### Scientists urge EU policymakers to reinstate the Green Deal

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- 8) Mid Sweden University, Sweden
- 9) The Society for Tropical Ecology, Czech Republic
- 10) Hungarian Ecological Society
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- 12) Estación Biológica de Doñana CSIC, Sevilla, Spain
- 13) Institute of Nature Conservation Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków, Poland
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- 15) Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales, CSIC, Madrid, Spain
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- 19) Law Group, Wageningen University & Research

#### Dear Policymakers,

We are in an unprecedented state of planetary crisis, risking the livelihoods of millions of people in Europe, and billions globally. The European Green Deal, in its original form, was poised to set ambitious steps for tackling these crises and addressing key societal challenges. However, the Green Deal is presently going through a continuous path of weakening, as elements of it are being lost or replaced in the policy process. As scientists, we are particularly concerned about a series of unjustified, poorly informed and rushed deregulations which fail to align with the dire need for transformative changes toward sustainability. The first set of decisions already taken by the new Commission, as well as propositions and decisions made by the Parliament, mark worrying signs of poor environmental commitment and poor understanding of the associated risks. We therefore urge the new Commission, the Parliament and EU Member States to urgently rethink their strategy around the Green Deal, to reinstate its ambition, and ensure its proper implementation.

#### Why are we concerned?

Over the course of 2023 and 2024, the European Commission has taken a series of contested decisions, especially on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Sustainable Use of Pesticides' Regulation (SUR) (see above) - which the new Commission has not expressed an intention to reverse. We are concerned to see that the new Commission has already taken decisions that show poor environmental commitment, with proposals to delay and amend the EU Deforestation Regulation, as well as the intentions to alter the Habitat Directive and the conservation status of species, such as wolves.

While the new Commission expressed a general commitment to the Green Deal, and the ambition to ensure the success of the Nature Restoration Law, we are witnessing an alarming shift in the overall policy language, motivation and priorities. Instead of sustainability, the new focus of the Commission is on 'competitiveness', 'productivity' and 'economic growth', while ignoring the planetary boundaries or safe limits for humanity set by Earth's conditions. This is evident in the Strategy outlined for the Commission's first 100 days, which made no mention of biodiversity. It is essential to acknowledge, however, that both our economy and our wellbeing are intrinsically linked to Earth's resources and the state of our environment.

With the present letter, representing a collaborative and voluntary effort from members of the scientific community across disciplines, we express our growing and grave concerns about the new direction taken by the Commission regarding the Green Deal. The decisions towards industrial competitiveness and deregulation seriously undermine the actions needed to achieve carbon neutrality, halt biodiversity loss, and address health impacts of excessive environmental pollution. Scientists have been expressing their concerns about these developments through various channels, such as the <a href="Europe for Nature initiative">Europe for Nature initiative</a> and an open letter published in June 2024. We feel that the raised concerns and warnings have not been taken seriously, and instead the rollback of the Green Deal continues. We thus strongly recommend adhering to the <a href="principles of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union">Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union</a> (TFEU), especially the legal duty to protect human and environmental health following the precautionary principle (TFEU Article 191), the duty to care with regard to health risks (TFEU Article 168), and the obligation to comply with international agreements (e.g. Article 105). In the following text, we justify our concerns in more detail.

#### 1) Downgrading of the European Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)

The recent amendments to the EUDR are a concerning step backward from the planned EU efforts to halt global deforestation by tracing and ensuring that specific commodity products do not come from deforested land - as critical means to address both biodiversity and climate targets. The suggested delay in its implementation penalises companies that have already invested to be ready on time, while rewarding those conducting 'business as usual'. The EU Parliament proposed additional amendments that would have severely undermined the core goal of the EUDR to address European supply chain impacts on deforestation and forest degradation. Particularly, the proposals to add a "no risk" category, and to adopt forest definitions that do not align with science, would have risked emptying the EUDR from its objectives. While we are relieved to see that the European Council rejected these additional amendments, the delay in EUDR's implementation is still a major weakness.

#### 2) Continuity of the pre-election line regarding the SUR, CAP and RES

#### Sustainable Use Regulation (SUR)

The Commission's original SUR proposal was aligned with strong evidence of the broad and increasing prevalence of agrochemicals in our food and water and the associated negative impacts these chemicals have on human health and the environment. The SUR would have been a powerful instrument, to finally introduce, for the first time, concrete EU-wide targets for pesticide reduction. Yet even after repeated weakening, the SUR was rejected by the European Parliament and subsequently withdrawn by the Commission. In doing so, they ignored an evidence-based open letter signed by 6000 scientists and an appeal from over 1 million citizens in favour of the SUR. On the other hand, the new Commission welcomed the outcomes of the EU's Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture - which highlights (again) the need to secure healthy food to European citizens. Without revising and re-tabling the SUR, it is hard to imagine how the Commission envisions implementing the recommendation which they cordially endorsed.

#### Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

Both the Parliament and Council voted for a <u>Commission proposal</u> that weakened the environmental effectiveness of five out of nine basic CAP environmental standards, presumably to enhance production and yields. This includes eliminating fallow land on arable land and enhancing the possibilities to convert permanent grassland into arable land. There is no evidence that these decisions have addressed the core issues for farmers - while in the longer term, they may well increase the risks to farming and food security by accelerating environmental degradation (soil erosion, flood and fire risks, nutrient loss, greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss).

#### Renewable Energy Sources (RES)

The REPower EU plan prioritises renewable energy (RES) as an overriding public interest and designates 'go-to' areas with less demanding environmental regulations. However, rapid RES expansion, without careful consideration of trade-offs with other objectives, risks land and water industrialization, habitat and soil degradation, and possible reduction of food production and biodiversity conservation, contradicting the EU Soil Strategy and the upcoming Soil Monitoring Law aimed at "no-net land take" by 2050. Uncontrolled RES expansion also weakens the procedural safeguards of Appropriate Assessments under the Habitats and Birds Directives, challenging also the EU's biodiversity commitments in TFEU Article 191. Instead, RES expansion needs to enshrine biodiversity-inclusive integrated spatial planning at the EU member state level, as a means to identify and designate any further areas for expansion - in alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 1 and 3.

# 3) Strong signals of the new Commission and Parliament showing low ambition and weak commitment to environmental standards, regulations, and science-based strategies

Several recent decisions and dialogues have signalled a worrying shift toward lower environmental ambitions. The rollback of **pesticide reduction targets** (see below) and delays in the '**Fit for 55**' package reflect a growing prioritisation of short-term vested economic interests over long-term sustainability for humans, the environment and the economy, based

on unsubstantiated claims regarding food security. This new direction not only undermines the aims of the Green Deal but also contradicts the EU's commitments to reduce and reverse biodiversity loss made under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Furthermore, the proposal to **downgrade the protection status of wolves** (and other species), raises concerns that such actions would weaken both the Habitats Directive and the EU's alignment with international agreements like the Bern Convention, threatening those essential environmental policy instruments. Most importantly, it indicates that the Commission neither supports nor considers the much-needed science-based policy decisions as European citizens confront unprecedented climate and environmental challenges.

#### An overall rollback

Altogether, recent decisions and current political processes *represent an overall course of rollback of environmental standards and regulations*, some of which have been the outcome of decades of efforts strongly backed-up by science and society. Environmental regulations are being delayed, watered down, or even dropped completely (e.g. SUR) - and other elements of the Green Deal seem to have been removed from the table (Sustainable Food Systems' Framework). Such actions undermine trust in the EU's environmental commitments and hinder much needed efforts to address the biodiversity and climate crises and the resilience of our ecosystems and societies, as well as risks to our economy and wellbeing.

This departure from the initial transformative spirit of the Green Deal seems to prevail in many current EU decisions and this is worrying for several reasons:

- (1) Recent decisions were not justified on the basis of a consolidated view from science and other knowledge holders and, even more worryingly, some of these decisions were based on **misinformation** (see the <u>open letter signed by 6000 scientists</u>) and on **targeted data collection** not complying with the Better Regulation Guidelines on stakeholder consultation (see inquiry opened by the European Ombudsman).
- (2) These decisions appear to be **heavily influenced by the particular interests** of specific groups and corporations within a narrow segment of society, some of which were expressed through violent and undemocratic ways. Moreover, they conflict even with their own aims as defined by decision makers, since, according to the best available science, they will jeopardise the resilience of farming and fisheries, and risk our common future including the livelihoods of the same stakeholders they claim to support.
- (3) Finally, as a global leader in climate, biodiversity and environmental legislation, the **EU is now sending highly regrettable and contradictory signals to the rest of the world**. We regret observing the EU's lack of real commitment in returning to the safe operating space for humanity.

#### What needs to be done?

We welcome the final approval on 18 August 2024 of the Nature Restoration Law (NRL), and President Von der Leyen's expression of commitment to make the NRL a success. Members of the scientific community stand ready to support the EU and the Member States in successfully implementing this important new regulation. We are encouraged by the clear

signal placed by the European Council in rejecting the Parliament's proposed amendments of the EUDR, thereby aligning with science and acknowledging Europe's global role and responsibility. We further welcome the recommendations made in the Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture and President Von der Leyen's endorsement of the outcomes - with the hope that this will be upheld and reflected in swift policy action. However, with the new Commission signalling a drastic shift to the Green Deal's implementation, away from sustainability principles, we urge setting the ambition back on a truly transformative pathway by:

- 1) Revoking the latest contested decisions. As members of the scientific community, we stand ready to provide more consolidated consensus views to improve them. We urge the Commission to take back the recent changes described above with regards to the RES and CAP, given the risks of enhancing environmental problems and health hazards. In the longer term, we call the Commission to consider a significant and **ambitious reform of the CAP**, to improve its coherence with its own objectives as well as with the Green Deal (see also <u>ECA report</u>). We also urge the new Commission to **place the SUR back on the table**, and to avoid further dilution of environmental regulations and policies, including the Nitrate Directive, the Deforestation Regulation, the Habitats Directive and the Bern Convention.
- 2) Setting a clear and ambitious agenda for environmental protection and the Green Deal for the post-election period. The agenda should align with the science of the Earth's planetary boundaries and **acknowledge Europe's disproportionate contribution to the global crises**. We must take environmental issues with utmost seriousness, as they pose severe and growing threats to society and the long-term survival of our civilization.
- 3) Developing an EU-wide coordinated action plan to address **Europe's overproduction of animal products**, leading to high emissions of nitrogen and methane, manure and other pollutants, as well as land-use pressures affecting both human health and ecosystems.
- 4) Further developing and using the existing Science-for-Policy ecosystem (initiated by the European Commission) such as the Scientific Advice Mechanism or the EC Knowledge Center for Biodiversity and its future Science Service for Biodiversity. Not only the scientific community, but also policymakers and society, would all benefit from a more coherent science-policy interface, at the EU and national levels, to ensure effective and timely use of the expertise we can contribute.

Finally we call on citizens, civil society organisations and political parties to support responsible policymaking that secures a safe future within Earth's planetary boundaries, promoting sustainability and resilience, while upholding the socio-economic foundation for all.

Sincerely,

the authors, as well as all signatory bodies and individuals

#### To sign as individuals see here:

https://umfrage.uni-leipzig.de/index.php/519762?lang=en

See here the list of individual signatories

#### Signatory bodies:

- 1. The Society for Conservation Biology Europe Region
- 2. The Society for Ecological Restoration Europe
- 3. Ecological Society of Germany, Austria and Switzerland
- 4. Netherlands Ecological Research Network
- 5. Ecosystem Services Partnership European chapter
- 6. Society of Wetland Scientists Europe Chapter
- 7. Austrian Biodiversity Council of the Austrian Biodiversity Network
- 8. Hungarian Ecological Society
- 9. Czech Society for Ecology
- 10. Society for Tropical Ecology
- 11. Austrian Zoological-Botanical Society
- 12. Italian Society for Evolutionary Biology
- 13. Eurasian Dry Grassland Group EDGG
- 14. Societas Europaea Herpetologica (SEH)
- 15. International Association for Landscape Ecology German Chapter
- 16. International Union for Agroforestry (IUAF)
- 17. IAVS Working Group European Vegetation Survey
- 18. Researchers' Desk
- 19. Amsterdam institute for life Environment (Faculty of Science, VU)
- 20. French-speaking Society for Ecological Economics (SoFEE Société Francophone d'Economie Ecologique)







Germany, Austria and Switzerland





































#### **Details on signatory bodies:**

The Society for Conservation Biology - Europe Region is dedicated to facilitating, promoting, and advancing the scientific study and conservation of biological diversity. <a href="https://conbio.org/groups/sections/europe">https://conbio.org/groups/sections/europe</a>

**The Society for Ecological Restoration Europe** is the network that advances the science, practice, and policy of ecological restoration to sustain biodiversity, improve resilience in a changing climate, and re-establish an ecologically healthy relationship between nature and culture. Info: <a href="https://chapter.ser.org/europe/">https://chapter.ser.org/europe/</a>

The <u>Ecological Society of Germany</u>, <u>Austria and Switzerland</u> (**GfÖ** - Gesellschaft für Ökologie e.V.) is dedicated to ecology in science and practice. Its membership centres in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The Society supports ecological research and training, and promotes the exchange of ecologists in academic institutions, public administration and the private sector by organising annual meetings and working groups.

The Netherlands Ecological Research Network (NERN) is the network of professional ecologists in the Netherlands where all universities and research institutes that have an ecology program participate.

**Ecosystem Services Partnership (ESP) – European region**. ESP is a global network, connecting over 3.500 people, to connect ecosystem services scientists, practitioners, stakeholders, and policymakers at local, national, regional, and global scales. ESP aims to enhance communication, coordination and cooperation, and to build a strong network of individuals and organisations working on ecosystem services. <a href="http://www.es-partnership.org/">http://www.es-partnership.org/</a>

The **Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)** – **Europe Chapter**. SWS works to promote best practices in wetland research, education, conservation, preservation, restoration, and management. SWS has over 3,000 members in more than 60 countries. <u>Home - Society of Wetland Scientists</u>

The **Czech Society for Ecology (CSPE)** is a professional society bringing together scientific, scientific-pedagogical and professional workers, students and other persons dealing with ecology. CSFE participate in the comprehensive, complex and systematic development of

ecological disciplines, and in the promotion and implementation of research results, in nature protection and landscapes and expert activities in Central Europe. www.cspe.cz

Members of the Austrian Biodiversity Council of the Austrian Biodiversity Network are researchers from various disciplines as well as experts in the fields of biodiversity, landscape design and nature conservation. The Austrian Biodiversity Network sees itself as an open, interdisciplinary community encompassing a wide range of specialist disciplines and transdisciplinary for science, politics, administration, business, NGOs and civil society. The common goal is to strengthen biodiversity and its ecosystem services in Austria.

https://www.biodiversityaustria.at/biodiversitaetsrat/https://www.biodiversityaustria.at/netzwerk/

**Hungarian Ecological Society** is an NGO of Hungarian ecologists with 145 members. Its main tasks are to organise scientific conferences, meetings, courses, summer schools, to support ecological research, as well as to represent the opinion of ecologists for the society. https://www.ecology.hu

The **Spanish Association for Terrestrial Ecology** (AEET) is an association that brings together nearly 1000 researchers in ecology from all the university centres and Public Research Institutions in Spain. The purpose of the AEET is to foster research in Ecology, to raise awareness and encourage public participation in matters of environmental interest and to promote the responsible application of Ecological knowledge

The **Society for Tropical Ecology** (Gesellschaft für Tropenökologie e.V., GTÖ) promotes and communicates new and emerging knowledge among tropical ecologists and conservationists to advance the understanding of tropical ecosystems and their protection. GTÖ's goal is to connect students and academics with an interest in tropical ecology from around the world to understand and preserve the biodiversity and functions of tropical ecosystems. GTÖ is currently Europe's largest scientific association for tropical ecological research. <a href="https://soctropecol.eu">https://soctropecol.eu</a>

**Austrian Zoological-Botanical Society** ("Zoologisch-Botanische Gesellschaft in Österreich"; ZooBot) supports nature conservation and science (especially organismic biology, ecology, and research on biodiversity). Thus it offers a platform for scientists, students, teachers at universities as well as other educational institutions, museum curators as well as interested laymen, cooperating with many other associations and institutions. The society is one of the longest existing in Austria and has around 400 members. Website: www.zoobot.org/

The **Italian Society for Evolutionary Biology** (SIBE) is a non-profit scientific association whose main missions are to promote the correct dissemination of knowledge related to biological evolution; to promote evolutionary studies, particularly favouring young researchers; to stimulate the dialogue with foreign colleagues; to strengthen scientific relations between Italian evolutionary biologists active worldwide.

The **Eurasian Dry Grassland Group** (EDGG) is a network of researchers and conservationists interested in Palaearctic natural and semi-natural grasslands. It was established in 2008 and is a working group of the International Association for Vegetation Science and (<u>IAVS</u>) and a member of the European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (<u>EFNCP</u>). Website: <a href="https://edgg.org/home">https://edgg.org/home</a>

The **Societas Europaea Herpetologica (SEH)**, founded in 1979, is a society of nearly 400 members (professional and non-professional herpetologists) from European and other countries. SEH publishes a quarterly peer-reviewed journal Amphibia-Reptilia and an online journal Herpetology Notes. Biannually the European Congress of Herpetology is organised by members of the society.

The International Association for Landscape Ecology - German Chapter (IALE-D) connects landscape researchers, planners and other interested parties to promote the scientifically and planning-based design of human-environment relationships. The association is committed to the scientific foundations of landscape research and sustainable landscape management, their application in practice, and the professional communication of landscape-ecological issues.

The Internation Union for Agroforestry (IUAF) is a network of members sharing a common interest in agroforestry; it is an international platform for individuals and institutions to share agroforestry practices and research. Our goal is the worldwide adoption of agroforestry practices by governments, policymakers, regulators, and farmers as together we can contribute to more sustainable agriculture and help our planet. IUAF was created at the World Congress on Agroforestry in Montpellier in 2019 with the support of the Czech Republic.

**European Vegetation Survey (EVS)** is a Working Group of the **International Association for Vegetation Science** (IAVS), uniting plant ecologists interested in vegetation survey and classification in Europe and beyond. Website: <a href="https://euroveg.org/">https://euroveg.org/</a>

**Researchers' Desk (RD)** is a Swedish non-profit organization that unites researchers and civil society in pursuit of knowledge-based solutions to the ongoing climate and biodiversity crisis. RD creates meeting places between the general public and experts where knowledge, insights, and scientific facts are shared. RD is independent and politically non-partisan. Members of RD are deeply concerned about climate change, and their concern is based on science. Link: https://researchersdesk.se/en/

The Amsterdam institute for life Environment (Faculty of Science, VU - A-LIFE-VU) deepens the understanding of the relationships between life and its environment through cutting-edge, curiosity-fuelled research. The department explores the connections between properties and emergent behaviours across diverse scales, from molecular to ecological, including human populations. Its goal is to inspire students and leverage its expertise to advance sustainability and support healthy living.

Founded in 2023, **SoFEE** (French-speaking Society for Ecological Economics) brings together researchers, professors, students, non-academic professionals and associations working to promote ecological economics in science, policy and education. Our activities focus on supporting and disseminating ideas, results, approaches and initiatives aimed at transforming the economy outside the dominant framework of green growth, in order to implement principles of strong sustainability and environmental justice.

#### Selected links to relevant publications and open letters by scientists:

#### On the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP):

- Leopoldina (2020): Biodiversity and Management of Agricultural Landscapes, Published by the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Halle/Saale. <a href="https://bit.ly/3RVnXtW">https://bit.ly/3RVnXtW</a>
- WBAE (2019): Designing an effective agri-environment-climate policy as part of the post-2020 EU Common Agricultural Policy, Statement of the Scientific Board for Food and Environmental Policy (WBAE) at the Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture, Berlin. https://bit.ly/4aDojvb
- WBAE (2018): For an EU Common Agricultural Policy serving the public good after 2020: Fundamental questions and recommendations, Statement of the Scientific Board for Food and Environmental Policy (WBAE) at the Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture, Berlin. <a href="https://bit.ly/4bKtLOk">https://bit.ly/4bKtLOk</a>
- Díaz et al. (2021). Environmental objectives of Spanish agriculture: Scientific guidelines for their effective implementation under the Common Agricultural Policy 2023-2030. Ardeola, 68(2), 445-460. https://doi.org/10.13157/arla.68.2.2021.fo1
- Pe'er et al. (2020): Action needed for the EU Common Agricultural Policy to address sustainability challenges, People and Nature 2 (2): 305-316. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10080">https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.10080</a>
- Pe'er et al. (2022): How can the European Common Agricultural Policy help halt biodiversity loss? Recommendations by over 300 experts, Conservation Letters 15 (6): e12901. https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12901
- Morales et al. (2022). Protect European green agricultural policies for future food security. Communications earth & environment, 3(1), 217. https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-022-00550-2
- Jongeneel, R.A. (2018): Research for AGRI Committee The CAP support beyond 2020: assessing the future structure of direct payments and the rural developments interventions in the light of the EU agricultural and environmental challenges, European Parliament, Policy Department for Structural and Cohesion Policies, Brussels. http://bit.ly/2zStfOk
- Pardo et al. (2020) To what extent does the European Common Agricultural Policy affect key landscape determinants of biodiversity? Environmental Science & Policy 114: 595-605. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2020.09.023">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2020.09.023</a>
- Concepción et al. (2020). Optimizing biodiversity gain of European agriculture through regional targeting and adaptive management of conservation tools. Biological Conservation 241: 108384. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2019.108384

#### On NRL and SUR:

 Pe'er et al. (2023) Scientists support the EU's Green Deal and reject the unjustified argumentation against the Sustainable Use Regulation and the Nature Restoration Law. <a href="https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8128624">https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.8128624</a> - signed by 6000 scientists

## On EU contribution to the loss of old-growth forests in Europe and deforestation elsewhere:

- Zinngrebe et al. (2024), <u>Prioritizing partners and products for the sustainability of the EU's agri-food trade.</u>

- Mikolāš et al. (2023). <u>Protect old-growth forests in Europe now</u>. Science, 380(6644), 466-466.
- Curtis, P. G., Slay, C. M., Harris, N. L., Tyukavina, A., & Hansen, M. C. (2018). Classifying drivers of global forest loss. Science, 361(6407), 1108-1111. DOI: 10.1126/science.aau3445

#### On the Nature Restoration Law (NRL):

- Hering et al. (2023), Securing success for the Nature Restoration Law. Science 382, 1248-1250. DOI: 10.1126/science.adk1658; Open Access link
- SER Europe Legal Working Group (2024). 10 legal reasons to vote in favour of the EU Nature Restoration Law.
  - https://serchapter2018.wpenginepowered.com/europe/files/2024/03/10-Legal-Reasons-to-vote-YES-for-NRL-1.pdf
- SER Europe Legal Working Group (2022). The EU Nature Restoration Law:
  Providing legal certainty in tackling the biodiversity and climate crisis.
  <a href="https://serchapter2018.wpenginepowered.com/europe/files/2023/05/EU-Nature-Restoration-Law-essential-for-legal-certainty.pdf">https://serchapter2018.wpenginepowered.com/europe/files/2023/05/EU-Nature-Restoration-Law-essential-for-legal-certainty.pdf</a>
- SER Europe (2022). SERE2022 Declaration on the European Commission Proposal for a Regulation on Nature Restoration. <a href="https://chapter.ser.org/europe/declaration-on-eu-nature-restoration-law-2022/">https://chapter.ser.org/europe/declaration-on-eu-nature-restoration-law-2022/</a>

#### On large carnivores in Europe:

- Chapron G. et al.(2023). European Commission may gut wolf protection. Science, 382(6668), 275-275.
- Revilla et al. 2023. Institutional Science for Policy Report on the damages produced by and the conservation status of wolves in Europe. Estación Biológica de Doñana CSIC. https://digital.csic.es/handle/10261/337169
- Selva et al. 2023. FAIR data would alleviate large carnivore conflict. Science 382 (6673), 893-894.

#### On the Soil Monitoring Law

- Kati et al. 2023. The overlooked threat of land take from wind energy infrastructures: Quantification, drivers and policy gaps. Journal of Environmental Management 348, 119340.https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2023.119340
- Serrano et al. 2020. Renewables in Spain threaten biodiversity. Science 370, 1282–1283. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abf6509">https://doi.org/10.1126/science.abf6509</a>.
- Hermoso et al. 2023. Addressing the challenge of photovoltaic growth: Integrating multiple objectives towards sustainable green energy development. Land Use Policy 128: 106592 <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2023.106592">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2023.106592</a>

#### On long-term biodiversity conservation

 Garcia-Gonzalez, F., Ripple, W. J. & Malo, A. F. 2024. Scientists' warning to humanity for long-term planetary thinking on biodiversity and humankind preservation, a cosmic perspective. BioScience 74, 82-85. https://doi:10.1093/biosci/biad108.

#### On the Green Deal as a whole:

- Schebesta, H. & J.J.L. Candel (2020): Game-changing potential of the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy. Nat Food 1, 586–588. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-020-00166-9">https://doi.org/10.1038/s43016-020-00166-9</a>
- Durá-Alemañ et al. (2023) Climate change and energy crisis drive an unprecedented EU environmental law regression. Conservation Letters 16:e12958 https://doi.org/10.1111/conl.12958