Purchasing policy for supply chains free from deforestation and conversion



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Our responsibility for deforestation and conversion



Our responsibility for deforestation and conversion

Our CSR culture

Sustainability is one of Lidl's core strategic goals for a brighter future. Wherever our actions impact people and the environment, we are there to take responsibility. This is how we reaffirm our commitment to quality each and every day, thereby ensuring the best possible future for the Company.

It is against this backdrop that we have developed our CSR strategy, which gives us clear guidance in fulfilling our commitment to act responsibly. Our joint and comprehensive understanding of sustainable conduct addresses six strategic focus areas: conserving resources; protecting the climate; respecting biodiversity; acting fairly; promoting health; and engaging in dialog. In this way, we describe how we understand and implement Lidl's responsibility for the environment, people and our customers.

Our responsibility for forests and their ecosystems

Many of the own-brand products in our range contain raw materials whose production may be associated with deforestation and, as a result, endanger valuable ecosystems. At Lidl Purchasing, we therefore aim to ensure social and environmental awareness in the raw material supply chains for our products. By taking a structural approach to deforestation and conversion, Lidl can make a positive contribution to the strategic focus areas of protecting the climate, conserving resources, respecting biodiversity and acting fairly.



Background information about deforestation and conversion



Background information about deforestation and conversion

Forests cover 31% of global land area and are crucial to life on earth. As the planet's green lung, they are essential to the air quality of our atmosphere. At the same time, the forest floor stores and purifies 75% of the world's fresh water.¹ More than 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods² and 80% of all land animals and plants are found there.³ Intact forests and natural ecosystems are therefore crucial to biodiversity and are the basis for our food supply and health. As trees absorb carbon dioxide – a greenhouse gas – they also have a key role to play in curbing climate change.⁴



Even though forests are vital to human life, they are being destroyed at an alarming rate. For example, the \geq conversion of ecosystems with a high conservation value (HCV) and of \geq forests with a high carbon stock (HCS) has reached critical levels in tropical regions. In Latin America, especially in the Amazon rain forest, more than 43 million hectares of forest were destroyed between 2004 and 2017. That is an area roughly the size of Morocco. Agriculture is one of the main causes of global deforestation and the destruction of natural ecosystems, particularly in the tropical regions of South America and Southeast Asia.⁵

Agriculture is considered to be the main driver of deforestation and environmental degradation, notably as the result of the direct harvesting of timber, the cultivation of palm oil, soy and cocoa, and the creation of pasture for cattle ranching. Between 2000 and 2010, commercial cattle ranching, and the cultivation of soy and palm oil accounted for 40% of converted tropical ecosystems. Deforestation and subsequent agricultural use have impacted biodiversity, especially in rain forests rich in flora and fauna, and thus the basis for functioning and stable ecosystems.

¹ WWF: Deforestation Fronts. Drivers and Responses in a Changing World. Summary, 2020.

² WWF: Living Planet Report 2020, 2020.

³ FAO: The State of the World's Forests, 2020.

⁴ Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture: Ausgewählte Ergebnisse der dritten Bundeswaldinventur. Wälder binden CO₂, 2012.

⁵ WWF: Deforestation Fronts. Drivers and Responses in a Changing World. Summary, 2020.

Deforestation is one cause of the deterioration in ecosystem services



Food retailers can influence how the food and food-related products they sell are produced and grown. The industry therefore has a responsibility to ensure that its supply chains are free from deforestation.

16%

of tropical deforestation is associated with EU imports

After China, the European Union is thus the world's second largest agent of tropical deforestation.⁶

⁶ WWF: Stepping up? The continuing impact of EU consumption on nature worldwide, 2021.

Our commitment to forests and their ecosystems



Our commitment to forests and their ecosystems

Lidl Purchasing sees preserving biodiversity and addressing the issue of deforestation in global supply chains as a key area of activity. In order to achieve our goal of ensuring deforestation-free supply chains, we have partnered with external stakeholders to develop a holistic strategy based on four pillars. In the course of this development work, we also consulted environmental organizations – the WWF and Mighty Earth – which reviewed the content of our first strategy draft.

We are seeking to implement supply chains that are free from deforestation, conversion and exploitation by the end of 2025.

Particularly relevant raw materials are soy, palm (kernel) oil, cocoa, beef and cellulose/wood.

Understanding impacts:

We are identifying risks in supply chains and creating transparency

2. Establishing standards:

We are certifying our critical agricultural raw materials

3. Promoting alternatives:

We are fostering the use of more sustainable alternatives in our product range and reducing the procurement of critical raw materials

4. Driving change:

We are active in initiatives and projects.

Accountability Framework initiative:

Lidl applies standards on forests and deforestation in the supply chain

We observe the definitions of forest and deforestation in the countries of origin but additionally seek to apply higher and more stringent standards throughout our supply chains. In this, we are guided by the standards of the <u>> Accountability Framework initiative (AFi)</u>. This nonprofit initiative counts the WWF and Rainforest Alliance among its members and has developed the leading framework for preventing deforestation in supply chains. The goal of the initiative is to create harmonized and internationally applicable definitions and rules on forests and deforestation.

Each standard includes a cutoff date, after which no further deforestation for the cultivation of raw materials is permitted in a certain location. Certification systems differ in terms of location and date. Pro Terra has banned deforestation in certain areas since 2008, for example, whereas the Rainforest Alliance ban has only been in place since 2014. Our commitment to no deforestation and no conversion of important ecosystems and our procurement policy, processes and guidelines are aligned to a cross-standard cutoff date of January 1, 2020. In practice, this means that Lidl uses no raw materials produced on land that was converted or deforested after January 1, 2020. The requirement applies to both certified and non-certified raw materials. If the industry or leading global certification systems have defined an earlier cutoff date, then Lidl will comply with that.

Lidl's commitment is aligned with the following AFi principles:

- Protection and no deforestation of areas with a high conservation value (HCV) and high carbon stock (HCS)
- Zero tolerance for the use of agricultural slash-and-burn methods to clear land for new crops, reforestation or other land-use development
- Zero tolerance for the development of peatlands, irrespective of their depth
- Zero tolerance for illegal logging
- Zero tolerance for human rights violations as defined by the respective countries
- Conduct in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Securing free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) from all communities and indigenous groups that are impacted by activities associated with our supply chains

We are certifying our critical agricultural products in line with the **second pillar** of our deforestation strategy.

Prioritizing critical raw materials and understand their impacts

Lidl is actively committed to eliminating deforestation from its own supply chains and from the industry as a whole. To achieve this, we identify the key approaches to avoiding deforestation. The main focus is on logging for cellulose production, the cultivation of palm (kernel) oil, soy and cocoa, and the creation of grazing land for cattle ranching.

In a first step, our commitment is aimed at obtaining certification for our critical raw materials: palm (kernel) oil, soy and cocoa. At the same time, we are seeking maximum transparency in respect of the

Our critical raw materials

origin, tonnage, certification status, processing and packaging of raw materials and products. In line with the **first pillar** of our deforestation strategy, we are determining the ecological and social risks associated with our supply chains.



Palm (kernel) oil

This raw material is an ingredient of many fats, oils and margarines. Its derivatives are also used in cosmetics, laundry detergents and cleaning products.



Soy

As soy is used as animal feed, this raw material is found indirectly in Lidl items such as sausage and meat products.



Cocoa

Cocoa is mainly used as an ingredient in Lidl products such as chocolate or in the form of cocoa butter in cosmetics.



Cellulose

Lidl uses cellulose in items such as packaging, hygiene articles and wooden furniture.



Beef

Lidl purchases beef as a separate product such as fillet steak and as an ingredient of ready meals.

Palm (kernel) oil

Oil palms can be cultivated very efficiently because they require little space and water. By comparison, it takes up to ten times as much land to produce the same amount of oil from alternative oil plants such as soy or coconut.⁷

However, these favorable characteristics have led to enormous demand worldwide and, as a result, the amount of land under oil palm cultivation has increased. Palm (kernel) oil production now accounts for more than 8% of global deforestation and conversion of endangered tropical ecosystems, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia.⁸

Lidl is continuing its active work to improve transparency in its palm (kernel) oil supply chains. Wherever possible, we record the exact amounts of palm (kernel) oil we procure and its certification status, thus increasing transparency surrounding its precise origin. This gives us an overview about which palm (kernel) oil potentially originates from at-risk areas, enabling us to address our suppliers directly. We perform this monitoring on an annual basis.

Soy

Soy is an important source of plant-based protein and as such is used primarily as a component of feed for animals such as chickens. More than 85% of the world's soy production is used in animal feed.⁹ Growing prosperity and the increase in the world's population is fueling an increase in global meat consumption. As a result, there is greater demand for soy to be used in animal feed. However, if the expansion of soy production continues at its current pace, it will threaten 16 million hectares of savanna and 6 million hectares of tropical forest, an area equivalent to roughly five times the size of Switzerland.¹⁰ Many of these threatened areas are to be found in the world's most diverse ecosystems such as the Amazon basin, the Cerrado and the Atlantic Forest on Brazil's east coast.

Lidl is continuing its active work to improve transparency in its soy supply chains. Each year, we chart our soy volumes and their certification status to increase the transparency surrounding their precise origins. This gives us an overview about which soy potentially originates from at-risk areas, enabling us to address our suppliers directly. Wherever possible, we try to use certified European soy. Our main focus is on the use of soy as animal feed.



⁷ WWF: 8 Things to know about Palm Oil, 2020.

⁸ BBC: What is palm oil and why is it thought to be bad?, 2018.

⁹ WWF: Facts about soy production and the Basel Criteria, 2006.

¹⁰ WWF: Facts about soy production and the Basel Criteria, 2006.

Cocoa

High global demand has made cocoa cultivation one of the main drivers of deforestation and the destruction of natural habitats. Between 1988 and 2008, cocoa production resulted in the clearance of between two and three million hectares of forest.¹¹ West Africa bore the brunt, Ghana and Ivory Cost in particular, with the region losing around one quarter of its forests.¹²

Cellulose

Cellulose is a flexible and versatile raw material that is used in items ranging from clothing to pulp and paper products. Some 70 million trees are felled each year to produce cellulose fibers, and this number could double in the next 20 years.¹³

Lidl is continuing to work toward improving the transparency of its cocoa supply chains.



In the medium term, Lidl aims to improve the transparency of its own cellulose supply chains. For example, by the end of fiscal year 2021, the origin of the wood used for our charcoal products will be disclosed on the packaging. This transparency will help us to understand whether the wood potentially originates from at-risk areas.

¹¹ Business Insider: Chocolate is on track to go extinct in 40 years, 2017.

¹² Chatham House: Cocoa trade, climate change and deforestation, 2017.

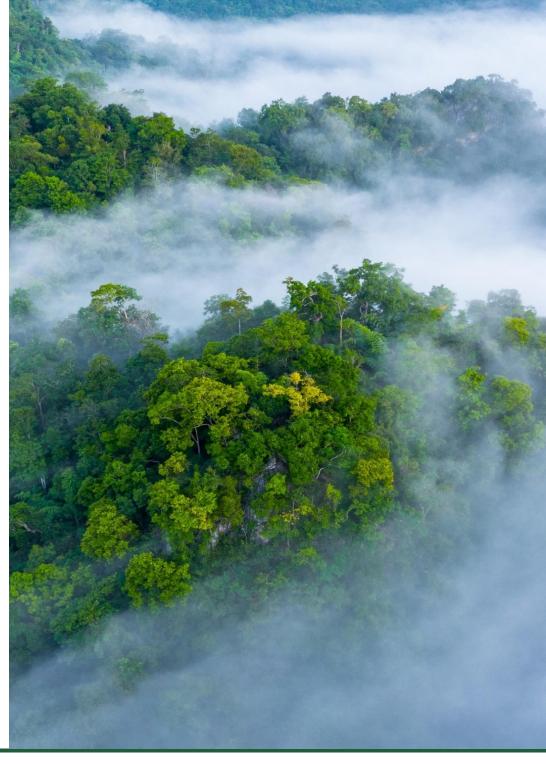
¹³ Fibre2Fashion: Fashionable fabrics leading to deforestation, 2014.

Beef

Beef is often produced in some of the world's most valuable ecosystems. For example, pasture for cattle is found in Brazil's Amazon basin, the savannas of southern Africa and the Great Plains of North America. The steady increase in the global population and rising income levels across the southern hemisphere are resulting in exponential growth in the demand for beef. Today, beef production already accounts for 25% of global emissions from agricultural land use, land-use change and forestry, which includes the conversion of the Amazon rain forest in Brazil.¹⁴

Beef from South America plays a minor role in the product mix of Lidl Malta, which obtains most of its meat from Italy or Europe.





¹⁴ WWF: Beef. Overview, 2021.

Establishing certification systems to prevent deforestation for raw material production

Some standards incorporate robust regulations on issues such as nondeforestation, the non-conversion of peatlands and other sensitive ecosystems, and respect for the rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and employees. These regulations apply to raw materials whose production is associated with a high risk of deforestation and the conversion of ecosystems. This is why we work with the most relevant and effective standards and certification systems across our entire supply chain. We prefer the option of supply chain segregation

We are certifying our critical agricultural products in line with the **second pillar** of our deforestation strategy.

because this ensures traceability and monitoring right back to a product's origins. Wherever possible, we are harmonizing the certification systems we use internationally and, where necessary, contributing to establishing new standards.

Palm (kernel) oil

All the palm (kernel) oil at Lidl Malta will be fully certified by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) from 2021. The palm (kernel) oil used in food production will be fully segregated. Derivatives and fractions contained in food and near-food products will be certified according to the mass balance principle at least, which will render it impossible to falsify the quantities of certified palm (kernel) oil used in the supply chain.

Established by organizations including the WWF in 2011, the RSPO is a global initiative which has the goal of establishing sustainable palm (kernel) oil as the industry standard.



RSPO certification sets exacting requirements in order to protect particularly sensitive areas. The standard not only supports the protection of valuable ecosystems but also safeguards the landuse rights of local communities. Smaller companies are able to seek group certification as a way to simplify the certification process.

Soy

By 2022, the soy used in our private label "Vemondo" vegetarian or vegan meat alternatives will be sourced in Europe. Preference will be given to Danube Soy or Europe Soy products.

To strengthen the production of sustainably grown and certified Soy on the ground Lidl is actively participating in Donau Soja Protein Partnerships and RTRS Credit Programs.

Lidl is seeking to use only European soy in its private label "Vemondo" products, thus protecting rain forests in South America and Southeast Asia. Certification enables us to ensure that soy production processes are controlled and assessed on the basis of ecological criteria.



Cocoa

All the cocoa procured by Lidl Malta will be fully certified in accordance with Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance or Bio standards.

These certifications not only ensure that workers receive a living wage but also incorporate ecological aspects such as the use of fresh water and the protection of biodiversity. The Rainforest Alliance standard reflects the specific conditions of tropical regions. Its criteria include more sustainable practices for using land and resources, thus contributing to the sustainable protection of tropical forests. As well as focusing on socioeconomic aspects such as promoting living wages, the internationally recognized Fairtrade certification also incorporates environmental criteria for protecting biodiversity and ensuring responsible water management.

Cellulose

By 2025, all the cellulose used by Lidl Malta will be fully certified. We will mainly use recycled cellulose but new fibers will be FSC-certified products from certified sources; PEFC-certified products will also be accepted. In addition, by the end of 2025, at least 15% of our kitchen and tissue paper products will contain recycled material.

The wood plantations serving industries such as paper production often supplant biodiverse and sensitive ecosystems. Moreover, existing forests continue to be felled to produce cellulose as the raw material for paper, textiles, furniture and other wood products.

By ensuring that our products are FSC- and PEFC-certified, we are giving equal consideration to social, ecological and economic aspects. These labels identify wood and paper products that satisfy criteria such as the protection of indigenous groups, the preservation of biodiversity in forests with high conservation value and the ban on the use of genetically modified organisms. Depending on the proportion of certified cellulose in a product or the content of recycled material, we additionally use various FSC labels, thus ensuring greater transparency.

Promoting the use of plant-based alternatives in our product range

As well as certifying critical raw materials, our specific aim is to use more sustainable alternatives as a means of reducing deforestation and expanding the choices available to our customers. A particular aspect of this is to expand our range of vegan and vegetarian alternatives. A large number of calories are lost by converting plant protein into animal protein, especially in beef production. By contrast, consuming plant protein directly is better for the environment because we

In line with the **third pillar** of our deforestation strategy, we are promoting the use of more sustainable alternatives in our product range and reducing the procurement of critical raw materials.

need less and thus less land is used for production. The carbon footprint is also greatly reduced. For this reason, Lidl Malta is increasing the proportion of vegetarian and vegan meat and dairy alternatives in its range.

Our "Vemondo" own brand

Our "Vemondo" products based on vegetables and pea, wheat and soy proteins offer our customers vegan and more environmentally friendly alternatives to animal products. We use soy from certified sources in order to ensure deforestation-free supply chains. By 2022, we aim to use only soy from regional and/or European sources in our "Vemondo" own-brand vegetarian and vegan meat alternatives. In this way, we will be able to ensure that no tropical rain forests are destroyed for soy production.

Collaboration on industry solutions for our critical raw materials

We collaborate in multi-stakeholder initiatives and projects aimed at developing innovative raw material strategies and creating industry solutions in consultation with partners, interest groups and local communities. In this way, we are promoting the use of sustainable agricultural practices that prohibit cultivation on cleared rain forest

In accordance with the **fourth pillar** of our deforestation strategy, we are driving change and are participating in a range of initiatives and projects.



areas and provide incentives to preserve and restore forests and other valuable ecosystems.

Palm (kernel) oil

Lidl Stiftung has been an active member of the <u>> Roundtable on</u> Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) since 2012.

The RSPO is a multi-stakeholder initiative that has established a standard for the sustainable cultivation of palm oil. Our membership enables us to play an active role in the market and engage with other participants.

You can find further information in our > Policy on health and nutrition

Soy

Lidl Stiftung is a member of the <u>> Roundtable of Responsible Soy</u> (<u>RTRS</u>) and of <u>> Danube Soy</u>.

As a member of the RTRS, Lidl is able to positively influence the organization and the work to revise the RTRS standard. Through our membership of Danube Soy, Lidl supports the responsible cultivation of soy in Europe.



In this way, we are helping to increase the market share of sustainably grown soy and expand the use of European soy in our supply chains. At the same time, we are able to effectively address the social, ecological and economic challenges associated with soy production and use.

You can find further information in our <u>> Policy on health and nutrition</u>

Cocoa

Lidl Stiftung is a member of the Executive Board of the <u>> German</u> <u>Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa</u>. Lidl Malta, in turn, has undertaken fruitful collaborations with important associations for environmental and social sustainability issues such as Fairtrade. With the latter, starting from 2020, Lidl promoted "Way To Go!" its own-brand chocolate bars in order to make an ethical and responsible consumption choice capable of having a tangible impact on the life of Ghanaian farmers. In fact, the 100% of the bars'cocoa comes from sustainable crops managed by the "Kuapa Kokoo" organization (www.kuapakokoo.com).

Our membership of the multi-stakeholder German Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa provides us with market insights and enables us to work with other supply chain participants to ensure the sustainable cultivation of cocoa. As part of the initiative, we have committed to supporting twelve specific objectives aimed at preserving natural resources and protecting biodiversity in cocoa-growing countries.

You can find further information in our <u>> Position Paper on the</u> Responsible Sourcing of Cocoa

Cellulose

Lidl Stiftung is a member of the > Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Our membership of the multi-stakeholder FSC initiative enables us to collaborate with other players in the wood supply chain. We benefit from the dialog this offers and work with the other members to promote sustainable forestry.

You can find further information in our <u>> Position Paper on the</u> Responsible Sourcing of Timber and Wood-Based Products



Measures beyond our own supply chains and raw materials

Lidl also works with other industry players, nonprofit organizations, experts and local communities. In particular, sustainable raw material production free from deforestation and conversion requires the participation and support of local communities and indigenous groups. Not only are they the most dependent on agricultural raw materials, they are also among our greatest allies when it comes to fighting deforestation. A recent report by the World Resources Institute (WRI) shows that there is a much lower risk of logging in forests with secure indigenous ownership.¹⁵ By way of collaborations, we aim to take a holistic approach that provides us with an effective way to address the causes and systemic conditions which facilitate logging and the destruction of natural ecosystems.

Direct measures are needed to counteract ongoing deforestation and destruction. However, Lidl will not be able to tackle the complex relationships that cause and facilitate deforestation single-handed. We will therefore be going beyond the action in our own supply chains described here, working to promote raw material-specific initiatives, certification systems and standards. Lidl and its partners are active in the areas of environmental protection, reforestation and governance to systematically combat forest clearance and conversion.

Working together to ensure supply chains free from deforestation and conversion

Environmental protection

Measures to protect and preserve today's forests and biodiversity; recording and monitoring of the measures

Reforestation

Measures for reforestation and the restoration of animal and plant habitats

Governance

Good governance measures on a global, national and regional levels

Good governance measures at global, national and regional level are the only way to stop the deforestation of our planet. Lidl will therefore be leveraging its ties with national and regional governments as well as international NGOs in those countries and regions that are currently deforestation hotspots. Collaboration with private and public stakeholders will enable us to curb deforestation and restore degraded forests. We are also seeking stronger legislation and greater regulation in order to protect forests and create a uniform legal framework.

¹⁵ World Resources Institute: 5 Maps Show How Important Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Are to the Environment, 2017.

Glossary



Glossary

Accountability Framework initiative (AFi) ¹⁶ Conversion ¹⁷	5	Forest ²⁰	Loss of natural forest as a result of: i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; ii) conversion to a tree plantation; or iii) severe and sustained degradation. This definition pertains to no-deforestation supply chain commitments, which generally focus on preventing the conversion of natural forests. Severe degradation (scenario iii in the definition) constitutes deforestation even if the land is not subsequently used for a non-forest land use. Loss of natural forest that meets this definition is considered to be deforestation even of the subsequently used for a non-forest
Cutoff date (related to no-deforestation and no-conversion commitments) ¹⁸			to be deforestation regardless of whether or not it is legal. The AFi definition of deforestation signifies "gross deforestation" of natural forest where "gross" is used in the sense of "total; aggregate; without deduction for reforestation or other offset." Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or other land use. Forest includes natural forests and tree plantations. For the purpose of implementing no-deforestation supply chain commitments, the focus is on preventing the conversion of natural forests.

¹⁶ Accountability Framework: Home, 2019.

- ¹⁷ Accountability Framework: Forest, 2019.
- ¹⁸ Accountability Framework: Forest, 2019.
- ¹⁹ Accountability Framework: Forest, 2019.
- ²⁰ Accountability Framework: Forest, 2019.
- ²¹ Accountability Framework: Forest, 2019.

High carbon stock (HCS) ²²	The amount of carbon and biodiversity stored within an area of land varies according to the type of vegetative cover. The HCS Approach stratifies the vegetation in an area of land into six different classes using analyses of satellite data and ground survey measurements. These six classes are: High Density Forest, Medium Density Forest, Low Density Forest, Young Regenerating Forest, Scrub, and Cleared/Open Land. The first four classes are considered potential high carbon stock forests.		indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples.		
		Palm oil derivatives	Complex chemical transformation processes are used to produce palm (kernel) oil derivatives, which are used as tensides or emulsifers in cosmetics and cleaning products, for example. Emulsifers make it possible to mix two fundamentally non-miscible liquids such as oil and water. Tensides are surfactants.		
High conservation value (HCV) ²³	 HCV is a Forestry Stewardship Council designation that describes forests with a high conservation value. One of the following values must be present for a high conservation value to exist: HCV 1 – Species diversity: Concentrations of biological diversity including rare, threatened or endangered species that are significant at global, regional or national levels. HCV 2 – Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics: Intact forest landscapes and large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance. HCV 3 – Ecosystems and habitats: Include rare, threatened or endangered ecosystem services: Basic ecosystem services must be available in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes. HCV 5 – Community needs: Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the basic necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc.), identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples. HCV 6 – Cultural values: Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or 	World Resources Institute (WRI) ²⁴	WRI is a global research organization with more than 1,000 experts in 60 countries that works with companies to preserve natural resources. Its work focuses on seven critical issues at the interface between ecology and development: climate, energy, food, forests, water, cities and the ocean.		

²² High Carbon Stock Approach: The High Carbon Stock Approach.

²³ HCV Resource Network: Common Guidance for the Identification of High Conservation Values, 2013.

²⁴ World Resource Institute: What we do, 2019.

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Contact

Lidl Malta Triq il-Karmnu Luqa, LQA 1311, Malta

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