

Green Investments: Sustainability Criteria & Trends

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In the past 10 years, the recognition that sustainability criteria are critical to investment success has grown rapidly. This is reflected in the fact that over 900 major investment institutions have become signatories to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UNPRI) since it was founded just over 5 years ago. Collectively these institutions are responsible for the investment of \$US 30 trillion of assets – that's 20% of the world's capital – and the number of signatories continues to increase.

This trend has been driven by growing awareness that investing for the long term produces better investment results and that material environmental, social and governance issues affect financial performance. Businesses which integrate sustainability practices into their operations are better placed to mitigate risk and to exploit opportunities. As a result investors are increasingly encouraging their investee companies to adopt sustainable practices.

Clearly this trend has significant ramifications for any company that is seeking capital for development or growth. This session aims to provide detail on this trend, the development of the Sustainable Palm Oil Investor Working Group within the UNPRI and the implications for all those involved in various areas of the Palm Oil value chain including growers, manufacturers, purchasers and lenders.