



DEVCO **Environment and Climate Week 2020**

17-21 February 2020
Brussels, Belgium

**KEY
CONCLUSIONS**

HIGH-LEVEL OPENING SESSION

- The earth is **burning**, biodiversity drastically **declining**, ecosystems **degrading** and water under **stress**. **Facts** are clear and **risks** (economic, social, political) are now recognized.
- It is urgent to act and to **act collectively** (governments, companies, society).
- **Multilateralism** is questioned by certain actors: we need the EU to lead.
- **Ocean Conference, Kunming and Glasgow** will be crucial moments to deliver.
- The Green Deal is EU ambitious response to these challenges: it is about **climate neutrality**, protection of **natural resources**, **decoupling** growth from resource use. It is about a **competitive economy** and a **fair transition**.
- Need to translate the Green Deal's ambitions and objectives into all our **interventions**.
- You are the **Green Deal Ambassadors**.



LATEST POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC DEVELOPMENTS

- The **NDICI** proposal under negotiation: focus on simplification, flexibility and geographisation.
- **Pre programming** phase. Next steps: EU flagship at national level. Consultations. Programming Note later in May. Preparation of MIPs between May and October.
- **European Green Deal** is about **Planet, People and Prosperity**. It is an **integrated response** covering all sectors and mobilizing all tools. It is an ambitious plan of **economic and social transformation**.
- The main **pillars** are: 1) Climate & Energy, 2) Biodiversity and Oceans, 3) Circular Economy, 4) Farm to Fork, 5) Pollution and 6) Sustainable Finance.
- There will be a series of policy documents under each pillar. Most are EU internal but with a strong **external dimension**.
- The Green Deal calls the EU to work with its **partners** and build alliances to support this transformation through diplomacy, policies such as trade and development cooperation.



CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Global warming** is True, it is Real, it is Us, it is Serious but there is Hope with some **technologies** to avoid the worst impacts.
- Need to **cut emissions to (net) ZERO ASAP**: Policy makers should use more the **IPCC reports'** recommendations.
- **Solutions and diplomacy to be tailored** via EUDs + HQ support in order to be context specific and SDGs aligned, energy-climate related.
- 2020: Time to **increase ambition and credibility of NDCs** + implementation / NDC programming Approach Opportunity.
- **Successful Adaptation**: increased investments in key sectors (infrastructure, water) supported by policies and strategies + risk preparedness + enabling recovery – Nexus EUD + ECHO.
- **EU leadership**: min 25% climate budget + EU Green Deal = green-growth opportunities with partner countries for a “just transition”. EUDs essential to building broad understanding and prioritise the policies/actions with the most transformational change potential.



BIODIVERSITY

- ‘Nature’s invoices are coming’...
- **Biodiversity** is the building block of **healthy ecosystems**, which provide **goods and services** that contribute to **Climate Change mitigation & adaptation**, **sustainable livelihoods** and **security**.
- Biodiversity & Climate must be **addressed jointly** and are inextricably linked with **development agendas**.
- The **European Green Deal** is THE priority of the Commission, aiming for an ambitious CBD COP 15.
- DEVCO’s ‘**Larger than...**’ **series** of documents set strategic framework for conservation interventions which target an **integrated landscape approach** covering **multiple sectors** (protected areas, forest management, agriculture, trade, infrastructure...) in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The Green Deal will also launch the **NaturAfrica** initiative to create network of protected areas and landscapes that protect wildlife and provide socio-economic opportunities in green sectors.



BIODIVERSITY

PANEL GROUP - NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

- Ubiquitous, self-replicating, cost-effective, good for people, more effective than technological solutions.
- Can contribute to more than **30%** of CC **mitigation target** (Paris) BUT only **2%** of CC **funding** goes to NBS.
- Contribution to CC mitigation & livelihoods is insufficiently understood by **policy makers** and **communities**. Need to **communicate** better, and 'show by doing'.
- Need **integrated landscape approach** and **cross sectoral planning**.

PANEL GROUP - LAND-BASED APPROACHES

- Increasing **numbers of actors** in landscapes and tendency actions to work in '**silo**' / project mode.
- **Bring together** conservation & development interventions across **multiple sectors** on a given **territory**.
- Not a new approach, but one that needs a higher level of ambition post 2020: **more sectors** to integrate (up to 7), **more funding** needed (3-4 x more) and **more partnerships** with private sector.



BIODIVERSITY

PANEL GROUP - NATURE RESOURCE RELATED CONFLICTS

- Incomes and benefits to **local people** are key to preventing conflict.
- **Bottom-up** approach needed for resolution of conflicts. Need **clarity/transparency** in land-use planning, user-rights and tenure.
- Need to anticipate conflict and apply **comprehensive approach** (incl. judicial & anti-corruption actions).

PANEL GROUP - INVESTING IN ECOSYSTEMS

- Lack of knowledge and understanding of the **value of ecosystems** leading to unwillingness of public & private sectors to make investments because perceived as risky, costly and unprofitable.
- Need better **communication** at all levels to improve awareness and engagement: highlight success stories which show concrete returns on investments.
- Clearly define and promote specific **financing instruments** and make Guidelines available to support **dialogue** with counterparts in public and private sector.



SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

- The objectives of the Green Deal, SDGs and many EU sectoral strategies cannot be achieved without a **decisive action on forests**.
- Different uses of forests must be reconciled to **reverse the decline of forests**.
- We need to build on the successful experience of **FLEGT/VPA** and the potential for positive spill-over effects on the forest sector.
- The new concept of “**forest partnerships**” (under development) seeks to propose an integrated and locally appropriate answer over a long term engagement in partner countries in the framework of development cooperation.
- We need to move to a **deforestation-proof EU cooperation in all sectors**. But the definition of **deforestation-free supply chains** is a big challenge.
- **Coherent approach** of all DGs is essential.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS / FARM TO FORK

- **Farm to Fork** in the Green Deal: essential **connections** with other strategies.
- **Sustainable Food Systems: transformation** is needed!
- In view of food security, climate change, environment impacts: **Agro Ecology** is a promising, **multi-purpose** avenue; achieves several **SDGs**.
- Supported by **evidence**: science, results; importance of applied **innovation** and **research**.
- **Land governance**: a key factor for sustainability, to be integrated in **Food Systems strategies**.
- EU already engages:
 1. Ivory Coast and Ghana proposal to reform **cocoa value chain**, higher living income, zero child labour and zero deforestation; first global commodity fully sustainable.
 2. Rwanda: **positive** experiences in agro-ecological and **agroforestry** practices: multiple layers, different tools and instruments, complementarity.

OCEANS - TOWARDS INTEGRATED APPROACHES

- Healthy oceans have a **cross-cutting role** in the Green deal and climate related objectives and SDGs.
- Oceans are interconnected: a truly **integrated approach across sectors, borders and actors** is the only way to effectively address cumulative negative impacts of human activities on oceans.
- Establish a political/policy dialogue on the complex issue of the ocean governance requires **closer collaboration** between line DGs (ENV, CLIMA, MARE) and EUD.
- **Value chains analysis** is a tool available to facilitate the development of sustainable blue economy.
- Environmental action is very relevant in **fragile contexts**.



CONSIDERING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON FRESHWATERS

- There are significant co-benefits to managing **water resources and climate** in a more coordinated and sustainable manner.
 - As climate vulnerable societies experience changing weather patterns, sustainable **WASH services become a critical line of defence**.
 - Currently, **very low levels of climate finance are directed to the WASH sector** – reflecting the need to urgently recognise the role of WASH in climate resilience.
- A change in the understanding of the WASH sector is needed. It is not only a tap and a latrine and the **Green Deal** offers a framework to do so in a multi-sectoral approach.
 - **Unconventional uses of water** (ex. water harvesting, fecal sludge management, etc.) and **context specific technologies** offer the opportunity to better face water scarcity and pollution.
 - **Youth and Women** have an important role to play! They can become creators, leaders, and entrepreneurs in addressing the challenges of the sustainable management of water resources in a changing world and global climate.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

- **Energy efficiency** is key to reduce oil import dependency, urban air pollution, pressure on biomass resource, to solve lack of power generation capacity hence achieving CO2-emission reductions.
- Huge **financial gap**: urgency to boost market penetration for energy efficiency & clean cooking solutions.
- New emerging business models and financing schemes for clean cooking but **de-risking investments** is needed to scale them up and make them affordable to all.
- Clean or sustainable? biogas, LPG, electricity, biofuels and solar stoves are clean solutions as per WHO guidelines defined mainly as regards **health impacts**.
- **Integrated approach**: work on supply, distribution, demand, enabling environment & coordination.
- **No single solution!** Every solution shall be adapted to the needs and the local/country context.
- Adapted business models such as **Super-ESCO** have proved to be efficient to aggregate the demand and reduce transaction costs, reinforce the capacities of the beneficiaries, and foster local banking sector.



TRANSITION TOWARDS GREEN, CIRCULAR AND CARBON NEUTRAL ECONOMIES

- The European Green Deal is a **sustainable growth agenda**: it promotes a fair transition to environmentally sustainable climate neutral economies, with a strong focus on resource efficiency.
- **Circular Economy** is at the heart of the European Green Deal, contributing to jobs and growth and a development within **planetary boundaries**.
- **EU Delegations are key** in identifying entry points, helping Circular Economy integration into government policies and regulations, connecting policies with financing, and building local capacities.
- Policy engagement, circular economy missions and green investments can be instrumental in supporting the transition .
- There is still a long way to go for the Circular Economy transition, hence the need to raise awareness and mobilise the **civil society**.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AND GREEN INVESTMENTS

- Sustainable finance is fundamental to achieve the EU Green Deal, in Europe and worldwide. We need to **re-orient public and private capital flows** in the next 10 years in order to finance the transition towards climate neutrality.
- The **EU Taxonomy** is a powerful tool to identify green investments contributing to this goal. Green bonds are also a promising tool to reorient private capital worldwide. Both are relevant for EU international cooperation.
- We can contribute to align partners' economic policy with the Paris Agreement by "**Greening Public Finance Management**" - e.g. carbon tax policies and support to a just transition.
- **Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs)** are also a possible tool to match sustainable finance goals with means of implementation.
- It is crucial to ensure coordination amongst EU Delegations and financiers in the upcoming programming cycle in order to define the **future pipeline** of EFSD+.



SUSTAINABLE CITIES

- Cities are an essential element of delivery on the **Green Deal** ! “Cities that works” may deliver jointly on greening & job growth - this is key !
- Continued rapid urban expansion requires a strong focus on **urban development** *per se* to advance green transformation.
- **Next programming**: comprehensive urban development programmes in a number of countries + regional facilities + access to finance.
- **Kampala** is an excellent example of capital city taking a green agenda forward. The country established the Kampala Capital City Authority to drive this process on key sectors (revenue collection, treasury, gender, education social services, physical planning, etc.) to address issues comprehensively and avoid silos approach. Moreover, an action strategy has been put in place.
- **ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability)** works with five pathways to create systematic change. There is a framework to design integrated solutions that balance patterns for human life and the built and natural environment. Holistic thinking with political involvement.



INTEGRATING THE EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF THE GREEN DEAL IN PROGRAMMING

- **Paradigm shift:** deepen and broaden mainstreaming/ greening.
- **From do no harm to do good.**
- Should be the **starting point** and cover **all sectors**.
- Need **leadership** (collective responsibility), the right **processes** and **tools, capacity** and **knowledge**, well supported **country systems**.
- **Programming:** look at **transformative areas**, good to have the right analysis (Country Environmental Profiles).
- **NDCs** as entry point for programming: supporting NDC sectors or sectors that benefit climate and the environment.
- Proposal to formalize a **network** of climate and environmental correspondents.





Thank you!