Forest 500 data guide
Financial institutions

How to use the 2022 Forest 500 financial institution assessment data for analyses

About the Forest 500:
Forest 500, a Global Canopy project, identifies and ranks the most influential companies and financial institutions in the race towards a deforestation-free global economy.

Contact:
To contact the Forest 500 team please write to forest500@globalcanopy.org

About Global Canopy:
Global Canopy is a data-driven not for profit that targets the market forces destroying nature. We do this by improving transparency and accountability. We provide innovative open-access data, clear metrics, and actionable insights to leading companies, financial institutions, governments and campaigning organisations worldwide to help them make better decisions about nature, forests and people.

Using Forest 500 Data – Financial Institutions

Below, you can find simple instructions on how to use that data to identify trends, conduct analyses, and compare the assessments of different financial institutions. Additionally, several worked examples of the analyses our data can be used for are included in this document, alongside the relevant indicators and columns.

Data download of "all data" – Financial Institutions

This table explains the information included within this data download, including the column, column heading, and a description of what the column contains. If you would like to know more about our financial institution assessment methodology you can view it here

COLUMN	COLUMN HEADING	DESCRIPTION
A	assessment_year	The year the assessment data was collected. To carry out analyses over multiple years, you can select the year in question at the point of download, and then download an individual spreadsheet for each year.
B	flid	An internal ID reference allocated to each company and financial institution assessed by Forest 500.
C	fi_name	Holding/Parent financial institution name.
D	fi_type	The type of financial institution, e.g. bank, pension fund etc
E	hq_country	The country in which the financial institution has its headquarters.
F	hq_region	The region of the world in which the financial institution has its headquarters.
G	total_score	The financial institution's overall score, to 2 decimal points, out of a possible 100 points.
H	scoreband	The score band the financial institution's score (out of 100) falls into. Financial institutions are given scores out of 100, which are translated into a scoreband out of 5. 0% is equivalent to 0/5, 1-19% is equivalent to 1/5, 20-39% is equivalent to 2/5, 40-59% is equivalent to 3/5, 60-79% is equivalent to 4/5, 80-100% is equivalent to 5/5.
I	commodity_assessed	The commodity the financial institution is being assessed on for the specific indicator shown in this row. The commodities are Palm Oil, Soy, Cattle products (Beef, Leather) and Timber products (Timber, Pulp & Paper). All financial institutions are assessed for all four commodities.
J	commodity_score	The financial institution's commodity score, to 2 decimal points, out of a possible 90 points.

K	indicator_group	Indicators (or questions) financial institutions are assessed by are split into the following 4 indicator groups: Overall approach, Policy Strength, Associated Human Rights Abuses, Reporting and Implementation.
L	group_average_score	Refers to the indicator group above. This is the financial institutions's average score for either Overall Approach, Policy Strength, Associated Human Rights Abuses, or Reporting and Implementation.
M	group_commodity_score	Refers to the score given for the commodity and indicator group specified. This is the score for either Overall Approach, Policy Strength, Associated Human Rights Abuses, or Reporting and Implementation for the commodity in column I.
N	parent_indicator	Indicators are questions that financial institutions are assessed against within the Forest 500. Indicators 2.1 - 2.13 are considered as 'parent indicators'. This means that for each of these indicators, the scope of the commitment made is assessed in indicators 3.1-3.4 (which are sub indicators).
O	indicator_	Numbers which represent each indicator or question within the methodology. Descriptions of what each indicator corresponds to can be found in the full methodology here.
P	indtext	A brief description of what the indicator assesses.
Q	assessment	Each indicator has various answer options that the Forest 500 scores the financial institution against. Each answer selection gives a corresponding number of points for each indicator.
R	pts	The number of points the financial institution has scored for the indicator specified in the row.
S	maxpts	The maximum number of points that can be awarded for indicators specified in columns O and P. The total amount of points a financial institution can score varies for each indicator. Please refer to the full assessment methodology for a detailed breakdown of point allocation.
T	quote_summary	The text used to assess the financial institution for each indicator. For financial institutions that are assessed in their local language, the text "[Translation]" will be added at the beginning of the answer to indicate this.
U	links_to_docs	Forest 500 only uses publicly available information for assessments. The text answers quoted for each indicator can be found within the webpage or link provided in this column.
V	extra_details	Any additional information or extra information that might be relevant for the indicator answer is recorded here.

Examples of using Forest 500 data – Financial Institutions

(Please note: the below examples have been made using the 2022 data download)

Once downloaded, the data can be further manipulated for individual needs. Below are a couple of examples of how Forest 500 data can be used.

Example #1

Comparing the commitment strength and social scores for "timber, pulp & paper" (also referred to as Timber Products) for financial institutions whose headquarters are based in Canada.

Parameters/Filters		Compare
HQ_Country	Canada	Total points scored for each section (sum of points)
Commodity_assessed	Timber, Pulp & Paper	
Data to view	Indicator group (overall points for: Policy Strength, Associated Human Rights Abuses, Reporting and Implementation.)	

Example #2

Assessing all 150 financial institutions on what kind of overarching deforestation commitment they have publicly committed to.

Parameters/Filters		Compare
Assessed in	2022	Count of each deforestation commitment level, shown as the percentage of the total
Indicator to view	1.1	

hq_country	(All)
indicator_group	(All)
indicator_	1.1

Row Labels	Count of fi_name
commitment that explicitly includes all other natural ecosystems	1
Deforestation-free commitment	15
No overarching commitment	129
Zero net deforestation commitment	5
Grand Total	**150**

Sheet1   Sheet2 ...

1.1 Overarching Commitment

3% 1% 10%

86%

- Conversion-free/deforestation-free commitment that explicitly includes all other natural ecosystems
- Deforestation-free commitment
- No overarching commitment
- Zero net deforestation commitment
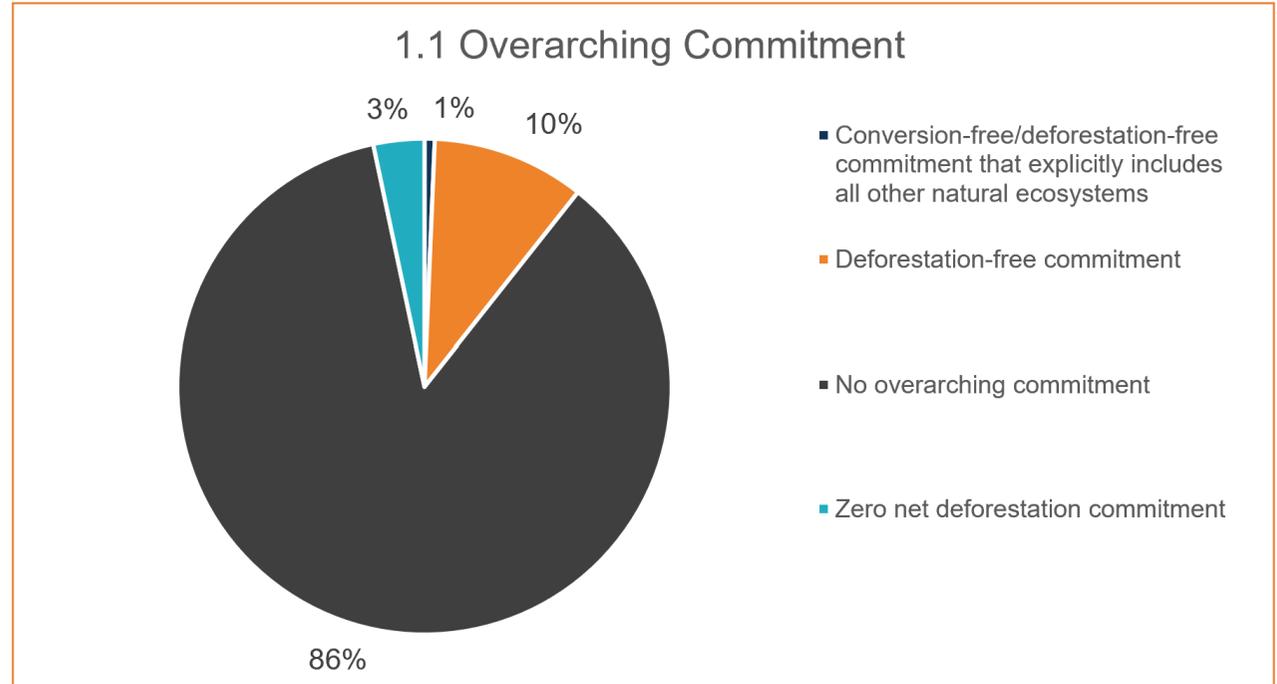
Example #3

Comparing financial institutions with headquarters in the Netherlands on their performance on indicator 2.1 for soy, which assesses if a financial institution has a deforestation commitment relating to soy.

	Parameters/Filters	Compare
HQ Country	Netherlands	Points (pts) scored for this indicator (out of a possible 8 points (max pts)), and the quote summary showing the text answer
Commodity assessed	Soy	
Indicator to view	2.1 (deforestation commitment)	

assess	flid	fi_name	hq_country	total_score	scoreb	comm	indicator_group	indicator_	assessment	pts	maxpts	quote_summary
2022	4855	ABN Amro	Netherlands	35.92	2	Soy	Policy Strength	2.1	Protects priority forests	4	8	Requirements Soy. Producers: Commitment to source from production sites that protect HCV Forest. Processors: Commitment to source from production sites that protect HCV Forest.4... 4 Only applicable to processors at origin or processors sourcing directly from the origin. Benchmark: . Round Table on Sustainable Soy (RTRS) membership
2022	4210	Algemeen Burgerlijk Pensioenfonds (ABP)	Netherlands	10.41	1	Soy	Policy Strength	2.1	No commitment	0	8	
2022	4184	ING Group	Netherlands	28.06	2	Soy	Policy Strength	2.1	No commitment	0	8	
2022	4240	Pensioenfonds Zorg en Welzijn (PFZW)	Netherlands	0.00	0	Soy	Policy Strength	2.1	No commitment	0	8	
2022	4185	Rabobank	Netherlands	46.24	3	Soy	Policy Strength	2.1	Protects priority forests	4	8	Rabobank requires clients to operate according to industry best practices such as those of the Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS) standard. • To exclude deforestation and land right conflicts from the supply chain,midstream and downstream clients in this sector are encouraged to progressively increase the proportion of sustainable soy in their value chain. The Rabobank Exclusion List defines activities that are incompatible with our mission and principles. We will not provide our products and services to these activities. Regarding soy,we will not do business related to : • conversion or deforestation of high conservation value areas,even if legally permissible (see our Biodiversity Policy)

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