

PROTECT

- **Protect at least 30% of EU's sea and land areas:** EU countries must make legally binding commitments to meet the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and the targets of the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 to effectively protect **at least 30% of their land and water** as an ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed network of areas.
- **Effective protection is key to success:** Adopted targets must be **effectively implemented** in such a way that the natural processes of ecosystems are essentially undisturbed by harmful activities for biodiversity (such as for example industrial agriculture, industrial fishery or industrial forestry), while ensuring that **any use by human activities, where appropriate in such areas, is sustainable and fully consistent with clearly defined conservation outcomes**, recognizing and respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- **Sometimes interventions are needed for enhancement of natural processes:** Protected areas can also be areas where active management maintains or enhances natural ecosystem processes, such as for example natural disaster prevention e.g. (wildfires) or restoration.
- **We need undisturbed areas:** At the same time, in the European context, **at least one third of protected areas** of very high biodiversity value, including carbon-rich ecosystems **should be strictly protected and remain essentially untouched by humans**. In these areas only limited and well-controlled activities that either do not disrupt or enhance natural processes would be allowed. Limited and well-controlled activities include scientific research, natural disaster prevention (e.g. wildfires), invasive alien species control, non-intrusive activities and installations, non-intrusive and strictly controlled recreational activities. Activities authorised in strictly protected areas should also include activities linked to small-scale subsistence resource use for Indigenous Peoples, provided it does not interfere with the conservation objectives of the area.

Protection does not mean excluding people from nature. Land rights, access and sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and local communities must therefore be an integral part of the concept of protection. At the same time, we should take into account biogeographical differences across Europe when considering the implementation of the targets, and ensure that nature conservation within Europe's borders does not lead to the degradation of forests or other natural ecosystems, or to human rights violations elsewhere.

RESTORE

- **Restore 20% of EU's sea and land areas:** In addition EU countries must build up and restore ecosystems that have been destroyed or degraded. **EU countries must implement the EU Restoration law with ambitious national restoration plans by restoring at least 20% of the EU land and sea by 2030 across different ecosystems.** Protected and restoration targets can work hand in hand, as protected areas can serve as both a model and a source to establish restored areas.

Last year (2023), we saw unprecedented opposition to the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, leading to unacceptable weakening and even almost losing the legal text. Greenpeace, together with a wide group of civil society organisations, strongly call upon national governments, Members of the European Parliament and the European Commission to get back on the right track by safeguarding key elements in the EU Nature Restoration Law.

REDIRECT THE FINANCE

- Harmful subsidies and all the public and private financing with climate or biodiversity impacts must be redirected towards the goals of the KMGBF and the EU Biodiversity strategy 2030 and contribute to nature protection, restoration, resilience and just transition for affected communities.

TRANSFORM THE FORESTRY SYSTEM

- **Old-growth and other high nature value forests** must be strictly protected because of their biodiversity and climate importance. European decision-makers must **immediately put a stop to the logging of these forests.**
- Beyond protected areas, we also need to immediately **transform the forest system to strive to mimic natural forest development** with a close-to-nature forest management approach.

TRANSFORM THE WAY WE CONSUME WOOD PRODUCTS

- **A drastic reduction of logging of wood for energy production:** Greenpeace sees a limited role of forests and wood use in the transition towards a world run by 100% renewable energy, because only a relatively small amount of bioenergy, usually based on waste and residues, can be guaranteed to come from sustainable sources.
- **Dramatically reduce the production and consumption of short-lived or disposable wood and paper products and promote the use of long-lived products instead.** Unsustainable pulp and paper operations continue to drive tremendous impact on our forests. From tissue to office paper, catalogue paper, packaging and fast furniture, the pulp and paper industry uses a significant amount of all industrial wood globally. The logging of so many trees for the pulp and paper industry can have devastating impacts on our world's forests and our climate. When disposable products are absolutely necessary, they should consist of 100% recycled and/or responsibly produced alternative fibres whenever possible.

In some areas, heavily impacted by changes in weather regimes, already, like e.g. in some Mediterranean countries, there is an urgent need to adapt forests to climate change, also to prevent catastrophic fires that are putting people's lives at risk. Where there are no other fire prevention measures in such areas, adaptation measures can also involve the reduction of biomass fuel loads, including but not limited to the reduction of the density of standing trees. Using the collected / harvested biomass for bioenergy or other single-used products, in such cases, can be acceptable where there is no other competing use.

To find out more about how burning wood as "renewable bioenergy" is not as sustainable as EU climate and energy policies claim, read the study by the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) commissioned by Greenpeace Netherlands in July 2021.

[Wood Pellet Damage How renewable energy subsidies fuel the biodiversity and climate crises](#)

DITCH FALSE SOLUTIONS

- **Large monoculture tree farms cannot be considered a solution** to the climate crisis. Large-scale plantations also pose threats for biodiversity and the way of life for local communities.
- **Certification schemes have major failings.** Too many certified companies continue to be linked to forest and ecosystem destruction, land disputes and human rights abuses. Too often, certification enables destructive businesses to continue operating as usual.
- **Carbon offsets are a scam:** Offsetting emissions by trading them for reduced land-use emissions (such as avoiding deforestation) or increased nature-based carbon uptake (such as tree planting) is a fundamental fallacy. Enhancing natural carbon sinks is critical for removing carbon currently in the atmosphere – but cannot be used to offset ongoing emissions.

To find more about why monoculture tree plantations undermine the climate fight and cause havoc on biodiversity read Greenpeace publication [Planting Tree Farms No Panacea for Climate Crisis](#)