruction of the Doñana wetlands, both of which WWF campaigned for). Further, the Commission launched a European pollinators initiative to address the rapid decline of one of the most iconic and vital "services" that nature provides us.

WWF has also actively supported our efforts to curb plastic pollution and marine litter. This culminated in the adoption of the EU Single-Use

Plastics Directive at the end of 2018, making the EU the first region in the world to issue such wide-ranging legislation.

Of course, reducing plastics alone will not be sufficient to save our ocean. It was heartening to see the global community come together for better protection of our marine environment at the Our Ocean conference in October. Again, the WWF gave vocal and practical support. On this occasion, the EU made significant commitments for improving the condition of our ocean, including investments to support Europe's sustainable blue economy.

With two years until the Convention on Biological Diversity's deadline, 10% of all EU waters have now been designated as Marine Protected Areas. Reserving these areas to protect and support our marine biodiversity is a fundamental step on the way to establishing an integrated network of Marine Protected Areas across Europe, which, given effective management, adequate funding and

robust enforcement, can provide benefits for both conservation and economic growth.

With 2019 marking the final year to reach the sustainability objectives of the Common Fisheries Policy, WWF's recent report shows that we are still a far cry from meeting the 2020 deadline. We all need to work together to achieve truly sustainable fisheries and safeguard the long-term viability of this vital economic sector.

I wish to thank WWF for its relentless work in providing scientific evidence and ringing the

alarm bells on nature's decline, and for ensuring that these pressing challenges receive continued political attention at the highest levels. The ongoing #ProtectWater campaign to prevent a revision of the EU water laws is a further good example of WWF standing up for some of our most vulnerable ecosystems: our lakes and rivers.

I look forward to continuing to work towards our common objective of a truly sustainable Europe, in which humans can live in harmony with nature.

*Karmenu Vella*



Coto Doñana National Park, Andalucia, Spain



# CLIMATE AND ENERGY







The EU is the first region to set a zero emissions target for 2050



According to the IPCC report, we have 12 years to limit global warming to 1.5°C



New EU targets for energy efficiency & renewable energy were set in 2018; now we need national plans to meet them

# CLIMATE AND ENERGY



*“2018 was a defining year in the fight against climate change. The EU became the first emitter to propose a strategy to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, although the success of the strategy will be dependent on its implementation. The EU bloc has the support of its citizens, who have been protesting en masse to support stronger climate action.”*

Imke Lübbecke,  
Head of Unit,  
Climate & Energy

## THE CLEAN ENERGY PACKAGE

In 2016, the European Commission had proposed its “Clean Energy for All Europeans” package, which was adopted by the European Parliament and Council in 2018. This comprehensive legislative package sets EU 2030 targets for energy efficiency and renewable energy and requires Member States to develop

2018 saw important steps towards positive climate leadership from the EU with the adoption of the “Clean Energy Package”, and the release of its long-term climate strategy, which targets a net-zero emissions bloc by 2050. WWF has been pushing for faster and greater ambition.

National Energy and Climate Plans to help deliver them as part of a new Energy Governance regulation. This regulation integrates climate and energy planning, reporting and monitoring requirements.

WWF engaged throughout 2018 in decisive steps of the legislative procedure of the Clean Energy Package. The engagement with the European Parliament was particularly fruitful, with some key WWF asks incorporated in the Parliament’s position and, after negotiations with the Council of the European Union, in the final text of the laws.

On energy efficiency, the EU set a 2030 goal to reduce energy

consumption by at least 32.5% by 2030. While WWF, together with other civil society and business stakeholders, was supporting a 40% energy efficiency target, the agreed level of ambition is higher than what was initially proposed by the Commission (30%). More stringent energy efficiency rules, including for the building sector, were also agreed.

On renewable energy, the EU agreed a 2030 target of 32% - far from the 45% that WWF and other NGOs were calling for but again significantly above the 27% initially proposed by the Commission. WWF EPO, working with several NGOs, played a crucial role in setting out the need for higher ambition for the Clean Energy Package to



## WILL YOUR ENERGY MINISTER WALK THEIR TALK ON CLIMATE ON 11 JUNE?

What Energy Ministers tell people they do at EU meetings



"We must save the climate!"

What Energy Ministers really do at EU meetings



"Keep fossil fuels alive!"

What Energy Ministers should do on 11 June at their EU meeting



"More renewables & energy efficiency  
= safer climate, cleaner air, better jobs.  
It's a deal!"

meaningfully contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Agreement.

Unfortunately, the sustainability criteria for bioenergy fall far short of what is needed, allowing continued growth in the use of biofuels from purpose grown crops (for example made from food and feed crops) and containing no restrictions on the types of forest biomass that can

benefit from incentives. This means that Member States will need to introduce stricter rules at national level - a possibility that we advocated for and that was, thankfully, included in the final text. WWF and its national offices will work together over 2019 to ensure effective implementation of the package by Member States.

### THE EU'S LONG-TERM CLIMATE STRATEGY: A GAME-CHANGER

On 22 March 2018, the European Council invited the Commission to present a proposal for a strategy for long-term EU greenhouse gas emissions reduction in accordance with the Paris Agreement. This draft strategy was presented in November 2018, about six weeks after the IPCC had published its special



# IMPLICATIONS FOR BIODIVERSITY OF GLOBAL WARMING: 1.5°C

One ice-free  
Arctic summer per  
**100  
YEARS**

Limiting warming to  
**1.5°C** rather than 2°C  
would prevent the  
thawing over centuries  
of 1.5 – 2.5 million km  
of permafrost

**70-90%**  
decline of  
**CORAL REEFS**

Ranges of  
**MARINE  
SPECIES**  
shifted to higher  
altitudes

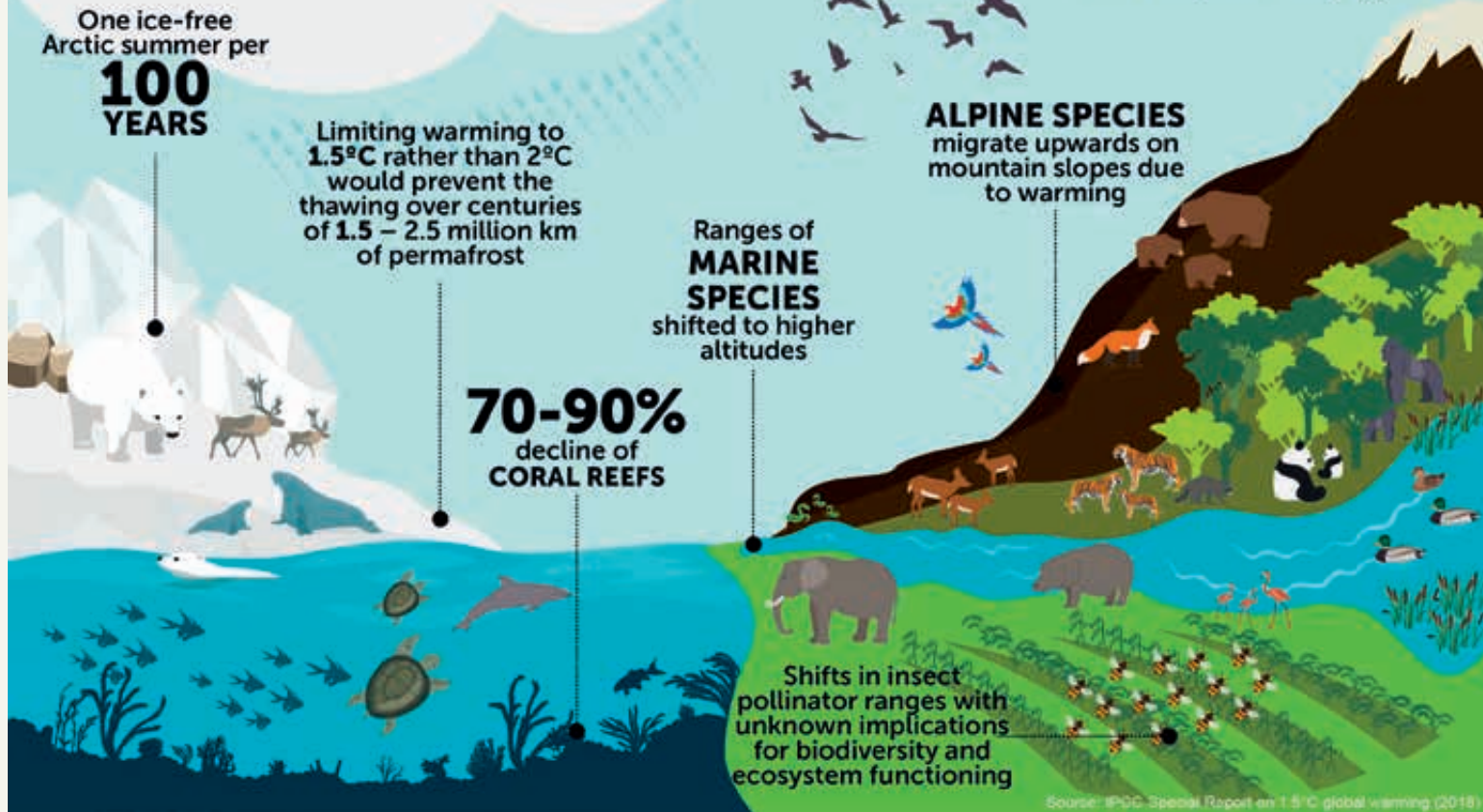
**ALPINE SPECIES**  
migrate upwards on  
mountain slopes due  
to warming

**6%** **4%** **8%**  
insects vertebrates plants

Over half of their  
climate-determined geographic  
range, species adapt more slowly,  
new ecosystems may appear

Shifts in insect  
pollinator ranges with  
unknown implications  
for biodiversity and  
ecosystem functioning

Source: IPCC Special Report on 1.5°C global warming (2018)



report on 1.5C. WWF and other NGOs had been calling for the early development of an EC long-term strategy to ensure the EC's ambition could inspire national long-term strategies, due to be delivered by 1 January 2020.

The resulting documents - a 25-page strategy titled *"A Clean Planet for all - A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy"*, backed up by a 400-page 'staff working document' containing detailed analysis - marked a major change in international climate politics, as the EU became the first major economy to plan on achieving net-zero emissions. Although WWF is still calling for an even earlier date, namely 2040, for the EU to reach a net-zero goal, the fact that the Commission set out clearly that reaching this objective was both technically feasible and socially desirable was a major step forward in the fight against climate change.

The EU's strategy emphatically recognises the large co-benefits

that a shift to net-zero emissions would bring, from massive savings to the health sector and in fossil fuel imports, to the creation of new jobs and industries. Of the eight scenarios modelled by the Commission, only the last two, which reach zero net emissions, can be considered consistent with the Paris Agreement, and only the last is close to being aligned with WWF's recommendations. This last scenario involves a shift to a fully circular economy and the use of nature-based solutions to carbon dioxide removal rather than relying on unrealistic amounts of bioenergy with carbon-capture and storage (BECCS).

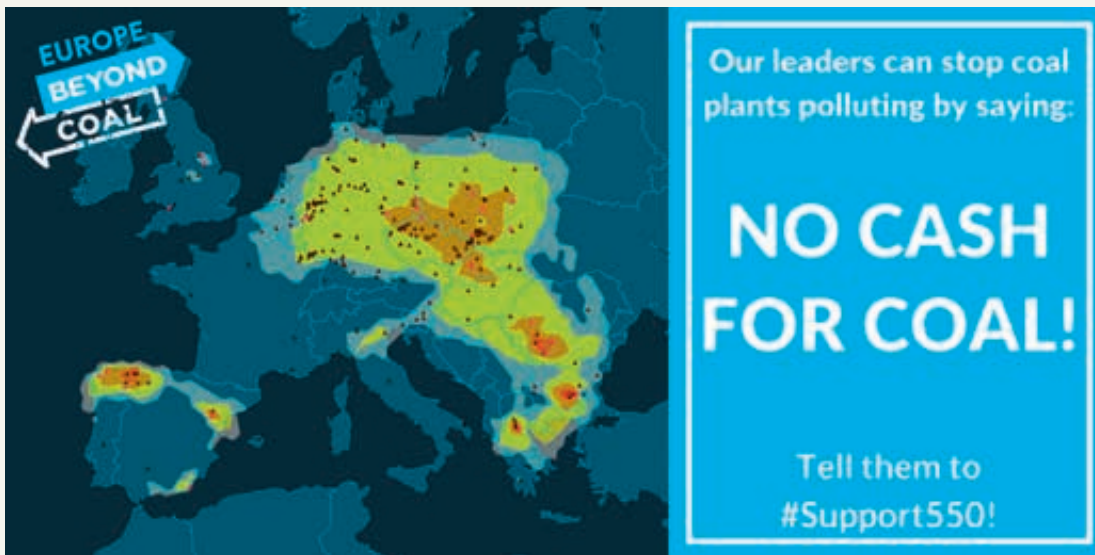
## REDUCING INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

The EC's long-term climate strategy recognised the need for the full decarbonisation of resource and energy intensive industries in Europe, such as steel, cement and chemicals producers, which are not currently on track to meet the Paris Agreement targets. It is

very encouraging to see that the European Commission is finally getting serious about these resource and energy intensive industries, which are responsible for about one fifth of the EU's total carbon emissions. WWF has supported analysis on ways in which the most polluting European industries could decarbonise, and is working to build confidence in the feasibility of a carbon neutral heavy industry.

Increasingly, research points to tangible and feasible full decarbonisation pathways for cement, chemicals and steel. Not all solutions and technologies are commercially available to the extent needed, but it is clear that a broad portfolio of decarbonisation options exists for heavy industry. The European Commission's analysis confirms this, showing vast opportunities for a zero-carbon transition through circularity, investment in energy saving, renewable energy and clean breakthrough technologies.





WWF will continue the work with partners to call on the European Commission to intensify work to deliver a climate-proof industrial strategy and policy framework.

### GETTING EUROPE BEYOND COAL

The gradual phase-out of coal is an inevitable reality, and it is already happening. Nevertheless, there are still 272 operating coal plants in Europe. WWF's work focuses

on driving the energy transition away from coal and other polluting fossil fuels, while at the same time ensuring a comprehensive "Just Transition" strategy to minimise hardship for coal communities, and to shift local economies towards more sustainable activities.

WWF co-convenes the Europe Beyond Coal Network's "Just Transition" workstream, alongside CEE Bankwatch, and is closely engaging with the European

Commission's multi-stakeholder "coal regions in transition platform", which was launched in December 2017 and whose work is ongoing.

The debate on Just Transition is turning from defining the idea to ways of implementation. In order to inform the development of appropriate policy frameworks, WWF is delivering evidence for how Just Transition in Europe works. There is growing political attention on this issue: COP24 in Poland saw over 25 side events on Just Transition alone.

Throughout 2018, WWF has led advocacy work focused on the development of the cohesion funds, which aim to reduce economic and social disparities and to promote sustainable development in less-economically developed regions of the EU. WWF has pushed for the exclusion of fossil fuels from these funds, and for the provision of funding for the Just Transition.

Another focus of WWF's engagement related to the "coal to clean" work,

## Relevant SDGs



which started off in 2018. WWF has participated in the coal to clean task force, created by the Europe Beyond Coal campaign, to address the risks associated with coal conversion to biomass. This issue will become a growing area of debate as more and more coal plants shut down.

### THE MAXIMISER PROJECT ON LONG-TERM CLIMATE STRATEGIES

For three years (from 2016 to 2018), WWF ran the MaxiMiseR project, which was funded by the EU LIFE Programme for the Environment and MAVA Foundation. The project's aim was to help EU Member States fulfil their Low Carbon Development Strategy commitments by developing meaningful strategies, and identify funding options for decarbonisation to support the EU's transition to a low carbon society.

During the last six months of the project, WWF organised several information and learning exercises on best practices in the development of long-term climate strategies.



The project team also updated the project's iconic Guidance Report, produced a summary brochure of the project's results, and published a socio-economic assessment on the impact of low-carbon strategies on citizens. The project's findings were widely used within the WWF network and external stakeholders.

**MaxiMiseR**  
STRATEGIES FOR A LOW CARBON EU BY 2040





# SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES





The EU is a frontrunner in driving sustainability in the financial sector



New legislation requires banks to disclose their climate and other environmental risks



61% of large European asset owners are actively engaging in forward-looking climate scenario analysis

# SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES



*“While not perfect, the Commission’s Sustainable Finance Action Plan is the most ambitious one in the world, and sets a comprehensive reform pathway for the next three to five years. It also confirms that the EC’s expert group, which WWF was part of, was the game-changer to rethink finance policies for sustainability.”*

Sébastien Godinot,  
Economist

2018 was a groundbreaking year for sustainable finance in the EU, as the European Commission put forth a Sustainable Finance Action Plan, essentially based on the recommendations of the EU High-Level Expert Group on sustainable finance, of which WWF was a member.

## EU SUSTAINABLE FINANCE ACTION PLAN

The EU Commission published its Sustainable Finance Action Plan in March 2018, outlining ten complementary areas to mainstream sustainability in the financial system and to develop sustainable investments – including action points on disclosure, credit rating agencies, prudential rules (minimum capitals required to banks and insurers), retail investors, financial regulators, corporate governance, and others.

The Action Plan makes the EU a world-leader in the sustainable finance space, although it still falls short of the Paris Agreement’s ‘well below 2°C’ goal and other EU environmental objectives on

biodiversity, water, and nature conservation.

Many of WWF’s key asks were included in the Action Plan, such as:

- Integration of sustainability into EU investor duties, through mandatory disclosure;
- European standards for green bonds and ecolabel, building on an EU sustainability taxonomy (a classification system of sustainable sectors);
- Requirement for investment advisers to ask about and respond to sustainability preferences of retail clients;
- Sustainability mandate for European Supervisory Authorities, the three EU financial regulators.



Following the plan's launch, the European Commission made five legislative proposals: two for laws requiring investors to ask for their retail clients' environmental and social preferences and act upon them, and one to introduce an EU 'green taxonomy'. WWF has also

been calling for a 'brown' taxonomy to be added over time, to clarify what precisely unsustainable investments are.

An important file was successfully finalised in 2018 as part of the banking package: it requires

almost all EU banks to disclose their environment-related risks as from 2022 – a major step towards 'mainstreaming' sustainability disclosure.





## ASSESSMENT OF EUROPEAN ASSET OWNERS' PORTFOLIO

In December, WWF published a report, funded by the KR Foundation, assessing how Europe's largest asset owners' portfolios are aligned to the goals of the Paris Agreement. Findings were based on the information provided by 33 asset owners in six countries for a set of key climate-relevant technologies: coal power, renewable power, coal mining, oil production and gas production.

There are encouraging indications of a growing recognition among asset owners of the importance of climate-related financial risks and opportunities. 55 out of the 88 contacted asset owners (61 percent) are actively engaging in forward-looking climate scenario analysis - the most relevant approach for investors on climate change.

The analysis found that there are clear differences between countries in terms of willingness of asset owners to participate and

disclose climate alignment findings. In Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden) the results saw extensive disclosure of climate alignment results and several investors are actively engaged in international initiatives. In the Netherlands and France, there was some degree of disclosure, while this was entirely missing in other countries (Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom).

Overall, much greater efforts are needed to ensure that public equity and corporate bond investments align with the ‘well-below 2°C’ transition. It is encouraging to see that asset owners’ investments are partly aligned with that goal for some of the technologies included in the WWF research. However, none of the asset owners is aligned for all technologies.

This project also informs WWF EPO’s policy engagement, since it demonstrates investors’ interest in such assessments, as well as the feasibility and robustness of the methodology and tools developed.

## EBRD IMPROVES ITS ENERGY LENDING POLICY... BUT NOT ENOUGH

WWF worked closely on the review of the energy lending policy of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The review was concluded at the end of 2018, with mixed results.

On the positive side, the EBRD ends support for upstream oil (exploration and extraction), makes renewables central, updates its shadow carbon prices in a bold way, and is explicit about the need to align its energy policy with the Paris Agreement. However, the bank does not end support for upstream gas (which is weaker than the 2017 World Bank’s commitment), nor for corporate finance for coal; it is not explicit on the “energy efficiency first” principle, nor does it improve its hydropower requirements.

As a result, the review can be assessed as a real step forward, although it still falls short of aligning with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

### Relevant SDGs



# NATURAL RESOURCES







**Only 40% of EU surface waters are currently healthy**



**Biodiversity still in decline: Food systems are responsible for 60% of terrestrial biodiversity loss**



**EU saves Polish forest: Logging deemed illegal in Białowieża forest**

# NATURAL RESOURCES



*“The state of European rivers, lakes and wetlands is shocking. This is hardly surprising, given that Member States have been skirting around their legal commitments under the EU Water Framework Directive for the best part of two decades. In 2018, we urged citizens to join forces through the #ProtectWater campaign and make their voices heard. We all need clean water and without the EU water law, this will be under serious threat.”*

Andreas Baumüller,  
Head of Unit,  
Natural Resources

The Natural Resources unit works on a variety of nature conservation topics, with particular focus on freshwater, biodiversity, agriculture and forest policies. Over the past year we launched the #ProtectWater campaign to keep the EU water law strong.

## BIODIVERSITY

**W**WF has continued its strong commitment to protecting Europe’s diverse range of habitats and species by advocating for the full enforcement and implementation of the EU Nature Directives. Following the highly successful #NatureAlert campaign in 2015-17, WWF and its partners released a report in April, *The State of Implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives in the EU*, which scored 18 Member States and found that the majority were failing to adequately implement the EU Nature Directives. While full implementation is achievable, it is clear that stronger ambition

and sufficient funding is needed to ensure best practice examples become the norm across the EU.

In May, WWF EPO with over 200 organisations called upon the EU to increase its investment in the EU LIFE programme, the only funding instrument dedicated to nature protection and climate change, from 0.3% to 1% of the next budget. Over the course of the year, the EC and the European Parliament (EP) took their respective stances on the budget allocation for LIFE. The EC proposed a moderate increase, whereas the EP voted in December to double the allocation to 0.6% of the budget. While WWF welcomed this increase, it is also clear that

more funding is needed if the EU is to meet its biodiversity and climate targets. We will continue to vehemently call for a 1% of the overall budget to be allocated to LIFE.

April brought a clear victory for Europe's wildlife with a European Court of Justice (ECJ) decision, confirming it was illegal to increase logging in Białowieża national park in Poland, one of Europe's last virgin forests. After three years of campaigning by WWF-Poland with partners on the ground and support from the European network coordinated by EPO, the ruling was a great win for nature and a signal to EU governments that they must comply with the Nature Directives.

The #SavePirin campaign also celebrated a big success after a tumultuous year for the Pirin national park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Bulgaria's premier protected area. The Bulgarian government's attempts to open up 48% of Pirin for an expansion of the Bansko ski resort and for logging

were finally deemed illegal by the country's Supreme Court.

WWF had worked in Brussels to relay to MEPs and the European Commission our concerns regarding the critical situation in Pirin, which is protected under EU and Bulgarian law. MEPs had urged the EC to launch an infringement procedure against the Bulgarian government for significant breaches of the EU law, in particular the

Nature Directives. The Bulgarian government appealed two rulings on Pirin which were made in favour of nature protection in April and July 2018. In January 2019 the first result of the appeals arrived - success for WWF and partner NGOs! This was a massive win for nature and for the #SavePirin campaign because the ruling by the Supreme Court cannot be appealed again. WWF will continue to work to ensure the protection of Pirin National Park



© Tomas Hulik



and adherence to the EU Nature Directives.

In October 2018, the entire WWF global network launched its biannual flagship publication, the *Living Planet Report 2018*. At EU level, EPO produced a series of opinion pieces in the foremost publication in the Brussels 'bubble', Euractiv. These

have included an OpEd by Ester Asin on the New Deal for Nature (*'The other COP': EU must be a champion for nature at UN biodiversity convention*), a piece by Andreas Baumüller on freshwater ecosystems (*Healthy rivers and lakes are not 'nice-to-haves', they are essential to our existence*), and an article by Dr Samantha Burgess on protecting

and managing Europe's seas (*The Sustainable Blue Economy: EU's actions must match its words*).

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Given the impacts of farming on nature, and considering that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) absorbs more than one third of the EU budget, the CAP can be considered the most important environmental policy of the EU.

WWF has been closely engaged in the discussions around the future of the CAP post-2020, which was marked by two major milestones in 2018. First, following the publication of the European Commission communication in the autumn of 2017, co-legislators and stakeholders debated on the political orientation of the reform. With the publication of the post-2020 budget proposals in May 2018, and draft CAP regulations in June 2018, the second half of the year marked the beginning of the still ongoing discussions of the more detailed elements of the future CAP.



DID YOU KNOW?

**24%**  
OF EUROPE'S  
BUMBLEBEE SPECIES  
ARE THREATENED  
WITH EXTINCTION

Constructively building on the big lines of the CAP reform proposed, we started 2018 with the publication by the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) of a WWF-funded report on *Defining environmental objectives and monitoring systems for a results-oriented CAP post 2020*, which provided a valuable contribution to the debate of the details of the reform. This also served to have an evidence-based conversation reinforcing the coherence between the agricultural and environmental policies of the EU.

In March, WWF started a novel collaboration with the European Landowners' Organisation (ELO) - which represents the interests of landowners, land managers and rural entrepreneurs - to issue a joint statement calling for a future CAP that must incentivise sustainable farming practices in Europe. The four-page statement showed that there is much common ground between stakeholders which are sometimes portrayed as opponents,

but who actually agree on the need for a CAP that guides a significant transition to sustainability in our food and farming systems.

Failing to deliver on these calls, the EC published a disappointing proposal for the EU budget post-2020 and the CAP, falling well short of the EU's stated overall ambition to address the loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation. It ignored the need to overhaul the EU's policy instruments to shift resources towards supporting farmers in the transition to a more sustainable food and agriculture system.

Accordingly, during the second half of 2018 WWF actively engaged with the European Parliament in an effort to improve the EC's proposal with amendments. Fortunately, the Environment Committee of the European Parliament has, for the first time, shared competence on a substantial part of the CAP regulations, which increases the chances of this institution agreeing on a more progressive

and environmentally ambitious position than was the case during the last reform. In 2019 we will find out whether this expectation materialises!

On a related and positive note, the EC launched an initiative to tackle the rapid decline of pollinators in Europe. This was one of the key asks of our #NatureAlert campaign. The European Commission ran a public consultation on the initiative, in which more than 65,000 people took part, showing how relevant these issues are for EU citizens. Although laudable, the initiative is inadequate to tackle the real drivers and pressures behind pollinator decline, including intensive agriculture, pesticide use and land use change. To better address this, WWF is working towards a better integration of the objectives of this initiative into the CAP reform.





## FORESTS

Consumption in the EU contributes to global deforestation, affecting regions such as the the Cerrado in Brazil, or tropical rainforests in Malaysia, where deforestation is partly caused by the production of palm oil, beef and leather, soy and cocoa, but also timber from deforested and converted areas.

WWF has long called for an EU Action Plan on Deforestation and Forest Degradation to actively address these issues. Such an Action Plan should also address the conversion of other ecosystems such as grasslands.

In March 2018, the European Commission published a feasibility study which showed that while the EU is part of the problem of global deforestation, it could also be part of the solution if it significantly increased its efforts to address the impacts of its consumption and adopted a coherent and comprehensive approach. In December 2018, the Commission published a roadmap, indicating its intention to step up EU action against deforestation and forest degradation, which is now followed by a public consultation until the end of February 2019.

While WWF welcomed the publication of the feasibility study as a basis for discussion on further action, neither the roadmap nor the public consultation propose an

Action Plan or legislation, and the Commission's lack of commitment to develop far reaching measures to address the identified problems remains deeply worrying. Together with its partner NGOs, WWF will continue to work on ensuring that this initiative results in legislative measures to guarantee that neither products placed on the EU market, nor the financial sector and investments, cause deforestation, forest degradation, the conversion of valuable ecosystems, or violations of human rights.

Regarding the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) - the EU's main tool for fighting against illegal trade in timber, and another priority for WWF's European network - 2018 started promising with the public consultation on the EUTR product scope, but then little progress was made over the course of the year, as the Commission failed to present the impact assessment on the product scope.

In October, the European Commission published its bi-annual



## DID YOU KNOW?

THE ABUNDANCE  
OF FRESHWATER  
SPECIES WORLDWIDE  
HAS DECLINED BY  
**83%**  
SINCE 1970

LIVING PLANET REPORT 2018

report on EUTR implementation, clearly showing that more efforts by Member States are needed to have an adequate application of the legislation at national level. WWF shares this view. It is important that the EUTR is coherently enforced across the EU, carrying out regular checks of high quality on all types of operators. In addition, WWF will continue to push for widening the product scope of the law to include all wood products, which is currently not the case.

## FRESHWATER - #PROTECTWATER CAMPAIGN

2018 was a landmark year for citizen engagement in water policy: by the end of the year, more than 200,000 citizens were mobilised through the ongoing #ProtectWater campaign to make a stand for EU rivers, lakes and wetlands, and the strong legislation that protects them.

Pollution, habitat destruction and excessive use of water remain huge pressures on our rivers, streams,

lakes, wetlands, groundwater, transitional and coastal waters. However, in Europe, we are fortunate to have strong legislation to protect all our waters, and restore those which have been damaged - the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD).

WWF is convinced that without full implementation of the WFD, it will be impossible to turn back the clock on the destruction of Europe's waters. However, since the law came into effect in 2000, Member States have relentlessly sidestepped their commitments. The result? All







countries have fallen desperately short of the WFD's overall target of bringing EU waters to good health by 2015 - today, only 40% of EU waters are healthy. To make matters worse, as the European Commission launched its "fitness-check" of

the WFD in 2018 - a process each piece of EU legislation undergoes to evaluate whether it is still "fit for purpose" - WWF witnessed an alarming push from a number of EU governments to weaken

the legislation's many strong and progressive elements.

In order to combat the pressure from Member States, WWF, together with its partners in the Living Rivers Europe coalition (the European Environmental Bureau, European Anglers Alliance, European Rivers Network and Wetlands International), started the #ProtectWater campaign, which went on to be supported by more than 130 NGOs across Europe. The campaign was officially launched on 8 July with the 'Big Jump'. On this day, 160 events took place across 18 countries in Europe, in which citizens jumped into rivers, lakes and streams to make a stand for freshwater ecosystems and the EU water law.

WWF and its Living Rivers Europe partners carried this energy and conviction throughout 2018, taking centre stage at the EU Water Conference in Vienna and publishing a new report, *Bringing life back to Europe's waters: The EU water law in action*. The report



## DID YOU KNOW?

DIFFUSE POLLUTION,  
PARTICULARLY  
FROM AGRICULTURE,  
AFFECTS  
**38%**  
OF EU WATERS

demonstrates the WFD to be an effective framework for addressing the main pressures facing Europe's waters, such as agriculture, hydropower, human-made flood defence and navigation, and that the problem lies in Member States' poor implementation and low ambition to make this law work.

In October, the coalition (with the support of 130+ NGOs) launched its *public outreach activities* to encourage citizens to take part in the European Commission's public consultation on the WFD - the only opportunity for the general public to have its say during the fitness-check. This outreach was kick-started with a series of provocative scenarios around the future of beer, and accompanied by a joint statement signed by beer companies which recognise that their ability to produce good quality beer relies on the protection and sustainable management of Europe's water sources, and therefore support the WFD in its current form. The #ProtectWater campaign also highlighted the state of Europe's



Big Jump 2018

freshwater wildlife, including the social media stars "Bo the beaver" and "Pullervo the Saimaa ringed seal" to draw attention to the shocking decline in freshwater wildlife.

In 2019, WWF will ensure that all eyes are on the Commission and Member States as the public consultation draws to a close in March, and continue to fight for the EU's strong water legislation to be fully implemented by Member States and enforced by the EU.

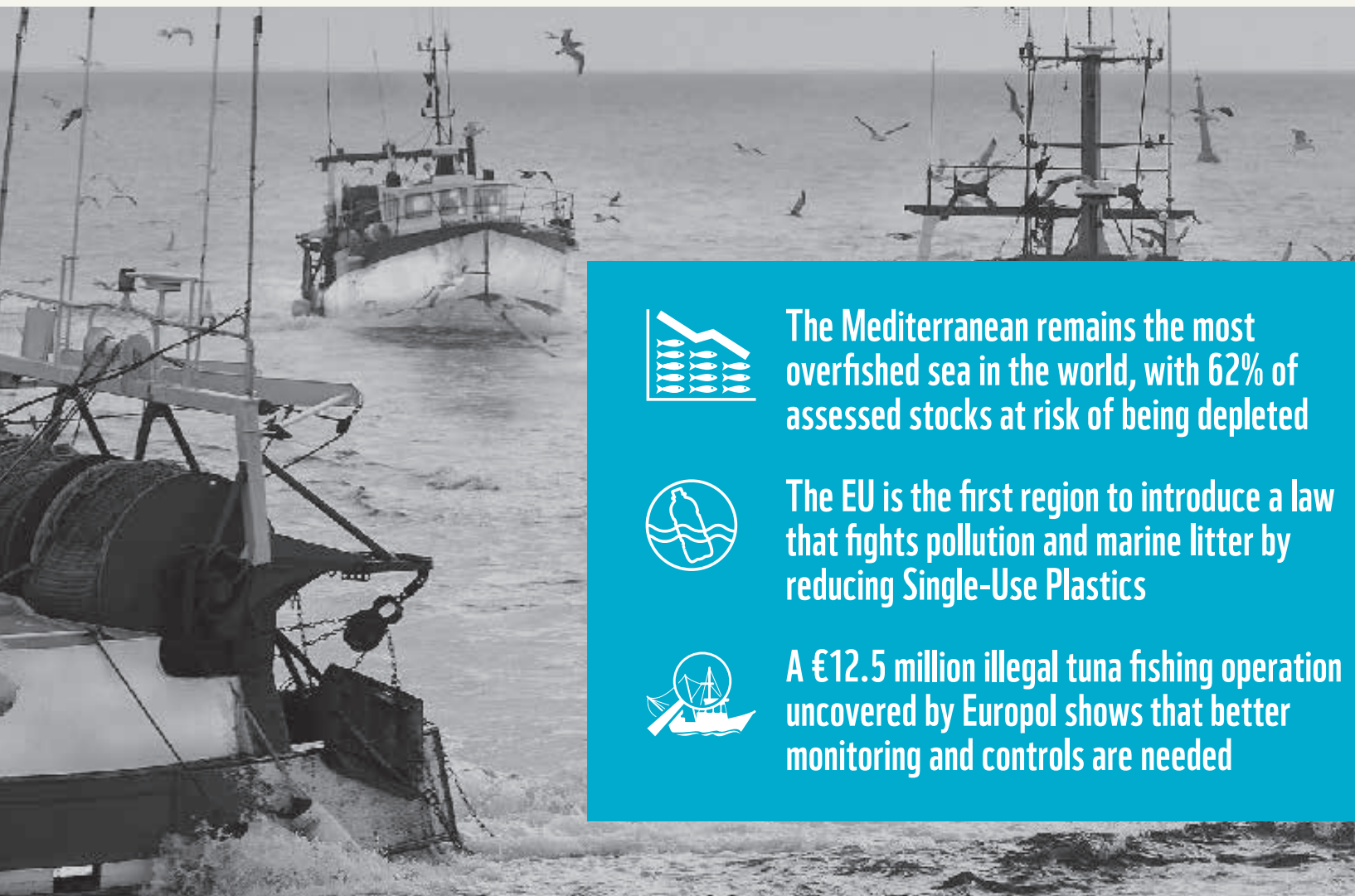
## Relevant SDGs



# OCEANS







The Mediterranean remains the most overfished sea in the world, with 62% of assessed stocks at risk of being depleted



The EU is the first region to introduce a law that fights pollution and marine litter by reducing Single-Use Plastics



A €12.5 million illegal tuna fishing operation uncovered by Europol shows that better monitoring and controls are needed

# OCEANS



*“The EU has repeatedly shown its dedication to supporting sustainable growth in our ocean, but European fisheries are facing unprecedented challenges such as overfishing, destruction of marine habitats, climate change and illegal activities. The EU must stand by its commitments to sustainable fisheries governance and protect the marine environment upon which communities depend for survival.”*

Samantha Burgess\*,  
Senior Advisor European Marine Policy

\*Ocean Terra Consulting

From the fight against illegal fishing, to policies for sustainable fisheries across Europe, and targets for marine habitat and biodiversity protection, EU marine legislation has worldwide impacts. With the 2020 deadlines to numerous EU commitments around the corner, 2018 was a pivotal year to deliver comprehensive results for our ocean.

## HEALTHY OCEANS FOR STRONG ECONOMIES

A 2018 assessment by the European Commission found that the EU blue economy generates over €566 billion and employs nearly 3.5 million people. WWF’s role to help safeguard healthy and protected marine ecosystems, robust fish populations and waste reduction is more critical than ever to ensure this sector grows and develops sustainably.

In cooperation with the European Commission, the World Resources Institute, the European Investment Bank and the United Nations Environment Finance Initiative,

WWF hosted an event at the Our Ocean conference in October to promote the Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles. The 14 principles provide a framework to help address escalating impacts including habitat destruction, plastic pollution and overfishing. By fostering cooperation and communication on everything from ocean health and scientific research to data collection and technical innovation, the Principles aim to leverage future investment in the ocean to support the resilience of marine ecosystems and increase sustainable development.

The principles were further supported in the final report of



the High-Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance (of which WWF was a member). The group called for the principles to be adopted and implemented by the global finance community.

At the 2018 Our Ocean Conference in Bali, the European Commission announced the launch of a €18.4 million investment initiative to

promote a sustainable blue economy within the European Union.

In November, Kenya invited the world to the first Sustainable Blue Economy Conference where global leaders pledged support for sustainable growth. Speaking to over 10,000 delegates, EU Commissioner Karmenu Vella affirmed the EU's position to conserve the ocean and

protect the economies, industries and cultures that depend on it, both internally and internationally. WWF had a prolific presence at the conference including delivery of keynote speeches, hosting side events, and sitting on panel discussions, including one organised by UN Food Agriculture Organisation on the diversity of opportunities which arise from investing in a sustainable blue economy.

## SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES

In December, WWF published a report delivering a damning verdict on Member States' progress towards implementing the measures of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), five years after it entered into force. If effectively implemented, the CFP would ensure that all fishing activities carried out by the EU fleet are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.

However, WWF has found EU Member States to be lagging behind



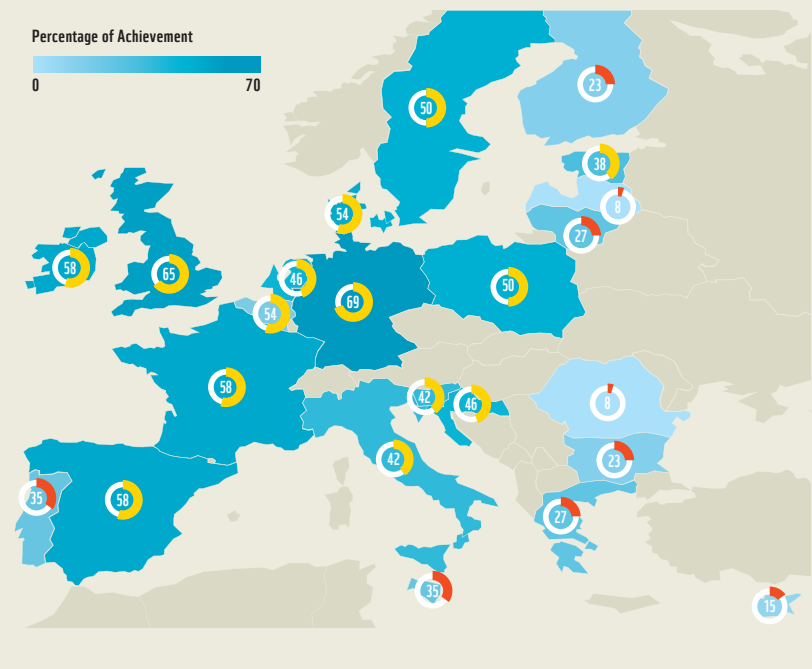
## DID YOU KNOW?

IN 2017, THE EU  
FISHING FLEET  
LANDED  
**FIVE**  
MILLION TONNES  
OF SEAFOOD  
FOR A PROFIT OF  
**€978**  
MILLION

and now likely to miss important 2020 deadlines on biodiversity conservation and sustainable fisheries management. Overall, national efforts to implement the CFP have been deeply unsatisfactory, with only one out of 46 committed CFP actions accomplished by all Member States. Half of the actions have been only partially accomplished, while the rest have not been achieved.

The report's publication brought a year of disappointing fisheries legislation to a close. A series of regional fisheries Multi-Annual plans (MAPs) for the EU's Western Waters (the Atlantic Ocean between Ireland and Portugal), the Western Mediterranean (covering waters in Spain, France and Italy) and the Adriatic Sea all disregarded scientific advice to urgently reduce overfishing and adopt an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management. WWF was critical throughout these processes and now calls on EU decision makers to respect the CFP objectives as the dossiers continue their development in 2019.

## Overall score of CFP implementation by EU Member State

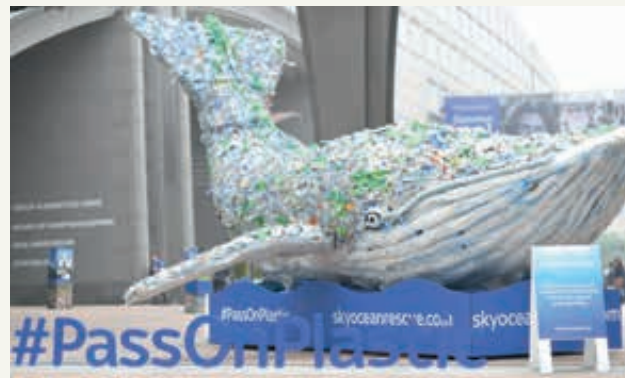


2018 also saw the European Commission publish its post-2020 funding strategy for the maritime and fisheries sector (EMFF), failing to identify clear mechanisms to verify that money is in fact spent where it is most needed and that financial aid is allocated for the

sustainable management of the ocean. WWF remains in ongoing dialogue with decision makers to successfully manage fishing practices which currently threaten the marine environment in Natura 2000 sites.



Outside the European Parliament, WWF and Sky Ocean Rescue gathered more than 100 signatures from Commissioners and MEPs for a pledge to #PassOnPlastics in front of Sky's "Plasticus", a 250kg whale made of plastic waste. This represents the amount entering our ocean every second.



© Triptyque / Sky Ocean Rescue

## FANTASTIC PLASTIC LEGISLATION

Less than seven months after the European Commission first tabled its proposal to reduce the impact of single-use plastic and lost fishing gear on our ocean, a deal on the EU Single-Use Plastics Directive was reached in December. This makes the EU the first region to introduce laws to limit and eliminate some single-use plastic products and to give producers of certain plastics a stake in the costs of waste management, clean up and awareness-raising measures - two measures which WWF strongly advocated for.

While the Directive also requires Member States to “significantly reduce” their consumption of

single-use plastic products and monitor collection rates, and to set national collection targets for lost fishing gear, these outcomes do not cement responsibilities or set measurable targets to minimise the impact these products have on nature.

WWF was active throughout this legislative development. This included co-hosting a panel discussion at the European Parliament with Sky Ocean Rescue on how plastic impacts our health, economy and ocean. Leading up to the event, members of the Parliament and European Commission were invited to sign a pledge to mark their commitment to reduce personal consumption

of single-use plastic, and over 100 signatures were accumulated by the week's end. WWF also featured on the European Parliament Intergroup panel discussion on the proposal, exploring possible ways of implementation in EU Member States with key policy-makers.

## Relevant SDGs



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT





More than three years after the SDGs were agreed, the EU has still not presented its implementation strategy



WWF is calling for a target of 50% for climate and environment in the EU's future external action budget



€22 million of EU funding was secured for WWF projects on forests, wildlife, freshwater and climate protection

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the international community, including the EU, in September 2015. However, more than three years on, the EU has yet to present an overarching strategy to implement the goals domestically.



*“Climate change and nature loss pose severe risks to our planet and humankind, and we cannot wait a moment longer for all governments to take action. The EU has a special responsibility to lead the way by fully and systemically implementing all SDGs domestically and to contribute to the global effort.”*

Sally Nicholson,  
Head of Unit,  
Development Policy & Finance

WWF is a member of the European Commission’s multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which produced a number of important documents in 2018 to advise the Commission on the course for action. These included a report on the EU budget proposal (see also p. 52) and recommendations for a Commission reflection paper on the implementation of the SDGs and follow up to the Paris Agreement on climate change up to 2030.

In March, the multi-stakeholder platform published a report, in which it called on the European Commission to mainstream sustainable development into the funding priorities and decision making mechanisms around the future EU budget. The report brings together the views of a broad range of stakeholders, representing civil society organisations from environment, social, human rights and development fields, academic institutions, businesses, trade unions, as well as individual members.

The report emphasises the need for improved policy coherence to achieve effective and efficient spending, and proposes a set of instruments to make the future budget more sustainable by putting the ‘think sustainability first’ principle into the heart of decision making, for example through the better regulation agenda. The group’s recommendations were handed over to European Commission First Vice-President Timmermans, reminding him that the EU budget

should ultimately serve the wellbeing of the people instead of being seen as a zero sum game among EU Member States.

In April, WWF teamed up with other groups including International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Wetlands International and Conservation International, to issue a joint statement to call for an increase of investments in nature and biodiversity across future external financing instruments, and to acknowledge the urgency of tackling environmental degradation and biodiversity loss globally as essential elements for achieving Agenda 2030 as well as the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

The European Commission's proposal of a single external action financing instrument for "Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation" (NDICI), which will determine the spending priorities for the EU's external relations and development cooperation budget for the time after

2020, was presented June. WWF was disappointed with the proposal, as it fell well short of the EU's stated environmental, climate and sustainable development ambitions. While the need for mainstreaming climate change and environmental protection across the whole instrument is acknowledged, this is not reflected in the objectives that the new instrument is set to deliver.

In fact, despite an overall welcome increase for EU's external action, climate relevant expenditure is set to account for only a modest 25% of the overall instrument, without sufficiently integrating the environmental dimension. WWF is calling for a spending target of 50% for climate and environment related priorities to promote actions that can deliver multiple benefits



© Brent Stirton / Getty Images / WWF-UK



## EU COMMITS €20 MIL TO NATURE CONSERVATION IN THE CONGO BASIN

The Congo Basin hosts the second biggest forest in the world, supporting precious biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and the livelihoods of 60 million people. In 2018, the EU 2018 agreed to fund four new projects to support development and protect wildlife for the benefit of indigenous populations and to help restore peace to the region. WWF will implement one of these in the 4,500 km<sup>2</sup> Dzanga Sangha protected area network in the Central African Republic, which is home to forest elephants, gorillas, bongos, chimpanzees and many others.



across a range of sectors. Developing countries are particularly exposed to the effects of climate change and nature loss, so investing in healthy ecosystems is one of the best ways to strengthen the resilience of societies and economies, including to climate change impacts.

When EU Commissioners Vella and Mimica represented the EU

at the UN High Level Political Forum in July 2018, which reviewed progress towards a number of key environmental SDGs in areas such as freshwater, energy, sustainable cities, consumption and production, and biodiversity, they had little to report. Instead of presenting an overarching implementation strategy, the EU has relied on policy initiatives in particular areas, but

even if these are all implemented, they are nowhere near enough to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. WWF used this opportunity to emphasise the need for urgent action to address concrete implementation gaps in all of these policy areas.

In October, the high-level platform on SDGs (which includes WWF) gave very valuable input to the Commission's reflection paper *'Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030'*, calling for a strengthening of policy coherence for development, for example by aligning the European Semester process, EU public finances and financial regulations, and the EU's long-term decarbonisation plans with the SDGs. The platform members also proposed ideas in policy areas considered vital for achieving the SDGs such as social inclusion, sustainable consumption and production, climate and energy, food, farming and land-use, and cohesion.

The Commission's reflection paper was finally presented in January 2019 as part of the "Future of



### DID YOU KNOW?

WWF IS THE ONLY ENVIRONMENTAL NGO TO BE A FULL MEMBER OF CONCORD, THE EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT NGOS



Europe” debate launched by President Juncker. The paper recognised that the EU needs to considerably step up its efforts to fully live up to its international commitments, and that doing so would bring a wealth of benefits for Europe and its citizens.

WWF welcomed this paper, but called for concrete actions to translate SDGs into EU policies and assign clear responsibility for delivery within EU structures.

SDG implementation at EU level must be a key priority strategic objective of the Council and the new Commission. WWF will continue to push for a comprehensive strategy and continued mainstreaming of climate and biodiversity through all EU policy areas, and to ensure that this is reflected in the structure and priorities of the next European Commission. We will be looking to the Council to support our call for an implementation strategy and for sustainable development to be at the heart of EU actions for the next decade.

## WWF SECURES €22 MILLION OF EU FUNDING

**2018 was another successful year for the WWF network in fundraising from the EU, having secured more than €22 million in EU grants for WWF’s programmes and its partners in Europe, Russia, Latin America and Africa. These projects will contribute essentially to the forest, wildlife, freshwater, governance and climate practice objectives. They include:**

- Fighting wildlife and forest crime in Latin America, €5 million (in cooperation with WCS)
- Promoting key aspects of environmental protection in Russia through civil society engagement, €3 million
- Social and economic development, natural resource management and protection in the protected areas of Dzanga Sangha, Central African Republic, €2.5 million
- Increasing resilience to climate change for local communities of Lake and Mai Ndombe in the Democratic Republic of Congo, €1.7 million
- Several proposals involving WWF offices in Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Austria, focusing on floodplain restoration, transnational water management and ecological connectivity in the Danube-Carpathian region worth overall €9.2 million

### Relevant SDGs



# EU AFFAIRS







# EU AFFAIRS



*“The EU is facing serious challenges: from Brexit, the rise of populist parties, and shrinking civic space, to threats from climate change and nature degradation. But there are also opportunities for Europe’s safety and competitiveness, and we must work across the political divide to realise them!”*

Tycho Vandermaesen,  
Head of Public Affairs

By making our voice heard in big political debates on the future of the European Union, such as the EU elections, Brexit and the processes by which the EU legislates, WWF ensures that our environment and people’s wellbeing receives higher political priority.

## EU ELECTIONS: STRENGTHENING POLITICAL PRIORITIES

**K**icking off the work on the 2019 European elections, WWF in October 2018 published its call for action, *A EU Sustainability Pact: for a Safer, more Competitive and Responsible EU*. This forms the basis of our election campaign in more than fifteen countries across the EU, in which we encourage political leaders to adopt a coherent and integrated approach at EU level to tackle climate change and environmental degradation after the elections.

It is high time for our environment to reach the top of the political agenda

of heads of state and government and EU leaders. Large swathes of people in Europe are concerned about security and unemployment, but citizens are equally worried about the increasing impacts of climate change and environmental degradation - challenges that are closely linked to the future and stability of our societies. By sharing our recommendations and ideas with EU political representatives, and informing our supporters and the general public about the actions needed and positions of political parties, WWF works to put a spotlight on the solutions and benefits of tackling these pressing environmental challenges.

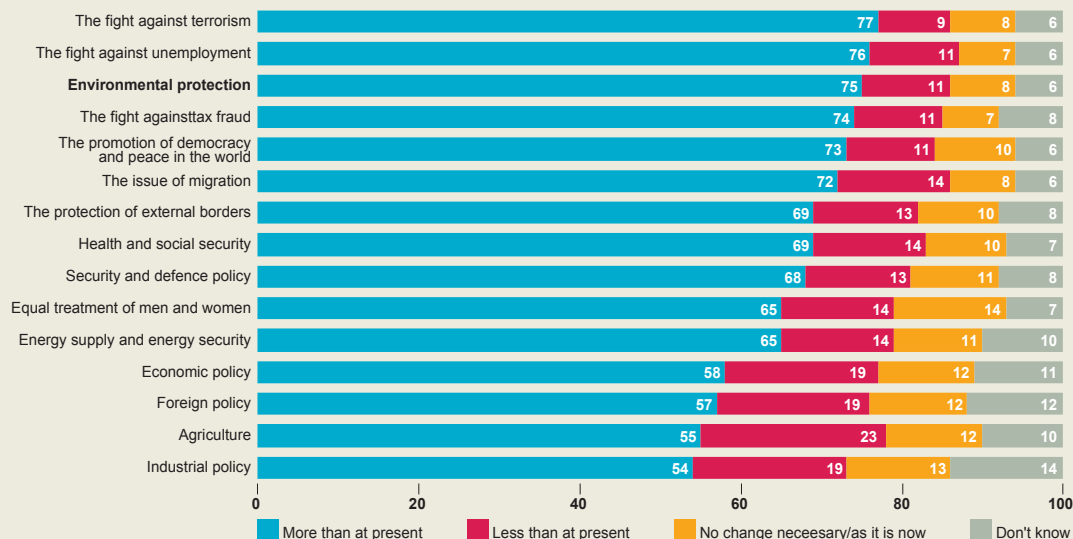
## EU ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AND BREXIT

In 2018, negotiations continued on the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union. At the point of writing, there is still a high degree of uncertainty regarding the shape of the future relationship between the EU and the UK. WWF’s priority is to ensure that the EU’s environment continues to benefit from a high level of protection if the UK leaves the Union, climate action is further strengthened as a political priority at EU level, and the ground is prepared for continuing effective cooperation between the EU and the UK on global sustainable development and climate action, as well as on cross-border environmental issues.

With the Green10 – the coalition of the ten biggest environmental NGOs operating at EU level –, WWF has advocated for strong commitments from the EU to secure high environmental standards in the future relationship. In April 2018, the Green10 organised an event with Michel Barnier, the EU’s



## The environment is a top ranking priority for Europeans



When asked in which of the above areas Europeans would like the EU to intervene less or more than it does at present, citizens indicated that they want to see more EU intervention to protect the environment, ranking it as high a priority for them as the fight against terrorism and tackling unemployment.<sup>1</sup> And yet political representatives do not focus anything like sufficiently on climate change and environmental degradation

<sup>1</sup> Eurobarometer 89.2 (2018). Democracy on the move – European Elections – One year to go survey carried out in all 28 Member States of the European Union, from 11 until 22 April 2018, p. 39.

chief Brexit negotiator, to debate the environmental implications of Brexit for the EU. Mr Barnier reiterated the EU's position regarding strong non-regression mechanisms, which were then included in the withdrawal deal agreed at the end of 2018. This now awaits ratification.

## CROSS-CUTTING EU POLICIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The way the EU legislates - the procedures it uses to adopt legislation and the evidence it bases its decisions on - can have a marked impact on our environment. For instance, a sound assessment of the

impact of a particular policy can help ensure coherence between economic, social and environmental objectives, and avoid EU public money going to activities which harm the climate or biodiversity, such as subsidies to fossil fuels, hydropower or unsustainable agricultural practices. The environmental impacts of policies therefore need to be taken into account by EU decision-makers when adopting legislation.

For this reason, WWF EPO engaged in 2018 with the EU institutions on its Better Regulation rules and cross-cutting frameworks such as the 7th Environment Action Programme. Both of these policies are currently being evaluated by the European Commission and WWF was involved in the ongoing consultations, asking for the EU to put in place mechanisms for the policy coherence for sustainable development, and to align with the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The results of these evaluations are expected in 2019.

# EU BUDGET

2018 kicked off the discussions on the next seven year EU budget for the period post-2020 (Multiannual Financial Framework, or MFF). In February 2018, WWF published its position paper, emphasising that the next budget would be a litmus test of the EU's willingness to deliver on its international commitments on climate, environment, biodiversity and sustainable development.

**R**ather than favouring economic aspects over social and environmental matters as it is the case in the current EU budget, WWF has called for all programmes and funding instruments to be brought in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the UN Convention

on Biological Diversity. WWF has also called for a mandatory spending target of 50% for climate and nature, and a complete phase-out of environmentally harmful subsidies.

On sectoral policies, we would like to see increased funding for the EU LIFE programme - the only EU funding instrument solely dedicated to environment and climate actions - from 0.35% today to at least 1% of the total budget; a reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to facilitate the transition towards sustainable food and farming systems; a 50% target for climate and environment spending for EU development aid; a reform of the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) to ensure that funds are allocated to appropriate management of the marine environment; and a Cohesion Policy which funds a just and clean energy transition.

In May 2018, the European Commission published overall disappointing proposals for the new MFF, which showed a clear lack of

ambition to lead on delivering the EU's international commitments. In June, proposals for specific financial instruments, including on CAP, LIFE, external action and the EMFF, all fell well short of the EU's stated overall ambition to address the loss of biodiversity and environmental degradation. While the Commission proposed a 25% target for climate mainstreaming, none was set for the environment.

The proposed CAP was disappointing, and included a significant step back with severe cuts in the crucial Rural Development budget. *(See p.26 and for more information on CAP).*

On external action, WWF teamed up with other NGOs to publish a joint call for a 50% climate and environment target across future EU external action. The EC's multi-stakeholder platform on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), of which WWF is a member, also urged the EU to mainstream sustainable development into the funding



priorities and decision making mechanisms.

In the end, the Commission proposed an increase of the budget, and a single financing instrument, which would signify a major simplification of the funding architecture for EU external relations. While this proposal acknowledged the need for mainstreaming climate change and environmental protection, it failed to properly reflect these commitments in the instrument's objectives.

The proposed EMFF failed to address the real drivers of

unsustainable fisheries. While WWF welcomed the intention to simplify access to funds, clear mechanisms were lacking on how to verify that financial aid is allocated for the sustainable management of the ocean, to improve marine biodiversity and ocean resilience.

For LIFE, WWF and BirdLife Europe launched a statement calling for the increase of LIFE funding, which was signed by more 200 businesses, research institutes, universities and national, regional and local authorities.

The Commission's LIFE proposal included a slight increase of the budget to 0.42%, which is positive, but not sufficient.

During the autumn, WWF much welcomed several strong European Parliament votes on funding instruments. MEPs voted to increase the allocation for LIFE to 0.6%, included several references to the Paris Agreement and SDGs, and recognised environmental degradation and biodiversity loss as

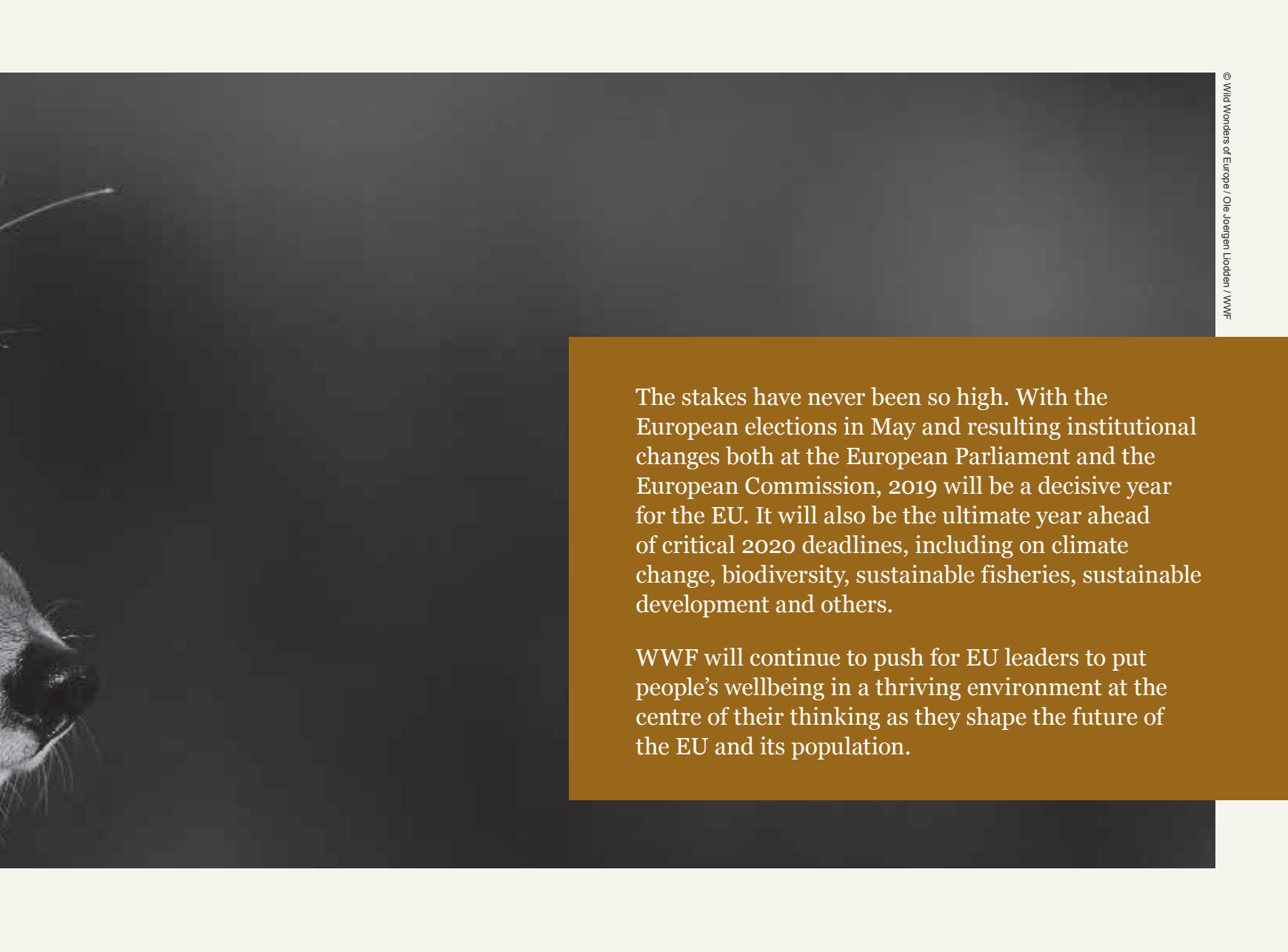
major challenges. Parliament also proposed to increase climate

WWF also worked on the InvestEU regulation, the future version of the Juncker Investment Plan. The Commission's proposal includes a 30% climate target overall, and a 50% climate and nature target specifically for infrastructure projects. However, it fails to end support for fossil fuels, nor does it implement the "energy efficiency first" principle that WWF has called for.

During the autumn, WWF much welcomed several strong European Parliament votes on funding instruments. MEPs voted to increase the allocation for LIFE to 0.6%, included several references to the Paris Agreement and SDGs, and recognised environmental degradation and biodiversity loss as major challenges. Parliament also proposed to increase climate spending to 30% and to further boost funding for external action.

**LOOKING TO 2019**





The stakes have never been so high. With the European elections in May and resulting institutional changes both at the European Parliament and the European Commission, 2019 will be a decisive year for the EU. It will also be the ultimate year ahead of critical 2020 deadlines, including on climate change, biodiversity, sustainable fisheries, sustainable development and others.

WWF will continue to push for EU leaders to put people's wellbeing in a thriving environment at the centre of their thinking as they shape the future of the EU and its population.



## CLIMATE & ENERGY



The EU Long-Term Climate Strategy will be discussed in a series of Council meetings in the first months of 2019, including in the Competitiveness, Energy, Environment, Agriculture and Development Councils, as well as by Heads of State and Government at the European Council in Sibiu on 9 May. WWF will work on building political support from all institutions in order to gain endorsement for a net-zero vision from the European Council by the end of the year. WWF will also work with the national offices to advocate for strong and effective National Energy and Climate Plans, whose final versions Member States need to be submitted to the Commission by the end of 2019.

## SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES



In 2019, the Commission will move forward with its Sustainable Finance Action Plan, and several

regulations should be finalized, including on investor disclosure, climate benchmarks, financial regulators and sustainability, and a green taxonomy to track financial flows. WWF will engage to ensure the full implementation of the Action Plan, and good outcomes for these proposals. In addition, the Commission is expected to launch several public consultations, reports and conferences on other issues of the Action Plan, on which may become the next legislative proposals. WWF will continue to call for additional legislative proposals, including on corporate disclosure and governance.

## BIODIVERSITY



WWF EPO will continue its work advocating for the full implementation and enforcement of the Nature Directives. We will work to ensure nature protection is high on the agenda of the new European Commission and Parliament after the European elections, and to give WWF a strong voice in the

discussions on the post-2020 European Biodiversity Strategy. We will also advocate for the EU to be a champion for nature and a leader in driving a New Deal for Nature and People at global level.

## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



The debate on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will continue in full swing in the first months of 2019, with WWF following it closely both in Brussels and in the capitals of EU Member States. If co-legislators work quickly, both Council and Parliament will have set their positions on the file in the first half of 2019, which should allow trilogues to start soon afterwards. Nevertheless, an agreement of the EU budget post-2020, only planned for late 2019, seems to be a precondition for a fully meaningful trilogue to take place. Accordingly, co-legislators are demanding an extension of the current CAP, and it is now most likely that the new CAP will enter into force with a 2-year delay. WWF

welcomes this additional time for the inter-institutional debate, as environmental elements of the reform will stand higher chances of being taken into account, both in the political discussion and in the development of CAP strategic plans by Member States in which our National Offices are engaging.

## FORESTS



In 2019, the European Commission is expected to publish a communication on stepping up European Commission action against deforestation and forest degradation. We will use this opportunity to push for an EU Action Plan that also looks into destruction of other natural ecosystems and pushes for action both in the EU and at producer country level, including legislation to ensure that commodities and products placed on the EU market are not fuelling deforestation, forest degradation or land conversion. In addition, we will remind the incoming European Commission of the review of the EU

Timber Regulation (EUTR) and the need to expand the product scope to include all wood related products.

## FRESHWATER



2019 will be a critical year for European rivers, lakes and wetlands, with the fitness check of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) set to come to a close in the autumn, and the final decision on the future of the legislation expected in the first half of 2020.

As WWF and the Living Rivers Europe coalition, we will continue to advocate against a revision and potential weakening of this landmark legislation, and campaign for EU governments to significantly raise ambition on sustainable water management by better implementing the WFD in its current form. We will also continue to put pressure on the European Commission to enforce this law and ensure it works not just on paper, but in practice.

## OCEANS



WWF will continue work on key marine policies to prevent illegal fish from entering in the European market and ensure that all fishing activities carried out by the EU fleet are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable. WWF will also work to ensure the post-2020 funding strategy for the maritime and fisheries sector (EMFF) supports the EU's stated ambition to create sustainable business models for fishers and contribute to the good environmental status of marine waters across all EU sea basins. This year will be critical to ensure that all EU commitments towards 2020 are achieved, including the protection and effective management of at least 10% of marine and coastal areas. WWF will conduct an analytical assessment of progress to meet this goal and provide recommendations to ensure protected areas are successful in preserving ocean health and resilience, which in turn contributes to robust fish stocks and vibrant coastal communities.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



EU level implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs must be a key priority strategic objective of the Council and the new Commission. At the next High Level Political Forum in July, the EU will report to UN members on its progress towards the implementation, focusing on external action. However, this is nowhere near enough - the EU also has many responsibilities at home.

WWF will continue to push for a comprehensive strategy and continued mainstreaming of climate and biodiversity through all EU policy areas, and to ensure that this is reflected in the structure and priorities of the next European Commission. We will be looking to the Council to support our call for an implementation strategy and for sustainable development to be at the heart of EU actions for the next decade.

## EU AFFAIRS



In 2019, new EU decision makers will take office and set political priorities for the next five years. Through its network, WWF will work to ensure that candidates for the European Parliament elections are aware of the solutions that are available to fight climate change and environmental degradation. WWF EPO will furthermore work to ensure that the next European Commission gives priority to this matter, starting from the level of the Commission President.

WWF will also continue to ensure the environment stays high on the agenda during the negotiations on the EU and the UK's future relationship and that the Better Regulation agenda is used in a way in which it furthers sustainable development, rather than favouring short-term economic interests above all else.

## EU BUDGET



Discussions between co-legislators will continue throughout 2019 (both before and after the EU elections). WWF will continue to push for its asks for a mandatory 50% spending target for climate and nature conservation, and to bring all EU programmes and funding instruments in line with international commitments on climate, biodiversity and sustainable development.

## OUR PLANET NEEDS A NEW DEAL FOR NATURE & PEOPLE

In 2020, world leaders will take key decisions on the environment, climate and sustainable development, as they will assess progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, and set new targets for protecting nature under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

We need to seize this opportunity to secure an international commitment to stop and reverse the loss of nature – a New Deal for Nature & People. The EU can and must take a leadership role in achieving this. WWF is determined to play our part in engaging EU leaders and delivering the fundamental changes required to reverse the loss of nature.

# OUR DONORS, PARTNERS & ALLIES

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

## WWF NETWORK

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

## FOUNDATIONS

WWF EPO is supported both financially and in terms of policy development by major foundations. We are grateful for the continued support from the European Climate Foundation, the KR Foundation, the MAVA Foundation, Oceans 5 and the Paul M. Angell Family Foundation.

## BUSINESS ALLIANCES

Our effectiveness is enhanced by our cooperation with leading business groups willing to join us in building common advocacy positions. We are especially grateful to Sky Ocean Rescue who have committed £10m over 5 years to support WWF's marine work in Europe, which includes €570,000 for the European policy work carried out by EPO

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND DEVELOPMENT AID AGENCIES

We continued to receive an operational grant from the European Commission through the LIFE Programme. We also received project funding via LIFE, Horizon 2020, and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

## CIVIL SOCIETY

WWF EPO works with other organisations in various alliances: In the Green10 coalition of the ten biggest EU environmental NGOs in Brussels; as the only environmental NGO of CONCORD, the European confederation of development NGOs; as a member of the Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe, working on climate and energy issues; as part of the sustainable Europe coalition, the Living Rivers Europe coalition, and as a member of the European Habitats Forum (EHF).

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

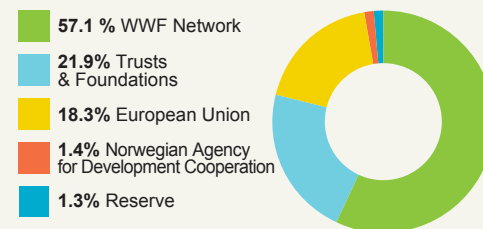


# OUR BUDGET

WWF Network	€ 2,644,396	57.1%
Trusts and Foundations	€ 1,016,572	21.9%
European Union	€ 848,900	18.3%
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)	€ 64,171	1.4%
Reserve	€ 58,117	1.3%
<b>Total income</b>	<b>€ 4,632,156</b>	<b>100%</b>

Leadership and Coordination	€ 413,204	8.9%
Finance and Administration	€ 310,830	6.7%
Communications	€ 223,846	4.8%
Climate and Energy	€ 1,112,358	24.0%
Natural Resources and Land Use	€ 872,540	18.8%
Fisheries and Oceans	€ 458,558	9.9%
Public and Private Finance	€ 434,257	9.4%
External Relations and Development Policy	€ 344,772	7.4%
Global Programmes	€ 461,790	10.0%
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>€ 4,632,156</b>	<b>100%</b>

## INCOME



## EXPENDITURE





# THE SOCIAL PANDA

ACTIVE AS EVER.

@WWFEU



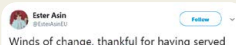
Tonight, we said farewell to @andreaEkohl and welcomed our new director @EsterAsinEU! Thank you to all of our guests & especially @PhilHoganEU for sharing this momentous occasion with us and helping to make the evening a great success!



## Poland violated EU law by logging in ancient forest, rules European Court of Justice

"Today is a clear victory for Europe's wildlife. Nature cannot be ignored and neither can EU law."

Andreas Baumüller



Winds of change, thankful for having served with the fab @EUSaveITC, look forward to Monday at @WWFEU, proud of having worked and continue working for organisations who make a difference



Today is #EarthOvershootDay 🌍 The date when humanity's demand for resources exceeds what Earth can produce. Make a pledge today to #MoveTheDate and reduce demand for resources - [wwf.panda.org/get\\_involved/](http://wwf.panda.org/get_involved/)...



WWF Living Planet Report shows 60% decline in global biodiversity. We need to act NOW to bend this curve, through a Global Deal for Nature & People. #EU must be a champion for nature conservation! [wwf.eu/](http://wwf.eu/) [uNewsID=337386](https://www.facebook.com/WWF.EU/) #LPR2018 #NatureMatters



Breaking news! EU Court of Justice has issued a judgement on #bialowiezaforest - one of the last natural forests in Europe. Excessive deforestation and logging in the #WorldHeritage #Natura2000 site officially violates EU law and must stop immediately. [ow.ly/g9U30jwKuy](http://ow.ly/g9U30jwKuy)



#BREAKING: Only 40% of rivers & lakes are healthy. EU governments must put an urgent stop to this destruction & protect #EUwater (as required under EU water laws) #ProtectWater #WaterFrameworkDirective [ow.ly/Chp30kM7tL](http://ow.ly/Chp30kM7tL)



12/10/2018

## EURACTIV

### 60% of living species declined due to human activity, warns WWF

"We cannot build a prosperous future for Europe and its citizens on a depleted planet, so economic and environmental agendas must converge if we are to build a sustainable Europe for all."

Ester Asin



Did you hear the news 📢? Sir David Attenborough to present the Netflix/WWF documentary #OurPlanet 📺 Get ready to binge watch on April 5th! #FightForYourWorld



David Attenborough to present Netflix nature series Our Planet. Broadcaster anonymous with BBC documentaries will record occasion for significant series.



Nature loss & climate change affect every aspect of our life. Bold action & leadership at highest EU level is needed.

#Spitzenkandidaten should put in place a Commission VP for Climate Action & Natural Resources. More here: [ow.ly/nf8F30mnc4](http://ow.ly/nf8F30mnc4) #EUSustainabilityPact



2/10/2018



Council has just adopted the #energyefficiency directive, EED. I do not feel like doing 'naming and shaming' today, but you can check below the MSs that voted in favour, against or abstained 📊 [billy25atfyz](https://twitter.com/billy25atfyz)



I am a flying insect. Strong like a dragon and versatile like a fly. That's why people call me "dragonfly". Rivers and lakes are in danger! Join the action to protect the law which protects my home. ACT now and SIGN: [livingrivers.eu](http://livingrivers.eu) @WWFEU #ProtectWater #NatureAlert



## POLITICO

### Vella on the hook

"It will be shocking to see EU protected nature being destroyed with EU funds and before the eyes of EU institutions."

Katerina Raskova



**The Guardian**

## Use of fish discard exemptions by EU trawlers soars before ban

"EU member states have had ample time to implement the provisions of the reformed CFP but have demonstrated an unacceptable lack of political will towards sustainable fisheries management."

*Samantha Burgess*



**ENDS Europe**

## WWF urges government action on water pollution

"A weakening of the legislation would be a declaration of bankruptcy of European environmental policy. An amendment to the law as a result of the fitness check process would simply allow member states to side-step their legal obligation."

*Martina Mlinaric*



**euronews.**

## COP24 agreement: Does it go far enough?

"This agreement is a very important foundation to make the Paris agreement real and provide rules for our countries to monitor and to show progress, but it's not enough. One of the things we're really worried about is that this COP hasn't provided what is so important for battling climate change, which is providing a common call for greater change and more action in the short term."

*Imke Lübbecke*

# THE WWF EUROPEAN POLICY OFFICE TEAM

AS OF 1 FEBRUARY 2019

## OPERATIONS



**DALE CHADWICK**  
Operations Director



**FLORENCE MOUNÉ**  
Office & HR Manager



**LAURENCE JACQUES**  
Finance Officer



**DENIS PORTAELS**  
IT Manager



**LISE DEVAUX**  
Project Assistant

## COMMUNICATION



**ANGELIKA PULLEN**  
Communications Director



**SARAH AZAU**  
Senior Communications & Media Officer,  
Climate & Energy



**LIESBETH VAN DEN BOSSCHE**  
EU Campaigner



**ALEXANDRA CHEVALIER**  
Senior Communications & Media Officer,  
EU Campaigner (maternity cover)



**SOPHIE BAUER**  
Communications Officer, Freshwater



**LARISSA MILO-DALE**  
Communications Officer, Marine



**EDEL SHANAHAN**  
Communications Assistant, Biodiversity



**FLORENCE DANTHINE**  
Communications Assistant

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS



**TYCHO VANDERMAESEN**  
Head of Public Affairs



**REBECCA HUMPHRIES**  
Public Affairs Officer

## CLIMATE & ENERGY



**IMKE LÜBBECKE**  
Head of Unit, Climate & Energy



**ALEXANDER MASON**  
Senior Policy Officer, Climate & Energy



**ARIANNA VITALI**  
Senior Policy Officer  
for Energy Conservation



**LEIA ACHAMPONG**  
Policy Officer, Climate & Energy



**KATIE TREADWELL**  
Energy Policy Officer

## LEADERSHIP



**ESTER ASIN**  
Director



**DIANA RUBINI**  
Administrative Officer (6 PA to the Director)

## NATURAL RESOURCES



**ANDREAS BAUMÜLLER**  
Head of Unit,  
Natural Resources



**ANKE SCHULMEISTER**  
Senior Forest Policy Officer



**MARTINA MLINARIC**  
Senior Policy Officer, Water



**SABIEN LEEMANS**  
Senior Policy Officer, Biodiversity



**JABIER RUIZ**  
Senior Policy Officer, Agriculture and Food



**CARLA FREUND**  
EU Water Policy Assistant

## MARINE & FISHERIES



**SAMANTHA BURGESS**  
Samantha Burgess\*  
Senior Advisor European Marine Policy  
\*Ocean Terra Consulting



**ANNE-CÉCILE DRAGON**  
Fisheries Policy Officer



**JANICA BORG**  
Marine Protection and Spatial Planning  
Policy Coordinator



**ANTONIA LEROY**  
Illegal Fishing Policy Officer



**KATRIN VILHELM POULSEN**  
Seafood Policy Officer



**IGNACIO FRESCO VANZINI**  
Public Affairs Officer, Marine Policy

## DEVELOPMENT & FINANCING



**SALLY NICHOLSON**  
Head of Unit,  
Development Policy & Finance



**MARGHERITA SOLCA**  
Senior EU Development Policy  
& Funding Officer

## SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIES



**SÉBASTIEN GODINOT**  
Economist



**JAN VANDERMOSTEN**  
Policy Officer, Sustainable Finance



**JULIA LINARES**  
Sustainable Investment Officer



**KAARINA KOLLE**  
Europe Beyond Coal Finance  
and Utility Coordinator



# WWF OFFICES IN EUROPE

Country	Office	Website	Social Media
AUSTRIA	WWF-Austria	wwf.at	facebook.com/WWFOesterreich @wwfaustria
	WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme Office	panda.org/dcpo	facebook.com/WWFCEE @WWFCEE
BELGIUM	WWF-Belgium	wwf.be	facebook.com/WWF.be @WWF_Belgique
	WWF European Policy Office	wwf.eu	@WWFEU
BULGARIA	WWF-Bulgaria	wwf.bg	facebook.com/WWFBulgaria @wwf_bulgaria
CROATIA	WWF-Adria	adria.panda.org	facebook.com/wwfadria
DENMARK	WWF-Denmark	wwf.dk	facebook.com/WWFdK @WWFdK
FINLAND	WWF-Finland	wwf.fi	facebook.com/wwfsuomi @WWFSuomi
FRANCE	WWF-France	wwf.fr	facebook.com/WWFFrance @WWFFrance
GEORGIA	WWF-Caucasus	panda.org/caucasus	
GERMANY	WWF-Germany	wwf.de	facebook.com/wwfde @WWF_Deutschland
GREECE	WWF-Greece	wwf.gr	facebook.com/WWFGreece @WWF_Greece
HUNGARY	WWF-Hungary	wwf.hu	facebook.com/wwfhungary
ITALY	WWF-Italy	wwf.it	facebook.com/wwfitalia @wwfitalia
	WWF Mediterranean	mediterranean.panda.org	@WWF_Med
LATVIA	Pasaules Dabas Fonds	pdf.lv	facebook.com/PasaulesDabasFonds
NETHERLANDS	WWF-Netherlands	wnf.nl	facebook.com/wereldnatuurfonds @wnfnederland

Country	Office	Website	Social Media
NORWAY	WWF-Norway	wwf.no	facebook.com/WWFNorge @WWFNorge
POLAND	WWF-Poland	wwf.pl	facebook.com/WWFpl @WWF_Polska
PORTUGAL	WWF-Portugal	natureza-portugal.org	facebook.com/portugalWWF @WWF_Portugal
ROMANIA	WWF-Romania	romania.panda.org	facebook.com/WWFRomania @wwf_romania
RUSSIA	WWF-Russia	wwf.ru	facebook.com/wwfRU @wwfRu
SERBIA	WWF-Serbia	wwf.rs	facebook.com/WWFSerbia
SLOVAKIA	WWF-Slovakia	slovakia.panda.org	facebook.com/wwfslovakia @wwfslovakia
SPAIN	WWF-Spain	wwf.es	facebook.com/WWFEspana @WWFEspana
SWEDEN	WWF-Sweden	wwf.se	facebook.com/VarldsnaturfondenWWF @WWFSverige
	WWF Baltic Ecoregion Programme	panda.org/baltic	
SWITZERLAND	WWF-Switzerland	wwf.ch	facebook.com/WWFSuisse @WWF_Schweiz
	WWF International	panda.org	facebook.com/WWF @wwf
TURKEY	WWF-Turkey	wwf.org.tr	facebook.com/wwfturkiye @wwf_turkiye
UKRAINE	WWF-Ukraine	panda.org/uk	facebook.com/wwfukraine @WWF_Ukraine
UK	WWF-UK	wwf.org.uk	facebook.com/WWFUnitedKingdom @wwf_uk
	WWF-Scotland	wwf.org.uk/scotland	facebook.com/WWFScotland @WWFScotland
	WWF-Wales	wwf.org.uk/wales	facebook.com/WWFCymruWales @WWFCymru

# WWF IN EUROPE

1989

WWF European Policy Office  
was founded in Brussels in 1989

80%

Up to 80% of national  
environmental legislation is  
decided by the EU

27 countries

WWF is present in  
27 countries in Europe

+6M

WWF has over 6 million  
followers on social media



#### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and  
to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

[www.wwf.eu](http://www.wwf.eu)

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For contact details and further information, please visit our website at [www.wwf.eu](http://www.wwf.eu)

100%  
RECYCLED



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