

Barclays World Heritage Site and Ramsar Wetlands Statement

August 2020



Introduction

Barclays has a strong and longstanding commitment to managing the environmental and social risks associated with lending and other types of financial services. Our approach to environmental and social risk management is based on a combination of policy, standards and guidance. This enables us to adopt a robust approach, while maintaining the flexibility to consider potential clients and in these industries providing they are working within industry guidelines with commitments to environmentally sustainable practices. Barclays has a dedicated Sustainability team to advise on environmental, social and governance issues, and an Environmental Risk (ER) team in place to advise on client transactions that have associated environmental or climate related credit risks.

We understand that certain industries, in particular mining, oil and gas and power, can impact on areas of high biodiversity value including UNESCO World Heritage Sites¹ and Ramsar Wetlands². We recognise that financing projects located in these areas has a significant negative impact on the outstanding universal value that they provide and this Statement outlines our due diligence approach to preserving and safeguarding these sites.

Scope of position statement

This statement covers Corporate Banking and Investment Banking client activities, focussing specifically on the mining, oil and gas and major infrastructure industries

Appetite criteria

Barclays has **no appetite** for the following scenarios:

- I. Project finance transactions that support the development or expansion of projects in World Heritage Sites and/or within their buffer zones, unless there is prior consensus with both the host country and UNESCO that such development will not adversely affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the site;
- II. Project finance transactions that support the development or expansion of projects situated in Ramsar Wetlands, unless there is prior consensus with the host country that such development will not adversely affect the special characteristics of a Ramsar designated site.

Approach to enhanced due diligence

In line with Barclays internal governance approach, all project finance transactions are subject to screening by the ER team, whereby the specific location of the project or asset is checked against the [World Heritage Sites list](#) and the [List of Wetlands of International Importance](#) to ensure compliance with this approach. If Barclays becomes aware that a new or existing client has been identified as developing new or expanding existing assets situated in a UNESCO World Heritage Sites or Ramsar Wetlands, including within the buffer zone, the relationship will be subject to enhanced due diligence (EDD) by the relationship team and referred to the Sustainability team for additional EDD review. This is irrespective of whether Barclays has directly financed the project in question.

Part of this process would include engaging the client on the site in question and posing questions and evidencing how they have mitigated the impacts of their activities on World Heritage Sites and Ramsar Wetlands.

Referral and escalation procedure

Our approach is that all relationships and transactions that are deemed in scope are referred to the Sustainability team (and ER team, if required), for enhanced due diligence review and advice. Where companies and transactions are considered at risk of not meeting the above criteria or that pose a material reputational risk, these are then escalated to the appropriate business unit Transaction Review Committee or Forum, the appropriate business unit Risk Committee and, if required, the Group Risk Committee, and the Barclays PLC/Barclays Bank PLC Board for final decision.

¹ A WHS is a place listed by UNESCO as a place of cultural or physical significance under the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

² The Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.