

CoE Adopts 2025–2030 Environmental Strategy

Anna Pinggen

News

The Council of Europe adopted its [Strategy on the Environment 2025–2030](#), setting out a forward-looking vision that links environmental protection with the organisation’s core values of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. The Strategy responds to the so-called “triple planetary crisis” of biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change: resource use has already tripled in the last fifty years and is expected to grow another 60% by 2060. The CoE stressed that member states and civil society have recognised that these environmental threats pose not only risks to ecosystems but also to individuals and society as a whole. The Strategy is part of the broader environment package considered during the Committee of Ministers session on 14 May 2025, which also includes the new [Convention on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law](#).

The Strategy defines a set of values, principles, and approaches to guide future action:

- A human rights-based approach, ensuring that policies protect those in vulnerable situations;
- Good democratic governance, including principles of participation, accountability, transparency, and long-term orientation;
- Key environmental law principles such as sustainable development, prevention, precaution, non-regression, and the polluter-pays rule;
- Ecosystem-based and nature-based solutions supported by science;
- A One Health approach balancing the health of people, animals, and ecosystems;
- Mainstreaming of youth and gender perspectives, children’s rights, and the rights of minorities and persons with disabilities.

Building on these foundations, the Strategy has established five strategic objectives:

- To integrate human rights considerations into environmental legislation, policy, and action, and vice versa;
- To strengthen democratic governance in environmental matters;
- To support and protect environmental human rights defenders, environmental defenders, and whistleblowers;
- To prevent and prosecute environmental crimes through effective criminal law frameworks that fight impunity, enhance accountability, and protect both the environment and victims;
- To protect wildlife, ecosystems, habitats, and landscapes.

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Together, these objectives anchor the Council of Europe's work for the next five years - aiming to ensure that present and future generations can live in a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.

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