



# The United Nation's Global Compact: Communication on Progress

2021-2022





## Message from the CEO

April 2022

Dear Stakeholders,

Despite the global challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the last 12 months have brought exciting opportunities to EcoPlanet Bamboo as the world's interest in nature based solutions and green development has increased. We have expanded into a new geographic region and secured commitments for the landscape restoration of more than 9,500 hectares of bamboo plantings over the next 36 months, along with an additional 4,000 hectares of native tree plantings and associated restoration benefits.

Under our framework of next generation forestry, this expansion allows us to continue our work to create positive environmental and social impact that contributes toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals across Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia.

I look forward to sharing our work with you in this year's Communication on Progress as we re-affirm our support of the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

Yours in Sustainability,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a horizontal line and a dot.

Troy Wiseman  
CEO and Co-Founder, EcoPlanet Bamboo Group  
COP for 2021-2022

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## About EcoPlanet Bamboo

EcoPlanet Bamboo is the first entity to grow bamboo at a commercial scale outside of China and has pioneered a unique framework of next generation forestry that puts sustainability at the forefront, ensuring that as the demand for bamboo fiber increases, the plant maintains its unique green credentials and positive social impact even when grown at large scale and for industrial purposes.

**Mission:** To disrupt currently unsustainable, carbon intensive industries by growing a resource base of truly sustainable, tree-free, deforestation-free bamboo fiber and converting this utilizing a zero waste bio-refinery technology into toilet & tissue paper, ensuring seed to sale supply chains that are environmentally, socially and financially positive.



**Vision:** We envision a world where millions of hectares of degraded land are restored into productive and biodiverse bamboo forests, providing the raw resource to meet growing demand for consumer products while reducing deforestation pressure on our world's remaining natural forests, generating competitive and sustainable financial returns, regenerating rural economies through the provision of secure and stable livelihoods, and addressing the critical issue of global climate change.

## EcoPlanet's Seed to Sale Solution

Across the globe, as the effects of climate change worsen, governments, industries and consumers are looking for opportunities to reduce the historical effects of rising consumerism. EcoPlanet Bamboo operates in the pulp and paper industry, which has an environmental history of being one of the world's dirtiest industries.

EcoPlanet's Seed-to-Sale approach integrates sustainably managed, climate positive bamboo farms with clean pulping and manufacturing technologies to provide a truly sustainable alternative to toilet and tissue papers. This solution regenerates rural economies and reduces pressure on the world's remaining forests.



### 1. Certified Bamboo

Certified Bamboo  
Reduces Deforestation  
& Restores Degraded  
Lands



### 2. Sustainable Harvesting

Annual Harvesting of  
Select Bamboo Culms  
Produces Fiber Without  
Clear Cutting



### 3. Green Manufacturing

Innovative, Zero Waste  
and Green Manufacturing  
That Uses Tree-Free,  
Deforestation-Free  
Bamboo Fiber

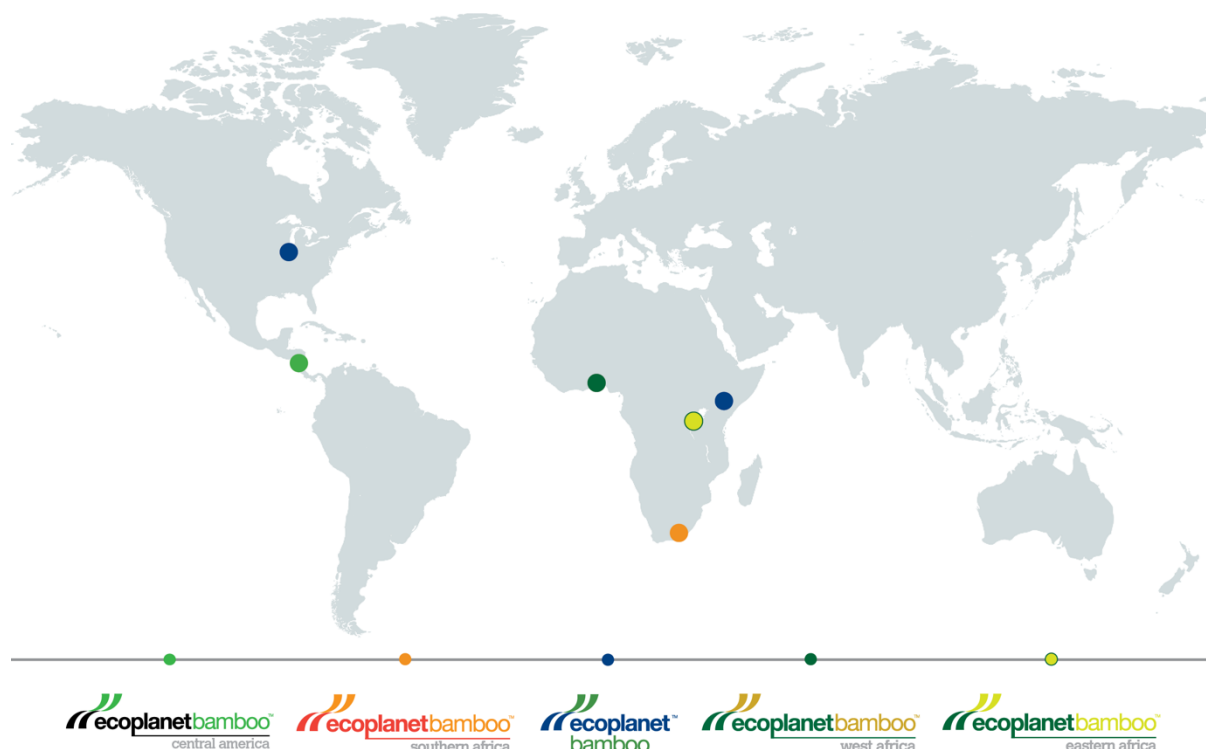


### 4. Deforestation-Free, Tree-Free Products

Pulp and Paper  
Products are Produced  
for Domestic, Regional &  
International Markets

## EcoPlanet Bamboo's Global Operations

EcoPlanet Bamboo's proven framework of restoration forestry is being implemented in 5 countries worldwide where EcoPlanet manages over 23,500 hectares (ha) of strategically located bamboo farms and is expanding into green manufacturing of bamboo pulp based products primarily sanitary papers such as toilet and tissue paper. EcoPlanet has corporate offices in the USA and Kenya.



### 2022 Forestry Milestones

In 2021, EcoPlanet expanded into our 5<sup>th</sup> country of operation, the Philippines. Together with our growing operations in Ghana, 1 million bamboo clumps across 2,000 ha will be planted in Q2 and Q3 of 2022, restoring degraded landscapes and providing much needed employment to rural communities.



**2,000 Ha**  
Bamboo to be  
Planted



**1 Million**  
Bamboo Clumps



**650**  
People Employed



**400 Ha**  
Planted Native Trees



**240,000**  
Native Tree Seedlings



**25%**  
Target of Women in  
Workplace

## **EcoPlanet Bamboo Central America**

EcoPlanet owns and operates over 3,500 ha of commercial *Guadua aculeata* farms in the South Caribbean Coast Autonomous Region (RACCS) of Nicaragua, representing the first project globally to grow tropical clumping bamboo at commercial scale. These farms represent restoration at the landscape scale, with native bamboo interplanted between remnant forest patches, conservation areas and standing trees. This project is verified under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) for successful contribution to fighting global climate change.

## **EcoPlanet Bamboo Southern Africa**

EcoPlanet Bamboo South Africa represents the African continent's first successful commercial bamboo plantation and the only one that has secured Forest Stewardship Council certification. Approximately 485 ha of certified bamboo has restored extremely degraded ex-agricultural lands that had been under pineapple production for more than a century. This farm is targeted for expansion in 2023 and beyond.

## **EcoPlanet Bamboo West Africa**

EcoPlanet Bamboo West Africa represents a Public Private Partnership with the Government of Ghana through the Forestry Commission of Ghana. EcoPlanet Bamboo is currently reforesting 11,000 hectares of degraded Forest Reserves with select species of bamboo in the Ashanti Region, which will ultimately provide more than 1,000 permanent jobs. In addition to the reforestation with bamboo, EcoPlanet is protecting remnant forest patches, including a critically endangered endemic species, and between 2023-2024 will be planting an additional 1,500 hectares of native species for conservation and provision of ecosystem services.

## **EcoPlanet Bamboo Southeast Asia**

EcoPlanet is restoring more than 8,360 hectares of degraded mountainous lands in the Philippines on the island of Mindanao. This project is targeting the mixed reforestation of native bamboo species with indigenous montane forest species to restore and protect a critical water catchment area, while bringing job opportunities to an area that has experienced little development. This unique project represents [a multi-sectoral partnership between EcoPlanet, Nestlé and One Tree Planted](#).

## EcoPlanet Bamboo East Africa

EcoPlanet Bamboo works with government and NGO partners to undertake environmental protection projects that work with smallholder farmers to support a bamboo bio-economy. These contracted projects are designed and implemented by EcoPlanet for maximum impact and provide a range of solutions from riparian protection to buffer zones for protected areas. Current projects include the planting of 150 km of rivers with bamboo in the Secoko Catchment of Rwanda as well as a 27 ha pilot restoration in Volcanoes National Park of *Yushania alpina*, the indigenous bamboo species and a critical food source for the Mountain Gorilla.

### Project Highlight: Riparian Restoration in the Secoko Catchment

EcoPlanet is working with Rwanda Water Board under the Ministry of Environment to protect and restore the Secoko Catchment, which is a critical watershed in Rwanda that suffers from high levels of sedimentation due to heavy erosion. Operations began with the development of a 100,000 bamboo plant nursery - the largest bamboo nursery in Rwanda, and in 2020 the bamboo was planted across 150 km of rivers in the Secoko Catchment. EcoPlanet has since been undertaking maintenance activities and engaging communities on the benefits of the bamboo.

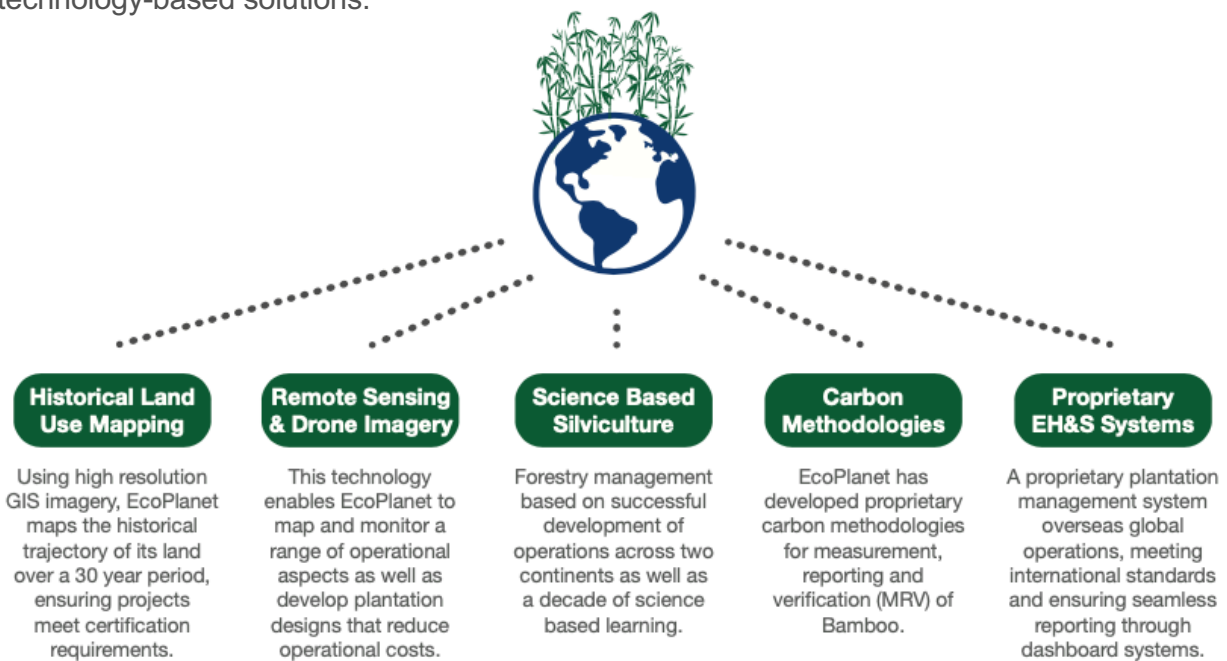
The bamboo is continuing to grow well in the Secoko Water Catchment. As its roots become more established, the bamboo is binding soil along the riverbanks, helping to stabilize these soils and reduce erosion. This is an important environmental service as the Secoko Water Catchment is a critical watershed in Rwanda that feeds the Nyabarongo River, which is a major source of potable water, irrigation water as well as hydroelectric energy generation in Rwanda.



## Technology Driven Reforestation

EcoPlanet Bamboo operates under a holistic framework: land that has suffered extreme deforestation is restored with non-invasive species of tropical sympodial bamboos, while remnant forest patches and standing trees are conserved and expanded upon.

This framework has been implemented from the inception of EcoPlanet's operations, adapting and improving along the way to uphold its mission and vision, driven by technology-based solutions:



## Nature-Based Solutions

EcoPlanet's operations are nature-based solutions that are protecting people, safeguarding our environment and contributing to both mitigation and adaptation measures against climate change. Our operations are actively removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere and will deliver on greater than 7.5 million tons of carbon removal benefits over the next 10 years.





## Pioneering Frameworks of Sustainability

EcoPlanet's framework also results in a range of environmental and social benefits that create a pathway for sustainable development and support the 10 principals of the UN Global Compact.

### SECURE DECENT EMPLOYMENT

- Provides equal opportunity employment
- Allows workers to plan & invest for their future
- Empowers women & promotes gender equality



### FINANCIAL & SOCIAL INCLUSION

- Integrates workers in the formal system for banking, health care & social security
- Increases confidence & educates workers on their rights



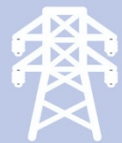
### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Enhances quality of life
- Builds resilient, inclusive and prosperous communities
- Increases food security, access to healthcare & levels of education



### INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Expands transport, communication & utility access
- Increases access to markets
- Strengthens SMEs through secondary opportunities



### ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

- Controls micro-climates & improves climatic stability
- Reduces erosion, rehabilitates soil & improves water tables
- Improves biodiversity & ecosystem functioning



## Upholding the 10 Principals of the UN Global Compact

EcoPlanet Bamboo implements the 4 areas of the UN Global Compact - Human Rights, Labor, Environment and Anti-Corruption - through its framework of next generation commercial forestry and its extensive policies, procedures and general company culture focused on maximizing the positive social and environmental impact of its operations.

EcoPlanet Bamboo has an adaptive management policy and continues to enhance its policies and procedures as needed to incorporate the Global Compact.

### Area 1: Human Rights

*Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and*

*Principle 2: Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.*

EcoPlanet Bamboo fully supports the Universal Declarations of Human Rights and remains committed to upholding the human rights of all involved, both directly and indirectly, in our operations.

EcoPlanet Bamboo has an integrated management system that includes EHS procedures, which form the minimum requirements that all operations must comply with to ensure strict social and environmental policies are carried out. These EHS procedures are in line with both the IFC's Performance Standards and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) requirements:

- There is a documented grievance procedure that mandates all staff and stakeholders have the ability to raise complaints and that any complaint, grievance or dispute is dealt with swiftly and in line with company culture. The policy includes the use of suggestion boxes, representatives and emails / phone calls as a means for complaints to be received by the company. This procedure is reviewed with staff and signs posted in accessible locations.
- Regular stakeholder communications and consultations take place to convey company objectives and policies as well as give stakeholders a chance to raise questions or concerns. Minutes of these meetings are filed.
- Whether certified or not, EcoPlanet Bamboo requires all operations to comply with the FSC principles and criteria, which find violation of human rights unacceptable. FSC also require compliance with international conventions.
- Human resource policies clearly state that EcoPlanet Bamboo is an equal opportunity employer. Procedures are provided to ensure non-discriminatory, fair labor practices as well as safe working environments.
- Suppliers and contractors are also required to comply with the company's EHS procedures. Non-compliance would mean termination of the relationship.

## Area 2: Labor

*Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;*

*Principle 4: The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labor;*

*Principle 5: The effective abolition of child labor; and*

*Principle 6: The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.*

All EcoPlanet Bamboo operations comply with the strictest labor and health & safety standards, including compliance with the ILO. All operations must comply with local legislation but if international standards are stricter then international standards are assumed. Labor rights include:

- Freedom of Association
- Collective Bargaining
- Zero-Tolerance of Forced Labor or Child Labor
- Elimination of Employment Discrimination

In order to implement its commitment, EcoPlanet Bamboo has in place EHS procedures as well as a Social Impact Policy, see appendix A, which make labor rights a fundamental part of its operations. All staff receive contracts with their rights and responsibilities and their compensation and benefits clearly stated. Management also partake in regular assessments of health & safety risks and EcoPlanet Bamboo is dedicated to continuing to innovate new methods and standards for safety. Specific activities to ensure compliance includes:

- All staff undertake an induction during their first days of employment and annually thereafter that provides training on company policies, health and safety, job-specific training as well as national and international labor legislation.
- Staff also have mechanisms to report to supervisors, managers or anonymously of any labor concerns or health & safety issues they may have.
- Managers are required to regularly review health & safety risks. Should an incident occur, they are recorded, reported to the corporate office and mitigation measures taken to ensure a similar accident does not happen again.
- All operations have Human Resource policies, which comply with EcoPlanet Bamboo EHS procedures as well as country specific and ILO requirements.
- Systems are put in place to ensure accurate accounting for payroll and staff productivity.

### Area 3: Environment

*Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;*

*Principle 8: Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and*

*Principle 9: Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.*

EcoPlanet Bamboo's focus on the production of clumping (non-invasive) bamboo and bamboo-based products is a showcase of its environmental commitments.

Under a "deforestation-free" policy, EcoPlanet inter-plants bamboo with remaining standing trees and creates a diverse mixed system forest that can be economically viable over multiple generations, while restoring and maintaining key ecological functions. EcoPlanet Bamboo's proven model of reforestation provides permanent and long-term restoration of full ecosystem functions, such as:



Moreover, Bamboo fiber can be substituted in a diverse range of products such as paper, engineered timber, textiles, and bioenergy without compromising on quality, or product appeal. The relatively long fiber length makes bamboo pulp well suited for sanitary papers such as toilet and tissue paper.

EcoPlanet Bamboo cements its commitment by only utilizing degraded land, employing green manufacturing solutions and developing operations under strict requirements for sustainability to maximize positive impact. From its inception, EcoPlanet Bamboo has held strong environmental principles that are weaved into everyday operations. All stakeholders, managers and staff are aware and regularly trained on the company's environmental policy and EHS procedures, with the aim to foster stewards of the environment. See Appendix B for the Environmental Policy.

Furthermore, EcoPlanet Bamboo has developed methodologies to monitor, quantify and report on the sequestration and storage of atmospheric carbon dioxide by bamboo. EcoPlanet Bamboo is the only entity globally to have successfully validated and verified bamboo's climate change benefits. EcoPlanet's Nicaraguan farms are certified under the Verified Carbon Standard and validation of its projects in Ghana and the Philippines are underway.

## Area 4: Anti-Corruption

*Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.*

EcoPlanet Bamboo has a zero-tolerance policy for corruption. The policy states that “EcoPlanet Bamboo is a transparent and morally sound company. Bribery, extortion, fraud, collusion and any other corrupt behaviors are prohibited in any operation conducted by the company or any individual within the company.” The full policy can be found in Appendix C.

In order to implement its commitment, EcoPlanet Bamboo:

- Requires all operations to post the signed policy in accessible locations for staff and visitors to see and makes the content of the policy a component of staff inductions;
- Makes staff, visitors and stakeholders aware of the company’s grievance procedure and how any concerns about corrupt behavior can be reported;
- Protects whistleblowers;
- Operates in full compliance with the laws of the countries; and
- Conducts extensive research on the legal requirements of an area of operations during our due diligence phase, which continues into the operational phases with annual reviews of legislation changes.

These actions greatly reduce the risk of corrupt behavior and ensures managers understand the laws under which they must lawfully operate.



## Measurement of Outcomes

In the past 12 months, EcoPlanet Bamboo's operations worldwide have continued to move the needle on sustainable forestry and investment into clean technology development for net zero, zero waste pulping. This has resulted in the following operational achievements:

### Human Rights

General Managers have continued to ensure their operations comply with all EcoPlanet Bamboo EHS Procedures and thus Human Rights Standards, which are verified independently. Focus has been placed on training new operations on EcoPlanet's standards and policies to ensure this remains a priority as we expand our operations. There were no incidents of human rights related grievances or violations during the reporting period.

### Labor

EcoPlanet Bamboo's operations successfully underwent internal reviews or external certification audits to verify their compliance with worker's rights and labor laws as well as other sustainability standards. 2021 was the first time since the start of the pandemic that external audits could be carried out onsite, which continued to highlight our compliance through positive document reviews and worker interviews.

EcoPlanet Bamboo has created significant employment and livelihood opportunities in some of the poorest parts of the world. These employment opportunities are attractive, fair and secure, not for a year or two, but for a generation and beyond. EcoPlanet Bamboo's operations are located in impoverished areas with few employment prospects, so this job creation represents significant opportunities to improve livelihoods.

In order to further improve the livelihoods of our employees and the surrounding community, EcoPlanet Bamboo has community engagement plans for each operation that undertakes community impact projects. During this reporting period, projects include:

- Construction of sanitation facilities
- Renovations of school classrooms



EcoPlanet Bamboo is an equal opportunity employer and aims to have 25% of its workforce as women, including in managerial positions and has continued to exceed this goal. During the reporting period, more than 400 jobs have been created across our operations, which will expand to over 650 in the next 12 months.

## Environment

EcoPlanet Bamboo continues to actively manage and restore degraded lands in its countries of operations, both through its bamboo plantations as well as targeted conservation projects. Below represents highlights of our activities and their positive contribution to the environment.

### Ghana

Operations are currently underway for the 2022 planting season that kicked off in Q2 where 1,000 ha of bamboo is targeted for planting within the North Bandai Forest Reserve and Bandai Hills Forest Reserve. These forest reserves have experienced extreme deforestation over the past 30 years as a result of fire, driven by illegal activities including charcoal production, grazing and farming. EcoPlanet plants bamboo amongst standing trees and sets aside forested areas for conservation or reforestation initiatives with native species. Without our project activities, this landscape would continue to degrade along the negative ecological succession towards grasslands.

Additionally, EcoPlanet is developing a regenerative farming program to create real and long lasting social impact by training communities on farming methods that will have positive environmental impacts while expanding on their productivity. Third party expert assessments undertaken at the start of the project provided insights into low levels of education, poor farming techniques and nutritional issues within the surrounding communities. Currently, there is a reliance on slash and burn agriculture for the production of plantain and cassava as nutritional sources despite the ideal growing climate that the region presents for more nutritional crops. As a result, EcoPlanet has committed to a focus on technology transfer of improved farming for these agrarian societies.

### Philippines

The Philippines is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. Much of this biodiversity is found only on the island of Mindanao, with at least 700 threatened species, thus making it one of the top global conservation areas. Approximately 80 percent of Mindanao's nonvolant mammal species are found nowhere else in the world, including species of flying lemurs and tree squirrels, which are endemic to this island and suffering from extreme habitat loss.

EcoPlanet's project location has been widely cleared due to illegal logging over the past few decades and has since been taken over by invasive grasses with pockets of remnant forests, which presents an ideal opportunity to provide landscape scale restoration. There are also primary forests adjacent to project boundary that contain immense biodiversity, which the project will protect as a co-benefit by acting as a buffer that stops further encroachment on the forest, protects remaining biodiversity and provides increased habitat with wildlife corridors through the restocking and reforestation plantings.

## Corruption

In-country operations are monitored for compliance by the corporate office as well as by external auditors. EcoPlanet Bamboo's integrated management systems require all operations to regularly report on operational and financial information, which provides sound checks and balances. This data is translated to tables and graphs, which allow managers as well as the COO and CEO to see any potential irregularities. There have been no complaints reported during this period.

Furthermore, EcoPlanet Bamboo has not been involved in any legal cases, rulings or other events related to corruption or bribery.

## Contribution to SDGs

EcoPlanet Bamboo's operations contribute to 14 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):





## Appendix A: Social Policy



### ECOPLANET BAMBOO GROUP

#### SOCIAL IMPACT POLICY

EcoPlanet Bamboo aims to catalyze positive socio-economic development in the Company's areas of operations. EcoPlanet Bamboo's mission is to show that business, through the concept of conscious capitalism, can, both directly and indirectly have long term social impact.

To achieve this EcoPlanet Bamboo is committed to:

- Develop bamboo plantations and associated manufacturing operations in rural areas that suffer from high unemployment with few opportunities for economic development.
- Carry out socio-economic baseline studies in order to identify the current status of key development variables, and enable the quantification and monitoring of such variables over time.
- Achieve Forest Stewardship Council certification for the external verification of such impact.
- Commit to preferentially hire local residents from the communities and municipalities closest to each Company site of operation.
- Commit to ensuring that equal opportunity exists for employment, regardless of gender, religion, physical/mentally disabled, or political inclination.
- Commit to empowering women in all operations through the provision of equal opportunities.
- Ensure that all laborers are paid through legitimate sources, thereby ensuring each individual is recognized by local and central governments, and therefore eligible for social security (if applicable).
- Provide training and education opportunities for all employees and ensure that promotion opportunities exist for qualified individuals.
- Apply Company procedures for all employees and stakeholders to express views, concerns or issues. All such issues raised will be dealt with by the Company on a case by case basis until resolved satisfactorily.

Troy Wiseman, CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Troy Wiseman", is positioned to the right of the name.

[www.ecoplanetbamboo.com](http://www.ecoplanetbamboo.com)

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## Appendix B: Environmental Policy



### ECOPLANET BAMBOO GROUP

#### ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

EcoPlanet Bamboo aims to become a global leader in the (1) reforestation of degraded land in to productive commercial bamboo plantations, and (2) the associated processing and manufacturing of this bamboo in to products that represent a sustainable alternative to timber. The Company is committed to follow the best accepted environmental practices with regards to all activities, and all activities of its subsidiary companies.

To achieve this EcoPlanet Bamboo is committed to:

- Conduct all Company activities in an environmentally responsible way through compliance with all relevant laws, regulations and standards.
- Commit to sustainable forest management practices and to acquire Forest Stewardship Council certification for all plantations, or where available equivalent bamboo certification.
- Minimize impacts and mitigate potential negative risks to any ecological aspect of plantation development and associated subsidiaries.
- Maximize biodiversity in all plantations, and where necessary conserve existing biodiversity through the maintenance of high conservation value forests on any purchased or leased land.
- Promote the principles of reduce, reuse and recycle, to minimize waste and maintain best practices for waste management.
- Minimize and monitor the use of chemicals, using only those accepted by sustainability standards, and minimize their impacts on the environment.
- Ensure that all management and staff understand the implications of this policy and their associated environmental responsibilities.
- Adhere to adaptive management under a changing global context for best available environmental practices.

Troy Wiseman, CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Troy Wiseman".

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## Appendix C: Anti-Corruption Policy



### ECOPLANET BAMBOO GROUP

#### ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY

EcoPlanet Bamboo is a transparent and morally sound company. Bribery, extortion, fraud, collusion and any other corrupt behaviors are prohibited in any operation conducted by the Company or any individual within the Company.

EcoPlanet Bamboo is committed to undertake the below measures in order to enhance the rule of law and eradicate corruption:

##### Taxation

- All property is accurately recorded and property taxes are paid according to appropriate governments and/or regional offices
- Income tax returns are filed within every jurisdiction as required
- Internal audits conducted starting from the end of year one

##### Employment

- All employees are paid at or above the minimum wage in the country of operations
- All employees are provided with social security and taxed accordingly
- Working conditions are in accordance to Country Labor Laws

##### Adhere to Government Policies

- Permits and licensing are carried out through proper legal procedures
- All documents are filed correctly
- Due diligence is carried out by all partners and third parties in contact with government officials

EcoPlanet Bamboo has a full time Quality Control Manager who will carry out sporadic and unannounced checks across all operations, reporting directly to the CEO.

Troy Wiseman, CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Troy Wiseman", is positioned to the right of the name.

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