



# Mapping of international climate initiatives and coalitions

Final report

## **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Directorate-General for Climate Action  
Directorate A — International, Mainstreaming and Policy Coordination  
Unit A.1— International Relations  
*Contact: Franck GOUERY*

*E-mail: CLIMA-U47-ARES@ec.europa.eu  
Franck.GOUERY@ec.europa.eu*

*European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels*

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Final report

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This report is released by: Dr. Oscar Widerberg

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## **IVM**

Institute for Environmental Studies  
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam  
De Boelelaan 1111  
1081 HV AMSTERDAM  
The Netherlands  
T +31-20-598 9555  
E [info.ivm@vu.nl](mailto:info.ivm@vu.nl)

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## Executive summary

### A changing ecosystem of initiatives

The structure of international climate politics has changed rapidly over the past 10 years. In parallel to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), thousands of national, regional and local governments, companies, investors, and civil society organizations are collaborating in hundreds of international climate initiatives and coalitions. An increasingly complex ecosystem of initiatives is emerging, creating both challenges and opportunities for actors (including the European Commission) to engage in global climate politics. In terms of mitigation, the potential for initiatives to reduce emissions is substantial. One study assessing 17 initiatives estimates the potential emission reduction to 18–21 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e/year by 2030, in addition to ambition-levels set out in the National Determined Contributions, equal to about one-third of current global emissions (Lui et al., 2020).

This report unravels the ecosystem of initiatives by providing a helicopter view of over 340 international initiatives in climate mitigation and adaptation, and subsequently a fine-grained analysis of 22 case-studies. The report is the final product of the project ‘Mapping of international climate initiatives and coalitions’, carried out for the European Commission - DG Climate Action (service request N°2020/08), under ‘Framework Contract for the provision of services in the area of evaluation, analysis, support to impact assessments and implementation of climate policies CLIMA.A.4/FRA/2019/0011’. The contract is implemented by a consortium led by the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, in cooperation with the Wuppertal Institute and Ramboll.

### An “average” initiative: Mitigation, energy and HQ in the Global North

The ecosystem of initiatives has rapidly expanded over the past 10 years. The report identifies 344 initiatives directly involved in governing climate mitigation and/or adaptation at the international or transnational level. The helicopter view of the initiatives shows that:

- **The vast majority, nearly 90 % of the initiatives, were started after 2011.** Important COPs (e.g. COP15 and COP21) and other major climate summit, e.g. UN Secretary General’s climate summits, function as “launch pads” for new initiatives, as well as, show-case moments for existing initiatives
  - **Most initiatives focus on mitigation or mitigation & adaptation, few are pure play adaptation initiatives.** ‘Energy’ and ‘industry’ are the largest thematic areas in mitigation focused initiatives whereas
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‘resilience’ is the largest thematic area in adaptation focused initiatives. Few initiatives focus on “water” or “oceans and coastal zones”, however, more initiatives on fresh water, wetlands, and oceans may be found if the selection criteria used for this report were to be relaxed.

- **The majority of initiatives are headquartered in the Global North**, either in Europe or in North America, with less than a few percent having their HQ in Africa, Asia or Latin America.
- The majority of initiatives have a global focus or focus on multiple regions.
- **The most common function among the initiatives**, i.e. the most used mechanism for change, is **‘information and networking’**. More than 70 % of the initiatives engage in, for example, collecting, synthesising, and disseminating information to their members and/or target groups, or creating networking opportunities between its members. Less than a third of the initiatives engage in ‘standard setting and commitments’ such as developing ecolabels or common measuring standards or jointly make commitments to, for instance, reduce emissions.
- **A small majority of initiatives have some kind of reporting of their work available to the public**. The majority of those report on input and output level indicators such as resources spent or events organized, rather than outcome or impact level indicators.

The mapping suggests that the growth of initiatives is largely driven by actors from Europe and North America, mainly focusing on mitigation, and energy in particular. **Consequently, the UNFCCC remains an important focal institution in the ecosystem of initiatives for ensuring broad participation and inclusive decision-making on climate policy that concerns the global community.**

### How to improve international climate initiatives

To better understand how to engage with the ecosystem of initiatives, the report carried out 22 case-studies. Interviews were carried out with 14 people in executive positions at the initiatives or with deep insights into their workings to enrich the data collected in desk-studies and document review. The case-studies yielded the following insights:

- **COPs are important for international climate initiatives**. Initiatives use the platform and momentum provided by COPs to announce their initiation and share important updates. COPs and other high-level meetings also provide an important signaling function for future direction and give initiatives an extra incentive for amping up their efforts
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- **Initiatives tend to be motivated by a perceived “governance gap”.** They provide platforms for international cooperation on climate issues that need more attention. For instance, the “4 per 1000” initiative focuses on how soil quality and various types of agriculture can contribute to reaching the UNFCCC’s goals.
  - **Initiatives are explicitly designed to make themselves redundant.** Initiatives (e.g. the 2050 Pathways Platform, LeadIT or the 4 per 1000) are designed to disappear. They perceive their existence to be temporary and to dissolve once their mission is accomplished.
  - **Initiatives continuously merge, change name or change focus.** The ecosystem is highly dynamic with initiatives (such as GCoM or CSLF) merging or aligning with other initiatives, leading to new initiatives being created out of old ones.

When looking at individual initiatives, the report also unveils points of attention, of which some could make a positive contribution to the effectiveness of initiatives. The following points were identified:

- **Funding and financial resources.** Initiatives in our sample overall report on favorable financial situations, however some find it challenging to fund scaling activities, allowing for extending their operations beyond current reach. Funding is often short-term and project-based, leading to problems with adopting a longer time-frame requiring sustained funding over time.
  - **People and skills.** Initiatives often operate in technical and niche markets, making it challenging to identify and attract people with the right skills. Lack of human resources can also hamper scaling and expansion as moving into new countries and regions requires highly specific language and cultural skills, on top of technical knowledge.
  - **Monitoring and reporting.** Monitoring and reporting are needed for learning, creating credibility and ensuring accountability. However, it is time and resources intensive as well as technically challenging since “impact” is hard to measure and quantify.
  - **More engagement from existing members is needed.** In terms of membership, the main problem is not attracting new members but rather engaging existing members. Initiatives often have a small core of highly active members that contribute disproportionately much to the collaboration compared to the others. There is a tradeoff between seeking out new members and engaging current members when managing the initiative.
  - **Deep vs. wide approach.** Initiatives often have to make a decision between “going deep” (furthering integration between existing members) and “going wide” (attracting new members).
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## Recommendations moving forward

Based on the mapping and the case-studies, the study-team developed two sets of recommendations to the European Commission for engaging with the ecosystem of initiatives. First, regarding how to support the initiatives at the institutional level, i.e. how to support the ecosystem. Second, regarding how to support individual initiatives and how the European Commission can become more proactive and strategic in their approach.

First, the European Commission could support the ecosystem of initiatives by:

- **Maintaining an ambitious and active role in existing initiatives.** The EU, through the European Commission and its member states, is a leading force in starting and maintaining international climate initiatives. It should continue to assert pressure on other Parties and non-Party actors to follow suit and set the direction for the private sector
  - **Supporting the work of the Global Climate Action Agenda and the High-level champions under the UNFCCC process.** The GCA and the High-level Champions are institutionalizing the role of international climate initiatives in the UNFCCC. They need continued political, economic and human resource support to carry out their mandate and mission, keeping up the momentum around climate action.
  - **Supporting mapping, monitoring and reporting.** More initiatives means more complexity. It is becoming challenging to oversee what is happening and build credibility while mitigating greenwashing. Only by continuing gathering data and mapping initiatives (e.g. through NAZCA or the Climate Initiatives Platform (CIP)), is it possible to engage, evaluate, learn and intervene meaningfully in the ecosystem of initiatives.
  - **Strengthening climate adaptation, and socially just and inclusive energy transitions initiatives.** There are many more mitigating initiatives than there are adaptation initiatives. As the urgency and understanding of the need for climate adaptation grows, more initiatives might be needed to fill missing governance gaps. Surveying initiatives in other issue areas, such as biodiversity, may prove useful, as they could have positive indirect impacts on adaptation (e.g. nature-based solutions). Initiatives in the energy sector focusing on socially just and inclusive energy transitions are also relatively rare. As the distributional effects of the energy transition are becoming increasingly clear, the need grows for tackling climate change in a socially responsible and inclusive manner.
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The European Commission could support the individual initiatives by:

- **Political signaling.**
  - Become a member or endorse initiatives which it is not already part of.
  - Continue to be an important stakeholder in existing initiatives that relies on its input
- **Information sharing, human resource and logistical support.**
  - Provide dissemination support to showcase the actions of the initiatives.
  - Provide cues for how the initiatives could support achieving EU climate policy goals and priorities.
  - Use existing diplomatic networks to support and engage new countries and partners to join initiatives.
- **Financial support.**
  - Maintain its current financial support for existing initiatives.
  - Relay work carried out by the initiatives to the EU funding bodies or development banks
  - Develop potential capacity building in developing countries to enable long-term sectoral transitions
- **Activate EU member states.**
  - Review how states with currently low engagement could support and/or benefit from participating in the initiatives
  - Nudge Member States to join initiatives or to increase existing activities

### Conclusions: A holistic approach to international climate policy

To conclude, the UNFCCC has over the past decade been joined by hundreds of international initiatives and coalitions engaging thousands of both Party and non-Party stakeholders. It is clearly becoming increasingly difficult to navigate the space and to know *a priori* where to best pursue political goals. Creating a better overview of where the European Commission currently is engaged is a first step to developing a more strategic approach to engaging in the wider ecosystem of initiatives beyond the UNFCCC. It also requires a better understanding of what makes an initiative effective, in particular in relation to the UNFCCC goals and vis-a-vis other initiatives. **The European Commission can play an important role by pursuing a holistic approach to international climate policy by joining, endorsing, funding, resourcing, mapping, analysing and recording climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives and coalitions.**

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## Résumé

### Un écosystème d'initiatives en mutation

La structure de la politique climatique internationale a rapidement évolué au cours des dix dernières années. Parallèlement à la Convention-cadre des Nations unies sur les changements climatiques (CCNUCC), des milliers de gouvernements nationaux, régionaux et locaux, d'entreprises, d'investisseurs et d'organisations de la société civile prennent part à des centaines d'initiatives et de coalitions internationales sur le climat. Un écosystème d'initiatives de plus en plus complexe est en train d'émerger, créant à la fois des défis et des opportunités pour l'engagement des acteurs (y compris la Commission européenne) dans la politique climatique mondiale. En termes d'atténuation du changement climatique, le potentiel de réduction des émissions de carbone par ces initiatives est considérable. Une étude évaluant 17 initiatives estime que le potentiel de réduction des émissions est de 18-21 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e/an d'ici 2030, en plus des niveaux d'ambition fixés au niveau national (Nationally Determined Contributions), ce qui correspond à environ un tiers des émissions mondiales actuelles (Lui et al., 2020).

Ce rapport clarifie l'écosystème d'initiatives en fournissant une vue d'ensemble de plus de 340 initiatives internationales impliquées dans l'atténuation et l'adaptation au changement climatique, puis une analyse fine de 22 études de cas. Le rapport est le produit final du projet "Mapping of international climate initiatives and coalitions", réalisé pour la Commission européenne - DG Action pour le climat (demande de service N°2020/08), dans le cadre du 'Framework Contract for the provision of services in the area of evaluation, analysis, support to impact assessments and implementation of climate policies CLIMA.A.4/FRA/2019/0011'. Le contrat est mis en œuvre par un consortium dirigé par l'Institut d'études environnementales (IVM) de la Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, en coopération avec l'Institut Wuppertal et Ramboll.

### Une initiative 'moyenne': Atténuation du changement climatique, énergie et le rôle des sièges sociaux dans l'hémisphère nord

L'écosystème d'initiatives s'est rapidement développé au cours des dix dernières années. Le rapport identifie 344 initiatives directement impliquées dans la gouvernance de l'atténuation et/ou de l'adaptation au changement climatique à l'échelle internationale ou transnationale. La vue d'ensemble des initiatives qui en ressort souligne que :

**La grande majorité, soit près de 90 % des initiatives, ont été lancées après 2011.** Les principales COP (telles que la COP15 et COP21) ainsi que

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d'autres sommets majeurs sur le climat, comme par exemple les sommets sur le climat du Secrétariat général des Nations unies, servent de "rampes de lancement" pour les nouvelles initiatives, et de démonstration pour les initiatives existantes.

- **La plupart des initiatives se concentrent sur l'atténuation ou sur l'atténuation et l'adaptation au changement climatique. Peu d'entre elles se concentrent exclusivement sur l'adaptation.** "Énergie" et "Industrie" sont les thématiques majeures des initiatives axées sur l'atténuation, tandis que le thème central des initiatives focalisées sur l'adaptation est celui de la "résilience". Peu d'initiatives se concentrent sur les thèmes de l'eau ou des océans et des zones côtières", cependant, d'avantage d'initiatives portant sur l'eau douce, les zones humides et les océans pourraient être comptabilisées si les critères de sélection utilisés pour ce rapport étaient élargis.
- **La majorité des initiatives ont leur siège social dans l'hémisphère Nord** I, soit en Europe, soit en Amérique du Nord, tandis que moins de quelques pour cent ont leur siège en Afrique, en Asie ou en Amérique latine.
- La majorité des initiatives ont une approche globale ou bien se concentrent sur plusieurs régions.
- **La fonction la plus courante**, c'est-à-dire le levier de changement le plus utilisé par ces initiatives, **est le "networking"** (mise en relation). Plus de 70 % des initiatives s'engagent, par exemple, à collecter, synthétiser et diffuser des informations à leurs membres et/ou groupes cibles, ou à créer des opportunités de mise en réseau entre ceux-ci. Moins d'un tiers des initiatives s'engage dans la définition de "normes et d'engagements", comme le développement des écolabels ou des normes de mesure communes, ou encore par des engagements de réduction d'émissions.
- **Une petite majorité d'initiatives dispose d'une forme de rapport public sur leur travail.** La majorité de ces rapports porte sur des indicateurs de niveau d'entrée et de sortie, tels que les ressources dépensées ou les événements organisés, plutôt que sur des indicateurs de niveau de résultat ou d'impact des initiatives poursuivies.
- **Il apparaît au travers de la cartographie, que la croissance des initiatives est largement portée par des acteurs situés en Europe et en Amérique du Nord.** Ces initiatives sont particulièrement axées sur l'atténuation du changement climatique et sur les enjeux énergétiques. Par conséquent, la CCNUCC reste une institution centrale dans l'écosystème d'initiatives visant à assurer une large participation et une prise de décision inclusive sur la politique climatique qui concerne la communauté mondiale.

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## Comment améliorer les initiatives internationales en matière de climat?

Pour mieux comprendre comment s'engager dans l'écosystème d'initiatives, le rapport a réalisé 22 études de cas. Des entretiens ont été menés avec 14 personnes occupant des postes de direction au sein des initiatives ou ayant une connaissance approfondie de leur fonctionnement, afin d'enrichir les données recueillies lors des études de bureau et de l'examen des documents. Les études de cas ont permis d'obtenir les informations suivantes:

- **Les COP (Conférence des parties) sont importantes pour les initiatives internationales en matière de climat.** Les initiatives utilisent la plateforme et l'élan fournis par les COP pour annoncer leur lancement et partager des mises à jour importantes. Les COPs et autres réunions de haut niveau jouent également un rôle important d'orientation parmi les possibles directions futures et incitent les initiatives à intensifier leurs efforts.
- **Les initiatives sont généralement motivées par la perception d'un "déficit de gouvernance".** Elles fournissent des plateformes pour la coopération internationale sur les questions climatiques qui nécessitent plus d'attention. Par exemple, l'initiative "4 pour 1000" explore la façon dont la qualité des sols et les différents types d'agriculture peuvent contribuer à atteindre les objectifs de la CCNUCC.
- **Les initiatives sont en permanente évolution, elles fusionnent, changent de nom ou d'orientation.** L'écosystème est très dynamique, avec des initiatives (telles que le GCoM ou le CSLF) qui fusionnent ou s'alignent avec d'autres, ce qui conduit à la création de nouvelles initiatives à partir d'autres pre-existantes.

En examinant chaque initiatives individuellement, le rapport dévoile également des centres d'attention, dont certains pourraient contribuer à améliorer leur efficacité. Les points suivants ont été identifiés:

- **Financement et ressources financières.** Dans l'ensemble, les initiatives de notre échantillon font état d'une situation financière favorable, mais certaines d'entre elles ont du mal à financer des activités d'envergure, qui permettraient d'étendre leurs opérations au-delà de leur portée actuelle. Le financement est souvent à court terme et basé sur des projets, ce qui pose problème pour l'adoption d'un cadre temporel plus long nécessitant un financement soutenu dans le temps.
  - **Les personnes et leurs compétences.** Les initiatives opèrent souvent sur des marchés techniques et de niche, ce qui rend difficile l'identification et l'attraction de personnes possédant les bonnes compétences. Le manque de ressources humaines peut également entraver le développement et l'expansion, car l'implantation dans de nouveaux pays et régions exige des compétences linguistiques et culturelles très spécifiques, en plus des connaissances techniques.
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- **Suivi et rapports.** Le suivi et les rapports d'évaluation sont nécessaires pour apprendre, créer de la crédibilité et assurer la responsabilisation des membres. Cependant, ces activités demandent beaucoup de temps et de ressources, et constituent un défi technique, car l'impact des initiatives est difficile à mesurer et à quantifier.
  - **Les membres existants doivent s'impliquer davantage.** En termes d'adhésion, le principal problème n'est pas d'attirer de nouveaux membres mais plutôt d'atteindre une plus grande implication de la part des membres existants. Les initiatives ont souvent un petit noyau de membres très actifs qui contribuent de manière disproportionnée à la collaboration par rapport aux autres membres. Il existe un compromis entre la recherche de nouveaux membres et l'engagement des membres actuels dans la gestion de l'initiative.
  - **Approche en profondeur ou élargissement.** Les initiatives doivent souvent choisir entre renforcer l'intégration entre les membres existants (going deep), et attirer de nouveaux membres (going wide).

### Recommandations pour l'avenir

Sur la base de la cartographie et des études de cas, l'équipe de l'étude a élaboré deux séries de recommandations adressées à la Commission européenne en vue de son engagement dans l'écosystème des initiatives. La première concerne la manière de soutenir les initiatives au niveau institutionnel, c'est-à-dire les possibles façons de soutenir l'écosystème. La seconde concerne la manière dont la Commission européenne peut soutenir les initiatives individuelles et devenir plus proactive et stratégique dans son approche.

Premièrement, la Commission européenne pourrait soutenir l'écosystème d'initiatives de la manière suivante :

- **Maintenir un rôle ambitieux et actif au sein des initiatives existantes.** L'UE, par l'intermédiaire de la Commission européenne et de ses États membres, joue un rôle de premier plan dans le lancement et le maintien des initiatives internationales en matière de climat. Elle doit continuer à faire pression sur les autres parties et les acteurs non parties pour qu'ils lui emboîtent le pas et donnent la direction à suivre au secteur privé.
  - **Soutenir le travail de l'Agenda mondial pour l'action climatique et des Champions de haut niveau dans le cadre du processus de la CCNUCC.** L'Agenda mondial pour l'action climatique et les champions de haut niveau institutionnalisent le rôle des initiatives climatiques internationales dans le cadre de la CCNUCC. Ils nécessitent un soutien continu en termes de ressources politiques, économiques et humaines
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pour mener à bien leur mandat et leur mission, en maintenant la dynamique de l'action climatique.

- **Soutenir le travail de cartographie, le suivi et les rapports. Davantage d'initiatives signifie davantage de complexité.** Il devient difficile de parvenir à une vue d'ensemble sur la situation et de renforcer la crédibilité tout en évitant l'écoblanchiment (greenwashing). Ce n'est qu'en continuant à collecter des données et à cartographier les initiatives (par exemple, par le biais de NAZCA ou de la Plateforme des initiatives climatiques (PIC)) qu'il est possible de s'engager, d'évaluer, d'apprendre et d'intervenir de manière significative dans l'écosystème des initiatives.
- **Renforcer l'adaptation au climat et les initiatives de transitions énergétiques socialement justes et inclusives.** Il existe beaucoup plus d'initiatives d'atténuation que d'adaptation au changement climatique. Au fur et à mesure que l'urgence et la compréhension de la nécessité de l'adaptation climatique augmentent, d'autres initiatives pourraient être nécessaires pour combler les lacunes de la gouvernance. L'étude des initiatives dans d'autres domaines, tels que la biodiversité, peut s'avérer utile, car elles pourraient avoir des impacts positifs indirects sur l'adaptation (par exemple, des solutions basées sur la nature aussi appelées Nature-based solutions). Les initiatives dans le secteur de l'énergie axées sur des transitions énergétiques socialement justes et inclusives sont également relativement rares. Les effets distributifs de la transition énergétique étant de plus en plus évidents, il est d'autant plus nécessaire de s'attaquer au changement climatique d'une manière socialement responsable et inclusive.

La Commission européenne pourrait soutenir les initiatives individuelles de plusieurs façons:

- **En envoyant des signaux politiques**
    - Devenir membre ou soutenir des initiatives dont elle ne fait pas encore partie.
    - Continuer à être une partie prenante importante dans les initiatives existantes qui comptent sur son soutien.
  - **En partageant l'information, les ressources humaines et en apportant un soutien logistique.**
    - Fournir un soutien à la dissémination des connaissances et des informations pour mettre en valeur les actions des initiatives.
    - Fournir des indications sur la manière dont les initiatives pourraient contribuer à la réalisation des objectifs et des priorités de la politique climatique de l'UE.
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- Utiliser les réseaux diplomatiques existants pour soutenir et inciter de nouveaux pays et partenaires à rejoindre les initiatives.
  - **En apportant un soutien financier**
    - Maintenir son soutien financier actuel aux initiatives existantes.
    - Relayer les travaux réalisés par les initiatives auprès des organismes de financement de l'UE ou des banques de développement.
    - Développer le renforcement potentiel des capacités dans les pays en développement pour permettre des transitions sectorielles à long terme.
  - **En activant les États membres de l'UE**
    - Examiner comment les États dont l'engagement est actuellement faible pourraient soutenir et/ou bénéficier de leur participation aux initiatives.
    - Inciter les États membres à rejoindre les initiatives ou à accroître les activités existantes.

### Conclusions: Une approche holistique de la politique climatique internationale

En conclusion, la CCNUCC a été rejointe au cours de la dernière décennie par des centaines d'initiatives et de coalitions internationales impliquant des milliers de parties prenantes, qu'elles soient ou non parties à la convention. Il devient clairement de plus en plus difficile de naviguer dans cet espace et de savoir a priori comment poursuivre au mieux les objectifs politiques. La création d'une meilleure vue d'ensemble des domaines dans lesquels la Commission européenne est actuellement engagée est un premier pas vers le développement d'une approche plus stratégique pour s'engager dans l'écosystème plus large des initiatives au-delà de la CCNUCC. Cela nécessite également une meilleure compréhension de ce qui rend une initiative efficace, en particulier par rapport aux objectifs de la CCNUCC et par rapport à d'autres initiatives.

La Commission européenne peut jouer un rôle important;

- en adoptant une approche globale de la politique internationale sur le climat,
  - en adhérant à des initiatives et des coalitions d'adaptation et d'atténuation du changement climatique,
  - en les soutenant tout autant par le financement, le recensement, l'analyse l'enregistrement des initiatives et coalitions d'atténuation et d'adaptation du changement climatique.
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## 1. Introduction

This report analyses the emerging ecosystem of international coalitions and initiatives for mitigating and adapting to climate change. It is the final product of the project '**Mapping of international climate initiatives and coalitions**', carried out for the European Commission - DG Climate Action (service request N°2020/08), under 'Framework Contract for the provision of services in the area of evaluation, analysis, support to impact assessments and implementation of climate policies CLIMA.A.4/FRA/2019/0011'. The contract is carried out by a consortium led by the Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, in cooperation with the Wuppertal Institute and Ramboll.

The project consisted of two phases. First, a **mapping phase**, providing a helicopter perspective of existing international coalitions and initiatives for mitigating and adapting to climate change. Second, a **case-study phase**, zooming in on 22 initiatives to better understand the challenges and opportunities of initiatives to make a successful contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change.



The report is structured as follows. First, chapter 1 describes the objectives and background to the study. Chapter 2 outlines the methodology, including data-collection approach and analytical choices. Chapter 3 reports on the findings from the mapping of 344 initiatives. Chapter 4 reports on the findings from 22 case studies. Chapter 5 describes a gap analysis on what initiatives that are missing. Finally, chapter 6 summarizes the findings.

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## 1.2. Objectives of the study

The objective of the project is to support the European Commission in navigating the emerging landscape of international climate initiatives and coalitions.

The overall objective<sup>1</sup> is:

- To inform future decisions regarding the European Commission engagement in international climate initiatives and coalitions, including the assessment of joining, dropping, taking a leading role or creating new initiatives and/or provide support to enable individual key initiatives to effectively play their expected role.

The objectives of the report are the following:

- To increase the understanding about existing international climate initiatives, including gaps and overlaps;
- To identify design features that make some of the initiatives succeed in building large memberships, getting a strong ownership from their members and succeed in reaching their goals;
- To identify particular initiatives in which the EU may have a stronger interest and added-value; and,
- To identify particular initiatives that have a strong potential to promote a positive narrative around the opportunity of climate action in the context of economic recovery and the global progress towards the Paris Agreement objectives.

By fulfilling these objectives, the report will inform on future decisions regarding the European Commission's engagement in international climate initiatives and coalitions, including the assessment of joining, dropping, taking a leading role or creating new initiatives and/or provide support to enable individual key initiatives to effectively play their expected role.

## 1.1. Project background

The following section provides an overview of why international climate initiatives and coalitions are becoming increasingly important in international climate governance.

### 1.1.1. The rise of international climate initiatives and coalitions

Since 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has been a centre of gravity for negotiating a global response to

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with service request N°2020/08

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climate change. The UNFCCC is a Party-driven process, where decision-making power is exclusive to national governments, and governed on the basis of consensus rule-making. Unfortunately, the ambition-level of Parties to the UNFCCC is insufficient for reaching the global target of limiting global warming to 2°C, let alone the aspiration to stop warming at 1.5°C (Rogelj et al., 2016). An “implementation gap” has occurred between where Parties are and where they ought to be to reach the mitigation goals of the Paris Agreement (UN Environment, 2018).

Over the past 15 years, Parties to the UNFCCC have been joined by smaller groups of states (sometimes referred to as “clubs”), as well as, thousands of cities, regions, companies, and civil society organizations, aiming to close the implementation gap. These “non-Party” actors often collaborate with Parties in international climate initiatives and their potential to reduce emissions is substantial. A recent study assessing 17 initiatives (e.g. the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), the Bonn Challenge and the Climate & Clean Air Coalition (CCAC)) estimate that they could reduce emissions with 18–21 GtCO<sub>2</sub>e/year by 2030, in addition to ambition-levels set out in the National Determined Contributions, equal to about a one-third of current global emissions (Lui et al., 2020). While some studies are more sceptical about the large mitigation potential in international climate initiatives (Hsu et al., 2018), most analysts suggest that international climate initiatives, often involving non-Party actors, will be crucial for reaching the goals of the Paris Agreements.

### 1.1.2. International climate initiatives in the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement ushered in a new era for non-Party actors, including international climate initiatives. Moving from a “regulatory” to a “facilitative” regime, the design of the agreement allows for more flexible and tailor-made mitigation policies where international climate initiatives and non-Party actors play a role in finding new and innovative solutions as well as implementing existing mitigation goals (Hale, 2016). The formal process also created several platforms for non-Party actors to engage with the UNFCCC. In the run-up to COP21 in Paris in 2015, most notably, the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA) launched in 2014 to generate a positive momentum towards COP21 by catalysing non-Party climate action. Conjointly launched with the Lima-Paris Action Agenda (LPAA), was the Non-state Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA), a platform to showcase commitments made by cities, regions, companies, investors and civil society organizations to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The COP21 Decision adopting the Paris Agreement (Decision 1/CP.21) itself also made several references to non-Party Actors as parties:

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- Encourages Parties to work closely with non-Party stakeholders to catalyse efforts to strengthen mitigation and adaptation action (paragraph 118)
  - Encourages non-Party stakeholders to register their climate actions in the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action platform (paragraph 117)
  - Strengthens the technical examination process on mitigation for the period 2016–2020 in various ways (paragraphs 109 and 110)
  - Convenes a high-level event building on the Lima-Paris Action Agenda during the period 2016–2020 in conjunction with each session of the Conference of the Parties (paragraph 120)
  - Appoints two high-level champions on behalf of the President of the Conference of the Parties to catalyse NSAs (paragraph 121).

The Paris Agreement thus demonstrates the understanding and willingness of Parties to increasingly bring non-Party actors closer to the formal process.

### 1.1.3. Existing mappings of international climate initiatives

Up until only five years ago, there were few comprehensive mappings of international climate initiatives. Academic researchers had gathered smaller databases of up to 60 initiatives and published their research in journals and books (e.g. Abbott, 2012; Bulkeley et al., 2014, 2012; Hoffman, 2011). However, things changed in the run up to COP21 in Paris.

The UNFCCC Secretariat started to collect initiatives based on primarily input from Parties in 2013-14 in a Platform for Cooperative Initiatives. It was used to produce technical papers as input to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP), in particular working group II on enhanced action pre-2020. In parallel, another database was started, what today is known as, the Climate Initiatives Platform (for a short history of these databases, see Widerberg and Strippel, 2016).

Two databases have become leading in mapping International Climate Initiatives: The Climate Initiatives Platform (CIP), maintained by UN Environment (UNEP) and UNEP DTU<sup>2</sup>; and, the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA), also referred to as the Global Climate Action portal.<sup>3</sup> The former includes descriptive data on 264 initiatives, and the latter 149 initiatives. The data in both CIP and NAZCA are restricted to describing and categorizing the initiatives in terms of thematic and geographical focus, types of climate action, members, year of initiation, mission statement, and contact information. Data in CIP and NAZCA are used to create global aggregate reports, such as the Yearbook on Climate Action (published by the UNFCCC Secretariat), and

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<sup>2</sup> <http://climateinitiativesplatform.org/index.php/Welcome>

<sup>3</sup> <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/>

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academic and consultancy reports such as the Global Aggregation Reports (published by New Climate Institute, Yale, and PBL). Those publications in turn feed into other reports such as the UNEP Gap Reports, which in 2018 released a special report on non-Party climate action (Hsu et al., 2018).

Beyond NAZCA and CIP, a number of databases on initiative exist in adjacent fields. Notably, the Sustainable Development in Action (SD in Action) database maintained by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, contains 2014 voluntary commitments and partnerships on sustainable development, of which many are focused on climate mitigation and adaptation. The United Nations Ocean Conference also started a registry with over 1,600 voluntary commitments and partnerships, specific to the ocean, but also including partnerships with relevance for climate change. Finally, Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have launched a the 'the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People',<sup>4</sup> in which they invite voluntary commitments and partnerships to register. It currently has 141 commitments registered.

Besides the mappings and databases carried out by international organizations, the academic and research community has carried out several more recent mappings. The CONNECT-project<sup>5</sup>, for example, which has mapped out hundreds of international initiatives in climate change, forestry, energy, and fisheries. The results for climate change have been displayed on the [www.connect-it-climate.eu](http://www.connect-it-climate.eu) platform, showcasing the linkages between different initiatives in terms of membership. The same team has also, in collaboration with the Dutch Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL), mapped out over 300 biodiversity related initiatives, of which many are directly focused on climate change (Pattberg et al., 2017). In the context of the Horizon 2020 project COP21-RIPPLES ([www.cop21ripples.eu](http://www.cop21ripples.eu)), a team including members from the Wuppertal Institute, the University of East Anglia, VU Brussels and Climate Analytics analysed about 150 international institutions and initiatives regarding their contributions to the international governance of climate change (Rayner et al. 2018). Other more specific projects, for instance the ClimaSouth project<sup>6</sup>, maps out initiatives in the global South.

In sum, a vast amount of data exists to build a database on international climate initiatives for specific purposes. The overall challenge across the databases has been to go beyond simply descriptive data, and assess their impacts, as well as keeping the databases up-to-date, given the work-intensity of compiling and updating the databases.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/>

<sup>5</sup> [www.fragmentation.eu](http://www.fragmentation.eu)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.geg.ox.ac.uk/research/climate-south>

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#### 1.1.4. Effectiveness of international climate initiatives and coalitions

The emerging ecosystem of international climate initiatives and coalitions provides governments and international organisations the opportunity to pursue climate mitigation and adaptation outside the multilateral process and the UNFCCC. The institutional proliferation provides governments with ample venues to pursue specific policy goals, set their own ambition-level, and team up with the governments and non-state actors that they seem fit. Governments and international organizations, including the European Commission, are thus faced with evaluating the efficacy of what works, which initiatives to support and in what role.

Current assessments of effectiveness in international climate initiatives show a mixed picture, however. A review of over 300 partnerships for sustainable development launched during the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg 2002, produced sobering results. Five years after being announced, nearly 40 % of all partnerships started had no discernible output, and only 24 % had outputs that matched their goals (Pattberg et al., 2012). Zooming in on those partnerships that focus on climate change, most were led by states or public agencies, provided “soft” governance functions such as knowledge dissemination, and at least showed potential to become effective (Pattberg, 2010). More recent studies on international climate initiatives paint a somewhat more nuanced picture. Of 52 international climate initiatives launched during (or closely connected to) the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, 65 % have demonstrated outputs that are fully or somewhat in line with the stated mission of the partnership (Chan et al., 2018). Rayner et al. 2018 found that many initiatives focus on the provision of capacity building, knowledge and learning, but often do not include firm commitments to action and lack resources. Analyses of smaller sets of initiatives also suggest that they have a large potential to align with the UNFCCC goals, to provide legitimacy to climate action by involving groups that are currently under-represented in the process, and to put pressure on the Parties to increase their ambition-levels (Widerberg, 2017; Widerberg and Pattberg, 2015). Some reports have also raised concerns about how to keep actors accountable in networked governance arrangements such as initiatives (Widerberg and Pattberg, 2017). Others have pointed to the dominance of countries, cities, regions, companies and other organizations from the global North, in current international climate initiatives (Chan et al., 2018).

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## 2. Methodology

This section describes the methodology used for the report. The methodology is divided into two phases. Phase 1 is the mapping of the landscape of international climate initiatives and coalitions. Phase 2 is the case-study methodology used for the report.

### 2.1. Phase 1: Create, analyse and visualize inventory of current initiatives

The purpose of phase 1 was to provide a helicopter view of the emerging landscape of international climate initiatives and coalitions. It corresponds to objective 1 of the study was to “increase the understanding about the space of existing international climate initiatives, including gaps and overlaps”.

Phase 1 consisted of four steps:

1. Setting inclusion and exclusion criteria.
2. Scanning existing databases for potential candidates
3. Collect data on included initiatives
4. Analyse data and create visualizations

First, the inclusion criteria were developed in close cooperation with the European Commission. The criteria for including an initiative are:

- an international or transnational (i.e. including members from more than 2 countries) initiative;
- that explicitly mentions “climate change” as a key goal in their mission statement; and,
- have a behavioural steering purpose (i.e. excluding initiatives where actors merely support a certain policy measure such as carbon pricing).

Second, potential candidate initiatives were collected by scanning 14 existing databases (see [Annex A](#)) and platforms. The data were retrieved by: downloading available datasets, e.g. the Climate Initiatives Platform; automated web-scraping techniques (e.g. with NAZCA); or, contacting the owners of the database, asking them to share their data (e.g. C-CID database). In total 662 initiatives were collected. To determine which initiatives directly focus on climate adaptation and/or mitigation (i.e. “explicitly mentions “climate change” as a key goal in their mission statement”), the self-proclaimed governance statements of all initiatives were scanned using a semi-automated text analysis. The type of statements included are: “Mission/Vision”, “About”, “Strategy”, “What we do”, “Objectives”, “Function”, “Operation”, “Background”, “Work Areas”, “Guiding Principles” and “Charters”. This task was performed together with a

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control check for redundant initiatives such as doubles or initiatives who's main objective is not climate change, reducing the list to 622 initiatives. Subsequently, using semi-automated text-analysis (following standard text pre-processing procedures), the mission statements were scanned for two keywords: "climate" and "global warming", including their derivatives. Only those which explicitly mention climate in their mission statements were selected and examined further. The final list consists of 334 initiatives.

Third, data were collected for the 334 initiatives on the following variables:

<b>Year of initiation</b>	Launch year of the initiatives. Indicated by last update of new information, events or other activity.
<b>Geographical location of headquarter</b>	Physical location of the initiatives' secretariats/lead partners/focal points. Divided into the seven World Bank regional divisions (World Bank 2021). If an initiative does not only have one location it will be marked as Multiple Regions or Global
<b>Geographical focus</b>	Geographical regional focus of the initiatives' operations. Divided into the seven World Bank regional divisions (World Bank 2021). An initiative focusing on more than one but not all regions will be marked as Multiple Regions. An initiative that focuses on countries in all regions will be marked as Global.
<b>Thematic areas</b>	The focus area(s) of the initiatives' operations. One initiative can engage in more than one thematic area. Divided into the Marrakesh Partnership's seven thematic and two cross-cutting areas (UNFCCC 2021).
<b>Issue areas</b>	Issues that an initiative governs within the thematic areas they engage in.
<b>Functions</b>	' <i>Standards &amp; Commitments</i> ' refer to rule-making and implementation schemes and comprise mandatory compliance, standards for measurement and disclosure of activities, and voluntary. ' <i>Operational schemes</i> ' focus on, for example, technology research and development, pilot projects, demonstration and deployment activities, skills enhancement, and best practice dissemination (which may require some incidental standard-setting). ' <i>Financing</i> ' is a specific type of operational activity. Finally, forums for ' <i>Information-sharing &amp; Networking</i> ' provide technical consulting, training, and information services to build capacity, share knowledge, and support local government. One initiative can have more than one function.

<b>Availability of progress tracking</b>	Whether an initiative tracks their progress at any stage of their operation. Progress reporting includes various formats, including e.g. live reporting of data, annual reports, progress reports etc.
<b>Participating actors</b>	Name, type and geographic headquarter (World Bank regional divisions) of all current lead partners, participants and funders of an initiative.

*Table 1. Overview of variables*

Four, the data collected in step 3 were analysed using descriptive statistics and visualized in various infographics.

## 2.2. Phase 2: Analysis and recommendation for prioritizing international climate initiatives

The purpose of phase 2 was to provide a detailed analysis of the success factors behind individual initiatives and what the European Commission could do to facilitate impact in existing and new initiatives. More specifically, phase 2 answers to the objectives:

- To identify design features that make some of the initiatives succeed in building large memberships, getting a strong ownership from their members and succeed in reaching their goals;
- To identify particular initiatives in which the EU may have a stronger interest and added-value; and,
- To identify particular initiatives that have a strong potential to promote a positive narrative around the opportunity of climate action in the context of economic recovery and the global progress towards the Paris Agreement objectives.

Phase 2 was carried out in three steps.

1. Short-list case-study initiatives
2. Gather and analyze additional data, including interviews, for the case-study initiatives
3. Identify governance gaps among existing initiatives with a view to recommend new areas where initiatives could be started.

First, a short-list of 20 initiatives was provided by the European Commission - DG CLIMA - at an interim meeting on 4 February 2021, and an additional 2 initiatives were added on March 30th 2021, totalling 22 initiatives selected for further analysis.

Second, the study-team gathered additional data on the 22 case-studies and carried out interviews with executives of 14 of the initiatives. The interviews

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followed a semi-structured questionnaire around the background and history of the initiative, the current performance and evaluation criteria of the initiatives, and finally, the possible role of the European Commission in supporting the initiative. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, all interviews were carried out via Zoom and audio recorded.

Third, a gap analysis was carried out aiming at providing an overview whether there are gaps where cooperative initiatives could usefully make a contribution to fighting climate change (blind spots). For the analysis, a sectoral approach was applied. In doing so, we organised and analysed the material and data on cooperative initiatives according to thematic sectors as in the Global Climate Action analysis of the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action and its Global Climate Action Pathways. These sectors are:

- Energy supply (ES)
- Buildings (B)
- Energy Intensive Industries (EIT)
- Land Transport (LT)
- Land Use (LU)
- Oceans and Coastal Zones (OCZ)
- Water (W)
- Finance (F)

The gap analysis consisted in the following steps:

- Survey of available knowledge on opportunities and barriers in the different sectors.
- Survey of existing proposals on how international cooperation could help exploit opportunities and overcome challenges.
- Output: a list of co-operation options per function (standards and commitments, operational and financing, information and networking) in each sector.

The data used for the gap analysis included:

- The longlist of 344 existing cooperative initiatives discussed at the interim project meeting on February 4th 2021.
- The shortlist of 22 existing cooperative initiatives finally decided at the interim project meeting on April 14th 2021.
- The original dataset was complemented by sector data differentiated according to the list of co-operation options. The quantitative dataset was prepared by IVM (excel-file “dataset gap analysis”).

Output of the gap analysis:

- An aggregate quantitative analysis of whether these options are already being pursued by existing initiatives (longlist and shortlist, see Annex C).
  - A list per sector which initiatives of the longlist could cover gaps (sector functions that are not covered by shortlisted initiatives, see Annex D).
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### 3. The expanding ecosystem of international climate initiatives and coalitions

This report identifies 344 initiatives and coalitions created to support climate change mitigation and/or adaptation. The initiatives and coalitions form an ecosystem emerging from the ‘bottom-up’ without a ‘top-down’ coordinator. The initiatives and coalitions form their own niches but also overlap in membership (actors being part of several initiatives), thematic focus (several initiatives focusing on similar sectors and geographic areas), and function (carrying out the same type of activities). The coming sections describe the ecosystem of initiatives in terms of emergence, membership, thematic focus, governance function and progress monitoring.

#### 3.1. The expanding ecosystem of initiatives

New initiatives are continuously started and existing initiatives are being rebranded. Over the past 20 years, data suggest that there is a strong upward trend in new initiatives being started (e.g. Bulkeley et al, 2014; Widerberg and Strippel; Hsu et al., 2018). It is clear that **the overall trend is an increase in new initiatives being started each year, resulting in an expanding institutional ecosystem**. After a drop in new initiatives in 2016, new international climate initiatives were initiated throughout 2017 to 2019. With 14 % or 48 initiatives being started before 2011 (see figure 2);



Figure 2. Year of initiation

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**Initiatives are often launched around focus events such as milestone COPs, high profile climate action meetings, and other major multilateral environmental summits.** In the dataset, most initiatives were launched in the year leading up to, or in conjunction with COP21, in 2015, demonstrating the watershed moment the Paris COP played in triggering the expansion of the ecosystem of initiatives. Consequently, milestone events are important for creating momentum around new commitments and initiatives. The years leading up to COPs and other major environmental summits are conducive for creating a momentum for party and non-Party stakeholders to engage in coalition building. The COPs provide a stage for new initiatives and commitments to gain publicity, often garnering international media attention. Other high-profile events, such as the Secretary General's UN Climate Action Summits (e.g. in 2014 and 2019) also serve as launching pads for new initiatives (see Chan et al, 2018).

The coming sections provide a detailed overview of the 344 international climate initiatives and coalitions. The section describes the main policy focus areas for the initiatives, their location of headquarters, working areas, functions, and actors engaging in the initiatives.

### 3.2. The geography of initiatives: Bias toward the Global North

**Headquarters of initiatives are generally located in the Global North** (see figure 3). Close to half of the initiatives (42 %) have their secretariat or headquarters based in Europe, followed by North America (20 %) being the second most common region. Furthermore, around a fifth of the initiatives have lead partners or secretariats that operate globally or in multiple regions. All initiatives with a global lead organisation/location also apply their aims and operations globally. The least number of secretariats are placed in North Africa and the Middle East (1 %), Central Asia (0.9 %) and South Asia (0.5 %). **Participation in the initiatives - in terms of geographical location of actors - is also skewed towards Europe followed by North America.**<sup>7</sup> The largest representation of actor types is sub-national governments (e.g cities, counties, regions). Thereafter, national governments and investors are the most common leads, participants and funders of the initiatives.

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<sup>7</sup> Note: Based on data from approximately 50 % of all 334 initiatives. Another word of caution, the data is highly skewed towards a few initiatives with large numbers of actors that currently affect the totality of the numbers (e.g. Covenant of Mayors).

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Figure 3. Geographic location of headquarters or focal points

Despite the bias and HQ and participants to the Global North, **the majority of initiatives (65 %) operate on a global scale**, which means that their work is aimed at or takes place in at least one country in each World Bank region. The approximately 200 initiatives with a global focus form a highly heterogeneous group. They range from small industry specific initiatives with few members (e.g. Taxi4SmartCities) to larger business initiatives (e.g. SME Climate Hub, We Mean Business) and initiatives for sub-state climate action (e.g. Under2 Coalition, Global Covenant of Mayors). Global operations have different meanings and impacts depending on the nature and functions of an initiative. Consequently, for some initiatives global operations translate into creating and maintaining a network and exchange of information on a global scale, with commitments from actors from multiple countries and regions. For others, such as adaptation initiatives with an operational function it means realising implementation of physical projects in more than one country through collaborations between the initiative staff and local stakeholders (e.g. Adapt' Action). A fifth of the initiatives (20 %) operate in at least one country in more than one region, but not globally. Less than a fifth of the initiatives limit their operations to only one region. Among these initiatives most of them work with climate mitigation and adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa, followed by Europe and Central Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. **Least focus is directed towards South Asia, North America and North Africa and the Middle East.**

### 3.3. Thematic focus: Mitigation, energy and information sharing

**Initiatives are primarily mitigation focused (42.7 %, n = 147)** or engaging in both mitigation and adaptation (32.3 %, n = 111). The smallest proportion consists of initiatives that mainly focus on climate adaptation (25 %, n = 86). Adaptation and resilience are becoming a more popular focus in terms of new initiatives being started, however. It is also sometimes challenging to identify initiatives working on adaptation since they cover a broad range of topics, often related to changes in precipitation and natural disasters (e.g. drought and flood protection). For instance, initiatives working on promoting nature based solutions may have an indirect impact on climate adaptation, but are less likely to figure in databases that are relevant for climate initiatives and coalitions, as understood in this study.

Most initiatives work on **Energy, Resilience (cross-cutting) and Industry**, whereas **Transport, Water and Oceans and Coastal Zones are the least popular** (see figure 4).<sup>8</sup> There is an almost equal distribution of initiatives that solely focus on one thematic area (47.7 %, n = 164) and initiatives that engage in more than one thematic area (52.3 %, n = 180) of which most engage in two, three or four thematic areas; only 20 initiatives engage in more than four thematic areas.

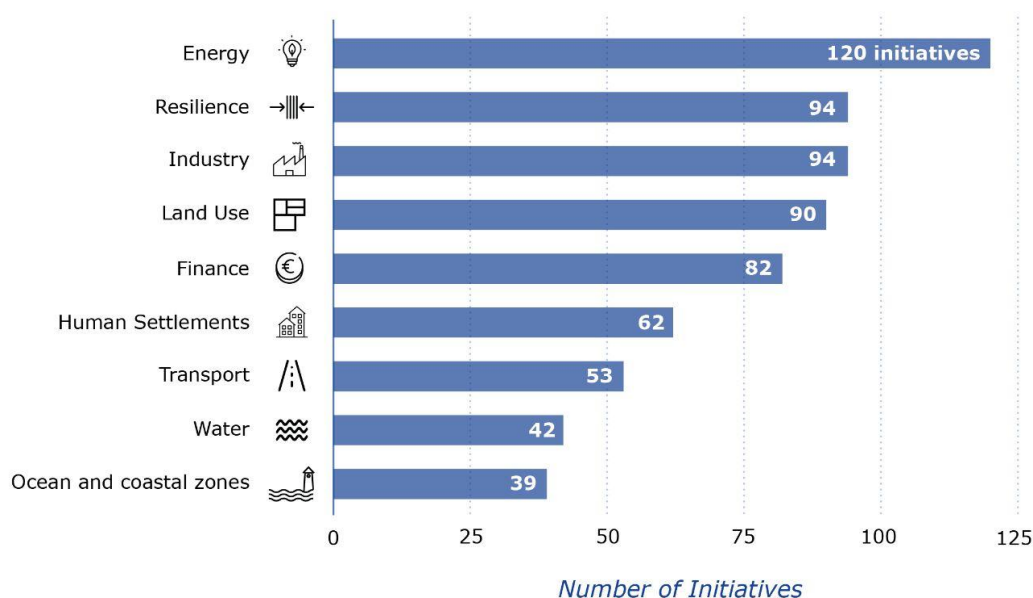


Figure 4. Number of initiatives per thematic area.

<sup>8</sup> The categorization of initiatives is made according to the Marrakech Partnership's seven thematic areas and two cross-cutting areas.



Comparing which initiatives in terms of mitigation and/or adaptation focus that work on which thematic areas, demonstrates that **energy and industry related initiatives are primarily concerned with mitigating climate change whereas Water and coastal zones are primarily focused on adaptation.** Initiatives working on both mitigation and adaptation are primarily concerned with land-use, finance and human settlements (see figure 5).

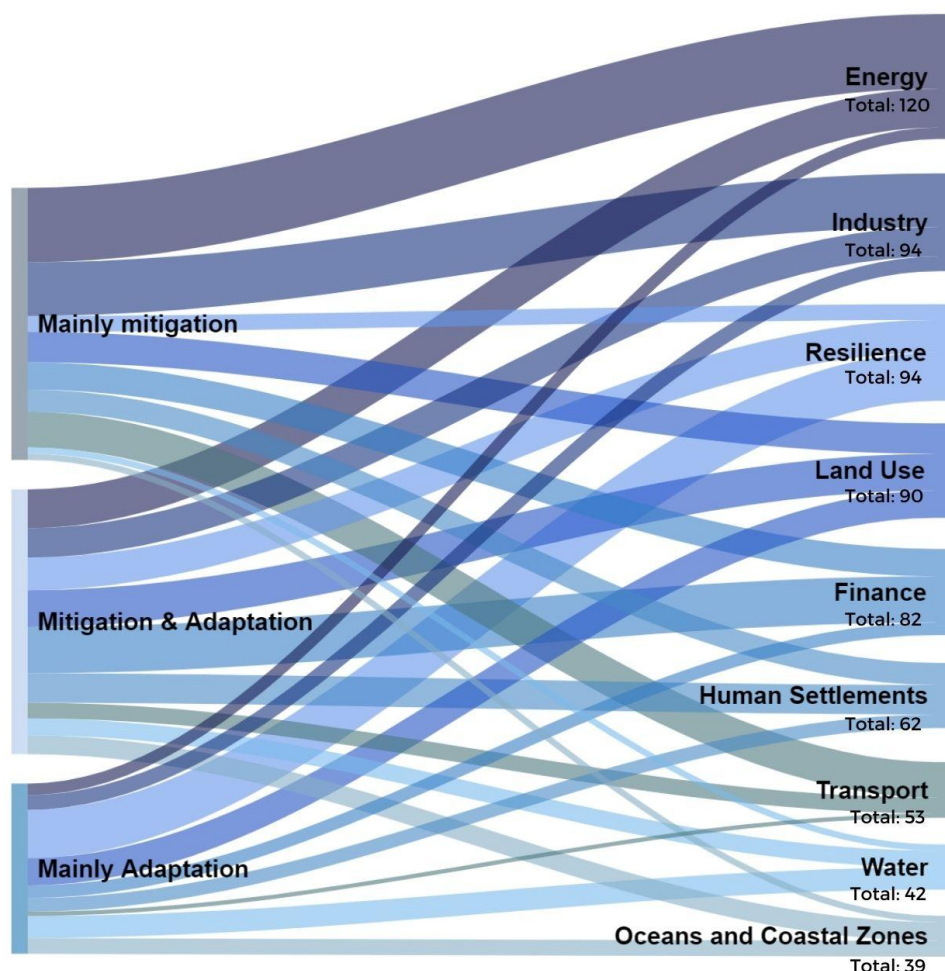


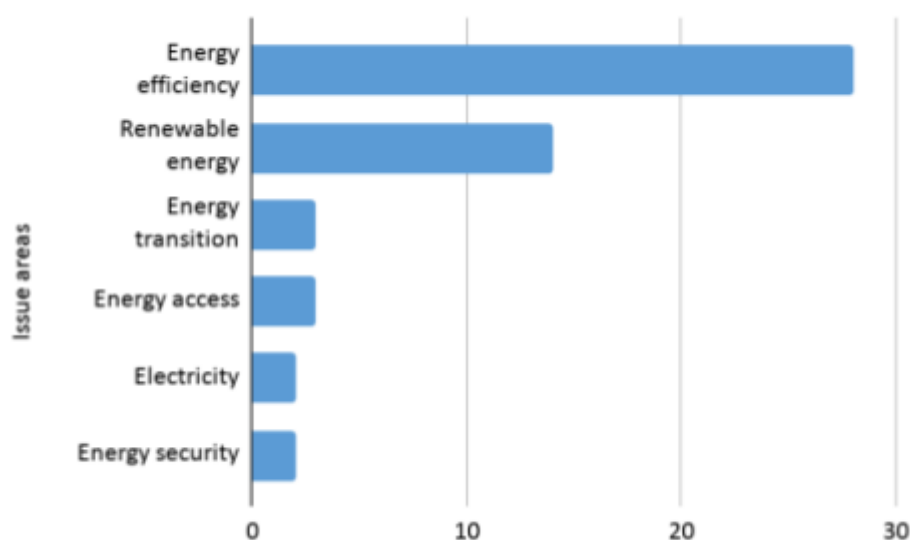
Figure 5. Thematic focus for mitigation and/or adaptation focused initiatives

In this report, few initiatives appear to focus on “Water” and “Oceans and Coastal Zones”, despite thousands of initiatives and commitments being announced during the annual ‘Our Ocean’ and UN Ocean Conferences. The results may be explained by the strict selection criteria used for the report, in which the mission statements of the initiatives need to contain the term “climate change” (see section 3). **It is likely that many more initiatives exist working on issues that are indirectly related to climate change** such as biodiversity, nature-based solutions, fisheries and aquaculture.

### A CLOSER LOOK

#### Thematic area: Energy

An automated text analysis of the initiatives' mission statements shows that climate initiatives are working more with some aspects of the Energy sector than others. Energy efficiency and renewable energy are the most common issue areas. Initiatives are presenting their missions in a context of an energy transition. In addition, initiatives also engage in energy security and energy access.



In terms of functions, i.e. what instruments the initiatives use to induce change, **more than half of the initiatives (n = 254) provide or enable information and networking of different sorts and at different scales**, around a third of them have either an operational function (150 initiatives), set standards and commitments (132) or have a financing function (104).



Figure 6. Number of initiatives per function

**The majority of the initiatives have more than one function.** Among this majority most have two functions (148 initiatives), three (62 initiatives) or a maximum of four different functions (8 initiatives). There are variations in the distribution of governance functions across mitigation, adaptation or adaptation and mitigation focused initiatives. Information & Networking is the most common function across all policy focus areas. The Operational function is the second most common except for initiatives that focus mainly on mitigation. Instead, these initiatives adopt the function of Standards & Commitments more often than they provide operational services, which is the opposite of climate adaptation initiatives. Financing as a function differs across all three categories of initiatives. It is by far the least common function in climate mitigation initiatives whereas adaptation initiatives provide financing services more often than setting standards and accumulating commitment. Initiatives that engage in both mitigation and adaptation provide a financing function equally much as a Standards & Commitments function.

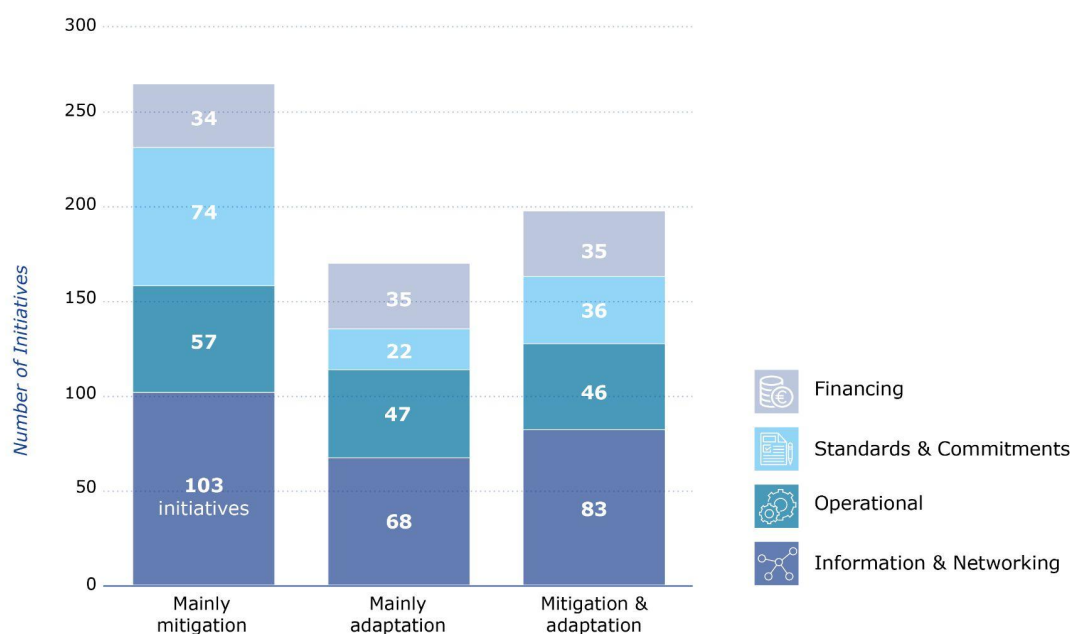


Figure 7. Initiatives divided by main policy focus and function

With this information at hand, it is also possible to illustrate which functions initiatives have in the different thematic areas. This information can serve as a relevant indicator for analysing each thematic area and governance gaps more closely, as it illuminates whether certain functions are less present than others. It can also indicate whether certain functions that are expected to be present are in reality absent.

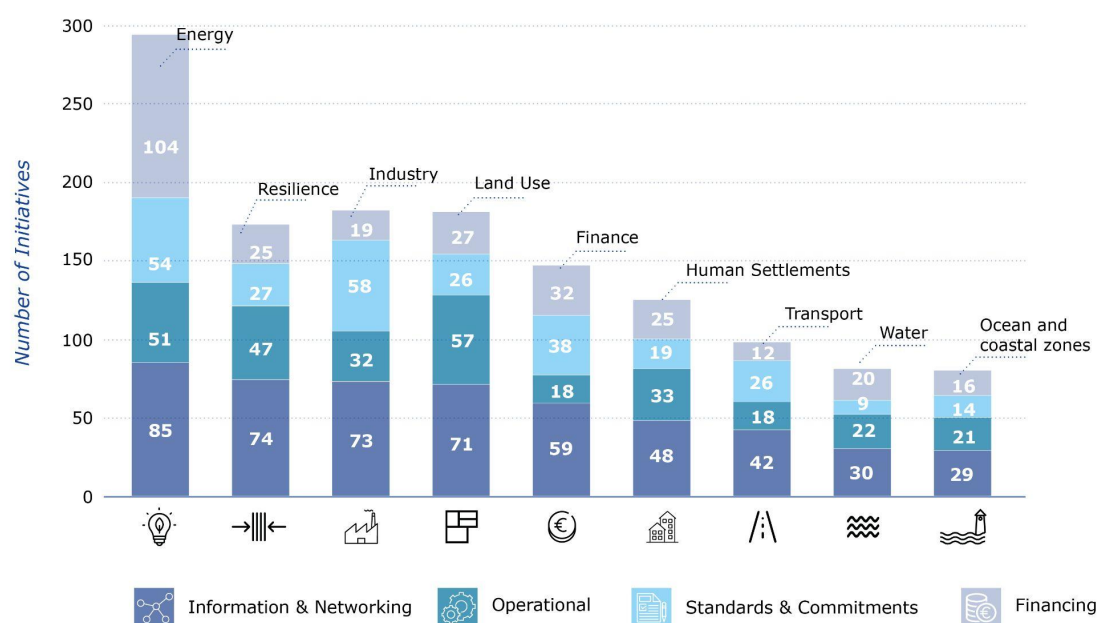


Figure 8. Initiatives divided by initiatives divided by thematic area and function

### 3.4. Tracking progress

Assessing whether the 344 initiatives all live up to their expectations is beyond the scope of this study, instead we looked at to what extent they report on progress publicly, i.e. publish progress reports (e.g. annual reports) on their homepages and the level of reporting that is being made with regard to input, output, outcome or impact level. Our data suggest that over half of the 344 initiatives and coalitions track their progress and publish their results. While some produce annual reports with sections and evaluation criteria dedicated to track and scrutinize their achievements on multiple levels, others revise their efforts less frequently and with less directly available and consistent methods and materials. As illustrated below, half of the 344 initiatives report on input (e.g. monetary or human resources), while the output, outcome and impact of the initiatives' operations receive less attention and space in the progress reporting.

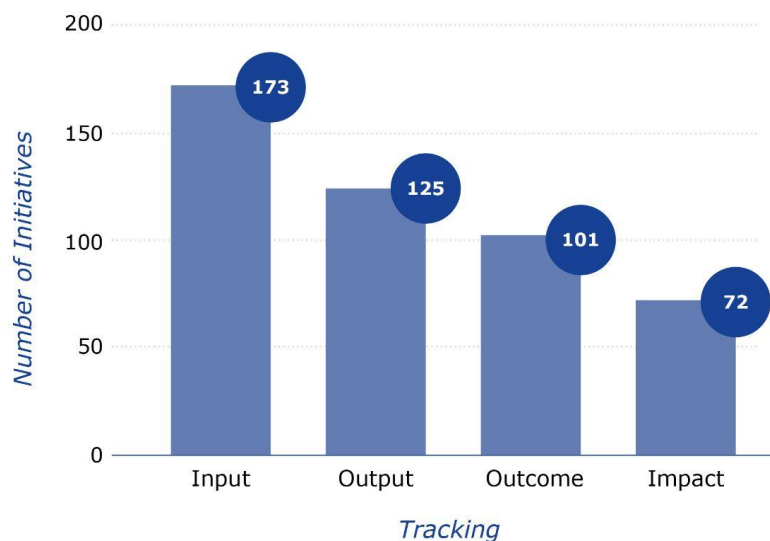


Figure 9. Progress reporting in initiatives

### 3.5. Summary

The data suggest that a “typical” initiative was initiated around a major COP (e.g. Copenhagen or Paris), is headquartered in Europe, focuses on mitigation and energy, using networking and knowledge creation/dissemination as key change mechanisms. The majority of initiatives target multiple regions or have a global focus. On the other side of the spectrum the analysis finds that few initiatives focus on adaptation related themes such as water, and ocean and coastal zones. A small percentage have their headquarters in places other than Europe or North America and specifically target Asia, Africa and Latin America.

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## 4. Case-studies

To provide a more fine grained analysis of the ecosystem of initiatives, the following section presents the findings from 22 case-studies. The section focuses on the functioning and performance of initiatives, and what possible roles the European Commission could play in supporting them. A factsheet has been written for each case-study that can be found in annex F.

### 4.1. Case-study overview

The case-studies have been selected in close collaboration with the European Commission. They cover a wide range of mitigation and adaptation focused initiatives with HQ location, starting year and thematic focus that largely reflect the overall population of initiatives. Table 2 provides a helicopter view of all case-studies.

Initiative	Launch year	HQ location	Description
2050 Pathways Platform	2016	Paris, France	Aims to realise national long-term low GHG emission strategies to facilitate Article 4(19) of the Paris Agreement. Key activities include technical assistance, funding, coordination of expert advice and communication.
4 per 1000 Soils for Food Security and Climate	2015	Montpellier, France	Provides an established commitment towards climate change mitigation and food security through improved agricultural practices and soil sequestration.
Africa Renewable Energy Initiative	2015	Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire	Africa-owned and Africa-led initiative aiming to harness the continent's potential in accelerating and scaling up the use and production of renewable energy through capacity building, facilitation of partnerships and project development.
Biofuture platform	2016	Brasilia, Brazil	Accelerates development and deployment of modern sustainable low carbon alternatives to fossil fuels in e.g. the transport and chemicals sectors. Promotes international collaboration and facilitates information sharing and dialogue.
Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation	2016	Montreal, Canada	An international scheme to reduce and offset GHG emissions in the aviation sector, to facilitate achievement of the Paris Agreement. Currently in a pilot phase with voluntary national commitments.

Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition	2015	Washington DC, US	A multi-stakeholder initiative that promotes the use of carbon pricing in the public and private sector globally through fostering stakeholder engagement and producing and communicating knowledge.
Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum	2003	Washington DC, US	Facilitates implementation of CCS technologies. Involved in development of strategies, policy recommendations and dissemination of knowledge on best practice for implementation of CCS and new technologies.
Clean Climate & Air Coalition	2012	Paris, France	Established to enhance and catalyze action to reduce GHG emissions. Performs operational activities, training and institutional strengthening, develops resources and tools, engages in political outreach and awareness-raising campaigns.
Clean Energy Ministerial	2009	Paris, France	Aims to engage major economies and ministers in a high-level global forum to promote policies and programs advancing clean energy technologies. Facilitates a high-level policy dialogue, public-private cooperation and action-driven campaigns to expand access to knowledge and tools.
Climate Disclosure Standards Board	2007	London, UK	Aims to implement mandatory climate accounting and mainstream business practice globally. Provides companies and policymakers with tools and technical expertise to implement climate-related financial disclosure and create robust policies.
Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action	2018	Washington DC, US	Gathers fiscal and economic policymakers to promote cohesion between domestic and global climate action and finance, enhance ambitions, reaffirm commitments, and accelerate actions to implement the Paris Agreement.
Global Commission on Adaptation	2018	Rotterdam, The Netherlands	Gathers national governments to accelerate adaptation by elevating the political visibility of adaptation and generating concrete solutions.
Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy	2016	Brussels, Belgium	A product of the merger between Compact of Mayors and the EU Covenant of Mayors. The initiative focuses on climate mitigation in cities and promotes regional to global coordination and coherence of commitments and practices.
InsuResilience Global Partnership	2015	Bonn, Germany	Aims to gather stakeholders and partner groups to establish a common vision and combined efforts for Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance.



International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy	2003	Canada	Aims to accelerate the development, deployment and use of hydrogen across the economy by connecting stakeholders, facilitating discussions, information-sharing and communication on hydrogen use.
International Platform on Sustainable Finance	2019	Brussels, Belgium	Aims to scale up the mobilization of private capital for environmentally sustainable finance worldwide and to promote integrated markets for that finance sector. Engages in knowledge production, information sharing and identifying how to scale up practices globally.
International Solar Alliance	2015	Gurugram, India	Aims to increase the use and quality of solar energy in a safe, convenient, affordable, equitable and sustainable manner. Facilitates development of coordinated strategies and research and development to advance technologies.
Leadership Group for Industry Transition	2019	Stockholm, Sweden	The initiative focuses on mitigation in industry sectors that are especially difficult to mitigate emission in. It gathers industry leaders to enhance cooperation, discussion and sharing of best practice.
Mission Innovation	2015	London, UK	A member-driven bottom-up initiative that mobilizes financial and political support to realize the transition away from fossil fuel use. It operates on a continuum of innovation and deployment of clean energy technologies and facilitates cooperation and information-sharing.
NAP Global Network	2014	Ottawa, Canada	The initiative aims to accelerate the implementation and advancement of national adaptation plans by offering short-term and long-term support to countries. It engages in peer learning and exchange, provides financial and technical support and provides knowledge on the issue.
NDC Partnership	2016	Washington DC, US	The initiative aims to mobilize support for implementation of Nationally Determined Contribution and enhancement of these over time through a demand-based model, and coordinates cooperation and support between countries.
Under2 Coalition	2015	London, UK	The initiative aims to assist sub-national states and regions in developing change in key systems (e.g. transport and built environment) and help realize long-term decarbonization pathways. It provides a commitment framework, technical support and knowledge sharing.

Table 2. Overview of 22 initiatives selected as case-studies

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The majority of the initiatives were initiated around a major COP (primarily COP21) and are directly linked to the Paris Agreement by focusing on a specific Article (of the Paris Agreement) or from being launched by a multilateral or transnational commitment made within the scope of the Agreement. All initiatives are currently active except the Global Commission on Adaptation that ended its operations in 2020. All initiatives also have a global focus of operations except the African Renewable Energy Initiative who only operates in the African Regions. In that respect, the case-studies and more specifically the African Renewable Energy Initiative well reflect how climate initiatives with its basis in or that have been launched in the Global South are underrepresented.

#### 4.2. Explaining the emergence of new initiatives

The background story of each case-study reveals the lack of a central coordinating authority steering the ecosystem of initiatives. **Often initiatives are started by partners motivated by a perceived “governance gap”** in the existing institutional system and the Paris Agreement. The initiative 4 per 1000 Soils For Food Security And Climate (4 per 1000), for example, addresses the lack of reference to agriculture and the potential role for carbon sequestration in soils to contribute to mitigation. Similarly, the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) began as an attempt to address emissions from international air travel, currently falling outside the scope of many emission trading schemes and the Paris Agreement. Another common reason for starting initiatives is to focus on specific implementation issues such as promoting a technology (e.g. carbon capture and sequestration or hydrogen) or policy instruments (low-emission pathways or disclosure-based schemes).

The case-studies clearly demonstrate the ‘bottom-up’ forces that shape the structure of the system. **Initiatives continuously merge and realign by merging parts of their own operations with other initiatives in the same issue area.** The Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), for example, is a merger between the European Union’s Covenant of Mayors and the Compact of Mayors, forming a global alliance for urban climate action. Initiatives also pool their resources in terms of activities, as for instance in the case of the The Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum (CSLF) ministerial group who has joined the activities of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM). Initiatives working in the same issue area, e.g. initiatives working on cross-cutting adaptation measures, collaborate to catalyze and implement action effectively, to assist each other and to communicate and thereby reduce overlap.

Some **initiatives are explicitly designed to make themselves redundant.** The 2050 Pathways Platform, for example, aims to have some of their activities taken over by their members (countries). The aim of this is to share the burden associated with implementing measures globally and scale up activities by using existing structures and resources rather than growing the 2050 Pathways

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Platform into a governing body that already exists. Similarly, the initiative 4 per 1000 prefers to see that activities are developed by actors directly rather than accepting further funding to increase its own budget. Another example is the Leadership for Industry Transition (LeadIT), who explicitly aims to not last forever but rather to create momentum and initiate a critical mass of commitments to establish a foundation for change.

The dynamism is also identified through the various commitments and activities that the initiatives perform. Although the 22 initiatives are at different stages on their paths to realising their individual targets as well as the global ambition, **there is evidence of progress and a strong constant drive forward in the rising ambition levels and strengthening of strategies** to realise their commitments. Accelerated action is for example identified among some of the initiatives that emerged with the objective to formulate and mobilize commitments. These are now redirecting their focus towards assisting development of applicable action to achieve these. Instead of pronouncing definitions of ambition level, this requires initiatives and their members to specify how and when activities will take place, identify the stakeholders responsible for implementing these and establishing mechanisms to hold them accountable. This shift in governance and narrative holds true both for adaptation and mitigation initiatives, across the different climate pathways areas and by initiatives working with both public, private and civil society stakeholders.

**The COPs and other high-level meetings** - in particular milestone meetings such as COP21, COP26, UN Secretary General's Climate Summits or Climate Week - **provide important signaling functions and initiatives an extra incentive for amping up their efforts**. For example, several initiatives among the case-studies aim to increase their member count or secure an increased amount of (or acquire more long-term) funding in their upcoming plans for COP26. Also leading up to COP26, multiple initiatives aim to **produce and share research that facilitate a better understanding of a whole issue area**, e.g. by identifying both governance and research gaps. For example, the InsuResilience Global Partnership is currently preparing an *Evidence Roadmap* that will be launched leading up to COP26, which will highlight key current research gaps and questions still remaining in the field of Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance and a five-year plan on how to close those. The roadmap will show evidence of how actors contribute to governing climate resilience and provide a tool for an extensive mapping of global efforts.

In sum, despite the lack of a coordinating authority, **the initiatives appear to rally around important high-level meetings** organized under the auspices of the UNFCCC, other UN bodies, or, for example, administrations of large countries such as France or the US. The case-studies thus suggest a changing role for international meetings - including the UNFCCC COPs - as more than

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spaces for multilateral negotiation between parties for the Convention. The meetings serve as important focusing events for showcasing new commitment and actions, creating and maintaining a positive momentum around climate mitigation and adaptation.

### 4.3. Resources: Finance, people, skills and monitoring

Financial, human, and organizational resources are a recurring point for attention in the case-studies - especially in terms of increasing effectiveness and generating more impact. Regarding finances, **most of the initiatives have stable and sustained funding streams** in the case-studies received from international development banks, national government funding, member donations or membership fees, and revenue from activities. Maintaining the level of funding is critical to ensure that the initiatives can continue their operations. **Increased funding was by some initiatives** highlighted as **an enabling factor for expansion in terms of memberships and geography** as well as outreach activities. Such scaling would in turn generate larger impact (e.g. the GCoM and the Under2 Coalition). For some initiatives, also the individual members experience funding problems. For instance, financial resources being a barrier for increased climate action also holds true for cities' climate action and GCoM acknowledges that there is a gap in city climate finance. As GCoM does not have the role or responsibility to fill this on its own, further climate action at city level is dependent on the cities complementing existing funding with their own contributions.

Other types of more indirect financial barriers to successful implementation were highlighted by initiatives active in the African region, where **countries have difficulties attracting investors that would provide the financial support that is necessary to realise the ongoing energy transition**. Countries from multiple regions of Africa currently are associated with elevated economic risk and instability - especially the individual national markets that often constitute small economies with little diversity. For such regions, more sustained efforts are needed to promote climate mitigation and adaptation through the initiative. For example, the NAP Global Network assisting the adoption and implementation of national adaptation plans is at a stage where it needs to secure a new long-term donor in order to establish long-term working programs. The long-term funding and programs enable different opportunities than short-term projects and is especially important to secure stability when entering tedious negotiations and relationship-building processes.

**Human resources can also be a hindering factor for expanding an initiative's activities**. For examples, scaling up practices for sub-national climate action on a global scale (e.g. the work of the Under2 Coalition), and more specifically distributing these to sub-national regions and states from all regions of the world, has proven **difficult due to differences in ethnicities, economies and languages**. Overcoming this challenge requires more

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resources such as staff with the right competencies and language skills, in order to enable effective and impactful outreach (e.g. communication with local relevant stakeholders) and assistance. In turn, this type of resource requires monetary support. A similar challenge is present in the field of climate and environmental disclosure and accounting, described by the Carbon Disclosure Standards Board as a relatively new issue area that entails a row of new activities and procedures. Within this field it has proven **challenging to find personnel with the right skillset, understanding and expertise to approach and execute the task**. This is also highly relevant in the cooperation between these initiatives and the EU, where people with the right skill-set need to be part of the dialogues and decision-making on the issue.

**Expansion in terms of membership also presents new challenges for an initiative to provide actionable advice to its members.** For example, for international initiatives working with climate action on a local level (e.g. GCoM), there is the challenge of **translating action to the local level**, what we call **‘scaling barriers’**. Scaling barriers are likely to grow in relation to the size of the initiative. Best practices developed from a set of demonstrating cities, for instance, cannot be directly amplified and absorbed to thousands of cities on a global scale. The initiative’s global impact is thus dependent on its outreach efforts, coordination of resources and peer learning practices. This is especially relevant as city stakeholders are not always aware of the opportunities and the support that is available to them. Continuous efforts to overcome the scaling barriers are necessary to increase the initiative’s impact and ultimately implement cities’ climate action plans. **Global scaling also requires the initiative to consider, balance and accommodate different viewpoints on green strategies** (e.g. the equivalent to the EU Green Deal), and an upcoming challenge and task for GCoM is to provide not only a climate perspective but also a green COVID recovery perspective and integrate the meaning of quality of life and regional economic growth into climate strategies.

The final resource challenge concerns monitoring and learning. **Most initiatives track their progress at input and output level** (in-depth descriptions of the initiatives’ progress reporting can be found in Annex F). ‘Input’ includes variables such as the number and type of members, staff and financial resources. ‘Output’ refers to the activities and products that are produced by the initiative (e.g. meetings, reports, workshops). Very few initiatives measure and report their progress at outcome level and impact level in terms of social, political and economic responses to the initiatives’ activities. However, **the initiatives have different definitions of “impact”**; while some define impact in terms of website visitors and report downloads, others track members’ commitments or the scope of changes in policies. Monitoring and reporting poses a challenge as it requires time, resources, and a consistent, well-defined and effective measurement tool to gather and evaluate data. This is seen, for example, in the monitoring practices of LeadIT, which has the ambition to track the long-term industry roadmaps at a more detailed level but

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does not have sufficient time or resources. The heterogeneity of definitions in impact and progress translates into barriers to aggregate results from the initiatives, also in some cases due to a lack of common monitoring and reporting tools and guidelines at the global level (see also Hale et al, 2021).

#### 4.4. Unleashing the latent potential within initiatives

Growing in terms of membership and activities were long the main goal for most initiatives. However, a recurring theme in the interviews held was the potential for activating more of the existing membership base and **the level of active engagement varies substantially among members**. Often the effectiveness of the initiative depends on the activities, resources and donations from a few core members. While some initiatives have very active members with high ambition, others have members with large commitments but with little engagement. This hinders the initiatives' progress to different extents, as some are more dependent on their members' active contributions than others. A trade-off then exists between choosing to gain new members to compensate for the lack of engagement, or to keep the size of the initiative and continue to try to activate members.

LeadIT, who currently has very active members consisting of leaders in various industry sectors, faces a trade-off going forward between keeping a small and very active group with high ambitions or engaging more stakeholders that are crucial for further industry transformation but might have lower ambition or capacities and thereby potentially could hamper the initiative's progress and the development of sector-specific advancements. Similarly, the AREI has received high engagement from the Heads of African states that together lead the initiative, which has been a key component behind its success. In contrast, Mission Innovation has experienced a decline in the intensity of members' participation over time. It will handle this development by relaunching its commitments and activities in the context of COP26 in order to maintain its momentum and the members' efforts.

**For global initiatives there is also a risk of overstretch.** For those intervening in multiple regions it is challenging to be present in the various relevant regions and countries that need to accelerate and implement mitigation and adaptation measures. Thus, **there is a constant trade-off and search for balance between deep integration of work in a small set of countries or a wider approach to a larger number of countries**. To overcome this challenge it is relevant to identify and make use of how initiatives complement each other on a global scale to effectivize future work and avoid overlap among different initiatives.

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## 5. Gap Analysis

The 344 cooperative initiatives cover extensively all sectors and functions. The following figure shows the coverage of each sector:

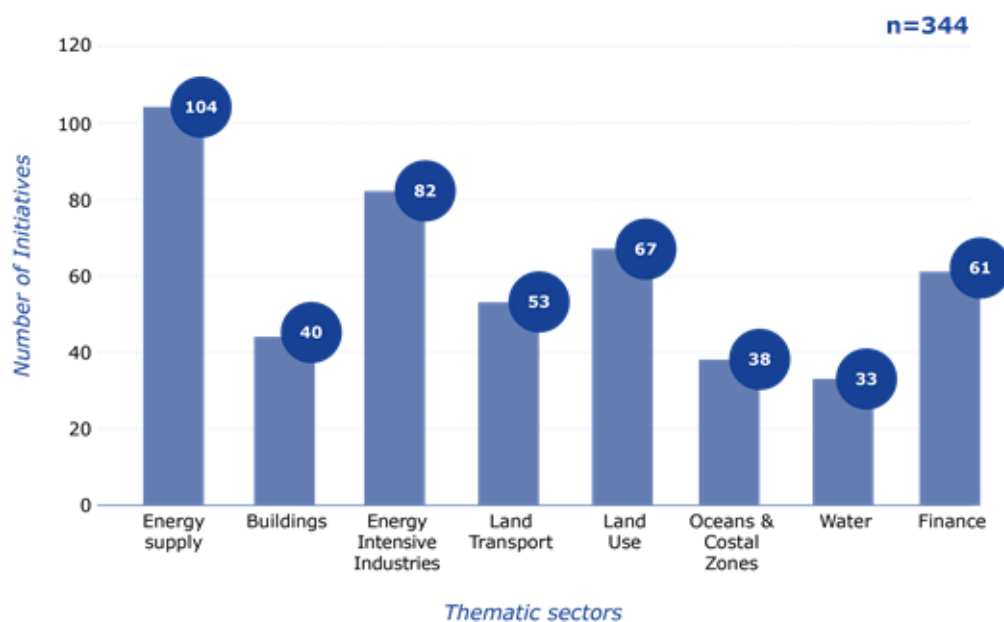


Figure 10. Coverage of initiatives per sector

At this level of analysis, there are no apparent gaps in the coverage of existing initiatives that would need to be closed by creation of new initiatives. However, it needs to be emphasised that this is only an aggregate quantitative analysis. As noted in the previous section, the question to what extent existing initiatives are actually effective in promoting cooperation is beyond the scope of this study.

The 22 case study initiatives (see section 4) shows that several initiatives have a broad sector coverage. SAPI\_NDC (Support for Adaptation Planning and Implementation through the NDC Partnership in Collaboration with NAP Global Network) has a comprehensive focus on all 8 sectors. GCM (Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy) and the U2C (Under 2 Coalition) focus on 5 and 4 sectors respectively (see in detail Annex E), the others are more specifically focused.

Diving a bit deeper into sectors shows:

- The 344 initiatives cover all functions in the energy supply and finance sectors.

- For the other 7 sectors, not all sub-functions are covered by the shortlisted initiatives (see figure below for details).
- Most gaps can be found regarding the sectors oceans and coastal zones (5 gaps) and water (4 gaps).

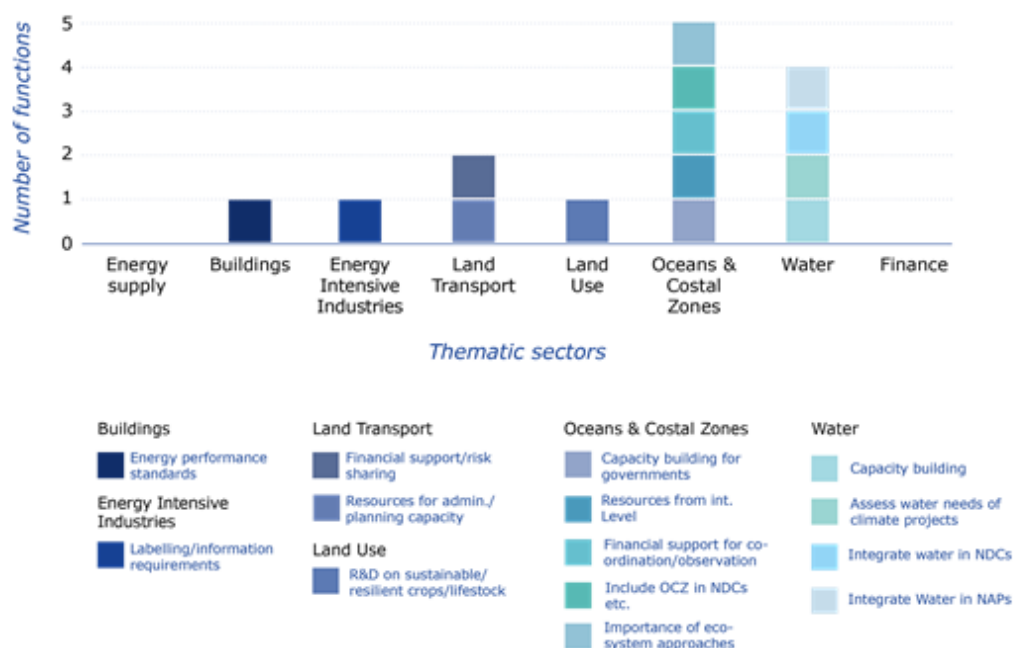


Figure 11. Coverage of functions per thematic sector

However, all of these missing functions are covered by other initiatives on the longlist. If specific functions become priority topics, relevant initiatives can be found in the longlist. For example, two functions under Land Transport are not covered by the shortlist initiatives. But looking at the longlist, 22 initiatives address the Land Transport function “Financial support and risk-sharing mechanisms for capital-intensive investments” and 29 initiatives address the Land Transport function “Provision of resources for administrative and planning capacity”. Moreover, 18 initiatives from the longlist of 344 initiatives address both functions (see list on the right side in Annex E).

### 5.1. Alignment with EU Climate and Energy Diplomacy Priorities

Finally, we analysed to what extent the shortlist of initiatives matches the priorities of EU climate and energy diplomacy, as most recently laid down in the January 2021 *Council conclusions on Climate and Energy Diplomacy - Delivering on the external dimension of the European Green Deal*.



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According to the conclusions, the “primary goal of energy diplomacy” is to accelerate the global energy transition. The conclusions mention in particular energy efficiency, renewable energy uptake and system integration as well as hydrogen. They also highlight the need for a just transition and to address poverty. This priority is reflected in the shortlist of initiatives, no less than half of the shortlisted initiatives address the energy sector in some form. While some initiatives such as the Clean Energy Ministerial cover all sectors, others cover specific areas such as the International Solar Alliance or the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy. Regionally, the Council conclusions highlight the energy partnership with Africa, which is reflected in the selection of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative as one of the shortlisted initiatives.

One area that may require further attention is promotion of a socially just and inclusive energy transition leaving no one behind. None of the shortlisted initiatives has a particular profile in this topic, although a marginal number integrates this as one of many issues in its strategies.

Another focus area of the Council conclusions is finance. The conclusions highlight the need to increase finance volumes and transparency, and to promote sustainable finance practices and alignment of international finance with the Paris Agreement’s objectives. These priorities seem well reflected in the selection of e.g. the Climate Disclosure Standards Board and the International Platform on Sustainable Finance (which is explicitly noted in the Council conclusions) for the shortlist. The Council conclusions also highlight the need to enhance financial support for adaptation, as well as the need for synergetic approaches towards oceans and water, which is reflected in the shortlist initiatives NAPGL (National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network) and SAPI NDC (Support for Adaptation Planning and Implementation through the NDC Partnership in Collaboration with NAP Global Network).

One area that may require further attention is the call in the Commission communication to address emissions and biodiversity loss from resource extraction and processing in line with circular economy principles. The issue of biodiversity is explicitly only captured in the Biofuture platform and there is no initiative in the shortlist that has promotion of a circular economy as its focus.

## 5.2. Conclusions

The initial survey of existing literature identified 8 sectors and 80 functions (sectoral cooperation options) where cooperative initiatives’ activities could help exploit opportunities and overcome challenges. Given the high number of initiatives, the dataset mainly allows for an aggregate quantitative analysis of gaps/options that are not covered by the listed cooperative initiatives. The dataset shows a broad coverage of the 8 sectors and 80 functions by the

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longlist of 344 cooperative initiatives. At this level of analysis, there are therefore no apparent gaps in the coverage of existing initiatives that would need to be closed by creation of new initiatives. A more detailed analysis of missions, institutional structure and interests of the individual initiatives the scope of the project but would add on the assessment of the potential impact these initiatives could have.

The case study of cooperative initiatives cover all sectors and 66 of 80 functions, but 10 of 22 initiatives focus only on one sector. Most gaps were found in the sectors oceans and coastal zones and water which might become priority sectors for the EU in the light of increasing/accelerating climate change. All gaps can be covered by numerous initiatives of the longlist.

Comparing the case study initiatives with EU climate and energy diplomacy priorities shows a good coverage of priority issues. One area that may require further attention is promotion of a socially just and inclusive energy transition leaving no one behind. None of the shortlisted initiatives has a particular profile in this topic. In addition, the issue of biodiversity is explicitly only captured in the Biofuture platform and there is no initiative in the shortlist that has promotion of a circular economy as its focus.

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## 6. Recommendations

**The continuously changing and growing ecosystem of initiatives requires stakeholders, including the European Commission, to assess where and how to pursue their climate policy goals, beyond the UNFCCC.** The ecosystem opens up opportunities to cooperate with other ambitious state and non-state partners with common interests and to move faster than recalcitrant actors. The multilateral UNFCCC process provides “check-in” moments to assess progress and take stock of how the combination of initiatives (and national efforts under the NDC process) is performing vis-a-vis the medium and long-term mitigation and adaptation goals. However, as the mapping in Phase 1 of this project shows, the emergence of an ecosystem risks concentrating international and transnational mitigation and adaptation efforts, and power, to a limited set of regions and countries. Those countries, cities, companies and civil society groups with limited capacity to engage in several initiatives at the same time could be left behind, creating a “two-speed” system.

Against this backdrop, **the European Commission has played and is playing an important role as an initiator, funder, and partner of many initiatives.** This role becomes even bigger if one considers the role of individual EU members in shaping the ecosystem. During the interviews it has become clear that the heterogeneity of initiatives requires tailor-made solutions to support and enhance existing initiatives. In the fact-sheets (see annex F) a few initiative-specific suggestions have been made but the coming section highlights some of the key recommendations that have come out of the analysis, from literature and that has been made by the interviewees in the case-studies.

### 6.1. Recommendations to support the ecosystem of initiatives

The European Commission can also support initiatives at a more aggregated level. The first recommendation pertains to the generally ambitious and active role the EU takes in global climate governance. By pushing for high standards and ambitious mid-term and long-term goals, the EU puts pressure on other State and non-State actors to follow suit. It also provides a direction for companies, in particular multinational companies, regarding the direction of climate policy for the coming decades.

The second recommendation is to support the work of the Global Climate Action Agenda and the High-level champions under the UNFCCC process. Since its launch in 2014, the GCAA has become an increasingly institutionalized place for negotiated and non-negotiated outcomes and initiatives to connect. The “groundswell” of climate action - consisting of thousands of cities, regions, companies, foundations and other non-Party actors - is expected to continue to

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put pressure on world leaders to increase their national ambitious levels. The current “Race to zero” campaign<sup>9</sup> leading up to COP26, which currently engages over 708 cities, 23 regions, 2162 businesses, 127 investors, and 571 universities in pursuing a net zero emissions trajectory by 2050, exemplifies how increasingly intertwined the initiatives have become with the formal UNFCCC process.

The third recommendation is related to the GCAA and concerns the mapping, monitoring and reporting of the ecosystem of initiatives to build credibility and reduce the risk of greenwashing. Data and analytical tools for assessing the impact of initiatives are getting better but still remain at a high level of aggregation and insufficient to demonstrate a tangible and credible impact of the initiatives on reducing emissions and adapting to climate change. The European Commission could liaise with the broader analytical community, for instance the Camda community<sup>10</sup>, to contribute with data, methodological and human resources.

Although the EU continuously supports and initiates new initiatives that accommodate the GCAA, such as the recently launched International Methane Alliance Observatory (IMEO) and the Global Alliance on Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency (GACERE), a fourth recommendation is to close the gaps not covered by the current case study initiatives. In particular the sector oceans and coastal zones and the water sector are not well covered by the current case studies. In addition, while many initiatives focus on the energy sector, only a very small proportion of the shortlisted initiatives have a particular profile in the promotion of a socially just and inclusive energy transition leaving no one behind. Furthermore, biodiversity is explicitly only addressed in the Biofuture platform and there is no initiative in the shortlist that has promotion of a circular economy as its focus. The 344 contains a high number of initiatives that could help to address these issues. Biodiversity initiatives supporting the Convention on Biological Diversity often link to the UNFCCC process and the Global Climate Action Agenda. Mapping of biodiversity initiatives reveals that out of 330 initiatives focusing on biodiversity goals around 49 address climate change as one of the cross-sectoral threats (Kok et al, 2019).

## 6.2. Recommendations to support individual initiatives

For individual initiatives, the study results suggest that political signaling, information sharing, financing, and activating EU members are the most urgent aspects for consideration.

<sup>9</sup> <https://unfccc.int/climate-action/race-to-zero-campaign>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.climateworks.org/camdaforcredibleclimateaction/>

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### Political signaling

To increase the support to existing initiatives, the European Commission could consider **becoming a member, partner or observer**. Some initiatives express that the EU being a participant and thereby showing explicit support for the initiative's agenda sends a signal to key stakeholders and potential members at a global scale. This symbolism has the potential to spread awareness about the initiatives' contributions, including targets, working methods and technical and financial assistance they offer, but also the overall progress being made on a specific issue. By being a member, the Commission also functions as a liaison between initiatives and the EU priorities, engaging in knowledge sharing and agenda prioritization.

While the EU already provides this type of support to the majority of the initiatives (see Annex F, page 27), this support could, depending on the EU's availability and resources, be extended further by:

- Becoming a member of initiatives that it is not already part of, that explicitly invites the Commission to join (e.g. the 4 per 1000).
- Becoming an official endorser of initiatives where it is not, or cannot be, an official member but where the Commission is invited to become an official supporter (e.g. the Under2 Coalition).
- Continue to be an important stakeholder in existing initiatives that relies on its input (e.g. AREI).
- Further exploring the relevance of becoming an official member of initiatives that the Commission is not currently participating in (see Annex F, page 27).

### Information sharing, human resource and logistical support

A second low-cost role is to provide initiatives with access to information, people and logistical support, to enhance the operations of initiatives. For example,

- Provide dissemination support to showcase the actions of the initiatives, e.g. demonstrating climate action at city scale.
- Provide cues for how the initiatives could support achieving EU climate policy goals and priorities (e.g. CSLF, NDC Partnership).
- Use existing diplomatic networks to support and engage new countries and partners to join initiatives (e.g. for 2050 Pathways).

### Financial support

A third and important role is to provide the financial support needed to fund the core operations of initiatives. Several initiatives have enjoyed the financial support provided by the EU, which has allowed them either to initiate, continue or expand their operations. Based on the expression by and assessment of the 22 initiatives, the European Commission could continue this support by:

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- Reviewing its current financial contributions to the initiatives and consider which initiatives could take part of initial or further funding.
- Maintaining its current financial support to help initiatives sustain their momentum (e.g. the AREI and the NAP Global Network).
- Helping relay work carried out by the initiatives to the EU funding bodies or development banks (e.g. the 2050 Pathways Platform).
- Funding and hosting projects that engage and connect more actors to generate more impact through knowledge sharing and networking.
- Developing potential capacity building in developing countries and contributing to climate finance in order to enable industry transition and match to the ongoing transitions taking place in developed countries (e.g. Leadership for Industry Transition).

### Activate EU member states

Increased engagement directly from the EU member states could have a positive impact on the initiatives' success. As indicated by the overview of the EU member states' participation in the 22 initiatives (Annex F), there are a set of countries who engage in the majority of the initiatives (e.g. Germany, France and Netherlands). However, a set of countries are underrepresented in the international climate initiative landscape, and it is relevant to review how they could support and/or benefit from participating in the initiatives. This would require further communication about the initiatives' relevance and opportunities where initiatives and member states can connect. Accordingly, the Commission could:

- Nudge EU Member States that currently are part of initiatives to increase their activities (e.g. LeadIT).

The table below summarizes the recommendations made for each of the initiatives. We have refrained from making recommendations for initiatives where no interview was performed.

Initiative	Recommendations
2050 Pathways Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the current exchange of information on long-term strategies for G20 countries.</li> <li>• The Commission could assist through providing knowledge exchange with its diplomatic core network, to support the 2050 Pathways Platform engagement in new countries (e.g. in Africa and Southeast Asia such as Vietnam) and potentially speed up this process. The 2050 Pathways Platform would enhance their availability to facilitate this type of cooperation.</li> <li>• Could relay the 2050 Pathways Platform's work to the EU's or other funding bodies e.g. development banks.</li> </ul>
4 per 1000 Soils for Food Security and Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission could join the initiative and thereby contribute with its mandate, to help signal the initiative's purpose and spread awareness about the topic.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission could take lead on task-forces and fund projects to engage more actors and generate more impact. This also applies to existing tools and ideas, e.g. an open-access database for farmers that could benefit from knowledge-sharing.</li> </ul>
Africa Renewable Energy Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EU could continue contributing with financial support to AREI, which enables the initiative to keep the momentum that it has been able to establish. The support will be especially relevant for its aim to reach the 2030 energy production target.</li> </ul>
Biofuture platform	-
Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation	-
Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission could continue the EU's high involvement in CPLC activities and processes by sharing information and knowledge and take part in dialogues, facilitated by the CPLC, with the private sector and civil society.</li> <li>• The EU's leadership has been, is and will continue to be critical in driving carbon pricing forward globally as countries (e.g. China) seek to interact with and learn from the EU's lessons and experiences.</li> <li>• The Commission could provide opportunities where the CPLC and relevant stakeholders could enter conversations on carbon pricing with individual national governments.</li> </ul>
Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep up the implementation of CCUS in the EU to signal its importance to the rest of the world.</li> <li>• Have a continuous dialogue about what is going on in the Commission, its initiatives for CCS implementation and how the CSLF can assist.</li> <li>• Continue to be an important stakeholder of the initiative by updating on the political situation in Europe and represent the otherwise inactive EU member states.</li> </ul>
Clean Climate & Air Coalition	-
Clean Energy Ministerial	-
Climate Disclosure Standards Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EU has the potential to provide substantial policy leadership to support the global ambition and to achieve Europe's own 2030 and 2050 targets. This requires the right leaders, targets and actions to drive the change.</li> <li>• The EU could revise its ability to deliver on the 2030 and 2050 agenda, and provide a clear description of how reporting standards can facilitate achieving these targets.</li> <li>• The EU could help with, and also save money, by mapping the ecosystem of initiatives to thereafter fill out potential gaps and govern coalescing initiatives.</li> </ul>
Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action	-

Global Commission on Adaptation	<p>The Commission could make use of the GCAs adaptation strategies by evaluating their potential role in supporting the eight Action Tracks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate how the GCA's recommendations can be implemented in current and future EU adaptation goals and governance strategies.</li> <li>• Consider the short-term formats for future initiatives that gather key leaders from around the world.</li> </ul>
Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission will play a key role to the future development of the GCoM due to the direct support it is providing to the Global Secretariat. This applies for example to the expansion of the initiative's reach to currently underrepresented geographical regions.</li> <li>• The support will also play a key role in scaling successful city action examples to cities on a global scale, with economic growth and a green COVID19 recovery in mind.</li> </ul>
InsuResilience Global Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the current financial support and engagement.</li> <li>• Consider the opportunity to fund work related to the Evidence Roadmap, not only the implementation of activities that will be reported into the roadmap.</li> </ul>
International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission can continue its current engagement, i.e continue sending eligible representatives with a suitable skill-set for the topic.</li> <li>• The European Commission could provide assistance in research, information sharing and communication on the use of hydrogen and how it will fit into existing and upcoming national economic and environmental strategies.</li> </ul>
International Platform on Sustainable Finance	-
International Solar Alliance	-
Leadership Group for Industry Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EU could contribute to climate finance that enables and supports industry transitions in developing countries. This could be initiated by entering conversations on where capacity could be built.</li> <li>• LeadIT and the Commission could cooperate in countries where both are present and local coordination across policy sectors is insufficient to help create and implement a cross-cutting road map enabling industry transition.</li> <li>• Encourage EU member states to join the initiative as it offers a forum for ambitious commitments and problem-solving related to the EU's corporate climate and regulatory framework.</li> </ul>
Mission Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EU could maintain its activity and ambition within the scope of the initiative.</li> <li>• The EU could assist in the activities related to monitoring and facilitate Mission Innovation's ambition to streamline monitoring across country practices.</li> </ul>
NAP Global Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EU Commission could use the NAP Global Network as a resource of knowledge and build upon or integrate it into its own work. This includes useful insights on different trends in national adaptation plans globally as well as what the different needs are and where progress is being made.</li> </ul>
NDC Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NDC Partnership recognizes the heavy involvement of the EU member states and that some existing areas of collaboration that are in place with the European Commission already is excellent, e.g. through the Euroclima+ taking lead in supporting Latin American countries.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage in communication and knowledge exchange about country needs with different parts of European Commission than Euroclima+.</li> <li>• The Commission could indicate to the NDC Partnership how it could support Commission programming.</li> </ul>
Under2 Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Commission could provide a formal endorsement towards the U2C's vision and objectives. This would strengthen the initiative's support and potentially leverage commitments from further stakeholders.</li> <li>• Enable the U2C to institutionalize its efforts within the EU.</li> <li>• Receive and consider the U2C's update of projects and plans that will be shared ahead of COP26.</li> </ul>

*Table 3. Overview of recommendations for 22 initiatives*

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## 8 Annexes

### 8.1 Annex A: List of climate databases

Database category	Name of database
International data platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The UNFCCC Global Climate Action Agenda (NAZCA)</li><li>• The Climate Initiatives Platform</li><li>• Sustainable Development in Action database</li><li>• The Action Agenda for Nature and Planet</li></ul>
International processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Clean Energy Ministerial process</li><li>• The G20 Energy Efficiency Leadership Programme</li><li>• G7/8 and G20 Ministerial and Summits</li><li>• Task groups under the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation (IPEEC)</li><li>• The Climate and Clean Air Coalition</li></ul>
International events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The 2019 UN Climate Action Summit</li><li>• One Planet Summits</li></ul>
Academic projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IVM CONNECT project with the focus on climate change</li><li>• ClimaSouth project</li></ul>

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## 8.2 Annex B: International climate initiatives included in long-list

1	2050 Pathways Platform
2	4 per 1000 Soils for Food Security and Climate
3	ACT Assessing Low-Carbon Transition
4	Action towards Climate Friendly Transport
5	Adapt'Action
6	Adaptation Benefit Mechanism
7	Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme
8	Adaptation Fund
9	AFOLU-Food and Land Use Coalition
10	Africa Adaptation Initiative
11	Africa Climate Change Fund
12	Africa Climate-Smart Agriculture Alliance
13	Africa NDC Hub
14	Africa Renewable Energy Initiative
15	African Carbon Support Program
16	African Financial Alliance on Climate Change
17	African Forest landscape Restoration
18	African Women in Agricultural Research and Development - One Planet Fellowship
19	African Youth Climate Hub
20	Airport Carbon Accreditation
21	Alliance for Global Water Adaptation
22	Alliances for Climate Action
23	Aluminium for Climate
24	Annual Disclosure
25	ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change
26	Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform
27	Banking Environment Initiative
28	BioCarbon Fund
29	BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes
30	Biofuture platform
31	Blue Carbon Code of Conduct
32	Blue Carbon Initiative
33	Blue Forests Project
34	Blue Resilience
35	Bonn Challenge
36	Breakthrough Energy Coalition
37	Building Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor
38	Building Resilience to Extreme Events in North America

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39	Business Alliance for Water and Climate
40	Business Environmental Leadership Council
41	C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group
42	C40 Divest/Invest Forum
43	C40 Green & Healthy Streets
44	Carbon Disclosure Project
45	Carbon Monitor
46	Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance
47	Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation
48	Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition
49	Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum
50	carbonn Climate Registry
51	CarbonNeutral Protocol
52	Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator
53	Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme
54	CARICOM Climate Change Centre
55	Caring For Climate
56	Catalytic Finance Initiative
57	CCAC Agriculture Initiative
58	CCAC: Assessments Initiative
59	CCAC: Bricks Initiative
60	CCAC: Efficient Cooling Initiative
61	CCAC: Financing Initiative
62	CCAC: Global Green Freight Action Plan
63	CCAC: Health initiative
64	CCAC: Household Energy Initiative
65	CCAC: Municipal Solid Waste Initiative
66	CCAC: Oil & Gas Methane Partnership
67	CCAC: Phasing Down Climate Potent HFCs
68	CCAC: Supporting National Action and Planning Initiative
69	CEM Global Lighting Challenge
70	Central African Forest Initiative
71	CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security
72	Chambers Climate Coalition
73	Circular Cars Initiative
74	Cities and Regions' Five year Vision
75	Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (the Alliance)
76	Clean Air Asia
77	Clean Cement and Concrete Coalition
78	Clean Climate & Air Coalition

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79	Clean Energy Ministerial
80	Climate Action 100+
81	Climate Action in Financial Institutions
82	Climate Action Pacific Partnership
83	Climate Alliance
84	Climate Ambition Alliance: Net Zero 2050
85	Climate and Development Knowledge Network
86	Climate and Land Use Alliance
87	Climate Bonds Initiative
88	Climate Chance Association
89	Climate Change Adaptation Facility
90	Climate change and health in small island developing states
91	Climate Disclosure Standards Board
92	Climate Finance Partnership
93	Climate Investment Funds
94	Climate Investment Funds
95	Climate Investment Platform
96	Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance
97	Climate Neutral Now
98	Climate Policy Initiative
99	Climate Resilient and Low-Carbon Infrastructure Planning and Development
100	Climate Risk Early Warning Systems
101	Climate Smart Agriculture Booster
102	Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance
103	Climate-KIC
104	ClimateWise
105	ClimDev Special Fund
106	Coalition for Carbon Neutrality
107	Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment
108	Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action
109	Coffee & Climate
110	Collaborative Climate Action Across the Air Transport World
111	Collaborative Innovation for Low-Carbon Emitting Technologies
112	Community-Based Adaptation Network
113	Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions
114	Cool Coalition
115	Debt Swap
116	Decarbonizing Shipping: Getting to Zero Coalition
117	DeSIRA - Financing for agricultural research to help low-income farmers adapt to climate change
118	Divest-Invest Global Movement

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119	Early Warning Early Action
120	Earth Optimism
121	ECCA30
122	Energy Efficiency Global Alliance
123	Energy Sector Management and Assistance Project
124	EU-ASEAN High-Level Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change
125	EU-GCC Clean Energy Network
126	EUROCITIES
127	EUROCLIMA+
128	European Adaptation Platform Climate-ADAPT
129	European Initiative for Sustainable Development in Agriculture
130	European Technology and Innovation Platform for Photovoltaics
131	European Technology and Innovation Platform on Wind Energy
132	EverGreen Agriculture Partnership
133	Fashion Industry Charter for Climate Action
134	Fiji Water Resilience
135	Fleets for Change
136	Flood Resilience Alliance
137	Forest Global Earth Observatories
138	Forest Trends
139	Fossil Free - Divest from Fossil Fuels
140	Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction
141	Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture
142	Global Alliance for Energy Productivity
143	Global Alliance for Smart Cities in Africa
144	Global Alliance for Water and Climate's Incubation Platform
145	Global Alliance to Significantly Reduce Methane Emissions in the Oil and Gas Sector by 2030
146	Global Bioenergy Partnership
147	Global Buildings Performance Network
148	Global CCS Institute
149	Global Cement and Concrete Initiative
150	Global clean ports
151	Global Climate Change Alliance Plus
152	Global Commission on Adaptation
153	Global Commons Alliance
154	Global Cool Cities Alliance
155	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
156	Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy
157	Global Environment Facility
158	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery

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159	Global Fund Coral Reefs
160	Global Gas Flaring Reduction Partnership
161	Global Geothermal Alliance
162	Global Initiative on Community Based Adaptation
163	Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance
164	Global Investor Coalition on Climate Change
165	Global Mangrove Alliance
166	Global Methane Initiative
167	Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases
168	Global Sustainability Electricity Partnership
169	Go 100%
170	Gold Standard
171	Governors' Climate and Forests Task Force
172	Great Green Wall for Sahara and the Sahel Initiative
173	Green Climate Fund
174	Green Growth Platform
175	Helping Farmers Cope with Climate Change
176	Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Climate Related Disclosures
177	Incubation platform for 100 water and climate projects in Africa
178	Initiative KIWA
179	Initiative on Gender and Climate Change
180	Institutional Investors Group for Climate Change (IIGCC)
181	InsuResilience Global Partnership
182	Integrated Solutions for Water, Energy, and Land: Hotspots Explorer
183	Interfaith Rainforest Initiative
184	International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification
185	International Carbon Action Partnership
186	International Coalition for Sustainable Aviation
187	International Development Finance Club
188	International Emissions Trading Association
189	International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association
190	International Platform on Sustainable Finance
191	International Solar Alliance
192	International Waste Platform
193	International Zero-Emission Vehicle Alliance
194	Investment Climate Facility
195	Investment Leaders Group
196	Investor Network on Climate Risk
197	ITS for Climate
198	Japan Bilateral Support for Adaptation in Asian and Pacific Countries

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199	Joint Work Programme on Resilient Cities
200	Just Transition Initiative
201	Korea Bilateral Support for Adaptation
202	LCTPi Cement Sustainability Initiative
203	LCTPi Climate Smart Agriculture
204	LCTPI Low Carbon Technology Partnership initiative (Main)
205	LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience
206	Leadership for Urban Climate Investment
207	Leadership Group for Industry Transition
208	Least Developed Countries Fund
209	Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative
210	Local Governments for Sustainability
211	Low Carbon Development Initiative
212	Low Carbon Road and Road Transport Initiative
213	Low Emissions Development Strategies Global Partnership
214	Low-Carbon Sustainable Rail Transport Challenge
215	Mainstreaming Ecosystem-based Adaptation
216	Make Our Planet Great Again
217	MAR Fund
218	MDBs Alignment with the Paris Agreement
219	Megacities Alliance for Water and Climate
220	Mission Innovation
221	Mission Possible Platform
222	Montreal Carbon Pledge
223	Movin'on
224	Nature4Climate
225	Navigating a Changing Climate
226	New Climate Economy
227	New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers' Annual Conference
228	North American Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance
229	Norway-Pacific Joint Chair of Oceans and Climate Change
230	Ocean Renewable Energy Action Coalition
231	Oil & Gas Methane Partnership
232	Oil and Gas Climate Initiative
233	One Planet Business for Biodiversity
234	One Planet Sovereign Wealth Funds
235	One Planet Summit
236	Pacific Initiative on Biodiversity, Resilience and Climate Change
237	PACMUN project
238	Palm Oil Innovation Group

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239	Paris Collaborative on Green Budgeting
240	Paris Pact on water and adaptation to climate change in the basins of rivers, lakes and aquifers
241	Paris Process on Mobility and Climate
242	Partners for Resilience
243	Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials
244	Partnership for Market Readiness
245	Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement
246	Partnership on Transparency/ Good Practices Database
247	Philippines Water Security for Economic Growth and Stability (Be-Secure) Project
248	Plan Vivo
249	Planners for Climate Action
250	Playing for the Planet
251	Powering Past Coal Alliance
252	Private Financing Advisory Network
253	Private Investment for Enhanced Resilience
254	Promotion of Smart Agriculture Towards Climate Change
255	Protection of 400 Million Hectares of Forest
256	Public Transport Declaration on Climate Leadership
257	Put a Price on Carbon - Business Leadership Criteria on Carbon Pricing
258	R20 Regions of Climate Action
259	R4 Rural Resilience Initiative
260	Rainforest Alliance
261	RE100
262	REDD+
263	Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Emissions
264	Refrigerants, Naturally!
265	Regional Center for Climate Change and Decision Making
266	RegionsAdapt
267	Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership
268	Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century
269	Renovate Europe
270	Resilience and Adaptation Call for Action
271	Resilience Intel
272	Resilient Cities Acceleration Initiative
273	Resilient Delta's Delta Alliance
274	Risk-informed Early Action Partnership
275	Salud sin daño / Health Care Without Harm
276	SATOYAMA Initiative
277	Science-based Targets
278	SE4All: District Energy in Cities Initiative

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279	SE4All: Global Energy Efficiency Accelerator Platform (Main)
280	SE4All: United for Efficiency
281	SERVIR Program
282	SIDS 2020 Ambition Leadership
283	SIDS Lighthouses Initiative
284	SLoCat Partnership on Sustainable, Low Carbon Transport
285	Small Island States (SIDS) Blue Guardians: Partnership to Protecting Oceans and Climate-resilient Blue Economies
286	Smart Risk Investing
287	SME Climate Hub
288	Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF)
289	Space Climate Observatory
290	Sports for Climate Action
291	Subnational Climate Funds for Africa
292	NDC Partnership
293	Support for coal- and carbon-intensive regions in transition
294	Sustainable Agriculture Network
295	Sustainable Building and Climate Initiative
296	Sustainable Mobility for All
297	Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosure
298	Taxi4SmartCities
299	TED Countdown
300	Tenure facility
301	The City Climate Finance Gap Fund
302	The Climate Collaborative
303	The Climate Group
304	The Climate Leadership Initiative
305	The Climate Registry
306	The Global Forum on Agriculture Research (GFAR)
307	The Inevitable Policy Response
308	The Investor Agenda
309	The National Adaptation Plan Global Network
310	The New York Declaration on Forests
311	The Ocean Pathway
312	The Sowing Diversity = Harvesting Security programme
313	The Step Up Declaration
314	The Union of the Baltic Cities Sustainable Cities Committee
315	The Water, Peace, and Security Partnership
316	Transformative Actions Program
317	Transition Pathway Initiative
318	Transport Decarbonisation Alliance

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319	Tropical Landscape Financing Facility
320	UN Global Compact Caring for Climate
321	UN Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance
322	Under2 Coalition
323	UNEP Finance Initiative
324	Urban Electric Mobility Initiative
325	Urban-LEDS project
326	US-Dominican Republic Cooperation on Water and Sewage in Flood Plains
327	US-Peru Cooperation on Water Resource Management
328	Value Chain Risk to Resilience
329	We Mean Business
330	West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program
331	West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use
332	William J Clinton Foundation Climate Initiative
333	World Bank: Scaling up CSA for Impact
334	World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)
335	World Green Building Council
336	World Mayors Council on Climate Change
337	World Ports Sustainability Program
338	WWF Climate Savers
339	WWF Earth Hour City Challenge
340	Zero Carbon Buildings for All
341	Zero Deforestation Commitments from Commodity Producers and Traders
342	Zero Routine Flaring by 2030
343	NAP Global Network
344	International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy

***International climate initiatives not included in long-list***

<b>N</b>	<b>Name of initiative</b>
1	21st Century Power Partnership
2	21st Century Truck Partnership
3	2x40 GW Green Hydrogen Initiative
4	Act4nature International
5	Advancing Towards Zero Waste Declaration
6	AfDB - OECD Joint Initiative
7	AfDB Access to finance for SMEs through Fis
8	Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa
9	Africa Digital Financial Inclusion Facility
10	Africa Energy Market Place
11	Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism
12	Africa Trade Fund

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13	Africa Visa Openness Index
14	Africa50
15	African Financial Markets Initiative
16	African Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
17	African Leaders for Nutrition Initiative
18	African Legal Support Facility
19	African Natural Resources Centre
20	African Peer Review Mechanism
21	African Water Facility
22	African Women in Business Initiative
23	Agricultural development
24	Agriculture Fast Track (AFT) Fund
25	Aid for Trade Trust Fund
26	As You Sow
27	ASEAN Programme on Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems
28	Asian Seafood Improvement Collaborative
29	Association of Pacific Rim Universities
30	Biogas Recovery in the Agriculture Sector
31	Blue Growth Initiative
32	Bonn Challenge – Forest Landscape Restoration
33	Boost Africa: Empowering Young African Entrepreneurs
34	Bridge
35	Business For Nature Coalition
36	C40 Clean Bus Declaration
37	C40 Zero Waste Declaration
38	Canada's Bilateral Support in Myanmar and Senegal
39	Carbon Capture,Utilization, and Storage Initiative
40	Carbon Leadership Forum
41	Carbon Pricing Leadership Coalition
42	Carbon War Room Shipping Initiative
43	Caribbean Challenge Initiative
44	CCAC: Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicles and Engines Initiative
45	CCAC: Mineral Methane Initiative
46	CEM Clean Energy Education and Empowerment
47	CEM Energy Management Leadership Awards
48	CEM Investment and Finance Initiative
49	Clean Air Fund
50	Clean by Design
51	Clean Energy Corridors in Africa
52	Clean Energy Solutions Centre
53	Clean Jobs Initiative
54	Clean Road Freight Coaliton
55	Clean Skies for Tomorrow
56	Climate Change and Security
57	CO2 Performance Ladder
58	Coalition for Sustainable Energy Access
59	Coconut Industry Development for the Caribbean
60	Collaborative Partnership on Forests
61	Community Development Carbon Fund

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62	Congo Basin Forest Fund
63	Cycling Delivers on the Global Goals
64	Deauville Partnership
65	Debt Relief Initiatives
66	Debt Swap
67	Deforestation Free Fund
68	Desert to Power initiative
69	Desert to Power Mission
70	Earth For Life Initiative
71	Eco Partnerships
72	EcoMobility Alliance
73	EcoPartnerships
74	Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Model
75	Electric Mobility Programme
76	Electric Vehicles Initiative
77	Emergency Liquidity Facility
78	Energy Cities
79	Energy Management Action Network (EMAK)
80	Energy Management Working Group (EMWG)
81	Enhanced National Climate Plans
82	Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa: EPSA Initiative
83	Enhancing global ocean acidification monitoring and research
84	EU 2020 Task Force on Nature-Based Solutions for Hydro-meteorological Risk Reduction
85	EuroACE
86	European Alliance to Save Energy
87	EV100
88	Farm Animal Investment Risk & Return
89	Food Security Climate Resilience Facility
90	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
91	Forest Stewardship Council
92	Fragility & Resilience
93	FuelCellsWorks Initiative, REVIVE (Refuse Vehicle Innovation and Validation in Europe)
94	Fund for African Private Sector Assistance
95	Global 100% RE
96	Global Agriculture & Food Security Program
97	Global Campaign for Nature
98	Global Clean Water Desalination Alliance
99	Global e-Sustainability Initiative
100	Global Fuel Economy Initiative
101	Global Green Bond Partnership
102	Global Initiative for Resource-Efficient Cities
103	Global Initiative on Food Loss and Waste Reduction – SAVE FOOD
104	Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement (GLCN)
105	Global LEAP Awards
106	Global Lighting and Energy Access Partnership
107	Global Partnership for Plant Conservation
108	Global Partnership on Forest and Landscape Restoration (GPFLR)

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109	Global Partnerships For Plants Conservation
110	Global Reporting Initiative
111	Global Resilience Partnership
112	Global Restoration Initiative
113	Global Solar Council
114	Global Subsidies Initiative
115	Global Wind Energy Council
116	Go 100% renewable
117	Goal 14 implementation for the protection of Mediterranean Sea's whales and dolphins
118	Green Building Initiative
119	Green Freight Asia Network
120	Green Freight Europe
121	Green Growth Initiative
122	Greenhouse Gas Protocol
123	Guidance for Resilience in the Anthropocene: Investments for development
124	Health in Africa Fund
125	High-level Panel for a Sustainable Ocean Economy
126	High-Level Panel on Fragile States
127	Hydrogen Initiative
128	IATA Carbon Offset Program
129	ICT4SIDS Partnerships: Rapid Implementation of SDGs Through Latest Digital Innovations
130	IEA Technology Collaboration Programme on Energy Efficient End-Use Equipment (4E)
131	Important Plant Areas in Arabia
132	Information Centre for the Extractives Sector
133	Initiative 20x20
134	Initiative for Sustainable Cities Development in Africa
135	Initiative on Protection of Cultural and Natural Heritage from Climate Change
136	Integrated Approach Programme on Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in sub-Saharan Africa
137	Integrated Coastal Management
138	International Corel Reef Initiative
139	International Partnership for Blue Carbon
140	International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation
141	International Renewable Energy Agency
142	International Smart Grid Action Network
143	International Solar Alliance
144	IPEEC: Building Energy Efficiency Task Group
145	IPEEC: Energy Efficiency Finance Task Group
146	IPEEC: The High Efficiency Low Emissions Task Group
147	IPEEC: The Networked Devices Task Group
148	IPEEC: The Top Ten Energy Efficiency Best Practices and Best Available Technologies Task Group
149	IPEEC: The Transport Task Group
150	ISGAN Award of Excellence
151	Jobs for Youth in Africa
152	Land Degradation Neutrality Fund

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153	Land: Enhancing Governance for Economic Development
154	LCTPi Renewables
155	Leadership Group for Industry Transition
156	Lean and Green
157	Lean and Green
158	Life Beef Carbon
159	Life Beef Carbon Initiative
160	Logistics Emission Reduction Scheme
161	Low Carbon Rail Transport Challenge
162	Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership
163	Making Finance Work for Africa Partnership
164	Marine Global Earth Observatory Marine Geo
165	Marine Global Earth Observatory MarineGeo
166	MedFish4ever
167	Microfinance Multidonor Trust Fund
168	Middle Income Countries
169	Migration and Development Initiative
170	Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
171	Mission Innovation
172	Multi-Donor Governance Trust Fund
173	Multidonor Water Partnership Program
174	Multilateral Solar and Wind Working Group
175	NAPS Community
176	National Agricultural Resilience Framework
177	Nature-Based Solutions
178	NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility
179	Net-Zero Steel Initiative
180	Network for Greening the Financial System
181	Network of Financial Centres for Sustainability
182	Networked Carbon Markets Initiative
183	New Partnership for Africa's Development
184	New Vision for Agriculture
185	Nuclear Innovation: Clean Energy Future
186	Ocean Acidification
187	Ocean Foundation and list of initiatives; Blue Resilience (BRI); Ocean Acidification (IOAI); Sustainable Aquaculture (ISAI); Redesigning Plastics
188	Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance
189	Oceania 21
190	Pacific plastic pollution: A system for regional grassroots
191	Paris Aligned Investment Initiative
192	Partnership for Procurement and Green Growth
193	Partnership on Illicit Finance
194	Partnership with African Coastal States to Eradicate IUU Fishing in their Sovereign Waters by 2020
195	Portfolio Decarbonization Coalition
196	Power Africa Initiative
197	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
198	Promoting Biodiversity Research For Public And Private Decision Support

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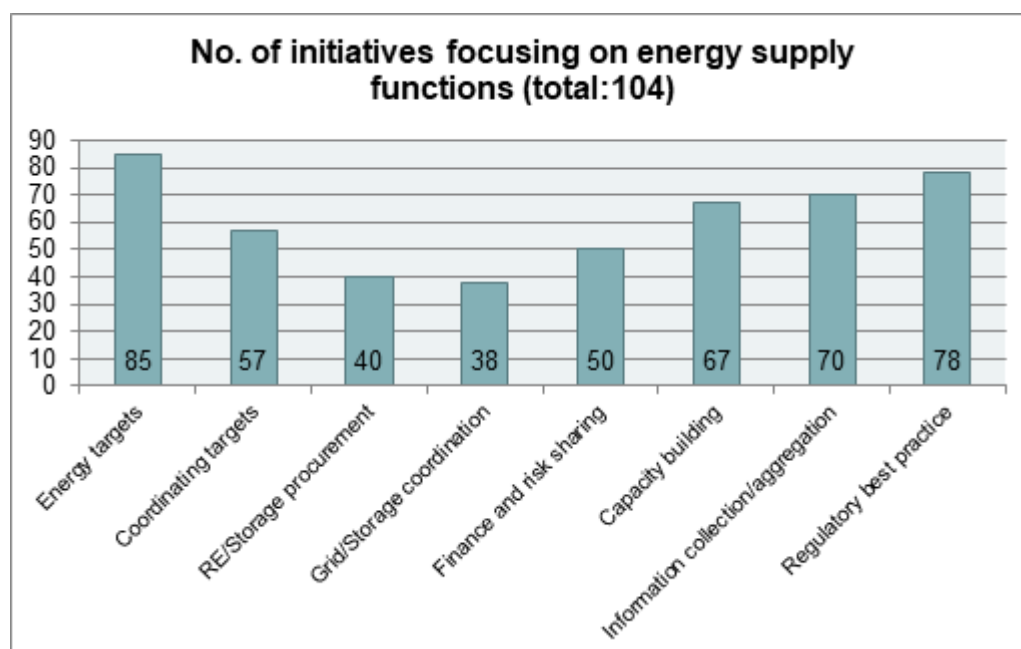
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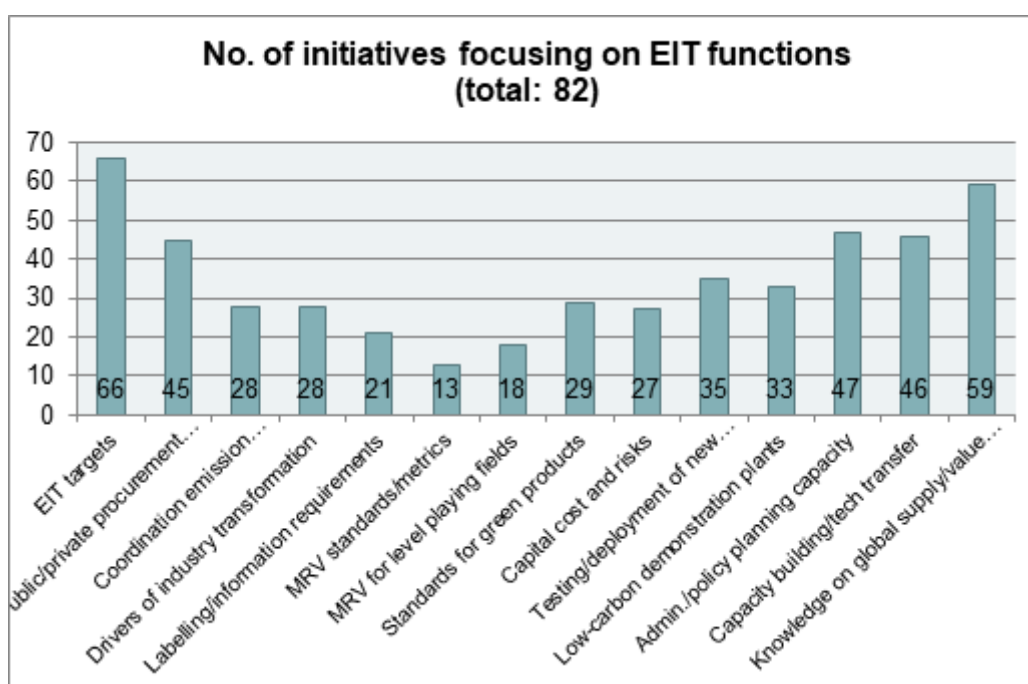
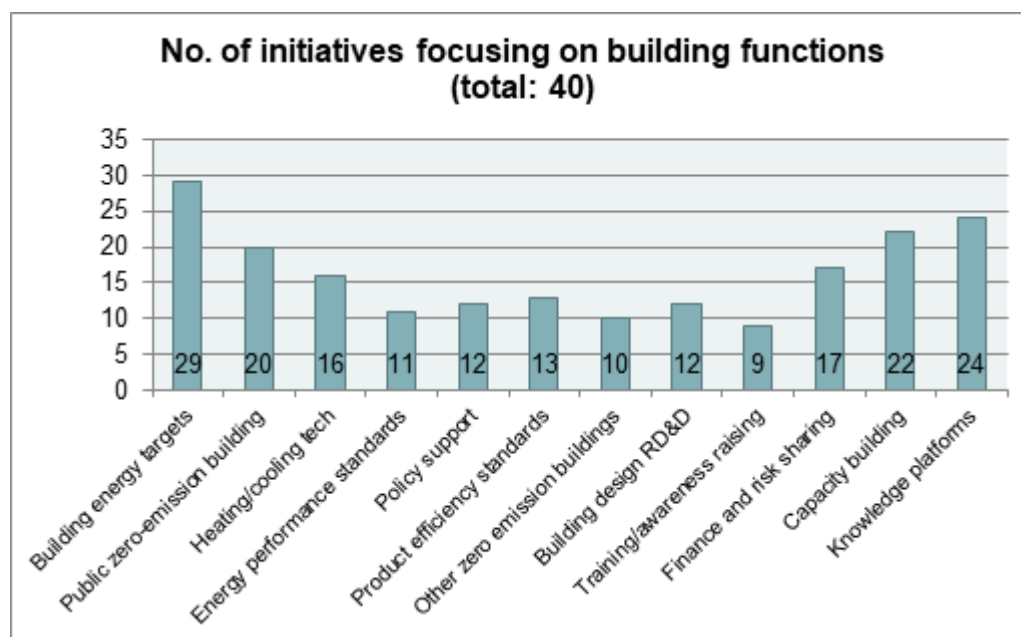
199	Promoting Disaster and Climate Risk Resilience Through Regional Programmatic and Risk Financing Mechanisms
200	Protecting 1 million sq kms through the \$15 million WCS Marine Protected Area Fund
201	Raise Awareness about the Ocean and Take Action
202	RE-Source Platform
203	Re.Think
204	Rebuild by Design
205	Redesigning Plastics
206	Reducing ship strikes to vulnerable Whales
207	Regional and Global Energy Interconnection Initiative
208	Regional Electric Vehicle Plan for the West
209	Remove Commodity-driven Deforestation
210	REN Alliance
211	Resilience Evaluation, Analysis and Learning consortium
212	Responsible Care
213	Responsible Steel
214	Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Initiative
215	Save Food Initiative
216	Save Food initiative
217	SE4All: Building Efficiency Accelerator
218	SE4all: People-Centered Accelerator
219	SEAD Global Efficiency Medal
220	Seed Capital Assistance Facility
221	Share the Road
222	South-South Cooperation Trust Fund
223	Step Up Declaration: Powering Mission 2020
224	Strategic Partnership with Africa
225	SunShot Initiative
226	Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment Initiative
227	Sustainable Aquaculture
228	Sustainable Cities and Eco-Energy Towns
229	Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa
230	Sustainable Transport Africa
231	The 1 in 100 initiative
232	The 10x20 Initiative
233	The Climate Smart Agriculture Youth Network
234	The Corporate Leaders Group
235	The Development Finance Compact for Portuguese-Speaking African Countries
236	The Fashion Pact
237	The International Energy and Climate Initiative - Energy+
238	The Lion's Share
239	The Net Zero Carbon Buildings Commitment
240	The Ocean Cleanup
241	The Presidential Youth Advisory Group
242	The Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels
243	The World Team Project: Sustainable Solutions Oceans Opportunities & Small Island States
244	Threatened Mammals Conservation In Serra Do Mar Biodiversity Corridor

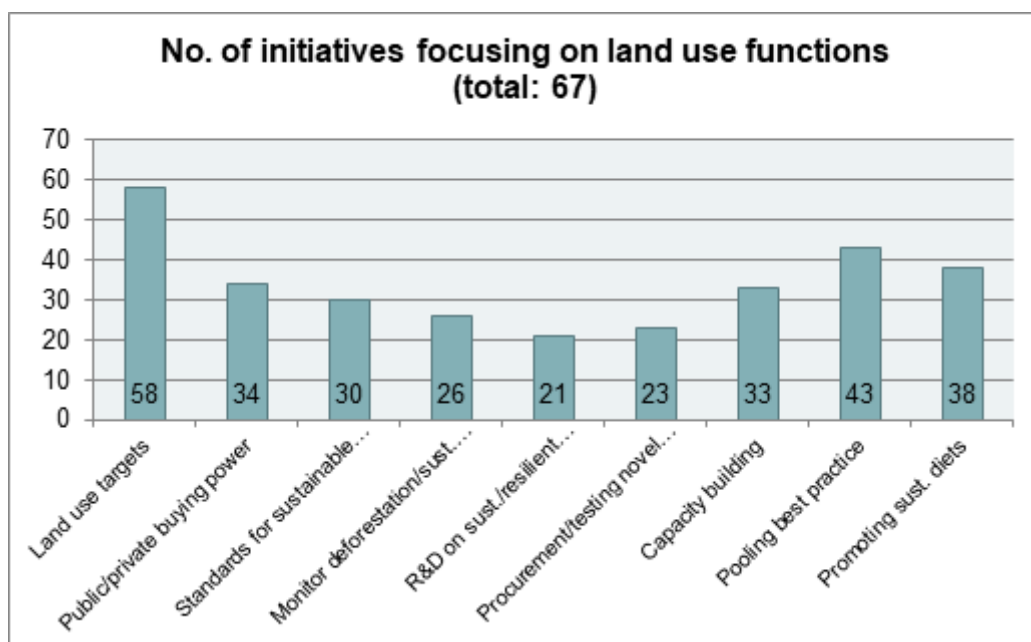
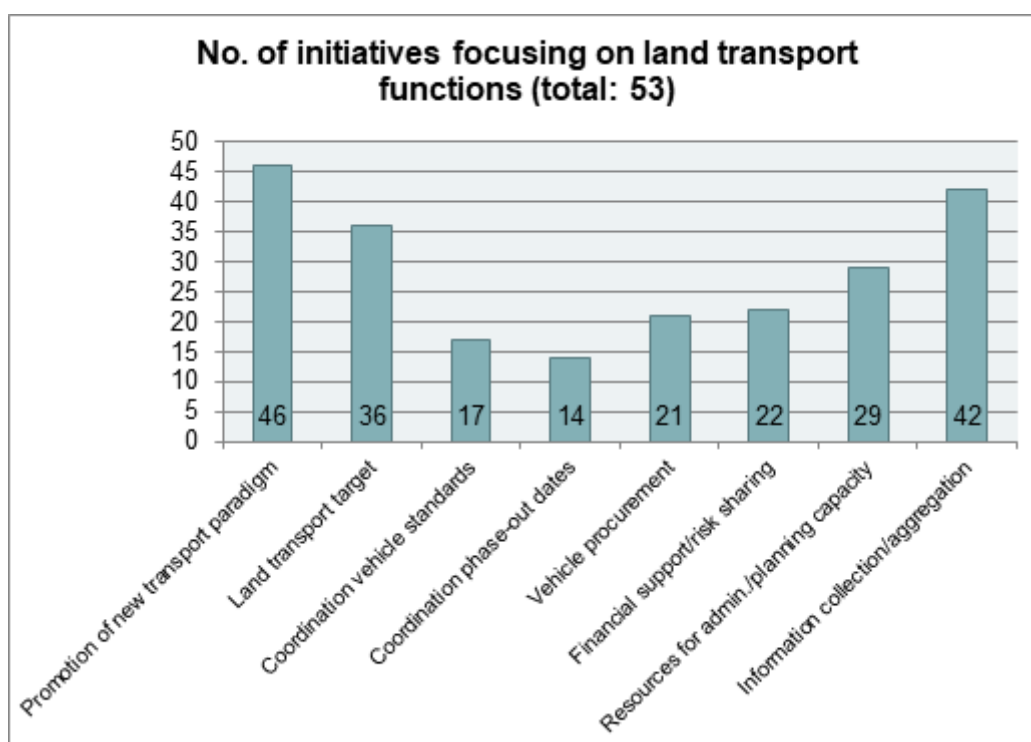
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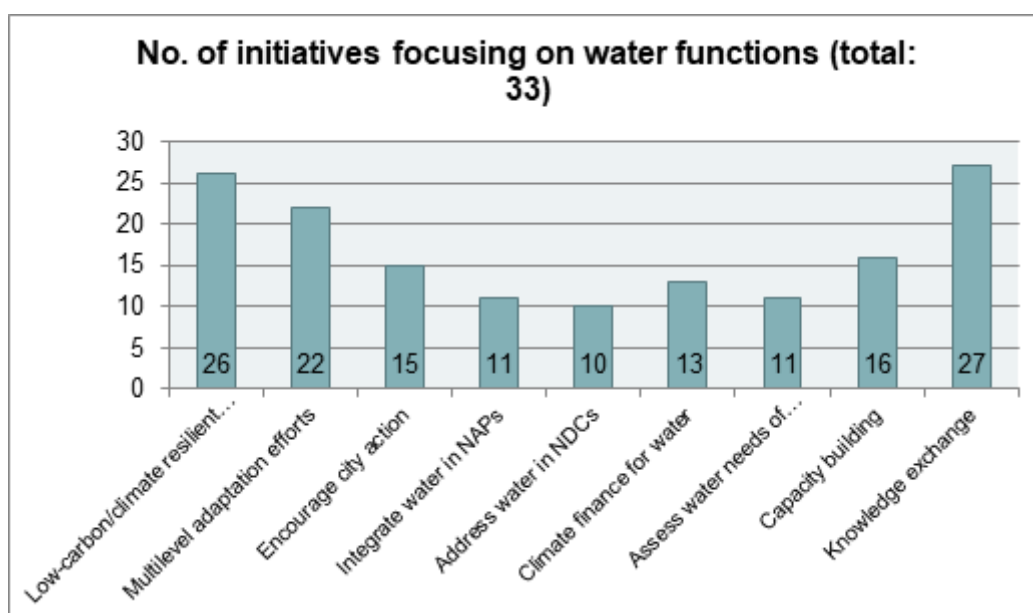
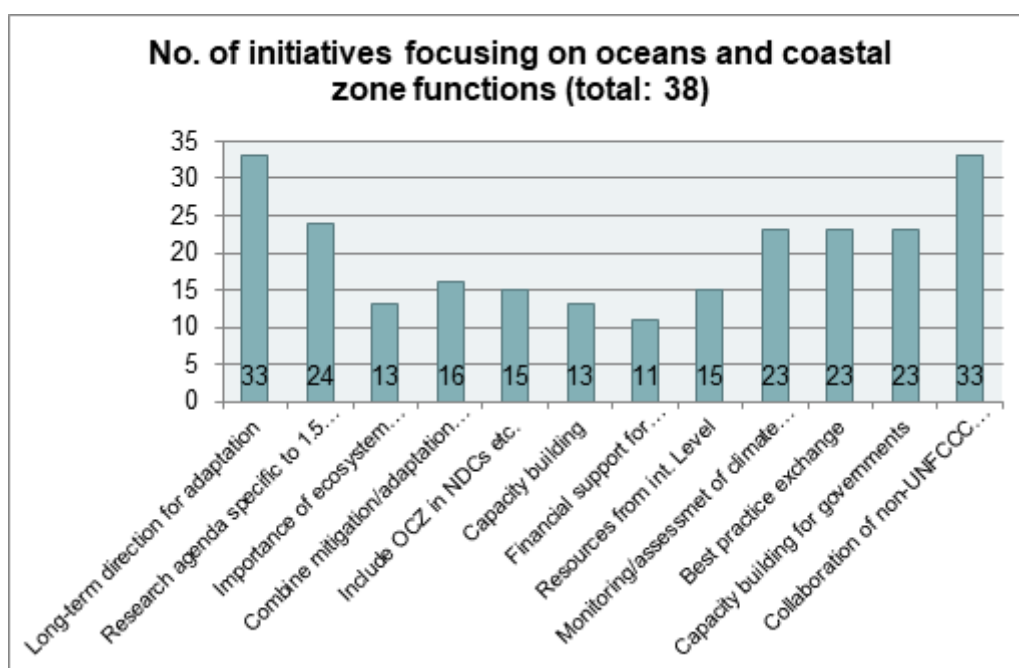
245	Three Percent Club
246	Towards A Cleaner Electricity in Latin America
247	Towards an ecologically representative and efficiently managed network of Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas
248	Trade Finance Program
249	Transition Network
250	Tropical Forest Alliance 2020
251	UN-REDD Programme
252	UNEP Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles
253	Urban Transitions Alliance
254	Volvo LIGHTS
255	Vote Solar Initiative
256	Waste Management and Sanitation Improvement (WMI) Programme
257	WBCSD Urban Infrastructure Initiative
258	Wind Vision
259	World Flora Online
260	Zimbabwe Multi-Donor Trust Fund

## 8.5 Annex C: Coverage of co-operation options per sector (n=344 initiatives)







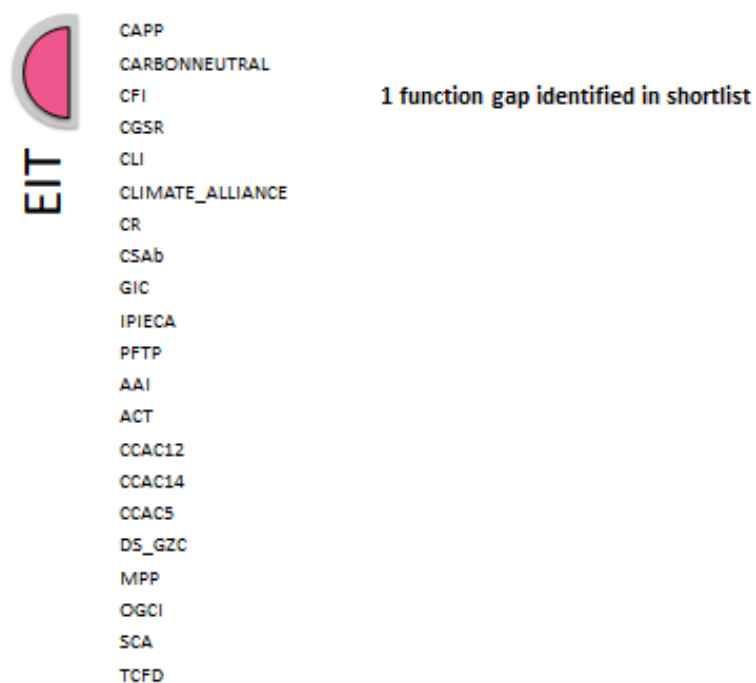
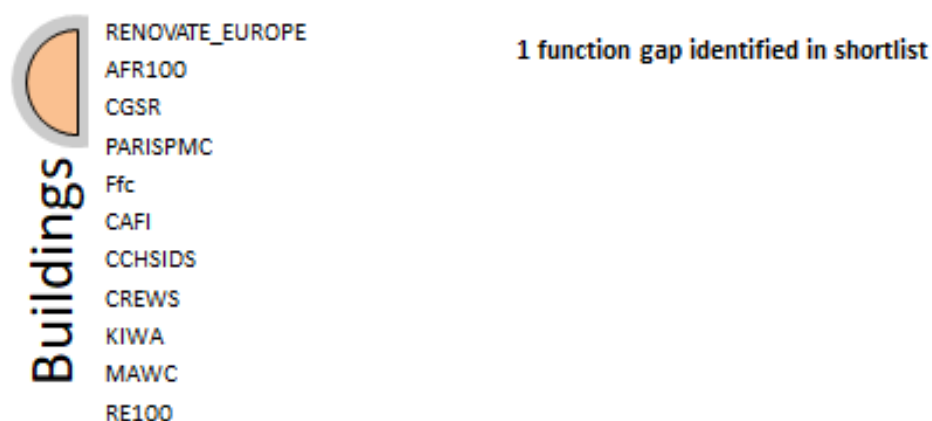


**Sectors that shortlisted initiatives engage in**

Sector	F	W	OCZ	LU	LT	EIT	B	ES
4PER1000	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CDSB	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LGIT	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
2050PP	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
CSLF	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
SAPI_NDC	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
CEM	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
MI	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
AREI	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CCAC	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
CFMCA	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
GCM	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	1
IRGP	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
U2C	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
CPLC	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
ISA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
GLOBAL_ADAPT	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
BIOFUTURE	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
IPSF	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
CORSIA	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
NAPGL	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
IPHE	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1



## 8.8. Annex E: Initiatives that could fill functions not covered by the shortlisted initiatives, listed per thematic area





## Land Transport

CC13  
CIP  
GICBA  
ITSC  
LCRRTI  
LCSRTC  
LEDS-GP  
UEMI  
ACT\_TUMI  
BCF  
CCRI  
CR5YV  
DS\_GZC  
GOLDSTANDARD  
NCCP  
SUD  
TDA  
ZRF

2 function gaps identified in shortlist  
Only longlist initiatives covering both  
function gaps !



## Land Use

AFOLU  
AFR100  
CCC1  
CGIAR\_RCCAFS  
CSA  
FT  
GASMA  
SAN  
SD=SH  
TF  
ASAP  
AYCH  
BC  
CAFI  
CCI  
GOLDSTANDARD  
IRI  
LCTPI\_TWO  
OP2B  
POIG  
US\_PERU

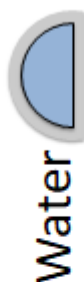
1 function gap identified in shortlist



CLARA  
EU-ASEAN  
GCP  
MARF  
OFBRI  
OREAC  
CPMR  
CRLCIPD  
IWP  
PIBRCC

**5 function gaps identified in shortlist**  
**Only longlist initiatives covering more than 4 function gaps !**

Only quantitative argument, no consideration of interest background, geographical coverage, weighing of importance of functions, etc



CLARA  
EU-ASEAN  
SERVIR  
WPS  
BAWC  
CCAF  
CCHSIDS  
DESIRA  
MAWC  
PPOW  
PWSEG

**4 function gaps identified in shortlist**  
**Only longlist initiatives covering more than 3 function gaps !**

Only quantitative argument, no consideration of interest background, geographical coverage, assessment of importance of functions, etc

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