



April 24, 2025

JOINT OPEN LETTER TO WORLD BANK GROUP

Dear World Bank Group Executive Directors,

We, the undersigned organizations, academics, and advocates, call on the World Bank Group to take immediate and decisive action to align its policies, including IFC's Policy on Environmental and Social Sustainability, with the goals of global frameworks including the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, UN SDGs, and the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as well as updated industry-specific GIIPs as part of its mission to address climate change. This is particularly timely as the IFC prepares to revise its Sustainability Framework.

Factory farming—the industrial production of animals for food—directly undermines these goals by driving climate change, deforestation, zoonotic disease outbreaks, and the suffering of billions of animals, as well as exacerbating social inequalities, particularly for women and impoverished communities, who bear the brunt of environmental degradation, precarious labor conditions and increased gender based violence in the surroundings of slaughterhouses annually.

As an institution committed to sustainable development, the World Bank Group must lead by example and stop financing this destructive sector.

Specifically, we urge the World Bank Group to:

1. **Exclude factory farming from its financing:** Adopt a formal exclusion policy to end financing of industrial animal agriculture, recognizing its intersectional impacts on climate, biodiversity, and social injustice, including gender inequality.

Stop Financing Factory Farming
c/o Friends of the Earth US 2101 Webster St, Suite
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2. Commit to phasing out existing projects: Halt additional financing to factory farm clients. Redirect financial flows toward food systems that use agro-ecological practices and high animal welfare standards, that support smallholder farmers and communities, and that are just, equitable, gender-inclusive, and protective of fair labor conditions.

This is a critical moment. By taking bold action to phase out financing for factory farming, the World Bank Group can accelerate the global transition to **equitable, resilient** food systems that work for people, animals, and the planet.

We stand ready to support this transition and urge you to act swiftly to ensure that World Bank Group policies advance a sustainable and ethical future.

FULL LIST OF SIGNATORIES

This letter is signed by the Stop Financing Factory Farming coalition, along with 285 organizations, academic experts, legal professionals, and health practitioners from 59 countries around the world, representing the environmental justice, animal welfare, development, public health, and human rights sectors.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Representatives in Africa

- Aalem for Orphan and Vulnerable Children, Inc.
- AbibiNsroma Foundation
- Amis de l'Afrique Francophone- Bénin (AMAF-Bénin)
- Association for Solidarity through Humanitarian Imperative Action (ASHIA) International
- Centre for Ecosystems Research and Development, Uganda
- Club Humanitaire sans Frontières
- Committee for Peace and Development Advocacy (COPDA)
- Conseil pour la Terre des Ancêtres (CTA)
- Effective Animal Advocacy Nigeria (EAAN)

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CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

- Ensure Viable Environment (EVE)
- Espace de Solidarité et de Coopération de l'oriental (ESCO)
- FOUR PAWS in South Africa
- Front Commun pour la Protection de l'Environnement et des Espaces Protégés (FCPEEP-RDC)
- Global One Health Advocacy Alliance
- Green Advocates International
- Green Farmlands
- Green leaf Advocacy and Empowerment Center
- Irarak United Women Producer Organisation
- Landmark Foundation
- Lawrence Anthony Earth Organization
- Lawyers for Animal Protection in Africa
- Les Amis de la Terre - Togo
- NGO Appui Solidaire pour le Renforcement de l'Aide au Développement
- Oxfam in Uganda
- ProVeg International (Nigeria)
- ProVeg South Africa
- Renevlyn Development Initiative
- Vyashamba Africa
- Witness Radio - Uganda
- World Animal Protection Africa
- Youth in Agroecology and Restoration Network

Representatives in Asia

- ALTSEAN-Burma
- Animals Asia Foundation
- Animal Friends Jogja
- Armenian Forests Environmental NGO
- Asia Development Alliance
- Association For Promotion Sustainable Development
- Centre for Human Rights and Development
- Charity Doings Foundation Pakistan/ Environmental and Animal Rights Consultants Pakistan
- Friends of the Earth Malaysia (Sahabat Alam Malaysia)
- Friends of the Earth Philippines
- Good Growth
- Koalisi Rakyat Untuk Hak Atas Air (KRuHA)
- Mongol Federation of Scientific Workers NGO
- Oyu Tolgoi Watch
- Pakistan Development Alliance
- Sanctuary for Health and Reconnection to Animals and Nature
- Sinergia Animal - Indonesia
- Sinergia Animal - Thailand
- Vive
- World Animal Protection Thailand



CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Representatives in Central and South America

- Acción Ecológica
- Agromandala
- Asociación para el Rescate y Bienestar de los Animales (Arba)
- CAMBIUM Colombia
- CEDENMA
- Centro de Desarrollo Ambiental y Humano
- Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J." (CSMM)
- Centro de Estudios HEÑÓI
- Colectivo VientoSur - Chile
- Coletivo VEM - Veganismo em movimento
- Corporación RAYA
- ECOA - Ecologia e Ação
- Fundación Solón
- Fundaexpresión
- Galaxia refugios Agroecologia UnicamSuri
- Instituto para el Futuro Común Amerindio IFCA
- Maule Sur por la Vida
- Rede Social de Justiça e Direitos Humanos / Network for Social Justice and Human Rights
- Sinergia Animal - Brazil
- Sinergia Animal - International
- Sinergia Animal - Latin America
- Sustentarse (Chile)
- Terranimal Ecuador

- Unión de Afectados por las Operaciones de Texaco (UDAPT-Ecuador)
- Veg Foundation
- Water Justice and Gender
- World Animal Protection Brazil

Representatives in Europe

- Amigas de la Tierra España
- Animal Enterprise Transparency Project (AETP)
- Animal Welfare Observatory
- Arimneste Anima museum
- Asociación Defensa Derechos Animal
- ATTAC Wallonie Bruxelles
- BankTrack
- Blogsostenible
- Bretton Woods Project
- CAAI (Campaigns and Activism for Animals in the Industry)
- Changing Markets Foundation
- CNCD-11.11.11
- Compassion in World Farming France
- Compassion in World Farming International
- Compassion in World Farming Italia ETS
- Compassion in World Farming Nederland
- Compassion in World Farming Poland
- Compassion in World Farming UK



CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

- Coordinadora Estatal Stop Ganadería Industrial (Spain)
- De Boomgaard Foundation
- Dier&Recht Foundation
- Ecologistas en Accion de la Manchuela
- EcoNexus
- Empathy Foundation for Animals and Environment
- Environmental center for Development Education and Networking (EDEN)
- Essere Animali
- Ethical Seafood Research
- Eurogroup for Animals
- Feedback EU
- Feedback Global
- Forum Ökologie & Papier
- Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina / Center for Environment
- Friends of the Earth Bulgaria (Environmental Association Za Zemiata)
- Friends of the Earth Czech Republic (Hnutí DUHA)
- Friends of the Earth Denmark (NOAH)
- Friends of the Earth Europe
- Friends of the Earth Sweden (Jordens Vänner)
- Global Forest Coalition
- Green REV Institute
- International Centre for Animal Rights and Ethics (ICARE)
- Landeliojk Netwerk Bossen- en Bomenbescherming
- Les Amis de la Terre - Belgique asbl
- PEAH - Policies for Equitable Access to Health
- Plant Based Cities Movement
- Plant based Health Justice
- Plant-Based Health Professionals UK
- Plenty Food The Netherlands
- Profundo
- Project 1882
- Real Food Systems Youth Network
- Slow Food
- Soil Association
- Solidagro
- Stop Ganadería Industrial (Spain)
- The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy
- True Animal Protein Price Coalition (TAPP Coalition)
- Urgewald
- Wakker Dier
- World Animal Protection Denmark
- World Animal Protection International
- World Animal Protection Netherlands
- World Animal Protection Sverige
- World Animal Protection UK



CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Representatives in North America

- AEL Advocacy
- Agroecology Fund
- Amazon Watch
- Animal Activism Collective
- Animal Advocacy and Food Transition
- Animal Law Alliance
- Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Animal Welfare Institute
- Aquatic Life Institute
- Better Food Foundation
- Blackberry Creek Farm Animal Sanctuary
- Brighter Green
- Buffalo River Watershed Alliance
- Center for Animal Protection and Education
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Center for Food Safety
- Chilis on Wheels
- Climate Shift
- Coalition for Healthy School Food
- Cohesión Comunitaria e Innovación Social
- Compassion for All Living Beings
- Cooperation Circle, United Religions Initiative
- Compassionate Action for Animals
- Connect For Animals
- DC Voters for Animals
- EartHeart
- Earthsave Canada
- Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia
- Family Farm Defenders
- Farm Animal Rights Movement (FARM)
- Farm Forward
- Farm Sanctuary
- Friends of the Earth U.S.
- Gender Action
- Global Justice Ecology Project
- Groundswell International
- Healthier Hens
- In Defense of Animals
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- Institute for Future Food Systems
- LEAP (Leaders for Ethics, Animals, and the Planet)
- Legal Impact for Chickens
- NC Animal Advocates United (NCAAU)
- NC Environmental Justice Network
- New Roots Institute
- nternational Accountability Project
- Oceanic Preservation Society
- Rainforest Action Network
- Red de Observadores Ciudadanos A.C.
- Red Dominicana de Estudios y Empoderamiento Afrodescendiente RedAfros
- Rethink Your Food
- Salish Coast land and marine conservation society
- Sharpen Strategy
- Stable Planet Alliance and Global Restoration Collaborative

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- The Humane League
- The Oakland Institute
- The Save Movement
- Thrive Philanthropy
- Tindakan
- Tokalihtik
- Veg Avengers Marketing
- Vegan International
- Vegetarian Resource Center
- We Animals
- World Animal Protection Canada
- World Animal Protection US

Representatives in Oceania

- Animals Aotearoa
- Animals Australia
- World Animal Protection Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand

ACADEMIC, LEGAL, AND MEDICAL SIGNATORIES

- Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE, Founder – the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace
- Bo Algers, Professor Emeritus (Animal Hygiene), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences – Sweden
- Professor Molly Anderson, Global Expert on Food Security, Food Systems, and Sustainability – USA
- Dr Jonathan Balcombe, Global Expert on the Welfare of Fishes – USA
- Dr Mohamed Behnassi, Senior Environmentalist Expert, Economic Social and Environmental Council, Rabat – Morocco
- Professor Marc Bekoff, PhD, University of Colorado, Boulder – USA
- Professor John Berkman, Regis–St. Michael's Faculty of Theology, University of Toronto – Canada
- Dan Brook, PhD, Senior Lecturer Emeritus, San José State University – USA
- Liliana Buitrago Arévalo, Researcher and Activist, Pacto Ecosocial e Intercultural del Sur – Venezuela



ACADEMIC, LEGAL, AND MEDICAL SIGNATORIES

- David A. Cleveland, Research Professor, University of California – USA
- Prof. David Clough, Chair in Theology and Applied Sciences, University of Aberdeen – UK
- Marcia Condoy Truyenque, Doctoral Researcher, University of Helsinki – Finland
- Deirdre Dingman, DrPH, Associate Professor, Temple University College of Public Health – USA
- Ros Draper, Author and Leading Expert in Family Therapy – UK
- Professor Ian J. H. Duncan, Professor Emeritus and Emeritus Chair of Animal Welfare, University of Guelph; Global Animal Welfare Expert – Canada
- Jan Dutkiewicz, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Pratt Institute – USA
- Professor Mark Eisler, BA Vet MB MSc PhD MRCVS DipEVPC, Expert in Farm Animal Health and Global Food Security – UK
- Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Elzanowski, Polish Ethics Society – Poland
- Dr Alexandros Frantzis, Global Scientific Expert in Cetaceans – Greece
- Pamela Frasch, Professor, Center for Animal Law Studies, Lewis & Clark Law School – USA
- Carrie P. Freeman, PhD, Professor of Communication, Georgia State University – USA
- Professor Steve Garlick, PhD, Economist, Ethicist & Wildlife Behaviourist – Australia
- Dr William Gildea, Postdoctoral Researcher in Philosophy, McGill University and the Centre for Research in Ethics – Canada
- Prof. Dr. iur. M. Giménez-Candela, Senior Research Affiliate, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law (Heidelberg); Permanent Fellow, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation – Germany/Spain
- Professor Dave Goulson, Professor of Biology (Evolution, Behaviour, and Environment); Founder, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust – UK
- Michael Greger, MD, Physician, Global Expert on Nutrition & New York Times Bestselling Author – USA
- Professor Stevan Harnad, Academic & Editor, Animal Sentience Journal
- Revd. Professor Martin Henig, D.Litt, Academic & Author – UK
- Kathy Hessler, Assistant Dean, The George Washington University Law School – USA



ACADEMIC, LEGAL, AND MEDICAL SIGNATORIES

- Dr Mpho Mary Hlalele, Veterinarian, Eurogroup for Animals – Belgium
- Hira Jaleel, Visiting Assistant Professor, Lewis & Clark Law School – USA
- Kathie Jenni, PhD, Emerita Professor of Philosophy
- Dr Amir Kassam, Expert in Agroecology & Conservation Agriculture – UK
- Dr Shireen Kassam, MD, PhD, DipIBLM, Consultant Haematologist and Honorary Senior Lecturer, King's College Hospital; Founder, Plant-Based Health Professionals UK – UK
- Martin Kemp, Emeritus Professor, Oxford University – UK
- Dr Andrew Knight, RCVS, Veterinary Surgeon – UK
- Professor Toby Knowles, Professor Emeritus, University of Bristol – UK
- Paul Krause, Emeritus Professor, University of Surrey – UK
- Prof. Dr. André Leu, International Director, Regeneration International – Australia
- Natalia Lobo, Public Official, University of Buenos Aires (UBA-FSOC) – Argentina
- Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, PhD, Philosopher and Author
- Dr Alan McElligott, Associate Professor of Animal Behaviour and Welfare, City University of Hong Kong – Hong Kong
- Professor David Nally, University of Cambridge – UK
- Dr Divya Narain, Fellow, Tiny Beam Fund – India and
- Millicent Otina-Kimeli, Lecturer, University of Eldoret – Kenya
- Professor Ibrahim Özdemir, Author & Professor of Philosophy and Ethics
- Silvia Panizza, PhD FHEA, Academic Specialist in Philosophy and Ethics – Ireland
- Carmen Paños Cebrián, Economics Teacher, IES Liceo Caracense – Spain
- María Paños Cebrián, Student, IES Jorge Manrique – Spain
- Professor Clive Phillips, Academic & Editor-in-Chief of Animals journal, Springer Nature Animal Welfare Series – Australia
- Michel Pimbert, Emeritus Professor of Agroecology and Food Politics, Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University – UK
- Professor Emeritus Mang Ping, Institute of Chinese Culture
- Dr Vandana Prasad, Technical Advisor, Public Health Resource Network – India
- Joanna Puchalska, Assistant Professor, Jagiellonian University – Poland



ACADEMIC, LEGAL, AND MEDICAL SIGNATORIES

- Dr Rupert Read, Philosopher, Author & Founder of the Climate Majority Project – UK
- Rajesh Reddy, Assistant Professor, Lewis & Clark Law School – USA
- Prof. em. Dr. Kurt Remele, Institute for Ethics and Catholic Social Thought, Graz University – Austria
- William J. Ripple, PhD, Author and Global Expert on Ecology – USA
- Dr Richard D. Ryder, MA, PhD (Cantab), DCP, AFBPsS, FZS, FRSA, Past Chair and President of the RSPCA – UK
- James A. Serpell, PhD, Emeritus Professor of Animal Welfare, University of Pennsylvania – USA
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- Peter Singer, Professor of Bioethics (Emeritus), Princeton University – USA
- Professor Lynne Sneddon, University of Gothenburg – Sweden
- Daniela Soleri, Research Scientist, University of California, Santa Barbara – USA
- Prof. Dr. Carola Strassner, MBA, Expert in Sustainable Food Systems & Nutrition Ecology – Germany
- Maitree Suttajit, PhD, Founder President, Thai International Vegetarian Association – Thailand
- Professor Brian Swimme, Philosopher and Author – USA
- Professor Song Tian, Academic Specialist in History and Philosophy of Science
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- Mary Evelyn Tucker, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology – USA
- Marcin Urbaniak, Associate Professor in Cognitive Ethology, Cognitive Evolution & Zoopsychology
- Nina Van Rooy, PhD Candidate, Duke University – USA
- Dr Tereza Vandrovcová, Academic, University of New York in Prague – Czech Republic
- Alejandra Vidal Ramírez, Professor, Universidad Escuela de Administración, Finanzas e Instituto Tecnológico (EAFIT) – Colombia
- John Webster, Professor Emeritus, University of Bristol – UK