

# Avantor Deforestation-free Statement

This statement covers the protection of forests and those agricultural raw materials which are often associated with deforestation. The aim of this statement is to support Avantor's Science for Goodness mission and set out Avantor's deforestation and sustainable sourcing practices and corresponding supplier obligations. This statement applies to any supplier providing raw materials, products or packaging containing raw materials associated with deforestation that are derived from agricultural sources (henceforth "Materials"). This statement has been born out of Avantor's own desire to avoid any deforestation in its supply chain and ensure Avantor and its suppliers are well positioned to meet new deforestation regulation.

## WHY IT IS IMPORTANT

Deforestation is the conversion of primary or secondary natural forests into agricultural production areas, tree plantations, pasture for cattle settlements and mining. Agriculture is often attributed as the main cause for deforestation.<sup>1</sup> Between 2000 and 2010, 13 million hectares were lost annually.<sup>2</sup> 95% of this occurs in the tropical areas.<sup>3</sup> The destruction of forests has serious ramifications for carbon sequestration, biodiversity and human health and livelihoods. Trees act as a "carbon sink" which absorb a net 7.6 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide per year.<sup>4</sup> Tropical forests are home to 50% of species of plants and animals on earth<sup>5</sup> and 1.6 billion people are dependent on forests for their livelihood.<sup>6</sup> Deforestation and encroachment into natural areas is also exacerbating the spread of disease, such as zoonotic viruses. Avantor buys Materials that originate from corn, palm oil, sugar cane and wood, and as such the Company recognizes its responsibility to ensure that its raw materials are sourced in a manner which contribute to the protection of forests and improved agricultural practices.

## SUPPLIER PRACTICES

### Chain of custody

Suppliers shall advocate for the widespread uptake of commodity standards and certification programs.

Suppliers shall commit to using only legally sourced Materials and shall develop effective and appropriate chain of custody down to

the agricultural farm, smallholder or grower. Suppliers shall aim to implement control mechanisms to trace and capture Materials' data.

Suppliers which provide Materials sourced from corn, palm oil, soya, sugar cane and timber (including the rubber tree) are expected to have the appropriate chain of custody certification in place from the source to the converter. The chain of custody certification should be provided by a credible certification agency, such as the ones listed in Table 1. The Materials must be accompanied by the appropriate documentation, for example, invoice or bill of lading, with certification information noted as applicable per certification standard.

### Agricultural Practices

Suppliers are expected to safeguard the community land rights of those in their supply chain and ensure that Free and Informed Consent has been obtained from indigenous and vulnerable communities before land use changes take place.

Suppliers are expected to work with their supply chains to increase farmers' and growers' access to knowledge and services, so they can adopt regenerative agricultural and good environmental practices.

Suppliers are expected to ensure that no new agricultural land is created or drained on any area of land containing peat soil within Avantor's supply chain.

Suppliers are expected to ensure that all farmers or growers within Avantor's supply chain have a nutrient management plan and the correct calculation of fertilizer is used each time, according to crop, soil and weather conditions. This should also include assurances that the farmers or growers have the correct fertilizing equipment and keep their nutrient management plans up to date.

Suppliers are expected to ensure that all farmers or growers within Avantor's supply chain have a pest, disease and weed management plan and the correct calculations of pesticides are applied. Applications of pesticides should be reactive and not proactive and controls should be put in place to ensure pollution does not occur.

<sup>1</sup> WWF, Deforestation and Forest Degradation, <https://www.worldwildlife.org/threats/deforestation-and-forest-degradation>, 2023

<sup>2</sup> WWF, Living Planet Report 2010, [https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/lpr\\_living\\_planet\\_report\\_2010.pdf](https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/lpr_living_planet_report_2010.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Our world in data: Drivers of deforestation, <https://ourworldindata.org/drivers-of-deforestation>, 2023

<sup>4</sup> WRI, Forests Absorb Twice as Much Carbon as They Emit Each Year,

<https://www.wri.org/insights/forests-absorb-twice-much-carbon-they-emit-each-year#:~:text=Forests in the reserve continue, more than 20 million cars, 2021>

<sup>5</sup> Live Science, Facts About Rainforests, <https://www.livescience.com/63196-rainforest-facts.html>, 2018

<sup>6</sup> Science Direct, The Number and Spatial Distribution of Forest-Proximate People Globally, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2590332220304255>, 2020

Suppliers are expected to ensure that no harmful pesticides (such as those from the [CMIA prohibited pesticides list](#), as an example) are used by farmers or growers in Avantor's supply chain.

Suppliers are expected to ensure that all farmers or growers within Avantor's supply chain monitor their agricultural soil regularly to ensure that this is not degrading, nor eroding. Soil management practices which enhance the soil should be encouraged.

Suppliers are expected to work with their supply chains to support access to impact programs provided by non-government organizations and institutions promoting sustainable agricultural practices and supply chains, such as [Rainforest Alliance](#) and [Solidaridad](#).

### Forest Conservation

Suppliers and their supply chains are encouraged to use deforestation-free methodologies and tools to distinguish forest

areas from non-forest areas so that these can be both avoided for industrial agricultural purposes and instead be protected.

Example methodologies and tools:

- [The High Carbon Stock Approach](#)
- [High Conservation Value Resources Network](#)
- [Intact Forest Landscapes](#)

Suppliers and their supply chains are encouraged to support forest conservation efforts, such as the [LEAF Coalition](#) and [UN-REDD](#). The latter is the flagship UN knowledge and advisory partnership on forests and climate to reduce forest emissions and enhance forest carbon stocks.

### Sharing of Good Practices

Suppliers shall share Avantor's Deforestation-free Statement, or a similar document developed by the supplier, with actors in their supply chain so these practices can be shared widely and followed.

**Table 1 - Example Chain of Custody certifications**

Material	Awarding Body	Certification	Certification description
Bioplastics	<a href="#">The Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB)</a>	<a href="#">RSB Certification for Smallholder Groups</a>	This standard is designed to support smallholders (areas <75 hectares) to access third-party certification by reducing economic barriers that might prevent small scale farmers from demonstrating compliance with sustainability criteria. The RSB smallholder certification allows farmers to achieve certification using a stepwise approach and make improvements in their management, environmental and social practices.
Castor oil	<a href="#">Sustainable Castor Association</a>	<a href="#">SuCESS Code for Supply Chains</a>	This standard covers the requirements that need to be met by an organisation to implement the SuCESS® supply chain code successfully. This standard shall be applicable after the farm gate to any organisation (castor crushers, castor derivative processors, distributors, end manufacturer) in the supply chain that takes legal ownership and handles castor products covered by the supply chain code at a location under their control, including outsourced contractors.
Corn/maize	<a href="#">Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS)</a>	<a href="#">RTRS Chain of Custody Standard V2.3</a>	This standard describes the requirements for the different traceability systems an organization can implement to keep control of RTRS-certified material inventories for corn.
Natural rubber	<a href="#">Forest Stewardship Council</a>	<a href="#">FSC Natural Rubber Chain of Custody Certification</a>	FSC's chain-of-custody certification verifies that a manufacturer's natural rubber products meet rigorous standards for sustainable sourcing, from forest to consumer. Certification is a solution that ensures socially and environmentally responsible natural rubber production.
Natural rubber	<a href="#">Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)</a>	<a href="#">PEFC Chain of Custody Certification for Rubber</a>	The PEFC certification indicates that individual products have been sourced sustainably. PEFC's Supporting Sustainable Rubber Campaign also has a wealth of additional materials that brand owners can use to tell their conservation story.
Palm oil	<a href="#">Round Table on Sustainable Palm Oil</a>	<a href="#">RSPO Supply Chain Certification (SCC) Standard</a>	This standard ensures palm oil sold as 'sustainable palm oil' has been produced by certified plantations.
Paper and timber	<a href="#">Forest Stewardship Council</a>	<a href="#">FSC Chain of Custody Certification</a>	This standard verifies that forest-based materials produced according to our rigorous standards are credibly used along the product's path from the forest to becoming finished goods.
Paper and timber	<a href="#">Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)</a>	<a href="#">PEFC Chain of Custody Certification of Forest and Tree Based Products</a>	PEFC chain of custody certification provides confidence that forest and tree-based materials in products with the PEFC claim or label originate in PEFC certified sustainably managed forests, recycled material and/or PEFC controlled sources.
Soybean	<a href="#">Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS)</a>	<a href="#">RTRS Chain of Custody Standard V2.3</a>	This standard describes the requirements for the different traceability systems an organization can implement to keep control of RTRS-certified material inventories, either soybean or soy by products.
Sugar cane	<a href="#">Bonsucro</a>	<a href="#">Bonsucro Chain of Custody Standard</a>	This standard certifies the supply of a product at all stages, from the feedstock production up to consumption. It verifies that sugar cane is being sourced and traded responsibly and that claims of compliance can be tracked along the supply chain.