





industry forums






and pilots







2023






Industry forums and pilots

FirstRand is committed to participating in local and global industry forums to ensure that new research is considered and incorporated into the group's environmental, social and climate risk (ESCR) management programme. Participation allows the group to learn from global peers and contribute to the development of new methodologies and frameworks. Key organisations that the group engages with on an ongoing basis include:

Industry forum/pilot	FirstRand involvement	
 <p>TASK FORCE ON CLIMATE-RELATED FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES</p>	<p>The Financial Stability Board established the TCFD to develop recommendations for more effective climate-related disclosures that could promote more informed investment, credit and insurance underwriting decisions and, in turn, enable stakeholders to better understand the concentrations of carbon-related assets in the financial sector and the financial system's exposures to climate-related risks.</p>	<p>FirstRand is a signatory to the TCFD.</p>
 <p>PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE BANKING</p>	<p>The Principles for Responsible Banking is a unique framework for signatory banks to commit to strategy and practise alignment to the UN SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement.</p> <p>With over 300 signatory banks representing almost half of the global banking industry, the Principles comprise the world's foremost sustainable banking framework.</p>	<p>FirstRand was a founding contributor to the Principles for Responsible Banking and is a signatory.</p>
 <p>FINANCE INITIATIVE</p>	<p>UNEP FI is a partnership between UNEP and the global finance sector. UNEP FI works with more than 400 financial institutions and more than 100 supporting organisations. Various focus areas are covered by work teams, for example the climate risk and TCFD programme.</p>	<p>FirstRand is amongst almost 100 financial institutions (banks, investors and insurers) from around the world that have participated in UNEP FI pilots and programmes. The resultant tools and frameworks have assisted the financial industry to better manage and disclose climate risks. FirstRand currently participates in the resource efficiency and circular economy working group.</p>
 <p>Principles for Responsible Investment</p>	<p>The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) reflect the increasing relevance of ESG issues to investment practices and help to better align investors with the broader objectives of society.</p>	<p>Ashburton is a signatory to the PRI.</p>

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	<p>The National Business Initiative (NBI) is a voluntary coalition of South African and multinational companies working towards sustainable growth and development in South Africa.</p> <p>The NBI is the facilitator for South African companies and provides a voice in support of the South African government.</p>	<p>FirstRand has formed a strong relationship with the NBI in its Just Transition and Climate Pathways work as members of the steering and CEO committees.</p> <p>FirstRand signed the Alliances for Climate Action undertaking, in partnership with the NBI. FirstRand is a member of the following NBI committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steering committee • Advisory committee on environment and society (co-chair position) • CEO committee (FirstRand's CEO) <p>FirstRand is currently engaging with the NBI on nature and biodiversity.</p>
	<p>The Banking Association South Africa (BASA) advances the interests of the industry with its regulators, legislators and stakeholders to make banking sustainable, profitable and better able to contribute to the social and economic development and transformation of the country.</p> <p>The Sustainable Finance Forum members comply with the BASA principles for managing environmental and social risk.</p>	<p>FirstRand is a member of the following committees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable finance committee • Climate change committee • Positive impact finance committee
	<p>The IFC is a member of the World Bank Group and runs a programme called “30 by 30 zero”. The objective of the programme in South Africa is to strengthen the financial sector to increase investment in climate-friendly activities and reduce the number of financial institutions and investors invested in carbon-intensive assets and activities.</p>	<p>FirstRand is participating in the “30 by 30 zero” programme by contributing to better climate-related data collection and analysis.</p> <p>FirstRand is running pilots in partnership with the IFC in the beef and deciduous fruit industry.</p>
	<p>Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) is a non-profit company representing cross-cutting organised business interests in South Africa.</p>	<p>FirstRand participates in the BUSA environmental subcommittee.</p>
	<p>Large infrastructure and industrial projects can have adverse impacts on people and on the environment.</p> <p>The Equator Principles are intended to serve as a common baseline and risk management framework for financial institutions to identify, assess and manage environmental and social risks when financing projects.</p>	<p>FirstRand has been an Equator Principles signatory since 2009.</p>

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	<p>PBAF provides financial institutions with practical guidance to assess the biodiversity impact and dependencies of their loans and investments.</p>	<p>FirstRand is a PBAF partner and participates in various working groups.</p>
	<p>The Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) is a global partnership of financial institutions developing a global GHG accounting and reporting standard for the financial industry.</p>	<p>FirstRand is the regional lead for Africa.</p>
	<p>Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool.</p>	<p>This tool is used in the ESRA process and in nature-related risk assessment. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red List (International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species) • Protected Planet (world database on protected areas) • KBA (world database of key biodiversity areas)
	<p>The Taskforce on Nature-related financial disclosures (TNFD) is a global, market-led initiative delivering a risk management and disclosure framework for organisations to report and act on evolving nature-related risks, with the aim to support a shift in global financial flows away from nature-negative outcomes and towards nature-positive outcomes.</p>	<p>FirstRand participated in the TNFD forum and working groups that developed the TNFD framework. FirstRand contributed specifically to the metrics and targets, agriculture sector and the financial institutions working groups.</p>
	<p>Established in 2012 and supported by UK Aid, FSD Africa is a specialist development agency working to build and strengthen financial markets across sub-Saharan Africa.</p> <p>FSD Africa established the African Natural Capital Alliance, a collaborative forum for mobilising the financial community's response to the risk of nature loss in Africa.</p>	<p>FirstRand collaborates with FSD Africa on nature-related risk disclosure and is a member of the African Natural Capital Alliance.</p> <p>The group is currently involved in the piloting of the TNFD beta versions.</p>
	<p>The World Wide Fund for Nature is an international non-governmental organisation founded in 1961. It operates in the field of wilderness preservation and the reduction of human impact on the environment.</p>	<p>FirstRand joined the WWF as a business partner in 2021 and has joined work groups on water and sustainable finance. This partnership provides access to a wide network.</p> <p>FirstRand was recommended as an African continent representative to the TNFD by the WWF and UNEP FI.</p>

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  	<p>WWF's Risk Filter tools – the Water Risk Filter and Biodiversity Risk Filter – enable companies and investors to assess and respond to nature-related risks to strengthen resilience. The WWF Biodiversity Risk Filter is designed as a corporate and portfolio-level screening tool to identify biodiversity risks and prioritise corporate action. Similarly, the WWF Water Risk Filter can be used to screen water risks at the portfolio and corporate level.</p>	<p>Through the PBAF working groups looking at biodiversity impacts and dependencies, FirstRand is piloting the WWF Risk Filter tools to conduct impact and dependency analyses in selected portfolios.</p>
	<p>Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure (ENCORE) is a tool to help users better understand and visualise the impact of environmental change on the economy.</p>	<p>FirstRand participated in an agriculture sector case study during the development of the ENCORE tool and again when the biodiversity module was designed and added. Future work is planned in collaboration with the Swiss Economic Department and the Natural Capital Alliance.</p>
	<p>Business for Nature is a global coalition of more than 80 influential partner organisations and forward-thinking companies.</p>	<p>FirstRand is a member of the business advisory group and was recently involved with the design of sector-specific actions that outline what businesses can do to help halt and reverse nature loss and contribute to a nature-positive, net zero and equitable future.</p>



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