



LINDT & SPRÜNGLI

Deforestation Policy

Kilchberg, 2023

Valid for: Lindt & Sprüngli Group | Contact: sustainability@lindt.com





LINDT & SPRÜNGLI

Preamble

Conducting business in an ethical, legal, and environmentally and socially responsible manner is an integral part of Lindt & Sprüngli's [Guiding Principles](#). These principles are the basis for Lindt & Sprüngli's long standing commitment to the responsible stewardship of environmental resources as well as to a respectful attitude towards nature.

Lindt & Sprüngli recognizes the importance of forests in mitigating climate change, protecting biodiversity and supporting the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and the impact agricultural commodity production has had and continues to have on forests and natural ecosystems. As a consumer goods company sourcing agricultural ingredients, Lindt & Sprüngli recognizes our role and responsibility in addressing commodity led deforestation in the landscapes we source from. Through our Deforestation Policy (this Policy) we set out Lindt & Sprüngli's aspiration and approach in addressing deforestation in supply chains. Tackling deforestation forms a key part of our efforts to meet our science-based climate targets by 2030 and 2050.

This Policy falls under our commitments and actions on sustainability set out in our [Sustainability Plan](#), as well our [Environmental Policy](#) and [Human Rights Policy](#).

Scope of Our Commitment

This Policy applies to our global operations, including our subsidiaries, and covers our raw material supply chains for our primary deforestation linked commodities: Cocoa, Palm Oil, Soy, and Paper & Pulp Based Packaging (see exact scope of each material in our commodity specific commitments below).

Our Commitment

Lindt & Sprüngli commits to no deforestation in cocoa, with a target date of December 31, 2025, and to working towards the elimination of Deforestation in our other primary Deforestation linked supply chains (palm oil, soy, and paper & pulp-based packaging).

We will be guided by best practices defined by the Science Based Targets initiative as set out under its Forest Land and Agriculture (FLAG) guidance as well as the [Accountability Framework](#) where relevant.

Lindt & Sprüngli recognizes that efforts to stop commodity driven Deforestation may be linked to issues such as the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and smallholder livelihoods, and is committed to working towards addressing these issues through the implementation of our Sustainability Plan and [Human Rights Policy](#).

Requirements

We aim to achieve our commitment through performing deforestation risk based Due Diligence and sourcing from Direct Suppliers which commit to comply with the commodity specific requirements set out in this Policy as well as our [Supplier Code of Conduct](#).



LINDT & SPRÜNGLI

Cocoa

Direct suppliers must ensure that volumes supplied to Lindt & Sprüngli are:

- From legal sources;
- Deforestation free with a cut-off date of 1 January 2018 for volumes from Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, and after 31 December 2020 for all other origins;¹
- Either sourced through the Lindt & Sprüngli Farming Program or certified under a certification standard approved by Lindt & Sprüngli (e.g. Rainforest Alliance).¹

Requirements cover Lindt & Sprüngli's sourcing of cocoa beans, cocoa butter, cocoa powder, and chocolate mass.

Palm Oil

Direct Suppliers must ensure that volumes supplied to Lindt & Sprüngli are:

- Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certified.
- Further: For RSPO certified Segregated volumes:
 - From legal sources
 - Deforestation free with a Cut-Off Date of 15 November 2018
 - Not linked to the Conversion of peat as defined under the RSPO standard
 - Not linked to development in [high carbon stock](#) (HCS) areas
 - Not linked to the Conversion of [high conservation value](#) (HCV) areas
 - Not linked to burning practices in preparation of plantings
 - Respecting procedures for upholding the rights to [Free, Prior and Informed Consent](#) (FPIC)
- Further: For RSPO certified Mass Balance volumes:
 - From legal sources
 - Deforestation free with a Cut-Off Date of 31 December 2020

Requirements cover Lindt & Sprüngli's sourcing of palm oil, palm kernel oil, and their fractions.

Soy

Direct Suppliers must ensure that volumes supplied to Lindt & Sprüngli are:

- From legal sources
- Deforestation free as defined under the Proterra certification standard
- Not linked to the Conversion of other natural ecosystems as defined under the Proterra certification standard
- Respecting procedures for upholding the rights to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

Requirements cover Lindt & Sprüngli's sourcing of soy lecithin.

Paper & Pulp Based Packaging Material

Direct Suppliers must ensure that volumes supplied to Lindt & Sprüngli are:

- From legal sources
- Deforestation free as defined under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- Not linked to the Conversion of high conservation value (HCV) areas

Requirements cover Lindt & Sprüngli's sourcing of all paper and cardboard packaging products containing wood fiber (e.g., paper, corrugated board, folding box carton).

¹ Latest as of January 1, 2025, when 100% of cocoa volumes are sourced through sustainability programs



LINDT & SPRÜNGLI

Implementation

Lindt & Sprüngli will deliver on its commitments for the in-scope materials set out in this policy through the implementation of its Deforestation Due Diligence approach including:

1. Gathering supply chain transparency and traceability information.
2. Assessing Deforestation risk of sourcing origins
3. Taking actions to mitigate risk of Deforestation linked to our supply chains, such as sourcing certified volumes, engaging our suppliers and investing in production landscape initiatives
4. Monitoring for cases of non-compliance in our supply chains and providing access to our grievance mechanism, the Lindt & Sprüngli [Speak Up Line](#)
5. Engaging our suppliers to support effective remediation where and when cases of non-compliance with our standards have occurred in our supply chain
6. Regularly measuring and reporting progress in meeting our commitments

Lindt & Sprüngli recognizes that eliminating Deforestation in commodity supply chains cannot be achieved by Lindt & Sprüngli alone, but requires ongoing collaboration within the sector with our suppliers as well as peers and other stakeholders to address systemic issues and develop common solutions.

Remedy & Grievance Mechanisms

We encourage raising any concerns and reporting any activities which are not consistent with Lindt & Sprüngli's policies or are unlawful. Our grievance mechanisms include the Lindt & Sprüngli [Speak Up Line](#), which is operated by an independent third party. It includes provisions for safe engagement, confidentiality, anonymity (where legally permitted), and raising concerns in multiple languages. The process for follow up and investigation is explained in our [Speak Up Policy](#).

Where and when cases of non-compliance with the requirements above have occurred in our supply chains, we will engage our suppliers to support effective remediation. If a supplier is not compliant with the requirements and/or not cooperating in ensuring remediation we reserve the right to suspend or remove the supplier.

Governance

Group Procurement shall be responsible for guiding the company's Deforestation Due Diligence strategy, driving its implementation, and supporting efforts to embed it in our supply chain. The Group Sustainability department shall oversee this policy, guide appropriate implementation plans and actions in response to Deforestation risks and review the performance. The CFO, in the capacity as the Group Management member responsible for sustainability, shall provide executive oversight and liaise with the CEO and other members of Group Management. Ultimate oversight for sustainability resides with our Board of Directors, represented by the Corporate Sustainability Committee.

Dr. Adalbert Lechner
CEO, Lindt & Sprüngli

Approved by the CEO, Group Management and the Board of Directors, June 2023

While local language translations may be made, the original English version will remain the only official version.

This policy will be reviewed and revised as needed every two years.



LINDT & SPRÜNGLI

Definitions

- **Conversion:** Change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or profound change in a natural ecosystem’s species composition, structure, or function.
 - Deforestation is one form of conversion (conversion of natural forests).
 - Conversion includes severe degradation or the introduction of management practices that result in a substantial and sustained change in the ecosystem’s former species composition, structure, or function.
 - Change to natural ecosystems that meets this definition is considered to be conversion regardless of whether or not it is legal.²

Lindt & Sprüngli aligns with this definition of conversion, with the exception of certain commodities where we align with the definition of the certification standard stated in the requirements above.

- **Cut-off Date:** Date after which deforestation renders a given area or production unit non-compliant with no-Deforestation commitments Deforestation free as defined under the Proterra certification standard.²
- **Deforestation:** 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.² Lindt & Sprüngli aligns with this definition of deforestation, with the exception of certain commodities where we align with the definition of the certification standard stated in the requirements above.
- **Direct Suppliers:** Suppliers paid by a Lindt & Sprüngli Group company to supply materials which are in scope for this policy to Lindt & Sprüngli, or that make Lindt & Sprüngli-directed sales of in-scope commodities to Lindt & Sprüngli’s third party manufacturers or that are third-party manufacturers of products supplied to Lindt & Sprüngli containing in-scope commodities. It excludes licensees.
- **Due Diligence:** A risk management process implemented by a company to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for how it addresses environmental and social risks and impacts in its operations, supply chains, and investments.²
- **In-scope Commodities:** Cocoa, Palm Oil, Soy, and Paper & Pulp Based Packaging (see exact scope of each material in our commodity specific commitments above).

² Accountability Framework definition: accountability-framework.org/the-framework/contents/definitions