

Human rights commitments

All too often, deforestation goes hand-in-hand with human rights abuses, with the land rights and free and prior informed consent of communities and Indigenous peoples disregarded when land is cleared for agriculture. Labour rights, female workers' rights and smallholder farmers' rights can also be vulnerable in agricultural commodity supply chains, yet often such abuses are overlooked by the companies that buy the commodities and the financial institutions that invest in them.

We look at whether companies have commitments to address social issues in their supply chains, including on labour rights, smallholders in the supply chain, gender equality, the right to remediation for environmental and social harms, the right to free and prior informed consent, and whether the company commits to refrain from land acquisition and development in the case of land conflict.

- More than a third of companies (34% = 120/350) do not have commitments on human rights for any of the commodities they are assessed for.
- Only one company, Nestlé, has made a commitment to all of the human rights listed above for all of the forest-risk commodities they are exposed to.

Just seven companies have made the strongest commitments.

Global Canopy defines the strongest deforestation commitments as those which commit to be free from deforestation, conversion of all natural ecosystems, and free from associated human rights abuses - with commitments specifically on free prior and informed consent, labour rights and land use conflict. In 2021, just seven companies had made such commitments for at least one of the commodities they are exposed to - none had made such a commitment for all.