



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
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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.

SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS

- Stop Financing Factory Farming
- AEL Advocacy
- Aalem for Orphan and Vulnerable Children, Inc.
- AbibiNsroma Foundation
- Acción Ecológica
- ADDA
- AETP
- Agroecology Fund
- Agromandala
- ALTSEAN-Burma
- Amazon Watch
- Amigas de la Tierra España
- Amis de l'Afrique Francophone- Bénin (AMAF-Bénin)
- Animal Activism Collective
- Animal Advocacy and Food Transition
- Animals Asia Foundation
- Animals Australia
- Animals Aotearoa
- Animal Friends Jogja
- Animal Legal Defense Fund
- Animal Welfare Institute
- Animal Welfare Observatory
- Aquatic Life Institute
- Arba
- Arimneste Anima museum
- "Armenian Forest"s Environmental NGO
- Asia Development Alliance
- Association For Promotion Sustainable Development
- Association for Solidarity through Humanitarian Imperative Action (ASHIA) International
- ATTAC Wallonie Bruxelles
- BankTrack
- Blackberry Creek Farm Animal Sanctuary
- Blogsostenible

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SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS

- Bretton Woods Project
- Brighter Green
- Buffalo River Watershed Alliance
- CAMBIUM Colombia
- CAAI (Campaigns and Activism for Animals in the Industry)
- CEDENMA
- Center for Animal Protection and Education
- Center for Biological Diversity
- Center for Food Safety
- Centre for Human Rights and Development
- Centro de Desarrollo Ambiental y Humano
- Centro de Documentación en Derechos Humanos "Segundo Montes Mozo S.J." (CSMM)
- Centre for Ecosystems Research and Development, Uganda
- Centro de Estudios HEÑÓI
- Changing Markets Foundation
- Charity Doings Foundation Pakistan/ Environmental and Animal Rights Consultants Pakistan
- Chilis on Wheels
- Climate Shift
- Club Humanitaire sans Frontières
- CNCD-11.11.11
- Coalition for Healthy School Food
- Cohesión Comunitaria e Innovación Social
- Coletivo VEM - Veganismo em movimento
- Colectivo VientoSur - Chile
- Connect For Animals
- Committee for Peace and Development Advocacy (COPDA)
- Compassionate Action for Animals
- Compassion in World Farming France
- Compassion in World Farming Italia ETS
- Compassion in World Farming International
- Compassion in World Farming Nederland
- Compassion in World Farming Poland
- Compassion in World Farming UK
- Conseil pour la Terre des Ancêtres (CTA)
- Coordinadora Estatal Stop Ganadería Industrial (Spain)
- Corporación RAYA
- DC Voters for Animals
- De Boomgaard Foundation
- Dier&Recht Foundation
- Earthsave Canada
- Ecologistas en Accion de la Manchuela
- EartHeart
- ECOA - Ecologia e Ação
- EcoNexus
- Empathy Foundation for Animals and Environment
- Ensure Viable Environment (EVE)
- Environmental center for Development Education and Networking (EDEN)
- Eurogroup for Animals
- Equidad de Género: Ciudadanía, Trabajo y Familia
- Espace de Solidarité et de Coopération de l'oriental (ESCO)
- Effective Animal Advocacy Nigeria (EAAN)
- Essere Animali
- Ethical Seafood Research
- Family Farm Defenders
- Farm Animal Rights Movement (FARM)

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SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS

- Farm Forward
- Farm Sanctuary
- Feedback EU
- Feedback Global
- FOUR PAWS in South Africa
- Forum Ökologie & Papier
- 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 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- Friends of the Earth Europe
- Friends of the Earth Malaysia (Sahabat Alam Malaysia)
- Friends of the Earth Philippines
- Friends of the Earth Sweden (Jordens Vänner)
- Friends of the Earth U.S.
- Front Commun pour la Protection de l'Environnement et des Espaces Protégés (FCPEEP-RDC)
- FUNDAEXPRESION
- Fundación Solón
- Galaxia refugios Agroecologia UnicamSuri
- Gender Action
- Global Forest Coalition
- Global Justice Ecology Project
- Global One Health Advocacy Alliance
- Good Growth
- Green Advocates International
- Green Farmlands
- Green leaf Advocacy and Empowerment Center
- Green REV Institute
- Groundswell International
- Healthier Hens
- Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
- Institute for Future Food Systems
- Instituto para el Futuro Común Amerindio IFCA
- International Accountability Project
- International Centre for Animal Rights and Ethics (ICARE)
- In Defense of Animals
- Irarak United Women Producer Organisation
- Koalisi Rakyat Untuk Hak Atas Air (KRuHA) - People's Coalition for Human Rights On Water
- Landeliojk Netwerk Bossen- en Bomenbescherming
- Landmark Foundation
- Lawyers for Animal Protection in Africa
- LEAP (Leaders for Ethics, Animals, and the Planet)
- Legal Impact for Chickens
- Les Amis de la Terre - Belgique asbl
- Les Amis de la Terre - togo
- Mongol Federation of Scientific Workers NGO
- NC Animal Advocates United (NCAAU)
- NC Environmental Justice Network
- Network for Social Justice and Human Rights
- New Roots Institute
- NGO APPUI SOLIDAIRE POUR LE RENFORCEMENT DE L AIDE AU DEVELOPPEMENT
- Oceanic Preservation Society
- Oxfam in Uganda

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SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS

- Oyu Tolgoi Watch
- Pakistan Development Alliance
- PEAH – Policies for Equitable Access to Health
- Plant Based Cities Movement
- Plant-Based Health Professionals UK
- Plant-based Health Justice
- Plenty Food The Netherlands
- Profundo
- Project 1882
- ProVeg International (Nigeria)
- ProVeg South Africa
- ProVeg ZA
- Rainforest Action Network
- Real Food Systems Youth Network
- Red de Observadores Ciudadanos A.C.
- Red Dominicana de Estudios y Empoderamiento Afrodescendiente RedAfros
- Renevlyn Development Initiative
- Rethink Your Food
- Salish Coast land and marine conservation society
- Sanctuary for Health and Reconnection to Animals and Nature
- Sharan India
- Sharpen Strategy
- Slow Food
- Sinergia Animal – Brazil
- Sinergia Animal – Indonesia
- Sinergia Animal – International
- Sinergia Animal – Latin America
- Sinergia Animal – Thailand
- Soil Association
- Solidagro
- Stable Planet Alliance and Global Restoration Collaborative
- Stop Ganadería Industrial (Spain)
- Sustentarse (Chile)
- Terranimal Ecuador
- The European Institute for Animal Law & Policy
- The Humane League
- The Oakland Institute
- The Save Movement
- Thrive Philanthropy
- Tindakan
- Tokalihtik
- True Animal Protein Price Coalition (TAPP Coalition)
- UNION DE AFECTADOS POR LAS OPERACIONES DE TEXACO. UDAPT-ECUADOR
- Urgewald
- Veg Avengers Marketing
- Veg Foundation
- Vegan International
- Vegetarian Resource Center
- Vive
- Vyashamba Africa
- Water Justice and Gender
- Wakker Dier
- We Animals
- Witness Radio – Uganda.
- World Animal Protection Africa
- World Animal Protection Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand
- World Animal Protection Brazil
- World Animal Protection Canada
- World Animal Protection Denmark
- World Animal Protection International
- World Animal Protection Netherlands
- World Animal Protection Sverige
- World Animal Protection Thailand

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SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS

- World Animal Protection UK
- World Animal Protection US
- Youth in Agroecology and Restoration Network

ACADEMIC SIGNATORIES

- Jane Goodall, PhD, DBE, Founder – the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace
- Bo Algers, Professor Emeritus (in Animal Hygiene), the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
- Professor Molly Anderson, global expert on food security, food systems and sustainability
- Dr Jonathan Balcombe, global expert on the welfare of fishes
- Dr. Mohamed Behnassi, Senior Environmentalist Expert, Economic Social and Environmental Council, Rabat
- Professor Marc Bekoff, PhD, University of Colorado, Boulder
- Professor John Berkman, Regis-St. Michael's Faculty of Theology, University of Toronto
- Dan Brook PhD, Senior Lecturer Emeritus, San Jose State University
- Prof. David Clough, Chair in Theology and Applied Sciences, University of Aberdeen
- Ros Draper, author and leading expert in family therapy
- Professor Ian J. H. Duncan, global expert in animal welfare
- Professor Mark Eisler BA Vet MB MSc PhD MRCVS DipEVPC, expert in farm animal health and global food security
- Prof. dr hab. Andrzej Elzanowski, Polish Ethics Society
- Dr Alexandros Frantzis, global scientific expert in cetaceans
- Carrie P. Freeman, PhD, Professor of Communication
- Professor Steve Garlick PhD , economist, ethicist & wildlife behaviourist
- Dr William Gildea, postdoctoral researcher in philosophy, McGill University and the Centre for Research in Ethics
- Prof. Dr. iur. M. Giménez-Candela, Senior Research Affiliate, Max-Planck-Institut Heidelberg, Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung Permanent Fellow
- Professor Dave Goulson, Professor of Biology (Evolution, Behaviour, and Environment), founder, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust
- Michael Greger MD, physician, global expert on nutrition & New York Times bestselling author
- Professor Stevan Harnad, academic & Editor, 'Animal Sentience' journal

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ACADEMIC SIGNATORIES

- Revd. Professor Martin Henig D.Litt, academic & author
- Kathie Jenni, Ph.D., Emerita Professor of Philosophy
- Dr Amir Kassam, Expert in agroecology & conservation agriculture
- Dr Shireen Kassam, MD, PhD, DipIBLM, Consultant Haematologist and Honorary Senior Lecturer, King's College Hospital; founder, Plant-Based Health Professionals UK
- Martin Kemp, Emeritus Professor, Oxford University
- Dr Andrew Knight RCVS, veterinary surgeon
- Professor Toby Knowles, Professor Emeritus, University of Bristol
- Paul Krause, Emeritus Professor, University of Surrey
- Prof. Dr. André Leu, International Director, Regeneration International
- Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, Ph.D., philosopher and author
- Dr. Alan McElligott, Associate Professor of Animal Behaviour and Welfare, City University of Hong Kong
- Professor David Nally, University of Cambridge
- Professor Ibrahim Özdemir, author & professor of philosophy and ethics
- Silvia Panizza PhD FHEA, academic specialist of philosophy and ethics
- Professor Clive Phillips, academic & Editor-in-Chief of 'Animals' journal, Springer Nature Animal Welfare series
- Michel Pimbert, Professor Emeritus of Agroecology and Food Politics
- Dr Rupert Read, philosopher, author & founder of the Climate Majority Project
- 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
- Dr Richard D Ryder MA PhD (Cantab) DCP AFBPsS FZS FRSA, past Chair and President of the RSPCA
- James A. Serpell, PhD, Emeritus Professor of Animal Welfare, University of Pennsylvania
- Peter Singer, Professor of Bioethics, emeritus, Princeton University
- Professor Lynne Sneddon, University of Gothenburg
- Maitree Suttajit, Ph.D., Founder President, Thai International Vegetarian Association
- Professor Brian Swimme, philosopher & author
- Professor Song Tian, academic specialist of history and philosophy of science
- Mary Evelyn Tucker, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology
- Marcin Urbaniak, Assoc Prof, cognitive ethology, cognitive evolution & zoopsychology
- Dr Tereza Vandrovcova, academic, University of New York in Prague
- John Webster, Professor Emeritus, University of Bristol
- Divya Narain – Tiny Beam Fund, Fellow
- Nina Van Rooy – Duke University, PhD Candidate



ACADEMIC SIGNATORIES

- Deirdre Dingman, DrPH – Temple University College of Public Health, Associate Professor
- Joanna Puchalska – Jagiellonian University, Assistant Professor
- Daniela Soleri – University of California, Santa Barbara, Research Scientist
- Matilde Signorini – INAF OAA, Astrophysics Researcher
- Kathy Hessler – The George Washington University Law School, Asst. Dean
- María Paños Cebrian – IES Jorge Manrique, Estudiante
- Carmen Paños Cebrian – Economics Teacher
- Millicent Otina – Kimeli lecturer, University of Eldoret, Kenya – University of Eldoret
- Professor emeritus Mang Ping, Institute of Chinese Culture.