

viewed as a crucial part of near-term efforts to tackle climate change. The gas is emitted by both natural and human-caused sources, particularly wetlands, agriculture and the extraction and use of fossil fuels. Two-thirds of methane emissions now come from human activities, according to the latest update to the Global Methane Budget, an international collaboration that estimates sources and sinks of methane around the world. Methane levels show no “hint of a decline”, and the continued rise is “incompatible” with climate goals, the lead study author tells Carbon Brief.

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/qa-why-methane-levels-are-rising-with-no-hint-of-a-decline/>

Picture on front cover: Emma King

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Prayer guide for the care of creation



October 2024

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make.” —Jane Goodall

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
All praise is Yours, all glory, all honour and all blessings.

To you alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.

 **Green Christian**
Ordinary Christians, extraordinary times

Tuesday 1st October

Join with many other Christians from around the world with the monthly Pray and Fast for the Climate Movement on the first of each month. Prayer points for this month will be on their website.

Merciful God, we believe that you uphold and sustain all that you have made, while also lovingly giving us the freedom to live in relationship with the rest of creation. We ask your forgiveness for the ways we have abused that freedom, through what we have done and what we have left undone. We bring our lament and our longing for a renewed earth to you now:

(Christian Climate Action's prayer for climate grief).

<https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk/resources/>

Wednesday 2nd October

Tonight at 7pm is a Green Christian online workshop. Steve Shaw, Director of Power for People, will give an update on the campaign for a new UK law to accelerate the growth of community-led renewable energy schemes. In the last Parliament, they brought a cross-party group of 326 MPs on board in support. They now need as many MPs as possible to ask the Government to include community energy in the Great British Energy Bill. Come along and find out how you can help make this happen. Free, but register for the zoom link: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/gc-campaigns/green-christian-workshops/>

Thursday 3rd October

Researchers at the Berkeley National Labs have determined that oil, coal, and gas power plants still have a major role to play in America's energy economy—as electrical sockets, writes Andy Corbley. There are years of red tape needed for renewable energy projects to connect fully with the grid, but because coal and gas plants already negotiated that process long ago, one of their best uses for Americans in the future will be to act like a home electrical socket that the renewables could “plug” into. In a feature piece on CNN, “experts” say that there are more clean energy projects waiting to be connected to the grid than there is power—from all sources—circulating in the grid right now; a startling statement considering the billions in borrowed money being spent to transition the US electrical grid to renewable sources. Described by CNN as “*seven years of bureaucracy and red tape*,” attaching new solar and wind farms to the grid is so much more difficult than connecting them to a thermal power plant and piggybacking on that existing infrastructure. “*This should be one of the main strategies that we adopt going forward, because we already have so many existing assets, so much grid infrastructure and we don't want to just throw them away*,” said Umed Paliwal, a senior scientist at UC Berkeley and a lead author of a new study on the topic.

<https://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/old-coal-fired-power-plant-found-the-key-to-solving-americas-biggest-clean-energy-challenge/>

Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It relates to Invest and Collaborate – making sure all the parties have the resources, technology and capacity to implement the work needed.

<https://www.cbd.int/gbf/goals>

Tuesday 29th October

Military police in Brazil [in September] killed an Indigenous Guarani Kaiowá man and wounded several others during altercations over contested land, which the communities have been trying to take formal control of for decades, writes Maxwell Radwin. The violence has refocused attention on the country's slow land demarcation process and the unsafe conditions it has created for Guarani and other Indigenous people. Neri Ramos de Silva, a 23-year-old Guarani Kaiowá man, was shot in the back of the head on September 18 by military police in the southwestern state of Mato Grosso do Sul, where the Nande Ru Marangatu territory overlaps with private property, according to the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples (MPI). The violence stemmed from disputes over who had a right to occupy the area. De Silva, a father of an 11-month-old, was a vocal supporter of Indigenous land demarcation for his community.

<https://news.mongabay.com/2024/09/police-murder-guarani-man-as-brazil-struggles-with-indigenous-land-demarcation/>

Wednesday 30th October

Despite a rise in the number of net-zero targets set by companies, cities and regions, there are significant commitment gaps across many non-state actors,

hindering the broader economy-wide transition needed to tackle the climate crisis, writes Sidhi Mittal. This is according to the Net Zero Global Stocktake, based on data from the Net Zero Tracker (NZT)... The NZT tracks the targets of all United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) member states and selected territories' subnational states and regions in the 25 largest emitting countries; cities with populations exceeding 500,000, and publicly-listed companies from the Forbes Global 2000 list (2020), along with 100 of the world's largest private companies. The Stocktake reveals that the number of net-zero targets has increased by 8% among cities and 28% among regions since June 2023. However, many subnational actors are still lagging behind, particularly in lower-income regions. As of 2024, 26% (185 of 706) of states and regions tracked by the NZT have set net-zero targets, representing 2.2 billion people. This is a considerable rise from 497 million in December 2020 but still represents a minority.

<https://www.edie.net/net-zero-stocktake-climate-targets-on-the-rise-but-most-still-contain-loopholes/>

Thursday 31st October

Levels of methane in the atmosphere have soared by record-breaking amounts since 2020, according to new research. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas that locks in around 80 times more warming over the course of two decades than CO2, but fades more quickly from the atmosphere. As a result, cutting methane emissions is widely

projects designed to offset the carbon emissions generated by the tour.

<https://happyeconews.com/taylor-swifts-eras-tour-assessing-the-environmental-impact/>

Friday 25th October

The 8th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities, an official parallel event to CBD COP16, will take place on 26 October. The Summit will align with the objectives and priorities of CBD COP16 to showcase subnational biodiversity actions at the local and territorial scale. Local and subnational government leaders from around the world, together with their key stakeholders, are invited to participate in targeted and high-level dialogues on implementation progress and the important issue of leveraging financing for, and investment in, biodiversity and nature at the local and territorial scale.

<https://cbc.iclei.org/announcing-the-8th-summit-for-subnational-governments-and-cities/>

Saturday 26th October

The Nature and Culture Summit 2024 is one of the major parallel events that will be held during COP16. It will be held today and tomorrow... The Summit will provide a unique opportunity to develop key messages on the intrinsic relationship of biocultural diversity in the context of the implementation of the Framework. Culture shapes heritage, identity, creativity, and linguistic diversity and influences how people perceive, experience, and use nature. Similarly, nature provides the

conditions for economic, social, and cultural development. The relationship between nature and culture is dynamic and deeply intertwined. Indigenous peoples and local communities are champions of biodiversity protection through their cultural practices. Their extensive knowledge systems, values, and worldviews are central to their cultural identity. Their traditional ways of life are closely intertwined with their lands, flora and fauna, and their values and practices emerge from these intimate connections.

<https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2024/parallel-meetings/nature-culture-summit>

Sunday 27th October

Praised be You, my Lord through Sister Death,
from whom no-one living can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin!
Blessed are they She finds doing Your Will.
No second death can do them harm.
Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks,
And serve Him with great humility.
From Cantic of Brother Sun and Sister Moon of St. Francis of Assisi:
https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers/%20St_Francis.htm#gsc.tab=0

Monday 28th October

Finance Day at COP 16 is a one-day event to mobilise a globally representative group of finance sector participants, in support of delivering GBF Goal D and associated targets, in line with countries' NBSAP (National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans) priorities. The GBF Goal D is one of the four long term goals of the Kunming-

Friday 4th October

Despite blocking efforts from nations including Russia and Iran, a new international 'Pact for the Future' has been widely adopted in efforts to accelerate government action to create a sustainable future for humanity, writes Sarah George... 350.org's associate director of policy and campaigns, Andreas Sieber, observed the Pact negotiation processes. He said: "Petrostates tried to derail the Pact for the Future but the outcome of COP28, transitioning away from fossil fuel and tripling renewables, still stands and is the new norm we so desperately need" ...The Pact includes more than 50 action points which span across the agenda set out in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

<https://www.edie.net/pact-for-the-future-143-countries-pledge-to-transition-away-from-fossil-fuels-and-accelerate-nature-action/>

Saturday 5th October

The Board of the Fund for responding to Loss and Damage made significant decisions towards the Fund's full operationalization at its third meeting in Baku [in September], hosted by the COP29 Presidency of Azerbaijan. Following years of diplomatic negotiations since Fund's establishment at COP27 and the decision on its operationalisation at COP28, this lays the groundwork for the Fund to disburse funding for the first time in 2025. Now, the COP29 Presidency will use the Baku COP29 summit to work with the countries who have already pledged nearly \$800

million to the fund, to convert those pledges into tangible funding ready for disbursement to the communities who particularly need it. The Presidency will also be calling for further contributions. This is a critical step towards fulfilling one of the COP29 Presidency's key objectives for this year's global climate process, as set out in its first Letter to Parties in July. During the meeting, the Fund's Executive Director, who will be announced imminently, was elected. The Board also endorsed the hosting agreement and trustee arrangements with the World Bank.

<https://cop29.az/en/news/fund-for-responding-to-loss-and-damage-achieves-historic-milestone-in-baku>

Sunday 6th October

Most High, all-powerful, all-good Lord,
All praise is Yours, all glory, all honour and all blessings.
To you alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no mortal lips are worthy to pronounce Your Name.
Praised be You my Lord with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
Who is the day through whom You give us light.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour,
Of You Most High, he bears the likeness.
From Cantic of Brother Sun and Sister Moon of St. Francis of Assisi:
https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers/%20St_Francis.htm#gsc.tab=0

Monday 7th October

A group of leading ocean experts have called for action to end the “ongoing destruction of our oceans by fishing” and say the current definition of sustainable fishing is “dangerously flawed”. Ben Mitchell continues: In a paper published in the journal Ocean Sustainability, the researchers have laid out 11 “golden rules” which they say would help renew fish populations in order to feed future generations. These include limiting the size of boats and equipment, incorporating ecosystem protection into fisheries management and ending “harmful subsidies” to fisheries... Other proposed rules including fishing less for lower impact, sourcing only from fisheries with good governance and sustainable stocks and placing the most vulnerable species and areas off limits. The researchers also call for ending fisheries that abuse human rights, including those that threaten food security and livelihoods of people in the places they fish.

<https://theecologist.org/2024/sep/24/sustainable-fishing-rules-scientifically-obsolete>

Tuesday 8th October

Today sees a parliamentary roundtable for UK MPs to find out more about COP16 which is happening later this month. Contributors include Mary Creagh MP, Nature Minister; Will Lockhart, Deputy Director for International Biodiversity and Wildlife at Defra (invited); Jenny Merriman, Nature Advisory Director at WSP; Bethan Laughlin, Senior Policy Specialist at ZSL. We face a global nature crisis that threatens

not just wildlife, but our economy, health, and efforts to tackle the climate emergency. In October delegates from almost 200 countries will meet for CBD COP16 to discuss international efforts to reverse declines in nature. With many MPs and peers new to both parliament and the international nature agenda, this roundtable will be a space to ask questions about COP16, the UK’s ambitions for the conference, and to understand how to promote ambitious outcomes for global biodiversity as a parliamentarian.

<https://environment.inparliament.uk/events/cop16-parliamentary-roundtable>

Wednesday 9th October

Indonesia accounts for more than half of the global palm oil supply, the world’s most widely used vegetable oil that is found in everything from food to cosmetics to fuel, writes Adi Renaldi. But environmentalists fear surging demand for the versatile product may drive mass deforestation in Indonesia, home to the world’s third-largest tropical rainforest, and exacerbate the global climate crisis. Palm oil production reached 50 million tonnes in 2023 from 45 million tonnes the year before, according to the Indonesian Palm Oil Association. As companies and small landholders replace natural habitats with palm oil plantations, activists and researchers are warning that large amounts of planet-heating carbon is being released into the atmosphere... While Indonesia's deforestation rate fell between 2019 to 2022 due to stricter regulations, a moratorium on forest clearing and better mitigation of forest fires, the clearing of

promising start, but agreement is nothing without action.

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/the-convention-on-biological-diversity-cop16-and-the-grand-plan-for-life-on-earth>

Tuesday 22nd October

WWF heads to Cali intent on supporting progress in multiple areas. Here are three that stand out as particularly important:

- Making sure each country has an ambitious and comprehensive strategy for doing its part toward the 2030 targets
- Closing the large gap between the amount of money currently pledged to biodiversity conservation, and the amount needed to truly achieve it
- Keeping local leadership and inclusive participation at the helm of efforts worldwide, as conservation cannot succeed otherwise

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/the-convention-on-biological-diversity-cop16-and-the-grand-plan-for-life-on-earth>

Wednesday 23rd October

As well as the main meetings at the UN Biodiversity Conference, there are many associated events throughout the week. There will be a Parliamentarian Forum today and a Women Forum on the 25th October. There will be opportunities for different groups to get together and learn from each other, and for showcasing good practice from around the world. Pray for all the participants and organisers, that it will

be a time to make progress and real decisions that will led to action. Pray for the journalists and the media representatives, that they are able to communicate what is going on to the wider public. This link below will show you a timetable for all the events.

<https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2024>

Thursday 24th October

Taylor Swift’s Eras Tour has captured the hearts of millions, writes Melanie Downer. In recent years, the discourse surrounding Taylor Swift’s environmental impact has largely focused on her private jet usage, with emphasis on the significant carbon emissions associated with both long flights and short trips. ...Concert venues consume a substantial amount of energy, from lighting and sound systems to air conditioning, further contributing to the tour’s overall environmental impact... The carbon footprint associated with fans travelling to see the show is also significant... the environmental issues discussed are not exclusive to Taylor Swift... While recognizing the environmental impacts of The Eras Tour, it’s important to acknowledge the positive impacts Taylor Swift and her team have made throughout the tour. For example, Taylor has made significant donations to food banks in various cities where she performs...Another commendable aspect of the Eras Tour is Taylor Swift’s commitment to fair pay...Lastly, Taylor’s team has created “The Eras Forests”, an initiative that hopes to partially mitigate the environmental impact of her Eras Tour. This program involves large-scale tree-planting

hectares and connects the Amazon rainforest with the Orinoquia, the world's largest tropical savanna.

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/protect-water-and-land/land-and-water-stories/biodiversity-global-conference/>

Saturday 19th October

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) will be in Cali next week advocating for three transformative measures:

1. Implement the Global Biodiversity Framework and build in accountability. The fundamental goal at CBD COP16 will be for parties to develop a framework for implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework. COP15 was about agreeing on targets for protecting nature—COP16 is about agreeing on a concrete plan.
2. Integrate biodiversity across food, energy and finance. TNC is working closely with partners to ensure that mainstreaming biodiversity remains a strong component of the final framework
3. Invest in nature for equitable conservation. Meeting the GBF's finance targets is essential for reaching any of the other targets.

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/protect-water-and-land/land-and-water-stories/biodiversity-global-conference/>

Sunday 20th October

Praised be You my Lord through our Sister, Mother Earth who sustains and governs us,

producing varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.

Praise be You my Lord through those who grant pardon for love of You and bear sickness and trial. Blessed are those who endure in peace, By You Most High, they will be crowned. From Cantic of Brother Sun and Sister Moon of St. Francis of Assisi:

https://www.faithandworship.com/prayers/%20St_Francis.htm#gsc.tab=0

Monday 21st October

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a global treaty to conserve the diversity of life on Earth, including how to use biodiversity sustainably and who reaps the benefits. Since it was agreed in 1992, all but one of the United Nations member states have officially joined the Convention – the US being the lone holdout... In Montreal Canada, December 2022, a bold plan for saving nature was born. Countries agreed on a new “Global Biodiversity Framework” with the express goal of halting and reversing global biodiversity loss. The plan includes 23 global targets that the world must achieve by 2030 for a chance at success. Perhaps the best known of these is Target 3---conserve 30% of land, water, and seas (often referred to as “30x30”). But equally important are the Framework's other targets, which range from halting species extinctions, to reducing pollution, to mobilizing hundreds of billions of dollars of funding, to ensuring equitable participation and access to justice for Indigenous peoples and local communities. It is a

primary forests for mining and plantations has risen slightly.

<https://www.context.news/climate-risks/how-is-indonesias-palm-oil-industry-fuelling-the-climate-crisis>

Thursday 10th October

Greenpeace Central and Eastern Europe ... formally open[ed] a new office in Kyiv, Ukraine [in September]. The global environmental network has worked with allies in the country since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and will now officially expand its offices in order to accelerate its work on green reconstruction projects in Ukraine, as well as investigating environmental war crimes resulting from Russia's invasion. Greenpeace will also continue to closely monitor the security concerns and radiation levels around Ukrainian nuclear power plants... As soon as the war began, neighbouring country offices ... were involved in humanitarian work, supporting allies and refugees. Collaborating with local environmental organisations, Greenpeace has already documented the war's environmental devastation, including the destruction of the Kakhovka dam; scrutinised the crises at Chernobyl and Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, and implemented first green reconstruction 'lighthouse projects'.

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/press-release/69599/greenpeace-new-office-kyiv-ukraine/>

Friday 11th October

Amazon Frontlines is deeply concerned about the U.S. Department of State's

decision to applaud Ecuador's entry into the Minerals Security Partnership Forum. This action notably does not acknowledge the devastating impacts Ecuador's affiliation will have on the Amazon rainforest, the global climate, and Indigenous territories. By directly encouraging policies that prioritize large-scale mining over the protection of the environment and Indigenous rights, the U.S. is complicit in the ongoing destruction of one of the most biodiverse regions on the planet and an area that is critical to mitigating global climate change. The operational history of the Minerals Security Partnership shows us that while the partners claim to uphold high environmental standards, the group's mandate fails to account for the irreversible damage that increased extraction activities will cause in the Amazon. Furthermore, the Partnership boasts significant geographic expansion plans into vast Indigenous rainforest territories, overshadowing their purported focus on securing minerals for green and digital transformations.

<https://amazonfrontlines.org/chronicles/amazon-frontlines-challenges-the-u-s-and-ecuadors-dangerous-path-toward-environmental-destruction/>

Saturday 12th October

Members of Wet'suwet'en Nation in British Columbia want to conserve a pristine old-growth watershed, Caas Tl'aat Twah, in its traditional territory, writes Erica Gies. The nation has obtained a logging deferral for Caas Tl'aat Twah and is planning how to protect it permanently. Scientists have shown that industrial logging can increase

fire intensity in forests by drying out the land. Conserving remaining intact forests such as Caas Tl'aat Twah can prevent fires from getting even worse, they say. After decades of large-scale industrial logging only 20% of old growth forests remain in British Columbia. In 2020, the province reported that one-quarter of remaining forests were at high risk for logging and pledged to pause cutting while making land use decisions. But four years on, less than half has been deferred — and the province could ultimately authorize logging it.
<https://news.mongabay.com/2024/09/as-logging-intensifies-forest-fires-wetsuweten-fight-to-protect-old-growth/>

Sunday 13th October

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,
In the heavens you have made them bright, precious and fair.
Praised be You, my Lord, through Brothers Wind and Air,
And fair and stormy, all weather's moods, by which You cherish all that You have made.
Praised be You my Lord through Sister Water,
So useful, humble, precious and pure.
Praised be You my Lord through Brother Fire,
through whom You light the night and he is beautiful and playful and robust and strong.
From Canticle of Brother Sun and Sister Moon of St. Francis of Assisi:
https://www.faihandworship.com/prayers/%20St_Francis.htm#gsc.tab=0

Monday 14th October

Canada's carbon emissions are down for the first time since the pandemic, according to a 2023 estimate from publicly funded think tank the Canadian Climate Institute, writes Cristen Hemingway Jaynes. The drop of 0.8 percent between 2022 and 2023 brings the total reduction since the baseline year of 2005 to eight percent — a long way from the 2030 goal of 40 percent, a press release from the Canadian Climate Institute said. Overall, greenhouse gas emissions have been falling slightly since 2005, but much of that trend was during the COVID-19 lockdowns of 2020. Since then, emissions had been trending upward, until recently, reported the Toronto Star... Some sectors, such as electricity, have made marked strides, but overall progress has been uneven. Rising emissions in oil and gas, transportation and other sectors have offset those gains.
<https://www.ecowatch.com/canada-carbon-emissions-2024.html>

Tuesday 15th October

There are high hopes that artificial intelligence (AI) can help tackle some of the world's biggest environmental emergencies. Among other things, the technology is already being used to map the destructive dredging of sand and chart emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas. But when it comes to the environment, there is a negative side to the explosion of AI and its associated infrastructure, according to a growing body of research. The proliferating data centres that house AI servers produce electronic waste. They are large consumers

of water, which is becoming scarce in many places. They rely on critical minerals and rare elements, which are often mined unsustainably. And they use massive amounts of electricity, spurring the emission of planet-warming greenhouse gases.
<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/ai-has-environmental-problem-heres-what-world-can-do-about>

Wednesday 16th October

Tonight see a Joy in Enough online talk at 7pm. Guy Singh-Watson of Riverford Farm talks to us about the pressures and rewards of commercial organic farming, and about how people can support these businesses. Over the last 37 years he has taken Riverford from one man and a wheelbarrow delivering homegrown organic veg to friends, to a national veg box scheme delivering to 70,000 customers a week. Tired of meetings, brands and the assumption that greed is our predominant motivation, Guy converted the business to employee ownership in 2018, using the proceeds to buy a small farm and return to growing organic vegetables. Free, but register for the zoom link below:
<https://greenchristian.org.uk/gc-campaigns/green-christian-workshops/>

Thursday 17th October

From October 21 to November 1, over 190 countries will convene at the sixteenth conference of the parties, COP16, for the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to drive global action to protect the world's natural resources. Held in Cali, Colombia, one of the most megadiverse

and biodiversity rich countries, the theme of COP16 is 'Peace with Nature'. At the first biodiversity COP since the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework at COP15 in 2022, the focus will be on implementation, and advancing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Translating the tenets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework into national action will prove critical to make progress towards the headline target of protecting 30% of land and sea areas by 2030 and effectively restoring 30% of degraded ecosystems...Much like the outcomes of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP29, which will commence shortly afterwards in November in the petrostate of Azerbaijan, COP16 will prove to be a crucial moment for policymakers to address biodiversity loss and climate change as intertwined crisis.
<https://www.businessfornature.org/news/report-cop16-what-should-business-leaders-expect>

Friday 18th October

Hosting COP16 in Colombia emphasizes the strategic importance and natural wealth of the country. With more than 67,000 species of plants and animals, Colombia is the third most biodiverse country in the world. Yet many of Colombia's most biodiverse regions lack formal protections or are at risk from climate change. TNC has been working with local partners to protect Colombia's iconic landscape, including by creating the Natural National Park Serranía de Manacacias, which covers 68,000