

Environment track

Sharing priorities
in light of the major
international events of 2026

Chair's Summary



FRANCE

ÉVIAN
2026



Ministerial discussion - Sharing priorities in light of the major international events of 2026

Chair's Summary

On the occasion of the G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting held in Paris on April 23-24th, a dedicated session was convened among G7 and Brazil, Kenya, Mongolia, Armenia and South Korea's Environment Ministers, to exchange views on global environmental priorities in the context of the 2026 international agenda and beyond. This discussion, summarised under the responsibility of the Presidency, addressed the challenges raised by the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. It was informed by the UNEP review of the *G7 Nature Compact 2030* and the intervention of Ms. Sylvie Lemmet, Senior Fellow in Ferdi.

Discussions highlighted that these interconnected crises are increasingly affecting economic stability, security and livelihoods. The year 2026 was identified as a pivotal moment for collective action, with key milestones ahead, including the three COPs of the Rio Conventions, the upcoming first COP of the BBNJ Agreement, the UN Water Conference and the resumption of negotiations to end plastic pollution. The need to strengthen synergies across agendas and accelerate implementation was strongly emphasised.

The *G7 Nature Compact* UNEP review was considered by some delegations as a useful contribution, highlighting tangible progress since 2021, while also pointing out remaining challenges such as the financing gap, harmful subsidies and the incomplete effectiveness of protected areas. Discussions underscored the need to move toward more credible and result-oriented actions.

1. Conservation and resilience: focusing on effectiveness

Discussions brought out the fact that conservation underpins prosperity, resilience and security, as healthy ecosystems are essential for economic stability and livelihoods. The mutually reinforcing nature of climate change and biodiversity loss was recognised, stressing the need to link conservation with long-term resilience. Progress towards global climate and biodiversity targets, including the "30x30" area-based conservation target, was acknowledged, alongside the need to improve effectiveness through stronger management, connectivity and integrated approaches. The role of partners and initiatives such as the MPA Management Alliance was also underlined.

2. Transition: advancing coherent and realistic pathways

Discussions showcased progress in integrating biodiversity into economic systems, while recognising the need for transitions that are both environmentally effective and economically and socially sustainable. The need for a pragmatic approach was stressed, including better communication on the co-benefits of environmental action



for growth, stability and livelihoods. The interdependence of biodiversity, climate and pollution, as well as the urgency of accelerating the energy transition, was underlined. The role of innovation, private-sector solutions and stronger policy coherence, including support to partner countries, was also underscored.

3. Investment: accelerating a shift in financial flows

Discussions reaffirmed the need to scale up finance for nature and climate, highlighting the complementary roles of public, private and philanthropic funding.

The importance of taking into account the evolution of the world for enlarging the donor base was underlined by opening remarks from the invited speaker, to reflect current economic realities and greenhouse gas emissions. There was a discussion on the need to update and broaden the base of contributors.

The crucial role of resource mobilisation for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was emphasised, with the Nature and People Finance Alliance seen as a concrete contribution to facilitating mobilisation.

4. Accountability: improving clarity and usability

Discussions recognised progress in aligning national frameworks with international commitments, while stressing the need for clear and consistent reporting systems. Strengthening the link between monitoring and decision-making, and reducing fragmentation across processes, were identified as critical priorities. More broadly, interventions supported the need for multilateral processes to remain outcome-oriented and strongly aligned across the Rio COPs in 2026 and their connections.

5. Towards 2026 and beyond: strengthening G7 contribution

Discussions emphasised the need for strengthened linkages and synergies across the climate, biodiversity, desertification and pollution agendas, and for accelerated action towards 2030, with 2026 identified as a pivotal window of opportunity. The G7's responsibility to drive progress was highlighted, notably through action-oriented outcomes focused on cooperation, innovation and measurable impact. The review of the *G7 Nature Compact* was seen by some delegations as a useful contribution to setting priorities for further collective action.

Conclusion

Discussions underlined that progress achieved in recent years provides a strong foundation, while further efforts are still needed to fully translate commitments into tangible and measurable outcomes and benefit from the environmental, economic and social returns. In this context, the 2026 international sequence, notably the three Rio Conventions COPs, was seen as an opportunity to deliver concrete, coordinated and transformative multilateral action, and to contribute to a more stable, secure, and prosperous future for all.