

**Our unique approach**

# The right rules

How you're helping deliver the right rules to support a healthy planet where nature and people can thrive together:



## Breaking new legal ground

Working to ensure fair law-making, transparency, and public participation in environmental justice.



## Aligning planet and profit

Driving positive change in financial systems, while prioritising nature and people globally.





# Breaking new legal ground

Law-making must be done properly and fairly and once strong laws are in place, they must be respected by everyone. That's where we step in.

Legal systems, the rule of law and justice are at the centre of ClientEarth's work. Through your support, you are helping ensure that law-making and decision-making is transparent and subject to scrutiny by the courts, the public and the media.

We must also ensure the people and communities most affected by environmental degradation can protect their fundamental rights. And we need to create, improve and defend laws that allow the public to advocate for change, participate in environmental decision-making, and litigate when laws are broken.

**500+**

Public interest lawyers and judges trained to defend the rule of law in Europe

**140<sup>k</sup>**

Environmental cases brought forward since we started our rule of law work in China



The law forms a vital system that organises our society and is one of the most effective levers for change.



# Breaking new legal ground



## Change the system

You're helping us strengthen legal systems for the protection of nature and human rights by:

### 1. Creating new ambitious, enforceable rights, laws and precedent.

We supported a group of climate claimants from the [Torres Strait Islands](#) in their groundbreaking human rights win against the Australian Government for failing to act on climate change.

### 2. Using existing law and legal precedents to drive economic transformation.

In France, we're using corporate law to challenge one of the world's biggest plastic polluters – [Danone](#).

### 3. Empowering others to use legal tools to tackle climate change and protect their environment.

In West Africa and Southeast Asia, we're sharing our knowledge with [forest communities](#) to equip them with the legal tools to safeguard their rights and local environment.

**We established a network of ten law clinics in the Philippines to train the next generation of environmental lawyers.**

#### PHOTOS

Top: Kabay Tamu, one of the 'Torres Strait Eight' claimants

Bottom: A training we held alongside our local partners in Gabon.



# Breaking new legal ground



## How you're fighting for all voices to be heard

In 2021, after a 13-year-long fight, [we won the right for all people to challenge the EU](#) in court on decisions that break environmental law. This historic reform gave members of the public the opportunity to hold the EU to account over climate change and biodiversity loss.

The reform came after bringing our case against the European Union arguing that it was in breach of its access to justice obligations.

### Why access to justice matters

Access to justice is a fundamental right in every democracy. It represents the ability for members of the public to challenge institutions and public authorities when they break the law. Every day public authorities take decisions that impact your environment. Our win ensures every EU citizen's right to question these decisions and allows us to carry out our litigation work to enforce environmental law across Europe.



## Your impact

The law is a powerful tool. Once a legal precedent has been set it paves the way for it to be used in a range of other cases.

**Thanks to you, we can strengthen the entire legal system – from how laws are written, to how they are applied and how they are interpreted and enforced by courts and regulators.**

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Democracy is vital to protecting our health and the environment. Your support ensures the public can make informed consumer or political choices and truly hold decision-makers to account.

**Anne Friel,**  
Head of Just Societies





# Aligning planet and profit

Financial flows and the global economy impact your life every day – from the manufactured microchip in your smartphone to the mechanics of your pension fund.

These economic systems are key to unlocking transformational change across every sector. Your and our planet's future are deeply connected to public and private sector finance, market regulation and international trade laws. With ClientEarth, you have the chance to shape these highly impactful forces.

Together, we can deliver impact in major global financial centres – where the largest public companies are listed, traded and regulated.

By driving positive change in economic systems, you're helping us reroute the global economy to prioritise nature and people.

# 14

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Of the largest UK pension funds have been written to outlining the financial risks of climate change.

# 2

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Major companies – Deloitte and Aon Hewitt – have produced climate change guides citing our work as a key driver.



The global economy and financial flows sit at the heart of the change we need to see in the world.



# Aligning planet and profit



## Change the system

Your support is helping us make financial systems work for nature by:

### 1. Applying financial and consumer laws that put people and planet first.

One way we're using consumer law is holding [oil and gas giant TotalEnergies](#) to account for their advertising campaign that claims they are "a major player in the energy transition".

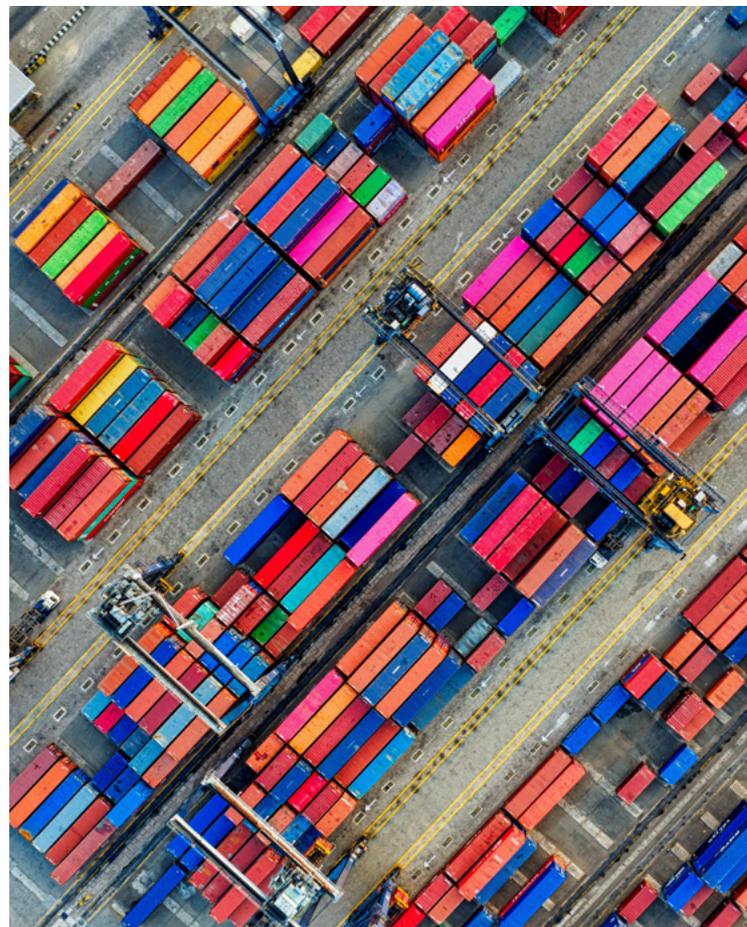
You're supporting 22 live cases aligning planet and profit

### 2. Pushing for climate-positive investment plans and ensuring public finance is advancing the green transition.

To this end, we've published [opinions and reports](#) on the legal duties of pension trustees and professional advisors.

### 3. Developing legal frameworks that ensure global supply chains are sustainable and transparent.

Our legal experts were actively involved in shaping the [EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive](#) – a law with incredible potential to embed sustainable practices throughout corporate supply chains.



# Aligning planet and profit



## How you're holding polluting corporations to account

ClientEarth lodged a legal complaint against BP's global 'Keep Advancing' and 'Possibilities Everywhere' ad campaigns, alleging they misled the public by focusing on BP's low carbon products, when more than 96% of BP's annual spend is on oil and gas.

### A crucial result

BP subsequently [pulled its advertisements](#). An arm of the UK government found ClientEarth had a legitimate interest in the complaint, and that it was material and substantiated.

The complaint now sets an important precedent for action on misleading ad campaigns. This milestone result marked the vital role we and our supporters play in holding public institutions to account.



## Your impact

If we want to change how people and corporations behave, we must change the financial and economic systems that influence and incentivise their behaviours. We are perfectly positioned to deliver this change and your support will drive work this forward.

**Thanks to you, we can lead the way in aligning planet and profit.**

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Law backed by science is a powerful tool to drive systemic change. Now you're using this force to reshape our world for the better.

**Joyce Melcar Tan,**  
Associate Director,  
Japan & Southeast Asia



**Our unique approach**

# Real-world progress

How you're helping make real-world progress by transforming critical, interconnected systems:



## Food systems, ocean and land use

Using legal action to restore ecosystems, protect wildlife, and promote sustainable agriculture.



## Energy, transport and materials

Advocating for clean energy policies and tackles plastic pollution to reduce reliance on fossil fuels.





# Food, ocean and land use

The natural world is the foundation for your security, food and health. Our climate balances on the pillars of biodiversity. Yet species counts continue to plummet worldwide; ecosystems are disappearing, and with them, the climate crisis worsens.

We need practical solutions that stop and reverse the damage done to our fields, forests, rivers and oceans. Half of the world's habitable land is used for agriculture. Its impact cannot be overstated. And neither can the opportunities. By supporting ClientEarth, you are using the power of the law to deliver the truly systemic change we need.

With your help, we can drive the transition to sustainable food systems – ensuring your weekly shop or morning coffee comes from safe and transparent supply chains. To get there, our legal experts are developing ambitious new laws to restore landscapes and ecosystems, reduce plastic pollution, and protect the world's wildlife.

## 26%

Of global greenhouse gas emissions are as a result of food production

## 78%

Of global ocean and freshwater pollution is caused by agriculture.



Sustainable agriculture is an essential part of how we protect biodiversity and Indigenous rights.



# Food, ocean and land use



## Change the system

You are helping us achieve our four goals to protect the health of people and our natural world. These include:

### 1. Developing effective measures to protect land, oceans and ecosystems.

Already our team has helped achieve a commitment of [30% land and ocean protection at COP15](#).

### 2. Holding corporations accountable and adopting new business rules that prevent harmful human rights, health and environmental impacts.

For example, we worked with civil society groups in contributing to a [new trade agreement](#) between Côte d'Ivoire and the European Union which aims to curb illegal logging by ensuring only timber from legal sources can enter the EU market.

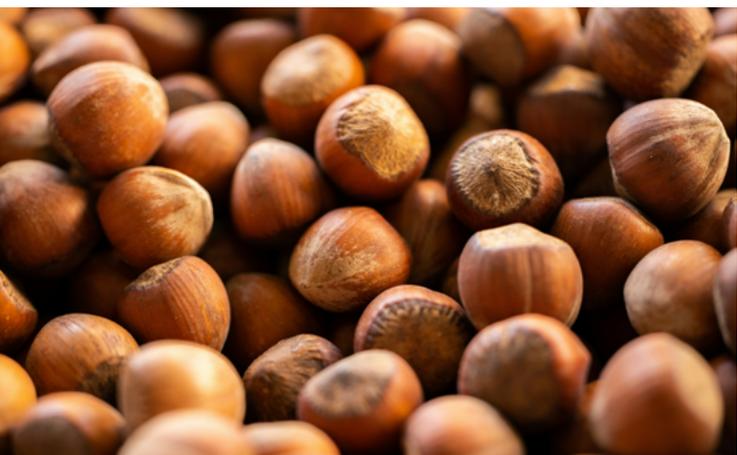
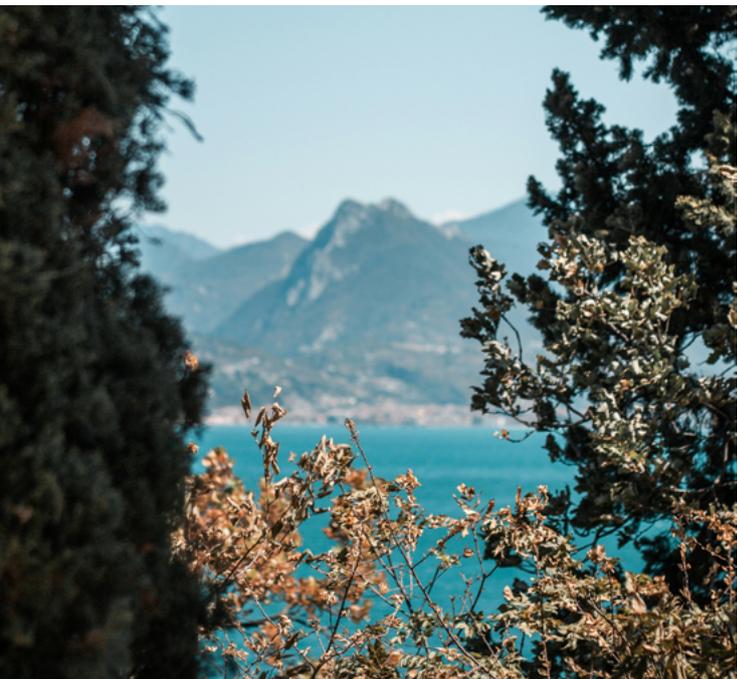
### 3. We want ambitious legal frameworks that drive the transition to a sustainable food system.

We're carrying out strategic litigation to deliver high impact such [as our case against the European Commission](#) for unlawfully approving France's multibillion national agricultural plan under the Common Agricultural Policy.

We helped create the historic [Nature Restoration Law](#) – the first EU law to set legally binding restoration targets for the long-term recovery of nature in Europe.



# Food, ocean and land use



## How you're protecting nature

This year, we achieved an historic ruling by a top Italian court in its decision to rescue an iconic lake from ecological disaster. This followed our challenge against Italian authorities for failing to protect Lake Vico from dangerous pollution caused by intensive hazelnut farming in the area.

This pollution has destroyed habitats and even made the water of the lake undrinkable – despite it being the local community's only water supply.

## The result

The Court ordered the Lazio region's authorities to take immediate action to reverse the destruction of Lake Vico's protected habitats in Lake Vico. Crucially, this new ruling has gone further than we have seen before, not only asking the authorities to put a stop to damaging behaviour, but also to restore the lake. Our success at Lake Vico has sent a clear message: our nature must be respected and cared for.



## Your impact

Thanks to you, we can ensure safe, nutritious and sustainable food for all, protect 30% of our land and ocean and create robust measures to secure the human rights of those affected by global supply chains.

**These are vital steps in solving the worldwide crises of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. With ClientEarth, you will be part of the solution.**



The EU, the UK, and other European countries make rules that set global standards. With your help, we'll make sure we have the right rules in Europe so that all people can live well, within our planetary boundaries.

**Adam Weiss,**  
Chief Programmes  
and Impact Officer





# Energy, transport and materials

More than 80% of the energy we use globally still comes from fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas. This makes our energy systems the biggest driver of climate breakdown.

But here's the good news – the technologies to create a greener, safer and cheaper renewables-based energy system already exist, making this global shift from fossil fuels to clean renewables an achievable challenge.

Your support empowers us to champion policies that make clean energy solutions accessible and sustainable. Our approach also recognises the role of plastics in extending the life of the fossil fuel industry. Oil or shale gas are the key source materials for making plastic and with [plastic use projected to almost triple by 2060](#), this presents fossil fuel companies with their plan B. But with your help, we are using the power of the law to make fossil fuels history and fight against the pollution of our air, land and sea.

## 113

Cases launched targeting coal and gas since we were founded.

## 30

Cities in Germany where we have launched cases targeting highly polluting vehicles



Clean and sustainable energy systems, transport and materials lie at the heart of our ability to wean ourselves off fossil fuels.



# Energy, transport and materials



## Change the system

Together, we are changing our energy, transport and material systems by:

### 1. Phasing out fossil fuel power generation and unlocking the potential of renewable technologies.

We've taken on [Europe's biggest coal power plant](#), Bełchatów, in Poland, which has annual emissions roughly equivalent to the sum total of New Zealand's. After winning our case, plans were announced for the plant's closure.

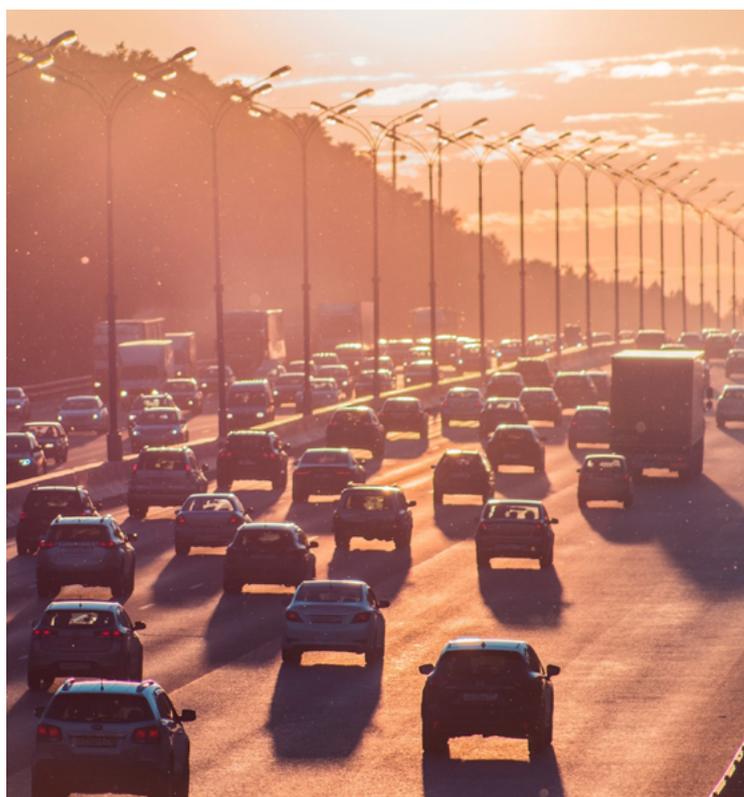
We have already successfully stopped [11 coal power plants and coal mines](#) in Europe using the power of the law.

### 2. Stopping subsidies and financing for fossil fuel energy.

Our legal experts have already secured a ruling that even the [European Investment Bank](#) cannot avoid environmental scrutiny of its investment decisions.

### 3. Accelerating the phase-out of fossil fuels in transport, materials (like plastic) and industrial processes.

Already, we've seen big changes in the car industry in countries like Germany where we have launched cases in over 30 cities.



# Energy, transport and materials



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You are taking a stand against destructive companies. With your support, we can drive rapid, far-reaching change for the good of our planet

**Danielle Lackey,**  
**Executive Director,**  
**North America**



## How you're challenging fossil fuel companies

Oil and gas corporations have left a haunting legacy of over two million abandoned but still polluting wells across the United States. In 2021 alone, these **'zombie wells'** spewed more than 295,000 tons of methane into the atmosphere.

Instead of plugging the wells, the industry's largest players transfer these wells to smaller companies that are destined to go bankrupt.

### Our case

That's why we filed a lawsuit in Colorado that holds oil and gas companies accountable for their impact on local communities and the environment. If successful, communities burdened with abandoned wells nationwide would have a new avenue for pursuing oil and gas companies to front costs amounting to hundreds of billions of dollars. This is just one of the ways that you're making fossil fuel companies clean up their act.



## Your impact

With ClientEarth's expertise, resources and networks, we can deliver a real and lasting impact on the world's economic systems. But without you, none of this is possible.

**Thanks to you, we can deliver the vital change our planet needs and build a sustainable and healthy future for all.**