



EU Elections 2024

WCS EU Office - Manifesto

Dear Candidate for the European Parliament,

In the next 5 years, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) will play a pivotal role in guiding the direction the European Union (EU) takes in **protecting the environment, fighting climate change, and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems** around the globe.

The world is changing rapidly.

Wildlife and wild places around the world have never been under greater threat from **human-caused pressures**, including habitat conversion for intensive agriculture, climate change, and escalations in the exploitation of species, including for the illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade. The World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Risks Report 2024 again ranks **nature-related risks** as the most critical challenges facing the world over the next decade.

It is not too late and it is still possible to reverse the trend.

Yet, amidst these challenges lie opportunities for transformative change. We stand at a critical juncture where **bold, ambitious action** can still reverse the tide of climate change and environmental degradation and **safeguard our planet for future generations**. For example, fair and sustainable agricultural practices can and should contribute to biodiversity conservation, nature restoration, and the fight against climate change. **Sustainable economies** rely on a healthy environment and proactive environmental stewardship can prevent health crises and **promote long-term prosperity**.

It's the moment to take a stand, **make your voice heard**, and **let EU citizens know** that you care about their health and well-being, the environment, biodiversity, and the climate.



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The WCS EU Office calls on the new MEPs to fully support policies that:

- Protect high-integrity ecosystems, and halt and reverse biodiversity loss globally, including by supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities
- Tackle climate change and halt deforestation and forest degradation
- Support an integrated One Health approach across sectors, including actions to prevent pathogen spillover and future pandemics
- Stop illegal and unsustainable trade in wildlife, fisheries, and timber
- Protect the oceans and the marine environment



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As Member of the next European Parliament you can pledge to:

1. Ensure the EU fulfills its commitments towards achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** (KM-GBF), and the **Paris Agreement** on climate change, including delivering on the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance.
2. Ensure the EU attains its existing target on **biodiversity finance under the Multiannual Financial Framework** (MFF), and champion a substantial increase in biodiversity development aid in the next MFF.
3. Promote the integration of a **One Health approach in EU decision-making**, which recognises the interlinkages between the health of humans, animals, plants, and ecosystems, and advocate for pandemic prevention at source at all levels.
4. Champion **full and effective implementation of the EU Green Deal**, the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030, the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products, the EU Action Plan against Wildlife Trafficking 2022-2027, the EU Global Health Strategy, and the EU Action Plan for protecting and restoring marine ecosystems for sustainable and resilient fisheries.
5. Advocate for the **protection of high-integrity ecosystems and biodiversity globally**, through the deployment of the **Global Gateway, NaturAfrica**, and other EU international investments.
6. Promote a **leading EU role in multilateral environmental fora**, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), fostering enhanced coordination and synergies between them.

We would be pleased to meet with you and provide any additional information or responses to your questions. Don't hesitate to contact us.

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The mission of the WCS EU Office, a Belgian NGO based in Brussels, is to save wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature. To achieve our mission, we draw upon the Wildlife Conservation Society's global field, technical and scientific expertise and experience to identify, formulate, and articulate policy positions on issues impacting biodiversity globally and share this information with decision-makers.