



# A GREEN & JUST TRANSITION ENABLED BY PUBLIC DEVELOPMENT BANKS OUR VISION

The World Federation for Animals represents 42 member organisations. This brief was prepared in close collaboration with:



## THIS BRIEF

We welcome the theme of the summit: “Green and Just transition for a sustainable recovery”. The responsibility of Public Development Banks (PDBs) in supporting the transformation of economies and financial systems towards sustainability is indeed essential to the future.

We support the commitment of PDBs to shift strategies, investment patterns, activities, and operating modalities to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

We, a worldwide federation of civil society organisations convening various perspectives, expertise and experiences would be pleased to support the work of the Finance in Common (FIC). Our technical advice and strategic insights can substantially contribute to PDBs’ aims of reducing inequalities, protecting the planet and promoting sustainable, inclusive and equitable development.

In this brief, we share our vision of what a green and just transition for a sustainable recovery entails, with a particular lens of food systems, food security, health, and climate change. Our vision is built on a wealth of scientific evidence and peer-reviewed studies by the worlds’ top experts, demonstrating the positive impact higher animal welfare can have on these areas.

We look forward to exploring joint avenues of collaboration with you.





## OUR VISION

### Health - PDBs' investments result in better health outcomes & prevent future pandemics by creating a food system where:

- Fortified plant-based agriculture is supported over animal agriculture to meet the immediate and long-term health needs of humans and other animals.
- Genetic selection prioritises animal welfare over production traits, making animals better adapted to cope with the local conditions; genetic selection aimed at growth rate and yields that compromise their health and welfare are avoided.
- Good husbandry practices minimise disease risk and obviate the need for group prophylactic (preventative) antibiotic use in livestock, reducing the spread of antimicrobial resistance.
- Animal and crop systems are integrated, rather than decoupled, and the use of chemical pesticides and fertilisers is reduced, lowering runoff of pollutants into soil, air and water sources which negatively affect the health of local communities.
- Water resources are conserved by not raising animals in incompatible ecosystems (i.e. dairy farming in arid regions).
- Improved production practices lead to a healthier environment (cleaner water, air and healthier soils) for communities living near animal production.

### Food Security - PDBs' investments support food security in a sustainable way by creating a food system where:

- Plant-based proteins, made of grains, nuts, seeds, legumes and vegetables, as well as fermented products and cultivated animal products, have global predominance.
- The protein alternative sector receives significant financial support.
- Animals are not fed human-edible crops or housed on land suitable for the production of human-edible crops. Arable land is used to produce maximum calories and nutrition for human consumption.
- Local, seasonal animal feed, preferably primarily based on grass, by-products, crop residues, naturally occurring algae, and unavoidable food waste, is used. Minimising the use of human edible crops as animal feed allows crops to be grown less intensively and enable soil and biodiversity restoration while supporting food security.
- No new land is converted for feed production.

## Climate Change - PDBs' investments mitigate climate impacts by creating a food system where:

- Regeneration of soils and water bodies is prioritised and facilitated, and absolute greenhouse gas emissions, pesticide and fertiliser use, and impact on ecosystems, are minimised. Agroecological or silvopastoral systems are examples of such positive systems.
- Animals in food production are better adapted to local climates and changing conditions due to climate change through the use of dual-purpose breeds.
- Food loss and waste is reduced by, for example, shortening supply chains and reducing by-catch and pre-harvest mortality, particularly for resource-intensive animal products.
- Production and consumption of animal products is reduced, leading to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Animals are produced and consumed locally (with short transport distances).

## Animal Welfare is integrated in PDBs' decision-making whereby:

- PDBs regularly use animal welfare impact assessments in project development and approval.
- PDBs have clear animal welfare criteria, accounting for specific species and life stages, which are incorporated into project planning and review.
- PDBs invest in systems where animals are housed in environments in which they are able to exhibit/express their natural behaviour, higher welfare breeds and slow growing breeds are used, and slaughter processes minimise causes of distress, such as significant handling or time out of water (for aquatic species) and animals are rendered unconscious prior to being killed.

 [wfa.org](http://wfa.org)

 [info@wfa.org](mailto:info@wfa.org)

