



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Due Diligence Consultation
Sustainable Commodities Team
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Due.Diligence@defra.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/defra

25 August 2020

Dear Consultee

Consultation on due diligence on forest risk commodities

1. I am writing to invite your views on introducing legislation that is designed to prevent forests and other important natural areas from being illegally converted in to agricultural land. Our proposal would make it illegal for larger businesses to use forest risk commodities that have not been produced in accordance with relevant local laws, and they would need to undertake due diligence to show that they have taken proportionate action to ensure this is the case.
2. The following documents may be found on Defra's website:
(<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/eu/due-diligence-on-forest-risk-commodities>)
 - Consultation letter
 - Consultation document
3. We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a hard copy of this consultation please contact Due.Diligence@defra.gov.uk.

Responses

4. To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool).
5. Alternatively, please email your response to Due.Diligence@defra.gov.uk or post your response to:
Consultation Coordinator at Defra,
2nd Floor, Foss House,
Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green,
York,
YO1 7PX.
6. Responses should be received by 11.59pm on 5 October 2020.

Consultation criteria

7. This consultation is in line with the Consultations Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>
8. This consultation will last for 6 weeks. It draws on the extensive engagement conducted by an independent taskforce called the Global Resource Initiative (GRI), which the Government established in 2019 as part of our 25 Year Environment Plan to consider actions the UK could take to make international supply chains greener. The GRI drew on a wide range of expertise from across business, finance and civil society and consulted over 200 organisations to formulate their [final recommendations report](#), which was published in March this year. One of their key recommendations was to introduce due diligence obligation on businesses, which this consultation responds to. The Government also regularly engages with businesses in the UK on their supply chains through the UK Roundtable on Sourcing Sustainable Palm Oil, established in 2012, and the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya, established in 2018.

Confidentiality and data protection

9. After the consultation, a summary of the responses will be published and placed on the Government website at www.gov.uk/defra.
10. Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes these are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances.
11. If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.
12. This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "Consultation Principles" and be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultationprinciples-guidance>.
13. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:
Consultation Coordinator at Defra,
2nd Floor, Foss House,
Kings Pool, 1-2 Peasholme Green,
York,
YO1 7PX.

Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

14. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

Sustainable Commodities Team
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs