

BEL'S GLOBAL FOREST AND NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS POLICY

CONTEXT

By 2050, world population is expected to surpass 9 billion people. This demographic increase raises the major challenge of feeding a growing population without compromising the planet's resources.

Natural ecosystems' conversion is a major issue defined by the change of a natural ecosystem to another land use¹ thus, it includes the deforestation stakes.

Ecosystems, and particularly forests, must be protected as they play a **key environmental and social role hosting a huge part of the terrestrial biodiversity, helping mitigate greenhouse gases emissions, and billions of people depend on them.**

As a part of mission to offer healthier and responsible food for all, we include in our CSR scorecard a clear objective on the deforestation stakes. Through this pioneer policy, we ensure we do not contribute to deforestation nor natural ecosystems conversion by 2025.

BEL'S CHALLENGE

We have decided to focus on our main commodities recognized as high-risk in their contribution to conversion and on which we can have a bigger impact. These commodities are:

- Animal feed sourced and used by our dairy farmers to feed their cows: **soy meal and palm kernels expeller (PKE)**;
- Vegetable fat used in our current recipes or for our future development: **palm oil**;
- Packaging and marketing materials: **paper and cardboards**.

Bel's commitment covers all these commodities and applies to 100% of Bel brands in all Bel geographies, including products manufactured in our own plants, out-sourced or through co-branding products, and MOM activities with an implementation managed by MOM's teams.

¹ An ecosystem is all the plants and animals living in a specific area together with the complex relationship that exists between them and their environment. Thus, a natural ecosystem can be a forest but also savannas, prairies, etc. Conversion is the change of such a natural ecosystem to another land use.

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BEL COMMITMENTS AND TARGETS

Our objective is to ensure that 100% of commodities production is free from deforestation and natural ecosystem conversion by 2025. To do so, we have specific objectives for each of our main commodities:

- 100% of **soy meals and PKE** coming from sustainable and traceable supply chains by 2025
- 100% of **palm oil** coming from sustainable and traceable supply chains by 2020
- 100% **cardboard and paper packaging** recycled or certified in case of virgin fibers by 2020

To do so, we will use a combination of solutions according to its relevance for each commodity:

- Opt for **locally produced commodities** if they are the best solutions in terms of when environmental and social impacts ;
- **Substitute commodities** for ones with a smaller impact on the environment;
- Use commodities coming from **traceable supply chains**;
- Use the best existing certifications that consider forest and natural ecosystems protection:
 - RTRS for soy meal;
 - RSPO for palm oil and PKE;
 - FSC/PEFC/SFI/CSA for virgin paper and cardboards;
- Participate in **multi-party initiatives** to collectively find the best solutions on raw materials supply chains that participate in ecosystems conversion;
- Dialogue with stakeholders, including specialists of this issue;
- Participate in field projects to support local producers in their conversion towards sustainable practices.

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EXAMPLES OF ACHIEVEMENTS

- In 2017, we signed the Statement of Support for the objectives of the Cerrado Manifesto to halt natural ecosystem loss in this region and to protect globally important natural landscapes;
- We are actively participating to the “Soy Initiative”, an initiative led by WWF France gathering different actors of the French soy supply chain (distributors, transformers, etc.) to identify the best actions by sector to reach conversion free supply chains;
- We support field projects in Mato Grosso (Brazil) to help local producers in their conversion towards sustainable practices and to get them to be RTRS certified; and in Borneo (Malaysia) to increase the production of traceable and sustainable palm oil by small producers, with a RSPO certification.



RSPO-certified Palm oil producer from Borneo



RTRS-certified Soy producers from Mato Grosso

- We work with other agri-food actors (for example, in Ivory Coast) to develop a local certified palm oil chain to guarantee the deforestation free commitment, while reducing the environmental footprint and supporting the development of the local economy.