

COVID-19 & THE ENVIRONMENT

Various articles have been published in the past weeks on the environmental causes and the environmental impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This page aims at listing relevant information, research, data and/or press releases issued by our partners in Geneva and other institutions around the world.

Other resource pages on COVID-19 and the environment:

- **[UNEP: Resource page on COVID-19](#)**
- **[Environmental Emergencies Center \(UNEP/OCHA Joint Unit\): Resource page on COVID-19 and its impact on the humanitarian response system and environment](#)**
- **[IOM: The COVID-19 Pandemic, Migration and the Environment](#)**
- **[WMO: COVID-19 dedicated webpage](#)**
- **[IUCN Resources on COVID-19](#)**

MORE ON COVID-19 AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Environmental leaders, experts and institutions around the world have been issuing statements and other useful information.

- **[The Executive Director's Statement to the 150th Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. Inger Anderson.](#)** UNEP | 30 April 2020.
- **[Opinion: Faith, COVID-19 and the push for a healthy environment.](#)** Inger Anderson (UNEP) and Azza Karam (Religions for peace) | DW | 29 April 2020.
- **[Where the Pandemic, the Environment and Gender Equality Meet: In Inger Andersen's Home Office.](#)** Nate Bernard | Pass Blue | 22 April 2020.
- **[COVID-19 pandemic, an 'unprecedented wake-up call' for all inhabitants of Mother Earth.](#)** UN News | 22 April 2020.

- **Environmental impacts of coronavirus crisis, challenges ahead.**
Robert Hamwey | UNCTAD | 20 April 2020.
- **African Union and IRENA to Advance Renewables in Response to COVID-19.** IRENA | 16 April 2020.
- **Statement from the Partnership for Action on Green Economy: The Choices We Make Now Will Shape the Future.** PAGE | 14 April 2020.
- **GEF CEO: 'We need to protect our one common home'.** GEF | 9 April 2020.
- **IUCN statement on the COVID-19 pandemic** | 8 April 2020.
- **Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime: #CovidCrimeWatch n°3 environmental crime and the illicit wildlife trade** - the weekly newsletter exploring existing and emerging interactions between COVID-19 and the illicit economy
- **Blog: The pandemic, the planet, and where we go from here.**
Neville Ash | UNEP-WCMC | 7 April 2020.
- **UNEP Statement on COVID-19** | 6 April 2020.
- **Staying on Course: Renewable Energy in the Time of COVID-19.**
Statement by Francesco La Camera | IRENA Director-General | 6 April 2020.
- **#UncommonSense: The Holocene Strikes Back.** Pavan Sukhdev | 3 April 2020.
- **COVID-19, Climate & Environment: the answers to your questions.** Greenpeace | 29 March 2020.
- **A little exercise to make sure that, after the virus crisis, things don't start again as they were before.** Bruno Latour | 29 mars 2020.
- **S'agit-il d'une répétition générale?** Bruno Latour | Le Monde | 26 mars 2020. Traduction allemande / traduction anglaise.
- **WWF & COVID-19.** Carter Robert | WWF | 24 March 2020.

COVID-19 & PUSH BACK ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

While lobby associations rightly point to the significant challenges posed by an unprecedented global health crisis, some have explicitly call for postponement of environmental laws or loosening regulations that limit emissions from their facilities

- **Under the cover of lockdown, illegal logging surges in Tunisia.** Layli Foroudi | Thomson Reuters | 1 May 2020.
- **As deforestation surges. Brazil moves to weaken indigenous and environmental safeguards.** Lucy Jordan and Ana Terra Athayde | Unearthed | 29 April 2020.
- **Airline bailout tracker (since the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, without binding environmental conditions).** Transport & Environment | Greenpeace and Carbon Market Watch | 22 April 2020 (regularly updated).
- **Protections that Curb Toxic Coal Plant Pollution Under Attack.** NRDC | 16 April 2020.
- **Pandemic Crisis, Systemic Decline: New Report Warns Oil, Gas and Plastic Industries are an Unfillable Sinkhole for Recovery Funds.** CIEL | 16 April 2020.
- **COVID-19 environmental roll back ‘irrational’ and irresponsible’: rights expert.** UN News | 15 April 2020.
- **COVID-19: “Not an excuse” to roll back environmental protection and enforcement, UN rights expert says.** David Boyd | OHCHR | 15 April 2020.
- **In Next Coronavirus Rescue Bill, 830 Groups Urge Congress to Halt Electricity, Water, Broadband Shutoffs.** Letter from 830 groups | 13 April 2020.
- **Despite COVID, Amazon deforestation races higher.** Mongabay.com | 11 April 2020.
- **EuPC calls for single-use plastics directive postponement in face of Covid-19.** European Plastics Converters (EuPC) | 9 April 2020.

- **Pollution Is Not an Equal Opportunity Killer. Nor Is COVID-19.** Gina McCarthy | NRDC | 9 April 2020.
- **COVID19—request for a recast or postponement of the Single-Use Plastics Directive** (Letter to EU Commission). European Plastics Converters (EuPC) | 8 April 2020.
- **Big Oil is using the coronavirus pandemic to push through the Keystone XL pipeline.** Bill McKibben | The Guardian | 5 April 2020.
- **OPINION: Land seizures and COVID-19: the twin threats to Brazil's indigenous peoples.** Richard Pearshouse and Jurema Werneck | Reuters | 4 April 2020.
- **This coronavirus pandemic can be lethal to the environment, too.** The Inquirer Editorial Board | The Philadelphia Inquirer | 3 April 2020.
- **US Car Emissions Rollback Endangers People's Health.** Felix Horne | Human Rights Watch | 2 April 2020.
- **From containment to recovery: Environmental responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.** OECD | March 2020.
- **Do Not Delay or Weaken Standards that Protect Public Health, Air and Climate.** Letter from environmental, justice, and conservation groups to California Governor | 31 March 2020.
- **Earthjustice Condemns Rollback of Federal Clean Cars Standards.** Earthjustice | 31 March 2020.
- **Trump Exploits COVID-19 Crisis to Roll Back Auto Pollution Rules.** Ryan Schleeter | Greenpeace | 31 March 2020.
- **What EPA's 'Enforcement Discretion' During COVID-19 Really Means.** Patrice Simms | Earthjustice | 27 March 2020.
- **USA: Immediately revoke COVID-19 suspension of environmental protections.** Richard Pearshouse | Amnesty International | 27 March 2020.
- **Trump administration allows companies to break pollution laws during coronavirus pandemic.** Oliver Milman and Emily Holden | The Guardian | 27 March 2020.

- **EPA suspends enforcement of environmental laws amid coronavirus.** Rebecca Beitsch | The Hill | 26 March 2020.
- **E.P.A., Citing Coronavirus, Drastically Relaxes Rules for Polluters.** Lisa Friedman | The New York Times | 26 March 2020.
- **EU car lobby's renewed attack on cars CO2 targets - on the back of COVID-19.** Eoin Bannon | Transport & environment | 27 March 2020.
- **Lobby groups of the European car industry - including manufacturers, suppliers, tyre-makers and dealers - letter to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen pleading for a relaxation of cars CO2 targets.** 25 March 2020.
- **Under the Cover of COVID, Polluters Seek Free Pass to Pollute.** Keith Rushing | Earthjustice | 25 March 2020.
- **Plastics Industry Association letter to Alex Azar, head of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and asked him to speak out against plastic bag bans.** 18 March 2020.