

PEERspectives: Biodiversity and Trade Interactions

Invitation to the PEERspectives on Biodiversity and Trade Interactions

Brussels, on 21 January 2026 (14h-17h CET)

We are pleased to invite you to this in-person event which will be held in Rue du Champ de Mars 21, Brussels, on 21 January (14h-17h CET).

In an increasingly globalised world, various parts of supply chains interact with nature, affecting biodiversity and ecosystems. The interplay of policies, trade and resource management decisions connect distant places and people in complex ways. These linkages can have significant impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, both inside and outside the EU. A range of interventions is needed, such as regulating wildlife trade, promoting sustainability across global supply chains and directing finance towards investments that safeguard biodiversity.

The PEERspectives “Exploring biodiversity and trade interactions” will identify the critical gaps and up-to-date knowledge and data that are needed to design and efficiently implement evidence-based policies requiring the mobilisation of different research fields and policy sectors.

This ‘PEERspectives’ event will bring together scientists, policy-makers and stakeholders to enhance understanding of complex policy-relevant issues at the nexus of biodiversity and trade and stimulate collaboration between science and policy.

Registration compulsory until 14 January:
[2026 PEERSPECTIVES_REGISTRATION](#)

PEERspectives: Biodiversity and Trade Interactions

PROGRAMME

Brussels, on 21 January (14h-17h CET)
Joint Research Centre, Atrium,
Rue du Champ de Mars 21, 1050 Brussels

With Alessandra Zampieri, Director for Sustainable Resources at the European Commission
Joint Research Centre, as Master of ceremony

- **Introduction** by Thierry Caquet, Vice-President International, French Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE)
- **Presentation** of the report by the biodiversity and trade working group:
 - Jeanne Nel, Head of the Biodiverse Environment Programme, Wageningen Environmental Research
 - Julian Rode, Senior researcher & Scientific advisor, Environmental behavior and policy, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)
 - Katarina Elofsson, Environmental Economics, Danish Centre For Environment And Energy, Aarhus University
- **Perspectives from selected stakeholders and experts**
 - Eeva Primmer, Bureau Member, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and Research Director, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)
 - Manuela Kiehl, Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
 - Arvea Marieni, Director Ecological Transition Engineering Solutions BEAM CUBE, European Climate Pact Ambassador
- **Perspectives from the European Commission**
 - Jörg Wojahn, Head of Unit TRADE.C.3 “Bilateral Relations in Trade and Sustainable Development, Generalised Scheme of Preferences”, DG Trade, European Commission
 - Marco Fritz, Deputy Head of Unit RTD.B.3 “Climate and Planetary Boundaries”, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission
- **Conclusion** by André van Lammeren, General Director of the Environmental Sciences Group, Wageningen University and Research
- **Networking cocktail**

Meet the speakers



THIERRY CAQUET

Vice-President International, French Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE)

Thierry Caquet holds a PhD and HDR from Université Paris-Sud Orsay (now Université Paris-Saclay). After ten years teaching ecology and ecotoxicology, he joined INRA in 2001. He led INRA's Ecology division (2013-2017) and coordinated the climate adaptation metaprogram. As INRAE's Scientific Director for Environment (2017-2024), he supervised research on biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental risks and on the sustainable management of natural resources (especially water and soils). In 2025, he was appointed Vice-President for International Affairs. He chaired PEER from 2023 to 2025, sits on Alternet's Council, and previously served as Vice-Chair of EJP Soil's Board of Program Managers.



ALESSANDRA ZAMPIERI

Director of Sustainable Resources,
European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC)

An Economics graduate, she started her career in Brussels with the Directorate-General for energy and transport and the Cabinet of Vice-President De Palacio, where she worked inter alia on maritime and aviation policies. She joined the JRC in 2009, leading units focused on maritime affairs, demography, migration and disaster risk management. Before becoming Director, she was Deputy Director for space, security and migration.



ANDRÉ VAN LAMMEREN

General Director of the Environmental Sciences Group (ESG),
Wageningen University and Research (WUR)

Since May 2025 André van Lammeren is the General Director of the Environmental Sciences Group (ESG) at Wageningen University and Research, which comprises the Department of Environmental Sciences and the Wageningen Environmental Research institute (WENR). Prior to this, he served for over eight years as Deputy Director General of the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL). During this time, he gained extensive experience working at the science-policy interface, having previously held various positions within the Dutch government. André studied physics and, after completing his PhD, worked for ten years as a climate researcher at the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI).

Meet the speakers



JEANNE NEL

Head of the Biodiverse Environment Programme, Wageningen University & Research

Jeanne Nel leads the Biodiverse Environment Programme at Wageningen University & Research in the Netherlands, and holds a research position in South Africa at the Nelson Mandela University. Her work focuses on research, policy and implementation aimed at addressing biodiversity, climate change and equitable social development. Trained originally as an ecologist and conservation scientist, Nel now works to mainstream biodiversity into a wide range of application, such as development planning, water resources management, food systems, natural capital accounting, climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction. She serves on the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, where she recently contributed as author to the Global Transformative Assessment.



KATARINA ELOFSSON

Professor in Environmental and Ecological Economics, Aarhus University, Department of Environmental Science

Katarina carries out research within environmental and resource economics, with a focus on land use and ecosystem services. Her research covers the management, valuation, and policy of biodiversity and wildlife at local and landscape level, as well as economic modelling of the role of land use for climate and water quality policies. She contributes to consultancy work for policy-makers related to her areas of research.



JULIAN RODE

Deputy head of Department Environmental Politics, Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ)

Julian Rode is a behavioral economist with 15 years of experience at the interface of academic research and (policy) practice concerning biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. His inter- and transdisciplinary research deals with environmental values and decision-making, behavior change, the design and evaluation of environmental policies and financing mechanisms, and the integration of sustainability in business practices, mostly related to biodiversity and sustainable land use.

Meet the speakers



MANUELA KIEHL

Policy Analyst, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Manuela Kiehl works in the Trade & Environment team of the OECD's Environment Directorate, within the Environment and Economy Integration division. She is currently working on topics such as trade & biodiversity, trade & plastic pollution, trade & decarbonisation. Previously, she also worked in the Modelling and Outlooks workstream for the OECD Environmental Outlook. Prior to joining the OECD, she worked across a variety of environmental economic areas in the private sector (focusing on climate scenarios at Oxford Economics), research institutes (ifo Institute for Economic Research), and the public sector (World Bank Group, German Foreign Office).



Eeva PRIMMER

Bureau Member, Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and Research Director, Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)

Eeva Primmer is an IPBES Bureau Member and a Panel member of the United Nations International Resource Panel (UN-IRP). She is the Research Director of SYKE and first deputy of its Director General. She is responsible for the quality, integrity and impact of Syke's research. She heads two cross-cutting units: Societal Change Unit and Quality of Information Unit, which together represent Syke's information value chain enhancing sustainability transformation. She is also an adjunct professor (Docent) of Environmental Policy at the University of Helsinki. She has held several council and advisory roles, and has been an Associate Editor at the Elsevier journal Ecosystem Services.



ARVEA MARIENI

Director Ecological Transition Engineering Solutions BEAM CUBE, European Climate Pact Ambassador

Arvea Marieni, Manager, entrepreneur, and European Commission expert specialising in innovation and climate policy. She is Director at the French engineering firm BEAM CUBE. Arvea is a senior consultant to the World Green Design Organization, advising members on green finance, and undertakes expert assignments for the UNFCCC. She previously served as Technical Director of the Regenerative Society Foundation. She is an experienced keynote speaker and author, regularly contributing to international forums such as COP, UNIDO, the Prague European Summit, EU Green Week, and BIM WORLD. A faculty member at 24ORE Business School and member of the Advisory Board of the Maste in Agricultural Economics of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. A passionate European, Arvea is also an European Climate Pact Ambassador.

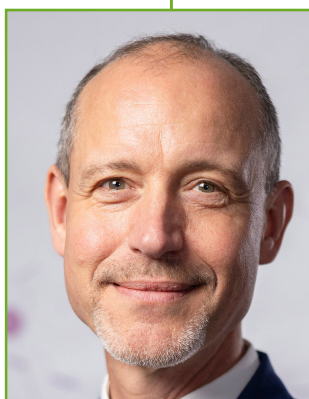
Meet the speakers



MARCO FRITZ

Deputy head of unit of 'climate and planetary boundaries' unit, research and innovation directorate general of the European Commission

Marco Fritz is Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission's Directorate General (DG) for Research and Innovation. In unit "Climate and Planetary Boundaries", he supports the Head of Unit on the Commission's position on climate science, environmental observation, research on biodiversity and nature-based solutions – the latter he shaped for more than five years. Prior to working in DG Research, he was responsible for the Commission's policy on Green Infrastructure in DG Environment. Bio-geographer by training, he worked in several companies on nature, biodiversity and ICT before joining the Commission in 2006. Currently, he is exploring how to stimulate engagement of policy makers, stakeholders, scientists and the public on strategic approaches to science-policy in Europe and globally.



JÖRG WOJAHN

Head of Unit "Bilateral Relations in Trade and Sustainable Development, Generalised Scheme of Preferences", DG Trade, European Commission

Jörg Wojahn heads the unit for Trade and Sustainable Development and the Generalised Scheme of Preferences at the European Commission's Directorate General for Trade where he previously worked as an adviser to the Director for the Americas. From 2015 to 2023, Mr Wojahn was the European Commission's Representative to Austria, based in Vienna, and then to Germany, in Berlin. Between 2010 and 2015, he headed the economic and trade section of the European Union Delegation to Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE, in Riyadh. Mr Wojahn holds a doctoral degree in public international law from the University of Kiel, Germany.

About PEER

PEER is a partnership of eight of the largest European environmental centres. The partnership was founded in 2001. Our aim is to combine forces with a joint strategy in environmental sciences and to enhance research on ecological sustainability.

PEER member centres carry out basic and applied research combining different disciplines from natural and social sciences. Research covers all fields of the environment, particularly addressing the interaction between man and nature. The PEER network has a wide range of knowledge and expertise that is contributing and supporting both nationally and globally to the work in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and better future for us all.

VISION

To be a world leader in integrating knowledge and expertise for sustainable development.

MISSION

- to build a strategic partnership of major European public environmental research centres;
- to lead a European Research Area that strengthens the knowledge base for the sustainable development of a changing world;
- and to foster innovative interdisciplinary research and cross-cutting approaches in support of national and European policy-makers, industry and society.

CENTRES

Currently, PEER consists of eight member institutes. Together they

- employ approximately 5,800 persons
- gather an annual budget about 600 Million Euro.
- have a vast experience in participation in major international networks and programmes (link taking further down to Networks-section)
- actively are involved in a number of projects funded by the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Development.

THE PEER CENTRES ARE:

CIENS	Oslo Centre for Interdisciplinary Environmental and Social Research
DCE	Danish Centre for Environment and Energy, Aarhus University
INRAE	French Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment
JRC	European Commission- Joint Research Centre
Syke	Finnish Environment Institute
UFZ	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research
UKCEH	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
WENR	Wageningen Environmental Research

