

MONITORING ESG

Biodiversity

2022/10



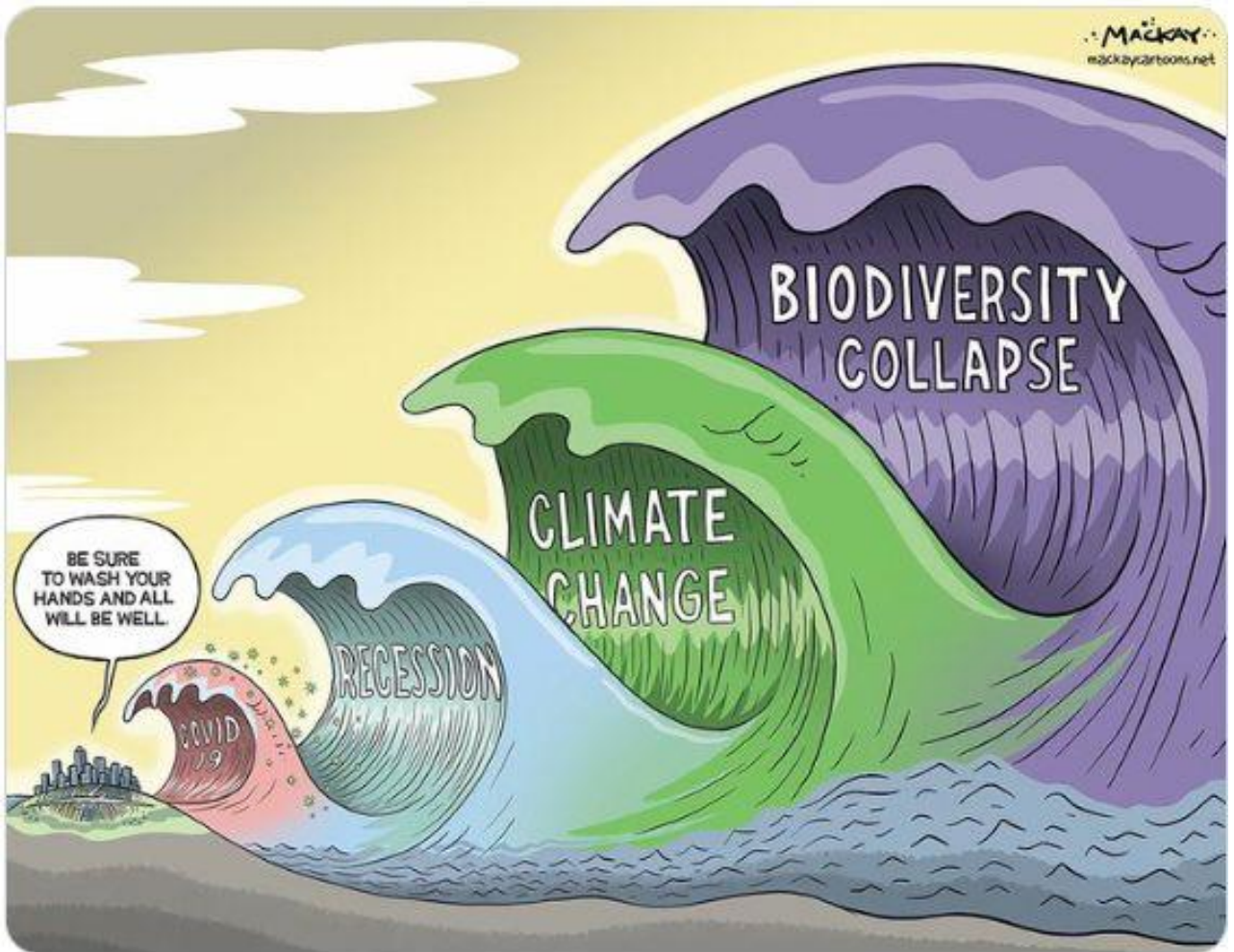
We are serious about fighting climate change and biodiversity loss. Acknowledging that the The new law on Nature Restoration really does break new ground – it's the first EU-wide, comprehensive restoration law of its kind.

For the past thirty years, our main focus has been on protection, and safeguarding natural areas. That was and will always be crucial. But it is no longer enough to reverse the loss of biodiversity in Europe.

Too much of our nature has already been destroyed or degraded over the years: 81% of EU-protected habitats are in poor condition, with 36% deteriorating and only 9% improving.«

Virginijus Sinkevičius
European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and
Fisherie
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THE BIODIVERSITY COLLAPSE



Global Biodiversity Crisis Is Worse Than We Thought, New Survey Finds

“A new survey of 3,331 scientists studying biodiversity across 187 countries has revealed that more species are threatened with extinction than previously thought. As many as 50% of species have been threatened with extinction or driven to extinction since 1500, according to survey results.

The survey, published in the journal Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment, was conducted to help fill in gaps of information on biodiversity around the globe. The survey received 3,331 responses from scientists focused on all major species, habitats and ecosystems on Earth.”

18 July 2022 – EcoWatch
[Link](#)

'Biodiversity loss is humanity's greatest threat'

“Mass species extinction is taking place right before our eyes, and yet most of us hardly notice. The dying can't circulate online petitions or stage demonstrations. Often, we don't even know they exist.

Of the estimated 8 million animal, fungi and plant species on our planet, only a fraction have been scientifically documented, according to the international biodiversity council IPBES.

Yet according to scientists, the world may lose nearly 1 million species by 2030, with one species already becoming extinct every 10 minutes. This is catastrophic, because a world that lacks diversity is a dangerous place for all species, including humans.”

21 June 2022 – DW
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BIODIVERSITY AND IT'S INFLUENCE ON THE ECONOMY

Bioprospecting and Sustainable Development

“On June 30th, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) published a report, titled ‘The New Gold Rush: Bioprospecting,’ which elucidates the benefits of bioprospecting for sustainable economic development for underdeveloped countries. Bioprospecting is the exploration of biodiversity for animal and plant substances for medicinal, biochemical, or other commercial purposes. One cause of the socio-economic disparity between rich and poor countries stems from colonial practices of environmental exploitation; larger countries pilfered the resources of smaller countries or current or former colonies to support the metropole’s industrialization and growth.”

20 July 2022 – Pressenza
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Investors grapple with complexities of biodiversity

“Irreversible consequences for the environment, humankind, and economic activity, and a permanent destruction of natural capital.” That is how the World Economic Forum characterises biodiversity loss in its 2022 Global Risks Report. No wonder investors are worried: not only is it their planet, too, but they also have portfolios to manage. And, given the complexity of measuring nature and the impact of its loss, the finance sector can be forgiven for feeling daunted.”

18 July 2022 – Financial Times
[Link](#)

Applying the lessons of climate change to halting biodiversity loss

“The Paris Agreement demonstrated that it is possible to forge global consensus around a shared environmental goal. Given the links between the biodiversity and climate crises, we must learn lessons from Paris to guide negotiations towards a global biodiversity framework and to ensure our solutions benefit people, nature and climate; writes Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, Interim Chair of IUCN’s Climate Crisis Commission.”

15 July 2022 – IUCN
[Link](#)

3 circular economy approaches to reduce demand for critical metals

“We need a clean energy revolution, and we need it now. But this transition from fossil fuels to renewables will need large supplies of critical metals such as cobalt, lithium, nickel, to name a few. Shortages of these critical minerals could raise the costs of clean energy technologies. One obvious route is to mine more virgin material, but this comes with its own costs and potentially unintended consequences. Another solution commonly discussed is to recycle more and use the metals already in circulation. The complication is that we do not currently have enough metals in circulation, and even with recycling taken into consideration, mineral production is still forecasted to increase by nearly 500%. So how should we proceed?.”

18 July 2022 – World Economic Forum
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Why you can't put a price on biodiversity

“Putting a price tag on necessities will always be a challenge. The climate crisis has shown us over and over how we struggle to estimate the actual worth of a product—whether it’s a cheap plastic bottle that ends up living for hundreds of years in the ocean or fossil fuels which are made affordable with heaps of subsidies. According to a new report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), valuing nature through economics severely undercuts the actual worth of biodiversity. When we prioritize economic and political benefits, we sell nature severely short—which leads to biodiversity loss.”

15 July 2022 – Popular Science
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How disasters linked to climate crisis have cost Germany tens of billions

“Weather catastrophes triggered by climate change have cost Germany at least €80 billion since 2018, a “horrifying” official study said on Monday, as disasters grow more frequent and intense. The report commissioned by the economy and environment ministries estimated the impact of drought, floods and extreme heat in Germany between 2000 and 2021 was nearly €145 billion, most of it seen in recent years.

Since 2018 alone, damage to buildings and infrastructure as well as lost revenue in sectors such as forestry and farming in Europe’s top economy reached over €80 billion.”

18 July 2022 – The Local
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Biodiversity loss may push developing world closer to default

“LOSS of biodiversity across the world may push many developing nations close to default and trigger massive downgrades for China and India, according to the first sovereign credit rating adjusted for ecological destruction. A “partial ecosystems collapse” of fisheries, tropical timber production and wild pollination would increase annual borrowing costs for 26 nations including the US by US\$53 billion, according to a team led by academics at Cambridge University.”

23 June 2022 – The Business Times
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Oceans and the circular economy

“Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, Virginijus Sinkevičius’ responsibilities include ensuring the environment, oceans and fisheries remain at the core of the European Green Deal; Leading on a Circular Economy Action Plan; and promoting plastic-free oceans and proper implementation of legislation on plastics, particularly microplastics. Now, he looks toward the link between oceans and the circular economy.”

In April, at the Our Ocean Conference in Palau, the EU renewed its pledge towards international ocean governance with a list of 44 commitments for 2020-2022 worth a combined total of almost €1 billion.

24 June 2022 – Open Access Government
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