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Important Land Use Report confirms Agro-Industrial land use driving climate catastrophe

- **The UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is unequivocal. Industrial agriculture and the food industry are almost as big a driver of climate change as fossil fuels. They are the biggest global cause of land use change. Around one third of the world’s land surface and 75% of freshwater resources are devoted to crop or livestock production**

From BirdLife Europe’s perspective, the EU spends EUR 58 billion funding the perverse Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which theoretically was originally designed to ensure food security, now actually threatened if we don’t tackle climate change. Instead of the cynical business as usual, this ground-breaking report makes clear we must reform farm policies to urgently shift agriculture towards more sustainable practices that rebuild soil carbon, natural vegetation and biodiversity, overhauling our agriculture systems which must become less industrialised.

The report confirms we must phase out the myth of unsustainable bioenergy which is NOT an acceptable climate solution - land use change for bioenergy greatly increases pressure on land and water resources, with potentially irreversible consequences for food security and land degradation.

Finally the report makes clear that we must invest in large scale nature restoration, in particularly of peatlands, wetlands, and natural forests and grasslands, to help recover both biodiversity habitats and carbon stocks while improving water retention.

Ariel Brunner, Senior Head of Policy, BirdLife Europe:

“Every new study confirms the same fact: the CAP is a perverse system that funds the destruction of nature, and the abuse of land on which our future, and that of farming, depends. Wrong money, going to the wrong farmers to do the wrong things. The crisis grows in urgency and we fail to respond to save ourselves.”

For more information, please contact:

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[BirdLife Europe and Central Asia](#) is a partnership of 48 national conservation organisations and a leader in bird conservation. Our unique local to global approach enables us to deliver high impact and long term conservation for the benefit of nature and people. BirdLife Europe and Central Asia is one of the six regional secretariats that compose BirdLife International. Based in Brussels, it supports

the European and Central Asian Partnership and is present in 47 countries including all EU Member States. With more than 4100 staff in Europe, two million members and tens of thousands of skilled volunteers, BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, together with its national partners, owns or manages more than 6000 nature sites totalling 320,000 hectares.