

# Deforestation Free Nation



## Deforestation Free Procurement Toolkit

Designed to help the Welsh public sector  
reduce its tropical forest footprint



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## Deforestation Free Procurement Toolkit

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Written and edited by: Angie Kirby, Barbara Quy-Davies, and Kevin Rahman-Daultrey, Size of Wales  
With special thanks to: Shea Buckland-Jones, WWF Cymru; Faye Sherlock and Cat Barton, Chester Zoo; Jeff Conant, Friends of the Earth US; Commissao Guarani Yvyrupa, Brazil; and Jenipher's Coffi

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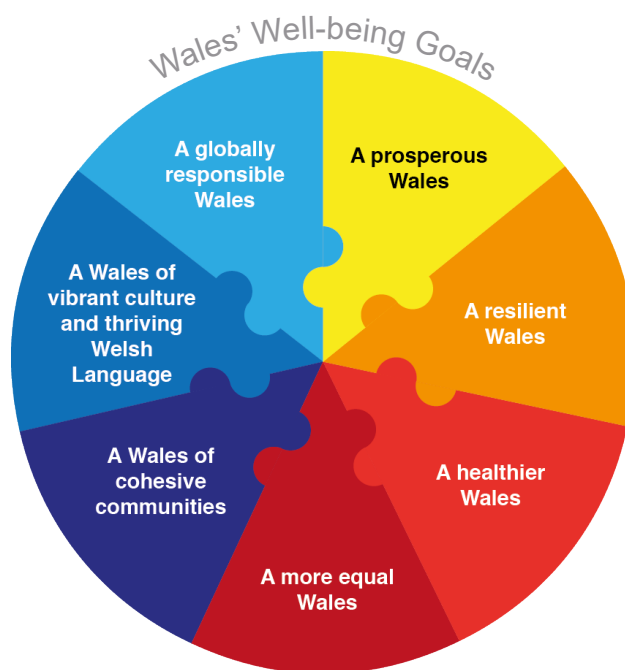




This **Deforestation Free Procurement (DFP) Toolkit** has been designed by Size of Wales to help Welsh public bodies ensure that the products and commodities they buy, do not drive tropical deforestation and habitat destruction overseas.

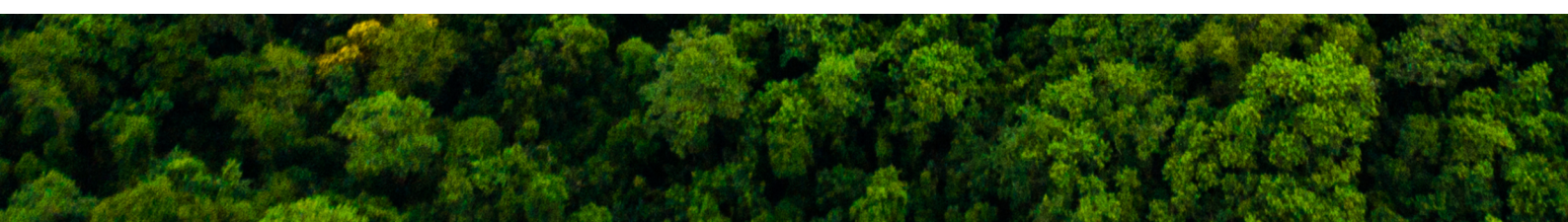
**Seventy-three per cent of all tropical deforestation<sup>1</sup>** is caused by the production of just a handful of agricultural products – products we buy, use and consume in Wales every day, including beef, soy, palm oil, coffee, cacao, timber, paper and pulp. Wales imports significant quantities of these commodities, which are linked to deforestation, land conversion and negative social impacts, such as child and forced labour and abuse of Indigenous Peoples’ rights. By removing these products from the Welsh public sector, public bodies will be helping to tackle the climate and nature crises, protect indigenous rights and reduce the risk of future pandemics.

The DFP toolkit reflects the context of Welsh and UK-wide policies and frameworks and demonstrates how DFP can help public bodies meet their obligations under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFG Act)** and other key legislation, helping Wales to become a healthier, resilient, prosperous and globally responsible nation.



### Who is this toolkit for?

This toolkit is suitable for public sector procurement practitioners (e.g. buyers and relationship managers), policy makers, strategy leads and sustainability practitioners, but also any employee who raises purchase orders for food products or other forest risk commodities as part of their role. It can be used to support Wales’ Sustainability Risk Assessment for high value tenders, but also for lower value procurement, to help remove tropical deforestation across public sector spending.





## Where we are now

We are facing a climate and nature crisis. Despite irrefutable evidence that human-made emissions are heating our planet and destabilising our climate, global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions continue to rise. Fast and deep cuts to global emissions are needed, with trees and forests being an essential part of the solution. However, deforestation rates are increasing annually. **In 2020 alone, we lost 25.8 million hectares (Mha) of tree cover, up from 13.4 Mha in 2001.**<sup>2</sup> Globally, deforestation is estimated to account for 10-15 per cent of GHG emissions.<sup>3</sup>

In 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made it clear that in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels **we must stop and reverse global deforestation.**<sup>4</sup> We have a limited time to act, if we are to mitigate the worst effects of climate change and avoid runaway tipping points, which could see biodiverse forest ecosystems, such as the Amazon biome, converting into savannahs.<sup>5</sup> Due to deforestation and forest degradation, the Brazilian Amazon is already a net emitter of carbon,<sup>6</sup> which means we can no longer rely on it to help draw down the carbon generated by human activity. We must act now.



## The importance of tropical forests

### Climate regulation

Protecting existing tropical forests is essential to tackling the climate crisis. **Half of all carbon stored in the Earth's forests is found in tropical regions.**<sup>7</sup> This is due in part to the dense, hardwood trees that grow in tropical forests and the continuous levels of sunshine all year round, meaning twelve months of growth, photosynthesis and carbon sequestration. Through the process of photosynthesis trees store carbon both above ground in their wood, bark and leaves, and below ground in their roots, trapping carbon deep in the soil. On the forest floor, leaf litter, seeds, berries and twigs also decompose transferring carbon and micronutrients into the soil.

When we burn down a forest, we not only release this stored up carbon into the atmosphere, adding to existing human-made emissions from food waste, industry and transport for example, but we also remove the Earth's ability to draw down the carbon we emit from these other sources. **For every tree lost, we increase atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations** that drive climate change and reduce the Earth's ability to counter emissions.

Another function of tropical forests is that they create cloud cover, which reflects solar radiation back into space **helping to keep the Earth's temperature regulated.** In contrast, deforested land absorbs more solar radiation, which increases global temperatures.





## Biodiversity

The protection of tropical forests is not just important in our fight against climate change, but it is crucial to reversing catastrophic nature loss. **Tropical forests account for just 6% of landmass coverage on earth, but hold over 50% of terrestrial plants and animal species.**<sup>8</sup> This rich flora and fauna form a complex ecosystem, with soils, fungi, plants and animals helping to deliver a huge range of ecosystem services. This includes regulating services, from air and water purification e.g. Brazil's Atlantic Forest provides over 60% of the population's supply of drinking water<sup>9</sup> - to flood and drought prevention, and provisional services, such as shelter, food and medicine. Not to mention cultural services, such as spiritual enrichment and inspiration.



Today, many species are under threat from deforestation and land conversion. This includes iconic species like the orangutan and Sumatran tiger, but also the countless organisms found in healthy forest soils that support a flourishing ecosystem capable of sustaining life.

## Indigenous peoples and forest communities

Research widely recognises that Indigenous Peoples and local forest communities play an essential role as guardians of the Earth's forests.<sup>101112</sup> Indigenous and tribal communities have been safeguarding biodiverse forest habitats for thousands of years, stewarding and respecting the land, rivers, plants and animals. Indeed, **forests protected by indigenous communities store more carbon and contain more biodiversity than those unprotected.**<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, Indigenous Peoples and other forest communities are risking their lives to protect their forests, livelihoods and cultures from the impacts of deforestation driven by the global demand for products such as beef, soy, palm oil and timber. Protecting indigenous peoples and forest communities, through measures such as fair and sustainable trade, is not only just and ethical in terms of human rights, but it is essential to help preserve and protect the biosphere upon which all life on Earth depends.

## Zoonotic disease

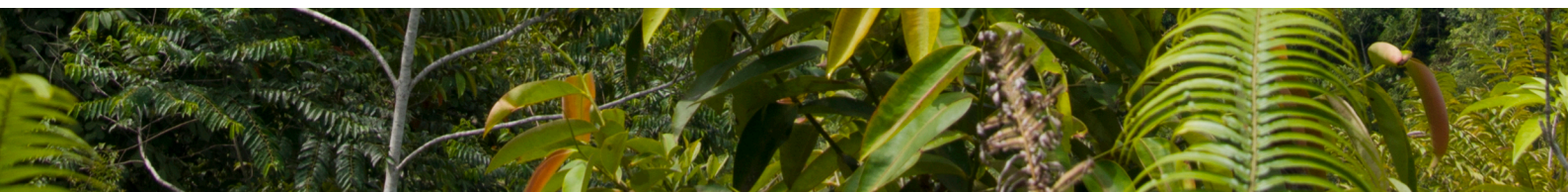
Protecting tropical forests can also help reduce the risk of pandemics by providing a buffer between humans and wildlife. **Seventy-five per cent of emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic**<sup>14</sup> – spread from animals to humans – with rising rates of deforestation and land conversion leading to more frequent interactions between humans and wildlife, particularly through agricultural activity. In fact, since the 1940s, nearly **50 per cent** of the zoonoses that have emerged are **linked to agriculture.**<sup>15</sup> The deadly Ebola and Nipah viruses are examples of pathogens that have jumped the species barrier into human populations and are directly linked to tropical deforestation.<sup>1617</sup>



## Public sector leadership

With an annual procurement spend of £6.3 billion, the Welsh public sector has a huge role to play in helping to drive sustainable production and eliminate tropical deforestation from the Welsh economy. By adopting a policy of DFP public bodies will be:

1. Helping to **reduce global heating** and mitigate against the worst effects of climate change.
2. **Protecting communities** on the frontline of climate change by **increasing their resilience to climate impacts** through fair and sustainable trade.
3. Contributing to **Wales' well-being goals** and the wider **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** (UN SDGs), helping Wales to become healthier, resilient, prosperous and globally responsible. (See Appendix A, p.23)
4. **Embedding social value** by promoting sustainable livelihoods both at home and abroad, creating healthier communities and **reducing climate impacts and air pollution**.
5. **Supporting biodiversity and ecological resilience.**  
Under [Section 6](#) of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 public authorities that exercise their functions in relation to Wales have a legal duty to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems. Public bodies can support biodiversity both directly and indirectly, for example, through sustainable procurement policies.
6. **Helping to reduce our consumption emissions overseas.** Transitioning to a low-carbon economy we will need to address the emissions we generate overseas, not just the production emissions we generate here in Wales.
7. **Reducing the risk of future pandemics.**  
The COVID-19 pandemic has put our complex relationship with nature in the spotlight – including the role that deforestation and habitat destruction play in increasing the likelihood of zoonotic diseases. There are risks of sparking further pandemics, as wild animals are forced into closer contact with humans and livestock due to deforestation.
8. **Demonstrating cross-sector leadership for the UK's due diligence legislation on forest risk commodities.**  
The UK's Global Resource Initiative Taskforce recommends that the public sector should help to lead the transition to sustainable commodities by strengthening existing mandatory sustainable commodity public procurement requirements.
9. **Uniting with global neighbours to help tackle tropical deforestation and its associated impacts.**  
Pioneering countries and states have either implemented or are developing policies to remove imported deforestation from public procurement. (See case studies)
10. **Protecting business interests by:**
  - *Reducing physical risk. This refers to the physical impact of climate change that could affect an organisation's ability to carry out its function, e.g. a singular event, such as flooding, or incremental changes, such as temperature or sea level rise.*
  - *Reducing transition risk. This refers to the potential financial impacts if an organisation fails to adapt to changes during the transition to a lower-carbon global economy.*
  - *Reducing reputational risk. Organisations are increasingly exposed to reputational risks arising from problems in their supply chain. By ensuring sustainable sourcing of goods, organisations will be safeguarding their future and reputation.<sup>18</sup>*
  - *Increasing employee engagement. Sustainability commitments have a positive impact on employee engagement, indicating potential gains from higher employee satisfaction and retention.<sup>19</sup>*
  - *Responding to a **shift in public attitudes** with 87 per cent of people wanting action on deforestation.<sup>20</sup>*





## Forest Risk Commodities

The DFP toolkit focuses on the key agricultural products, known as forest risk commodities, that are exploiting indigenous forest communities and driving tropical deforestation and land conversion overseas, including imported beef, soy, palm oil, coffee, cacao, timber, paper and pulp.



### Palm oil

Palm oil comes from the flesh and kernels of the fruits of the African oil palm tree, *Elaeis guineensis*. Although native to Africa, it is also grown in many parts of Southeast Asia, with palm oil from Malaysia and Indonesia accounting for over 85 per cent of global supply.<sup>21</sup>

Demand for palm oil has grown significantly over the past few years and this has led to massive increases in deforestation in parts of Southeast Asia, especially Indonesia, where palm plantations were responsible for up to **nine per cent of global emissions** between 2000 and 2010.<sup>22</sup>

Currently, monocrop oil palm plantations cover more than 27 million hectares of the Earth's surface,<sup>23</sup> where 'green deserts' have replaced the rich flora and fauna of forest habitats.<sup>24</sup>

**Wales' share of UK imports totals 51,000 tonnes of palm oil every year, requiring 50,600 hectares of land.** The majority of Welsh palm imports (85%) come from high and very high deforestation risk countries, making palm oil **Wales' highest risk forest commodity**.<sup>25</sup>

### Why is palm oil in everything?

Palm oil is a highly stable oil with a long shelf-life. It is semi-solid at room temperature and has a neutral flavour and aroma, making it ideal as an ingredient in food preparations.<sup>21</sup> It can also be broken down into several constituent ingredients with varying characteristics,<sup>26</sup> making it highly versatile and popular. It is also efficient to grow, requiring much less land than other oil crops. (Fig.1)

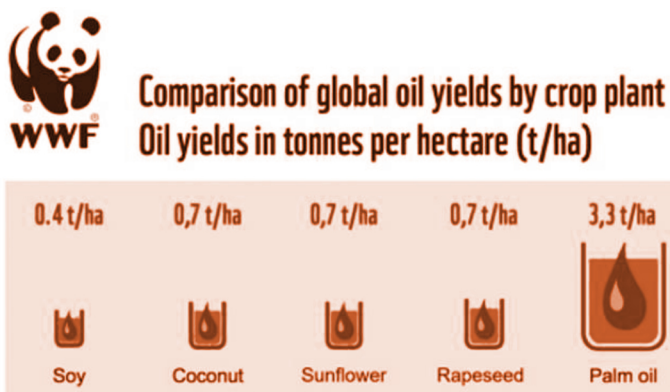
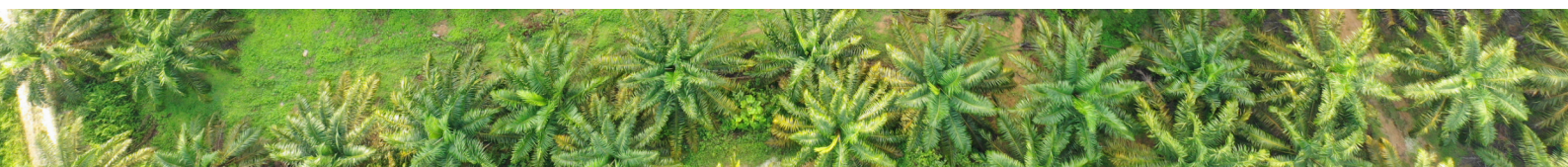


Figure. 1. Oil crop comparison, WWF <sup>21</sup>

Palm oil can be found in **over 50 per cent of packaged food products** found in our supermarkets,<sup>21</sup> ranging from ice cream and peanut butter to baked goods and ready meals, and **70 per cent of cosmetics and household detergents**.<sup>27</sup> It is even found in our fuel tanks. Palm oil and its derivatives have over 200 names which make it very difficult to spot.

While many organisations have called to boycott palm oil, switching to other oil crops would require much more land to produce the same yields, resulting in wider deforestation and environmental degradation.





While there is no certification scheme that can absolutely guarantee zero deforestation, ethical certifications have improved traceability and many well-known brands now source certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) for use in their products. The most recognised certification scheme is the one regulated by the **Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil** (RSPO), under which farmers must meet certain environmental, social and economic standards in order to be certified. This includes a **no further deforestation criterion, peat development or burning of land**.

## Beef

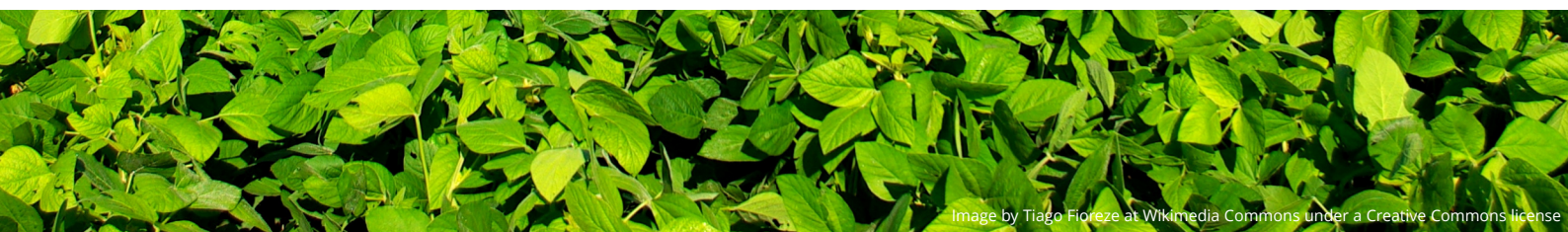
Forest clearing for cattle is the **largest single driver of deforestation in tropical regions, especially in South America**. In the Amazon, it is estimated that around 80 per cent of deforestation has been carried out to create pastures for grazing cattle – a figure that does not include the amount of land used to grow crops, such as soy, required to feed the cattle.<sup>28</sup> In the neighbouring **Cerrado** – a vast, biodiverse savannah, which also plays a vital role in the fight against climate change and is home to 5



per cent of the world's biodiversity - **over 50 per cent (i.e. more than 200 million acres) has been converted for cattle grazing**.<sup>29</sup> According to WWF, land use change and deforestation for beef production accounts for **25 per cent of climate changing emissions worldwide**.<sup>30</sup>

Beef exports from the Amazon region are increasing, rising by 25 per cent between 2010 and 2017.<sup>28</sup> Additionally, **the UK is one of the top five importers of Brazilian beef, importing £1 billion worth of beef linked to deforestation in the Amazon during a five-year period**.<sup>31</sup> This meat often finds its way into fast food or ultra-processed foods, which are contributing to rising obesity levels in Wales.<sup>32</sup>

Wales imports 12,000 tonnes of beef every year, requiring a land area the **size of the Brecon Beacons**. Compared to the rest of the UK, **Wales has a larger land footprint in Brazil**, due to higher consumption levels of corned beef in Wales.<sup>25</sup>



**Soy** **Between 1990 and 2010, the land used for soy production in South America increased from 42 million acres to 114 million<sup>33</sup> – roughly 23 times the Size of Wales.**

In South America, intensive soy production is generating a humanitarian crisis alongside deforestation and land conversion, particularly in the Amazon region and Brazilian Cerrado.<sup>34</sup> The **Guarani** – the Indigenous peoples of Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina and Bolivia - **have lost 95 per cent of their ancestral lands to soy, sugarcane and cattle grazing**.<sup>35</sup> (Click **here** to read the story of the Guarani People, Brazil).





**Welsh soy imports total 190,000 tonnes per year, requiring a land area larger than Monmouthshire** – and generating over 1.1 million tonnes of GHG emissions, most of which is from land use change in South America. Around **80 per cent of Welsh soy imports goes into livestock feed**, of which poultry farming uses 48 per cent, dairy 20 per cent and sheep 19 per cent.<sup>25</sup> Therefore, by eating meat and dairy from animals reared on soy, we are indirectly contributing to deforestation and land conversion without realising it.

### Supply chain transparency

Soy often has a complex supply chain, meaning that tracing soy from farm to fork is a difficult task, especially for downstream companies and organisations (figure 2).<sup>36</sup> Furthermore, currently no internationally agreed definition of sustainably sourced soy exists.<sup>37</sup> The Roundtable on Responsible Soy (RTRS) is one certification scheme whose criteria includes zero deforestation and land conversion. However, unlike the RSPO logo, the RTRS logo is much less likely to be seen on packaging in the UK.<sup>38</sup>

**Choosing certified sustainable animal products can help remove or significantly reduce the risk of deforestation and land conversion**, e.g. the Pasture for Life standard prohibits soy-based feeds and under the Soil Association Organic standard, if farmers cannot source 100 per cent organic feed, pigs and poultry may be fed up to 5 per cent non-organic protein.<sup>39,40</sup>

Measures to remove embedded soy from public spending must be supported by strategies to reduce consumption of animal products and increase consumption of plant-based proteins. In addition to reducing deforestation risk, this combined approach will also help public bodies tackle other environmental and health impacts linked to intensive animal agriculture, such as soil and water pollution, animal welfare and the overuse of antibiotics.<sup>41,42</sup> (See **Step 3** for more information).

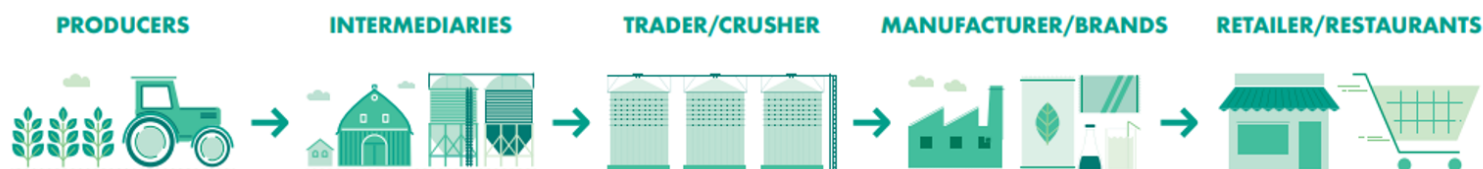


Fig 2: Soy supply chain, image credit The Soy Toolkit, Proforest<sup>36</sup>

Image by David Greenwood-Haigh from Pixabay



### Cacao

According to Mighty Earth, cacao production caused around 2-3 million hectares of deforestation between 1988 and 2008 – **an area the size of Wales**. Furthermore, cacao production is increasing to meet growing global demand for chocolate, e.g. between 2011 – 2018, the Ivory Coast saw a **50 per cent increase**, which resulted in the loss of **2.4m hectares of trees**.<sup>43</sup>

Between 2016 and 2018, the UK imported around 1 million tonnes of cocoa each year.<sup>44</sup> Broken down for Wales, this equates to around 15,000 tonnes, requiring **a land area the size of Wrexham county** - and generating 68,800 tonnes of GHG emissions from land use change. The majority of Welsh cocoa imports come from West African countries considered to be **high or very high risk for deforestation and social issues, including child labour**.<sup>25</sup>





Image by NickyPe from Pixabay

### Coffee

Coffee is the world's second most traded commodity, production of which is growing by two per cent year on year. In most cases, this increase in demand is grown on land that was previously primary forest. **It is estimated that the amount of land needed to support this increase is around 100,000 hectares every year.**<sup>45</sup> Worldwide, the use of monocrop coffee production is leading to deforestation, soil erosion and water pollution.<sup>46</sup>

However, forests are part of the solution. Coffee is a thirsty plant and benefits from being grown with trees, as their shade help to slow down transpiration – the process of water evaporation from leaves, stems and flowers - which in turn helps to increase yield. (See case study *Coffee Growing on Mount Elgon, Uganda*).

### Timber, paper and pulp

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, **1.7 billion hectares** of forest are required to supply global demand for timber – **this is equivalent to a land area the size of Russia** – and 103 million hectares are required to supply the world's paper and pulp – equivalent to **three times the size of India.**<sup>47</sup>



Photo by Pok Rie from Pexels

In Wales, timber, paper and pulp reflects the largest land footprint of all forest commodities, with a land area **two and a half times the size of Anglesey required to meet Welsh demands for timber and an area the size of Ceredigion to supply Wales' paper and pulp.**<sup>25</sup>

While most of Wales' wood-based imports, e.g. fuel wood and furniture, come from Europe and North America, a proportion has footprints in countries with a high risk of deforestation and social issues, such as Brazil.

In addition, certain materials such as viscose and rayon, which are made from wood pulp, are taking their toll on tropical forests. This is a particular problem in Indonesia, where the global demand for wood pulp is a yet another driver of tropical deforestation.<sup>48</sup>





### Step 1 - Assessing risk and current organisational practice

#### This section has been designed to help you:

- Identify any forest-risk commodities you may be purchasing as an organisation and whether any of these have an ethical certification.
- Take stock of any policies that support sustainable sourcing and identify how these are implemented.

#### Please answer the following questions:

1. Does your organisation purchase food and refreshments in any capacity e.g., for hospital catering, staff canteens or meetings and events etc.?
  - Yes – Due to the saturation of forest risk commodities in global food systems, much of the food we consume comes with a risk of tropical deforestation. Associated risks and impacts can be reduced through sustainable sourcing. (See **Step 3** for more information)
  - No
2. Does your organisation purchase any wood, paper or pulp products, such as furniture or tissues?
  - Yes – All wood, paper and pulp products should be sourced sustainably to ensure responsible management of forests i.e. no deforestation, forest degradation or illegal logging.
  - No
3. Does your organisation purchase any cosmetic or cleaning products for use in its premises, e.g. detergent, washing-up liquid, hand wash, soap and shampoo?
  - Yes – around 70 per cent of cosmetics and household detergents contain ingredients derived from palm oil. Unless these are ecological products, they may contain unsustainably sourced palm oil derivatives.
  - No
4. Do any of the aforementioned products have an ethical certification? If so, please list which along with the level of certification (if known) e.g. RSPO Identity Preserved CSPO. Please note, the certification must be relevant to the product itself, not just the supplier. \*
5. Does your organisation have existing policies that support sustainable sourcing, including no-deforestation and no-land conversion commitments? For example, the use of ethical certifications?
  - Yes
  - No
6. If yes, which mechanisms exist to enable these policies at different stages of procurement, e.g. are they integrated into the contract process or are certain products restricted or made unavailable on ordering systems?
7. If no, does your organisation have a cut-off date for the purchase of unsustainable products? E.g. a public commitment to phase out products containing unsustainable palm oil by a certain date.

\* Some companies achieve ethical certification for the products they manufacture, but this does not necessarily apply to every product they sell. Due diligence should be carried out to ensure that any certifications apply to the products themselves and not just the supplier.



## Step 2 - Supplier engagement

**This section aims to help guide your conversations with suppliers, whether at the start of a new contractual relationship or during. It provides a series of questions to help you identify:**

- The measures taken by suppliers to ensure sustainable sourcing, including no deforestation and land conversion commitments and measures to protect and uphold human rights.
- Whether the products supplied to your organisation are sustainably sourced.

For any downstream company, knowing each step in the supply chain can be challenging for many reasons. For example, the lack of transparency and traceability of certain products, such as soy used in livestock feed. However, with the transition to a lower carbon economy, many companies will come under increasing pressure to provide evidence that the commodities and products they supply are not driving deforestation and land conversion overseas. Engaging with suppliers early on will help them prepare for and adapt to these changes.

Some suppliers will be the direct manufacturers of products, which means it should be easier for them to provide the product information you require. Other companies will be indirect suppliers, selling products made by other manufacturers. Either way, here are some practical steps to identify whether or not a product has a low deforestation risk, including the use of certification schemes and identifying the country of origin.

### **About the company / supplier:**

1. Does the supplier have a public commitment to source sustainably, including no-deforestation and no-land conversion commitments?
2. If not, does the supplier have a time-bound commitment for when they will stop sourcing unsustainable forest risk commodities, e.g. a cut-off date for the use of unsustainable palm oil?
3. Does the supplier have policies that support the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems?
4. Does the supplier have policies and commitments in place to tackle and prevent social issues arising in its supply chains? E.g. an anti-slavery statement, a public commitment to protect workers' rights or a policy on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) relating to crops grown on Indigenous lands.
5. Does the supplier exercise due diligence when sourcing products and ingredients, including assessing the risk of deforestation and land conversion in its supply chains?
6. Does the supplier know the country or region of origin of forest risk commodities used in its products? (See our **Wales and Global Responsibility** report for a list of countries categorised as high and very high-risk for deforestation and/or social issues).
7. Does the supplier have full traceability of its forest-risk supply chains? E.g. supply chain maps used in its operations, concession permits or documentation of Free, Prior, Informed Consent or lack thereof by local/indigenous communities.



## About the products:

1. Does the supplier provide any of the following products and/or embedded ingredients to your organisation? This can be through procurement of either goods or services, such as catering or cleaning services:
  - Imported beef, e.g. corned beef and burgers.
  - Chicken, lamb, pork, beef, eggs, dairy and farmed fish (forest-risk commodity - embedded soy and palm oil used in animal feed)
  - Chocolate and cocoa
  - Coffee
  - Timber, paper or wood pulp
  - Palm oil and/or palm oil derivatives:
    - a. Confectionery, baked goods, spreads and margarines, ready meals
    - b. Cosmetics, e.g. shampoo, shower gel and hand wash
    - c. Cleaning products, e.g. detergent and washing up liquid
2. Do any of these products carry an ethical certification? Is this visible on the packaging?
3. If a product contains palm oil, is this RSPO certified? If so, what is the level of RSPO certification? (See table xx)

## RSPO supply chain models

There are four levels of RSPO certification. However, only two of these are physically certified and therefore assure traceability:

Preferable RSPO level, assures traceability	Cannot assure traceability
<b>IP (Identity Preserved)</b> The CSPO is uniquely identifiable to a single RSPO certified mill and its certified supply base.	<b>MB (Mass Balance)</b> The CSPO is mixed with conventional palm oil and monitored administratively.
<b>SG (Segregated)</b> The CSPO is kept separate throughout the supply chain. Palm oil comes exclusively from a certified source.	<b>BC (Book and Claim)</b> This means the supply chain is not monitored for the presence of sustainable palm oil. Manufacturers and retailers can buy credits from RSPO-certified growers, crushers and independent smallholders, whilst continuing to source unsustainable palm oil.

Table 1: RSPO certification level descriptors

4. Do any of the products or ingredients come from countries or regions classed as high-risk for tropical deforestation and/or land conversion? (See our **Wales and Global Responsibility** report)
5. If there is no evidence of ethical certifications for the products currently supplied to your organisation, does the supplier have alternative products that are certified as sustainably sourced? (See [Chester Zoo's RSPO certified brands list](#) for products containing CSPO).
6. Are there opportunities for the company to shorten its supply chain, e.g. local sourcing?







## Step 3 - Reducing consumption and ethical sourcing




This section signposts ethical certifications for each forest risk commodity and proposes complementary strategies that will help reduce deforestation and land conversion.

Currently, there is **no single label or certification scheme that can 100 per cent guarantee zero deforestation**. However, there are several ethical certifications that support traceability and raise social and environmental standards, while increasing the demand for ethically sourced products. When using certifications, it is still essential to carry out due diligence checks to minimise risk as much as possible.

Prior to and during the procurement process, preference should be given to ethically sourced and certified products, e.g. during pre-procurement supplier engagement and by giving a greater weighting to ethically certified products in the scoring criteria.

Diversify protein sources	
<p><b>a. Reduce the amount of meat and dairy products served in public food.</b></p> <p><b>b. Increase plant-based proteins and include a diverse variety of fruit, vegetables, nuts and seeds.</b></p> <p>High-protein pulses, such as beans, chickpeas, lentils and peas and protein alternatives, such as organic <a href="#">tofu</a> and <a href="#">tempeh</a> (made from organic soybeans), are high in protein, calcium, iron and fibre, making them an ideal alternative to animal proteins.</p> <p><b>c. Increase the amount of local, seasonal and sustainably sourced ingredients.</b></p> <p>Seasonal and locally grown produce not only supports local growers and farmers, but helps to reduce the travel miles associated with imported produce and the energy required to grow out of season.</p> <p>Just as plant diversity is good for nature's ecosystems, a diverse variety of plants is essential to support a healthy gut microbiome – our body's very own ecosystem.<sup>49</sup> Research suggests we should be eating at least 30 different plants a week.<sup>50</sup></p>	
<p><b>Meat and dairy</b> (includes <b>imported beef</b>, embedded <b>soy</b> and <b>palm oil</b>)</p> <p><b>d. Serve less, but better quality meat and dairy products</b>, such as locally sourced certified organic or 100 per cent grass-fed animal products. Certifications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Soil Association Organic</a>, which guarantees nature friendly farming methods.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Pasture for Life</a>, which guarantees 100 per cent grass fed beef, lamb and dairy products.</li> </ul> <p><b>e. Avoid procuring imported processed beef, such as corned beef and burgers.</b> Processed beef imports from South America are associated with a high risk of deforestation and/or social issues.</p>	 
<p><b>Fish and seafood</b></p> <p><b>f. Only procure fish and seafood that has been sourced sustainably. This includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wild caught fish and seafood products certified by the <a href="#">Marine Stewardship Council</a> (MSC) - This eliminates the need for unsustainably sourced feed made from soy and palm oil, as well as reducing pressure on fish stocks and marine environments.</li> <li>• Farmed fish and seafood products certified by the <a href="#">Aquaculture Stewardship Council</a> (ASC). To achieve certified status farmers must be able to demonstrate that feed ingredients, including soy and palm oil, come from sustainable sources. Additionally, the ASC shrimp standard means that farms built after 1999 cannot be situated in mangrove ecosystems and other natural wetlands.</li> </ul> <p>For inspiration, see Sustain's case study <a href="#">Sustainable Fish City Cardiff</a></p>	 



Palm oil	
<p><b>g.</b> Reduce procurement of unhealthy, highly processed foods to reduce consumption of palm oil.</p> <p><b>h.</b> Only procure products containing palm oil that has been physically certified by the <b>Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)</b>, i.e. from either Identity Preserved or Segregated supply chains. (See table 1 for RSPO descriptors)</p> <p>Click <a href="#">here</a> for a shopping list of common food brands that contain palm oil from RSPO physically certified supply chains.</p>	
Coffee and cacao	
<p><b>i. Only procure Fairtrade coffee and cacao products.</b></p> <p>Since 2019, the Fairtrade certification has included a no deforestation criteria. Find out more about how Fairtrade benefits people and the environment <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	
Think food use, not food waste: Reduce, Redistribute, Recycle	
<p><b>j.</b> Reducing food waste can protect forests by helping to alleviate the pressures and demands for forest risk commodities that will ultimately be wasted, as well as helping to reduce the carbon emissions associated with food waste. Public bodies can reduce food waste by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring good practice is embedded in kitchens serving public meals, such as inventory control and menu planning.</li> <li>• Training staff how to reduce food waste, such as advice on food production, presentation and serving methods e.g. knowledge and handling of raw products.</li> <li>• Calculating a food waste baseline to identify which produce higher levels of food waste, in order to target interventions.</li> <li>• Improving kitchen food storage facilities in public kitchens.</li> <li>• Improving communication between kitchen, serving staff and service users, so preferences and dietary requirements are understood.</li> </ul>	
Timber, paper and pulp products	
<p><b>k. Firstly, reduce consumption of timber, paper and pulp products by taking a circular economy / Reduce, Reuse, Recycle approach.</b></p> <p>A linear economy is one that takes, makes and produces waste. A circular economy is one that reuses, recycles, repairs and remanufactures existing products, materials and components.</p> <p>Circular models have been around a long time, e.g. second-hand clothing, furniture refurbishment and bottle return schemes, and now many governments and organisations are adopting this approach to help reduce carbon emissions and preserve valuable and finite resources.</p> <p>For inspiration, see the Public Health Wales <a href="#">case study</a> on circular economy.</p>	
<p><b>l. Ensure any new timber, paper and pulp products are either from recycled sources or certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). This includes products made from bamboo.</b></p> <p>The FSC aims to prohibit deforestation, forest degradation and illegal logging in certified areas.</p>	

## Stories from the frontline of deforestation

### The Guarani People, Brazil

The Guarani are one of the most populous Indigenous peoples of Brazil, whose ancestral territory is in Brazil's Atlantic Forest.<sup>51</sup> The Atlantic Forest contains about 5 per cent of the world's biodiversity in plant and animal species and is considered a priority region for environmental conservation – one of the five global hotspots.<sup>52</sup> The forest's rivers and springs are responsible for the vast majority of Brazil's freshwater supply, serving 130 million people.<sup>53</sup> However, the Atlantic Forest and the Indigenous people who inhabit this biome are threatened by the expansion of agribusiness in the region, especially soy monoculture. Historically, the forest used to cover 1.2 million km<sup>2</sup> – about a quarter the size of the Amazon. Today, after centuries of deforestation, land-use change and urban expansion, less than 10% of this precious habitat remains in protected areas and patches of fragmented forest, often surrounded by mono-crop plantations.<sup>54</sup>



Image credit: Comissão Guarani Yvyrupa

***"To maintain, our nhandereko - our way of life - the forests and all their beings must also be kept alive."***

**Ilson Karai Okaju,**  
Comissao Guarani Yvyrupa

In Guarani culture, people's lives are intertwined and connected to the lives of all other beings in the forest. They don't see themselves separate from nature. They feed, protect and respect the earth, plants, animals and insects, regarding their lives as equal and never seeking to gain power over nature, nor to exploit it. However, powerful economic forces are destroying and exploiting the forest for agribusiness, ore production and large-scale infrastructure projects, such as railways and hydroelectric plants.



The Guarani fight to protect their lands and, as a result, they experience discrimination, abuse, threats and intimidation daily.<sup>55</sup> Many have been murdered, and if their villages are close to agribusiness plantations, they are routinely sprayed with pesticides, affecting the health of their children, plants and animals. Spiritual landmarks have been flooded and villages destroyed to grow crops such as soybeans, which are exported and used as animal feed.

***"In Brazil, the Indigenous peoples, the original peoples of this land, have always suffered a lot of violence. They lost their lands and were murdered because of colonization. And today, our rights are still being attacked. Our lands and our forests continue to be destroyed. And we even lost our lives because of very powerful economic interests."***

Ilson Karai Okaju

To protect their culture, existence, and as such, their forests, the Guarani people need the global support of governments, NGOs, businesses and civil society. The Guarani people call on people worldwide to support their struggle to protect forests and restore their ancestral lands - to listen to the voices of those who have a unique knowledge of how to care for forests.

For governments, businesses and organisations, this means supporting the demarcation of Indigenous lands and respecting internationally recognised human rights frameworks, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It means ensuring that the products and commodities they buy do not infringe upon these rights. For example, requiring suppliers to have full traceability of their forest-risk supply chains or documentation of Free, Prior and Informed Consent for commodities grown on Indigenous lands. It means doing all they can within their operations and procurement practice to reduce tropical deforestation and land conversion to protect Indigenous communities and tackle the climate and nature crises.

These are real ways to strengthen the protection of the place where we all live - the forests, the rivers. This fight is not just for the Guarani people, but for everyone. It is a fight for the good life, a fight for the life of the Planet.



## Coffee growing on Mount Elgon, Uganda

***This case study explains how a Fairtrade co-operative in Uganda is able to secure an income for its members and help them adapt to climate change, protect biodiversity and strengthen local and global food security.***

The Mount Elgon Agroforestry Community Co-operative Enterprise (MEACCE) has a combined membership of 3,664 farmers. The beautiful Mt Elgon has a tropical climate, high altitude and volcanic soils. Many different plants thrive there and the conditions are ideal for coffee growing.

However, this rich and fertile landscape is under threat. In recent years, the region has been experiencing warming and dramatic changes in its weather patterns. Floods and mudslides arrive with ever more frequency, washing the precious soil away down the mountain. Coffee plants are very sensitive to even the slightest change in conditions.



*Harvested coffee cherries. Image credit: Jenipher's Coffee*

MEACCE are also a big part of the Mbale Trees Programme, funded by Welsh Government and Size of Wales. The programme aims to support communities to plant 25 million trees across the region by 2025. Member farmers receive free trees to plant on their small holdings. Planting trees for shade among coffee plants has improved the quality and the yield by an average of 150 per cent.



*Jenipher Wetaka Sambazi with tree sapling. Image credit: Jenipher's Coffi*

*"Climate change is affecting us every day, and it is making our work much harder. That's why we are part of the 25 million tree planting scheme as we want to make the region more resilient to flooding and mudslides and helping tackle climate change for all of us. Since being part of the scheme, we have also seen our coffee quality improve as the trees provide shade and offer some protection to the crops from the changing weather patterns".*

**Jenipher Wetaka Sambazi,**  
Vice Chair of MEACCE

Whilst growing high quality coffee, farmers are able to take measures that protect their environment. Tree growing and agroforestry (growing crops with trees) has helped diversify income, conserve nature, increase forest cover and stabilise soils to minimise the threat of landslides. Fruit trees also provide food and additional income for farmers and their families.

Farmers have been selling their Fairtrade and organic certified coffee locally for years. However, a recent success means the coffee is also shipped to Wales and is available to buy at Fair Do's shop in Cardiff and online, via the Jenipher's Coffi website. Access to local and international markets, at Fairtrade prices, provides even greater financial resilience for farmers.



## Case studies

### The Copenhagen Model<sup>5657</sup>

In 2001, the City of Copenhagen set ambitious food targets for its municipal kitchens. Today, of the 70,000 meals served in approximately 1,000 institutions and facilities, including schools, care homes and staff canteens, almost 90 per cent are made from organic ingredients using the same budget. This was achieved by working closely with food producers, investing in staff training, as well as kitchen renovations to improve storage of produce, and by



Strøget Pedestrian Street (Copenhagen). Image by City Clock Magazine

providing advice on reducing food waste, such as menu planning, food production, presentation and serving methods. Some institutions even have arrangements in place with local shops, such as bakeries, to take surplus products, further reducing food waste.

The transition to organic has had multiple benefits for citizens and the environment, including increased access to freshly made, nutritious meals, particularly benefiting young and elderly populations, and reduced pressure on biodiversity through nature-friendly farming methods.

The City of Copenhagen's current food strategy goes even further by applying the lens of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, linking public food and consumption across various goals. Approaches include seasonality and diversity, reduced meat consumption in favour of alternative protein sources, sustainably sourced soy and palm oil, ethical certifications, greener packaging and vehicles and a no-flight policy.

The role of procurement is key to this strategy as the SDG lens is also applied to the tender process and gives weighting to suppliers who meet certain criteria, such as Fairtrade. Procurement officers work with suppliers to identify which goals they currently meet and opportunities to meet more targets across the 17 goals. Additionally, follow-ups are made during the contract period to enable procurement teams to report back on their progress against the goals.

Inclusive approaches to food, such as on-site preparation, involvement in the process and communal eating, aim to improve levels of food literacy, as well as support community cohesion and a deeper understanding of nature and biodiversity.

### France's 'Zero Deforestation' Public Procurement Policy<sup>5859</sup>

In 2018, the French government introduced its strategy to combat imported deforestation by 2030. Within the strategy are plans to adopt a 'Zero Deforestation' public procurement policy from 2022 onwards and a [guide](#) on the proposals to remove deforestation from public spending. This is part of France's Eco-responsible Public Services plan to accelerate the ecological transition of public services. The programme is divided into 20 measures, including: ending single-use plastics, circular economy, environmentally friendly nutrition and zero deforestation public procurement. Under the programme, compliance is mandatory for State administrations and voluntary for regional and local authorities, though the latter are encouraged to develop their own eco-responsible networks.

## The Zero Deforestation Public Sector guide proposes the following actions:

- Introduce deforestation risk criteria in the calls for tenders published by the State.
- Ensure that at least half of the products and ingredients purchased by public catering services are sustainable, with at least 20 per cent being organic
- Give a higher scoring for catering contractors that offer a greater variety of vegetarian dishes.
- Require that caterers producing over 200 meals a day demonstrate how they will reduce animal protein in favour of plant-based proteins.
- Require that suppliers must provide:
  - a. A description of their capacity and policies in relation to sustainable and ethical supply chains.
  - b. Information about the traceability of their products e.g. country of origin, names of suppliers and the use of ethical certifications.
- Limit the use of palm oil or promote the use of RSPO certified palm oil where appropriate.
- Reduce the consumption of processed foods.
- Pilot weekly meat-free days in all schools for a 2-year period.



## About Deforestation Free Nation

Deforestation Free Nation is a solutions-focussed campaign from climate change charity [Size of Wales](#), in alliance with WWF Cymru and RSPB Cymru, which aims to help Wales reduce its tropical forest footprint to tackle the climate and nature crises and protect Indigenous Peoples and forest communities by:

- Raising awareness of the impacts of unsustainable forest-risk commodities.
- Advocating for sustainable sourcing, such as ethical certifications, and measures to reduce consumption of forest-risk commodities.
- Providing a platform for Indigenous peoples and forest communities on the frontline of deforestation and climate change.
- Working across society with the Welsh public sector, businesses, schools and communities to help Wales transition to a resilient, healthier and prosperous low-carbon economy.
- Sharing knowledge, learning and best practice.

Size of Wales is happy to work with public bodies on using this Deforestation Free Procurement Toolkit. We are also keen to receive feedback on this first iteration. If you have any suggestions, then please get in touch at: [angie@sizeofwales.org.uk](mailto:angie@sizeofwales.org.uk)



## Glossary of terms



Term	Definition
Biodiversity	The richness and variety of life on Earth; biological diversity.
Carbon sequestration	This refers to biological, chemical or physical processes that remove and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, e.g. photosynthesis.
Due diligence	A process of checks and measures performed by an organisation to ensure it has done all it can to reduce the risk of deforestation and land conversion in its supply chains.
Ecosystem	An ecosystem refers to the interaction of living and non-living things within a natural environment, an ecological system.
Ecosystem services	This refers to the life-sustaining benefits we receive from healthy functioning ecosystems, e.g. clean air and water, food and medicine.
Forest degradation	This refers to the process in which forest health is degraded by a negative factor or factors, e.g. illegal logging, agriculture, climate impacts, forest fires and disease. Degraded forests can no longer function well and are less capable of sustaining life e.g. through the provision of ecosystem services or as habitats for wildlife.
Greenhouse gas (GHG)	When in check, greenhouse gases help to keep the Earth's temperature regulated by trapping heat from the sun i.e. the greenhouse effect. Without this, the Earth's temperature would be around 33°C cooler and life as we know it would not exist. However, when GHG levels accumulate in the atmosphere, e.g. as a result of increasing levels of human made carbon emissions, the Earth's temperature increases as more and more of the sun's radiation is trapped at the Earth's surface. GHG gases include water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.
Land conversion, land use change	This describes the process in which the natural environment is transformed by human activity, such as clearing forests in order to grow crops or graze cattle.
Monocrop	The practice of growing a single crop species or cultivar on the same area of land, without crop rotation. Soy and palm oil are often grown in monocrop plantations.
Tipping point	This refers to a threshold in one of Earth's systems that, if crossed, would lead to large and potentially irreversible changes. Climate scientists have identified nine tipping points, including Amazon rainforest dieback, Greenland ice sheet disintegration, coral reef die-off and Atlantic meridional overturning circulation breakdown. <sup>5</sup>

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**Appendix.** Mapping exercise demonstrating how DFP can help achieve Wales' well-being goals and other guiding policies and frameworks.

Benefits of Deforestation Free Procurement	Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015	National TOMS Wales / Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)	Other related policies, frameworks and legislation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting sustainable local-sourcing and livelihoods</li> <li>Promoting Wales' sustainable brand values</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosperous</li> <li>Vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</li> <li>Cohesive communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of local skills and employment</li> <li>Sustainable Procurement is promoted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decent work and economic growth</li> <li>Sustainable cities and communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Action Plan</li> <li>Towards Sustainable Growth</li> </ul>
Supporting livelihoods in the Global South through sustainable sourcing and fair trade.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Globally responsible</li> <li>More equal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable Procurement is promoted</li> <li>Social Value embedded in the supply chain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decent work and economic growth</li> <li>No poverty</li> <li>Zero hunger</li> <li>Reduced inequalities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modern Slavery Act 2015</li> </ul>
Protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local forest communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Globally responsible</li> <li>More equal</li> </ul>	Reduction of climate impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced inequalities</li> <li>Gender equality</li> <li>Good health and well-being</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting tropical forests</li> <li>Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions</li> <li>Protecting the Earth's ability to sequester carbon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resilient</li> <li>Globally responsible</li> </ul>	Reduction of climate impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life on land</li> <li>Climate action</li> <li>Sustainable cities and communities</li> <li>Good health and well-being</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 6 biodiversity duty</li> <li>Value Wales</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting biodiversity and protecting at-risk species</li> <li>Relieving pressure on fragile ecosystems</li> <li>Supporting ecosystem services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resilient</li> <li>Globally responsible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of climate impacts</li> <li>Healthier, Safer and more Resilient Communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Life on land</li> <li>Climate action</li> <li>Good health and well-being</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 6 biodiversity duty</li> </ul>
Addressing the emissions our consumption generates overseas i.e. not just the production emissions we generate here in Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resilient</li> <li>Globally responsible</li> <li>Prosperous</li> </ul>	Reduction of climate impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible consumption and production</li> <li>Climate action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Section 6 biodiversity duty</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing consumption of highly processed foods</li> <li>Increasing consumption of nutritious, well-balanced meals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthier</li> <li>Prosperous</li> </ul>	Healthier, Safer and more Resilient Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good health and well-being</li> <li>Reduced inequalities</li> </ul>	Prosperity for All: the national strategy
Reducing the risk of future pandemics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Healthier</li> <li>Globally responsible</li> </ul>	Healthier, Safer and more Resilient Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good health and well-being</li> <li>Reduced inequalities</li> </ul>	Prosperity for All: the national strategy
Promoting sustainable resource use, e.g. using recycled wood and paper products and reducing food waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resilient</li> <li>Globally responsible</li> <li>Prosperous</li> </ul>	Promotion of local skills and employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible consumption and production</li> <li>Sustainable cities and communities</li> <li>Industry, innovation and infrastructure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circular Economy Strategy</li> <li>Low Carbon Delivery Plan</li> <li>Towards Zero Waste</li> </ul>
Reducing transport emissions associated with food imports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resilient</li> <li>Globally responsible</li> <li>Healthier</li> </ul>	Reduction of air pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsible consumption and production</li> <li>Climate action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce Transport Emission</li> <li>Clean Air Plan</li> <li>Low Carbon Delivery Plan</li> </ul>