



Agriculture

[Livestock worming treatments can reduce seed germination of grassland species](#)

A common anti-parasitic drug used to control gastrointestinal worms in livestock has been shown to inhibit seed germination of three common grassland species. This recent study is the first to show that anthelmintics may negatively affect plant regeneration. The researchers say that treatments should be carefully timed in order to avoid the strongest impact of the drugs on germination and the consequential negative affect on grassland regeneration.

Biodiversity

[Plugging the conservation finance gap: a new EU fund?](#)

A comprehensive assessment of EU biodiversity financing by IEEP and partners examines the performance of the EU financing framework for conservation across the Member States. The study identifies policy shortcomings that limit measures' efficient delivery of conservation benefits, and highlights areas in which this could be improved. Based on a thorough review of existing evidence, the study concludes current EU funding for Natura 2000 only meets an estimated 20% of the required level, and national funding is insufficient to make up the remainder.

[New Action Plan to help regions defend biodiversity and reap the economic benefits of nature protection](#)

The Plan consists of 15 actions to be carried out by 2019 to rapidly improve the implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives, which are the EU's flagship nature policies.

Climate Change

[Rapid and significant sea-level rise expected if global warming exceeds 2 °C, with global variation](#)

The world could experience the highest ever global sea-level rise in the history of human civilisation if global temperature rises exceed 2 °C, predicts a new study. Under current carbon-emission rates, this temperature rise will occur around the middle of this century, with damaging effects on coastal businesses and ecosystems, while also triggering major human migration from low-lying areas. Global sea-level rise will not be uniform, and will differ for different points of the globe.

[Responding to floods in Europe: Framework assesses effectiveness of Flood Emergency Management](#)

A new framework has been developed to assess how effective Flood Emergency Management Systems (FEMS) are in Europe. Examining FEMS in five European countries, this study highlights the strengths and weaknesses of existing systems and makes recommendations for improving their effectiveness, particularly in relation to institutional learning, community preparedness and recovery.

Energy

[Renewables assuming greater role in the EU energy mix, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions](#)

Wind, solar and other renewable energy sources are steadily increasing their share in energy consumption across the European Union, further reducing the need for CO₂-emitting fossil fuel energy, according to a report published by the EEA. This trend is driving down greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation, buildings' heating and cooling, and transport.



Freshwater

[Urban Water Atlas for Europe – a 360° view of water management in cities](#)

The European Commission published today the Urban Water Atlas for Europe. The publication - the first of its kind - shows how different water management choices, as well as other factors such as waste management, climate change and even our food preferences, affect the long-term sustainability of water use in our cities. The new atlas illustrates the role of water in European cities and informs citizens as well as local authorities and experts about good practices and cutting-edge developments that can contribute to ensuring that water is used more efficiently and sustainably, helping to save this valuable resource.

Governance

[What does Brexit mean for the next 40 years of EU environmental policy?](#)

During the referendum campaign the environmental NGOs emphasised how EU legislation had raised environmental standards in the UK, pointing in particular to the habitats and bathing water Directives. This may have encouraged the rank and file to vote, but the Brexiteers countered that the UK could do this perfectly well by itself and that we did not need foreigners to make our laws for us. The argument was not easily countered and 'taking back control' won the day. EU environmental policy has developed over some 40 years. It is worth reflecting on its achievements and looking ahead over a similar period.

Justice

[New guidelines help citizens gain better and fairer access to their national courts on environmental cases](#)

When public authorities fail to respect the rights and obligations under environmental laws, the public can hold them to account. The European Commission has adopted a guidance document on access to justice in environmental matters which clarifies how individuals and associations can challenge decisions, acts and omissions by public authorities related to EU environmental law before national courts.

Pollution

[Noise Abatement Approaches Future Brief](#)

As the sources and severity of noise pollution continue to grow, there is a need for new approaches to reduce exposure. The complex and pervasive problem of noise pollution has no single solution; it requires a combination of short-, medium- and long-term approaches and careful consideration of the nature of the noise source. There are many sources of noise pollution, each requiring tailored abatement measures.

Transport

[Car emissions scandal: MEPs call for stricter and clearer oversight](#)

The European Commission and most EU countries failed to prevent car manufacturers from cheating emissions test, according to the final report by Parliament's inquiry committee investigating the car emissions scandal. It was set up in December 2015, a few months after Volkswagen admitted to falsifying test results in their diesel cars. In the report adopted on 4 April, MEPs propose a set of measures to prevent dishonest practices by car manufacturers in the future.

Waste

[EU lawmakers today urge the Commission to set binding EU-wide food waste reduction targets by 2020](#)

The European Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety has voted unanimously in favour of an own-initiative report entitled Resource efficiency: reducing food waste, improving food safety.

Other

[Bank On Nature](#)

On 11 April, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) announced the first loan agreement backed by the Natural Capital Financing Facility. The EUR 6 million loan agreement with Rewilding Europe Capital is expected to provide support for over 30 nature-focused businesses across Europe. Rewilding Europe Capital is Europe's first conservation and rewilding enterprise financing facility.



Brexit: Updates on NIEL's EU Policy work after the UK Referendum decision can be found [here](#).