

# **SOCIETE GENERALE GROUP'S TRANSVERSAL STATEMENT ON PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY**

**As defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity, biodiversity encompasses the variability among living organisms. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.**

Conservation of biodiversity, maintenance of ecosystem services and sustainable management of living natural resources are key aspects of sustainable development. The respect and preservation of biodiversity are internationally recognized by the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on international Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) and the UNESCO Convention concerning the Protection Of The World Cultural and Natural Heritage and Man And the Biosphere Programme.

**Aware of the increasing pace of biodiversity loss worldwide, the Group is committed to the respect and preservation of biodiversity, one of the foundations of the Group's Environmental and Social Risk Management system and encourage their client to do the same.**

Societe Generale and its subsidiaries (the Group) strive to comply with the legal and regulatory provisions of the territories in which it operates regarding the protection of species, habitats and ecosystems, and expects similar compliance from its suppliers and clients. Beyond this, the Group is aware of its role in preventing serious impacts on biodiversity linked to its purchases, products and services and uses the previously mentioned international standards as references for the protection of biodiversity.

To this end, the Group has developed Environmental & Social (E&S) General Principles and E&S Sector Policies to clarify the criteria implemented for each sensitive sector it is involved in. The E&S Risk Management system, which is described in E&S General Principles, is structured around three steps: identification, evaluation and prevention or mitigation of the E&S risks. Where relevant, specific criteria of the E&S Sector Policies tackle biodiversity protection.

To assist in the identification phase, the Group uses the World Database on Protected Areas of the International Union for the Conservation of the Nature, the Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas and the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The Group applies the Equator Principles and its underlying standards to the transactions falling in the scope of this initiative, and particularly, where relevant, the IFC Performance Standard

6 which relates to Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources.

The Group excludes all dedicated products or services with material adverse impacts on the outstanding universal value of a cultural and natural UNESCO's World Heritage Site.

In order to ensure its E&S Risk Management system implementation and effectiveness, the Group assesses on a regular basis its level of implementation. This system is reviewed on a regular basis so as to be strengthened. The Group regularly reports on its E&S Risk Management system implementation, in its annual Universal Registration document and on its website. While being committed to ensuring the protection of biodiversity, the Group acknowledges the difficulty of preventing all risks of potential breach through its risk management processes. The Group therefore encourages transparency and dialogue with its stakeholders. The Group pays close attention to questions raised by its stakeholders concerning objective situations or risks on biodiversity related to its activities.

Furthermore, the Group is engaged in dialogue and cooperation with relevant public and private stakeholders to develop common commitments, new methodologies and tools enabling better identification and management of potential impacts on biodiversity. The Group has joined the Act4Nature initiative which is a French collective initiative of global actors aiming at encouraging biodiversity-related commitments and generating momentum for progress around the theme.

The Group is also a member of the Club B4B+ (Business for Positive Biodiversity), through which it contributes to the development and industry-wide dissemination of the Global Biodiversity Score (GBS™), a consensual open source model to measure the biodiversity impact for financial activities. The objective of the Club B4B + is to play a role of incubator of this indicator and of the associated methodology for biodiversity footprint evaluation.

**This Statement cannot be interpreted as a contractual commitment.**

*Updated versions will be posted on the Group's website, where the E&S General Principles, the other Transversal Statements and the E&S Sector Policies are also available. This Statement has been established in French and in English. The English version is a free translation.*