

Group Environmental and Social Risk Policy

Definitions

Environmental risk means the risk of causing pollution or destruction of the natural environment (land, water, air, natural habitats, animal and plant species), either through accidental or deliberate actions.

Social risk is the risk of a customer not meeting acceptable standards for employment and business ethics, within his own business or by his actions.

Policy

We recognise that our primary impact on the natural environment and on social issues is through our relationship with our customers and the lending decisions we take. Therefore:

- All lending proposals will include consideration of environmental and social issues where appropriate
- All lending proposals will take account of internationally acceptable environmental and social standards or local laws and regulations where these are more stringent
- The risks associated with both environmental and social issues will be properly recognised, evaluated and where appropriate mitigated
- The Businesses (both Wholesale Bank and Consumer Bank) will ensure that appropriate procedures are designed to meet these policy requirements e.g. Project and Export Finance proposals will be assessed in accordance with the Equator Principles