



# MANAGEMENT OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

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## MANAGEMENT APPROACH<sup>1</sup>

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The Edmond de Rothschild Group has developed an Environmental Policy which lays down the objectives and principles of the management of environmental issues in its operations. This policy, which has been validated by the Group's Executive Committee, applies to all Group employees, at any site. [GRI 103-1 / 103-2 / 103-3](#)

Our Environmental Policy reflects the intention of the Edmond de Rothschild Group to steadily improve its performance in the field of environmental protection, and involve its employees in this process. It also aims to improve our monitoring of the environmental impacts and efficiency of our processes.

Inspired by its own values and convinced of the importance of responding to sustainability issues, the Group is signatory to the United Nations Global Compact.<sup>2</sup> Moreover the Management has committed to strengthen the Group's role as a player which is accountable for its operations vis-à-vis its stakeholders and within the real economy. The Group's Responsible Purchasing Policy, validated by the Executive Committee in 2017, is supported by a Responsible Purchasing Charter, to be co-signed by suppliers as confirmation of their commitment to sustainability issues, including environmental responsibility. [GRI 103-2](#)

## Sustainability context

The environmental impact of financial sector players' operations is not comparable to that of major industrial groups. However, as investors, these financial sector companies have a key role to play in directing capital flows towards sustainable activities and encouraging companies and countries to fully integrate a sustainable approach in their strategies and activities. The financial sector has the means to finance and support innovative solutions for the transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy. [GRI 103-1](#)

## Company values and commitments

In view of the global stakes and the already significant impacts of climate change on our planet, the Edmond de Rothschild Group has undertaken to deploy a relevant, thoughtful environmental strategy to steadily improve its performance. This strategy focuses, on the one hand, on implementing an Environmental Policy which aims to reduce the Group's direct impact on the environment and, on the other, on its Responsible Investment Policy. The Group's Responsible Investment Policy reflects its desire to evaluate and support the environmental commitments of the companies in which the Group invests, and to have a positive environmental impact through specialised investment strategies and financial innovations which open the way to new investments opportunities.

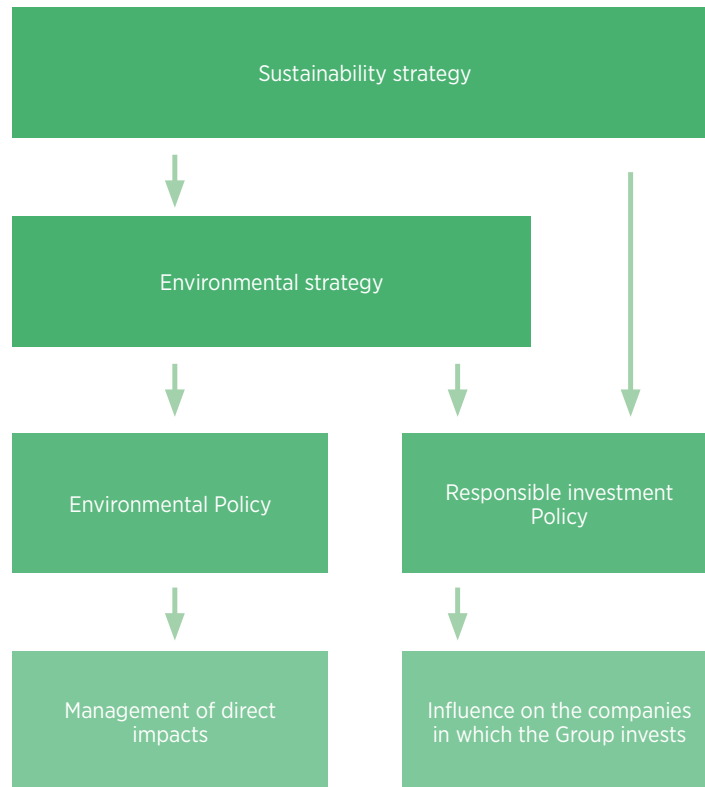
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<sup>1</sup> The information provided here is in line with the recommendations of the GRI standards (Global Reporting Initiative)

<sup>2</sup> See, United Nations Global Compact. <https://www.unglobalcompact.org/>



**The two pillars of the Group's environmental strategy are the Environmental Policy and the Responsible Investment Policy**



The Environmental Policy of the Edmond de Rothschild Group applies to all its entities, and focuses on the following commitments:

- compliance with the environmental legal framework in each country in which the Group is active;
- monitoring performance via annual reporting;
- periodical review of results and validation of objectives set by Group management and its legal entities;
- transparent communication on performance and actions implemented, both internally and externally;
- monitoring of trends, good practices (internal/external) and new regulations.

The results are consolidated either at Group level or at the level of its three parent companies, including all the entities affiliated to them.

Parent entity	« Group » scope	« Main Entities » scope
<b>Edmond de Rothschild (Suisse)</b>	Israel, Monaco, Switzerland (Geneva, Lausanne, Lugano, Fribourg, Zurich), United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Uruguay	Switzerland (Geneva, Lausanne, Lugano, Fribourg, Zurich)
<b>Edmond de Rothschild (France)</b>	France (Paris and Provinces) and Italy	Paris and offices in the Provinces
<b>Edmond de Rothschild (Europe)</b>	Belgium, Spain, Luxembourg and Portugal	Luxembourg



### Material issues - GRI 103-1

While the Group's direct environmental impact is not comparable to that of industrial companies, and was therefore not identified as a material issue in the materiality review conducted in 2014, the Management wishes to go beyond this and demonstrate that a company's performance is totally compatible with a proactive, responsible environmental approach. The first precise environmental objectives were defined for 2020 and our progress with respect to those objectives is reviewed and communicated every year in our annual Sustainability Report.

### Carbon footprint

- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions related to the Group's energy consumption
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions related to employees' professional travel

The analysis of the Group's carbon footprint reveals that the main contributors to its carbon footprint are:

- infrastructure, i.e. mainly the buildings' consumption of electricity and gas/oil for heating;
- professional travel;
- indirect emissions from waste and paper consumption.

The following measures are considered as the ways in which the Group can reduce its environmental footprint:

### Energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies - GRI 302-3

- Take into account of the environmental dimension, in particular by considering the energy efficiency of a building as a whole in any renovation work conducted on buildings belonging to the Group, or by integrating sustainable environmental criteria in the choice of premises.
- Reduce electricity consumption, either through technical measures, such as changing light bulbs and other equipment, or behavioural measures, such as switching off lights.
- Wherever possible, gradually strive to replace the purchase of traditional or fossil energies with renewable energies, in particular through contracts in which all or part of the energies provided are renewable or offset.

### Professional travel GRI 305-3

- Where appropriate, reduce professional travel by promoting the use of teleconferencing for some internal meetings.
- Introduce initiatives aimed at improving the access of Group employees to green transport.

### Carbon offsetting GRI 305-4

- Work with competent and recognised partners to set up carbon offsetting projects for part of our greenhouse gas emissions.
- Strive to create synergies between such carbon offset projects and our agroforestry investment strategy, in order to have a positive environmental and social impact in our own value chain (i.e. Insetting).

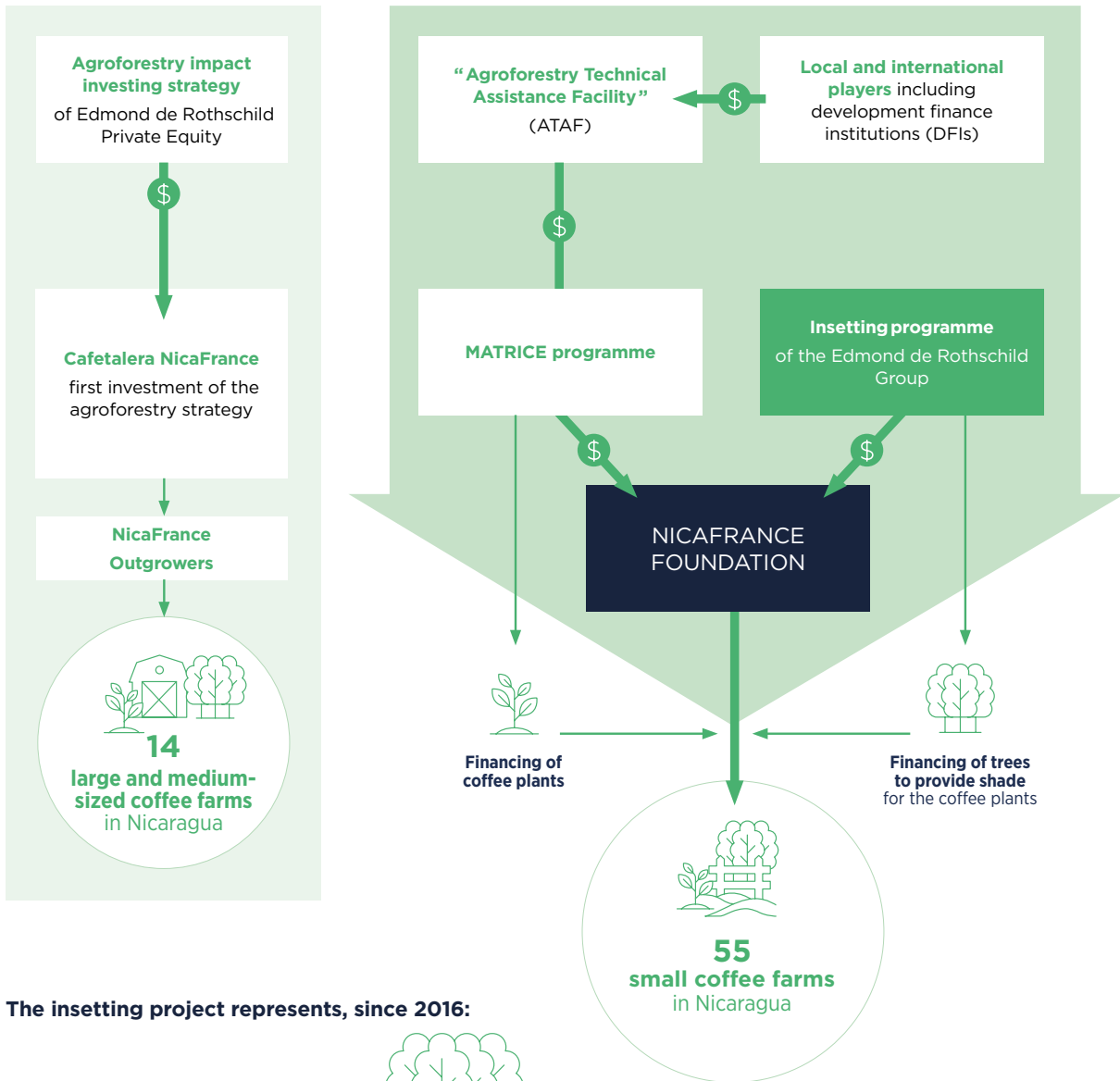
<sup>3</sup>Voir Forest Stewardship Council: <https://us.fsc.org/en-us>

<sup>4</sup>Voir Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification: <https://www.pefc.org/>

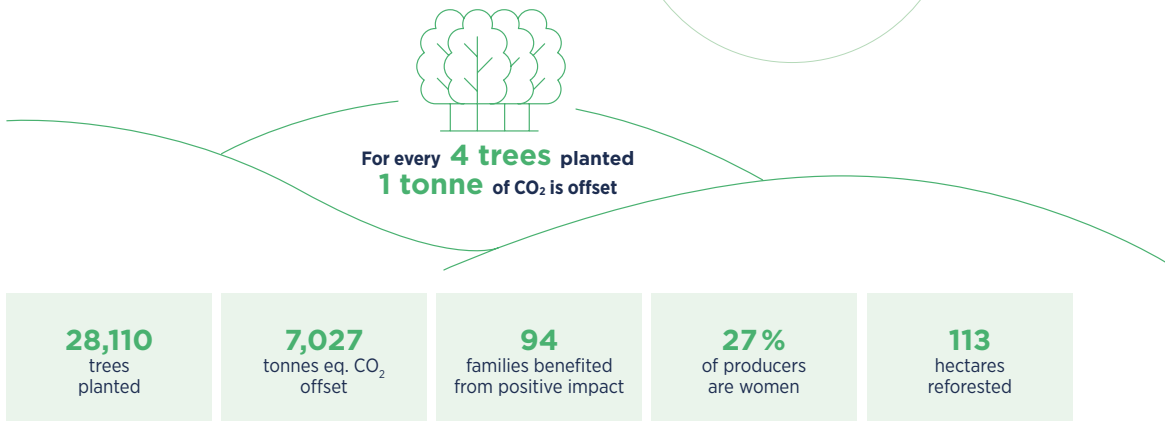


The Insetting programme was launched in 2016 in order to offset the scope 1 and 2 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the Group's and allows to set up concrete actions in our own value chain. In this instance as part of reforestation programmes in Nicaragua financed by Edmond de Rothschild Private Equity's agroforestry impact investing strategy.

### The contribution and impact of the Edmond de Rothschild Group's Insetting programme



The insetting project represents, since 2016:





### **Paper consumption** GRI 305-4

- Reduce paper consumption, in particular by reducing the printing of documents.
- Comply with environmental criteria for the choice of paper (e.g. FSC<sup>3</sup> or PEFC<sup>4</sup> certified or recycled).

### **Waste management** GRI 306-2

- Ensure rigorous management of end-of-life IT equipment – which has major environmental impacts – by working with certified partners to treat and recycle such waste.
- Steadily improve the sorting of other waste (paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, organic etc.) and consequently the rate of recycling of the waste produced by the Group.
- Reduce the production of waste in general.

### **Preservation of biodiversity** GRI 304-3

Preserving biodiversity is a particularly important topic for Benjamin and Ariane de Rothschild. Hives have been placed in the immediate proximity of one of the Group's Parisian buildings in 2012 to ensure their survival in urban areas throughout the year. In 2016, two insect hotels were placed in the gardens of the bank in Paris. Employee awareness on this key issue of sustainable development is an ongoing project within the Group.

### **Management system and assessment of the management approach** GRI 103-2

An environmental management system has been set up across the entire Edmond de Rothschild Group worldwide, covering all Group entities.

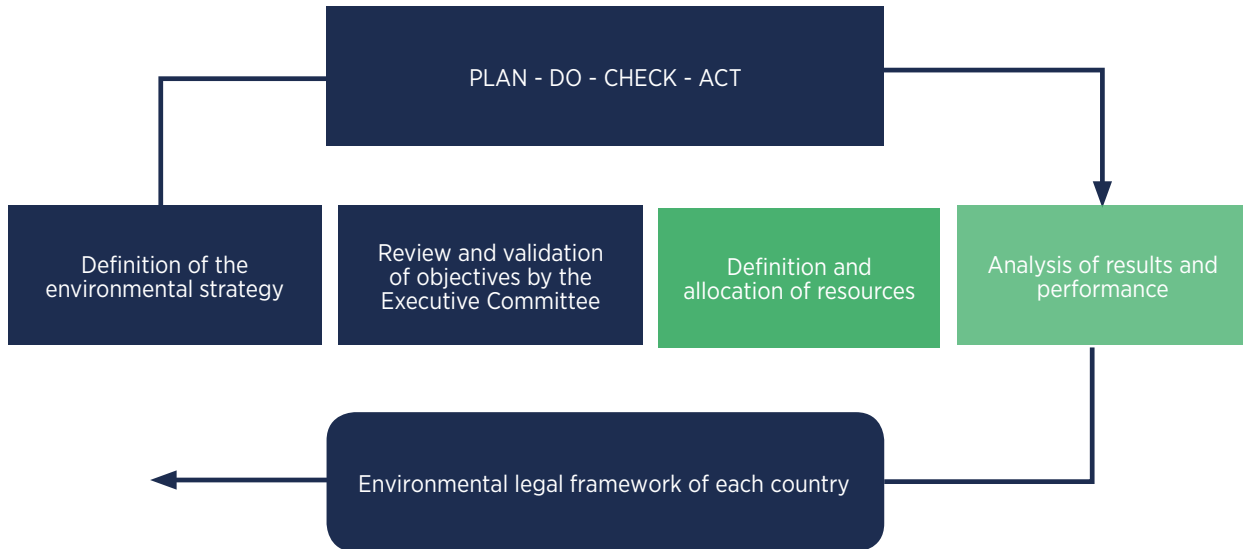
As part of a continuous improvement procedure, on a regular basis, the Group sets itself relevant, measurable objectives in terms of reduction of its environmental impacts.

The objectives are validated by the Group's Senior Management, who track the indicators and ensure that the required actions are undertaken to achieve them. These objectives concern aspects such as the energy consumption of the buildings used by the Group, professional travel-related greenhouse gas emissions and paper consumption. The actions to be initiated to achieve the Group's objectives, as well as the allocation of the required resources, are defined by the Group's various entities and validated by the local Executive Committees.

**GRI 102-20 / 102-29**



### Organisation of the Edmond de Rothschild Group's environmental management system



### Responsibilities

#### GRI 103-2

The Sustainability Department is responsible for conducting the Group's annual environmental performance evaluation, identifying good practices, and sharing these practices across the Group.

The General Services department is responsible for local environmental reporting. In each country, it consolidates the local environmental data and records the corresponding key results in the online reporting tool. The Sustainability Department is responsible for the Group-wide consolidation of this data. [GRI 102-32](#)

A procedure has been defined for the collection, consolidation and validation of environmental data across the Group. The work performed by the people taking part in this process is crucial since no improvement is possible without proper visibility of the Group's real environmental impact across its different entities. Employees are also considered as key players, through their participation in the management system and actions to reduce our environmental footprint. Their ideas and suggestions are listened to and analyzed. Communication campaigns are rolled out within the Group to promote behaviours that contribute to the improvement of its environmental performance.

Moreover, the Responsible Purchasing Policy encourages the departments and people involved in the purchasing of products and services to take account of social, ethical and environmental criteria in their purchasing decisions. This Policy also encourages Group suppliers to take measures to control their social and environmental impact.