



RANEP
THE RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL ACADEMY
OF NATIONAL ECONOMY
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION



2021 G20 Rome Summit Interim Compliance Report

Prepared by

Kaylin Dawe, Sonja Dobson and the G20 Research Group

University of Toronto

Toronto

and

Alexander Ignatov and the Center for International Institutions Research

Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration,

Moscow

From 1 November 2021 to 22 June 2022

16 September 2022

Feedback, as always, is welcome and is kept anonymous.

We encourage readers to send comments to

G20@utoronto.ca

17. Environment: Land Degradation

“Acknowledging the urgency of combating land degradation and creating new carbon sinks, we share the aspirational goal to collectively plant 1 trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.”

G20 Rome Leaders’ Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.60 (80%)	

Background

Land degradation is currently one of the world’s most dire problems and must be rapidly and adequately addressed by countries worldwide in order to combat climate change.³¹⁹³ During the past two centuries, land degradation has accelerated as a result of increased pressures of agricultural and livestock production including overcultivation, overgrazing, forest conversion and other unsustainable agricultural techniques; urbanization; deforestation; and extreme weather events like droughts and coastal surges.³¹⁹⁴ Land degradation negatively impacts everyone through food insecurity and higher prices, environmental hazards like extreme weather events, and the loss of ecosystem services.³¹⁹⁵

³¹⁹³ Land Degradation, Global Environment Facility (Washington D.C.) n.d. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.thegef.org/what-we-do/topics/land-degradation>

³¹⁹⁴ Climate Change: Land Degradation and Desertification, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/climate-change-land-degradation-and-desertification>

³¹⁹⁵ Land Degradation, Global Environment Facility (Washington D.C.) n.d. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.thegef.org/what-we-do/topics/land-degradation>

According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), land degradation also significantly contributes to mass human migration and increased conflict.³¹⁹⁶ Over 3.2 billion people around the world are negatively impacted by land degradation, particularly smallholder farmers, the poor and those living in rural areas.³¹⁹⁷ Land degradation also exacerbates climate change because “when land is degraded, soil carbon and nitrous oxide is released into the atmosphere.” If the current trend of land degradation along with soil erosion continues, over 90 per cent of the world’s land areas could become degraded by 2050.³¹⁹⁸

There is no single universal definition of degraded land as it depends on the context and the country, organization and/or institution investigating land degradation.³¹⁹⁹ Definitions of degraded land may change between deserts in Saudi Arabia, rainforests in Brazil and wetlands in the United States. For example, Indonesia’s draft national policy on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) defines land degradation in terms of forest carbon stock degradation and “suggests a threshold of 35 tonnes of carbon per hectare (C/ha) below which development could be considered ‘low carbon.’” In the simplest terms, degraded land can be understood as “land that has lost some degree of its natural productivity due to human-caused processes.” As such, figures of degraded land may vary and global estimates of total degraded land areas range from less than 1 billion hectares to over 6 billion hectares.³²⁰⁰

As of 2019, around 2 billion hectares of land worldwide is degraded with minimal economic or ecological value.³²⁰¹ The estimated annual cost of ecosystem services lost due to land degradation is between USD6.3 trillion to USD10.6 trillion, which is 10 to 17 per cent of the world’s gross domestic product (GDP). Although these figures are concerning, there are several active global multilateral initiatives aimed at restoring degraded landscapes such as the Bonn Challenge, the New York Declaration on Forests, Initiative 20x20, the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

Efforts to combat land degradation may include “agroecology, conservation measures, agroforestry and integrated animal and crop production systems that promote soil organic matter accumulation and nutrient cycling, ... and measures that enhance soil carbon storage in managed landscapes.”³²⁰² Efforts to create new carbon sinks may include restoring degraded forests, conserving wetlands and other marine ecosystems, and substantially planting and growing new trees.³²⁰³ Trees should be planted in the “right” places – ideally as part of broader, inclusive ecosystem landscape restoration strategies – and in consultation and collaboration with local communities.³²⁰⁴ Recent work by the G20 members includes the launch of the Global Initiative on

³¹⁹⁶ Media Release: Worsening Worldwide Land Degradation Now ‘Critical’, Undermining Well-Being of 3.2 Billion People, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Bonn) 23 March 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://ipbes.net/news/media-release-worsening-worldwide-land-degradation-now-%E2%80%98critical%E2%80%99-undermining-well-being-32>

³¹⁹⁷ Land Degradation, Global Environment Facility (Washington D.C.) n.d. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://www.thegef.org/what-we-do/topics/land-degradation>

³¹⁹⁸ Global Symposium on Soil Erosion Key Messages, Food and Agriculture Organization (Rome) n.d. Access Date: 7 December 2021. <https://www.fao.org/about/meetings/soil-erosion-symposium/key-messages/en/>

³¹⁹⁹ What is degraded land?, World Resources Institute (Washington D.C.) n.d. Access Date: 7 December 2021. <https://www.wri.org/forests/what-is-degraded-land>

³²⁰⁰ Land in Numbers 2019: Risks and Opportunities, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Bonn) 11 June 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://catalogue.unccd.int/1202-Land%20in%20numbers_2%20new-web.pdf

³²⁰¹ Land in Numbers 2019: Risks and Opportunities, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Bonn) 11 June 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://catalogue.unccd.int/1202-Land%20in%20numbers_2%20new-web.pdf

³²⁰² Combatting Land Degradation – Securing A Sustainable Future, United Nations Development Programme (New York) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 8 December 2021. <https://www.undp.org/publications/combating-land-degradation-securing-sustainable-future>

³²⁰³ EU drafts plan to grow ‘carbon sinks’ in climate change fight, Reuters (Brussels) 6 July 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/eu-drafts-plan-grow-carbon-sinks-climate-change-fight-2021-07-06>

³²⁰⁴ G20 delivers limited progress, leaders must now step up in Glasgow to secure a 1.5 °C pathway, World Wide Fund for Nature (Gland) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021. https://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?4180941/G20

Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats at the 2020 Riyadh Summit.³²⁰⁵

At the 2009 London Summit, G20 leaders acknowledged the “threat of irreversible climate change” and committed to reaching agreements at the United Nations Climate Change conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.³²⁰⁶ Five months later at the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, G20 leaders made more substantial commitments on climate change issues, although the focus was on energy security and clean energy technologies.³²⁰⁷

At the 2010 Seoul Summit, G20 leaders committed to protecting the global marine environment and to “support country-led green growth policies that promote environmentally sustainable global growth.”³²⁰⁸ This Summit was the first G20 Summit to explicitly highlight environmental issues although only in terms of marine environments and sustainable green growth. At the 2011 Cannes Summit, G20 leaders further committed to protecting marine environments by preventing accidents related to offshore oil and gas exploration, and marine transportation.³²⁰⁹

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 leaders committed to fighting climate change and recognized the need to adapt agricultural techniques to impacts of climate change through soil fertility enhancement and agroforestry.³²¹⁰

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders recognized the need of and committed to working together to address environmental protection and climate change.³²¹¹

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 leaders committed to taking innovation as a “key element ... to identify new growth engines for individual countries” to build a cleaner environment.³²¹² G20 leaders also announced enhancing “collaboration on solutions that promote natural gas extraction, transportation, and processing in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts.” Furthermore, G20 leaders committed to supporting developing countries to promote “environment-friendly technologies.”

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders introduced the G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter, which focused on preventing and reducing all types of marine litter and on addressing pollution from both land-based sources as well as sea-based sources like the fishing, aquaculture and shipping industries.³²¹³ In this Action Plan, G20 leaders committed to promoting socio-economic benefits of establishing policies to prevent marine litter such as promoting partnerships with stakeholders in relevant sectors (tourism, fisheries, shipping, consumer goods,

³²⁰⁵ G-20 Announces New Initiative to Save Degrading Land, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (Bonn) 23 November 2020. Access Date: 8 December 2021. <https://www.unccd.int/news-events/g-20-announces-new-initiative-save-degrading-land>

³²⁰⁶ The G20 London Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-09-london.html>

³²⁰⁷ The G20 Pittsburgh Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-09-pittsburgh.html>

³²⁰⁸ The G20 Seoul Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-10-seoul.html>

³²⁰⁹ The G20 Cannes Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 3 November 2011. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-11-cannes.html>

³²¹⁰ The G20 Los Cabos Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 June 2012. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-12-loscabos.html>

³²¹¹ The 2013 G20 St. Petersburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) March 2014. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-13-stpetersburg.html>

³²¹² The 2016 G20 Hangzhou Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 October 2016. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-16-hangzhou.html>

³²¹³ The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

etc.) and to supporting removal and remediation actions to clean up marine litter.³²¹⁴ Further in this Action Plan, G20 leaders committed to promoting waste prevention and resource efficiency, sustainable waste management, and effective wastewater treatment and storm water management. At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders also announced intentions to “collaborate closely on climate and energy issues to successfully address the challenges of environmental protection.”

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders affirmed the need to “foster coherence between mitigation action, adaptation measures, environmental protection, and resilient infrastructure” to tackle climate change, and to consider each country’s circumstances and focus on ecosystem and community-based approaches to promote clean technologies and approaches.³²¹⁵ At this Summit, the United States specifically reaffirmed its commitment to promoting environmental protection and efforts to reduce emissions and provide cleaner environments after announcing its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement.

At the 2020 Riyadh Summit, G20 leaders committed to “building a more environmentally sustainable and inclusive future for all people” and reiterated support for tackling environmental challenges like biodiversity loss.³²¹⁶ At this Summit, G20 leaders also committed to achieving “a 50 per cent reduction of degraded land by 2040, on a voluntary basis.” The 2020 Riyadh Summit was the first G20 Summit that committed to tackling land degradation.

Commitment Features

At the 2021 Rome Summit, G20 leaders committed to “acknowledging the urgency of combating land degradation and creating new carbon sinks, we share the aspirational goal to collectively plant 1 trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.”³²¹⁷

“Acknowledging” is understood to mean “to take notice of [and] to recognize as genuine or valid.”³²¹⁸

“Urgency” is understood to mean “the quality of needing to be dealt with or happen immediately.”³²¹⁹

“Combating” is understood to mean “to stop something unpleasant or harmful from happening or from getting worse,” which in this commitment, refers to land degradation.³²²⁰

“Land degradation” is understood to mean “the reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rain-fed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest or woodlands resulting from natural processes, land uses or other human activities and habitation patterns such as land contamination, soil erosion and the destruction of the vegetation cover.”³²²¹ Land degradation “negatively affects food production,

³²¹⁴ The 2017 G20 Hamburg Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 October 2017. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-17-hamburg.html>

³²¹⁵ The 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-19-osaka.html>

³²¹⁶ The 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 November 2020. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-20-riyadh.html>

³²¹⁷ G20 Rome Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2021/211031-declaration.html>

³²¹⁸ Acknowledge, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/acknowledge>

³²¹⁹ Urgency, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/urgency>

³²²⁰ Combat, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 4 December 2021. https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/combat_2

³²²¹ Land Degradation, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 25 September 2001. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=1494>

livelihoods, and the production and provision of other ecosystem goods and services,” and an example of land degradation is desertification.³²²²

“Creating” is understood to mean “to make something happen or exist,” which in this commitment refers to new carbon sinks.³²²³

“New carbon sinks” refer to “anything that absorbs more carbon than it releases.”³²²⁴ For example, forests, soil and oceans are all carbon sinks “as they absorb significant quantities of carbon.” Most importantly, forests are “crucial carbon sinks as the tropical forests of Asia, Africa and South America alone absorb ‘about 18% of all carbon dioxide added by fossil fuels.’” In this commitment’s context, actions should not focus solely on restoring already existing carbon sinks, but rather on building entirely new carbon sinks such as new forests.

“Share” is understood to mean “to have in common,” which in this commitment refers to collectively planting 1 million trees.³²²⁵

“Aspirational” is understood to mean “relating to or characterized by aspiration or a strong desire for something.”³²²⁶ “Goal” is understood to mean “something that you hope to achieve.”³²²⁷ As such, an “aspirational goal” refers to a strong desire for something one hopes to achieve and, in this commitment, the aspirational goal is to plant 1 million trees collectively as G20 members.

“Focusing” is understood to mean “to concentrate attention or effort,” which in this commitment refers to the most degraded ecosystems on Earth.³²²⁸

“Most degraded ecosystems on the planet” is understood to mean any ecosystem assessed as threatened or collapsed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List of Ecosystems (RLE), which evaluates whether ecosystems have reached the “final stage of degradation (a state of Collapse), ...[or] threatened at Critically Endangered, Endangered or Vulnerable Levels.”³²²⁹ However, there are other definitions of which ecosystems are the most degraded and one such definition, by 16 conservation organizations including The Nature Conservancy, finds freshwater ecosystems such as rivers and lakes to be the most degraded in the world.³²³⁰ The IPBES also found that wetlands may be one of the most degraded ecosystems on the planet with losses of up to 87 per cent over the past 300 years.³²³¹

There are two main outcomes to this commitment: combating land degradation and creating new carbon sinks. As part of this commitment, G20 members must take strong actions directed at the two commitment components mentioned. Examples of strong actions to combat land degradation include but are not limited to

³²²² Climate Change: Land Degradation and Desertification, World Health Organization (Geneva) 26 October 2020. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/climate-change-land-degradation-and-desertification>

³²²³ Create, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/create>

³²²⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 8 December 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³²²⁵ Share, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/share>

³²²⁶ Aspirational, Dictionary.com (Detroit) n.d. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/aspirational>

³²²⁷ Goal, Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries (Oxford) n.d. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/goal>

³²²⁸ Focus, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/focusing>

³²²⁹ Red List of Ecosystems, International Union for Conservation of Nature (Gland) n.d. Access Date: 8 December 2021. <https://iucnrle.org/about-rle/rle/>

³²³⁰ Rivers and lakes are the most degraded ecosystems in the world. Can we save them?, National Geographic (Washington D.C.) 1 March 2021. Access Date: 8 December 2021. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/rivers-and-lakes-are-most-degraded-ecosystems-in-world-can-we-save-them>

³²³¹ Media Release: Worsening Worldwide Land Degradation Now ‘Critical’, Undermining Well-Being of 3.2 Billion People, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (Bonn) 23 March 2018. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://ipbes.net/news/media-release-worsening-worldwide-land-degradation-now-%E2%80%98critical%E2%80%99-undermining-well-being-32>

launching programs to financially incentivize sustainable land management and agriculture techniques, coordinating ministerial policies to promote sustainable production practices, enacting new policies to create more national parks or nature reserves, and/or implementing new legislation to combat deforestation.³²³² Examples of strong actions to create new carbon sinks include but are not limited to allocating additional funding to multilateral initiatives like the Bonn Challenge, expanding programs aimed at planting and growing trees to include other actions such as financing seedlings, and/or introducing new programs to incentivize carbon farming. Examples of weak actions to combat land degradation and/or to create new carbon sinks include but are not limited to attendance at international conferences or meetings on land degradation, sharing information on land degradation levels to international multilateral organizations, and/or making speeches about the importance of planting trees.

Alongside the depth component, or the strength of the action taken by the G20 member, a G20 member must take significant action on either the domestic or international level for full compliance.³²³³ Actions on the domestic level would include verbal reaffirmations, allocating money and budgetary resources, creating new departments and/or programs, and/or enacting domestic legislations to combat land degradation. Actions on the international level would include sponsoring, signing or ratifying international treaties, financing programs led by international organizations like the UN Development Programme or UN Environment Programme, and/or providing international financial support to other countries so they can implement the REDD+ initiatives. However, actions must lead to trees being physically planted to be considered compliant, due to the strong wording of this commitment. Ultimately, the actions must extend beyond mere discussion of the degraded land and have an actionable component.

The G20 member will be awarded a score of +1, or full compliance, if the G20 member has taken action to combat land degradation by planting a significant number of trees in degraded lands.

The G20 member will be awarded a score of 0, or partial compliance, if it makes some progress, by planting trees and/or has taken steps to begin this process, such as through new bilateral or multilateral agreements to begin planting trees (i.e. planting trees actually is set to start outside of the compliance period), or has planted trees but not in degraded areas.

The G20 member will be awarded a score of -1, or non-compliance, if the member has not taken any action to plant trees in degraded lands, nor have they started the process; the G20 member has only made verbal promises but no actions have followed.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member has NOT taken any actions to plant trees, NOR have they begun the process.
0	The G20 member has planted SOME actions to plant trees in degraded lands AND/OR has taken steps to begin this process.
+1	The G20 member has made strong progress by planting a significant amount of trees in degraded lands.

*Compliance Director: Brandon Yih
Lead Analyst: Sydney Grad*

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

³²³² Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 8 December 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

³²³³ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 8 December 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

On 2 November 2021, Argentina endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.³²³⁴ This Declaration recognizes the need to conserve forests, facilitate trade and development policies promoting sustainable development, implement or redesign agricultural policies to incentivise sustainable agriculture, increase funding for sustainable forest management and restoration projects and facilitating international financial flows to reverse forest loss and land degradation.

On 8 November 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development held the sixth virtual meeting of the Environmental Training for Journalists program.³²³⁵ This meeting focused on issues related to native forests along with the preservation of, management of, application of regulations and policies on forests.

On 9 November 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development held a two-day national meeting to analyze the implementation of policies on the preservation and sustainable use of native forests.³²³⁶ At this meeting, presentations were run by workers involved in various technical, legal and administrative areas on projects such as the Native Forests and Community project, a project on the sustainable management of palo santo plants, a reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) support project, and more.

On 1 December 2021, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development published the Report of Implementation of the Forest Law 26.331 on minimum budgets for environmental protection of native forests with guidelines to manage forest ecosystems in a sustainable manner.³²³⁷

On 7 December 2021, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Julián Domínguez announced that in 2022, Argentina will start a program to plant 100 million trees throughout the country.³²³⁸ Minister Domínguez stated that the project will be collaborative with local provinces and municipalities.

On 10 March 2022, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Juan Cabandié moved forward with the Iberá Environmental Restoration Plan, which would allocate ARS40 million to rehabilitate woodlands in the city of Corrientes after forest fires and expand the 25 species of existing native trees.³²³⁹

On 4 April 2022, the Federal Environment Council organized its 102nd Ordinary Assembly, where the National Director of Forests Martín Mónaco spoke on the status of implementation of Law 26.331 to protect 200,000 hectares of protected woodlands.³²⁴⁰

³²³⁴ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³²³⁵ Native forests, preservation, management and its regulations, were the topics of the Environmental Training for Journalists, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 8 November 2021. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 20 February 2022. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/bosques-nativos-preservacion-manejo-y-su-normativa-fueron-los-temas-de-la-capacitacion>

³²³⁶ Native forests, preservation, management and its regulations, were the topics of the Environmental Training for Journalists, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 8 November 2021. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 20 February 2022. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/bosques-nativos-preservacion-manejo-y-su-normativa-fueron-los-temas-de-la-capacitacion>

³²³⁷ Report: Status of implementation of Law 26,331 on Minimum Budgets for Environmental Protection of Native Forests, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 February 2022. https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/2020/10/2021_informe_estado_implementacion.pdf

³²³⁸ Julián Domínguez: "In 2022 we are going to start a program to plant 100 million trees throughout the country," Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Buenos Aires) 7 December 2022. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 11 February 2022. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/julian-dominguez-en-2022-vamos-iniciar-un-programa-para-plantar-100-millones-de-arboles-en>

³²³⁹ Cabandié advances with the Iberá Environmental Restoration Plan, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 10 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2022. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-avanza-con-el-plan-de-restauracion-ambiental-ibera>

³²⁴⁰ A new COFEMA assembly was held, focused on wetlands and forests, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 4 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2022. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-realizo-una-nueva-asamblea-del-cofema-con-eje-en-humedales-y-bosques-0>

On 5 April 2022, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development launched the National Program of Non-Timber Forest Products to increase the protection of forests and trees around the country.³²⁴¹

On 11 April 2022, Minister Cabandié signed agreements with the provinces of Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Chaco, Chubut, Entre Ríos, La Pampa, La Rioja, Mendoza, Misiones, Río Negro, Salta, San Luis, Santa Cruz, Santa Fe, Santiago del Estero, Tierra del Fuego, Córdoba, San Juan and Jujuy, to distribute the USD82 million from the Green Climate Fund.³²⁴² Additionally, on 6 May 2022, two more provinces, Formosa and Tucumán, agreed to set the budgets of ARS558,914,668 and ARS121,154,688 respectively, to directly fight deforestation.³²⁴³

On 27 May 2022, Minister Cabandié participated in the 10th Assembly of Governors of the Norte Grande.³²⁴⁴ At the meeting, it was discussed that given that more than half of the country's native forests are located in the region, there is a need to strengthen public policy tools in the matter considering the high levels of greenhouse gas emissions and clearing. To reverse inequalities, Minister Cabandié promised to increase the budget for native forests protection allocated to the provinces.

On 30 May 2022, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development through the National Parks Administration planted 3,000 araucarias (monkey puzzles trees) in the burned area of the Ñorquinco lake basin located in the Lanín National Park in the province of Neuquén.³²⁴⁵

On 14 June 2022, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development announced that the province of Misiones will receive ARS330 million from the Forest Fund and over USD3.5 million from the United Nations' Green Climate Fund.³²⁴⁶ This funding is aimed at supporting the management of urban solid waste, fire and other environmental activities conducted in the province. This funding will also go towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation.

On 16 June 2022, the National Congress passed a new law to establish the new Islote Lobos national park in the province of Río Negro.³²⁴⁷ The creation of this new national park, the 40th in Argentina, ensures more ecosystems can be protected and serves as a tool to fight against climate change.

On 18 June 2022, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, through the National Fire Management Service, delivered two helicopters with buckets, a hydrant plane and an observer plane to combat

³²⁴¹ Environment created a national program of non-timber forest products, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 5 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2022.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-creo-un-programa-nacional-de-productos-forestales-no-madereros>

³²⁴² There are already 19 provinces that joined the implementation of the payment for results of the Green Climate Fund, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 11 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2022. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ya-son-19-las-provincias-que-se-sumaron-la-implementacion-del-pago-por-resultados-del-fondo>

³²⁴³ Two new provinces signed the agreements for payment by results of the Green Climate Fund, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 6 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2022. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/dos-nuevas-provincias-firmaron-los-convenios-para-el-pago-por-resultados-del-fondo-verde>

³²⁴⁴ Cabandié announced an increase in investments for native forests at the 10th Assembly of Governors of the Norte Grande, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 27 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 June 2022. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-anuncio-un-aumento-de-inversiones-para-bosques-nativos-en-la-10a-asamblea-de>

³²⁴⁵ Nearly 3,000 araucarias were planted in a burned area of the Lanín National Park, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 30 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 June 2022.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-plantaron-cerca-de-3000-araucarias-en-una-zona-incendiada-del-parque-nacional-lanin>

³²⁴⁶ Cabandié in Misiones: "The province will receive 330 million pesos from the Forest Fund and more than 3.5 million dollars from the Green Climate Fund," Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 14 June 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cabandie-en-misiones-la-provincia-recibira-330-millones-de-pesos-del-fondo-de-bosques-y-mas>

³²⁴⁷ New national parks: the creation of Islote Lobos was approved, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 16 June 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nuevos-parques-nacionales-se-aprobo-la-creacion-de-islote-lobos>

active forest fires in the provinces of Santa Fe and Entre Ríos.³²⁴⁸ This is part of the Ministry's portfolio in making air and brigade means accessible to provinces with forest fires.

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Argentina has taken strong actions to acknowledge the urgency of land degradation and create new carbon sinks through the creation of new national parks and planting new trees in burned areas. The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has given multiple announcements, published reports and hosted educational events to promote sustainable land management and other environmental initiatives. In addition, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries announced the goal of planting 100 million trees.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Diego Arreola Fernández

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 2 November 2021, Australia endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.³²⁴⁹ This Declaration recognizes the need to conserve forests, facilitate trade and development policies promoting sustainable development, implement or redesign agricultural policies to incentivise sustainable agriculture, increase funding for sustainable forest management and restoration projects and facilitating international financial flows to reverse forest loss and land degradation.

On 3 December 2021, the Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley reported that Australia has exceeded its targets under the "20 million trees" initiative and found that over 30 million trees have been planted thus far.³²⁵⁰

On 10 December 2021, Minister Ley and Senator for Victoria Sarah Henderson announced an AUD1.5 million investment to protect coastal dunes along the Bellarine Peninsula with initiatives like hands-on conservation measures including tree planting and weed eradication.³²⁵¹

On 6 February 2022, Australia announced the launch of the Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee Program, which provides up to AUD15.1 million in grant funding in 2022 to organizations for community-oriented tree planting activities.³²⁵² This includes allocating grant funds of up to AUD100,000 to go towards each federal electorate's tree planting initiatives to promote biodiversity and community engagement.

On 28 February 2022, the Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia David Littleproud and Minister Ley announced the review of the AUD1.1 billion National Landcare Program and the move to phase two.³²⁵³ This

³²⁴⁸ Forest fires: Environment makes available resources to fight the fire to the provinces that require them, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 18 June 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/incendios-forestales-ambiente-pone-disposicion-recursos-para-combatir-el-fuego-las>

³²⁴⁹ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³²⁵⁰ 29.5 million trees established across Australia, Australian Government (Sydney) 3 December 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2022 <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/295-million-trees-established-across-australia>

³²⁵¹ Coastal dune protection work under way across Bellarine and Surf Coast, Senator Sarah Henderson Liberal Senator for Victoria (Geelong) 20 December 2021. Access Date: 19 June 2022. <https://sarahhenderson.com.au/coastal-dune-protection-work-under-way-across-bellarine-and-surf-coast/>

³²⁵² Planting Trees for The Queen's Jubilee Program, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 7 February 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/conservation/queens-jubilee>

³²⁵³ National Landcare Program Review Released, News of the Area (Raymond Terrace) 2 March 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.newsofthearea.com.au/national-landcare-program-review-released-88216>

includes opportunities to scale Landcare initiatives like soil, water and biodiversity from a local to a regional or national scale.

On 28 February 2022, Australia participated in the United Nations Environment Assembly-5.2 (UNEA) and adopted 14 resolutions.³²⁵⁴ At the virtual conference, Minister Ley stressed the importance of actions against fundamental threats such as biodiversity loss.

On 15 March 2022, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment announced an investment of AUD128.5 million as a budget reform package to target environmental protection, facilitate assessment and heighten compliance to international environmental commitments.³²⁵⁵ This investment package is focused on advancing environmental reform of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act of 1999.

On 29 March 2022, Australia released its official 2022-23 Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment budget.³²⁵⁶ The budget commits AUD90.6 million over five years to secure the future of Australian forestry. This includes AUD86.2 million to support the establishment of new plantations. Additionally, AUD100 million is committed to investing in efforts that target protecting and restoring the environment. The federal budget also demands the delivery of the National Soil Strategy by 2023.³²⁵⁷ The strategy prioritizes soil health, empowers soil innovation and stewardship, and strengthens soil knowledge and capability.

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Australia has focused on domestic policies and goals such as various tree planting initiatives and protections for existing forestry. Australia has also prioritized funding for agricultural initiatives related to reforestation. Australia has also taken part in various international conferences such as the UNEA-5.2 conference.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Iman Hussain

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 1 November 2021, President Jair Bolsonaro pledged to raise the country's climate commitments at the start of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, United Kingdom.³²⁵⁸ Minister of the Environment Joaquim Leite announced that Brazil would aim to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent by 2030, compared to a previous commitment of reducing emissions by 43 per cent by 2030.

³²⁵⁴ United Nations Environment Programme, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 28 February 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.awe.gov.au/environment/international/unep#video-transcript>

³²⁵⁵ EPBC Act reform, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 15 March 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.awe.gov.au/environment/epbc/epbc-act-reform>

³²⁵⁶ Budget 2022-23, Government of Australia Federal Budget (Canberra) 29 March 2022. Access Date: 19 June 2022. <https://budget.gov.au/>

³²⁵⁷ Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 29 March 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.awe.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/pbs-2022-23-dawe.pdf>

³²⁵⁸ Brazil pledges 50 percent emissions cut by 2030 in change of tone, Al Jazeera (Doha) 1 November 2021. Access Date: 25 January 2022. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/11/1/brazil-pledges-50-percent-emissions-cut-by-2030-in-change-of-tone>

On 2 November 2021, Brazil endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.³²⁵⁹ Brazil, along with over 100 other countries, pledged a total amount of almost USD19.2 billion to end and reverse deforestation by 2030 at COP26.³²⁶⁰

On 14 December 2021, the Ministry of the Environment, through the Secretariat of the Protected Areas as well as the Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation, signed the Public Notice for the Concession of the Iguaçú National Park.³²⁶¹ This project will invest BRL3.5 billion to improve the infrastructure and services to the conservation of biodiversity and the development of cities surrounding the national park.

On 14 December 2021, Minister Leite announced that the rate of deforestation in the Amazon region fell by 19.5 per cent in November 2021 compared to November 2020.³²⁶² Furthermore, Minister Leite stated that the reduction in deforestation reflected the integrated cooperation between the Ministries of the Environment, Justice and Public Security and Defense, in fighting environmental crimes in the Amazon.

On 23 December 2021, the Ministry of the Environment presented a comprehensive legal framework to the Food and Agriculture Organization that covers climate change and adaptation, as well as a forest code that takes into consideration specificities of different biomes.³²⁶³ This framework aims to reduce emissions by addressing the information gap caused by data being scattered among different entities, in private, public and nongovernmental sectors, that currently do not interact or exchange information, preventing a proper assessment of the situation and allowing for more efficient policy design and incentives.

On 27 January 2022, Minister Leite participated in the ministerial meeting of the Economies Forum on Energy and Climate.³²⁶⁴ Minister Leite highlighted the creation of the National Green Growth Program, which offers financing and subsidies to encourage sustainable economic projects and activities generating green jobs, as well as the expansion of the Interministerial Committee on Climate Change to emphasize their actions towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

On 2 February 2022, the Ministry of the Environment released a statement emphasizing the importance of Brazilian wetland conservation and explained that the ministry further set out to implement protective measures to the wetland.³²⁶⁵ The Ministry further explains that the wetlands serve an important factor for the country's biodiversity and carbon storage, and thus must be preserved.

³²⁵⁹ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³²⁶⁰ COP26: World leaders promise to end deforestation by 2030, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-59088498>

³²⁶¹ Ministry of the Environment and BNDES authorize the publication of a public notice that foresees investments of R\$ 3.5 billion in the Iguaçú National Park, Ministry of the Environment (Brasília) 14 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 January 2021. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/noticias/ministerio-do-meio-ambiente-e-bndes-autorizam-publicacao-de-edital-que-preve-investimentos-de-r-3-5-bilhoes-no-parque-nacional-do-iguacu>

³²⁶² Deforestation alerts in the Amazon in November are the lowest in the last six years, Ministry of the Environment (Brasília) 14 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 31 January 2021 <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/noticias/desmatamento-na-amazonia-em-novembro-e-o-menor-dos-ultimos-seis-anos>

³²⁶³ Brazilian Platform of sustainability: traceability and certification for cattle and soybean supply chain in the Amazon, Green Climate Fund (Incheon) 23 December 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/brazilian-platform-sustainability-traceability-and-certification-cattle-and-soybeans-supply>

³²⁶⁴ Minister of the Environment participates in an international event that discusses measures to reduce emissions, Ministry of the Environment (Brasília) 3 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/noticias/ministro-do-meio-ambiente-participa-de-evento-internacional-que-discute-medidas-para-reduzir-emissoes>

³²⁶⁵ Ministry of the Environment discusses the importance of preserving wetlands, Ministry of the Environment (Brasília) 7 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/noticias/ministerio-do-meio-ambiente-discute-a-importancia-da-preservacao-das-areas-umidas>

On 6 February 2022, Minister Leite stated that the Federal Government will present over 100 cases of sustainability and green economy projects to take lead on the global carbon market.³²⁶⁶ Minister Leite further explained that 20 to 25 per cent of exports or transactions taken in Brazil will play a role in the global carbon market.

On 9 February 2022, Minister Leite explained that the federal government would announce the creation of the Methane Zero program in the next 30 days.³²⁶⁷ This measure aims to encourage sectors such as agriculture, energy and waste to transform methane gas into biofuel with the financial support of public banks.

On 4 April 2022, Minister Leite and the Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro Dom Orani João Tempesta signed a coexistence agreement and memorandum of understanding on the management of the Tijuca National Park and the Cristo Redentor Sanctuary.³²⁶⁸ The memorandum focuses on the conservation of local biodiversity and combating environmental impacts by integrating historical, cultural and religious values in environmental considerations.

On 26 April 2022, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Mines and Energy jointly published a Interministerial Ordinance, introducing a protocol that controls and eliminates the use of polychlorinated biphenyls.³²⁶⁹ The Federal Government of Brazil aims to eradicate any use of harmful chemicals and materials that will decrease the stability of the land.

On 28 April 2022, Minister Leite hosted a meeting with the National Network of Public Consortia to propose a new public policy action to manage environmental policies.³²⁷⁰ Specifically, the meeting discussed the facilitation and the implementation of solid waste management policies to manage land degradation in Brazil.

On 2 June 2022, Minister Leite participated in the international meeting, Stockholm+50, in Sweden.³²⁷¹ Minister Leite highlighted that “to protect forests, the Federal Government [of Brazil] reinforced the fight against illegal deforestation with more environmental agents and launched, in March 2022, the operation Guardians of the Amazon Biome, which aims to combat organized crime.”

On 15 June 2022, Minister Leite, Minister of Justice and Public Security Anderson Torres and the United States Special Envoy for Climate John Kerry jointly announced a new working group to combat illegal deforestation,

³²⁶⁶ “We will be the main protagonist of the carbon market,” says the Minister of the Environment in an interview with the EBC, Ministry of the Environment (Brasília) 10 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/noticias/201cseremos-o-grande-protagonista-do-mercado-de-carbono201d-afirma-ministro-do-meio-ambiente-em-entrevista-a-ebc>

³²⁶⁷ Minister Joaquim Leite announces program to transform methane into biofuel, Ministry of the Environment (Brasília) 10 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/noticias/ministro-joaquim-leite-anuncia-programa-para-transformar-metano-em-biocombustivel>

³²⁶⁸ Historic agreement formalizes the role of the Federal Government and the Church in the management of the Tijuca National Park and the Cristo Redentor Sanctuary, Ministry of the Environment (Brasília) 4 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 April 2022. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/governo-federal-celebra-acordo-no-rio-de-janeiro-para-ordenamento-publico-do-parque-nacional-da-tijuca-e-para-regularizacao-fundiaria-de-comunidades-da-mare-e-do-parque-alegria>

³²⁶⁹ Government regulates controlled disposal of toxic substances, Ministry of the Environment (Brasília) 26 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2022. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/noticias/governo-regulamenta-eliminacao-controlada-de-substancias-toxicas>

³²⁷⁰ Partnership between MMA and Public Consortia expand access to solid waste management policies in municipalities, Ministry of the Environment (Brasília) 28 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2022. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/noticias/parceria-entre-mma-e-consorcios-publicos-ampliam-acesso-as-politicas-de-gestao-de-residuos-solidos-em-municipios-de-todo-o-pais>

³²⁷¹ Brazilian government participates in the international meeting Stockholm+50, in Sweden, Ministry of the Environment (Brasília) 6 June 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 11 June 2022. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/governo-brasileiro-participa-do-encontro-internacional-estocolmo-50-na-suecia>

illegal mining, animal trafficking and timber trades.³²⁷² This new working group was announced during the Summit of the Americas.

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Brazil has taken some actions in tackling land degradation and creating new carbon sinks. Brazil has primarily focused on tackling domestic issues and policy agendas but did cooperate with some international partners in setting a treaty, such as COP26.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Taisei Inoue

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 2 November 2021, Canada endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).³²⁷³ This Declaration recognizes the need to conserve forests, facilitate trade and development policies promoting sustainable development, implement or redesign agricultural policies to incentivise sustainable agriculture, increase funding for sustainable forest management and restoration projects and facilitating international financial flows to reverse forest loss and land degradation.

On 2 November 2021, Canada signed onto a new Global Forest Finance Pledge at COP26.³²⁷⁴ Collectively with 12 donor countries, this pledge provides USD12 billion between 2021 and 2025 to “support action in developing countries, including restoring degraded land, tackling wildfires and advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.”³²⁷⁵

On 2 November 2021, Canada signed the joint statement of the ongoing Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade dialogue at COP26 along with 26 other countries and the European Union, to promote sustainable agricultural development and forest management.³²⁷⁶ The statement is part of the dialogue's roadmap of actions, with four “overall objectives: trade and market development; smallholder support; traceability and transparency; and research, development and innovation.”

On 16 December 2021, Canada affirmed that the “2 Billion Trees” (2BT) project is on track.³²⁷⁷ This initiative ensures the planting of two billion trees nationwide over 10 years to combat and mitigate the effects of climate

³²⁷² Brazil and the United States announce a working group to combat illegal deforestation, Ministry of the Environment (Brasilia) 15 June 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022. <https://www.gov.br/mma/pt-br/noticias/brasil-e-estados-unidos-anunciam-grupo-de-trabalho-para-combate-ao-desmatamento-ilegal>

³²⁷³ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³²⁷⁴ The Global Forest Finance Pledge, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/the-global-forest-finance-pledge>

³²⁷⁵ World leaders summit on 'Action on forests and land use,' United Kingdom Prime Minister's Office 10 Downing Street (London) 21 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop26-world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use-2-november-2021/world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use>

³²⁷⁶ Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/forests-agriculture-and-commodity-trade-a-roadmap-for-action/>

³²⁷⁷ 2 Billion Trees update: Supply chain from seed to tree, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 11 February 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/2-billion-trees/2-billion-trees-update-supply-chain-from-seed-to-tree.html>

change while concurrently achieving biodiversity and conservation targets.³²⁷⁸ By the end of 2021, 30 million trees will have been planted as part of the 2BT project.

On 11 January 2022, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced up to CAD55 million in funding for the Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) fund, an investment fund launched by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in efforts to combat land degradation.³²⁷⁹ This is part of the Government of Canada's CAD2.65 billion climate finance commitment and the G7 Charlevoix Commitment for Innovative Financing for Sustainable Development. The LDN fund aims to ensure that economic recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic will support green jobs and sustainable businesses.

On 10 February 2022, the Government of Canada updated the Greener Home Grant to provide additional financial incentives towards creating developments with sustainable, green practices.³²⁸⁰ Now, the act allows for an increased rate of application to ensure it is accessible; accelerating grant payments so that the funds can be delivered faster, additional employment of energy advisors to ensure the program succeeds and making it easier to contact advisors along with increased transparency to the public. On a macro level, this shows the Government of Canada's initiative to accelerate construction with sustainable practices in mind in the effort to combat ongoing environmental degradation.

On 14 February 2022, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault launched the Output-Based Pricing System Proceeds Fund on carbon emissions.³²⁸¹ This would serve to make emitters pay for all of their greenhouse gas emissions on a production basis with higher taxes for higher polluters. This serves as a method to disincentivize activities that are intensive in greenhouse gas emissions as a measure against ongoing climate change, which is a key contributor to environmental degradation.

On 29 April 2022, the Government of Canada issued its intention to delay action on the Canadian Environmental Protection Act for two more years in order to establish a foundation for the Act to be enforced.³²⁸²

On 3 June 2022, Canada hosted the sixth session of the Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA6) and Minister Guilbeault participated in the United Nations-led Stockholm+50 events.³²⁸³

³²⁷⁸ 2 Billion Trees update: Supply chain from seed to tree, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 11 February 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/campaign/2-billion-trees/2-billion-trees-update-supply-chain-from-seed-to-tree.html>

³²⁷⁹ Canada Announces Support to Combat Land Degradation and Desertification in Developing Countries, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 11 January 2022. Access Date: 11 February 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/01/canada-announces-support-to-combat-land-degradation-and-desertification-in-developing-countries.html>

³²⁸⁰ Canada Greener Homes Winter 2022 Update, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 10 February 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy-efficiency/homes/canada-greener-homes-grant/canada-greener-homes-grant-winter-2022-update/24060>

³²⁸¹ Canada launches new fund to reinvest proceeds from carbon pollution pricing system and reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions, Newswire (Gatineau) 14 February 2022. Access Date: 27 February 2022. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-launches-new-fund-to-reinvest-proceeds-from-carbon-pollution-pricing-system-and-reduce-industrial-greenhouse-gas-emissions-877234356.html>

³²⁸² Feds enshrining right to healthy environment but no clarity on what that means, OHS Canada (Toronto) 29 April 2022. Date Accessed: 15 May 2022. <https://www.ohscanada.com/feds-enshrining-right-to-healthy-environment-but-no-clarity-on-what-that-means/>

³²⁸³ Minister Guilbeault completes European climate and environment meetings at UN's Stockholm+50, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Stockholm) 3 June 2022. Date Accessed: 12 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/06/minister-guilbeault-completes-european-climate-and-environment-meetings-at-uns-stockholm50.html>

On 3 June 2022, Minister Guilbeault and India's Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav signed a memorandum of understanding to increase bilateral cooperation on climate action, environmental protection and conservation, at the Stockholm+50 meeting.³²⁸⁴

On 7 June 2022, Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson announced over CAD2.4 million in funding through the 2BT project to Trees for Life.³²⁸⁵ Trees for Life will assist 34 projects focused on tree planting over 600,000 trees in the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

On 10 June 2022, Environment and Climate Change Canada announced an investment of CAD11.3 million over three years from Canada's Enhanced Nature Legacy to increase biodiversity conservation actions in nineteen United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) biosphere reserves spread throughout Canada including British Columbia's Clayoquot Sound, Manitoba's Riding Mountain and Quebec's Manicouagan-Uapishka Biosphere Reserve.³²⁸⁶

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Canada has launched initiatives to plant trees domestically to support reforestation efforts with a focus on biosphere reserves. Canada has also set aside funding for land restoration projects both in Canada and worldwide.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jake Knight

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 2 November 2021, Special Climate Envoy Xie Zhenhua signed onto the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, pledging among other things to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.³²⁸⁷

On 10 November 2021, Special Climate Envoy Xie Zhenhua signed onto the US-China Joint Glasgow Declaration on Enhancing Climate Action in the 2020s with the United States Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, pledging to collaborate in support of eliminating global illegal deforestation through effectively enforcing their respective laws on banning illegal imports.³²⁸⁸ The goal is to contribute meaningfully to the effort to reach their Paris Agreement goals.³²⁸⁹

³²⁸⁴ Canada and India sign Memorandum of Understanding to establish stronger cooperation on environmental protection and climate action, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Stockholm) 3 June 2022. Date Accessed: 11 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/06/canada-and-india-sign-memorandum-of-understanding-to-establish-stronger-cooperation-on-environmental-protection-and-climate-action.html>

³²⁸⁵ Government of Canada Announces Funding for Trees for Life Toward Planting Two Billion Trees Across Canada, Natural Resources Canada (Ottawa) 7 June 2022. Date Accessed: 11 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/06/government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-trees-for-life-toward-planting-two-billion-trees-across-canada.html>

³²⁸⁶ Canada invests \$11.3 million to increase biodiversity conservation in UNESCO biosphere reserves, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 10 June 2022. Access Date: 11 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/06/canada-invests-113million-to-increase-biodiversity-conservation-in-unesco-biosphere-reserves.html>

³²⁸⁷ China at COP26: Coal, 1.5C and short-term actions, China Dialogue (London) 16 November 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://chinadialogue.net/en/climate/coal-1-5c-and-short-term-actions-china-at-cop26/>

³²⁸⁸ China at COP26: Coal, 1.5C and short-term actions, China Dialogue (London) 16 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://chinadialogue.net/en/climate/coal-1-5c-and-short-term-actions-china-at-cop26/>

³²⁸⁹ U.S-China Joint Glasgow Declaration on Enhancing Climate Action in the 2020s, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 10 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-china-joint-glasgow-declaration-on-enhancing-climate-action-in-the-2020s/>

On 5 January 2021, President Xi Jinping delivered a special address to the 2022 World Economic Forum virtual session, citing China's commitment to promoting ecological conservation and that economic growth should never be at the cost of resource depletion and environmental degradation.³²⁹⁰

On 12 April 2022, Vice Premier Han Zheng called for strengthening efforts of national afforestation, ecological protection and pursuing green development.³²⁹¹ Vice Premier Han called for efforts to protect ecological resources, fight illegal logging, wildlife trafficking and occupation of forests and grasslands, prevent forest and grassland fires and guard against forest and grassland pests. Vice Premier Han also maintained that China will further balance land greening and farmland protection, pledging to ensure the country's farmland acreage remains above 1.8 billion mu (120 million hectares).

On 16 April 2022, the China Forestry Group Corporation pledged to plant over 604,000 mu (40,267 hectares) of trees in China in 2022.³²⁹² The corporation, the only centrally administered state-owned enterprise in the forestry sector, will promote and execute large-scale afforestation projects depending on local conditions.

On 28 April 2022, Minister of Ecology and Environment Huang Runqiu made opening remarks addressing the Stockholm+50 stakeholder consultation event, noting that China has prioritized environmental protection on its domestic agenda since the inception of the Stockholm Declaration and has made significant progress in resources conservation, sustainable development and international governance.³²⁹³ Minister Huang cited the revisions of over 30 laws and regulations related to ecological and environmental protection, including the implementation of international environmental agreements and supporting developing countries with green developments.

China has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. China has taken strong actions in recognizing the importance of combatting land degradation through tree planting and reforestation projects. China has also committed to cooperating with international partners to limit deforestation as part of its decarbonization strategy and long-term environmental goals.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jonathan Wang

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 2 November 2021, France signed onto the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which "commit[ted] to working collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030."³²⁹⁴

³²⁹⁰ Full Text: Special address by President Xi Jinping at the 2022 World Economic Forum virtual session, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 19 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202201/18/content_WS61e60eedc6d09c94e48a3cfe.html

³²⁹¹ Vice-Premier stresses importance of national afforestation, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 12 April 2022. Access Date: 15 May 2022. https://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/hanzheng/202204/12/content_WS62556bab6d02e533532923d.html

³²⁹² China Forestry Group to plant over 40,000 hectares of forests nationwide, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 17 April 2022. Access Date: 15 May 2022. https://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202204/17/content_WS625b4d8dc6d02e5335329711.html

³²⁹³ China actively promotes environmental protection for half a century, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 29 April 2022. Access Date: 15 May 2022. https://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202204/29/content_WS626b22f5c6d02e533532a111.html

³²⁹⁴ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

On 2 November 2021, France signed onto a new Global Forest Finance Pledge at COP26.³²⁹⁵ Collectively with 12 donor countries, this pledge provides USD12 billion between 2021 and 2025 to “support action in developing countries, including restoring degraded land, tackling wildfires and advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.”³²⁹⁶

On 2 November 2021, France signed onto the Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement along with 11 other countries and philanthropic donors at COP26.³²⁹⁷ As part of this statement, at least USD1.5 billion between 2021 and 2025 is collectively pledged to “support ambitious efforts and results in the region to protect and maintain the Congo Basin forests, peatlands and other critical global carbon stores.”

On 2 November 2021, France signed the joint statement of the ongoing Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade dialogue along with 26 other countries and the European Union, to promote sustainable agricultural development and forest management.³²⁹⁸ The statement is part of the dialogue’s roadmap of actions, with four “overall objectives: trade and market development; smallholder support; traceability and transparency; and research, development and innovation.”

On 10 January 2022, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced that an existing fund to recycle brownfield sites would receive an additional EUR100 million from the Recovery Plan.³²⁹⁹ By making brownfield sites fit for use, the fund aims to reduce the development (or “artificialization”) of greenfield lands, with an ultimate goal of zero net artificialization by 2050.

On 6 February 2022, Minister of Agriculture and Food Julien Denormandie hosted an informal summit of the EU agriculture ministers on the subject of low-carbon agriculture.³³⁰⁰ Ministers “shared their experience regarding climate-friendly agricultural practices,” and “a common certification framework at European level emerged as a promising avenue” during the talks.

On 22 February 2022, the Government of France introduced the “La Forêt et nous” online platform to spread awareness to young people on the challenges of forest conservation and sustainable management.³³⁰¹ The online platform allows young people to access maps from the National Institute for Geographic and Forest Information and take educational quizzes on forest ecosystems.

On 4 March 2022, Minister Denormandie, President of the Board of Directors of the National Center for Forest Property (CNPFP) Anne-Marie Bureau and the Director General of the CNPFP Claire Hubert signed a new contract

³²⁹⁵ The Global Forest Finance Pledge, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/the-global-forest-finance-pledge>

³²⁹⁶ World leaders summit on ‘Action on forests and land use,’ United Kingdom Prime Minister’s Office 10 Downing Street (London) 21 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop26-world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use-2-november-2021/world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use>

³²⁹⁷ COP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-congo-basin-joint-donor-statement>

³²⁹⁸ Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/forests-agriculture-and-commodity-trade-a-roadmap-for-action/>

³²⁹⁹ The government adds an additional 100 million euros to the wasteland recycling fund and announces 30 new winners of two calls for projects, Ministry of the Ecological Transition (Paris) 10 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/gouvernement-abonde-100-millions-deuros-supplementaires-fonds-recyclage-des-friches-et-devoile-30>

³³⁰⁰ Informal Meeting of Agriculture Ministers, French Presidency of the Council of the European Union (Paris) 8 February 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://presidence-francaise.consilium.europa.eu/en/news/press-release-informal-meeting-of-agriculture-ministers/>

³³⁰¹ Sensitize young people to the sustainable development of forests, Government of France (Paris) 22 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/sensibiliser-les-jeunes-au-developpement-durable-des-forets>

on the objectives and performance of the CNPF during the International Agricultural Show.³³⁰² Lasting from 2022 until 2026, this new contract focuses on initiatives to increase forest carbon sinks and encourage sustainable management of forests by the over 3.5 million forest owners of 12.6 million hectares of forest land.

On 17 March 2022, France introduced the new National Wetlands Plan 2022-2026 with actions including doubling the area of protected wetlands by 2030, conserving wetlands by acquiring 8,500 hectares by 2026, restoring over 50,000 hectares of wetlands by 2026 and introduce low-carbon initiatives to promote wetland protection and restoration.³³⁰³

On 9 May 2022, France took part in the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.³³⁰⁴ For the Abidjan initiative launched as part of the conference, which seeks to increase the production of foods such as cocoa while restoring degraded lands, France has announced it will contribute EUR155 million.

France has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. For new domestic engagements, France committed one action regarding land degradation and none regarding carbon sinks. On the international stage, France has not taken substantive actions for both components through the COP26 conference and promises of further funding.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Koji Shiromoto

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 2 November 2021, Germany signed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which intends to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.³³⁰⁵

On 2 November 2021, Germany joined 12 other nations in announcing its intention to collectively provide USD12 billion for forest-related climate finance between 2021-2025 as part of the new Global Forest Finance Pledge at COP26.³³⁰⁶

On 2 November 2021, Germany joined 11 other countries and philanthropic donors in announcing an initial collective pledge of at least USD1.5 billion of climate financing between 2021-2025 to support the COP26 Congo Basin forests, peatlands and other critical global carbon stores.³³⁰⁷

³³⁰² Signing of the 2022-2026 Objectives and Performance Contract of the National Center for Forest Property, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty (Paris) 4 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022. <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/signature-du-contrat-dobjectifs-et-de-performance-2022-2026-du-centre-national-de-la-propriete>

³³⁰³ Launch of the National Wetlands Plan 2022-2026, Government of France (Paris) 17 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/actualite/lancement-du-plan-national-milieux-humides-2022-2026>

³³⁰⁴ France participating in COP15 on Desertification, Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 9 May 2022. Access Date: 14 May 2022. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/climate-and-environment/news/article/france-participating-in-cop15-on-desertification-abidjan-9-20-may-2022>

³³⁰⁵ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³³⁰⁶ The Global Forest Finance Pledge, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/the-global-forest-finance-pledge/>

³³⁰⁷ COP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-congo-basin-joint-donor-statement/>

On 2 November 2021, Germany signed the joint statement of the ongoing Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade dialogue at COP26 to promote sustainable agricultural development and forest management.³³⁰⁸

On 2 November 2021, Germany advanced support for Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Tenure Rights and their Forest Guardianship at COP26.³³⁰⁹ As part of the released Joint Donor Statement, the endorsing countries and organisations announced an initial collective pledge of USD1.7 billion from 2021 to 2025 to support the advancement of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' forest tenure rights and greater recognition and rewards for their role as guardians and defenders of tropical forests.

On 24 November 2021, the forthcoming tripartite coalition Federal Government released its official coalition agreement.³³¹⁰ It calls for the development of an Action Program for Natural Climate Protection, which addresses both forests and other types of ecosystems.

On 13 December 2021, Federal Minister of Food and Agriculture Cem Özdemir supported a draft regulation of the European Commission to avoid deforestation and forest degradation in certain imported agricultural commodities such as soy, wheat, palm oil.³³¹¹ Minister Özdemir focused on ensuring global supply chains are free of deforestation activities.

On 17 December 2021, Germany and Pakistan signed a financing agreement worth EUR13.5 million for Phase One of the Billion Tree Afforestation Support Program.³³¹² The German KfW Development Bank will support the planting of 10 billion trees in Pakistan.

From 24 January to 28 January 2022, the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture hosted the 14th Global Forum for Food and Agriculture, hosting around 80 agriculture ministers and high-level representatives from international organisations.³³¹³ The final communiqué includes 22 Calls to Action committing, amongst other things, to maintaining and enhancing soil health and soil conservation, strengthening activities to promote soil biodiversity, minimising soil pollution, preventing further soil degradation, combating desertification, and halving global food waste.³³¹⁴ Within the German context, the Conference marked the official beginning of closer cooperation between the Environment and Agricultural Federal Ministries.³³¹⁵

On 9 February 2022, Minister Özdemir presented funding notices for nearly EUR23 million for the German Farmers' Association and the Federation of Organic Food Industry for humus build-up projects.³³¹⁶ These projects are an important part of the measures to achieve the target of minus 25 million metric tons of carbon

³³⁰⁸ Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/forests-agriculture-and-commodity-trade-a-roadmap-for-action/>

³³⁰⁹ COP26 IPLC Forest Tenure Joint Donor Statement, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-iplc-forest-tenure-joint-donor-statement/>

³³¹⁰ Coalition Agreement 2021 – 2025 between the SPD, BÜNDNIS 90 / DIE GRÜNEN and FDP, Social Democratic Party of Germany (Berlin) 24 November 2021. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 2 February 2022. https://www.spd.de/fileadmin/Dokumente/Koalitionsvertrag/Koalitionsvertrag_2021-2025.pdf

³³¹¹ Özdemir: We want to end imported deforestation, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Berlin) 13 December 2021. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 11 February 2022. <https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2021/180-agrarrat.html>

³³¹² Germany to provide €13.5m for afforestation drive, The Express Tribune (Islamabad) 18 December 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2334496/germany-to-provide-135m-for-afforestation-drive>

³³¹³ Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Berlin) 28 January 2022. Access Date: 1 February 2022. <https://www.gffa-berlin.de/en/berliner-agrarministerkonferenz-2/>

³³¹⁴ 14th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference Final Communiqué 2022 Sustainable Land Use: Food Security Starts with the Soil, Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (Berlin) 28 January 2022. Access Date: 1 February 2022. <https://www.gffa-berlin.de/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/gffa-2022-kommunique-en.pdf>

³³¹⁵ Together for the Environment, Agriculture and Climate, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 18 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/pressemitteilung/gemeinsam-fuer-umwelt-landwirtschaft-und-klima>

³³¹⁶ Özdemir: Humus Build-Up is climate protection. Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Berlin) 9 February 2022. Access Date: 1 February 2022. Translation provided by analyst. <https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2022/17-humusaufbau-bescheiduebergabe.html>

dioxide equivalents by 2030 for the land use, land use change and forestry sector set out in the German Climate Protection Act.

On 2 May 2022, Federal Minister of the Environment Steffi Lemke and India's Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav signed a joint declaration of intent at the 6th Indo-German intergovernmental consultations.³³¹⁷ Germany will support India in restoring forests and forest landscapes as part of the International Climate Initiative.

On 25 May 2022, Minister Lemke, President of Umweltbundesamt Dirk Messner and the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency Michael Regan signed a joint declaration to expand cooperation between their two institutions on environmental issues.³³¹⁸ The ceremony took place in Berlin at the start of the G7 meeting of environment, energy and climate ministers.

On 1 June 2022, the Bundestag approved the 2022 Budget of the Federal Ministry for the Environment and Consumer Protection (BMUV) in second and third readings.³³¹⁹ The new budget of the BMUV has a volume of around EUR2.2 billion. The budget of the BMUV provides additional funds for significant areas of environmental and consumer protection including nature, marine and species protection as well as additional funds for the Energy and Climate Fund.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Germany has planted a significant number of trees in degraded lands, both domestically and internationally. The newly formed federal government has made climate action a key part of its cross-sectoral policy proposals. By both supporting and organizing international forums for cooperation on this commitment, funding domestic and international projects in reforestation, forest sustainability and carbon sinks, Germany has fully complied with its commitments to planting trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Frederik Hayward

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 2 November 2021, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), failed to mention India's promise to create an additional carbon sink of two and a half to three billion tons of carbon dioxide through tree and forest cover by 2030, despite it being part of India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution from the 2015 Paris Agreement.³³²⁰ While other key climate goals were brought up, land degradation was altogether omitted.

³³¹⁷ Federal Environment Ministry supports India in forest and climate protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 2 May 2022. Date Accessed: 12 June 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/bundesumweltministerium-unterstuetzt-indien-beim-wald-und-klimaschutz>

³³¹⁸ Germany and the United States of America are intensifying their cooperation on environmental policy, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 26 May 2022. Date Accessed: 12 June 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/deutschland-und-die-vereinigten-staaten-von-amerika-vertiefen-ihre-umweltpolitische-zusammenarbeit>

³³¹⁹ Additional funds for seas and bogs, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 2 June 2022. Date Accessed: 12 June 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.bmuv.de/pressemitteilung/zusaetzliche-mittel-fuer-meere-und-moore>

³³²⁰ Explained: PM Modi's climate promises, and how far India is on track to meet them, The Indian Express (Glasgow) 9 November 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-pms-climate-promises-and-how-far-india-is-on-track-to-meet-them-7611943/>

On 2 November 2021, India did not sign the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, which intends to put an end to deforestation and land degradation by 2030.³³²¹ The declaration aims to make the use of land sustainable in relation to climate change, but India refused to sign it on the grounds that it connected trade to climate change, arguing that trade falls under the authority of the World Trade Organization. This is an important agreement in regard to deforestation and preventing land degradation, and India's failure to sign it on the basis of these issues in particular is a setback to its G20 commitment.

On 13 January 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change released the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021, outlining new initiatives to be undertaken regarding land degradation.³³²² Key among these initiatives is analyzing the trend of carbon impacted by India's forest cover to understand the implications of increasing the amount of carbon sinks in the future. These initiatives are precursors to moving towards increasing the forest cover and creating carbon sinks. The ISFR 2021 declared that Hyderabad, Telangana, has developed the greatest amount of green cover of all megacities in India over the last 10 years, increasing the total green cover from 33.15 square kilometres to 81.81 square kilometres, through municipal tree planting initiatives.³³²³ In the same report, the Ministry announced that the total forest and tree cover in India has risen by 2,261 square kilometers in the last two years.³³²⁴ This is a move forward and brings light to previous actions undertaken by India prior to the current compliance cycle, by means of publishing the report.

On 13 January 2022, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav announced that India will be moving into Phase Two of the National Mission for Green India that aims to increase conservation of biodiversity and ecological sustainability.³³²⁵ This involves using the Nagar Van Yojna Scheme to increase the number of city forests in the country and increase the tree cover. This is a plan for future steps, leaving it to be seen what actions India will undertake.

On 24 January 2022, Minister Yadav announced that India has achieved a total carbon stock in terms of forest and tree cover of 30.11 billion tonnes, as well as the ministry's intention to increase forest cover across the country.³³²⁶ This is a reaffirmation of India's previous actions, leaving it to be seen what India's future measures will be to continue this progress.

On 14 March 2022, the Ministry for Forest, Environment and Climate Change announced that it would create riparian forests and plant trees along 13 rivers in India to create carbon sinks.³³²⁷ The proposed plan is projected to absorb 50.21 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 10 years and 74.76 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 20 years. This plan is geared towards planting trees throughout India.

On 2 May 2022, Minister Yadav and Germany's Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection Steffi Lemke signed a joint declaration of intent during the 6th India-Germany

³³²¹ Forests declaration: India reads fine print, chooses to stay away, The Indian Express (New Delhi) 3 November 2021. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/forests-declaration-india-reads-fine-print-chooses-to-stay-away-7605041/>

³³²² India State of Forest Report 2021, Forest Survey of India—Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (Dehradun) 13 January 2022. Access Date: 31 January 2022. <https://fsi.nic.in/forest-report-2021-details>

³³²³ Hyderabad topics in increase of green cover since 2019: ISFR, The Siasat Daily (Hyderabad) 17 January 2022. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.siasat.com/hyderabad-tops-in-increase-of-green-cover-since-2019-2259694/>

³³²⁴ India's forest, tree cover rose by 2,261 sq km in last 2 years: ISFR report, The New Indian Express (New Delhi) 13 January 2022. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2022/jan/13/indias-forest-tree-cover-rose-by-2261-sq-km-in-last-2-years-isfr-report-2406427.html>

³³²⁵ India's forest, tree cover rose by 2,261 sq km in last 2 years: ISFR report, The New Indian Express (New Delhi) 13 January 2022. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2022/jan/13/indias-forest-tree-cover-rose-by-2261-sq-km-in-last-2-years-isfr-report-2406427.html>

³³²⁶ 'Plantations meet ecological functions of natural forests': Bhupender Yadav, Hindustan Times (New Delhi). 24 January 2022. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/environment/plantations-meet-ecological-functions-of-natural-forests-bhupender-yadav-101642975799614.html>

³³²⁷ Modi govt plans to rejuvenate 13 rivers, hopes it'll boost forest cover and carbon sequestration, The Print (New Delhi) 15 March 2022. Access Date: 2 May 2022. <https://theprint.in/environment/modi-govt-plans-to-rejuvenate-13-rivers-hopes-itll-boost-forest-cover-carbon-sequestration/873921/>

Intergovernmental Consultations.³³²⁸ This joint declaration focused on forest landscape restoration and builds on bilateral cooperation on issues such as climate protection and biodiversity conservation.

On 3 June 2022, Minister Yadav and Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault signed a memorandum of understanding to increase bilateral cooperation on climate action, environmental protection and conservation, at the Stockholm+50 meeting.³³²⁹

India has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. India has taken one concrete measure to begin the process of planting trees to combat land degradation in this cycle. However, India's failure to sign an international agreement due to an issue with deforestation specifically sets India back on its commitment to combat deforestation. Nevertheless, India has signed bilateral cooperation agreements with Canada and Germany focused on environmental issues.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Samraggi Hazra

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 2 November 2021, Indonesia endorsed the Glasgow Climate Pact at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, thereby pledging to reverse deforestation and land degradation by 2030.³³³⁰ This plan includes restoring damaged land and funding the protection of the tropical rainforest in the Congo Basin. However, Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya Bakar made a statement declaring the agreement unfair, claiming that Indonesia's development should not be sacrificed for the sake of reducing deforestation and carbon emissions.

On 2 November 2021, Indonesia signed the joint statement of the ongoing Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade dialogue along with 26 other countries and the European Union, to promote sustainable agricultural development and forest management.³³³¹ The statement is part of the dialogue's roadmap of actions, with four "overall objectives: trade and market development; smallholder support; traceability and transparency; and research, development and innovation."

On 5 November 2021, the Government of Indonesia declared that its agreement to the Glasgow Climate Pact did not extend to a complete stop to deforestation by 2030, as that would be counterproductive to the country's development plans, which require land to build infrastructure, food security and industry development.³³³² Indonesia instead reemphasized its Long-Term Strategy for Low Carbon and Climate Resilience 2050, which

³³²⁸ Joint Declaration of Intent on Forest Landscape Restoration between India and Germany signed virtually, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 2 May 2022. Access Date: 18 June 2022. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1822121>

³³²⁹ Canada and India sign Memorandum of Understanding to establish stronger cooperation on environmental protection and climate action, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Stockholm) 3 June 2022. Date Accessed: 11 June 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/06/canada-and-india-sign-memorandum-of-understanding-to-establish-stronger-cooperation-on-environmental-protection-and-climate-action.html>

³³³⁰ Environmentalists decry Indonesia's unclear stance on key deforestation pledge, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 3 February 2022. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/indonesia/2021/11/08/environmentalists-decry-indonesias-unclear-stance-on-key-deforestation-pledge.html>

³³³¹ Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/forests-agriculture-and-commodity-trade-a-roadmap-for-action/>

³³³² Explainer: Indonesia says wants to reduce deforestation, not completely end it, Reuters (Singapore) 4 November 2021. Access Date: 3 February 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/business/cop/indonesia-says-wants-reduce-deforestation-not-completely-end-it-2021-11-05/>

included creating a carbon net sink in its forestry sector by 2030. Through this, Indonesia stresses the importance of bringing together deforestation with steady development.

On 17 November 2021, Head of Indonesia's Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency (BRGM) Hartono Prawiraatmadja announced that it would be reducing its target for rehabilitating mangroves from 83,000 hectares to 33,000 hectares due to the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.³³³³ However, the BRGM pledged to adhere to its larger target of rehabilitating 630,000 hectares of mangroves by 2022.

On 28 November 2021, the BRGM reinforced the planting of mangroves throughout Indonesia in accordance with the National Tree Planting Day, an initiative undertaken to meet the agency's target of planting 600,000 hectares of mangroves by 2024.³³³⁴ Within 2021, the agency successfully planted mangroves in 34,000 hectares of land in nine provinces: North Sumatra, Bangka Belitung, Riau Islands, Riau, West Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, North Kalimantan, Papua and West Papua.

On 6 January 2022, President Joko Widodo announced his administration's plan to revoke more than 2000 permits for mining and use of forests to reduce deforestation.³³³⁵ This included 192 forestry permits covering three million hectares of forest were revoked from firms that misused the permits. The Government of Indonesia will continue to monitor and evaluate permits for future actions.

On 28 January 2022, Indonesia signed the Final Communiqué of the 14th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference, which emphasized the goal of halting deforestation and the degradation of forests and other ecosystems by 2030.³³³⁶ By doing this, Indonesia reaffirmed its commitment to ending land degradation, signing another international agreement that fell in line with the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forest and Land Use in November 2021.

On 3 February 2022, President Widodo handed over the 2021 Social Forestry Decrees to forest farmers throughout Indonesia, which require them to plant 50 per cent of existing land with woody trees, while the remaining 50 per cent may be planted with seasonal crops.³³³⁷ This maintains Indonesia's commitment to planting trees while incorporating the needs of local populations to ensure that such actions are done sustainably.

On 24 February 2022, Minister Nurbaya issued Decree Number 168 regarding the Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) Net Sink 2030, which has the goal of reducing 60 per cent of national emissions by 2030, which will set Indonesia on the path to achieving net-zero emissions by 2060 or sooner.³³³⁸ This is a part of Indonesia's

³³³³ Indonesia slashes 2021 mangrove restoration target, vows to make up in 2022, Mongabay News (Bali) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/11/indonesia-slashes-2021-mangrove-restoration-target-vows-to-make-up-in-2022/>

³³³⁴ BRGM plants mangroves to commemorate National Tree Planting Day, Antara News (Jakarta) 28 November 2021. Access Date: 3 February 2022. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/201869/brgm-plants-mangroves-to-commemorate-national-tree-planting-day>

³³³⁵ Indonesia Revokes More Than 2,000 Mining, Forestry Permits, Benar News (Jakarta) 6 January 2022. Access Date: 3 February 2022. <https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/indonesian/indonesia-revokes-thousands-mining-plantation-licenses-01062022133534.html>

³³³⁶ 14th Berlin Agricultural Ministers' Conference: Final Communiqué 2022, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture of Germany (Berlin) 28 January 2022. Access Date: 9 May 2022. https://www.bmel.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/DE/Broschueren/gffa-2022-kommunique-en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=5

³³³⁷ President Submits Decree on Social Forests and TORA for 20 Provinces, Directorate General of Forestry Planning and Environmental Management, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Jakarta) 3 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 May 2022. <http://pktl.menlhk.go.id/?pg=I2530z2545a2610g2565z2620v2525&id=g2445p2460k2450>

³³³⁸ Deputy Minister of Environment and Forest: FoLU Net-Sink 2030, Indonesia's Step Forward to Handling Climate Change, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 12 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2022. https://www.menlhk.go.id/site/single_post/4769/wamen-lhk-folu-net-sink-2030-langkah-maju-indonesia-untuk-penanganan-perubahan-iklim

efforts to incorporate forest management and carbon governance into its climate action plan.³³³⁹ The target set by this plan is to achieve net zero deforestation by 2030.³³⁴⁰

On 15 March 2022, President Widodo, First Lady Iriana Joko Widodo and Minister Nurbaya planted various Indonesian plants at the Zero Point of the Capital of the Archipelago East Kalimantan.³³⁴¹ These plants are among fast-growing and durable and were planted in the planned location of the Rimba Botanika Botanical Gardens, which will become a miniature of the tropic rain forest habitat of Kalimantan.

On 30 March 2022, Minister Nurbaya welcomed the support of the United States in Indonesia's domestic plans to implement the Plan Operational Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) Net Sink 2030.³³⁴² Minister Nurbaya also announced that Indonesia has succeeded in reducing deforestation significantly, including through rehabilitation of mangrove forests, demonstrated by decreasing trends of deforestation in Indonesia.

On 18 April 2022, Minister Nurbaya reiterated the Government of Indonesia's intentions to reduce carbon emissions through land and forests by means of FOLU Net Sink 2030, while also emphasizing the importance of blue carbon and the use of marine ecosystems as carbon sinks, primarily through mangrove ecosystems, seagrass beds and brackish swamps.³³⁴³ This is a move towards incorporating various types of planted landscapes to better meet the global need for carbon sinks.

On 22 April 2022, Minister Nurbaya issued a request that ministry staff and other stakeholders collaborate to realize FOLU Net Sink 2030, so that domestic carbon levels are reduced through the principles of sustainable forest management, environmental governance and carbon governance.³³⁴⁴ This is a move to ensure that the Government of Indonesia complies with a commitment to creating carbon sinks throughout the country.

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to contributing to collectively planting 1 trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Indonesia has taken actions to plant trees throughout the country, focusing on restoration of pre-existing forests along with the creation of new forested areas. It has placed particular focus on degraded areas, such as former mines, as well as locations with greatest potential for tree dispersion, such as watersheds. Indonesia has also set an explicit goal for itself through the Forestry and Other Land Use Net Sink 2030 plan and has also declared a target of planting 600,000 hectares of mangroves by 2023. Indonesia has also participated in global planning summits including the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference and the 14th Berlin Agriculture Ministers' Conference and has reasserted its commitment to halting land degradation at such meetings. Indonesia has made strong progress by planting trees in degraded areas and by pursuing plans to carry such actions forward.

³³³⁹ APP Sinar Mas is Ready to Carry Out Its Obligations to Support Indonesia's FOLU NET Sink 2030, Asia Pulp and Paper (Jakarta) 28 April 2022. Access Date: 13 May 2022. <https://asiapulppaper.com/-/app-support-folu-net-sink-2030>

³³⁴⁰ Indonesia's FOLU NET SINK 2030 operational plan released, Forest Hints (Jakarta) 12 March 2022. Access Date: 9 May 2022. <https://foresthints.news/indonesia-folu-net-sink-2030-operational-plan-released/>

³³⁴¹ Restoring Borneo's Tropical Rainforest from Zero IKN, Directorate General of Forestry Planning and Environmental Management, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 15 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2022.

<http://pktl.menlhk.go.id/?pg=u2530g2545x2610k2565h2620k2525&id=w2445o2460c2460>

³³⁴² Minister of Environment and Forestry: United States Supports Indonesia FOLU NET SINK 2030, Directorate General of Forestry Planning and Environmental Management, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 20 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2022.

<http://pktl.menlhk.go.id/?pg=f2530t2545q2610h2565q2620t2525&id=o2445j2460e2470>

³³⁴³ Government Strengthens Emission Reduction Achievements Through Blue Carbon, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 19 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2022.

https://www.menlhk.go.id/site/single_post/4761/pemerintah-perkuat-capaian-pengurangan-emisi-melalui-blue-carbon

³³⁴⁴ Minister Siti: Working Simultaneously, Parallel and Integrated Towards Indonesia's FOLU Net Sink 2030, Directorate General of Forestry Planning and Environmental Management, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta) 4 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 13 May 2022.

<http://pktl.menlhk.go.id/?pg=a2530m2545m2610h2565s2620f2525&id=y2445a2460w2465>

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Samraggi Hazra

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 2 November 2021, Italy endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.³³⁴⁵ This Declaration recognizes the need to conserve forests, facilitate trade and development policies promoting sustainable development, implement or redesign agricultural policies to incentivise sustainable agriculture, increase funding for sustainable forest management and restoration projects and facilitating international financial flows to reverse forest loss and land degradation.

On 2 November 2021, Italy signed the joint statement of the ongoing Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade dialogue along with 26 other countries and the European Union, to promote sustainable agricultural development and forest management.³³⁴⁶ The statement is part of the dialogue's roadmap of actions, with four "overall objectives: trade and market development; smallholder support; traceability and transparency; and research, development and innovation."

On 3 November 2021, the Bank of Italy pledged their commitment to addressing climate change and to consider sustainability factors to facilitate smooth development of sustainable finance.³³⁴⁷ The bank pledged to support the collective commitment made by the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS), promising among other things, to integrate climate change considerations into monetary policy and to address biodiversity loss's impacts.³³⁴⁸ The Bank of Italy has also pledged to be part of the drive towards carbon neutrality by joining an afforestation endeavour.³³⁴⁹ The goal is to help Italy's financial system be more environmentally friendly and help the country meet its Paris Agreement targets.

On 17 November 2021, the Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of the Ecological Transition Ilaria Fontana launched a National Tree Day as part of the "A Tree for the Future" national project.³³⁵⁰ This project donates seedlings to Italian schools to support tree planting initiatives in cities across Italy. As of November 2021, around 50,000 seedlings have been distributed.

On 30 December 2021, the Ministry of Ecological Transition concluded various investments as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), as part of the larger Next Generation EU EUR750 billion package, aimed at environmental transition and carbon-neutral recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.³³⁵¹ An investment of EUR330 million was made to plant 6.6 million trees in an area of 6,600 hectares, aiming to preserve and enhance biodiversity, stem land consumption and restore soils. Another EUR330 million was made for the "Renaturation of the Po area," intervening for the improvement of among other things, natural

³³⁴⁵ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³³⁴⁶ Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/forests-agriculture-and-commodity-trade-a-roadmap-for-action/>

³³⁴⁷ The Bank of Italy's COP26 pledge, Bank of Italy (Rome) 3 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/notizia/the-bank-of-italy-s-cop26-pledge/>

³³⁴⁸ NGFS Glasgow Declaration Committed to Action, Network for Greening the Financial System (Glasgow) 3 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.ngfs.net/sites/default/files/ngfsglasgowdeclaration.pdf>

³³⁴⁹ Banca d'Italia's pledge on carbon transition and sustainable finance ahead of COP26, Banca d'Italia (Rome) 3 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/notizie/2021/en_BdI_pledge_COP26.pdf?language_id=1

³³⁵⁰ Fontana: planting trees to give oxygen to our cities, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) 17 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://www.mite.gov.it/notizie/fontana-piantare-alberi-dare-ossigeno-alle-nostre-citta>

³³⁵¹ National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Italian Government (Rome) 25 April 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.governo.it/sites/governo.it/files/PNRR.pdf>

reforestation and the blockage of invasive species along river ecosystems.³³⁵² The Ministry of Ecological Transition also unveiled its first milestone for the Digitization of National Parks Measure as part of the PNRR with an investment of EUR100 million for nature conservation, visitor services and administrative simplification for Italy's 24 national parks and marine protected areas.

On 10 February 2022, the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies published the National Forest Strategy in the Official Gazette.³³⁵³ The National Forest Strategy will be valid for 20 years and prioritizes the sustainability of forest management, environmental protection and the bioeconomy. The aim of the National Forest Strategy is to ensure that Italy will have “extensive and resilient forests, rich in biodiversity, capable of contributing to mitigation and adaptation to the climate crisis.”

On 23 March 2022, the Ministry of Education introduced the School ReGeneration plan to promote environmental awareness in schools, which includes major projects to plant trees outside school facilities.³³⁵⁴ This plan also includes the creation of sustainable canteens serving local agricultural products and the construction of 200 new completely energy-efficient school buildings.

On 30 March 2022, Undersecretary Fontana announced the launch of urban reforestation projects in 14 metropolitan cities across Italy.³³⁵⁵ The Ministry for Ecological Transition called for the planting of over 6.6 million trees by 2024. The call allocated a total of EUR330 million for the projects with EUR74 million earmarked for 2022, EUR74 million for 2023 and EUR139 million for 2024.

On 27 May 2022, the Minister of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies Stefano Patuanelli announced that a total of EUR420 million in funding has been allocated to the National Forest Strategy up to the year 2032.³³⁵⁶ The funds have been made available through the Stability Law and funding will be allocated in relation to the achievement or needs of the over 30 objectives, almost 100 actions and sub-actions in the National Forest Strategy.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Italy has signed onto pledges at the United Nations Climate Change Conference and focused on domestic tree planting initiatives through funding reforestation projects, the National Forest Strategy and other environmental initiatives.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Jonathan Wang

³³⁵² PNRR – Where are we – adj. December 2021, Ministry of Ecological Transition (Rome) December 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.mite.gov.it/pagina/pnrr-che-punto-siamo-agg-dicembre-2021>

³³⁵³ The National Forest Strategy has been published in the Official Gazette: strategic document valid for twenty years, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Rome) 10 February 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022. <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17811>

³³⁵⁴ Italy forges a green school programme, Council of Europe (Venice) 23 March 2022. Access Date: 19 June 2022. https://www.coe.int/en/web/venice/news/-/asset_publisher/HO2G1g67croM/content/italy-forges-a-green-school-programme

³³⁵⁵ PNRR: Fonatan (MiTE), via projects for 6.6 million trees, Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata (Rome) 30 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022.

https://www.ansa.it/canale_ambiente/notizie/natura/2022/03/30/pnrr-fontana-mite-via-progetti-per-66-milioni-di-alberi_b3cf8679-b21e-4005-843b-e9aacc8c10b0.html

³³⁵⁶ 420 million for the implementation of the National Forest Strategy: funds available for 2022 and 2023 allocated by the 2022 Stability Law, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Rome) 27 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022. https://www.politicheagricole.it/Strategia_Nazionale_Forestale

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to contributing to collectively planting one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems on the planet.

On 2 November 2021, Japan signed onto the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which “commit[ted] to working collectively to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030.”³³⁵⁷

On 2 November 2021, Japan signed onto a new Global Forest Finance Pledge at COP26.³³⁵⁸ Collectively with 12 donor countries, this pledge provides USD12 billion between 2021 and 2025 to “support action in developing countries, including restoring degraded land, tackling wildfires and advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.”³³⁵⁹

On 2 November 2021, Japan signed onto the Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement along with 11 other countries and philanthropic donors.³³⁶⁰ As part of this statement, at least USD1.5 billion between 2021 and 2025 is collectively pledged to “support ambitious efforts and results in the region to protect and maintain the Congo Basin forests, peatlands and other critical global carbon stores.”

On 2 November 2021, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged an additional USD240 million to global forestry conservation while addressing the COP26's World Leaders Summit.³³⁶¹

On 2 November 2021, Japan signed the joint statement of the ongoing Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade dialogue along with 26 other countries and the European Union, to promote sustainable agricultural development and forest management.³³⁶² The statement is part of the dialogue's roadmap of actions, with four “overall objectives: trade and market development; smallholder support; traceability and transparency; and research, development and innovation.”

On 27 December 2021, the Forestry Agency within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries released official guidelines on how carbon sinks should be factored into carbon dioxide (CO₂) calculations.³³⁶³ This document is pursuant to the Cabinet's adoption of the Climate Change Adaptation Plan in October 2021.

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Regarding both carbon sinks and combatting land degradation, Japan has pledged funding in the international arena, but little action has been taken domestically.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Koji Shiromoto

³³⁵⁷ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³³⁵⁸ The Global Forest Finance Pledge, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/the-global-forest-finance-pledge>

³³⁵⁹ World leaders summit on 'Action on forests and land use,' United Kingdom Prime Minister's Office 10 Downing Street (London) 21 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop26-world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use-2-november-2021/world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use>

³³⁶⁰ COP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-congo-basin-joint-donor-statement>

³³⁶¹ COP26 World Leaders Summit Statement by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/100_kishida/statement/202111/_00002.html

³³⁶² Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/forests-agriculture-and-commodity-trade-a-roadmap-for-action/>

³³⁶³ How to calculate the volume of carbon dioxide absorbed by forests, Forestry Agency (Tokyo) 27 December 2021. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.rinya.maff.go.jp/j/press/kikaku/211227.html>

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 1 November 2021, President Moon Jae-in announced that Korea will update its 2030 Nationally Determined Contributions and cut greenhouse gas emissions by over 40 per cent from 2018 levels, in an address at the World Leaders Summit for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).³³⁶⁴

On 2 November 2021, Korea endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use at COP26.³³⁶⁵ This Declaration recognizes the need to conserve forests, facilitate trade and development policies promoting sustainable development, implement or redesign agricultural policies to incentivise sustainable agriculture, increase funding for sustainable forest management and restoration projects and facilitating international financial flows to reverse forest loss and land degradation.

On 2 November 2021, Korea signed onto a new Global Forest Finance Pledge at COP26.³³⁶⁶ Collectively with 12 donor countries, this pledge provides USD12 billion between 2021 and 2025 to “support action in developing countries, including restoring degraded land, tackling wildfires and advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.”³³⁶⁷

On 2 November 2021, Korea signed onto the Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement along with 11 other countries and philanthropic donors.³³⁶⁸ As part of this statement, at least USD1.5 billion between 2021 and 2025 is collectively pledged to “support ambitious efforts and results in the region to protect and maintain the Congo Basin forests, peatlands and other critical global carbon stores.”

On 2 November 2021, Korea signed the joint statement of the ongoing Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade dialogue along with 26 other countries and the European Union, to promote sustainable agricultural development and forest management.³³⁶⁹ The statement is part of the dialogue's roadmap of actions, with four “overall objectives: trade and market development; smallholder support; traceability and transparency; and research, development and innovation.”

On 11 November 2021, President Moon Jae-in delivered a keynote speech at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit 2021, addressing the need for cooperation between South Korea and North Korea to increase and preserve forestry.³³⁷⁰

On 10 December 2021, the Government of Korea announced that it will close down 24 aging coal-fired power plants permanently by 2034 as part of efforts to phase out coal consumption for electricity generation by 2050

³³⁶⁴ Address by President Moon Jae-in at World Leaders Summit for 26th U.N. Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), Cheongwadae Office of the President (Seoul) 1 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022.

<http://english1.president.go.kr/BriefingSpeeches/Speeches/1095>

³³⁶⁵ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³³⁶⁶ The Global Forest Finance Pledge, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/the-global-forest-finance-pledge>

³³⁶⁷ World leaders summit on 'Action on forests and land use,' United Kingdom Prime Minister's Office 10 Downing Street (London) 21 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop26-world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use-2-november-2021/world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use>

³³⁶⁸ COP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-congo-basin-joint-donor-statement>

³³⁶⁹ Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/forests-agriculture-and-commodity-trade-a-roadmap-for-action/>

³³⁷⁰ Inter-Korean Cooperation for Reforestation, Korean Broadcasting System (Seoul) 11 November 2021. Access Date: 2 February 2022. http://world.kbs.co.kr/service/contents_view.htm?lang=e&board_seq=413933

and boost the country's clean hydrogen self-sufficiency ratio to 24 per cent in 2030, and further to 60 per cent in 2050.³³⁷¹

On 30 December 2021, the Ministry of Environment released a taxonomy to accelerate green goals, which declared liquefied natural gas as a sustainable investment, a statement that goes against their carbon neutral goal by 2050.³³⁷²

On 3 January 2022, the Korea Forest Service accepted the proposal for the third phase of the Korea-Mongolia Greenbelt Reforestation Project, a joint program with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Mongolia, to be implemented between 2022 to 2026.³³⁷³ This new phase of the project will introduce an advanced forest fire prevention control system, launch research and training initiatives on agroforestry in Mongolia and assist with developing healing forests in Mongolia.

On 6 January 2022, the Ministry of Environment revised and announced the “exclusion to the single-use plastic products,” which includes the commitment that Korea will ban using plastic products, such as disposable plastic cups in cafes starting 1 April 2022.³³⁷⁴

On 11 January 2022, the Ministry of Environment announced their plans for 2022, which includes the full implementation for carbon neutrality, integrated water management and expansion of inclusive environmental services.³³⁷⁵ The Ministry of Environment also aims to create an integrated map of land usage including forests and wetlands in order to create an integrated management system of carbon sinks.

On 18 February 2022, the Ministry of Environment presented the ecological restoration results of and future vision of the Nakdonggang estuarine restoration project during a briefing session.³³⁷⁶ The Ministry of Environment furthermore opened the estuary gates to flow sea water into the freshwater on the same day.

On 9 May 2022, the Ministry of Environment and the National Institute of Biological Resources announced new guidelines for green space management.³³⁷⁷ With these new guidelines, local governments will manage green spaces including tree-lined roads and walking trails with consideration for biodiversity conservation and enhancement. The Ministry of Environment recognized the importance of street trees in varying functions such

³³⁷¹ S.Korea unveils its first action plans for carbon neutrality, S&P Global Platts (New York) 10 December 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.spglobal.com/platts/en/market-insights/latest-news/lng/121021-skorea-unveils-its-first-action-plans-for-carbon-neutrality>

³³⁷² South Korea Chided for Declaring Gas a Sustainable Investment, Bloomberg (New York) 3 January 2022. Access Date: 4 February 2022. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-01-03/south-korea-chided-for-declaring-gas-a-sustainable-investment>

³³⁷³ Successes in forest cooperation: Greenbelt Reforestation by the Republic of Korea and Mongolia, Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (Seoul) 7 January 2022. Access Date: 5 February 2022. <https://afocosec.org/newsroom/news/stories/successes-in-forest-cooperation-greenbelt-reforestation-by-the-republic-of-korea-and-mongolia/>

³³⁷⁴ From April 2022, it is no longer allowed to use disposable plastic cups in cafes, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 7 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022.

<http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1500770&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

³³⁷⁵ The Ministry of Environment announces a plan for 2022, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 7 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1501800&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

³³⁷⁶ Sustainable Ecosystem around Nakdonggang river estuary to be restored, Ministry of Environment (Sejong City) 18 February 2022. Access Date: 4 April 2022. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?jsessionid=Xy70FY2adpSvPxdmzZGfb0uT.mehome1?pagerOffset=20&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1510770&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

³³⁷⁷ The Ministry of Environment will Manage Green Spaces Considering Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment (Sejong City) 9 May 2022. Access Date: 18 June 2022.

<http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=20&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1524080&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

as absorbing greenhouse gases. The new guidelines will also include methods and places to plant street trees to reduce overgrown trees colliding with public infrastructure.

On 20 May 2022, the Ministry of Environment hosted a workshop on nature conservation policies in Dutayeon and the Yongneup Wetland of Daemsan Mountain with 40 civilian participants, including students and teachers.³³⁷⁸ Organized for the “Month of Biodiversity” to spread awareness on the importance of biodiversity conservation, the Ministry of Environment aims to increase civic participation in other nature conservation areas.

On 29 May 2022, the National Assembly passed over 14 environmental bills during its plenary session.³³⁷⁹ One of the 14 Acts includes the Natural Environment Conservation Act, which requires the Basic Policy for Conservation of Natural Environment to specifically include “conservation of ecological axis and restoration of a damaged ecological axis.” This is focused on reducing roadkill and strengthening the conservation of biodiversity and natural environments.

On 15 June 2022, the Ministry of Environment announced that South Korea was re-elected as a vice-chair country for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization’s (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB).³³⁸⁰ The MAB International Coordinating Council is the leading decision-making body tasked with nominating new biosphere reserves and developing or reviewing management plans of such reserves.

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Korea has taken strong actions in both combatting land degradation and creating new carbon sinks. Korea has focused on domestic policies, as well as international cooperation. Domestic policies such as eradicating the use of plastic cups, as well as closing aging coal-powered plants play a prominent role in achieving the goals, while international corporations in COP26 as well as with Mongolia and other countries have also shown effort to work with other national entities.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Taisei Inoue

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 2 November 2021, Mexico endorsed the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).³³⁸¹ This Declaration recognizes the need to conserve forests, facilitate trade and development policies promoting sustainable development, implement or redesign agricultural policies to incentivise sustainable agriculture, increase funding for sustainable forest management and restoration projects and facilitating international financial flows to reverse forest loss and land degradation.

On 8 December 2021, the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) donated a new vehicle fleet of Nissan Frontier trucks to rangers in natural protected areas of the Southern Region, Isthmus and South

³³⁷⁸ Learn and experience the beauty of our nature, Ministry of Environment (Sejong City) 23 May 2022. Access Date: 18 June 2022. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1527120&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

³³⁷⁹ The National Assembly passed fourteen environmental bills, Ministry of Environment (Sejong City) 2 June 2022. Access Date: 18 June 2022. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1528970&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

³³⁸⁰ South Korea was re-elected as vice-chair of UNESCO’s International Coordinating Council of the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, Ministry of Environment (Sejong City) 15 June 2022. Access Date: 18 June 2022. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1531420&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

³³⁸¹ Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

Pacific Regional Directorate of Mexico (Chiapas, Oaxaca and the Costa Chica de Guerrero) to strengthen surveillance strategies, combat forest fires and promote ecological monitoring.³³⁸² The CONANP says that this decision will “strengthen the presence in the territory to be more efficient and to continue with the work of conserving the land ecosystems.”

On 17 December 2021, Executive Director of the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR) Luis Meneses Murillo signed a framework coordination agreement with the Governor of Michoacán Alfredo Ramírez Bedolla to establish a territorial planning process that allows the regularization, protection and preservation of the land aligned with environmental justice.³³⁸³ The main goals are promoting community forest management and restoration projects in the Purépecha Plateau.

On 19 January 2022, the CONANP and the Selva Maya Resources Protection project developed the Adaptation to Climate Change Program to promote sustainable practices in the Mayan Rainforest.³³⁸⁴ This project seeks to achieve seven levels of climate change resilience, including a “transition towards sustainable systems of production.”³³⁸⁵ This project is a continuation of the Selva Maya Project, funded by the German Bank for Development and the International Union for Conservation of Nature since 2018 to support Mexico, Guatemala, and Belize in the restoration, conservation, and sustainable management of the Mayan Rainforest.

On 20 January 2022, the CONAFOR and the State Government of Querétaro signed a collaborative agreement to ensure sustainable use of timber and non-timber forest resources in the Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve, the Semi-desert, and the Municipality of Amealco de Bonfil; through the financial support of the state government environmental services; and forest restoration of 13 municipalities.³³⁸⁶

On 21 January 2022, the CONAFOR signed a collaborative agreement on forestry with the State of Tlaxcala to promote sustainable management in ejidos; finance forest reforestation with concurrent funds in Calpulalpan, Nanacamilpa and the natural protected area La Malinche, which are areas of priority attention; and install a Forestry State Council.³³⁸⁷

On 24 January 2022, the CONAFOR delivered 131 kilograms of seeds of Prieto and royal pines, as well as fan palm to produce plants to the Forestry Development Promotion Office in Chihuahua that will be used in the

³³⁸² CONANP strengthens conservation actions in Protected Natural Areas with the delivery of vehicles, National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (Mexico City) 8 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.gob.mx/conanp/es/articulos/la-conanp-fortalece-las-acciones-de-conservacion-en-las-areas-naturales-protégidas-con-la-entrega-de-vehiculos>

³³⁸³ CONAFOR coordinated actions in favor of the welfare of forest communities in Michoacán, National Forestry Commission (Mexico City) 17 December 2022. Translation by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.gob.mx/conafor/prensa/conafor-coordina-acciones-en-favor-del-bienestar-de-las-comunidades-forestales-en-michoacan?idiom=es>

³³⁸⁴ The Climate Change Adaptation Program (PACC) of the Selva Maya Complex is developed, National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (Mexico City) 19 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.gob.mx/conanp/articulos/se-desarrolla-programa-de-adaptacion-al-cambio-climatico-pacc-del-complejo-selva-maya?idiom=es>

³³⁸⁵ Selva Maya natural resource protection project, International Union for Conservation of Nature (Gland) n.d. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.iucn.org/es/regiones/mexico-america-central-y-el-caribe/nuestro-trabajo/biodiversidad-y-derechos/proyectos-concluidos/proyecto-proteccion-de-recursos-naturales-selva-maya>

³³⁸⁶ CONAFOR promotes Sustainable Forestry Development in Querétaro, National Forestry Commission (Querétaro) 20 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.gob.mx/conafor/prensa/la-conafor-impulsa-el-desarrollo-forestal-sustentable-en-queretaro>

³³⁸⁷ CONAFOR will promote sustainable management and use in ejidos and communities with forestry potential in Tlaxcala, National Forestry Commission (Tlaxcala) 21 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.gob.mx/conafor/prensa/la-conafor-impulsara-el-manejo-y-aprovechamiento-sustentable-en-ejidos-y-comunidades-con-potencial-forestal-en-tlaxcala>

reforestation of degraded areas in Chihuahua.³³⁸⁸ CONAFOR also announced that they will donate seeds to the states of Baja California, Coahuila, Durango, State of Mexico, Jalisco, Oaxaca, Puebla, Querétaro, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tlaxcala, and Veracruz.

On 27 January 2022, Executive Director of the CONAFOR Luis Meneses Murillo signed a coordination agreement with Governor of the State of Colima Indira Vizcaíno Silva to promote sustainable forestry development in the state, in terms of soils and ecosystems. CONAFOR will finance the monitoring, management, industrialization, and sustainable commercialization of 10 municipalities.³³⁸⁹

On 28 January 2022, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) launched the Conservation Program for Sustainable Development (PROCOCODES), which offers financial support for people living within natural protected areas throughout the country and encourages them to reforest, manage and restore their woodlands and natural spaces.³³⁹⁰

On 23 March 2022, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador stated that the Federal Government of Mexico is planting the equivalent of 200,000 hectares of trees to compensate for the environmental impact of the Tren Maya Project in the Yucatán Peninsula.³³⁹¹ President López Obrador also announced the expansion of the Calakmul natural reserve and the 2,200 hectares enlargement of the Uxmal archaeological area.

On 6 May 2022, the National Wetlands Committee announced the restoration of the Cuemanco wetland in the Periferico Sur.³³⁹² Working with the Government of Mexico City, asphalt was removed from the Cuemanco wetland and automobile traffic reduced in order to allow wildlife to return and new plants to grow.

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Mexico has taken strong actions to acknowledge the urgency of land degradation and create new carbon sinks. Mexico has given strong and concurrent financial support to state governments, through the National Forest Commission, to promote sustainable land management, and worked with them to create legal frameworks in favor of sustainable practices. Mexico has also undertaken direct actions to plant trees in the state of Chihuahua and announced the planting of trees across 13 more states.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Diego Arreola Fernández

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

³³⁸⁸ CONAFOR collaborates with the “Sembrando Vida” program in Chihuahua, National Forestry Commission (Mexico City) 24 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.gob.mx/conafor/prensa/la-conafor-colabora-con-el-programa-sembrando-vida-en-chihuahua>

³³⁸⁹ CONAFOR strengthens the forestry sector in Colima, National Forestry Commission (Colima) 27 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.gob.mx/conafor/prensa/la-conafor-fortalece-al-sector-forestal-en-colima>

³³⁹⁰ Conservation Program for Sustainable Development (PROCOCODES) 2022, National Commission on Natural Protected Areas (Mexico City) 4 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2022.

³³⁹¹ Mayan train route contemplates reforestation and creation of natural reserves, Andrés Manuel López Obrador President of Mexico (Mexico City) 23 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 15 May 2022. <https://presidente.gob.mx/ruta-del-tren-maya-contempla-reforestacion-y-creacion-de-reservas-naturales-presidente/>

³³⁹² National Wetlands Committee confirms restoration and improvement of Cuemanco wetland, National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (Mexico City) 6 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022. <https://www.gob.mx/conanp/prensa/constata-comite-nacional-de-humedales-restauracion-y-mejoramiento-de-humedal-de-cuemanco?idiom=es>

On 2 November 2021, Russia endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.³³⁹³ This Declaration recognizes the need to conserve forests, facilitate trade and development policies promoting sustainable development, implement or redesign agricultural policies to incentivise sustainable agriculture, increase funding for sustainable forest management and restoration projects and facilitating international financial flows to reverse forest loss and land degradation.

On 1 June 2022, the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment announced the start of a large-scale forest climatic program called "Green Formula."³³⁹⁴ Green Formula aims at reducing anthropogenic climate impact, and is conducted in cooperation with the public-private company, SIBUR. Over the course of 2022, over 120,000 new trees are set to be planted on an area of approximately 30 hectares within the Svobodnensky district. The first batch of seedlings were planted in the vicinity of Dubobka village, in Svobodny city.

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Russia has taken action to plant trees to reduce climate impact.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Gayathri Siva

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 8 November 2021, Saudi Arabia hosted a presentation session at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) on natural solutions to address carbon emissions in the Middle East.³³⁹⁵ At this session, presenters explained techniques such as increasing green cover and combating desertification in order to protect natural ecosystems and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

On 24 November 2021, Minister of Environment, Water and Agriculture Abdul Rahman Al-Fadhli signed a strategic partnership agreement with the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, to create a national genetic data bank for plant genes.³³⁹⁶ This initiative aims to increase research cooperation on perennial and endangered plants in order to better understand how to preserve such species from extinction and to reproduce and grow them in their natural habitats.

On 1 December 2021, the Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture signed a cooperation agreement with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification to implement the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing the Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats.³³⁹⁷ As part of the agreement, financial assistance will be granted to efforts to halve degraded land by 2040.

³³⁹³ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³³⁹⁴ AGCC employees, together with residents, planted 8,000 young pine trees in the Svobodnensky district, Genyborka (Moscow) 1 June 2022. Access Date: 21 July 2022. <http://genyborka.ru/11199>

³³⁹⁵ KSA's Pavilion at COP26 holds session on natural solutions to address carbon emissions in ME, Saudi Gazette (Glasgow) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/613318/SAUDI-ARABIA/KSAs-Pavilion-at-COP26-holds-session-on-natural-solutions-to-address-carbon-emissions-in-ME>

³³⁹⁶ Authorities in Saudi Arabia sign environment and water deals to promote technology, scientific research, Arab News (Riyadh) 25 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1974906/business-economy>

³³⁹⁷ MEWA Signs a Cooperation Agreement with UN to Implement Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation, Ministry of Environment, Water and Agriculture (Riyadh) 1 December 2021. Access Date: 18 June 2022. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/ennews3.aspx>

On 9 February 2022, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a memorandum of understanding to increase cooperation in various environmental protection initiatives.³³⁹⁸ The memorandum focuses on enhancing joint action in generating green cover, combating land degradation and desertification through planting trees as well as preserving natural resources and biodiversity.

In April 2022, Saudi Arabia announced the development of 24 national greening initiatives.³³⁹⁹ The initiative will see the planting of 500 million trees between 2023 and 2036.

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Although Saudi Arabia has voiced its intention to plant trees to combat land degradation and has increased both domestic and international partnerships in support of such efforts, Saudi Arabia has not yet actively planted a significant number of trees domestically and abroad.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Gayathri Siva

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 3 November 2021, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment launched a national call to corporate organizations, governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, educational institutions and interested individuals to participate in the Ten Million Trees Programme.³⁴⁰⁰ This campaign includes requests for people to plant trees to receive certificate rewards indicating their contribution. The Ten Million Trees Programme aims to plant at least two million trees in South Africa annually over a period of five years.³⁴⁰¹

On 24 November 2021, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Barbara Creecy spoke at the Annual General Meeting of the Custodians of Professional Hunting and Conservation South Africa.³⁴⁰² Minister Creecy stated that the Government of South Africa intends to increase conservation estates by half a per cent per annum and recognized that as of November 2021, 16 per cent of land and five per cent of the sea in South Africa is protected under conservation.

On 20 February 2022, Minister Creecy announced an extension to the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden.³⁴⁰³ This extension of protected land strengthens conservation efforts of the natural wetland habitat, which is located in the center of a coastal fynbos region.

³³⁹⁸ Saudi Arabia, Pakistan Sign MoU for Cooperation in Environment Protection Fields, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 9 February 2022. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2328200>

³³⁹⁹ Greening Saudi, Saudi Green Initiative (Riyadh) April 2022. Access Date: 10 September 2022. <https://www.saudigreeninitiative.org/targets/greening-saudi/>

³⁴⁰⁰ Participate in the national ten million trees programme to be implemented in the next five years, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (Pretoria) 3 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://www.dffe.gov.za/event/deptactivity/10milliontreesprogramme>

³⁴⁰¹ Mission green: SA on track to plant 10 million trees, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 29 September 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/mission-green-sa-track-plant-10-million-trees>

³⁴⁰² Minister Creecy addresses the Custodians of Professional Hunting and Conservation South Africa (CPHC-SA) annual general meeting (AGM), Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (Pretoria) 24 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. https://www.dffe.gov.za/speech/creecy_cphcsa_agm

³⁴⁰³ Declaration of an extension to the Harold Porter National Botanical Garden, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (Pretoria) 20 February 2022. Access Date: 26 February 2022. https://www.dffe.gov.za/mediarelease/creecy_extension_haroldporter_nationalbotanicalgarden#

On 12 April 2022, the Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment released a draft of the National Biodiversity Offset Guideline for public consultation.³⁴⁰⁴ The new Guideline is aimed at counterbalancing consequences on biodiversity that remain even after efforts to minimize impacts and rehabilitate affected areas have been conducted. The new Guideline would strengthen biodiversity offset practices in South Africa in order to avoid major biodiversity loss and environmental degradation in South Africa.

On 13 April 2022, Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment Makhotso Sotyhu hosted a meeting with counterparts from Mozambique and Zimbabwe on the collaborative management of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area.³⁴⁰⁵ The meeting included discussions on harmonizing environmental management procedures across international borders.

On 22 May 2022, Minister Creecy hosted the launch ceremony of the Thohoyandou National Botanical Garden as part of the International Day for Biodiversity.³⁴⁰⁶ The aim of this new botanical garden is to support local communities while ensuring that South Africa's natural ecosystems are conserved and protected.

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. While South Africa has committed some actions to combat land degradation, South Africa has not committed any strong actions to plant trees domestically or abroad.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Cecilia Zhebui Xie

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 2 November 2021, Turkey endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use.³⁴⁰⁷ This Declaration recognizes the need to conserve forests, facilitate trade and development policies promoting sustainable development, implement or redesign agricultural policies to incentivise sustainable agriculture, increase funding for sustainable forest management and restoration projects and facilitating international financial flows to reverse forest loss and land degradation.

On 11 November 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry announced an initiative to plant 252 million saplings by the end of the year.³⁴⁰⁸ It is expected that by the end of 2023, 7 billion saplings will be planted and 30 per cent of the country's surface area will be covered with forests.

³⁴⁰⁴ Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment publishes South Africa's draft National Biodiversity Offset Guideline for public consultation, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (Pretoria) 12 April 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/forestry-fisheries-and-environment-publishes-south-africa%E2%80%99s-draft-national-biodiversity>

³⁴⁰⁵ The Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area marks 20th anniversary as it embarks on conservation and development beyond boundaries, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (Pretoria) 13 April 2022. Access Date: 18 June 2022. https://www.dffe.gov.za/mediarelease/greatlimpopotransfrontierconservationarea_20thanniversary

³⁴⁰⁶ Minister Creecy launches the Thohoyandou National Botanical Garden during commemoration of International Day for Biodiversity 2022, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (Pretoria) 22 May 2022. Access Date: 18 June 2022. https://www.dffe.gov.za/mediarelease/creecy_IDB2022thohoyandou

³⁴⁰⁷ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³⁴⁰⁸ Turkey launches initiative to plant 252 million saplings by year end, Hurriyet Daily News (Ankara) 11 November 2021. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.hurriyetsdailynews.com/turkey-launches-initiative-to-plant-252-million-saplings-by-year-end-169298>

On 30 December 2021, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Bekir Pakdemirli announced the accomplishment of planting the 252 millionth sapling as promised in an announced goal from November 2021.³⁴⁰⁹

On 20 January 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry announced a new program for the protection of forests and nature in the annual performance program evaluation.³⁴¹⁰ The purpose of the program is the conservation and development of forests, natural life and natural assets with a goal of 23.24 million hectares of forests during 2022.

On 16 March 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's General Directorate of Agricultural Reform announced the IPARD III program with approval from the European Commission.³⁴¹¹ The program allocates almost EUR555 million to address agricultural concerns. One concern is specifically focused on combating land erosion and issues with biodiversity loss.

On 25 April 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's General Directorate of Forestry was awarded the Institutional Achievement Award by the Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (Akdeniz-PA) for successful afforestation projects over the past year.³⁴¹²

On 16 May 2022, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Vahit Kirisci announced a new technology-intensive strategy for fighting forest fires in 2022.³⁴¹³ This new strategy increased the number of helicopters from 39 to 55, aircraft from three to 20 and unmanned aerial vehicles from four to eight.

On 19 May 2022, Minister Kirisci met with Azerbaijan's Minister of Emergency Situations and both agreed that Turkey and Azerbaijan should further increase bilateral cooperation for fighting forest fires.³⁴¹⁴

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. Turkey has focused on domestic policies and goals such as planting saplings and increasing forestry as well as prioritizing funding for agriculture and land cover. Turkey has also collaborated with other countries such as Azerbaijan on relevant issues such as fighting forest fires.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Iman Hussain

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

³⁴⁰⁹ The 252 Millionth Seedling has been meet with the soil within the scope of the Future Breathing Campaign, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Ankara) 30 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 June 2022.

³⁴¹⁰ 2022 Performance Program, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Ankara) 20 January 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.tarimorman.gov.tr/SGB/Belgeler/Performans%20Programlar%C4%B1/TARIM%20ve%20ORMAN%20BAKANLI%C4%9E%202022Y%C4%B1%C4%B1%20PerformansProgram%C4%B1.pdf>

³⁴¹¹ IPARD III Program, Covering 2021-2027, Approved by the European Commission, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Ankara) 16 March 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.tarimorman.gov.tr/Haber/5205/2021-2027-Yillarini-Kapsayan-Ipard-Iii-Programi-Avrupa-Komisyonu-Tarafindan-Onaylandi>

³⁴¹² International Award for Turkey's Success in Afforestation, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Ankara) 25 April 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022.

<https://www.tarimorman.gov.tr/Haber/5237/%e2%80%8bturkiyenin-Agaclandirmadaki-Basarisina-Uluslararası-Odul>

³⁴¹³ Minister Kirisci "We Strengthen Our Air and Land Strength Against Firest," Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Ankara) 16 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 June 2022.

<https://www.tarimorman.gov.tr/Haber/5252/Bakan-Kirisci-Yanginlara-Karsi-Hava-Ve-Kara-Gucumuzu-Daha-Da-Guclendiriyoruz>

³⁴¹⁴ Minister Kirisci; "Turkey and Azerbaijan will strengthen cooperation in fighting forest fires," Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Ankara) 19 May 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. <https://www.tarimorman.gov.tr/Haber/5256/Bakan-Kirisci-Turkiye-Ve-Azerbaycan-Orman-Yanginlariyla-Mucadelede-Is-Birligini-Pekistirecek>

On 2 November 2021, the UK endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which intends to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 while delivering sustainable development and promoting an inclusive rural transformation.³⁴¹⁵

On 2 November 2021, the UK signed onto a new Global Forest Finance Pledge at COP26.³⁴¹⁶ Collectively with 12 donor countries, this pledge provides USD12 billion between 2021 and 2025 to “support action in developing countries, including restoring degraded land, tackling wildfires and advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.”³⁴¹⁷

On 2 November 2021, the UK joined other countries in announcing an initial collective pledge of at least USD1.5 billion of financing between 2021 and 2025 to support the Congo Basin forests, peatlands and other critical global carbon stores.³⁴¹⁸

On 2 November 2021, the UK signed the joint statement of the ongoing Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade dialogue to promote sustainable agricultural development and forest management.³⁴¹⁹

On 2 November 2021, the UK advanced support for Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Tenure Rights and their Forest Guardianship at COP26.³⁴²⁰ As part of the released Joint Donor Statement, the endorsing countries and organisations announced an initial collective pledge of USD1.7 billion from 2021 to 2025 to support the advancement of Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' forest tenure rights and greater recognition and rewards for their role as guardians and defenders of tropical forests.

On 10 November 2021, the UK's new Environment Act was passed into law.³⁴²¹ The Environment Act gives the government new powers in fighting against illegal deforestation and the protection of rainforests while also strengthening woodland protection enforcement measures by introducing due diligence and reporting obligations in relation to “forest risk commodities.”

On 27 November 2021, the UK announced GBP12 million in funding through the Nature for Climate Fund for four funds supporting tree planting efforts.³⁴²² The four funds include the Local Authority Treescapes Fund, the Urban Tree Challenge Fund, the Woods into Management Forestry Innovation Funds and the Tree Production Innovation Fund.

³⁴¹⁵ Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³⁴¹⁶ The Global Forest Finance Pledge, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/the-global-forest-finance-pledge>

³⁴¹⁷ World leaders summit on 'Action on forests and land use,' United Kingdom Prime Minister's Office 10 Downing Street (London) 21 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop26-world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use-2-november-2021/world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use>

³⁴¹⁸ COP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-congo-basin-joint-donor-statement/>

³⁴¹⁹ Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/forests-agriculture-and-commodity-trade-a-roadmap-for-action/>

³⁴²⁰ COP26 IPLC Forest Tenure Joint Donor Statement, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-iplc-forest-tenure-joint-donor-statement/>

³⁴²¹ World-leading Environment Act becomes law, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 27 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-environment-act-becomes-law>

³⁴²² Millions of funding for projects in England to plant hundreds of thousands of trees, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 27 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-of-funding-for-projects-in-england-to-plant-hundreds-of-thousands-of-trees>

On 27 November 2021, the UK announced the creation of the new Cumbria community forest that will cover up to 150 hectares.³⁴²³

On 6 December 2021, the Deputy Climate Change Minister of Wales Lee Waters announced that one free tree will be offered to every household in Wales. This amounts to 1.3 million trees at a cost of GBP2 million.³⁴²⁴

On 6 January 2022, the UK unveiled two new environmental land management schemes: bringing up to 60 per cent of the UK's agricultural soil under sustainable management by 2030 and restoring up to 300,000 hectares of wildlife habitat by 2042.³⁴²⁵

On 25 January 2022, the UK launched a new drive to encourage farmers and landowners to plant and manage more trees.³⁴²⁶ The grant schemes will offer funding of over GBP10,000 for every hectare of woodland created.

On 9 February 2022, the UK-Kenya Strategic Partnership announced the launch of a program of funding opportunities for nature-based solutions projects in Kenya.³⁴²⁷ The total value of the program is KSH800 million.³⁴²⁸

On 23 May 2022, the UK Government signed a new agreement on plant health and biosecurity with 29 organizations, including the Royal Horticultural Society, National Farmers Union and Tree Council.³⁴²⁹ The Accord will spread awareness to civilians to not bring home plants, trees, fruit and seeds from overseas, because doing so may accidentally allow pests, diseases and invasive species to enter the UK. Alongside this, an awareness campaign will also ensure that members of the public understand how to report sightings of pests and diseases.

On 31 May 2022, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs as well as the Environment Agency announced the winners of the second round of the Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund. This provides grants up to GBP100,000 to environmental groups and other organizations for environment-related project development.³⁴³⁰ One project winner focuses on tree planting and brownfield land regeneration in the Liverpool City Region.

³⁴²³ New Community Forest for Cumbria will see thousands of trees planted along Cumbria's west coast, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 27 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-community-forest-for-cumbria-will-see-thousands-of-trees-planted-along-cumbrias-west-coast>

³⁴²⁴ Every household in Wales will be given a free tree to plant as part of the Welsh Government's commitment to tackle climate change, Welsh Government (Cardiff) 6 December 2021. Access Date: 13 February 2022. <https://gov.wales/every-household-wales-will-be-given-free-tree-plant-part-welsh-governments-commitment-tackle>

³⁴²⁵ Government unveils plans to restore 300,000 hectares of habitat across England, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 6 January 2022. Access Date: 9 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-plans-to-restore-300000-hectares-of-habitat-across-england>

³⁴²⁶ New drive to promote woodland creation grants for landowners, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 6 January 2022. Access Date: 9 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-drive-to-promote-woodland-creation-grants-for-landowners>

³⁴²⁷ Kenya-UK PACT Call for Proposals for innovative projects in Nature-based Solutions, UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (London) 9 February 2022. Access Date: 9 February 2022. <https://www.ukpact.co.uk/news/uk-pact-call-for-proposals-nature-based-solutions-in-kenya-0>

³⁴²⁸ UK Govt Offering Kenyans Ksh800 Million to Plant Trees, How to Apply, Kenyans.co.ke (Nairobi) 11 February 2022. Access Date: 13 February 2022. <https://www.kenyans.co.ke/news/73018-uk-govt-offering-kenyans-ksh800-million-trees-how-apply>

³⁴²⁹ Public urged to join collective action to protect plant health, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 23 May 2022. Access Date: 12 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-urged-to-join-collective-action-to-protect-plant-health>

³⁴³⁰ 50 projects receive up to £100,000 to boost investment in nature, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 31 May 2022. Access Date: 12 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/50-projects-receive-up-to-100000-each-to-boost-investment-in-nature>

On 2 June 2022, the UK Government convened an event titled “Financing the Transition to a Nature Positive Future” during the UN-led Stockholm+50 meeting.³⁴³¹ During this event, the UK Government announced a grant of GBP330 million to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which will go towards assisting developing countries to tackle environmental issues.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. The United Kingdom has taken strong action by planting a significant number of trees in degraded lands, both domestically and internationally. By both supporting and organizing international forums for cooperation on this commitment, most notably the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, funding domestic and international projects in reforestation, forest sustainability and carbon sinks, the United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitments to planting trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems on the planet.

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

Analyst: Frederik Hayward

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 2 November 2021, the US endorsed the Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).³⁴³² This Declaration recognizes the need to conserve forests, facilitate trade and development policies promoting sustainable development, implement or redesign agricultural policies to incentivise sustainable agriculture, increase funding for sustainable forest management and restoration projects and facilitating international financial flows to reverse forest loss and land degradation.

On 2 November 2021, the US signed onto a new Global Forest Finance Pledge at COP26.³⁴³³ Collectively with 12 donor countries, this pledge provides USD12 billion between 2021 and 2025 to “support action in developing countries, including restoring degraded land, tackling wildfires and advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.”³⁴³⁴

On 2 November 2021, the US signed the joint statement of the ongoing Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade dialogue along with 26 other countries and the European Union, to promote sustainable agricultural development and forest management.³⁴³⁵ The statement is part of the dialogue’s roadmap of actions, with four “overall objectives: trade and market development; smallholder support; traceability and transparency; and research, development and innovation.”

³⁴³¹ Countries call for action to finance nature recovery ahead of COP15, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 1 June 2022. Access Date: 12 June 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/countries-call-for-action-to-finance-nature-recovery-ahead-of-cop15>

³⁴³² Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³⁴³³ The Global Forest Finance Pledge, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/the-global-forest-finance-pledge>

³⁴³⁴ World leaders summit on ‘Action on forests and land use,’ United Kingdom Prime Minister’s Office 10 Downing Street (London) 21 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop26-world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use-2-november-2021/world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use>

³⁴³⁵ Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/forests-agriculture-and-commodity-trade-a-roadmap-for-action/>

On 2 November 2021, the US signed onto the Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement along with 11 other countries and philanthropic donors.³⁴³⁶ As part of this statement, at least USD1.5 billion between 2021 and 2025 is collectively pledged to “support ambitious efforts and results in the region to protect and maintain the Congo Basin forests, peatlands and other critical global carbon stores.”

On 2 November 2021, the US advanced support for Indigenous Peoples’ and Local Communities’ Tenure Rights and their Forest Guardianship at COP26.³⁴³⁷ As part of the released Joint Donor Statement, the endorsing countries and organisations announced an initial collective pledge of USD1.7 billion from 2021 to 2025 to support the advancement of Indigenous Peoples’ and local communities’ forest tenure rights and greater recognition and rewards for their role as guardians and defenders of tropical forests.

On 19 November 2021, the Department of Agriculture announced the repeal of the 2020 Alaska Roadless Rule and to restore protections to over nine million acres of inventoried roadless areas within the Tongass National Forest.³⁴³⁸ The 2020 Alaska Roadless Rule originally exempted the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule, which prohibited road construction and timber harvests, so the repeal would allow millions of acres of forest land to be protected again from construction and logging.

On 2 January 2022, the Department of Energy announced up to USD10 million in funding for small businesses developing new energy technologies to reduce the effect of energy consumption and its environmental impacts.³⁴³⁹

On 1 April 2022, the Department of Transportation announced its initiative to significantly change domestic fuel economy standards in an effort towards putting more environmentally friendly vehicles on the road by 2026.³⁴⁴⁰ Automakers will be required by the new standards to increase the corporate average fuel economy of fleets to 49 mpg (miles-per-gallon) from 37 mpg. With this new shift, the United States strengthens actions towards combatting climate change and land degradation by striking at non-fuel-efficient cars.

On 21 April 2022, the United States Army unveiled its first climate plan to slash its greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030.³⁴⁴¹ This is significant because the US Army currently accounts for 56 per cent of the Federal Government’s carbon footprint. This drastic move will take sustainability and environmentally friendly practices into account when restructuring the army to reduce emissions and land degradation.

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. While the United States has signed onto various declarations and pledges at COP26 and committed to protecting forests domestically, the United States has not taken strong actions to plant trees domestically or abroad.

³⁴³⁶ COP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-congo-basin-joint-donor-statement>

³⁴³⁷ COP26 IPLC Forest Tenure Joint Donor Statement, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 10 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-iplc-forest-tenure-joint-donor-statement/>

³⁴³⁸ USDA Announces Steps to Restore Roadless Protections on Tongass National Forest, Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 19 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/usda-announces-steps-restore-roadless-protections-tongass-national-forest>

³⁴³⁹ U.S. Department of Energy Announces \$10 Million For Small Businesses Working on New Energy Technology, Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (Washington D.C) 2 January 2022. Access Date: 11 February 2022. <https://arpa-e.energy.gov/news-and-media/press-releases/us-department-energy-announces-10-million-small-businesses-working>

³⁴⁴⁰ The US Just Announced that Cars will be a Lot More Fuel Efficient by 2026, TechCrunch (San Francisco) 1 April 2022. Date Accessed: 17 May 2022. <https://techcrunch.com/2022/04/01/the-u-s-just-announced-that-cars-will-have-to-be-a-lot-more-fuel-efficient-by-2026/>

³⁴⁴¹ United States Army Climate Strategy, United States Army (Rock Island) 21 April 2022. Date Accessed: 17 May 2022. https://www.army.mil/e2/downloads/rv7/about/2022_army_climate_strategy.pdf

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Jake Knight

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet.

On 2 November 2021, the European Commission on behalf of the EU endorsed the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use at the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).³⁴⁴² This Declaration recognizes the need to conserve forests, facilitate trade and development policies promoting sustainable development, implement or redesign agricultural policies to incentivise sustainable agriculture, increase funding for sustainable forest management and restoration projects and facilitating international financial flows to reverse forest loss and land degradation.

On 2 November 2021, the European Commission on behalf of the EU signed onto a new Global Forest Finance Pledge at COP26.³⁴⁴³ Collectively with 12 donor countries, this pledge provides USD12 billion between 2021 and 2025 to “support action in developing countries, including restoring degraded land, tackling wildfires and advancing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.”³⁴⁴⁴

On 2 November 2021, the European Commission on behalf of the EU signed onto the Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement along with 11 other countries and philanthropic donors.³⁴⁴⁵ As part of this statement, at least USD1.5 billion between 2021 and 2025 is collectively pledged to “support ambitious efforts and results in the region to protect and maintain the Congo Basin forests, peatlands and other critical global carbon stores.”

On 2 November 2021, the EU signed the joint statement of the ongoing Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade dialogue along with 27 other countries, to promote sustainable agricultural development and forest management.³⁴⁴⁶ The statement is part of the dialogue's roadmap of actions, with four “overall objectives: trade and market development; smallholder support; traceability and transparency; and research, development and innovation.”

On 15 November 2021, the European Union, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Austria began planting 1000 trees in six Western Balkan countries as part of the Green Economy Financing Facility program.³⁴⁴⁷ Over the past week, lime trees in Podgorica, Montenegro, and white pine trees in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, have been planted, with the campaign continuing for several more weeks in Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Serbia.

On 17 November 2021, the European Commission presented a new Soil strategy for 2030.³⁴⁴⁸

³⁴⁴² Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/>

³⁴⁴³ The Global Forest Finance Pledge, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/the-global-forest-finance-pledge>

³⁴⁴⁴ World leaders summit on 'Action on forests and land use,' United Kingdom Prime Minister's Office 10 Downing Street (London) 21 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cop26-world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use-2-november-2021/world-leaders-summit-on-action-on-forests-and-land-use>

³⁴⁴⁵ COP26 Congo Basin Joint Donor Statement, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/cop26-congo-basin-joint-donor-statement>

³⁴⁴⁶ Forests, Agriculture and Commodity Trade, UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (Glasgow) 2 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://ukcop26.org/forests-agriculture-and-commodity-trade-a-roadmap-for-action/>

³⁴⁴⁷ The EU, EBRD and Austria Donate Trees for a Greener Western Balkans, Western Balkans Investment Framework (Brussels) 15 November 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://wbif.eu/news-details/eu-ebrd-and-austria-donate-trees-greener-western-balkans>

³⁴⁴⁸ EU soil strategy for 2030, European Commission (Brussels) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/publications/eu-soil-strategy-2030_en

On 17 November 2021, the European Commission proposed a regulation on deforestation-free products.³⁴⁴⁹

On 17 November 2021, the European Commission proposed a new regulation on waste shipments.³⁴⁵⁰

On 23 November 2021, the European Parliament approved the reformed Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) aligning with the European Green Deal.³⁴⁵¹ It was determined that there will be more transparency and better compliance with labour rules, and more support for small farms and young farmers, including a crisis reserve with an annual budget of EUR450 million.

On 9 December 2021, the European Commission and the European Environment Agency jointly launched MapMyTree, a data tool for all organizations to join the EU's pledge of planting three billion more trees by 2030 by registering and mapping their planted trees to count within the EU's goal.³⁴⁵²

On 7 January 2022, the European Citizens' Panel held in Warsaw, Poland, collected European citizens' opinions on ways to fight climate change and protect the environment among other things.³⁴⁵³

On 17 January 2022, the European Union announced the Soil Health Law proposal in the EU soil strategy for 2030.³⁴⁵⁴

On 5 February 2021, the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety adopted the resolution of a World Trade Organization-compatible EU carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM), placing a carbon price on imports from "less climate-ambitious" countries.³⁴⁵⁵

On 10 February 2022, the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) declared its position on battery product governing and regulation.³⁴⁵⁶ The final agreement includes increasing battery sustainability, holding the battery industry to be more accountable and an increased ambition for waste management.

On 17 February 2022, the European Parliament approved new distance-based road charging rules for trucks reflecting the "polluter pays principle" which charges for actual kilometers driven.³⁴⁵⁷ The new rules are aimed toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union.

³⁴⁴⁹ Proposal for a regulation on deforestation-free products, European Commission (Brussels) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/publications/proposal-regulation-deforestation-free-products_en

³⁴⁵⁰ Proposal for a new regulation on waste shipments, European Commission (Brussels) 17 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/publications/proposal-new-regulation-waste-shipments_en

³⁴⁵¹ Common Agricultural Policy reform gets final approval from MEPs, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 23 November 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211118IPR17613/common-agricultural-policy-reform-gets-final-approval-from-meps>

³⁴⁵² Biodiversity: Three billion additional trees by 2030 – launch of MapMyTree tool, European Environment Agency (Copenhagen) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 26 February 2022. <https://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/mapmytree-new-data-tool-to>

³⁴⁵³ Future of Europe: citizens' panel proposals on climate change, environment and health, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 10 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/eu-affairs/20220106STO20404/future-of-europe-citizens-panel-plans-for-climate-change-environment-health>

³⁴⁵⁴ Soil health – protecting, sustainably managing and restoring EU soils, European Commission (Strasbourg) 17 January 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13350-Soil-health-protecting-sustainably-managing-and-restoring-EU-soils_en

³⁴⁵⁵ Carbon levy on EU imports needed to raise global climate ambition, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 5 February 2021. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210201IPR96812/carbon-levy-on-eu-imports-needed-to-raise-global-climate-ambition>

³⁴⁵⁶ MEPs want to strengthen new EU rules for design, production and disposal of batteries, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 10 February 2022. Access Date: 12 February 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220202IPR22435/meps-want-to-strengthen-new-eu-rules-for-batteries>

³⁴⁵⁷ Parliament approves greener road charging rules, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 17 February 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/economy/20220210STO23038/parliament-approves-greener-road-charging-rules>

On 17 February 2022, the European Commission invested over EUR110 million into LIFE programme projects for environmental and climate protection in 11 EU countries (Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland and Slovenia).³⁴⁵⁸ One project, focused on nature conservation, will set up three pilot forest areas in the Grand Est region of France in order to reverse biodiversity loss and assist the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.

On 10 March 2022, the European Parliament adopted EU environmental objectives until 2030, aiming at setting a deadline for the phase out of fossil fuel subsidies and identifying other environmentally harmful subsidies by 2023.³⁴⁵⁹ The new objectives also specifically highlight the protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

On 15 March 2022, the European Parliament adopted the report on the European Union External Action's Climate Change and Defence Roadmap.³⁴⁶⁰ Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in the Foreign Affairs Committee recognized that climate change must be highlighted in peace and security agendas and have called for the climate-security nexus to be prioritized in the UN-EU Strategic Partnership on Peace Operations and Crisis Management.

On 17 May 2022, the European Parliament's Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee adopted a negotiation position on the Regulation on European green bonds.³⁴⁶¹ Previously there was no uniform green bond standard within the EU. The new European Green Bond Standard aims to ensure that European companies can benefit from green financing and that investors will find the green investments they wish to commence environmental projects.

On 19 May 2022, the European Commission awarded a Vocational Education and Training (VET) Excellence Award to the Veteran Tree Management Skills Certification Project led by Stiftelsen Pro Natura.³⁴⁶² This Swedish project focuses on increasing the standards for caring for trees considered important for nature conservation, landscapes or cultures.

On 15 June 2022, the European Commission placed the EU's firefighting fleet ready to combat forest fires in 2022.³⁴⁶³ The fleet is located in Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Sweden with 12 airplanes and one helicopter ready for deployment to save lives and forests.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to collectively plant one trillion trees, focusing on the most degraded ecosystems in the planet. The European Union has taken strong actions on its commitment to combat land degradation, and actively engages in a variety of initiatives to improve its environment both in European Union member states as well as other parts of Europe.

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

Analyst: Cecilia Zhebui Xie

³⁴⁵⁸ Green Deal: EU invests over €110 million in LIFE projects for environment and climate in 11 EU countries, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2022. Access Date: 19 June 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_864

³⁴⁵⁹ Parliament adopts EU environmental objectives until 2030, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 10 March 2022. Access Date: 10 May 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220304IPR24804/parliament-adopts-eu-environmental-objectives-until-2030>

³⁴⁶⁰ Climate change is the ultimate threat multiplier, say MEPs, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 15 March 2022. Access Date: 11 May 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220314IPR25420/climate-change-is-the-ultimate-threat-multiplier-say-meps>

³⁴⁶¹ European Green Bond Standard: new measures to reduce green washing, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 17 May 2022. Access Date: June 12 2022. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20220516IPR29640/european-green-bond-standard-new-measures-to-reduce-green-washing>

³⁴⁶² European Vocational Skills Week on green transition: Commission reveals 12 winners of VET Excellence Awards, European Commission (Brussels) 19 May 2022. Access Date: 19 June 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_3163

³⁴⁶³ Forest fires: European Commission puts its firefighting fleet in place for the 2022 season, European Commission (Brussels) 15 June 2022. Access Date: 19 June 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_22_3719