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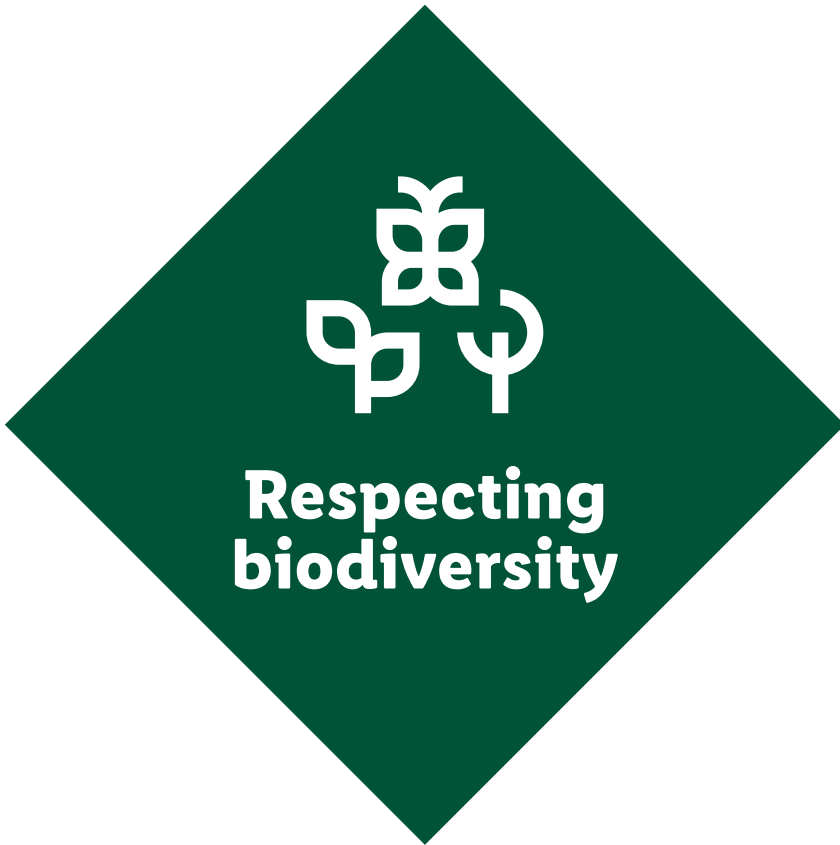
Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG
Stiftsbergstraße 1
74172 Neckarsulm
www.info.lidl

Responsible

Corporate Affairs INT
corporate.affairs.international@lidl.com

**Please
note**





Taking Responsibility Today to Cultivate Tomorrow’s Livelihood

Lidl is involved in protecting biodiversity around the world. Together with strong partners, we take active steps to preserve ecosystems and natural resources — in our value chain and beyond.



Interview

Joining Forces with WWF for a Bigger Impact

The only way to tackle the enormous global challenges we face — such as climate change and biodiversity loss — is if we all work together. That is why WWF and Lidl began a long-term international partnership in 2024. Christian Som, Senior Manager Sustainable Markets at WWF Switzerland, recently spoke to us about the aims, progress and expectations of this collaboration — and why biodiversity is such a big concern.



The protection of endangered species and habitats — joining forces with WWF for more biodiversity



Christian Som, Senior Manager Sustainable Markets at WWF Switzerland, answers our questions.

WWF wants to create a future where people and nature live in harmony. What specifically can Lidl do to help?

Christian Som: No company can bring about the level of change required alone. Alongside the strategic sustainability measures introduced within its own operations, Lidl has the opportunity to encourage the stakeholders in its supply chains to adopt more sustainable production methods and work with other retailers to make the entire sector more sustainable. To secure their own futures, companies must operate within planetary limits and reduce their “footprint.” But their “handprint” is also important — in other words, their positive impact beyond their own operations and supply chains.

Above: During their exchange, Christian Som and Susanne Keil, Content Communication Expert in Purchasing, Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG, discussed quality and sustainability — and how the partnership with WWF can drive real change for climate protection, biodiversity and the conservation of resources.

How is this collaboration helping to ensure we increase our handprint and make the sector more sustainable?

As part of our partnership, we have set some ambitious targets for greater supply chain transparency and more sustainable procurement of raw materials, as well as in relation to the climate, biodiversity, water, conscious nutrition and the circular economy. We have also come together to help consumers live more sustainable lifestyles, not just through improved environmental performance of the products sold, but also through information and inspiration. As part of this partnership, WWF is not just supporting Lidl with its sustainability efforts, but also holding Lidl to account when it comes to pursuing and implementing our agreed science-based [partnership targets](#).

Thinking about the results so far, what stands out over the past year for you?

Together, we have already achieved a great deal. Among other things, we have worked hard on Lidl’s raw materials targets to make sustainability in purchasing easier to measure and manage. And we reached a major milestone in conscious nutrition, which combines several issues and, through labeling

and awareness campaigns, makes the link between consumption habits and environmental impact more tangible for Lidl customers.

What practical help is WWF providing?

Given our presence in almost every country where Lidl has stores, we understand the local challenges and market conditions. WWF has extensive experience in corporate sustainability and environmental protection and has a reputation as a credible and trustworthy NGO. Our international network — with a presence in almost 100 countries — connects us with decision-makers, communities and conservationists affected by corporate value chains on both a local and global level. Born out of local collaboration, our approaches can be extended to an international level. We have also developed tools that make it easier to identify environmental challenges and come up with solutions, such as the [WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter](#). This global, local and specialist knowledge and understanding puts WWF in a particularly strong position to support Lidl’s environmental strategies and their implementation. Our experts are in regular contact with the Lidl teams, scrutinizing the methods they have adopted and highlighting key concepts and important frameworks.

Good to know

The ecological footprint is a concept that measures how many natural resources we consume and our resulting environmental impact. A bigger footprint indicates that we are consuming more than the Earth can sustainably provide. In contrast, our ecological handprint reflects the positive impacts of our actions. For example, when we encourage others to adopt environmentally friendly behaviors. Other examples include promoting sustainable products, supporting environmental initiatives or sharing environmentally friendly practices.





Biodiversity loss is accelerating worldwide. In your view, what are the main causes and how might it affect us in retail?

Our food system plays a crucial role in shaping the future of our planet. Big agricultural industries, particularly the meat and dairy sectors, are the biggest drivers of deforestation, water consumption, biodiversity loss and soil degradation. That is why a global food transition is so important. It means we need to change our production methods, reduce our consumption of animal-sourced products and promote more plant-sourced foods. Our experts have been supporting the Lidl teams with applying the WWF Planet-Based Diets retailer methodology and setting ambitious, science-based targets, such as Lidl’s protein split.¹ We are also working with Lidl to ensure long-term deforestation-free and conversion-free procurement of raw materials where there is a high risk of deforestation, such as palm oil, cocoa, beef and other products.

What approaches are there to protect biodiversity in our complex supply chains with all the raw materials and agricultural producers involved?

Biodiversity is incredibly location-specific. Plants and animals that live in one place can be completely different within just a few miles. Threats are also very site-specific. In one place, the biggest threat might be drought; in another, it might be ecosystem destruction. Protecting biodiversity requires local and bespoke solutions that consider the landscape and its stakeholders as a whole. That is why we are helping Lidl assess its impact on nature — from ecological risks to potential hot spots. We are also helping to leverage credible certifications and strong partnerships with producers to address these challenges.

We are working to inspire our employees and customers in over 30 countries to embrace sustainability. How do you rate our chances?

Retailers such as Lidl are strategically well-placed to have a positive impact far beyond their own operations. Lidl has significant potential within the retail sector to shape the way we produce and consume food and other goods. By combining employee engagement with customer awareness, Lidl can play a significant role in promoting more sustainable choices.

Thank you for speaking to us and sharing your insights. Any final thoughts?

When one of Europe’s biggest food retailers and a leading international environmental organization team up to make a positive difference to both people and nature, it presents a massive opportunity to achieve sustainable change for the better. Let us do everything we can to make the most of it!



¹ More information about Lidl’s protein split can be found in the chapter on [Promoting health](#) (p. 80).

Preserving Ecosystems and Biodiversity

GRI 3-3, 101-1

The ongoing loss of biodiversity and the destruction of ecosystems are among the two most severe global risks of the next decade.² Wherever our operations impact people, animals or the environment, we want to use our influence to bring about positive change and effectively contribute to protecting biodiversity.

Biodiversity is the key to functioning ecosystems and therefore to the ecosystem services that we, as humans, rely on for our survival. Half of all global economic output is moderately or even heavily dependent on healthy nature.² Yet we are currently witnessing rapidly accelerating species extinction, where the loss of pollinating insects alone poses a very real danger to food production. Worldwide, forests and jungles are still being cleared for farming. Pressure on freshwater resources is also increasing, particularly in countries and regions where water is scarce or polluted. Droughts and increasing water withdrawal by humans only exacerbate the problem.

→ We are aware of the challenges of our time and actively contribute to preserving diverse habitats.

We recognize that raw material production and other activities have a negative impact on biodiversity. With our global reach as an international food retailer, we want to help shape conditions that preserve habitats.

Lidl Purchasing is responsible for protecting biodiversity when our raw materials and products are being produced. The Ecology team in the Programs & Standards department develops the specifications for this, which are implemented in the international and domestic purchasing of the relevant products. Responsibility for biodiversity in construction, for example of logistics centers or stores, lies with the Real Estate department, which is supported in this by the CSR department in the Operations & Real Estate business unit at Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG.

Preserving diverse habitats



² World Economic Forum: Global Risk Report 2026.

Using Agricultural Land and Fresh Water More Sustainably GRI 303-1, 101-1, 101-2, 101-4

Worldwide, we work with our partners to protect freshwater resources and make agricultural land more species-rich, fertile and resilient. Because to ensure we have fertile soil and clean water tomorrow, we need to act decisively today.



We take national and international responsibility for a more sustainable use of land and fresh water, both in our own operations and throughout our entire supply chains. Our commitment is particularly aimed at consistently minimizing the negative environmental impact of our primary products — from cultivation and harvesting to further processing and transport to stores.

Minimizing impacts

A river as a lifeline for people and nature: We follow our freshwater strategy to identify, reduce and responsibly manage water risks in our supply chain for the long term.



Coastal and River Conservation

With specific projects, Lidl Poland and Lidl Bulgaria aim to help protect bodies of water and endangered species. Lidl Bulgaria has been supporting the “Give Balkan Trout a Chance” project since 2013 to preserve biodiversity in Bulgaria’s rivers, especially the critically endangered Balkan trout. Over ten years, over 400,000 juvenile fish were released into more than 30 river sections. Riverbank cleanups and public awareness campaigns help bring local residents on board. Lidl Poland, together with WWF Poland Blue Patrol, has been committed to protecting biodiversity in the Baltic Sea region since 2025. Volunteer coastal patrols secure bird nesting sites, help seals and run educational activities. Lidl Poland has also taken part in the annual River Warta cleanup since 2022, collecting almost five tons of litter so far with the help of the local community.

Focus on Critical Raw Materials

To achieve more sustainable procurement, we have decided to focus on what is known as critical raw materials, such as palm (kernel) oil, soy, cocoa, coffee, wood / cellulose, natural rubber and beef. The decision is based on a systematic risk analysis carried out in collaboration with experts. The analysis shows that these raw materials have a particularly big impact on people and the environment and are also very important to our product range. To strategically improve how we handle these critical raw materials, we have set ourselves some raw material-specific targets within the context of our purchasing sustainability strategy. These certification and traceability targets contribute to our due diligence obligations under the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products and help protect and restore ecosystems and habitats.



We are pursuing these targets as part of our raw materials strategy, which is based on four pillars:

1. Understanding impacts

Regular, comprehensive risk analyses help us explore the opportunities and risks of our business. In addition to analysis of our risks, it also provides maximum transparency about the origin, tonnage, certification status, processing and packaging of the critical raw materials.

2. Establishing standards

We apply recognized environmental and social standards when purchasing raw materials. Working closely with certified suppliers and labeling organizations, using certified production facilities and adding labeled products to our assortment are some of the key tools we have at our disposal to address the social and environmental risks in our supply chain. Showing the corresponding labels on the packaging of our products makes it easier for our customers to make more sustainable purchasing decisions.

3. Promoting alternatives

Whenever we are unable to procure critical raw materials in a more sustainable way, we promote more sustainable alternatives in our product range. If there are no sustainable alternatives, we may — on a product-specific basis — review whether we should simply avoid using certain raw materials altogether in future. We also promote more sustainable solutions in terms of product innovations, for example, with recycled materials or plant-sourced alternatives.

4. Driving change

Many of the challenges related to raw material production and processing cannot be solved by Lidl alone. That is why we are working closely with other stakeholders in the food industry, governments, charitable organizations, standard-setting bodies and scientists, as well as local communities. Together, we can drive industry-wide change, boost standards and bring about real improvements.

Detailed information on this and a complete overview of our critical raw materials can be found in our purchasing policies [🔗 Deforestation-Free Supply Chains](#) and [🔗 Raw Materials](#).



We are continuing to work with suppliers and traders to improve transparency in our coffee supply chains.



Protecting Endangered Species

In cooperation with our suppliers, we have banned fish and types of seafood that are classified as vulnerable or endangered on the IUCN Red List. At the same time, we have set ourselves the target that 100 percent of our entire fish and seafood range in all Lidl national companies will come from sources that are classified as recommended or acceptable, according to scientifically recognized WWF criteria. With this target, we are aligning ourselves with the Global Biodiversity Framework and contributing, in particular, to its targets 5 (Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species) and 10 (Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, and Forestry).

At Lidl, we rely on certified agricultural products: All our agricultural producers participate in the GLOBALG.A.P. standard.

In accordance with our strategy, we are committed to a more sustainable offer, promote transparency and traceability and are guided by internationally recognized sustainability certifications. These include the EU Organic Standard and Bioland, Fairtrade, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®), Marine Stewardship Council (MSC), BAP4 Star, Rainforest Alliance, Europe Soya and Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), as well as GLOBALG.A.P.

We also have targets in non-food, such as fiber targets for cotton, viscose and other raw materials, which we pursue by working with labels such as the Global Recycled Standard (GRS), Recycled Claim Standard (RCS), Organic Content Standard (OCS) and Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS). We are in constant communication with standard-setting bodies to further develop and improve standards.

As a result of their mandatory participation in the GLOBALG.A.P. standard, all our agricultural producers must demonstrate their expertise in agricultural best practice when producing fruit, vegetables and flowers. We also recognize equivalent standards, such as the Milieu Programm Sierteelt (MPS) for flowers and plants, as well as the QS quality scheme in Germany for fruit and vegetables. This also includes checking whether production at the respective site could potentially pose risks to water availability or quality and how these risks can be minimized. We require our producers of fruit and vegetables to be certified to GLOBALG.A.P. IFA standard or equivalent. We believe that by continuing to develop GLOBALG.A.P., we can achieve far-reaching and systemic improvements.

LIDL I: Proportion of sustainably procured raw materials in the total purchasing volume (selection)³

Proportion of Certified Products in the Range in Percent	2023	2024	2025
Proportion of sustainable fish items	75.7	78.4	78.8 ✓
Proportion of sustainable cocoa in our cocoa product range	93.0	95.4	95.6 ✓
Proportion of sustainable coffee	90.8	98.3	98.4 ✓
Proportion of sustainable roasted coffee items	77.9	88.9	87.7 ✓
Proportion of sustainable tea in our tea product range	86.7	81.5	80.3 ✓

³ The calculation basis is the number of all actively listed private-label items in the fiscal year (as of the reporting date on November 30, 2025). Certified sustainable coffee items include coffee capsules, instant coffee/cappuccino, coffee pads and coffee drinks. Certified sustainable roasted coffee items include coffee beans and ground coffee. The items are certified by at least one of the following labels: Rainforest Alliance/UTZ, Fairtrade (Fairtrade product label), organic (Demeter, Naturland, Bioland, EU organic label).

**Improving Agricultural Practices:
The Example of GLOBALG.A.P.**

Lidl is playing an active role on the new Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), as well as in various other technical working groups, to systematically refine GLOBALG.A.P. standards. Together with GLOBALG.A.P., the Lake Constance Foundation and other important partners in the fruit and vegetable supply chain, Lidl has developed the BioDiversity add-on. It is the first industry-wide standard on biodiversity in conventional fruit and vegetable production, as an add-on to the GLOBALG.A.P. Integrated Farm Assurance (IFA) standard.



With the GLOBALG.A.P. Environmental Sustainability Solution, we are helping to develop a comprehensive standard that integrates regenerative agriculture, soil health, climate and further aspects.

1,200+
producers use
our **BioDiversity**
add-on

Since April 2022, GLOBALG.A.P. has made this add-on available to all market participants. At Lidl, we worked hard during the reporting period to extend it to all our European fruit and vegetable producers. By 2025, over 1,200 of our producers were already applying the add-on across more than 12,000 hectares of farmland in various European countries. Among other things, participating producers commit to implementing measures to enhance biodiversity on at least three percent of their agricultural land, rising to ten percent by 2030. The standard also prohibits the use of neonicotinoids.

As a member of the GLOBALG.A.P. working group on the Environmental Sustainability Solution (ESS), Lidl is working closely with 80 other stakeholders to develop an integrated sustainability standard for producers. The GLOBALG.A.P. ESS not only covers biodiversity, water, climate and soil health, but also other aspects of sustainability. This standard for environmental sustainability is intended to consolidate various existing certifications. For example, linking the BioDiversity add-on and the GLOBALG.A.P. SPRING certification, which covers responsible water management in agriculture.

Quality according to GLOBALG.A.P.: Our partners ensure care and sustainability directly in the field.



**New
GLOBALG.A.P.
ESS
standard**



Protection of Fresh Water

When it comes to fresh water, our focus is on responsible water use in our supply chains and the protection of ecosystems. We follow a strategic approach to these systematic processes.

To identify product groups that involve significant water risks, Lidl Stiftung & Co. KG regularly carries out cross-border analyses. Our approach to addressing the identified risks is as follows: Establishing standards, promoting alternatives and driving change. Since 2018, Lidl has been a member of the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) and is active in the agricultural working group.

In the non-food area, Lidl is a member of the Leather Working Group (LWG), the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles and Cotton made in Africa® (CmiA), and has defined three main water-related goals in the textile sector that are in line with the Kunming-Montreal targets 7 and 16:

- Promoting safe handling of chemicals
- Reducing energy, water and chemical use
- Ensuring environmentally compatible waste disposal and appropriate wastewater management

Our water resources deserve special protection from plastic, given that it persists in the environment for a very long time. That is why we are committed to reducing plastic pollution and eliminating solid and liquid microplastics from all Lidl own-brand cosmetics and personal care products. You can find more information about this in the chapter on [Conserving resources](#) (p. 44).

Reducing the Use of Pesticides in Production

With the GLOBALG.A.P. IFA standard, which is mandatory for all producers, we are consistently reducing the use of pesticides in our fruit, vegetable, flower and plant assortment. Over the years, we have developed and adopted a target agreement together with our producers and suppliers. This agreement sets out a reduction in the use of pesticides. The Lidl Pesticide Reduction Program was launched in order to achieve our common goal. The program consists of concrete Lidl specification values for active substance residues in conjunction with so-called strategic active ingredient lists, which contain critical substances that need to be gradually phased out.

Our requirements go far beyond industry-specific and legal standards alone and, as a preventive measure, form the basis of safer products that are grown in a more environmentally friendly way.

We are promoting the protection and responsible management of fresh water in our supply chains.

01

Understanding impacts

We identify water risks in our supply chains and create transparency.

02

Establishing standards

We address water risks in our supply chains.

03

Promoting alternatives

We promote sustainable product innovations.

04

Driving change

We participate in initiatives and projects.

Together with other stakeholders, we are actively committed to the protection of fresh water and carry out regular analyses to this end.

GRI 303-2

Consuming Less Water and Promoting Biodiversity on Company Sites

We want to achieve positive impacts on biodiversity on our own agricultural land and by using our buildings differently, primarily by using water more sparingly and through measures designed to create habitats for plants and animals.

Within our own operations, we are working to steadily reduce our water consumption in stores, logistics centers and national headquarters. To do so, we are installing water-saving sanitary fixtures and faucets in both existing and new buildings within our real estate portfolio. We are using specialized faucets and sensor-controlled sinks, along with self-closing faucets and showers with optimized timer settings to prevent unnecessary water wastage. The rainwater and wastewater generated on our production sites is disposed of in accordance with the requirements of local utility companies. We are also working to improve our processes. You can find out more about this in the chapter on [🔗 Conserving resources](#) (p. 44).

With so many company sites, we have an opportunity to contribute to biodiversity preservation. We understand that we have an impact on the environment at every construction, storage and sales location. Through targeted measures, such as insect-friendly planting, green roofs and natural landscaping of outdoor spaces, we create habitats for plants and animals at our logistics centers, administration buildings and stores.

←
Lidl is also working in its own operations to use water carefully and avoid unnecessary consumption.

📍 **Acting locally**



Creating Habitats for Insects

Lidl in Germany has been actively working to protect and promote biodiversity since 2018 with the “Lidl Habitats” project, which was officially recognized as part of the UN Decade on Biodiversity in 2019. The aim of this 360-degree initiative is to raise awareness of threatened biodiversity and contribute to protecting wild bees and other pollinating insects. Since 2019, the Heinz Sielmann Foundation has been sharing its scientific expertise on an initiative to plant natural flowerbeds on Lidl sites. In order to create additional habitats, the foundation has planted 800,000 square meters of flowering areas, restored 100,000 square meters of moors and planted 100,000 square meters of orchard meadows since 2022. Together with Lidl partners in Germany, we successfully expanded this habitat for insects to a total of five million square meters.

GRI 101-2

Clearly Prioritizing Measures

Our approach is based strictly on the mitigation hierarchy. It defines a clear sequence for addressing impacts on biodiversity: First avoid, then minimize, then restore or rehabilitate and only as a final step transform. The aim is to avoid damage to ecosystems as completely as possible and to keep unavoidable losses as low as possible.

The following table serves to distinguish between measures implemented within our own operations, along our supply chain and outside our value chain:

Mitigation Hierarchy

Measures Taken by Lidl

1. Avoiding impacts Measures taken to avoid negative impacts on biodiversity	Supply chain: • Banning fish and types of seafood that are classified as vulnerable or endangered on the IUCN Red List • Ensuring deforestation-free supply chains for high-risk raw materials • Cotton in textiles and hardware items certified according to Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS), Organic Content Standard (OCS) or Cotton made in Africa® (CmiA) • Using recycled cellulose and cotton • Increasing the share of plant-sourced protein in our product range
2. Minimizing impacts Measures taken to minimize negative impacts on biodiversity that were unavoidable	Supply chain: • Continuously monitoring and reducing pesticides in the production of fruit, vegetables, flowers and plants • Over 1,200 fruit and vegetable producers use the GLOBALG.A.P. BioDiversity add-on • Certifying fruit and vegetable producers in high-risk countries according to recognized water standards • Reducing energy, water and chemical use in the production of textiles • Continuously expanding the range of both certified food and non-food products in accordance with our requirements for critical raw materials Own operations: • Using water-saving sanitary fixtures and faucets
3. Rehabilitation and restoration of habitats	Own operations: • Creating refuges for flora and fauna through insect-friendly planting, green roofs and natural landscaping of outdoor spaces at selected logistics centers, administration buildings and stores Outside the Lidl value chain: • Supporting selected, certified projects with conservation organizations such as WWF
4. Transformative measures	Supply chain: • Jointly developing the GLOBALG.A.P. BioDiversity add-on as the first industry-wide standard on biodiversity in conventional fruit and vegetable production

