

# Industrial agriculture and forestry sector policy

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

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In the frame of its Corporate Social Responsibility policy, and as a signatory of the Principles for Responsible Banking, Societe Generale and its subsidiaries (the Group) intends to take into account the environmental, social (E&S) and governance issues associated with all its activities, to better control their impact and promote good practices.

The Group published [E&S general principles](#) which define the overall framework of its E&S risk management system for a responsible conduct of its banking and financial activities. Within this framework, transversal statements addressing issues common to all sectors have been developed, as well as sector policies where the Group looks more specifically into certain sectors identified as sensitive from an E&S standpoint and in which it plays an active role.

The Industrial agriculture and Forestry sectors have been identified as such sectors.

The Group provides a range of banking and financial products and services to the Industrial agriculture and Forestry sectors as well as the associated downstream activities. The Group believes that the agri-food and forestry industries should:

- allow all producers to carry on profitable, responsible and meaningful practices with dignity,
- secure to all access to healthy and traceable commodities and food,
- ensure the resilience of local populations,
- protect soils, water resources and biodiversity, and
- contribute to limit climate change while adapting to it.

The Group is willing to remain a value-adding partner to its clients, while ensuring that such support is provided in a responsible and considered manner. This is why the Group aims for the highest E&S standards when considering the provision of banking and financial products and services to the Industrial agriculture and Forestry sectors .

The Group's Industrial agriculture and Forestry sectors policy is structured around an umbrella policy targeting E&S issues common to the whole sector. In addition, dedicated appendixes on commodities/sectors requiring a specific sectorial or regional approach have been developed:

- Palm oil production,
- Soy and beef production in South America,
- Fisheries and aquaculture,
- Forestry, as well as pulp and paper production.

## 2. SCOPE

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### 2.1. Geographical scope

The Industrial agriculture and Forestry sectors policy is applicable worldwide. The application criteria may take into account the robustness of the countries' governance framework where the assets are located.

### 2.2. Scope of the Group's activities

This sector policy applies to all consolidated companies over which the Group exercises exclusive control.

It applies to the following products and services:

- Banking and financial products and services: credit, debt and equity markets, guarantees and advisory activities.
- Services provided by the Group's entities managing proprietary assets and third-party assets, with the exception of index-linked products. External asset managers are monitored and encouraged to implement similar standards.
- Investment activities of the Group's insurance entities.

## 2.3. Scope of sector activities

This sector policy covers the following activities as well as client companies involved in them:

- All kinds of industrial agriculture (i.e. agriculture characterized by an industrial mode of exploitation and maintaining a close relationship with the downstream industrial sector):
  - Field crops and other large-scale crops (cereals, legumes, oleaginous – including soy, palm oil, cocoa, coffee, sugar cane, industrial, energetic or forage crops, etc.),
  - Large-scale market gardening, fruit farming, arboriculture and viticulture,
  - First transformation of crops (like grain storage and processing, mills, oil-mills and crushing, etc.),
  - Service delivery directly related to agriculture including cooperatives,
- Breeding, transportation, slaughtering and processing of all kinds of terrestrial animals,
- Commercial forestry, woodcutting and first transformation of wood (including sawing, pulp, trituration and fiber processing),
- Industrial aquaculture and fisheries.

### Family farms and small businesses

Essential to world production and food security of communities, family farms and small agricultural food & forestry businesses cannot be subjected by the financial system to the same criteria as major corporate actors. Thus, the Group will not apply the criteria defined hereafter to non-incorporated family ventures, retail clients and small farms, nor to small businesses of the value chain. However, the Group expects all clients, whatever the type or size of their business, to respect the laws and regulations they are subject to (including in the field of human rights and fundamental rights at work, as well as the protection of human health, soils, water and the environment).

### Downstream activities

As the downstream sector of the agri-food and forestry value chains is a key driver of sustainable agricultural practices adoption, the Group's B to B corporate clients operating downstream the aforementioned activities, i.e. traders, manufacturers, agri-food and forestry industrials (but excluding distributors and retailers) are also included in the scope of this policy.

## 3. INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND FORESTRY SECTOR ESG RISKS

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A non-exhaustive list of potential E&S and governance risks considered by Societe Generale in its risk management framework is provided in the E&S general principles.

When evaluating corporates' activity in the Industrial agriculture and Forestry sectors, particular attention will be paid to the following risks:

#### **Environnemental risks**

- Deforestation and conversion of natural ecosystems and habitats into agricultural land, or damage to ecological continuity.
- Negative impacts on biodiversity present on and beyond farmed land, such as inappropriate spreading of chemical products or introduction of invasive species.
- Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions and other climate change impacts due to forest fires, forest or peatland clearance, and growing and transformation practices.
- Soil erosion, compaction or degradation.
- Unsustainable use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Negative impact on surface waters availability and quality as well as fossil waters overexploitation.
- Pollution and other impacts on coastal and marine life and ecosystems.
- Disregard of appropriate standards of animal welfare.

#### **Social risks**

- Violations of human rights and fundamental rights at work, disregard for decent working conditions and health & safety measures.
- Exposition of rural populations, beyond agricultural workers, to chemicals and other harmful pollutions.
- Negative impact on small farmers income and unfair value share.
- Land grabbing and endangering rural societies and local communities.
- Negative impacts on indigenous population or their lands.
- Impacts on local food security and food prices.

In addition, governance risks are managed as part of the Know Your Customer (KYC) and other compliance processes to guarantee alignment of the Group with applicable laws and regulations, including exclusions based on international sanctions.

## **4. SECTOR SPECIFIC E&S STANDARDS AND INITIATIVES**

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The Group being active worldwide, the E&S laws and regulations its clients have to comply with vary from one country to another or one region to another. The Group requests its clients to comply with the laws and regulations of each relevant country or region while encouraging them to apply the following E&S standards and initiatives.

A number of institutions, business associations of the Industrial agriculture and Forestry sectors, and other civil society organizations have developed standards and initiatives addressing the E&S impacts resulting from the sectors activities. The standards and initiatives listed below provide general guidance for Societe Generale E&S assessment framework in the Industrial agriculture and Forestry sectors:

- The [ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work](#).
- The [FAO Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management](#).
- The [FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests](#).
- The [FAO, IFAD, UNCTAD and World Bank Principles for Responsible Agricultural Investment \(PRAI\)](#).
- The [FAO-OECD Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains](#).
- The [FAO Guidelines for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Assessments \(SAFA\)](#).
- The [relevant World Bank Group Agribusiness/Food production EHS Guidelines](#).
- The [UICN approaches to sustainable agriculture](#).
- The [UNEP-FI agriculture sector guide “Natural capital credit risk assessment in agricultural lending”](#).
- The [Cartagena Protocol on biosafety](#).
- The [IFC Global Map of Environmental & Social Risks in Agro-Commodity Production](#).
- The [IFC Good Practice Note on Improving Animal Welfare in Livestock Operations](#).
- The [Principles Underlying the Farm Animals Responsible Minimum Standards \(FARMS\)](#).
- The [French national strategy against imported deforestation \(SDNI\)](#).
- The [Global Canopy finance sector Roadmap for eliminating commodity-driven deforestation](#)
- The [CDP Forest Program](#).

*Note: specific commodity programs, certificates and conventions for sub-sector issues are discussed in appendixes.*

New regulations and voluntary standards will be developed in the future. The Group will closely follow these developments, use them as references in implementing its Industrial agriculture and forestry sectors policy and update it if necessary.

## 5. IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS AND COMMITMENT

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### 5.1. Implementation process

While it is incumbent on the corporates the Group is linked with to manage the E&S risks associated with their operations and to comply with the applicable laws and regulations, it is important to the Group to evaluate the consistency of its activities with the E&S commitments of the Group.

The E&S general principles set out the main features and implementation processes of the Group’s E&S risk management system. The Group’s decisions are based on public information or information made available by the client. The Group shall make its reasonable endeavors to ensure the quality and reliability of this information but accepts no liability whatsoever in connection with any such information.

Three types of application criteria have been defined.

The **E&S exclusion criteria** are intended to exclude certain types of corporates, dedicated transactions or services or financial products from the Group's activities.

The **E&S priority evaluation criteria** are criteria for which a specific and systematic answer is requested as part of the evaluation process. For client's evaluation, if the criteria are not fulfilled, a positive evolution from the company current practices is expected in a limited and reasonable timeframe and can be formalized through action plans or contract clauses. For dedicated transactions on projects, alignment with the criteria is expected as part of the project development; for dedicated advisory services ahead of a project's development, the client's commitment to develop the project according to these criteria is evaluated.

The **other E&S evaluation criteria** aim to identify the other risk factors of the sector, that will also be considered as part of the evaluation, and also to specify the best practices that the Group wishes to encourage.

## 5.2. Commitment

The results of the evaluation in regard to the different criteria will provide evidence for decision-making process to the Group. The Group will only work with clients within the implementation scope of the policy who meet or aim at meeting the applicable E&S criteria.

During the E&S review of the Industrial agriculture and Forestry sectors' clients, if a client is found to be failing a criterion of the Policy, a dialogue will be engaged aiming at finding ways to improve the situation through a time bound process. In case of disagreement between the Group's first and second lines of defense and/or lasting discrepancy between a client policy and the Group's policy, the issue will be examined by the Group Responsible Commitment Committee<sup>1</sup>. The Group will take appropriate measures if its E&S criteria are not met, or if the client does not aim at meeting them.

The Group may refuse to provide banking or financial products or services to certain corporates or refuse to be involved in certain transactions as a result of this evaluation, even if the exclusion criteria defined in this sector policy are not applicable. The Group may also require additional actions or engage in an additional due diligence process before concluding on the acceptability of a client or a transaction.

## 5.3. Specific commitment on deforestation

The Group is highly concerned by the negative impacts of deforestation on local communities, water resources, biodiversity, soil fertility and, on a global scale, climate change.

The main driver of deforestation and forest degradation is the expansion of agricultural land. Admitting the inadequacy of previous initiatives to fight deforestation, individual and collective efforts must be pursued to accelerate the decoupling of soft commodities production from deforestation. The Group is committed to progress on this path. Targeting full traceability is part of the solution. The Group recognizes that not all its clients have 100% traceability over their supply chains at the date of publication of this policy, but it requires that all of them work towards this goal.

As such, from publication of this policy until the end of 2022, the Group will engage with its existing corporate clients active in the most sensitive sectors as regards deforestation (palm oil and South American soy and cattle sectors) to assess their

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<sup>1</sup> The Group's Responsible Commitment Committee examines and arbitrates complex transaction/customer cases with a high risk in terms of the Group's reputation or non-alignment with its standards in terms of Corporate Social Responsibility, culture and conduct or ethics.

strategies to tackle deforestation.

After this date, the Group will only provide financial products and services to clients:

- Committed to deforestation- and conversion-free activities (own operations and supply chain).
- Committed to establish and systematize traceability in their value chain and able to report progress in terms of scope of implementation and/or percentage of achievement on an annual basis.

In addition, and from the publication date of this policy, the Group will refrain from onboarding prospect companies active in palm oil or South American soy and cattle sectors that are not committed to deforestation- and conversion-free activities (own operations and supply chain) nor committed to establish and systematize traceability in their value chain.

## 6. APPLICATION CRITERIA

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Based on the analysis of the initiatives listed in Section 4. and of best practices of multilaterals and other financial institutions, the Group has defined the following E&S criteria which are incorporated into its decision-making process when considering provision of banking and financial products and services in the Industrial agriculture and Forestry sectors.

In addition, the Group has identified specific issues and criteria for some sub-sectors of the Industrial agriculture and Forestry sectors that are detailed in appendixes. Criteria set out in those appendixes are applicable in addition to the ones developed in the umbrella policy.

In addition:

- Client companies using biomass for power generation (and related dedicated transactions and services) may fall in the scope of Societe Generale Thermal power sector policy.
- Client companies with biofuel activities (and related dedicated transactions, products and services) may fall in the scope of Societe Generale Oil & Gas sector policy.

### 6.1. Clients criteria

#### Priority criteria

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When conducting a corporate E&S assessment of a client involved in **upstream agriculture or forestry sectors**, the Group considers whether the client company has E&S risk management measures in place, commensurate to its impacts, and addressing in particular:

#### **Environmental impacts**

- Impact on biodiversity, including the use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- Water management.
- Waste management.
- Where applicable, peatlands integrity and deforestation<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Client companies operating in the countries with the greatest loss of tree cover per year, as identified by [Global Forest Watch](#).



- Where applicable, animal welfare in farming practices.

### Social impacts

- Workers' health and safety.
- Impacts on human rights, with specific consideration of child and forced labour as defined in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions, and, where applicable, management of impacts on indigenous people.

When conducting a corporate E&S assessment of a client involved in **downstream agriculture or forestry sectors** (i.e. traders, manufacturers, agri-food and forestry industrials but excluding distributors and retailers), the Group considers whether the client company has measures in place to encourage better farming practices in its supply chain (of critical raw materials), in particular:

- Biodiversity.
- Human rights and working conditions.
- Traceability (supported by a certification approach when applicable).
- Where applicable, animal welfare.
- Where applicable, deforestation.
- Where applicable, food safety.

When conducting a corporate E&S assessment of **agricultural cooperatives**, the Group considers whether the client company has set-up constructive dialogue and training for its members, and whether it promotes sustainable farming practices, the rational use of pesticides and fertilizers and animal welfare practices where applicable.

### Other criteria

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When conducting a corporate E&S assessment of a client involved in this sector, the Group also considers the following criteria:

- Whether the company measures and has a strategy to reduce its Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.

In addition, the Group encourages its clients active in livestock farming to adopt a time-bound plan for transitioning towards production or sourcing systems meeting FARMS requirements.

## 6.2. Dedicated transactions, products and services criteria

### Exclusion criteria

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The Group will not provide dedicated financial transactions, products and services when the underlying activities are:

- Development or expansion of upstream industrial agriculture activities located within peatlands, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a Ramsar site, a nationally protected area (IUCN categories I-IV) or a site identified by the Alliance for Zero Extinction.

- Any operation with material adverse impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of a World Heritage Site as well as on High Conservation Value or High Carbon Stock areas.
- Involving large slash-and-burn clearing or definitive clear-cutting, except for sanitary reasons.
- Trade of species regulated under CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) or species on the IUCN Red List of threatened species, outside of conservation actions or scientific framework.
- Production or trade of pesticides/herbicides subject to international phase outs or bans such as pesticides 1A or 1B WHO, products forbidden by the Stockholm convention on POP (Persistent Organic Pollutants) or listed in the Appendix III of the Rotterdam Convention.
- Industrial production of 1st generation biofuels (apart from direct use limited to the customer's needs).

### Priority criteria

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When conducting an E&S assessment of a dedicated transaction, product or service in this sector, the Group considers the following criteria:

#### Environmental impacts

- When the activities associated with the transaction or service are located within, or with potential material impacts on Key Biodiversity Areas or protected areas, whether a third-party assessment of the potential impacts on biodiversity and related ecosystem services has been carried out. The assessment will have demonstrated that:
  - The client is implementing a mitigation strategy which prioritizes efforts to prevent or avoid adverse impacts to biodiversity, then to minimize and reduce those effects, to repair or restore them, and finally to offset or compensate them, with a view to achieving no net loss, and preferably gain, of biodiversity.
  - Adequate consultation of local population and other stakeholders, where relevant.

For activities located within, or with potential material impacts on a protected area, if the exclusion criteria are not triggered, evidence is provided that the development is legally permitted and consistent with any regulatory management plans for such area.

- Whether the project respect their right to use the land and the legitimate tenure rights.
- Whether a water management plan specific to the project has been developed.
- Whether a management plan related to pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers use, specific to the project, has been developed in line with FAO International Code of Conduct on Pesticides Management and consistent with country commitments under the Stockholm, Rotterdam and Basel Conventions; the project must have a time-bound plan to terminate the use of paraquat, if used.
- Where applicable, whether a management plan related to animal welfare, specific to the project, has been developed, in line with the IFC's Good Practice Note "Improving Animal Welfare in Livestock Operations" and the FARMS requirements.

#### Social impacts

- Whether a health and safety management plan has been developed.
- Whether the client has a policy applicable to the project ensuring no child or forced labour, no discrimination and the right of association (as defined by the ILO Conventions).
- Whether local stakeholders' engagement is developed and if necessary, a process of Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP).

- Where indigenous peoples are affected, with a specific attention to local food safety, and in the circumstances prescribed by IFC Performance Standard 7, whether their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is obtained in due time as a result of the ICP.

The Group applies the [Equator Principles](#) to the transactions and services falling in the scope of this initiative. The criteria above are applied in conjunction with, or in addition to the underlying standards of this initiative.

#### Other criteria

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When conducting an E&S assessment of a dedicated transaction or service in this sector, the Group also considers the following criteria:

- Whether a soil management plan specific to the project has been developed.
- Where applicable, whether an invasive species management plan specific to the project has been developed.
- Where applicable, whether a Greenhouse gas emissions management plan, specific to the project, has been developed (including CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>O).

### 6.3. Financial product criteria

Commodity derivatives have been developed with a view to assisting market players in better managing their price and currency risks. The Group is an actor of these markets and makes its expertise available to its clients to propose the most appropriate solutions.

Following the food price shocks in the past, and their consequences on the poorest populations, the Group is aware that activities considered as speculative may, according to some research studies, play a role in the volatility of agricultural commodities prices. That's why, the Group supports the development and implementation of appropriate regulation in futures exchanges and markets such as adequate supervision, increased transparency, and positions control so as to limit all material impact on agricultural commodities prices.

It applies all the checks required by the regulation against market abuses and strives as far as possible to check the coherence of the position held by clients with their risk situation.

The Group is not engaged in proprietary trading in commodity derivatives, apart from market making.

### 6.4. Asset management and investment criteria

#### Exclusion criteria

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The Group entities managing assets for their own account or on behalf of third parties exclude from their investments:

- Agricultural-based funds and investment products (i.e. funds and investment products for which the majority of risked positions are purposively linked to agricultural commodities inventories).

The Group will not create such funds and products or get them created. In addition, the Group does not proactively market retail saving products primarily linked to agricultural commodities.

The Group will only act as an intermediary if the client expressly requires access to such products, proposed by other financial institutions.

## 7. DISCLOSURE AND UPDATES

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This sector policy is applicable from the date of its publication to all services provided therefrom, with exceptions for pre-existing business commitments or opportunities at an advanced stage of negotiation.

This sector policy may evolve in time, according to legislative or regulatory evolutions and as a result of the discussions between the Group and its various stakeholders. Therefore, the Group reserves the right to modify this sector policy at any time. Updated versions will be posted on the Group's website, where the E&S general principles and the E&S transversal statements and other sector policies are also available.

This document cannot be interpreted as a contractual commitment.

This sector policy has been established in French and in English. The English version is a free translation.

## A. Palm oil

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The palm oil industry is an important driver for economic growth in Southeast Asia, Papua New Guinea, Central and Western Africa, and to a lesser extent Latin America. While the positive impact on economic development is considerable, palm oil has been a major contributor to deforestation, biodiversity losses and increased emissions of greenhouse gases in some countries.

Based on the analysis of the RSPO (The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) recommendations and of best practices of multilateral and financial institutions, the Group has defined the following E&S criteria, additional to the umbrella policy, which are incorporated into its decision-making process when considering provision of banking and financial services in the Palm oil sector.

### Scope

This appendix covers the following activities as well as client companies involved in them:

- Industrial plantations of oil palm trees.
- Mills, traders and refiners of palm oil.

### Standards and Initiatives

- [Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil \(RSPO\)](#).
- [International Sustainability and Carbon Certification \(ISCC\)](#).

### Clients criteria

#### Exclusion criteria

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The Group will not provide new financial products or services to:

- Any company that does not have a NDPE (No deforestation, No peat, No exploitation) policy, applicable to its own plantations and to its sourcing chain, and including at a minimum the following exclusions:
  - New development on High Conservation Value (HCV), High Carbon Stock (HCS) areas.
  - Burning for the development of new oil palm plantations.
  - Development of new palm oil plantations on peatlands, regardless of depth.
  - Exploitation of people and communities, such as child or forced labour and the violation of the rights of local communities (including Free Prior and Informed Consent).

#### Priority criteria

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When conducting a corporate E&S assessment of a client involved in the palm oil sub-sector, the Group considers the following criteria, in addition to the criteria set by the umbrella policy:

- Whether the client company is an active member of a credible certification scheme like the RSPO and/or ISCC.
- Whether the client company sourcing palm oil implements and systematizes the traceability of its sourcing.

- Whether the client company sourcing palm oil reports on its status (own operations and supply chain) regarding traceability and no deforestation.
- Whether the client company sourcing palm oil engages with its suppliers, including smallholders, regarding no deforestation and sustainable agricultural practices.

#### Other criteria

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When conducting a corporate E&S assessment of a client involved in the palm oil sub-sector, the Group also considers whether the client company implements appropriate measures to verify, possibly through a third party, the implementation of its policies in its supply chain.

### **Dedicated transactions, products and services criteria**

#### Priority criteria

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When conducting an E&S assessment of a dedicated transaction or service with an oil palm plantation as an underlying asset, the Group considers the following criteria, in addition to the criteria set by the umbrella policy:

- Whether new plantations are RSPO/ISCC certified or engaged in a time-bound process with a view to obtain certification or independent verification of the RSPO/ISCC principles and criteria within 3 years after acquiring or developing new operations.

## B. Soy and beef in South America

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The current deforestation crisis in South America, along with the correlated forest fires, threatens the ecological integrity of crucial ecosystems with global consequences. At the heart of this trend, soy production and land conversion for cattle continues to expand. Current levels of deforestation and land conversion in the Amazon and in the Cerrado, whether legal or illegal, have reached unsustainable levels and need to be tackled. Relocation of deforestation fronts in neighboring and equally valuable regions must also be prevented.

This is why the Group has defined the following E&S criteria, additional to the umbrella policy, which are incorporated into its decision-making process when considering provision of banking and financial services in the soy and beef sectors in South America.

### Scope

This appendix covers the following activities as well as client companies involved in them:

- Cattle and beef production in South America.
- Soy production in South America.
- Trading of soy, soy by-products (oil and meal) and beef produced in South America.

As well as client companies majority involved in 1<sup>st</sup> transformation of soy and beef produced in South America.

### Standards and Initiatives

- [Roundtable on Responsible Soy Association](#) (RTRS).
- [Basel Criteria for Responsible Soy Production](#).
- [The ProTerra standard for sustainable Soy Production](#).
- [The CGF Responsible Soy Sourcing Guidelines](#).

### Clients criteria

#### Exclusion criteria

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In addition to the criteria set by the umbrella policy, the Group will not provide new financial products or services to any company involved in beef or soybeans production or trading from land cleared or converted after 2008 in the Amazon.

#### Priority criteria

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When conducting a corporate E&S assessment of a client sourcing soy, soy by-products or beef produced in South America, the Group considers the following criteria, in addition to the criteria set by the umbrella policy:

- Whether the client company implements and systematizes the traceability of its soybeans, soy by-products or cattle supply.
- Whether it reports on its status (own operations and supply chain) regarding traceability and no deforestation.
- Whether it implements a purchasing policy or practices that address the sustainability issues in line with best practices or certification schemes.

### Other criteria

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When conducting a corporate E&S assessment of a client involved in the soy and beef sectors in South America, the Group also considers whether the client company implements adequate measures to verify, possibly through a third party, the implementation of its policies in its supply chain.

## Dedicated transactions, products and services criteria

### Exclusion criteria

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In addition to the criteria set by the umbrella policy, the Group will not provide financial transactions, products or services when the underlying activities are:

- Soy growing or cattle raising in the Amazon and the Cerrado.
- Processing plants whose sourcing in soy or cattle is coming in majority from the Amazon or from the Cerrado.

### Priority criteria

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When conducting an E&S assessment of a dedicated transaction or service with soy processing plants as underlying assets, the Group has the following requirement, in addition to the criteria set by the umbrella policy:

- New processing plants are managed following the industry's best practices for responsible soy production and processing, such as the Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS) Standard for Responsible Soy Production or the Basel Criteria for Responsible Soy Production.



## C. Aquaculture and fisheries

While the seafood sector is a vital source of income, employment and food security for many millions of people, particularly in coastal and island nations, it can also have a significant negative impact on the environment and on local communities. Fishing activities have contributed to the decline of non-target fish stocks, the mortality of cetaceans, marine mammals and seabirds, and exacerbated marine ecosystem degradation due to destructive fishing practices. Aquaculture operations can also impact negatively biodiversity and ecosystem functioning when located in ecologically sensitive areas and indirectly contribute to the decline of wild capture fisheries.

This is why the Group has defined the following E&S criteria, additional to the umbrella policy, which are incorporated into its decision-making process when considering provision of banking and financial services in the aquaculture and fisheries sectors.

### Scope

This appendix covers the following activities as well as client companies involved in them:

- Aquaculture: raising/harvesting of aquatic organisms such as fish, crustaceans, molluscs, plants and algae. Aquaculture includes fish farming.
- Fisheries: wild catch/harvesting of any marine or freshwater species.

### Standards and Initiatives

- [The FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries.](#)
- [The UN General Assembly Resolutions pertaining to sustainable fisheries \(including ban of driftnets\).](#)
- The UNEP-FI practical guide for financial institutions: "[TURNING THE TIDE: How to finance a sustainable ocean recovery](#)".
- [The 2007 ILO convention "Work in Fishing" \(n°188\).](#)
- [The Marine Stewardship Council \(MSC\) and Aquaculture Stewardship Council \(ASC\).](#)
- [The UNEP "Certification and Sustainable Fisheries" guideline.](#)

### Clients criteria

#### Priority criteria

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When conducting a corporate E&S assessment of a client involved in this sector, the Group considers the following criteria, in addition to those defined in the umbrella policy:

- Whether the client company has E&S risks management measures in place, commensurate to its impacts, and addressing in particular:
  - Illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing.
  - Destructive fishing practices such as explosive, electrical fishing, sharks fining, driftnets beyond the limits set by UE regulation, mammals or seabird catch or deep-sea bottom trawling beyond 2000ft.
  - By-catch of not target species that are listed on the IUCN red list of threatened species.
  - Overfishing.
  - For aquaculture: pollution and water contamination.

- Whether the client company is involved under a credible certification scheme such as those defined in the UNEP "Certification and Sustainable Fisheries" guideline.

## **Dedicated transactions, products and services criteria**

### Priority criteria

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When conducting an E&S assessment of a dedicated transaction, product or service in aquaculture sector, the Group will consider the following criteria, in addition to the criteria of the umbrella policy:

- Whether the client company has a sustainable sourcing policy regarding the food input for the aquaculture operation, with a goal to avoid wild fish as a primary food supply.

## D. Forestry, pulp and paper

While logging in sustainably managed forest does not contribute to deforestation, massive clear-cuts are increasingly questioned for their impacts on biodiversity and water resources, even with proper replantation.

Primary transformation of wood-products through industrial processes, and notably the paper industry, can have a significant impact on natural ecosystems and face many challenges in the fields of occupational health and safety and social rights. It is therefore of importance to promote and implement sustainable forestry and logging practices, cleaner and safer industrial processes as well as related sourcing policies.

This is why the Group has defined the following E&S criteria, additional to the umbrella policy, which are incorporated into its decision-making process when considering provision of banking and financial services in the forestry and pulp and paper sectors.

### Scope

Forestry is the practice of creating, managing, using, conserving, repairing and caring for forests. It also includes the direct upstream activity of seedlings production as well as the downstream activities of timber exploitation and first processing of wood (sawing, pulp or chip production).

This appendix covers the following activities as well as client companies involved in them:

- Growing and harvesting of timber in artificial plantations and forestland.
- Woodcutting and first transformation of wood (including sawing, pulp, trituration and fiber processing).
- Timber trading and wholesale supply.
- Pulp and paper industries.

### Standards and Initiatives

- [Forest Stewardship Council \(FSC\) certification.](#)
- [Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification \(PEFC\).](#)
- [Origine et Légalité des Bois \(OLB\)](#) de Bureau Veritas.
- [IFC EHS Guidelines on Pulp and paper mills.](#)

### Clients criteria

#### Priority criteria

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When conducting a corporate E&S assessment of a client involved in this sector, in addition to the criteria set by the umbrella policy, the Group considers the following criteria:

- Whether the client company active in the growing and harvesting of timber has policies and procedures ensuring the legal compliance of its operations and preventing illegal logging (as per the OLB referential for instance and the associated certifications).
- Whether the client company active in the growing and harvesting of timber is engaged in a sustainability certification scheme for its operations (either FSC or PEFC).
- Whether the client company active in the downstream sector (1<sup>st</sup> transformation, trading and wood supply, as well as in pulp and paper industry) implements purchasing policy that addresses the sustainability issues for

forestry, including illegal logging. This could mean getting a Chain of Custody certification and giving preference to certified products sourcing where possible.

- Whether the client company active in the pulp and paper industry develops a credible transition plan toward ECF or TCF technology for existing plants, as per IFC recommendations.
- Whether the client company active in the pulp and paper industry provides a management plan to monitor water effluents and air emissions.

#### Other criteria

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When conducting a corporate E&S assessment of a client involved in the forestry sub-sector, the Group also considers whether the client company implements adequate measures to verify, possibly through a third party, the implementation of its policies in its supply chain.

### **Dedicated transactions, products and services criteria**

#### Exclusion criteria

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In addition to the criteria set by the umbrella policy, the Group will not provide new dedicated financial transactions, products or services when the underlying activities are:

- New pulp mills with a bleaching process if they are not using ECF or TCF technology.