



Background

Rainforest destruction is something that Kepak Group are vehemently against. The European Commission defines deforestation as the conversion of forest to agricultural use, whether human-induced or not, which includes situations caused by natural disasters.

There are recent developments in regulation to reduce deforestation and forest degradation through the EU-Deforestation Regulation and Forest Risk Commodity Legislation (UK) as it is well known to be a main driver of the climate and biodiversity crises, of which both regulations which will impact Kepak Group.

Our commitment

Kepak is committed to ensuring that any relevant commodity in our supply chains in Ireland and the UK is deforestation and conversion free by the end of 2025.

This commitment encompasses relevant commodities that are sourced from both legal and illegal deforestation or conversion of other natural ecosystems with a cut-off date of 31st December 2020 or earlier.

Our commitment applies to the relevant commodities* which we purchase, process and supply to the Irish and UK markets and to our own branded products. These may include meat or other products supplied from animals which may have embedded soy.

As a signatory to the UK Soy Manifesto and through our membership and engagement with the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soy, we are committed to enabling our suppliers to source sustainable, deforestation-free commodities by supporting the traceability and due-diligence of the relevant commodities which aligns with the Accountability Framework. This includes soy used in livestock feed and supporting more transparent soy reporting across all our supply chains. We are therefore working with industry to establish a process for all soy destined for the UK and Ireland to be sustainable and deforestation-free at point of import, which supports the roll-out of compliance standards such as AIC.

We will also work with our suppliers to ensure that they are aware of our commitment towards deforestation and conversion free soy and to integrate these commitments into all our commercial requirements and procurement processes. As mentioned in our Responsible Sourcing Policy, we complete risk assessments on our supplier base to consider key criteria such as environmental impact, labour practices, human rights risks, animal welfare, supply risks and supplier financial transparency.

We will report our progress towards this commitment annually.

*Relevant commodities: cattle, cocoa, palm oil, soy, wood, rubber and coffee

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rebecca Thomson", is placed over a grey rectangular background.

Rebecca Thomson - Group Head of Sustainability