

THE MARR GROUP DEFORESTATION COMMITMENT



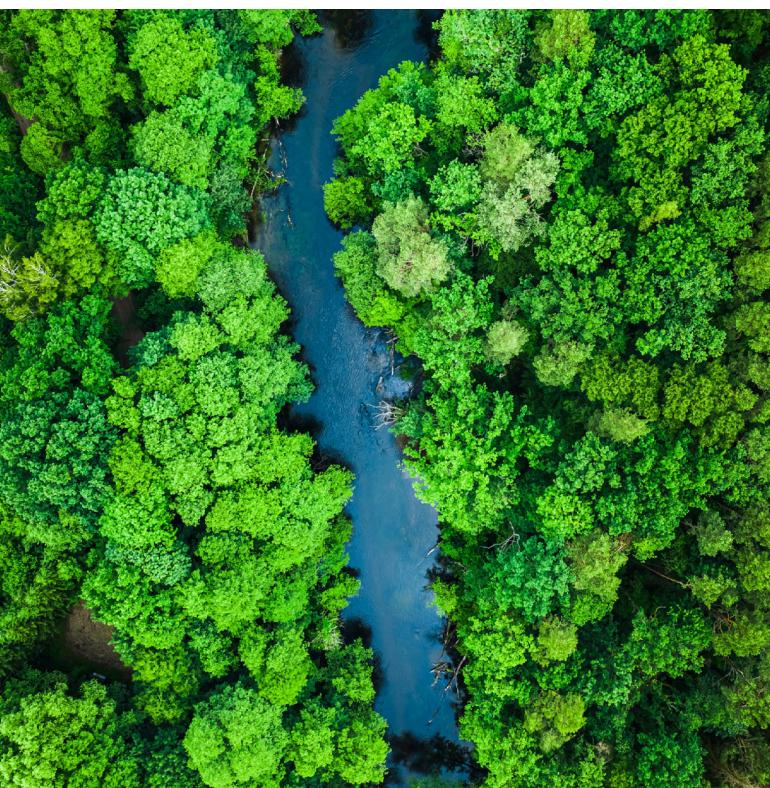


The **MARR** Group deforestation commitment

MARR is committed at contributing to the sustainable development, as defined by the UN Sustainable Development Goals at the heart of the 2030 agenda, promoting sustainability values along the value chain. Environmental protection and ecosystems safeguard are fundamental assets of the **MARR** ESG policies and in this context the contrast to deforestation is a vital aspect.

The present commitment (Policy) intends to outline the current regulatory framework and **MARR**'s commitments to contrast deforestation and forest degradation, in line with the objectives set by the EU Regulation 2023/1115 EUDR - European Deforestation Regulation.

The Regulation, in its “recitals”, highlights the importance of forests as essential sources of ecosystem services:



“Forests provide a broad variety of environmental benefits, as they harbour most of the Earth’s terrestrial biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem functions, help protect the climate system, provide clean air and play a vital role for the purification of waters and soils as well as for water retention and recharge. Large forest areas act as a moisture source and help prevent desertification of continental regions. Furthermore, deforestation and forest degradation reduce essential carbon sinks and are taking place at an alarming rate significantly contributing to global warming and biodiversity loss – the two most important environmental challenges of our time. Yet, every year the world continues to lose 10 million hectares of forest. Forest ecosystems have to cope with multiple pressures caused by climate change, ranging from extreme weather patterns to pests, and with human-related activities that negatively affect ecosystems and habitats.”

Forests and their ecosystem services safeguard, in addition to the growing food demand correlated to the global demographic increase and subsequent need of available lands for agricultural and breeding activities, have created the necessity of an effective action from the European legislator, concretely manifesting itself through the EUDR Regulation and in the progressive introduction of due diligence systems.



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The EUDR Regulation introduces some useful definitions for the correct interpretation and implementation of the EUDR Regulation along value chain:

- **Relevant commodities: cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soy, wood and cattle**
(the “relevant products” with the relative custom codes included in the normative field of application are indicated in the annex I)
- **Deforestation-free** means that the *relevant products* and the *relevant commodities* have been produced on lands that are not subject to deforestation practices after December 31st 2020



MARR commitment to contrast deforestation is carried out throughout multiple practices aimed at anticipating the EUDR regulation and to promote the sustainability of the products and the service supplied:

- **Mapping of products and suppliers** potentially associated with deforestation or forest degradation practices and evaluation of the level of risk
- **Update the MARR branded products in order to improve their sustainability** by means of sustainable and certified raw materials (palm oil absent or RSPO certified – Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, cocoa, cocoa butter, cocoa mass and coffee certified by Rainforest Alliance, Fairtrade or equivalent certifications)
- **Procurement of packaging materials with a lower environmental impact and certified**, meaning bought from responsible sources or with growing percentages of recycled raw material

Indeed, the secondary cardboard packaging used by **MARR** to pack the products intended to be delivered to customers are 100% made of recycled material or in alternative they are FSC certified (Forest Stewardship Council). As far as private label products packaging is concerned, **MARR** promotes the use of recycled or FSC certified packaging as well as the placing of the environmental label to facilitate the waste disposal and recovery, in compliance with the disposition of the Lgs. D. 116/2020.

Overall, an adaptation process to the EUDR Regulation is underway by **MARR**, which provides for the timely planning of actions aimed at achieving the aforementioned safeguard objectives, including through the dissemination of the present Policy to its suppliers on new obligations for a responsible procurement and with the aim of contrasting deforestation and forest degradation.

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Regulation
2023/1115
EN - EUR-Lex
(europa.eu)

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deforestation
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