

PONT ESMS Exclusion List

Version 1, May 2022

The PONT Exclusion List is based on:

- (1) PONT's 2021 Grants Manual;
- (2) The KfW 2021 Exclusion List;
- (3) The International Finance Corporation (IFC) 2007 Exclusion List; and

The exclusion list is formatted as a checklist, so grant applicants can review the list and check their compliance with it. The checklist is provided in the table below.

PONT will not fund programmes or measures involved with the intentional degradation of the natural environment. In addition, PONT will not financially support the production, trade or sale of any illegal product or unlawful activity under the laws of the host countries (Albania, North Macedonia and Greece) and laws of its funders or under international regulations, conventions and/or agreements. PONT will not support any sector or any service subject to an embargo by the United Nations (UN), European Union (EU) and/or its funders in a particular country and with no absolute or relative restriction regarding the amount.

Item	Checked
Any operation leading to or requiring the destruction ^[1] of critical habitat ^[2] or any forestry programme which does not implement a plan for improvement and sustainable management.	
Any activity which could be associated with the significant impairment of areas particularly worthy of protection (without adequate compensation in accordance with international standards).	
Trade in animals, plants or any natural products not complying with the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)/ Washington convention ^[3] .	
Destructive fishing methods	
Commercial logging operations for use in primary forest.	

Production or trade in wood or other forestry products other than from sustainably managed forests.	
Large-scale and significant changes in the use of natural resources (e.g. some other use of the land: as farm land, timberland or pasture, for the rural development, for commercial timber etc.) as well as a large-scale land reclamation.	
Large-scale and significant changes in the cultivation methods of the agriculture and fishery (e.g. introducing new plants, mechanisation on a large scale, introducing new fish species) as well as logging on a great scale.	
Use of water resources (e. g. big dams and other water-retaining structures, pump storage facilities or power plants, irrigation and drainage projects, deep wells, water management and management and development of catchment basins, water supply, sea water desalination plants).	
Infrastructure (e.g. streets, bridges, airports, harbours, transmission lines, pipelines, railway networks, other rail transport, tourism).	
Energy production (e.g. big wind and solar parks, biomass systems, geothermal facilities, thermal power plants).	
Industrial activities (e.g. metal smelters, timber processing facilities, chemical factories, cement factories, refineries and petrochemical plants, agricultural industries).	
Use of geological resources, mining and others (e.g. mines and quarries).	
Waste and wastewater management and disposal (e.g. wastewater systems and treatment plants, landfill sites, reprocessing plants for household waste and dangerous waste).	
Activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour ^[4] or harmful child labour ^[5] .	
Programmes that include involuntary physical displacement and/or forced eviction.	

Production or activities that impinge on the lands owned, or claimed under adjudication, by Indigenous Peoples, without full documented consent of such peoples.	
Production, use, sale or trade of pharmaceuticals, pesticides/ herbicides, ozone layer depleting substances ^[6] , and other toxic ^[7] or dangerous materials such as asbestos or products containing PCB's ^[8] , wildlife or products regulated under CITES, including all products that are banned or are being progressively phased out internationally.	
Production or trade of arms, ammunition, weaponry, controversial weapons, or components thereof (e.g. nuclear weapons and radioactive ammunition, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction, cluster bombs, anti - personnel mines, enriched uranium).	
Procurement of firearms.	
Provision of finances to military institutions involved in conservation or security activities.	
Production or trade of strong alcohol intended for human consumption or other alcoholic beverages (excluding beer and wine).	
Production or trade of tobacco.	
Gambling, gaming establishments, casinos or any equivalent enterprises and undertaking ^[9] .	
Any trade related to pornography or prostitution.	
Production or trade in radioactive material. This does not apply to the procurement of medical equipment, quality control equipment or other application for which the radioactive source is insignificant and/or adequately shielded.	
Production or trade in unbound asbestos. This does not apply to the purchase or use of cement linings with bound asbestos and an asbestos content of less than 20%.	

Production, trade, storage, or transport of significant volumes of hazardous chemicals, or commercial scale usage of hazardous chemicals. Hazardous chemicals include gasoline, kerosene, and other petroleum products.	
Transboundary trade in wastes, except for those accepted by the Basel Convention and its underlying regulations ^[10] .	
Any activity leading to an irreversible modification or significant displacement of an element of culturally critical heritage ^[11] .	
Production and distribution, or investment in, media that are racist, antidemocratic or that advocate discrimination against a part of the population.	

Footnotes

[1] Destruction means (1) the elimination or severe reduction in the integrity of a habitat/area caused by a major and long-term/prolonged change in land-use or water resources or (2) the modification of a habitat such that this habitat's ability to fulfil its function/ role is lost.

[2] The term critical habitat encompasses natural and modified habitats that deserve particular attention. This term includes (1) spaces with high biodiversity value as defined in the IUCN's classification criteria, including, in particular, habitats required for the survival of endangered species as defined by the IUCN's red list of threatened species or by any national legislation; (2) spaces with a particular importance for endemic species or whose geographical range is limited; (3) critical sites for the survival of migratory species; (4) spaces welcoming a significant number of individuals from congregatory species; (5) spaces presenting unique assemblages of species or containing species which are associated according to key evolution processes or which fulfil key ecosystem services; (6) and territories with socially, economically or culturally significant biodiversity for local communities. Primary forests or high conservation value forests must also be considered as critical habitats.

[3] [CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of wild fauna and flora threatened with extinction \(Washington, 1993\)](#)

[4] Forced labour means all work or service, not voluntarily performed, that is extracted from an individual under threat of force or penalty.

[5] Harmful child labour means the employment of children that is economically exploitive, or is likely to be hazardous to, or to interfere with, the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health, or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. Employees must be at least 14 years of age, as defined in the ILO's Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (C138 – Minimum Age Convention, Article 2), unless local laws require compulsory school attendance or a minimum working age. In such circumstances, the highest age requirement must be used.

[6] Any chemical component which reacts with, and destroys, the stratospheric ozone layer leading to the formation of holes in this layer. The Montreal Protocol lists Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), their reduction targets and deadlines for phasing them out.

[7] Including substances included under the Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention and WHO "Pharmaceuticals: Restrictions in Use and Availability").

[8] PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a group of highly toxic chemical products that may be found in oil-filled electrical transformers, capacitors and switchgear dating from 1950 to 1985.

[9] Any direct financing of these projects or activities involving them (for example, a hotel including a casino). Urban improvement plans which could subsequently incorporate such projects are not affected.

[10] Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal (1989).

[11] "Critical cultural heritage" is considered as any heritage element recognised internationally or nationally as being of historical, social and/or cultural interest.