



ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Recognising the importance of environmental matters

We recognise the global challenge posed by climate change and other environmental issues; and also our responsibility to reduce the environmental impacts of our business operations. The Group is committed to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and to managing its direct environmental impacts in a responsible manner.

This is done through our Environmental Action Plan (EAP). The purpose of the EAP is to ensure we maximise the opportunity to create business value and minimise business risk in relation to our direct environmental impact.

Our approach towards managing environmental impact is set out in our Code of Business Responsibility and reported on in our annual Responsible Business Reporting.

Working to continually reduce environmental impact

We have an important role to play in facilitating and financing the transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon, resource efficient economy through our own business and through our financial relationships.

We aim to be as efficient as possible in our use of resources and focus action on energy, travel, waste, water, paper and buildings. We educate and motivate our colleagues to conduct activities in an environmentally responsible manner and we encourage our business partners, suppliers and contractors to do the same.

We recognise that accurate measurement of our environmental impact is critical if we are to manage our resources efficiently. We seek to continually improve our systems and processes to achieve this and our environmental data is reviewed annually by an external auditor.

We engage our key stakeholders, including colleagues and communities, in dialogue on our environmental programme and monitor our performance against best practice to ensure continuous improvement.

We seek to comply with the spirit, as well as the letter of applicable environmental laws and regulations with regards to the environment. Where none exist, we set ourselves appropriately high standards.

We take account of environmental risks in our lending and investment businesses and actively seek to provide finance to enable the transition to a more environmentally sustainable economy. Our environmental standards apply to all locations and aspects of our business.