

UK secures historic G7 commitments to tackle climate change and halt biodiversity loss by 2030

- G7 Environment and Climate ministers commit to protect land and ocean to bend the curve of biodiversity loss by 2030.
- They also commit to phase out new direct government support for international fossil fuels.
- Securing meaningful action from leading economies to tackle climate change is a priority for the UK's G7 presidency, ahead of COP26 in November.

The Climate and Environment Ministers of the G7, under UK leadership, have today (Friday 21 May) secured historic commitments which will put climate, biodiversity and the environment at the heart of worldwide COVID-19 recovery.

COP26 President-Designate, Alok Sharma and Defra Secretary of State George Eustice, convened the Ministers ahead of the G7 leaders' summit in June, including the guest countries of India, Australia, South Africa and South Korea.

All G7 members signed up to the global '30x30' initiative to conserve or protect at least 30 per cent of the world's land and at least 30 per cent of the world's ocean by 2030, and committed to '30x30' nationally.

This year is already the first ever 'net zero G7', with all countries committed to reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest, with deep emissions reduction targets in the 2020s.

Taking this further by supporting the transition to green energy overseas, the group also agreed to phase out government funding for fossil fuel projects internationally – following a leading commitment made by the UK in December.

As a first step the G7 countries will end all new finance for coal power by the end of 2021, matched by increased support for clean energy alternatives like solar and wind. It was also agreed to accelerate the transition away from unabated coal capacity and to an overwhelmingly decarbonised power system in the 2030s.

The G7 has agreed to increase the quantity of finance for climate action, including for nature, in order to meet the \$100bn per annum target to support developing countries.

In addition to this, the G7 have committed to champion a range of ambitious and effective global biodiversity targets, including the agreement of an ambitious and effective global biodiversity framework at CBD COP15 later this year.

Measures to tackle global deforestation were also secured, with the G7 committing to increase support for sustainable supply chains that decouple agricultural production from deforestation and forest degradation, including production stemming from illegal land conversion.

In this crucial year for global action on the environment and climate, the UK has placed tackling climate change and biodiversity loss at the centre of its G7 agenda.

Speaking after the event the Environment Secretary George Eustice said:

For the first time, the G7 has committed to halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity by 2030.

This is a major step forward before we host the G7 in Cornwall next month and is a sign of the dedication to accelerate action within the G7 – and beyond – to tackle the twin challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss.

We have seen tremendous progress this week and it has been great to see countries working together to raise our ambition and lead by example, each playing our part.

COP26 President-Designate said:

We are the first net zero G7. Under the UK's Presidency, the G7 is showing great leadership in tackling climate change and making sure those who are worst affected by it are better protected.

As we recover from the pandemic we are focused on building back greener – creating jobs and prosperity, without harming the planet.

We know we need to consign coal to history and the G7 has taken a major step towards a decarbonised power system. We are acting abroad as we're doing at home by agreeing to phase out international fossil fuel finance, starting with coal – another key milestone in this crucial year for climate action.

I look forward to continuing this work as we make progress ahead of COP26 in Glasgow later this year and keep 1.5 degrees within reach.

A link to the Communique is [available here](#)