

ITF Ethical and Environmental Policies

Policy Statement

ITF seeks first and foremost to invest, procure from, solicit funds and enter into partnerships with organisations that share its mission and values. We will therefore work with companies that:

- are involved in environmental improvement
- promote sustainable development
- invest in their local communities via education, training, healthcare and water management.

ITF will not invest, procure from, solicit funds or enter into a partnership with an organisation whose work contradicts the charity's mission, or poses a reputational risk.

In this respect ITF will not enter business relationships with companies that are directly involved in:

- deforestation and forest degradation
- environmental damage and loss of biodiversity*
- fossil fuel extraction
- the production of landmines, cluster bombs and nuclear weapons/nuclear power
- tobacco, alcohol, the production of pornography and gambling
- abuse of human rights, labour rights (including child labour**) and land rights
- testing on animals and animal cruelty***
- tax avoidance schemes
- genetically modified organisms or synthetic biology
- bribery and corruption

However, if those undertaking the above are currently showing leadership through the development of more sustainable business practices, we **may** consider involvement on a case-by-case basis. ITF is interested in linking with companies which demonstrate this aim but will need to agree a strict covenant that allows ITF to act in an unrestricted way and continue to criticise if need be. An ethical screening process is used to assess all potential investments and partners.

ITF's **partners, funders and investors** will be required to fulfil the above criteria. Additionally, ITF **grantees** are required to comply with ITF's ethical criteria in relation to child labour and animal welfare (see appendix).

As part of ITF's **procurement** policy ITF will ensure that sources materials only from **suppliers** who adhere to the criteria set above. Where feasible all paper products will be from **recycled sources** and be recycled wherever possible. At the very minimum all those paper products not made from recycled material will be FSC or PESC certified and labelled.

ITF's negative **Environmental Impact** and **Carbon Footprint** will be monitored with the objective of reducing these further. ITC equipment will be disposed of in accordance to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (2002).

ITF also adheres to the following:

Bribery Act (2010)

Data Protection Act (1998)

SORP (2005)

Equal opportunities employment

Protection from Harassment Act (1997)

Appendix

* biodiversity and carbon offsetting

As part of ITF's strive to avoid environmental damage and loss of biodiversity ITF is a signatory to "No to biodiversity offsetting" ~ *Biodiversity offsetting is the promise to replace nature destroyed and lost in one place with nature somewhere else.* <http://no-biodiversity-offsets.makenoise.org/>

ITF does not offer or subscribe to a formal carbon offsetting programme, as we believe emission reductions should be the primary goal for organisations and individuals in their efforts to decarbonise their activities and behaviours. Additionally, we cannot irrefutably prove that the initiatives 'lock in' the carbon or the amounts of sequestered carbon claimed. We are however happy to provide estimates of carbon sequestration to companies who invest in one of our tree planting programmes.

** ILO's Child Labour principles

	The minimum age at which children can start work	Possible exceptions for developing countries
Basic Minimum Age The minimum age for work should not be below the age for finishing compulsory schooling, which is generally 15.	15	14
Light work Children between the ages of 13 and 15 years old may do light work, as long as it does not threaten their health and safety, or hinder their education or vocational orientation and training.	13-15	12-14
Hazardous work Any work which is likely to jeopardize children's physical, mental or moral health, safety or morals should not be done by anyone under the age of 18.	18 (16 under strict conditions)	18 (16 under strict conditions)

*** Animal exploitation:

ITF seeks to minimise the use of animals in the projects we fund and where animals are used DEFRA's FAWC five freedoms make up the basis of minimum standards. The welfare of an animal includes its physical and mental state and we consider that good animal welfare implies both fitness and a sense of well-being. Any animal kept by people, must at least, be protected from unnecessary suffering.

The Farm Animal Welfare Council believes that an animal's welfare, whether on farm, in transit, at market or at a place of slaughter should be considered in terms of '**five freedoms**'. These freedoms define ideal states rather than standards for acceptable welfare. They form a logical and comprehensive framework for analysis of welfare within any system together with the steps and compromises necessary to safeguard and improve welfare within the proper constraints of an effective livestock industry.

- 1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst** - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

- 2. Freedom from Discomfort** - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- 3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease** - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- 4. Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour** - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
- 5. Freedom from Fear and Distress** - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/fawc/about/five-freedoms/>