# Planet over Profit Commodities Factsheet:

## For Local Action Groups

## Contents



## Introduction

Friends of the Earth is part of the Corporate Justice Coalition campaign for a new law to hold UK companies to account for environmental harms and human rights abuses in their supply chains. Our role within the coalition is to make a strong environmental justice case for why we need a new UK law. To do that, we are focusing on some of the key commodities that are driving deforestation around the world, and associated impacts on communities like land grabbing.

This factsheet provides some key facts and figures to use in local campaigns to help build a strong case for a new UK law.

## Overview

The UK is dependent on imported goods to sustain our lifestyles, from agricultural commodities, to clothes, metals and fuel.  All of these mean we have a huge impact, and responsibility, for our impact overseas.  Our consumption of raw materials has caused devastation to the environment and people around the world which continues to this day.

Our imports of just 7 agricultural commodities require an overseas land footprint of 21.3M hectares – that's equivalent to 88% of the UK land area. This is driving deforestation, loss of habitats and biodiversity, and destroying homes and livelihoods of local people.

We need to ensure that supply chains for goods entering the UK don't result in harm, that UK companies clean up their act, and are held responsible when damages arise.

One of the best assessments of the scale and impact of UK commodity consumption of agricultural commodities is the WWF/RSPB 2018 report Riskier Business[1].

An excellent new resource is currently being developed by Defra to provide estimates of global environmental impacts and risks driven by consumption and production activities. This covers over 160 agricultural commodities across 240 producer countries: Commodity Footprints[2]. See footnote [1]

For more information on key habitats affected by UK commodity consumption see the article 'How the UK is causing habitat destruction worldwide'[3].

# Soy

UK total soy imports (direct + embedded in imported products) between 2016 and 2018 were on average 3.6M tonnes / yr, and the overseas land required to meet this demand was 1.3 - 1.7 Mha.  71% came from Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay combined, contributing to 65% of the UK's overseas soy land footprint.

## What form do UK soy imports take?

UK soy imports are made up of: 56% soy meal/soy cake; 21% soybeans; and 5% soy oil. The remaining 18% of soy imports are 'embedded' in imported meat & eggs (7% in poultry, 6% in pork).  The vast majority of soybeans are crushed and used as soy meal for animal feed.

Europeans consume on average 61kg of soy per year. Almost all of this is embedded in the animal products we eat such as meat, cheese, milk and eggs. In the UK average meat consumption in 2017 was 79.9kg per person per year including 32kg poultry and 25kg of pork.

[1] Note: Commodity Footprints only covers *tropical* deforestation.  Also, due to the differing methodologies employed and commodities covered there are some large discrepancies between some data in this online database and the WWF/RSPB Riskier Business analysis.

## The UK intensive livestock industry

Soy is the mainstay of intensive livestock production, particularly poultry and pork. It's a key ingredient of animal feed due to its higher protein content in comparison to other crops. It has been calculated that as much as 90% of our total soy consumption is for animal feed: 41% for broiler feed (chickens raised for meat) 23% for the pork sector, and 17% for dairy cows[4] .

The UK is the third largest producer of chicken in Europe with around 1 billion chickens farmed here. 95% of UK broilers are fast-growing breeds housed in intensive poultry units (IPUs), The number of IPUs rose from 1,016 in 2017 to 1,092 in 2020.[5]

## Key Impacts of Soy

Soy is a major driver of deforestation. Both as a primary driver of land conversion, and indirectly through displacement of activities such as cattle ranching, which then move to other forested areas.

In the Brazilian Cerrado, 58 % of forest replacement by soy is direct, and in the Brazilian Amazon 39 % is direct. Globally, soy farms occupied 8.2 Mha of land deforested between 2001 and 2015. 97% of this deforestation occurred in South America, with 61% in Brazil, 21% in Argentina, 9% in Bolivia, and 5% in Paraguay. It's estimated that the tropical deforestation associated with UK soy imports in 2018 stood at 2.73kha in 2018.

The Gran Chaco, the tropical dry forest spanning Argentina, Paraguay and Bolivia, is predicted to be the next big deforestation frontier.[6], [7]

### Argentina – the UK's land footprint for soy

Soy expansion threatens forests and other native vegetation in the Gran Chaco – a highly biodiverse ecosystem which is the largest dry forest in South America and a prominent frontier of agricultural expansion[8]. The region is home to many endangered species including the giant anteater and the jaguar. It's also home to some of the last "uncontacted" Indigenous groups in South America outside of the Amazon, the Ayoreo (see Paraguay, below).

### Brazil

Soy was one of the largest direct drivers of Amazon deforestation until the introduction of the 'Amazon soy moratorium' (ASM), a 2006 agreement signed by companies to prevent the use of new Amazonian forest land for the production of soy). However, soy production has continued to expand massively, often displaces cattle ranching, so is a major *indirect* driver of deforestation[9]. It is also suggested that the ASM has resulted in displacing soy growing to other areas, contributing to increased soy expansion in the Cerrado.

The Cerrado is the most biodiverse savanna ecosystem in the world. In 2019 a third of the entire South American soy planted area was located in the Cerrado. Environmental protections in the Cerrado are less strict than in the Amazon and the amount of direct forest conversion to soy in the Cerrado is almost twice as high as the Amazon.

The savannah is considered a crucial part of South America's water system and is home to many Indigenous communities, as well as endangered animals including jaguars, giant armadillos and giant anteaters. It provides a habitat for more than 4,800 species of plants and animals found nowhere else on the planet.

Matto Grosso produces 25% of Brazil's soy - around 35 million tonnes in 2021. It is the main source of Brazilian soy imports to the UK, supplying around half of all soy imported directly into the UK from Brazil.

**Impacts on Indigenous peoples**
Soy expansion directly affects Indigenous Peoples and local communities[10], from land grabs by soy producers to impacts of herbicides on the mostly GM soy monocultures polluting their air, water and soils.

**Impacts on communities in the UK and Ireland**
Soy stands out for its impact on local communities both in its areas of production, and consumption. The rapid growth of the intensive livestock industry is affecting communities across the UK. Northern Ireland accounts for around a quarter of the UK's soy imports, used to fuel its rapidly expanding factory farming sector. It was estimated that Northern Ireland needed the equivalent 174,000 hectares of Argentinian land to feed its farming sector. Ammonia emissions associated with animal manure have hit crisis levels around areas with high densities of intensive livestock farms. Critical levels of ammonia from animal manure are exceeded at 90% of the protected habitats in Northern Ireland. And ammonia emitted from animal manure mixes with other pollutants in the atmosphere, resulting in health impacts for local communities[11].

This pattern is repeated throughout the UK. The Wye valley has become one of Europe's largest concentrations of intensive livestock production. Poultry production has soared, with more than 20 million birds housed within permitted intensive poultry units alone, each of which holds more than 40,000 birds. This has had a disastrous impact on the water quality of the River Wye, and on local communities[12].

## Key Corporations

A small number of large corporations control the soy trade in Latin America, including Cargill, Bunge, ADM and Louis Dreyfuss. Cargill dominates the soya trade into the UK, controlling about 70% of the market. The company ships more than 100,000 tonnes of soybeans to the UK every year from Brazil's Cerrado region alone. Investigations published in 2020 revealed 800 sq km of deforestation and more than 12,000 recorded fires on land used or owned by a handful of Cargill's soya suppliers in the Cerrado since 2015[13].

**Corporations in the UK**

The poultry industry is highly consolidated, with more than 90% of chickens produced by a small number of companies (Moy Park, 2 Sisters, Avara, and Banham Poultry).

Half of the UK's chickens are being produced by companies fully or partly controlled by US/international agribusiness. Moy Park, owned by Pilgrim's Pride (itself 80%-owned by JBS), now produces approximately 312 million birds a year, while Avara Foods – a joint venture between the US giant Cargill and the UK's Faccenda Foods – slaughters 234 million. About a billion birds are killed every year in UK abattoirs.[14]
These companies typically control the entire process, from feed mills to meat processing.

Brazilian corporation **JBS** is the world's largest meat company. It has an 80% stake in US-based Pilgrim's Pride Corporation, which itself owns Northern Ireland-based Moy Park. Pilgrim's Pride owns UK's biggest pork producer Tulip and Kerry Group (includes Richmond sausages). Moy Park supplies around 25% of the total Western European parent chicken market (the breeders used to supply chicks to the industry), working with over 800 poultry farmers in the UK.

**Cargill** is the largest privately owned company in the US. In 2019 Cargill publicly opposed proposals for a Cerrado soya moratorium similar to that in the Amazon[15]. Cargill owns Avara in a joint venture with Faccenda Foods. It fattens up birds, which are slaughtered, processed and packaged for distribution to Tesco, Asda, Lidl, Nando's, McDonald's. Avara is the third biggest integrator in the marketplace, behind 2 Sisters Food Group and Moy Park.

Investigations have followed soybeans from Cargill, Bunge and ADM arriving at Cargill's Seaforth soya crush plant in Liverpool. The meal was trucked to mills in Hereford and Banbury, and mixed with wheat and other ingredients to produce livestock feed. From there, it was taken to chicken farms contracted to Avara. The Hereford mill supplies a nearby farm that sends birds on to **McDonald's**. Avara also supplies chicken to **Asda**, **Lidl** and **Nando's**, and is the largest fresh chicken supplier to **Tesco**.

# Palm Oil

Palm oil is the world's most widely used vegetable oil making up 40% of global consumption. By **2020, total global use had risen to 75.3 million tonnes**[16] - a huge increase from only 2 million tonnes in the 1970s.

UK consumption is around 1 million tonnes annually. The land required overseas to supply the UK's demand for palm oil is around 1.1 Mha. 89% of UK imports came from countries defined by WWF/RSPB as "high-risk" - Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea (PNG) - due to their high deforestation rates and poor track records of human rights.

**Palm oil products imported into the UK, (by weight):**
35% Crude or refined palm oil – made from crushing the fruit and kernel.
39% Palm kernel expeller (PKE) and oil cake - the solid residues left behind after crushing[17].
26% Imported manufactured products: Soap (15%), Chocolate (2%), Bakery (2%), Margarine (2%) Ice Cream (1%), Other (4%)

"Palm oil" is cheap and versatile and thus in widespread use globally in manufactured foods such as bread, margarine and chocolate, as well as cosmetics, soaps and detergents - it's in close to 50% of the packaged products found in supermarkets[18], [19]. Palm oil or its derivatives can appear on ingredients lists under 200 different names, most commonly: Palm, Stear, Laur, Glyc.

80% of PKE imported into the UK is used as animal feed, primarily for cattle and dairy herds. 20% of UK PKE is used for energy generation.

## Key Impacts of Palm Oil

**Deforestation**
In Southeast Asia, 45% of oil palm plantations came from areas that were forests in 1989. Oil palm plantations were found to be the largest driver of deforestation accounting for 23% over the period 2001 to 2016, having reached 40% at its peak in 2008-2009[20].

South East Asia hosts some of the world's largest rainforest areas after the Amazon and the Congo, home to many Indigenous Peoples. The island of New Guinea has third-largest continuous rainforest in the world. The region contains numerous biodiversity hotspots.

Southeast Asia contains 25 million hectares of tropical peatland, mostly in Indonesia. Indonesian peatlands store an estimated 57 Gt of carbon, 55% of the world's tropical peatland[21]. In order to grow plantation oil palm on peat soils, the peat is drained. The drained peat degrades and releases carbon into the atmosphere. Drained peatland is very vulnerable to fire, and use of fire in order to clear forests for agricultural expansion is a major source of GHG emissions.

Indonesia experienced catastrophic fires during 2015 and 201922, which in 2015 caused emissions of 1.7 billion tonnes of $CO_2e$.

**Impact on people.**
In most regions of South East Asia rural and forest communities traditionally practise territorial management in the form of laws that are passed down orally, known as customary/local laws. These are often not recognised or blatantly ignored by large corporations in their quest for land. Corruption is widespread, and governance is weak.

Plantations displace indigenous people and local communities and destroy livelihoods for those dependent on forest products or small-scale agriculture, while few jobs are created in plantations. In Indonesia, the rapid spread of oil palm plantations has spawned over 4,000 land conflicts, and the size of these plantations is doubling every decade.

## Key Corporations.

One of Indonesia's largest palm oil companies is **Astra Agro Lestari (AAL)**[23]. AAL is owned by Jardine Matheson, which is majority-owned by the UK's Keswick family.

AAL is involved in a multitude of conflicts with local communities whose land it has occupied without community consent for oil palm. Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland is currently working with WALHI (Friends of the Earth Indonesia), FOE US and Milieudefensie (FOE in the Netherlands), calling for AAL's consumer brand customers to cut their ties with the company. While major companies including Wilmar, Proctor and Gamble, and Hersheys have withdrawn some or all their trade with AAL, Anglo-Dutch company **Unilever** still continues buying from AAL. Unilever is one of our key target companies for the campaign in the UK – in November 2022 we staged an action[24] outside Unilever HQ in London and its Port Sunlight factory on Merseyside (with Liverpool FOE) in solidarity with communities in Sulawesi who are suffering land grabs and deforestation for palm oil. The demand is for Unilever to stop buying palm oil from AAL, which is behind this damage.

Furthermore, in late 2021 Astra's Martabe gold mine in North Sumatra was reported destroying habitat of the critically endangered Tapanuli Orangutan (Pongo tapanuliensis) which was only identified as a new species in 2017.[25] It is the rarest of the 3 orangutan species, with only around 800 remaining[26].

# Timber

In 2019 the UK was the world's second largest net importer of timber (by value) after China[27]. 82% of all wood used in the UK in 2020 was imported[28].

Timber has the largest land footprint overseas of all commodities imported into the UK. This footprint increased threefold 2011–2019 from 2.8 Mha to 8.4 Mha - equivalent to over a third of the UK's total land area (24 Mha). This was largely due to increasing use of fuelwood, which represents 32% of timber imports, followed by sawn wood (24%) and furniture (14%)[29].

Fuelwood is primarily used for electricity generation, mainly in the form of wood pellets – pellet imports have increased dramatically from 1 million tonnes in 2011, to 9.1 million tons in 2020[30] and means that the UK is the world's leading consumer of wood pellets with 20% of global consumption. This increase is driven by the increasing share of biomass in the UK's energy mix to meet our renewables targets.

18% of the UK's timber land footprint was located in countries designated as "high risk" for corruption and deforestation, such as China, Russia and Brazil. 33% of wood pulp imports come from Brazil; while China and Brazil were the principal sources of plywood imports (40% and 20% respectively).

Around 14% of the UK's timber footprint is comprised of furniture and furniture parts and other wood products. Ikea is a huge global player and has been linked to consumption of illegal timber. Flooring is also a significant component of wood imports with major companies linked to illegal consumption31

## Key Impacts of Timber Extraction

Forestry products are the third largest driver of tropical deforestation[32], with around 680k ha of native forests per year converted into tree plantations for subsequent production of timber or wood pulp[33]. Other extraction from primary forest is difficult to calculate and is a particular driver of forest loss in South-East Asia[34]. Importantly, illegal logging globally, often to supply international timber markets, leads to forest degradation, which is often followed by forest clearing for subsequent cattle ranching or crop production.

Logging and timber extraction is particularly important in its impact on important wilderness areas known as intact forest landscapes (IFLs) which are unfragmented ecosystems critical for stabilizing terrestrial carbon storage, harbouring biodiversity, regulating hydrological regimes, and providing other ecosystem functions.[35]

China is an important conduit for timber originating elsewhere, primarily South-East Asia and the Russian Far East[36], and Chinese plywood imports are a major source of tropical hardwoods to the UK timber trade[37]. Much of the EU's imports from eastern Russia are potentially contaminated with illegal timber38. The Russian Far East has been identified as a hotspot for illegal logging, with 80% of timber illegally logged in 2013

## Key Corporations

**Drax**

The vast majority of wood pellets imported into the UK are destined for Drax, which burned 7.4 million tonnes of imported wood pellets in 2020[39]. This quantity of pellets requires approximately 14 million tonnes of green wood, because pellets must be dried and compressed before they can be burned as fuel. This exceeds the UK's total annual wood harvest of 11 million tonnes. The case against Drax has been made clearly in this FOE briefing. Drax is also a major pellet producer and supplier, with production based in the US supplying the global market.

In the South-Eastern US timber for wood pellets is being harvested from hardwood swamps, hardwood and cypress wetland forests of the North American Coastal Plain which is a global biodiversity hotspot[40]. Other sourcing includes Canada's boreal forests, and clearcutting in countries such as Estonia and Latvia, including 'protected' nature reserves and old growth forests[41].

**Ikea**

Ikea is the largest consumer of wood in the world. In 2019, 21 million cubic metres of logs were used to make its products and its wood consumption has doubled in the last decade. Ikea has become highly reliant on Eastern Europe and Russia and has a history of scandal in its operations in these countries. Ikea relies on the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification which has found to have widespread failures. It's suggested that Ikea's 'fast furniture' business model is contributing to rapidly increasing furniture waste in the countries in which it operates[42].

The UK furniture industry is a substantial importer of timber, with imports making up approximately 47% of the market (by value)[43]. A significant proportion of imports contain timber from high-risk countries including China, Brazil, and Indonesia. WWF have assessed 74 representative UK furniture retail brands[44] on their sustainable sourcing performance.

**Deforestation in Malaysia by Samling**

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council is responsible for the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS), which verifies timber as 'sustainably produced'. Giant timber and palm oil conglomerate Samling is currently logging primary forest on the land of indigenous communities in the Baram area of

Sarawak, Borneo – a biodiversity hotspot. Part of this territory has been proposed as a conservation area, supported by the Malaysian government and the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO). Despite failing to recognise community ownership, the dependence of communities on the forest for hunting and fishing, and failing to engage in meaningful consultation with the communities, Samling timber is given MTCS certification. FOE EWNI is part of an international coalition calling for a halt to the import of MTCS timber into the UK. See the article here – 'Why we need a strong UK law to halt deforestation abroad' [45] .

As much as 28% of wood-based exports from Malaysia were estimated to be illegal in 2018[46].

## Beef and Leather

The UK imports around 424k tons of leather & beef imports per year, with an overseas land footprint of around 3.8 Mha[47]. More than a third of the land footprint (around 1.4 Mha) was located in high-risk countries including Brazil, China, and Australia (which has the highest deforestation rate of 'developed' countries)[48].

The UK consumes 1 million tons of beef annually, 75% of which is domestically produced and 63% of imports came from Ireland. Only 2% of UK total consumption comes from Brazil, however this has a disproportionately large land footprint of 256kha.

The UK imports around 173,000 tonnes of leather annually. 8% of our leather comes from China, and 1% from both Australian and Brazil, with land footprints of 530kha, 340kha, and 50kha respectively. China is the main buyer of Brazilian leather. The global leather supply chain is highly complex and there is a clear need for increased transparency and traceability in leather supply chains.

The main UK imports of leather 2016-2018 were as vehicle seats (34%) for the motor industry, raw hides (27%) and footwear (17%).

80% of Brazilian beef is consumed domestically, and 20% exported. Despite this Brazil is the largest beef exporter in the world.
Brazil exports around 80% of its leather. Leather is a key component in ensuring the profitability of beef production, and therefore has a big impact on the Brazilian cattle sector and deforestation. Meatpacking plants sometimes only operate at a profit because of the sales of leather and other co-products.

### Key Impacts of Beef and Leather

In Latin America, cattle ranching is a primary driver of deforestation in several different biomes including the Amazon (tropical rain forest), the Cerrado (woody

savannah), the Chaco (tropical dry forest), the Pantanal (tropical wetlands), and the Atlantic Forest (Mata Atlântica) tropical moist forest.
At least two-thirds of deforestation in the Amazon occurs through the creation of pastures for cattle – not only to meet the growing demand for beef, but also as a strategy for securing title to the land.
Analysis suggests that, per US dollar, *leather imported to the EU carries a much higher risk of deforestation than cocoa, palm, soy, or even beef*. [49]
The Sustainable Apparel Coalition's "Higg Materials Sustainability Index" – which measures impact up to the point of fabrication – gives most leathers an impact of 159 (compared with 44 for polyester and 98 for cotton), due to its high contribution to global warming and water use and pollution. Tanning is the most toxic phase in leather processing.

### Key Corporations

Brazilian company **JBS SA** is the largest meat processor in the world based on sales, has at least 983 direct suppliers and 1,874 indirect suppliers in six Amazon states, and operates 20 slaughterhouses within the Legal Amazon.
It's been estimated that between 2008 and 2020, JBS' total deforestation footprint may be as high as 200,000 ha in its direct supply chain and 1.5 million ha in its indirect supply chain.[50,51] JBS is the largest exporter of beef and leather with 18,983 tonnes destined for the UK. JBS is a vertically integrated company with significant operations in the UK pork and poultry sectors – see 'Soy'
An investigation in 2019 by FOE found that Co-Op, Morrisons, Waitrose, Iceland and Lidl all sell corned beef from Brazil. They traced the corned beef back to JBS slaughterhouses in Brazil.[52]
Research has revealed a number of retailers and manufacturers from furniture to footware that may be linked to deforestation in Brazil via leather exports to China, subsequently imported to Europe and the US[53.]
While car firms including BMW and Jaguar Land Rover were found to be using leather sourced from illegal cattle ranches in Paraguay[54].

## Pulp and Paper

Despite the decline in demand for paper for printing, writing and newsprint due to digitisation, more than half of global paper use is for packaging, and overall production is expected to grow[55].[56] There are also potential new emerging markets in the move to replace plastics, and next generation of 'bio-products' made from plant material could have huge implications for increased worldwide expansion of plantations.[57], [58].

There is large expansion in pulp milling capacity planned around the world[59] including Brazil, especially in Mato Grosso do Sul; in Asia, which is threatening the last Indonesian rainforests, as well as increasing emissions from associated peat degradation; and in the boreal forest of Siberian and European Russia.

There are also signs of new pulp mill capacity in Africa associated with eucalyptus plantation expansion.

The UK is one of the world's major importers of paper and paperboard [60] and imported around 24.2 million m3[61] of pulp & paper per year. The overseas land required to supply the UK annually is around 5.4 Mha - equivalent to 22% of the UK's land area.

In 2020 84% of our paper and paperboard came from Europe. Pulp is the most significant import in terms of risk as 33%, around 260 000 tonnes, came from Brazil – a high-risk country.

## Key Impacts of Pulp and Paper

Virgin pulp production for paper and board products is one of the main drivers of the expansion of intensively managed tree plantations[62]. Plantation expansion may displace other activities such as cattle ranching which then moves to forest areas, thereby causing indirect deforestation. Plantation expansion has clear consequences for biodiversity loss as complex ecosystems are replaced by monocultures.

The pulp and paper industry is one of the world's biggest polluters, as well as one of the heaviest users of fresh water and energy. It is chemically intensive, with toxic chemicals often discharged into waterways where they pollute rivers, harm ecosystems, bio-accumulate, and eventually enter the food chain.

Brazil is the world's largest pulp exporter and has some 9 million hectares of plantations[63,] of which more than 7.5 million hectares are eucalyptus. A further large increase is predicted and it's likely that most of this will be near deforestation hotspots in or near the Cerrado, Atlantic Forest and the Amazon biomes.[64]

## Key Corporations

**Suzano**. The world's biggest pulp producer is the Brazilian company Suzano SA. Suzano has a landbank of 2.4 million hectares, of which 1.5 million are tree plantations. This land acquisition has led to a number of land conflicts with local communities, including Tupinikim and Guarani indigenous people, landless rural workers, and quilombola communities - originally established by escaped slaves[65]. Aracruz Celulose (now part of Suzano) one of the most controversial pulp and paper companies, was reported to have destroyed 50,000 hectares of Atlantic rainforest in the north of Espirito Santo, and seized 11,000 hectares of indigenous territory.

In 2010 Suzano took over UK-registered biotechnology company Futura Gene[66]. Futuragene are hoping their GM trees will increase biomass accumulation, making them 20% more productive. In 2015 Brazil approved Futuragene's application for the commercial use of the H421 eucalyptus tree. Suzano are also looking to change the lignin content to allow trees to be processed more easily or yield more energy[67]. In 2021 a new glyphosate resistant GE eucalyptus was approved.

UK financial institution JPMorgan Chase has been Suzano's largest financier - credit from Chase, totalling nearly USD 4.5 billion.[68]

**Smurfitt-Kappa Group.** The Irish paper giant Smurfit Kappa, owned by the Irish Smurfitt family, is one of largest producers of paper packaging in the world. It has been connected to human rights abuses and environmental devastation in Valle del Cauca, Colombia.

Since the 1970s Smurfitt-Kappa has bought up land in conflict-ridden regions of Colombia and replaced native forests with monoculture plantations – putting water security, food sovereignty, biodiversity and climate resiliency at risk.

The indigenous, peasant and afro communities affected by Smurfit Kappa have long called on the company to return land and respect human rights. But the environmental and indigenous rights abuses continue.[69], [70]

This ongoing situation has been taken up by UN Special Raporteurs on Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples, who wrote to Smurfitt in July 2022 expressing their concern and calling for a detailed company response[71]

The company have a large number of locations in the UK, https://www.smurfitkappa.com/uk/locations

# Cocoa

The majority of Cocoa production come from the West African countries of Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Nigeria, while Indonesia produces about 11%.[72]

The UK imported 1 million tonnes of cocoa every year – about 81% was consumed in the UK, and the remainder was exported. The UK has 1% of the global population, but has a disproportionate share of land area to produce our cocoa imports – around 1.1 Mha – equivalent to about 9% of the world's total cocoa land footprint[73].

### Key Impacts of Cocoa

Cocoa is the fourth largest source of commodity-driven deforestation globally, after beef, soy, and oil palm[74].

In West Africa, cocoa is predominantly grown in monoculture, full-sun systems which require land clearance, contributing to the destruction of rainforests. 90% of the region's primary forests have been lost. In the last 60 years, Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana have lost around 94% and 80% of their forests respectively, with approximately one-third of that to make way for growing cocoa.[75] Cocoa continues to impact remaining forest, encroaching into protected areas (PAs).

Environmental harms proliferate in the cocoa industry and are often intertwined with human rights abuses and social challenges. Most cocoa farmers already make less than a dollar a day because the price of cocoa has fallen so low. This sinks them into grinding poverty that makes farmers unable to afford farm improvements to develop complex, robust agroforestry systems. This also makes farmers vulnerable to collude with illegal loggers and poachers in exchange for food or money.

## Key Corporations

The world's largest cocoa traders **Cargill**, Barry Callebaut (the first and second largest traders) and **Nestlé** (the sixth largest chocolate manufacturer) – all of which supply cocoa to the UK – have also been found to have deforestation in their supply chains. As well as Cémoi, a French chocolate manufacturer supplying cocoa to the UK, including through its chocolate production unit in Cardiff.

In 2022 Mighty Earth surveyed the world's biggest chocolate companies and ranked them on their environmental performance, which they published in their chocolate companies scorecard[76]

[1] https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/RiskierBusiness_July2020_V7_0.pdf
[2] https://commodityfootprints.earth/
[3] https://friendsoftheearth.uk/system-change/how-uk-causing-habitat-destruction-worldwide
[4] https://wwfeu.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/2021_106_european_soy_supply_wnf_2201_final.pdf
[5] https://www.soilassociation.org/media/22930/peak-poultry-briefing-for-policy-makers.pdf
[6] https://planet-tracker.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Gran-Chaco-LD-report.pdf
[7] https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10113-021-01804-z
[8] https://www.globalforestwatch.org/blog/commodities/soy-production-forests-south-america/
[9] https://ourworldindata.org/drivers-of-deforestation
[10] https://news.mongabay.com/2021/11/brazils-indigenous-xavante-strangled-by-agribusiness-slammed-by-covid-19/
[11] https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10612-020-09488-3
[12] https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/jul/07/tesco-suppliers-river-wye-phosphate-pollution-chicken-farming
[13] https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2020/11/25/brazil-fires-deforestation-tesco-nandos-mcdonalds/
[14] https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2020-04-07/half-of-uk-chickens-produced-by-us-agribusiness
[15] https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2020/11/25/brazil-fires-deforestation-tesco-nandos-mcdonalds/

[16] https://efeca.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/UK-RTSSPO-APR-2021-final.pdf
[17] https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/RiskierBusiness_July2020_V7_0.pdf
[18] https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/8-things-know-about-palm-oil
[19] https://ourworldindata.org/palm-oil
[20] https://ourworldindata.org/palm-oil
[21] https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-021-27353-x
[22] https://insights.trase.earth/insights/indonesia-pulp-exports-linked-to-widespread-fires-peatlands/
[23] https://chainreactionresearch.com/report/indonesian-palm-oil-mining-deforestation/
[24] https://twitter.com/friends_earth/status/1596175731461328897
[25] https://www.mightyearth.org/2021/11/10/astra-clearing-forest-now-in-rarest-orangutan-habitat/
[26] https://earth.org/endangered-species/orangutan/
[27] Forest Research Forestry Statistics 2021 p249 based on FAO data
[28] Forest Research Forestry Stats
[29] https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/RiskierBusiness_July2020_V7_0.pdf
[30] Forestry Statistics 2021
[31] https://www.earthsight.org.uk/news/investigations-brazil-untamed-timber
[32] https://ourworldindata.org/what-are-drivers-deforestation
[33] Our World in data/ Pendrill 2019
[34] WWF deforestation Fronts 2021 p9
[35] The last frontiers of wilderness: Tracking loss of intact forest landscapes from 2000 to 2013. Potapov et al. SCIENCE ADVANCES • 13 Jan 2017 • Vol 3, Issue 1
[36] https://www.earthsight.org.uk/news/investigations/ikea-house-of-horrors
[37] Eg. Global Wood Markets info **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** & Sept 2017 and
[38] https://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/pdf/FLEGT%20Eval%20Consultant%20Report%20EN.pdf
[39] Drax annual report 2020, page 54 https://www.drax.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Drax_AR2020.pdf
[40] https://www.cepf.net/stories/announcing-worlds-36th-biodiversity-hotspot-north-american-coastal-plain
[41] https://www.cutcarbonnotforests.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/uk-biomass-threatens-global-biodiversity-fs.pdf
[42] https://www.earthsight.org.uk/flatpackedforests-en
[43] Wwf are you sitting comfortably? Imports are 47% by value, 42% by volume
[44] Wwf are you sitting comfortably?
[45] https://policy.friendsoftheearth.uk/insight/why-we-need-stronger-uk-laws-halt-deforestation-abroad
[46] https://forestgovernance.chathamhouse.org/countries/malaysia
[47] https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/RiskierBusiness_July2020_V7_0.pdf
[48] https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/RiskierBusiness_July2020_V7_0.pdf
[49] https://www.earthsight.org.uk/news/analysis/european-leather-industry-peddling-misinformation
[50] https://chainreactionresearch.com/report/jbs-outsized-deforestation-in-supply-chain-covid-19-pose-fundamental-business-risks/
[51] https://chainreactionresearch.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/JBS-CRR-Report.pdf
[52] https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/corned-beef-being-sourced-company-linked-amazon-destruction
[53] https://globalcanopy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Hidden-deforestation-in-the-Brazil-and-China-beef-and-leather-trade.pdf
[54] https://www.earthsight.org.uk/grandtheftchaco-en
[55] Mckinsey 2019
[56] WWF ref to Trase but no info found. Try industry forecasts https://linchpinseo.com/trends-pulp-and-paper-industry/ & https://paper360.tappi.org/2019/02/20/pulp-and-paper-industries-with-a-bright-future/
[57] Mckinsey 2019
[58] https://globaljusticeecology.org/new-statement-genetically-engineered-trees-no-solution-to-climate-change/
[59] State of the Global paper industry 2018
[60] Union of Concerned Scientists. (2014). www.ucsusa.org/resources/planting-future
[61] Wood raw metric weight equivalent (WRME)

[62] State of the Global paper industry 2018
[63] https://iba.org/eng/planted-trees
[64] EEPN 2015
[65] https://globalforestcoalition.org/forest-cover-62/#fc6205, numerous examples such as: Quilombola women resisting eucalyptus plantations in Brazil
[66] EPN webpage Project: Pulp Finance
[67]
[68] https://www.jpmorgan.com/GB/en/about-us
[69] https://actionnetwork.org/letters/stop-smurfit-kappa-abusing-indigenous-rights-in-colombia
[70] https://news.mongabay.com/2022/08/fsc-certified-paper-plantation-faces-farmer-backlash-in-colombia/
[71] https://spcommreports.ohchr.org/TMResultsBase/DownLoadPublicCommunicationFile?gId=27406
[72] https://www.forest-trends.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Tackling-illegal-deforestation-in-cocoa-supply-chains.pdf
[73] [73] https://www.forest-trends.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Tackling-illegal-deforestation-in-cocoa-supply-chains.pdf
[74] https://insights.trase.earth/insights/mapping-cocoa-exports-cote-divoire-ghana/
[75] https://www.mightyearth.org/2022/04/26/unpacking-deforestation-and-climate-change-within-chocolate-scorecard/
[76] https://www.mightyearth.org/2022/04/07/2022-easter-chocolate-scorecard-lists-starbucks-among-broken-eggs/