How to interpret Forest 500 scores

What does your Forest 500 score mean?

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.

What does your Forest 500 score mean and how to talk about it

Forest 500 assessments show whether the financial institution or company has strong public policies and processes in place to eliminate commodity-driven deforestation, conversion, and associated human rights abuses, and whether they are transparently reporting on and making progress towards those goals.

Our complete company and financial institution assessment methodologies are available here.

How to interpret Forest 500 scores

The higher a Forest 500 score, the stronger a company or financial institution's disclosure of their approach on deforestation, conversion, and associated human rights abuses is, meaning they are likely taking steps to address their exposure to those risks and impacts.

The lower a Forest 500 score, the weaker a company or financial insititution's disclosure around their approach to deforestation is, meaning they likely aren't transparently taking enough steps to curb their exposure to deforestation risks and impacts through their supply chains or portfolios.

Across the Forest 500, very few companies and financial institutions score above 60% (equivalent to 4/5), with none scoring above 73% in 2023, meaning all of the companies and financial institutions included in the Forest 500 have a lot of progress to make.

Do the scores indicate how exposed an organisation is to deforestation risk?

All of the companies and financial institutions included in the Forest 500 have a high exposure to deforestation risk. Their score looks at whether they are following best practice to address and reduce their exposure to risks and impacts of deforestation, conversion, and associated human rights abuses. Their exposure is **not** factored into their Forest 500 score.

Similarly, a high score in Forest 500 does not guarantee that a company or financial institution is not exposed to deforestation, conversion, or associated human rights abuses on the ground.

What is a 'good' score?

The highest an organisation can score is 5/5, which is equivalent to scoring between 80 and 100% against the assessment methodology. 5/5 is what all organisations should be aiming to score, with a score of 4/5 also showing a strong approach on deforestation, conversion, and associated human rights abuses - but still with room for improvement.

A score of 2/5 or 3/5 is not a high score. These organisations still have significant progress to make when it comes to their approach on deforestation, conversion and associated human rights abuses if they are to address and limit their exposure to risk by being aligned with best practice for the sector.

In some sectors, like beef traders, the highest score is just 3/5 which means in comparison to their peers, some companies seem to be performing well. But in reality, a score of 3/5 shows that they are still unaligned with best practice for forest-risk commodity supply chains. This means that there is still significant progress to be made, most likely in the implementation of their commitments on the ground, and that they aren't doing enough to curb their exposure to deforestation and associated human rights abuse risks and impacts.

Talking about your score publicly

Companies and financial institutions are encouraged to share their Forest 500 score with their customers, networks, shareholders and peers, particularly if there has been improvement year-on-year. Talking publicly about Forest 500 scores and what companies and financial institutions are doing to stamp out commodity-driven deforestation, conversion and associated human rights abuses will help it become more accepted practice and bring along the market, forcing laggards to act.

When presenting your Forest 500 score, it is important to explain what the score means and acknowledge where there is room for improvement, ideally highlighting what steps the company or financial institution plans to take over the next year to improve their action on deforestation, conversion, and associated human rights abuses.

For more information visit: **www.forest500.org**

Contact us at: **forest500@globalcanopy.org**

Follow us on Twitter: **@Forest500**

To find out about Global Canopy's work visit: **www.globalcanopy.org**