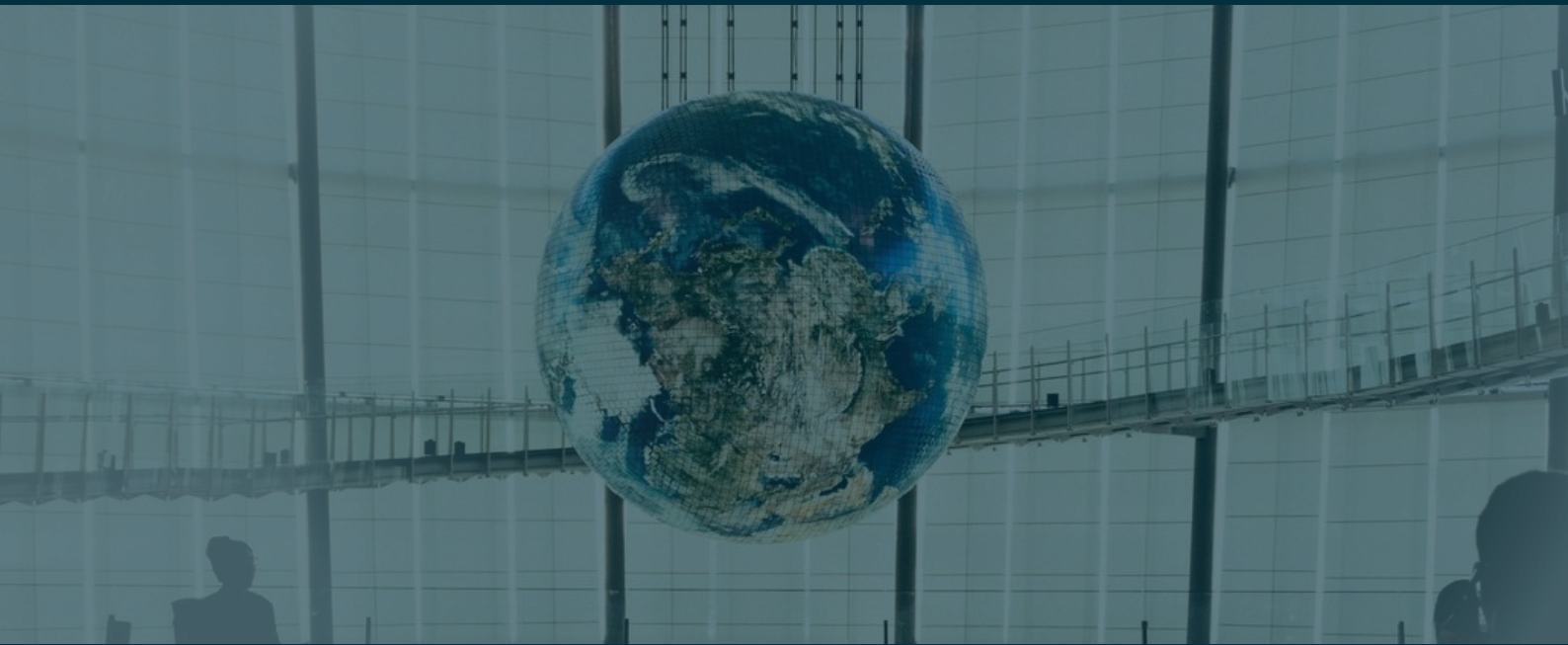




Climate & Sustainability

Why does it matter?

Landmark agreements like the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) were designed to address the triple planetary crisis, but ambition is outpacing real-world action.

The problem: limited funding, lack of political will, and continued disagreements among countries hinder progress.

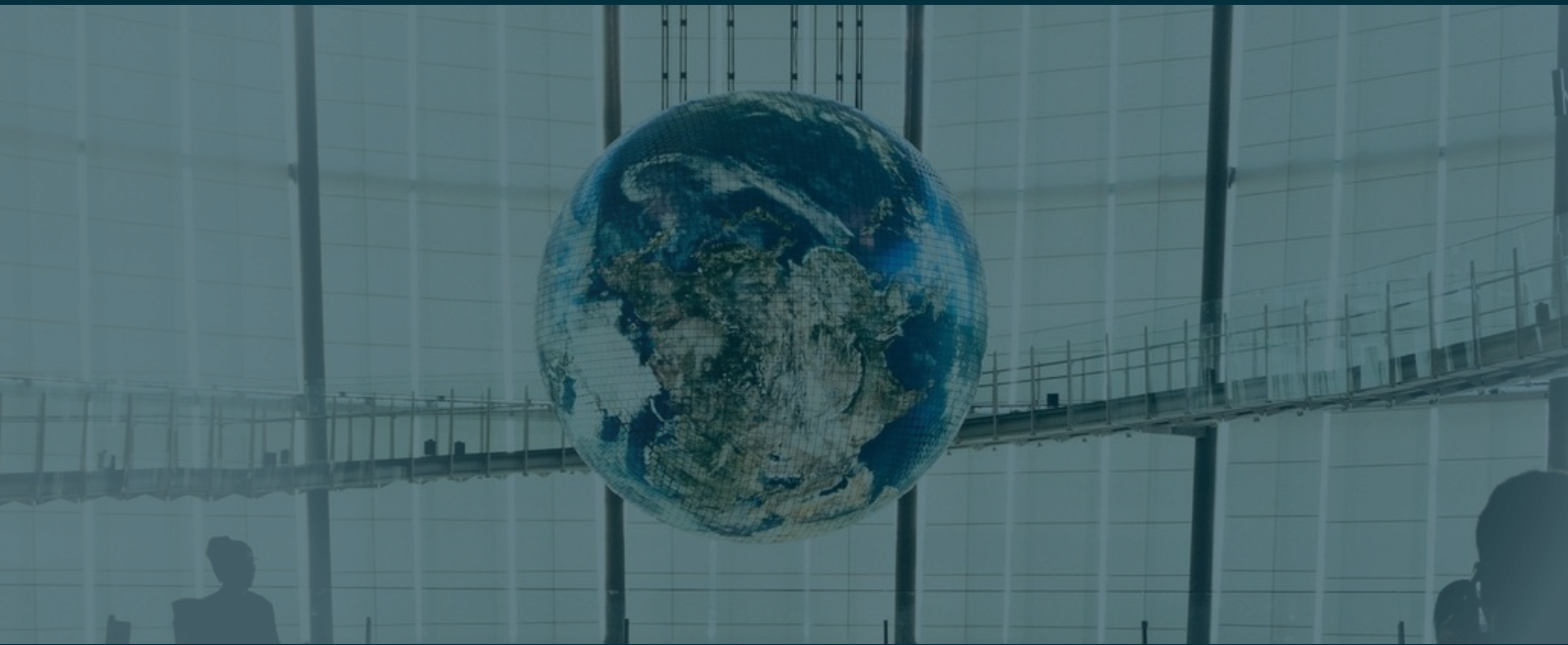
For the EU, the consequences are real. Missing climate targets will intensify extreme weather events and threaten both food security and public health. Plus, biodiversity loss erodes natural resilience, leaving the EU vulnerable to climate impacts and raising long-term costs.

Where is reform possible?

Reforms can target the negotiation spaces (within the UNFCCC and CBD) and/or implementation action.

Within negotiations, consensus-based decision-making, widespread distrust, and limited political will make smaller procedural changes more realistic than substantial reform – requiring stronger trust, expanded capacity-building, and streamlined agendas.

On implementation, progress hinges on party commitment: translating ambitious pledges into domestic action and deploying effective financial instruments.



What can the EU do about it?

- Prioritise domestic political alignment and timely NDC submissions ahead of COP deadlines, including early coordination among member states on climate targets to ensure the EU speaks with one voice before and during negotiations.
- Reduce bargaining inequalities at COP negotiations by increasing the UNFCCC Trust Fund, expanding virtual participation, improving access to informal settings, and standardising Trade and Sustainable Development chapters in bilateral agreements to include explicit UNFCCC commitments.
- Create domestic enabling frameworks for private biodiversity finance, coordinate member states' climate-finance contributions strategically, and send Commissioners and Heads of Government to CBD COPs to signal political commitment equivalent to that shown at UNFCCC summits.

Key Outputs



[“Climate Negotiations Under Scrutiny: Is UNFCCC Decision-Making Up to the Challenge?”](#)

by Franziska Petri, Jan Karlas



[“The Paris Agreement Turns 10: Is It \(Still\) Delivering on Its Promises?”](#) by Irina Kustova,

Christian Dietz, Renske Van Hoof, and Jan Karlas



[“Moving Global Biodiversity Governance Forward: How to Strengthen the Convention on](#)

[Biological Diversity”](#) by Franziska Petri, Jayati Srivastava, Edith Drieskens, and Noa Lameire