

European Green Deal Project Solution for Climate Change and Human-Nature Conflicts

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Abstract: *Climate change and conflicts between human beings and nature are among the main problems that are affecting the globe in the current decade. Strategies to minimize adverse influences of “climate change” have been mooted. Amongst these approaches is “the green deal project.” Apart from the objective of reducing “greenhouse gas emissions” by half by 2030, its primary goal is attaining neutrality by 2050. The deductive research method was used in the research after selecting the 20 best articles from 38 articles using the CRAAP test method. From the research, we found that through the achievement of a clean and circular economy, clean, affordable, and secure energy supply, modernized EU industries, protection of biodiversity, and a food system that is fair and healthy from the green deal project alongside practicing the knowledge from agricultural economics the solution to climate change can be achieved.*

Keywords: EU Green Deal Project, Agricultural Economics, Human-nature conflicts, Greener Economy, and Sustainable Economic Development.

1. Introduction

Among the main issues affecting the globe in the current decade, climate change is a major issue that is growing fast with graving effects insight. The conflicts between human beings and nature can be considered the leading cause of the problems around climate change. The natural environment is the main victim of climate change and human conflicts, and this ultimately reduces the ability of human beings to adapt to climate change. Food security and protection of biodiversity ought to be on the forefront when promoting the incorporation of green technology (Ucal, 2018). Various countries and organizations have been setting targets and plan to achieve a greener environment around the world by pulling together financial and cooperation resources and ensuring that they have proposed activities like reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The European Union Commission is amongst the most recent organizations that have made a step towards bringing positive change to the environment through the green deal project that aims to achieve goals such as a clean and circular economy, clean, affordable, and secure energy supply, modernized EU industries, protection of biodiversity, and a food system that is fair and healthy amongst other goals (EC, 2022). This project demonstrates one of the biggest projects in the world that have been directed toward changing the environment to be greener in the coming two to three decades in comparison to the plans that they have been making before (EC, 2022). Through this project, the EU community targets to achieve a climate-neutral transition continent by 2050. This demonstrates one of the major steps that organizations around the world take in response to the issues around climate change and the conflicts between human beings and nature. Therefore, this article will focus on investigating the European Union's socio and environmental challenges and concerns whilst

promoting a sustainable green growth strategy through projects like the green deal Project.

2. Literature Survey

As time goes by, generations are getting increasingly aware of the environmental problems that they experience, and in response, different strategies are being implemented around the world to ensure positive changes are brought about (Harris & Roach, 2017). The European Union, through the green deal project, majorly aims at attaining sustainability whereby as per the programs, strategies, and the plan that this project has established, the environment is targeted to be made sustainable for both the current and future generations (Eckert & Kovalevska, 2021). The project has also been identified as one that favors the health improvement factor for the citizens of Europe, whereby through reduced or eliminated emission of greenhouse gasses, there will be reduced cases of respiratory illnesses, and also the food sector will be made safer and healthier (Haines & Scheelbeek, 2020). Sustainability is key, with bodies like “World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED)” it was able to identify that in order to stop the climate changes and the conflicts that occur between humans and nature, sustainable development should be considered (WCED, 1987). Sustainable development was identified as the ability of humans to utilize the natural environment to cover their needs but also conserve it so that it may serve the needs of future developments.

Achieving a sustainable environment is among the key sectors that the European green deal project aims to achieve whereby, through its projected plans, emission levels should be reduced by at least 55% by the year 2030 and by 100% by the year 2050 on all sectors around the industry, energy, transport, and farming sector in comparison to the statistics recorded in 1990 (Siddi, 2020). This is a sign of a switch to the reliance on the nature-based solutions to solve the

climate change and the human-nature conflicts, which has been previously considered as a method that integrates science, policy, and practice to create biodiversity conditions that help the human beings in terms of food security, reducing disaster risks, water resource provision, and protection from climate changes (Eggermont et al., 2015). These practices have been implemented before, but the problems came in through different sectors; but for nature-based solutions to work effectively, the government should ensure that it allocates the necessary resources on these projects, which will help to propel the projects while at the same time promoting the idea of sustainable development (Maes & Jacobs, 2017).

Despite various governments and organizations developing plans for the future, such as the Green deal project, there are various challenges that they face which mostly hinder these projects such as; financial challenges have been the leading problems affecting the green deal project since it started whereby initially, the project had been allocated an amount of £1 trillion, but with the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, it places the commission on an economic crisis as the funds are used to help the countries cope with the pandemic as it promotes the project (Sikora, 2021). It was also identified to be a project that got challenges in terms of the implementation process of the strategies in the project, how the resources were allocated to making the project a practical thing rather than a verbal objective, and that the project would need policies that promote more "greener" activities. Not solely focusing greenhouse gases emission reduction. In some cases, authors argue that political institutions are instead using this project to endorse their own presence in the world rather than sincerely promoting the good of the environment (Eckert & Kovalevska, 2021). This comes from considering the kind of political approach the project has (Pianta & Lucchese, 2020).

3. Problem Definition/ Hypothesis

The problem statement of this research is that we experience climate change and conflict between human beings and nature, environment degradation, food contamination, use of pesticides in production, and soil contamination, amongst other problems which need a solution urgently. The hypothesis is that the solution to this problem is the European Union Green Deal Action plan and other strategies they propose for the environment by 2030 and 2050.

4. Methodology / Approach

The methodology that was used to prove the hypothesis above is the deductive research method, where we considered all the relevant resources such as books, websites, articles, monographs, master's or Ph. D. thesis, or any other relevant literature on the topic of Climate change and the human-nature conflict with specific focus given to the literature materials referring to the European Commission Green deal project. The approach of selection of the literature was made using the CRAAP test, whereby from all the literature that we had collected online and offline, we ensured that we had filtered and selected them based on their currency or the time they were published where articles were selected which were mainly published in

the last 15 years with less than five articles selected were published earlier than that. The accuracy of the main topic of Climate change and conflicts between human beings and nature was also considered. The authority of the articles, whether they were accessible or not, was also considered, and finally, we selected the literature based on the purpose that they were serving to the main topic of discussion. During this test, we initially found 38 articles that we could use. Out of these 38 articles, we documented 20 after we had eliminated 18 of them after we realized that eight were not accurately directed to the main topic, five were outdated and did not necessarily contain the information that we could relate to the topic, two were related to the topic, but they were not accessible past the abstract position and finally, the remaining three did not satisfy the purpose the answering the problem statement that we had.

5. Results & Discussion

From the remaining 20 articles that we settled with from the research, we identified the following; the issue of climate change has been identified to be mainly caused by the human activities, and it affects biodiversity in the following three main ways; Through global warming, it increases the temperatures of the atmosphere which turns to be harmful and damaging to the plants and animals living in the sensitive habitats such as the rainforests and the reefs in the oceans. Changes in the climate trigger various responses in the life cycles of the plants and animals in terms of their productivity and how they impact nature, sometimes causing harmful effects that lead to the death of population reduction of the plants (Leal Filho, Barbir & Preziosi, 2019). This leads to the main problem whereby with harsh living conditions such as drought and changes in climates affecting the biodiversity, certain species stand on the verge of extinction.

In relation to these effects, we identified that the impact caused by climate change could hugely affect human beings when it comes to the negative effect it creates in the food security sector. Research suggests that the impacts that the climate changes cause on the agricultural production sector are devastating, especially if you consider the impacts that the climate change causes on water availability and how the crops produce (Hillel & Rosenzweig Eds.2015). Human conflicts with nature come in when people promote activities such as poor soil management, deforestation, and excess application of pesticides and other chemical materials in the environment as a method of controlling the pests and diseases (Mbow, Reisinger, Canadell & O'Brien, 2017). These activities then end up causing all types of pollution of the environment and even cause changes in weather or climate patterns to the extent that some locations are recorded to have extreme climatic conditions such as drought. In turn, the agricultural sector, which is the main sector in relation to food security, is heavily affected.

In response to these issues, organizations have started the development and implementation of various measures, such as promoting sustainable economic development that cares about the present and future needs of nature while using nature resources (Ucal, 2018). In this case, the author suggests that the sustainable economic development

involves the implementation of all activities around a green or circular economy where all the benefits and costs of going back to a greener environment while still considering the technological advancement and employment of renewable and readily available renewable sources of energy are considered. Agricultural economics study has also been considered as one of the solutions that can help solve the issues around increasing the agricultural production for profit maximization but also through embracing methods that conserve nature or help revive the environmental conditions that promote better growth of crops and survival of biodiversity (Barkley & Barkley, 2016), (Gardner, Evenson, Rausser & Pingali, Eds.2001).

The main focus was directed toward the European Commission Green deal project that was initiated in 2019 with the aim of achieving a state of climate neutrality in Europe by the year 2050 (Wolf et al., 2021). This project contained a lot of information that is related to the main topic of climate change and the conflicts between human beings and nature because the strategies and the plans that are suggested in this document produce solutions to the problem statement of this research. The project mainly aims to ensure that there is sustainability through promoting activities that will ensure; the attainment of sustainable mobility through the usage of electric cars and bicycles amongst all other automobiles that do not rely on the usage of fuel energy to locomote, the increased usage of affordable and safe renewable energy sources which will not only help the citizens of Europe to reduce the usage of energy from fossil fuels which increase the greenhouse gases emissions, but they will also help to utilize the renewable energy sources which often cause less to zero pollution to the environment (Haas & Sander, 2020). The activities will ensure the implementation of methods that ensure a fair and healthy food system which is contributed by increased agricultural production and therefore promote the increase of affordable natural foods in the markets and, in turn, encourage people to switch from taking too much-processed foods. Modernized EU industry is also another target that is to be achieved by this project whereby, unlike the previous years where the machinery and production processes were mainly using the fossil fuels and chemicals as energy sources, the modernized industries will mainly be using the green or renewable energy sources that are incorporated with technology for modernization (EC, 2022). Finally, the project was identified to promote the protection of biodiversity and aim at attaining a circular economy whereby both animals and plants will be protected by these policies and strict measures implemented to prevent people from injuring nature (Schoenefeld, 2021).

The project is aimed to last for approximately three decades before the major targets are achieved, but majorly it is a lifetime investment that has been developed to help restore a green environment and ensure that it has been integrated with the latest technology and cleaner sources of energy. Despite the advantages, the project was identified to have been faced major problems such as financial challenges that are brought by poor allocation of resources to the project by the EU countries and also negative externalities such as the emergence of the pandemic contributed because the focus was directed to urgently help save lives of people that were

dying from the pandemic as compared to the green deal project which is a long-term investment (Hafner & Raimondi, 2020). If the main problems are tackled, it would be easier to implement the solutions from the project (Elkerbout et al., 2020).

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, it has been identified that as time goes on, organizations and countries increase their awareness of climate change, and therefore practices are conducted to bring positive change and reduce the impacts that come by climate change. It will take more resources and corporation of the government with people on different levels to ensure matters such as endangering certain species or deforestation has been curbed to zero levels. Through the green deal project, we have seen that the achievement of a greener environment is possible through activities that promote sustainability around the food security section, energy supply, mobility, industry, and protection of biodiversity. Amongst the solutions identified by the European Commission, the green deal project has been identified as one of the major solutions to the climate change problem based on its strategies and plans that aim to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions in Europe by over 50% by 2030 and to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. In order to ensure that the project has reached its targets effectively, the EU countries should ensure that they have directed enough resources in terms of finances and policy enforcements towards the project with correct management. Finally, with the increased awareness of climate changes regionally and globally, we expect that in the future, the environmental policies developed to achieve greener environments will be enforced to a much greater degree across different countries. Positive results have been recorded so far. Between '19 and '20, the area rose by 0.9 million hectares from 13.8 million hectares and between 2012 and 2019 the total organic area in EU rose by 4.3 million hectares from 9.5 million hectares (Eurostat statistics, 2022).

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