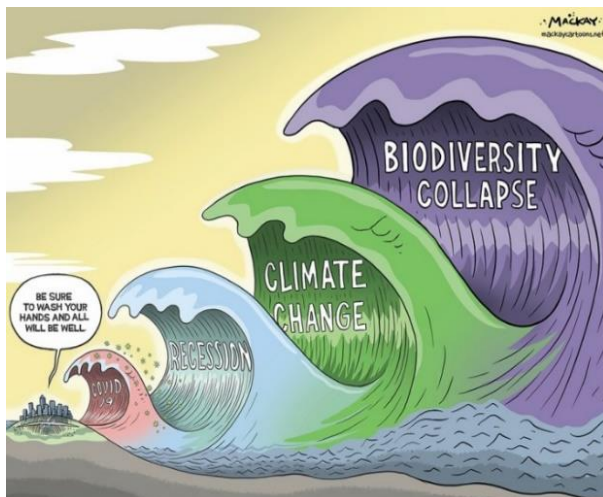




Dear colleagues,



Source: <https://mackaycartoons.net/tag/2020-09/>

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the **close link between human encroachment on nature and the emergence of zoonoses** evident. But, faced with a massive economic recession and concerns about collapsing health systems, public discussions easily overlook the vital role of intact biodiversity and ecosystems. They ignore that we are facing not only one but four paramount crises: health, economy, climate and nature, each one pushed by another, like waves in the ocean.

The **loss of biodiversity** and **destruction of natural habitats** at unprecedented speed have long ago reached alarming levels and threaten our well-being. The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

published in May 2019 has sent distressing signals. The report's dire prediction is that negative trends in nature will persist unless ambitious, transformative action is taken. Such **action is imperative** in many ways: According to the [World Economic Forum](#), more than half of the world's GDP (US\$ 44 trillion) depends on nature and its services. Over 1.2 billion jobs rely on a healthy environment ([ILO](#)). Green transitions in the way we consume (food systems, land and ocean use), build (infrastructure and buildings) and use extractives and energy could deliver US\$10.1 trillion of annual **business opportunities** and 395 million **jobs** by 2030 ([WEF](#)).

And yet, according to recent analysis ([Vivid Economics](#) & [OECD](#)), most countries are failing to ensure that their recoveries from the COVID-19 crisis follow a sustainable, inclusive, resilient and nature-positive path. Instead, there is a **short-sighted focus** on the most imminent wave countries see crashing in on them: a distressing recession. This might explain why, to date, most governments channel their recovery funds predominantly into **brown and grey sectors**, towards measures targeting employment, taxes and subsidies. Paired up with relaxations of nature protection efforts due to lockdowns and reallocation of funds as well as reduced incomes from sustainable tourism (see *BFB Briefing #03*), this barely provides for an optimistic outlook on a green recovery from the pandemic that is in line with commitments to the Paris Agreement, Aichi Targets or SDGs. Not only the prevention of future pandemics through a fundamentally different

approach to nature, but also the consideration of gender and social aspects as well as inclusiveness are major challenges in strategies and programs to build forward better.

Nevertheless, there are some signs of hope. The private sector increasingly acknowledges the potential of **building forward better with and for nature**. The coalition [Business for Nature](#) for instance calls on governments to adopt ambitious policies and increase cooperation, and highlights the application of Nature-based Solutions as a [central strategy](#). The financial sector is called upon to provide resources and establish new financial instruments such as sustainable finance taxonomies, green bonds or debt swaps.

Moreover, 79 heads of states, the EU and many actors from business, cities and civil society have joined the [Leaders Pledge for Nature](#). It includes ambitious commitments for a green recovery, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and promoting convergence between climate and biodiversity finance. Finally, the Parties to the CBD are working towards a **post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework** to implement ambitious targets for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, with the intention to also anchor the One Health approach in the new framework. The combination of such efforts might avert the build-up of freak waves that will hit any future development plans.

We hope you find this BFB Briefing insightful and look forward to your **feedback and thematic suggestions for future issues**. The next BFB Briefing will provide a review of green recovery measures to date – what has been achieved so far, and what is lacking?

Many thanks to Neomi Lorentz and the GIZ colleagues from the projects *Support of the Further Development and Implementation of the South African Climate Policy* (CSP III) and *Strengthening Climate Governance for Implementing the Paris Agreement in Indonesia* who contributed to this issue.

Best regards,
IKI Projects BioFrame, CDCPIII, GET, PBAB, SDG-RI & SPA

#06 BIODIVERSITY - 3 December 2020

The **Build Forward Better Briefing** compiles the latest “green” stimulus news, measures and propositions by governments, multilateral organisations, academia, civil society and other actors at the national and international level. It shares insights on options and responses for a **sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**. The current briefing gathers COVID-19 responses targeted at protecting, managing or restoring biodiversity (in particular ecosystems) in the context of economic recovery.

This briefing is a **collaborative product by several GIZ IKI projects**.¹ Many thanks to Neomi Lorentz and the GIZ colleagues from the projects *Support of the Further Development and Implementation of the South African Climate Policy* (CSP III) and *Strengthening Climate Governance for Implementing the Paris Agreement in Indonesia* who contributed to this issue.

¹ Support Project for the Design and Implementation of the New Global Biodiversity Framework (BioFrame); Capacity Development for Climate Policy in Southeast & Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia, Phase III (CDCPIII); Green Economy Transformation in Cooperation with the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (GET); Private Business Action for Biodiversity (PBAB); Support Project for SDG Review and Implementation Processes (SDG-RI); Support Project for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPA).

All **previous issues** of the BFB Briefing (#01 Monitoring, #02 Cities, #03 Tourism, #04 NDCs and LTS, #5 Risk Governance) can be accessed [here](#).

Note: Measures and resources are listed in alphabetical order, with measures related to biodiversity listed first and highlighted in yellow.

Government

Global

- The [Leaders Pledge for Nature](#), a high level political commitment to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 has so far been endorsed by **79 countries from all regions and the EU**. The countries have committed to putting biodiversity, climate and the environment at the heart of their COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments and the pursuit of national and international development and cooperation. The pledge – launched on 28 September, prior to the [UN Biodiversity Summit](#) – sends a united signal to step up global ambition and encourage others to match their collective ambition for nature, climate and people with the scale of the crisis at hand.
- **Mayors around the world** have asked for COVID-19 stimulus funds to be directed to a green recovery, in a [statement](#) published on 28 October.

Africa

- The UN Economic Commission for Africa and **Ethiopia** kicked off a [US\\$ 3.6 million project on nature-based solutions](#) for water resources infrastructure and community resilience in Ethiopia. The project is part of the Ethiopian government's [Green Legacy Initiative](#) and is designed to stimulate green jobs, improve community livelihoods, enhance the health of rural women and girls, and build climate resilience through nature-based solutions to deforestation and ecosystem degradation.
- **South Africa's Biodiversity Economy Strategy** integrates the sustainable management of biodiversity with job and business creation opportunities to build back better and greener. The country's commitment further includes the allocation of approx. €445 million for a [nature-based COVID-19 recovery](#) in 2020/2021 to ensure the sustainability of protected areas and their significant role for biodiversity, nature-based tourism and long-term employment; a globally unique [biodiversity tax incentive](#) providing an extraordinary tax deduction to South Africa's protected areas, and thereby promoting recovery in the nature-based tourism sector; the development of tools to track the future emergence of zoonotic diseases in partnership with [UNEP](#); and a new partnership to help achieve a [more green and equitable recovery in cities](#). The discussion at the partnership's announcement on 30 October featured findings from a [new report](#) by the Coalition for Urban Transitions, "The Economic Case for Greening the Global Recovery through Cities", which highlights seven priority areas, one of which is nature-based solutions.
- **Egypt's** Minister of International Cooperation announced that Egypt's House of Representatives has approved [10 agreements worth over US\\$400 million](#) to support agriculture, women's empowerment and SMEs. The agreements will promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Asia & Oceania

- **China**, back in February, largely banned commercial breeding of terrestrial wildlife for meat consumption. Other efforts to address the potential for zoonotic diseases moving from animals to humans include an updated version of the country's Wildlife Protection Law, an amended Animal Epidemic Prevention Law and a new Biosecurity Law. [Analysis by Ensia](#) draws a mixed picture of achieving progress on this agenda.
- The **Indonesian** Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) currently develops a comprehensive low-carbon stimulus package that incorporates biodiversity as well as the Indonesian Post-2020 Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (IBSAP). A Biodiversity Conservation Funding

Mechanism is set-up to seek creative financing options for biodiversity activities. BAPPENAS sees low-carbon development as part of the national recovery program and aims for a huge stimulus program for 2022. In a webinar hosted by the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), biodiversity was acknowledged for its role in recovery support as a safeguard mechanism in the provision of materials for medicine, food and energy. The government announced to reduce biodiversity loss by identifying new high conservation value areas outside of protected areas and to improve their governance. The Syariah-based sovereign bond known as green Sukuk is one of the solutions to finance climate and biodiversity projects.

- In **Nepal**, a small green recovery initiative launched by UNDP in partnership with local governments engaged people staying in quarantine centres to plant trees in and around public spaces such as schools and parks. This allows people affected by COVID-19, including migrant returnees and informal wage labourers, to earn some money, while planting mostly fruit and medicinal trees. Besides contributing to a greener environment, the trees' harvest can in the future also support the schools economically.
- **India's** campaign "Vocal for local" (June 2020) calls for a self-reliant India, where local products are appreciated. The country's local food industry has welcomed the government's plans believing that this will help reduce food waste and focus on more ecofriendly farming and organic food systems.
- Under the "Access to Sustainable Energy Programme" the EU supports the green recovery of the **Philippines**, especially regarding the energy sector. The aim is to improve the nation's energy access and energy efficiency as well as to promote more forms of renewable energy.
- "We are replacing old buildings and public rental housing with eco-friendly facilities and investing 2.4 trillion [Korean won] in the green transition for urban spaces and daily infrastructure", **South Korea's** president Moon Jae-in announced during a speech to parliament. As part of the Green New Deal an extra US\$ 7 billion will be spent to support carbon-cutting measures.

Europe

- On 23 October the EU Council endorsed via council conclusions the objectives of the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030. Its nature protection and restoration targets aim at setting biodiversity on the path to recovery. The strategy is an integral part of the European Green Deal and the EU's recovery plan. Key goals include transforming at least 30% of the EU's lands and seas into protected areas; restoring degraded ecosystems; stimulating tax systems and pricing to better reflect environmental costs (including biodiversity loss); and integrating biodiversity into public and business decision-making. The strategy points to the synergies with climate change and COVID-19 recovery measures and aims to allocate at least €20 billion per year for spending on nature.
- **Finland's** recovery efforts include a proposal to spend €53 million on recreation areas, water services and forest conservation. An additional €13 million will be channeled to the rehabilitation of natural habitats, including forests, and the development of nature tourism. These funds are earmarked for state-owned enterprises charged with capturing carbon and protecting biodiversity.
- Plans to commission a Scottish Centre of Expertise in Biodiversity in 2022 have been announced as part of the new draft strategy for the environment, natural resources and agricultural research programme, which aims to ensure a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including tackling biodiversity loss and climate change. The Centre, to be established in 2022, will bring together experts who will advise policymakers in government, local authorities and public bodies on how best to combat biodiversity loss.
- At a Leaders' Virtual Meeting on 29 October the President of the **European Council**, Charles Michel, the President of the **European Commission**, Ursula von der Leyen, and the **Prime Minister of Canada**, Justin Trudeau, re-affirmed their determination to overcome the pandemic by the full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and called for a green recovery. They committed to more ambitious NDCs ahead of COP26 and to support developing countries' transition to sustainable, climate-resilient economies, including by mobilising US\$100 billion per year from various sources.

- In **Portugal**, the city of Lisbon plans to convert some of the city's 20,000 tourist flats into affordable housing. The initiative simultaneously addresses the city's housing crisis and supports landlords grappling with the uncertainty generated by the pandemic.
- The **UK** announced a 10-point plan for the climate, promising it will create up to 250,000 jobs. The plan includes a ban on combustion engine sales by 2030, investments towards hydrogen production and funds to insulate homes and public buildings, plans to quadruple offshore wind power by 2030 to 40GW (enough to power every UK home), and a pledge to make London "the global centre of green finance".

Latin America & Caribbean

- The planning authority of the **Colombian** government is currently preparing an official guideline on COVID-19 recovery titled "Policy for the reactivation and sustainable and inclusive growth", which will be available in December. It will focus on 4 pillars: 1. employment; 2. the most vulnerable parts of the population, with elements such as tax refunds and income; 3. clean and sustainable growth, including renewable energy expansion and the planting of 180 million trees, and 4. peace process regarding legality in the rural sector, including construction of tertiary roads and acceleration of the Development Programs with a Territorial Approach.
- The **Peruvian** government is seeking to enhance framework conditions for impact investments in biodiversity-friendly business models as part of its plans for economic reactivation after the COVID-19 pandemic. The IKI project BioInvest supports the Peruvian government in doing so.
- **Barbados** is committed to transforming its tourism industry through retraining and retooling. During the launch of the report "Debt Relief for Green and Inclusive Recovery" (see details below), the island state's Prime Minister elaborated on the initiative to re-focus and reshape the tourism sector's infrastructure to ensure it is modern, efficient and green.
- The **United Nations Environment Programme** (UNEP) and the **Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States** launched a new project that aims to mainstream sustainability criteria into the public procurement process and increase capacity development, with a focus on the construction sector, unlocking the potential for a green COVID-19 recovery.

North America

- **Canada's** government will spend C\$100 billion to kick-start the country's post-pandemic economy, stating that the economic stimulus intended to build a "greener, more inclusive, more innovative and competitive economy" will be spent over the next three years and as soon as "the virus is under control and our economy is ready for new growth". In November, Prime Minister Trudeau presented a bill to commit the country to cut its emissions to net zero by 2050 and set five-year targets to meet the goal. However, the bill does not set out how the government is planning to reduce emissions in the short term nor does it propose a new 2030 target. The **Green Budget Coalition**, an initiative of 25 Canadian environmental organisations, issued a set of recommendations on how the federal government can follow-through on its commitment to a green recovery, including building retrofits, clean transportation, nature-based climate solutions and protected areas.
- The **US** have officially left the Paris Agreement but president-elect Joe Biden will recommit the US to the Paris Agreement on climate change. The Biden-Harris plan to create union jobs by tackling the climate crisis includes investments into grey and green infrastructure, auto industry, zero emission transit, clean power, energy efficient buildings, clean energy technologies, agriculture, conservation and environmental justice.

International Organisations, Partnerships & Alliances

- The **CBD** published a draft text of a technical publication series called "Making Money Local: Can protected areas deliver both economic benefits and conservation objectives?". The report analyses the economic return from protected areas and includes 36 case studies monitored over the last decade.

- The new [report](#) by **IPBES** on Biodiversity and Pandemics highlights that the same human activities that drive climate change and biodiversity loss also drive pandemic risk through their impacts on our environment. The experts estimate the cost of reducing risks to prevent pandemics to be 100 times less than the cost of responding to such pandemics, “providing strong economic incentives for transformative change” instead of solely relying on responses to diseases after their emergence.
- To supplement country-specific support, the **NDC Partnership’s Economic Advisory Initiative** launched a [virtual Thematic Expert Group](#) to provide thematic backstopping for decision-making by governments on specific sectors or topics related to climate adaptation and mitigation issues – such as biodiversity – to be incorporated in countries’ recovery plans.
- The [Global Outlook on Financing for Sustainable Development 2021](#) published by **OECD** calls for collective action to address both the short-term collapse in resources of developing countries as well as long-term strategies to build back better. The report highlights the need to enhance the quality of financing through better incentives, accountability and transparency mechanisms, integrating the long-term risks of climate change, global health and other non-financial factors into investment decisions.
- A [compilation](#) by **UNEP** shines a light on 10 states that have included restoration commitments in their pandemic recovery plans.
- Public funds are insufficient to reverse biodiversity loss. The new **World Bank report** “Mobilizing Private Finance for Nature” looks at the current state of play for private finance for biodiversity and ecosystem services and highlights a set of “Big 5” ideas to better integrate biodiversity risk into private sector decisions.
- **WWF** and **ILO** launched the [report](#) “Nature Hires: How Nature-based Solutions can power a green jobs recovery” in October. The report confirms the potential of NbS to provide job-intense economic recovery while having a multiplier effect in achieving the SDGs.
- The [report](#) “Building a Greener Recovery: Lessons from the Great Recessions” published by **UNEP** reflects on the question “What lessons can the G20 draw for today’s recovery from the recovery after the Great Recession in 2008-2009?”.
- The goal of a recently signed [Memorandum of Understanding](#) by **UNEP** and **UNDP** is to spur progress toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in **Iraq**, while focusing efforts on achieving environmental SDGs. One specific goal of the MoU is to place environmental sustainability at the forefront of Iraq’s COVID-19 response.

Academia, Private Sector & Civil Society

- A [publication](#) by the **European Academies’ Science Advisory Council** (EASAC) summarizes trends related to ‘transformative/transformational’ change, and describes what redesigning our societies means within the EU’s post-COVID-19 policies. The authors show that transformative change needs to tackle the ‘wicked’ nature of multidimensional challenges faced. Biodiversity loss is considered one important issue within these wicked problems. The authors stress the need for a holistic ‘one health’ approach.
- The **Finance for Biodiversity Initiative** (F4B) has published several papers related to biodiversity and COVID-19 recovery, for instance “Green Employment and Growth: Integrating climate change and biodiversity into the response to COVID-19”, “Emerging market debt crisis: biodiversity as a lever for building back better” and “Integrating climate change and biodiversity into the response to COVID-19” (retrieve all [here](#)).
- The **Green Economy Coalition** states in an [opinion piece](#) on the importance of valuing nature that “biodiversity impact disclosure underpins any form of economic recovery”.
- **Vivid Economics** recently released an update on its “[Greenness of Stimulus Index](#)” which is produced as part of the **Finance for Biodiversity Initiative** (F4B). The index aims to assess the effectiveness of efforts by G20 countries and other major economies in ensuring a green economic recovery. It finds that governments to date have largely failed to harness this opportunity. While focusing on emission reductions, nature and biodiversity have been notably neglected. Only US\$93 billion out of US\$502 billion were related to improving biodiversity or preserving ecosystems. Considering an increasing

risk of virus spillover associated with degraded ecosystems, this “scant attention paid to nature protection” cannot be justified, Vivid Economics states.

- An [article](#) by **WRI** states that nature and nature-based solutions are an economic winner for COVID-19 recovery; it analyses the integration of sustainable development, biodiversity and climate change opportunities into the economic recovery programmes of 17 countries and the EU via the [Green Stimulus Index](#) and stresses the importance of NbS for job creation.
- In a new **Bloomberg** [podcast](#) on “How to Build Back Greener After the Pandemic”, host Stephanie Flanders talks with Lord Nicholas Stern about addressing climate change as a sustainable route to growth and the U.S. election’s significance for the future of the planet.
- The **C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group** produced a [technical report](#) that compares business-as-usual scenarios with developments under a green recovery and argues that investing in the latter could help create millions of jobs, avoid death through air pollution, save health costs and reduce GHG emissions. But measures need to be taken urgently to achieve these positive developments.
- A new [study](#) by **Forum Ökologisch-Soziale Marktwirtschaft** (FÖS) covers ten climate-negative incentive schemes and how their reduction could disburden the state budget (in German, but with an English summary).
- In its Virtual Summit on 3 November, the **Global Reporting Initiative** (GRI) highlighted the growing interest in [sustainability reporting](#) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Stakeholders are increasingly demanding information, especially on risk management of companies, including social and environmental risks. Participants agreed that the reporting on sustainability topics will increase in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
- The [report](#) “Debt Relief for a Green and Inclusive Recovery”, published by the **Heinrich Böll Foundation**, the **Global Development Policy Centre** and the **Centre for Sustainable Finance at SOAS**, calls on the G20 to move beyond the Common Framework for Debt Treatments announced on November 13 and proposes substantial debt relief by public and private creditors for low- and middle-income countries with unsustainable debt burdens, in order to provide fiscal space for investment in COVID-19-related health and social spending, climate adaption and green economic recovery strategies.
- The Spanish energy company **Iberdrola** will invest €75 billion in [renewable energy and network upgrades](#) in support of a green economic recovery and to achieve the company’s goal of carbon neutrality by 2030.
- All fiscal recovery investments will have an impact on climate. The [report](#) “A Green Recovery: The Case for Climate-Forward Stimulus Policies in America’s COVID-19 Recession Response” by the **Roosevelt Institute** argues that it is possible to tackle the climate and economic crises together.
- A [new report](#) by the **SNAPFI** project consortium (Strengthen national climate policy implementation: Comparative empirical learning & creating linkage to climate finance) synthesizes findings related to the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on emerging and developing economies, status of countries’ green stimulus packages and implications for international climate finance to enhance such green elements in domestic recovery strategies. The synthesis includes two levels: first, an international review on these topics is provided, and second, respective country perspectives from Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Africa and the European Union are presented.
- Today’s policymakers designing economic stimulus packages to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic can draw lessons from the global financial crisis 2008/09, a [paper](#) by the **World Resources Institute** (WRI) argues. It gives a global overview of the green stimulus announced in 2008 and 2009 and provides case studies of four of the economies that spent the most on green measures: the United States, South Korea, China, and the European Union.

Information Hubs

- The updated [website on Nature-based Solutions](#) by the **European Commission** provides inspiration for a green economic recovery by providing information on research, policy, funding opportunities, collaboration, jobs, projects and results, scientific publications, tools and databases.

- On its new [Twitter account @we_4nature](#) GIZ showcases activities, products, tools and experiences related to green recovery to a larger audience.

Past Events

- The **German Federal Foreign Office** in partnership with the **Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)** co-hosted a virtual conference “One Planet, One Health, One Future: Moving forward in a post-COVID-19 world” in November. Event speakers and participants warned of the dire impact on our global society if we kept ignoring the interconnected issues relevant to human, animal and environmental health – also known as the [One Health approach](#). The virtual sessions are available to [watch online](#).
- The **Global Landscape Forum Biodiversity** advocated for the importance of biodiversity in preventing (future) crises such as global pandemics and climate change. A session on [biodiversity finance](#) focussed on the changes and challenges in times of economies and societies recovering from COVID-19 and on how to design COVID-19 response measures in order to support a shift of financial investments towards a biodiversity-friendly future. A session on [agrobiodiversity](#) emphasized that the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework needs to tackle the effects of food systems and agriculture on biodiversity conservation and sustainable production and bring farmers into the alliance towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable production.
- The **2020 OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum** (24-26 November) focused on “Securing natural capital: Resilience and risk management for green growth after COVID-19”. The Forum addressed the risks posed by unmitigated biodiversity loss and natural capital depletion for the resilience and sustainability of our economy and society, and discussed how the COVID-19 pandemic is re-shaping the policy responses to cope with these issues.
- How are we going to emerge stronger from the crisis? This question was at the heart of a [virtual briefing](#) on green recovery hosted by the **German Climate Consortium**, the **Federal Foreign Office** and the **BMU**, with reflections by Heiko Maas and Svenja Schulze.
- One of the four key themes of the **London Climate Action Week (LCAW)** in November was “Green, Fair and Resilient Recovery”. In the LCAW closing event ([link to recording](#)), high-level representatives from BMU, WRI, E3G and IIED discussed where we are in terms of recovery and what needs to happen for a deeply decarbonised, just and resilient post-COVID-19 global economy.
- Banks and development finance institutions operating in the **West African region** have gathered on 22 October for an online workshop titled “Development banks in the face of the crisis: countercyclical response and sustainable recovery”. It took place ahead of the first **Finance in Common Summit**, [bringing together all public development banks](#) (9 to 12 November). The role of development banks in supporting ecological and social transitions of our societies was discussed as the key issue in both events.

Upcoming Virtual Events

- On 8 and 9 December, the annual [summit](#) of the **European Business@Biodiversity Platform** with the topic “Green economic recovery – Reshaping business for nature and people” will take place, focussing on the need of businesses to support a green recovery and how this will rebuild their resilience and make them thrive in the long term.
- From December to March, **GIZ** will carry out a series of virtual discussions on various issues related to green recovery. In February 2021 two topics regarding biodiversity will be discussed: “Conservation and recovery of ecosystems – motor for green jobs in the green recovery process” and “Blue Recovery in the context of a Sustainable Blue Economy”.
- The **Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (Cepei)** is launching the [COVID-19 Data and Innovation Centre](#) on 3 December. The Centre is a multi-stakeholder platform from the Global South that produces data-based knowledge for COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery. Almost 20 partner organisations contribute to the Centre with the aim to deliver evidence, knowledge, innovation strategies, and policy recommendations to the [United Nations COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund \(MPTF\)](#) and strengthen response and recovery actions in the Global South.

- The **Heinrich Böll Foundation** will discuss the possibilities for a Green New Deal in East Asia on 10 December. Experts from the fields of climate change and environmental policies will share their experiences from different countries.
- Due to the postponement of COP26, the **UNFCCC** organises the Climate Dialogues 2020 from 23 November to 4 December with the objective to provide a platform for Parties and other stakeholders to showcase progress made in 2020 and exchange views and ideas across the subsidiary bodies and COP agendas mandated for 2020. The event should also help paving the way for a successful COP26.
- The Climate Ambition Summit 2020 by the **UNFCCC** on 12 December will mark the fifth anniversary of the Paris Agreement, and will provide a platform for government and non-governmental leaders to demonstrate their commitment to the Paris Agreement and the multilateral process. National governments will be invited to present more ambitious and high-quality climate plans, as well as COVID-19 recovery plans, new finance commitments and measures to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Watch the Summit live broadcast [here](#).
- On 10 December, **WRI** hosts a discussion between Dr. Andrew Steer, WRI President & CEO, Werner Hoyer, President of the European Investment Bank (EIB), and Dr. Musonda Mumba from the Terrestrial Ecosystems Unit at UN Environment, as they dive into how public finance can support a green recovery. The conversation will explore the EIB's journey towards alignment with the Paris Agreement, the economic case for climate action, nature-based climate action, and how the banks can work with developing countries to recover from the COVID-19 crisis and mobilize investment for climate-resilient, inclusive development.