

Hilton Foods Deforestation Commitment

January 2025

Hilton Foods is committed to promoting environmental sustainability to address long-term critical depletion of natural resources and lasting damage to species, habitats, biodiversity and the climate. This is detailed in our Supply Chain Environmental Policy.

We have approved science-based targets and increased our ambition to be in line with 1.5 degrees, which was validated by the Science Based Targets Initiative in 2024. This includes a zero-deforestation target.

As full participants of the UN Global Compact (UNGC), we are committed to supporting their 10 Principles which include human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption actions.

Through our Sustainable Protein Plan, we are globally committed to eliminating deforestation from converting natural forests to agriculture or livestock production in our supply chains.

Our response to the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)

We are actively working to implement the EUDR, which has a cutoff date 2020 and an implementation date of 31st December 2025. To achieve this, we have risk assessed our supply chain, we are working across the sector and with suppliers on a solution for collecting and sharing the information required to complete our due diligence and where necessary we are collaborating with suppliers to adopt adequate and proportionate risk mitigation procedures and measures.

Our response within the UK

We are committed to meeting the upcoming Forest Risk Commodities Regulations in the UK. We also aim to go beyond this legislation to include products that legally contribute to deforestation.

In the UK, we are committed to using deforestation and conversion-free soy (encompassing both legal and illegal deforestation and conversion) for all our operations as soon as possible and no later than the end of 2025.

Our target cut-off date is January 2020 (upholding pre-existing or emerging sectoral or biome-wide cut-off dates already in place, e.g. the Amazon Soy Moratorium). This commitment applies to all soy used in the production of our products, whether used directly as an ingredient or indirectly in animal feed. We are encouraging our customers and our suppliers to make similar commitments.

This commitment is aligned with the UK Soy Manifesto, of which we are founder signatories. Hilton Foods signed the [Open-letter-on-soy-and-the Amazon.pdf](#) (fairr.org) and continues to support the moratorium, which calls for the protection of the 'Amazon Soy Moratorium', an agreement signed in 2006 to ensure that soy production in the Amazon region only occurs on existing converted agricultural land and not through deforestation of native vegetation.

Our plan to achieve this commitment is to;

- Ensure all the soy we purchase directly is from areas with no inherent risk of deforestation.
- Work in collaboration with the other Soy Manifesto signatories to build sector plans for the soy used as feed for livestock and aquaculture.
- Yearly submission of soy volumes and compliance status across the supply chain.

The actions we are currently taking to achieve our commitment

- We are signatories to the Business Statement of Support for the Cerrado Manifesto (Cerrado SoS) which calls for industry, civil society and government to work together to balance sustainable agricultural development and protection of the important natural ecosystem in Brazil, called the Cerrado – the world's most biodiverse savannah (<https://cerradostatement.fairr.org/signatories/>)
- We are building sector wide (national and regional) Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF) sourcing strategies within collaborative round tables and platforms in cooperation with feed companies and traders.
- We have supported DEFRA in developing their understanding to produce their secondary regulation under the Environment Act to require due diligence against illegal deforestation. Our engagement is through the Food and Drink Federation where we are active members and the UK Soy Manifesto.
- We are founder members The Soy Transparency Coalition and through this forum we co-fund the soy trader benchmarking surveys and reports. We joined the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya at its launch in July 2018 alongside our retail partners, where we have made a joint commitment to help protect the forests in South America from further deforestation.
- Through the European Roundtable on Beef Sustainability (ERBS) we have supported the upskilling of the European cattle industry in deforestation and the requirements on EUDR.
- We are active members of the WRAP Courtaulds Meat in a Net Zero World commitment, that includes sourcing raw materials for use in feed that is cultivated in a way that protects against conversion of forests and valuable native vegetation.
- We are members of the UK Agri-Tech Centre to help us reach other supply chains with similar challenges.
 - We have engaged with DFAM and Board Bia to develop practical implementation of EUDR in Ireland.
 - We are supporting our Irish suppliers to build an action plan for soy fed to Irish cattle.

Our progress to date

- We have mapped the usage and origin of commodities most at risks to allow us to conduct risk assessments for each of our supply chains, and to then develop appropriate deforestation due diligence
- We have engaged with all of our key suppliers to sign up to the UK soy manifesto and as a minimum agree to adapt the commitments for all products destined for our UK operations.
- We are improving the access to sustainable soy for farmers through our work with the UK Soy Manifesto. This will enable our farmers to purchase soy that doesn't contribute to deforestation.
- We have engaged with traders and first importers through active membership of the UK Soy Manifesto, uniting in one ask from industry that enables farmers in our supply chains to purchase Deforestation and Conversion Free soy as defined by the Accountability Framework.
- All the Soy Protein used in our salmon feed complies with this commitment. We helped negotiate with the Soy Protein Concentrate (SPC) traders a collective commitment to only source DCF soy, with robust third-party verification processes and a cut-off date of Jan 2020. Soy used as an ingredient in feed for aquaculture products are certified and/or coming from countries with low risk of deforestation.
- All palm oil included as an ingredient is Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certified.
- The cocoa included as an ingredient is Fairtrade certified.
- All the soy we use as a direct ingredient comes from farms that are in regions where there is no deforestation and conversion occurring.
- In Australasia, we are working with our retailer partner to ensure that we meet our joint commitment to deforestation and conversion-free products.

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