



VANDECASTEELE
HOUTIMPORT



Sustainability Report 2024-2025

Dear reader,



2025 was a special year in the history of Vandecasteele Houtimport. After 35 years of inspiring leadership, my father, Stefaan Vandecasteele, entrusted the role of safekeeper to me, Louis Vandecasteele. I take on this responsibility with great pride and enthusiasm, committed to continuing to build the future of our **family business** together with our team. Fortunately, my father remains actively involved as President, and his experience and vision continue to be a source of inspiration.

The past year brought significant change and new opportunities within the global economy. While international markets are constantly evolving, Vandecasteele Houtimport continues to navigate its course with confidence. **Our focus on sustainability, transparency, and future oriented entrepreneurship makes us resilient and agile.** Thanks to the engagement of our team and partners, we continue to work together towards a strong future for our company.

We operate within an ever evolving regulatory framework, in which new initiatives such as the EUDR (European Union Deforestation Regulation) are raising the bar across the entire sector. For Vandecasteele Houtimport, this represents a natural step along a path we have been following for many years. **Supply chain transparency and the choice for responsibly sourced, certified timber have long been at the core of our operations.** Today, we can proudly state that **100 percent of the timber we purchase is certified** and sourced from **responsibly managed forests**. For the small portion for which certification is not yet possible, we conduct our own thorough due diligence. This achievement represents more than a performance metric—it is our promise to customers, partners, and future generations.

Vandecasteele
Houtimport continues
to demonstrate
strong economic
performance.
This is no coincidence:
our commitment to
sustainability and our
future proof way of
doing business make
the difference.



Last year, we published our first sustainability report — an important milestone for our company. It made our efforts more visible, both within our team and beyond. With enthusiasm, we now share the follow up to that report. The past year was once again marked by progress: we calculated our **full carbon footprint**, **invested in more efficient transport solutions**, reduced the use of plastic packaging, and provided our customers with greater insight into the **sustainability classes of timber**. Step by step, we continue to build towards a positive impact and a transparent future.

For us, sustainability is not a temporary initiative; it is an inherent part of how we do business. It provides us with guidance and direction in a world that is constantly evolving. We remain committed not only to **meeting the expectations of today**, but also to being prepared for **the questions and opportunities of tomorrow**.

Thank you for placing your trust in Vandecasteele Houtimport. Together, we continue to build responsible and future oriented growth.

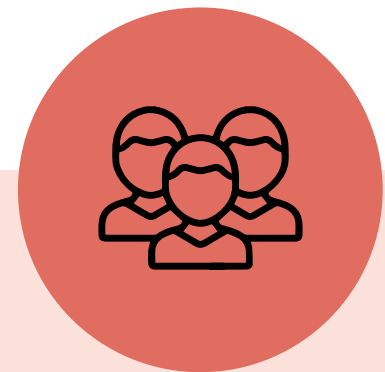
Louis Vandecasteele
CEO, Vandecasteele Houtimport

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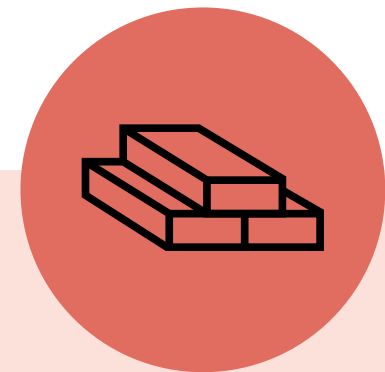
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About Vandecasteele Houtimport

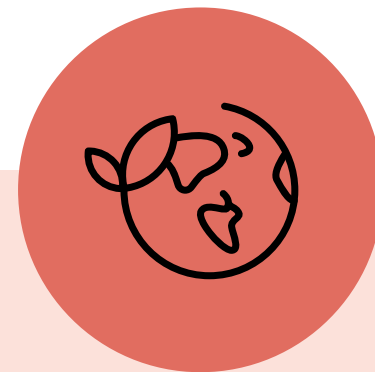
Vandecasteele Houtimport is one of the largest timber importers in Europe, based in Aalbeke near Kortrijk, Belgium.



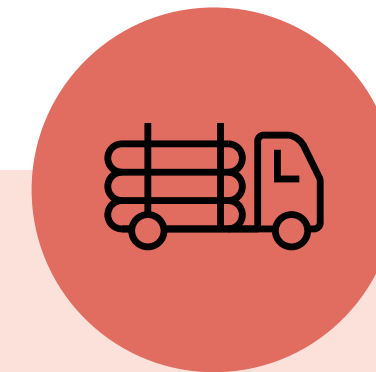
A strong family
heritage spanning five
generations - since 1883



Global timber trading
and large-scale stock
availability



A clear focus on
sustainability and
certification



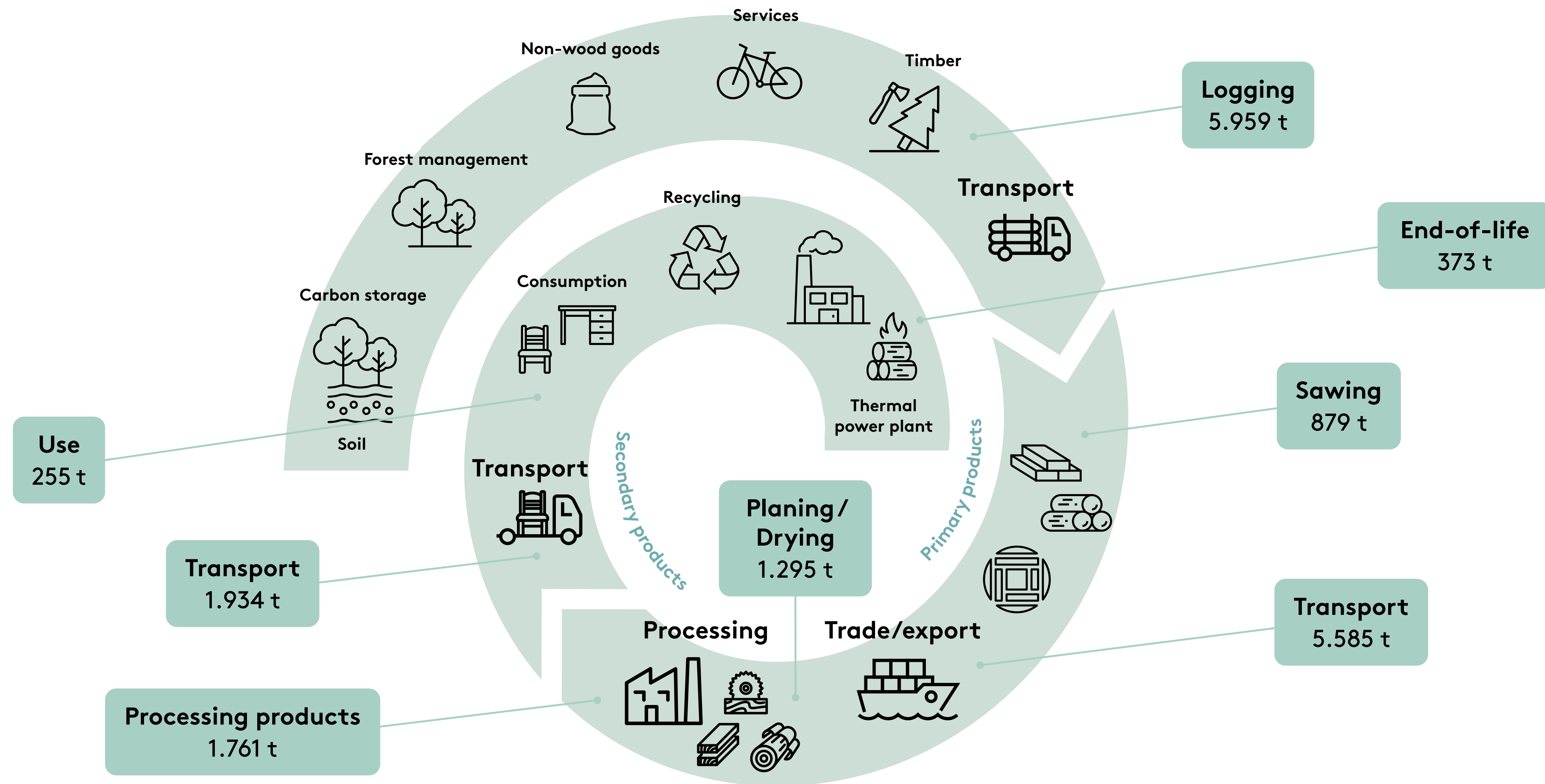
Efficient logistics and
market flexibility



Extensive expertise in both
mainstream and lesser-
known timber species
(LKTS)

Our Sustainability Priorities



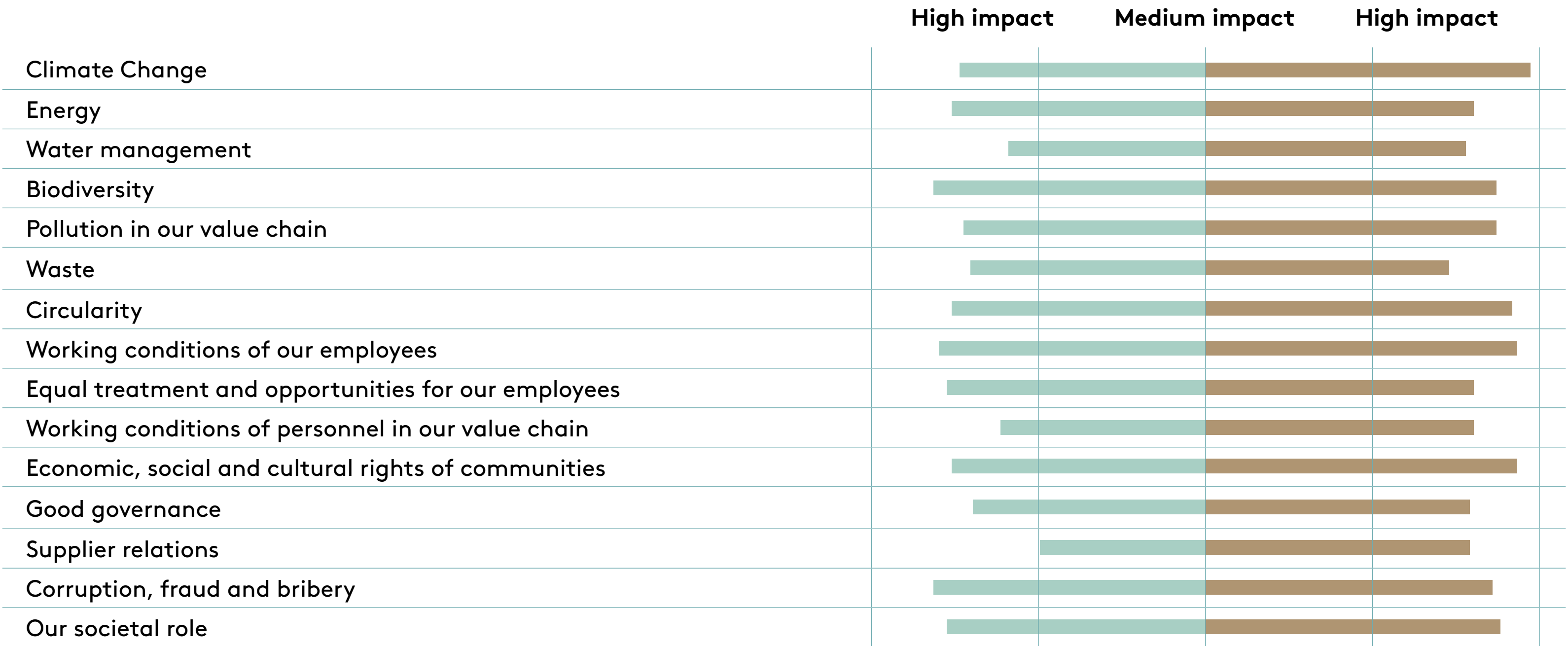
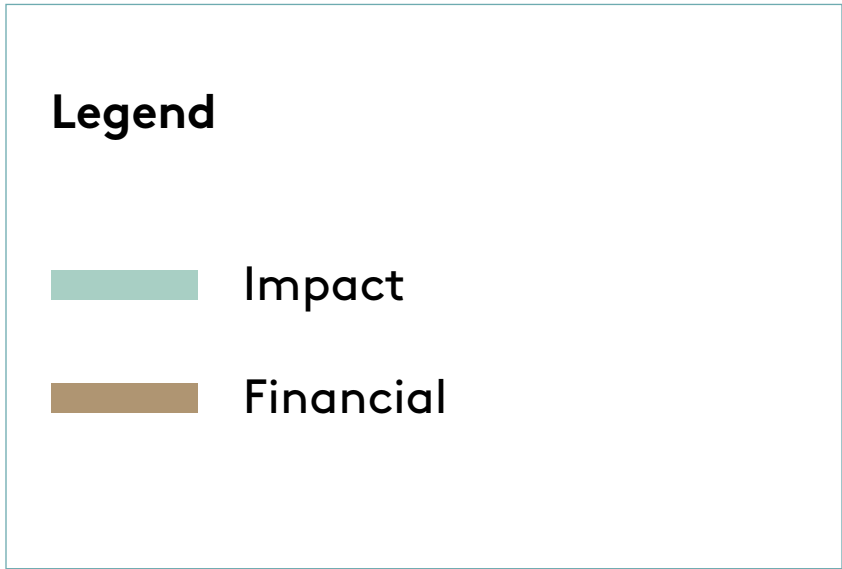


Sustainability lies at the heart of who we are. We impose the highest independent certification standards on all the timber we trade. At the same time, we continue to further refine our business processes to reduce our ecological footprint. Dialogue, cooperation and respect are central to this approach. We deliberately build strong, long-term relationships with suppliers, customers and employees alike.

In recent years, we have continued to make steady progress while maintaining a forward-looking approach. In 2023, we carried out a **double materiality assessment**, evaluating both the impact of our activities on people and the environment (**impact materiality**) and the potential financial implications of sustainability-related matters for our business (**financial materiality**). This assessment was informed by structured engagement with key stakeholders. Customers, suppliers and civil society organizations provided valuable input, while employees shared their perspectives through a digital survey identifying the topics they consider most relevant.

In the coming year, we will repeat and update this analysis to ensure that our strategy remains aligned with the most material sustainability priorities for our stakeholders, our business and the broader society in which we operate.

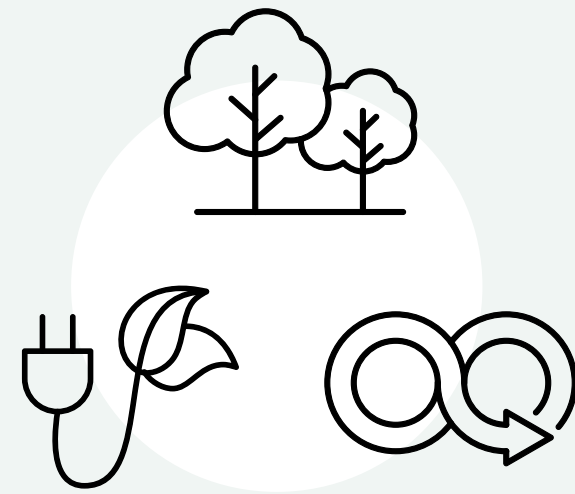
Results of Our Double Materiality Assessment



Based on our materiality assessment, we focus on eight priority themes — the areas where, as a company, we can generate the greatest positive impact and which therefore form the core of our sustainability strategy.

Environment

Sustainability at the heart of who we are



Sustainable Forest Management

- Protecting the biodiversity of tropical forests
- 100% certified timber

Circularity

- High-quality timber with a long service life
- Maximising the valorisation of waste and by-products

Climate & energy

- Reducing our ecological footprint



Social

Sustainability in who we are



Sustainable relationships with our employees

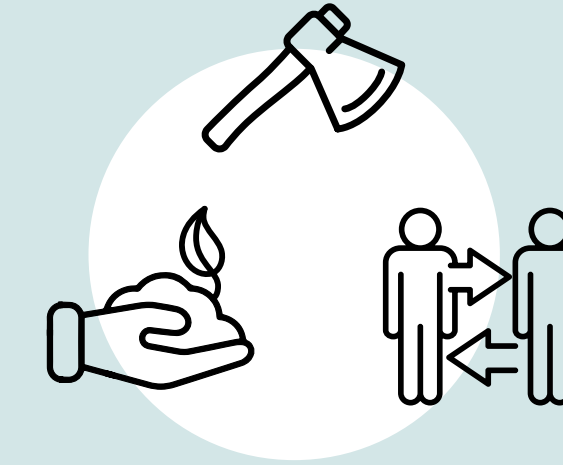
- Our family values
- A safe and healthy working environment

Respect for workers and communities in our supply chains



Governance

Sustainability in everything that drives us



Prevention of Illegal timber trade

- Ensuring compliance with the European Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) across the value chain

Importance of strong supplier relationships

Ambassador for sustainable timber trade

- Providing customers with comprehensive information
- Active engagement at sector level





Our employees, our greatest asset

The implementation of this strategy is coordinated by our internal sustainability team, led by Geneviève Standaert, Export Manager, and Isabelle Polfliet, Compliance Manager. Sustainability is embedded across all levels of our organisation, with close involvement from our Purchasing team and our Warehouse & Logistics team. This team has also developed a sustainability dashboard containing relevant KPIs, enabling us to monitor the progress of our efforts in a structured and regular manner.

The monitoring of our sustainability objectives and KPIs is a standing agenda item for the management team. The CEO, together with management, ensures effective oversight of progress and interim results related to this strategy. Naturally, our employees play a crucial role in both the implementation and the active promotion of this strategy throughout the organisation.

Guided by this sustainability strategy, we aim to further contribute to a number of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Caring for the environment



Supporting the protection of tropical forest biodiversity



You can help make a difference. Choose wood!

Yes, wood is an ecological material by excellence. Forests and trees are surrounded by many positive stories. Responsible harvesting is an integral part of a healthy forest cycle: after harvesting, the forest regenerates and continues to grow. In this way, timber can be sourced from forests while the forest itself is preserved.

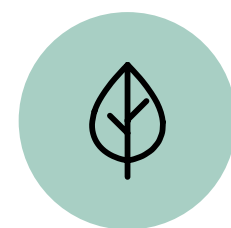
By choosing **certified tropical timber**, you actively support the conservation of these valuable tropical forests. Trees are given economic value as a source of income, which in turn encourages investment in sound forest management practices. Together, we help secure a thriving future for our forests.



Featured

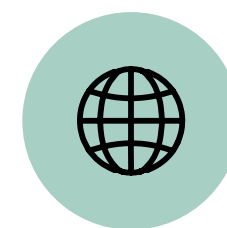
Lesser Known Timber Species

Less well known, but no less valuable. Lesser Known Timber Species (LKTS) are timber species that fall outside the mainstream commercial market, yet offer excellent technical properties. By actively promoting these species, Vandecasteele Houtimport contributes to a broader distribution of harvesting pressure within tropical forests — a key element of responsible forest management.



FSC-certification

Guarantees traceable sourcing and responsible forest management.



Ecosystem preservation

Distributed harvesting protects biodiversity.



Social impact

Fair working conditions across the value chain



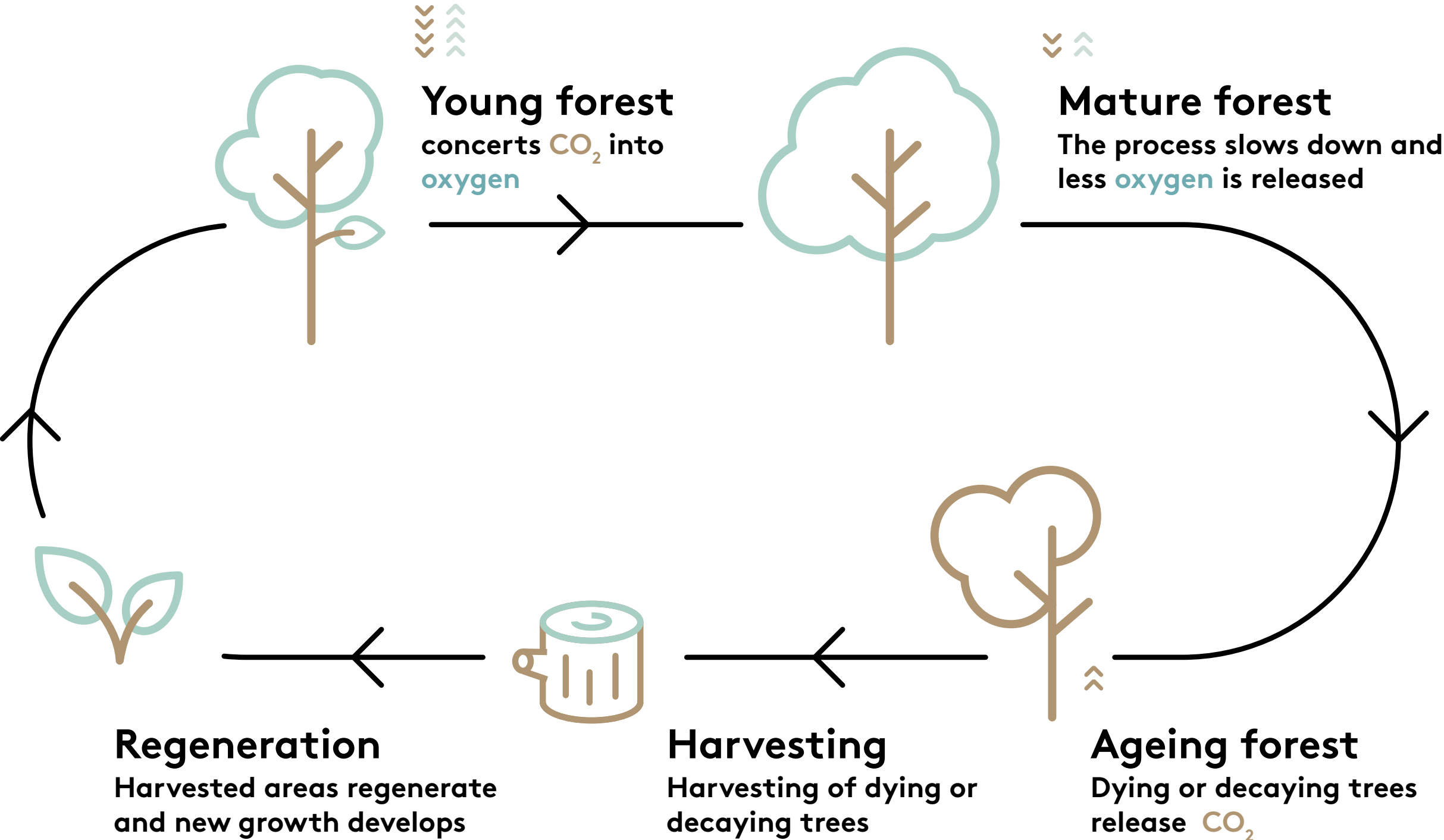
We are pleased to confirm that we achieved our target this year: 100% of the timber we source is certified.

100% Certified timber

At Vandecasteele Houtimport, we trade timber with passion and are fully committed to a greener future for our planet. By choosing responsible forest management, we actively contribute to increased forest cover and greater biodiversity worldwide. To provide clear and reliable assurances in this regard, we deliberately source certified timber only.

[Watch the video](#)

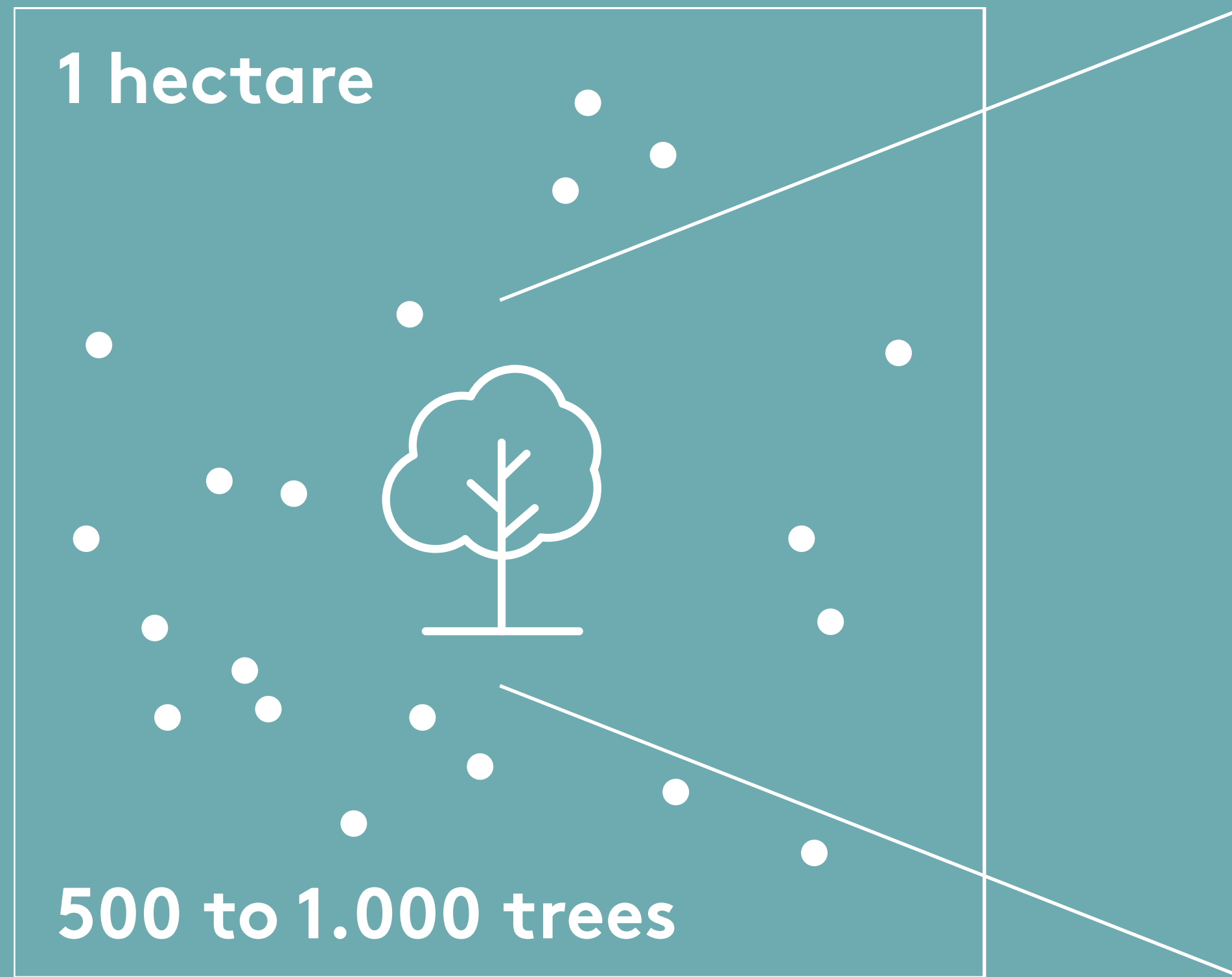
Cycle of a Sustainably Managed Forest



For timber sourced from certified forest management, careful decisions are made about which trees are harvested and where, ensuring that the forest and its tree stock are preserved. In practice, this means that only two to three trees may be harvested per hectare, after which that section of forest is left undisturbed for a period of twenty-five to forty-five years. In the areas where the selected trees have been harvested, smaller saplings are given the opportunity to grow and develop into mature trees once again.

Sustainable Forest Management

Certified Timber



1–3 trees per hectare



Harvested every
25 to 30 years

→ Preservation of biodiversity



The Largest stockholder of certified Tropical Hardwood

Since 1999, we have been pioneers in sourcing FSC® certified timber. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) sets the global standard for sustainable forest management and is active in 89 countries, covering a total area of 162 million hectares. As a key partner, FSC supports the responsible management of natural resources, with respect for local rights and close involvement of all stakeholders. In this way, the certification scheme successfully combines environmental, social and economic benefits.

Today, Vandecasteele Houtimport offers a broad range of FSC® certified timber, alongside PEFC certified timber, OLB, TLV, PBNC and third party verified legal timber. We are proud to report that we have achieved our ambition this year: **100% of our timber is certified.**

We support our suppliers through one-to-one training programmes and actively engage with them in dialogue on sustainable business practices.



Supporting suppliers in the certification process

Trust and reliability are core elements of the DNA of Vandecasteele Houtimport. In order to assure our customers that we live up to our commitment to trade exclusively in timber sourced from well-managed, certified forests, we must ensure that our trading partners adhere to the same stringent certification and sustainability standards that we apply ourselves.

Certification is a progressive process that requires significant investment from our suppliers, often spread over several years. It is a long-term commitment, as forests must be protected for a minimum period of 25 years. We actively support our suppliers throughout this journey, guiding them step by step towards (re)certification so that we achieve these objectives together through close collaboration.

To support this process, we deploy external auditors to our suppliers worldwide. Their reports include concrete recommendations and areas for improvement, enabling suppliers to take immediate action and further progress towards certification. In addition, we provide training programmes and maintain an ongoing dialogue with our suppliers. This approach raises awareness of their environmental and social impact and supports them in developing sustainable business practices for future generations. As a result of these efforts, an increasing number of our suppliers are now able to offer certified timber.



Promoting Lesser Known Timber Species

In order to reduce pressure on the most commonly used timber species and to support sustainable forest management worldwide, Vandecasteele Houtimport places strong emphasis—alongside certification—on the promotion of lesser known timber species.

These lesser known species represent fully valid and often more cost effective alternatives, without compromising on quality or sustainability. To raise awareness among customers of these sustainable choices, we apply a targeted SEO strategy that actively guides website visitors towards information on these alternative species. In addition, we actively stock these timber species, allowing us to offer them immediately and further encourage their use in the market.

In this way, we generate a positive impact across the entire value chain—from forest management to construction projects—while contributing to a more balanced and responsible use of forest resources.

[Watch the video](#)

Biodiversity at our own site



Our company occupies 20 hectares within a 60 hectare park area. We have taken concrete measures to enhance biodiversity on our site, including the removal of paved surfaces and the creation of an orchard with more than 1,000 trees (such as traditional pear varieties, walnut trees and cherry trees), as well as approximately 1,500 metres of hedgerows. Each year, we reseed our wildflower meadow. In cooperation with an organic farmer, 11 cows are allowed to graze on our land, and more recently sheep have also been introduced.

We have installed a water pipeline from our large reservoir near the higher lying new warehouse to the lower pasture, allowing the cows access to drinking points through natural water pressure. The meadow is no longer fertilised or mechanically mown, as grazing livestock now maintain it naturally. The hedgerows provide a natural ecological connection between the large pond and a smaller, higher lying pond.

These initiatives strengthen habitats for insects, small animals, flowers and plants, resulting in clear ecological gains and enhanced landscape value. According to Natuurpunt, our pond constitutes a high value biotope and is home to no fewer than 149 different bird species.



Circularity as a starting point

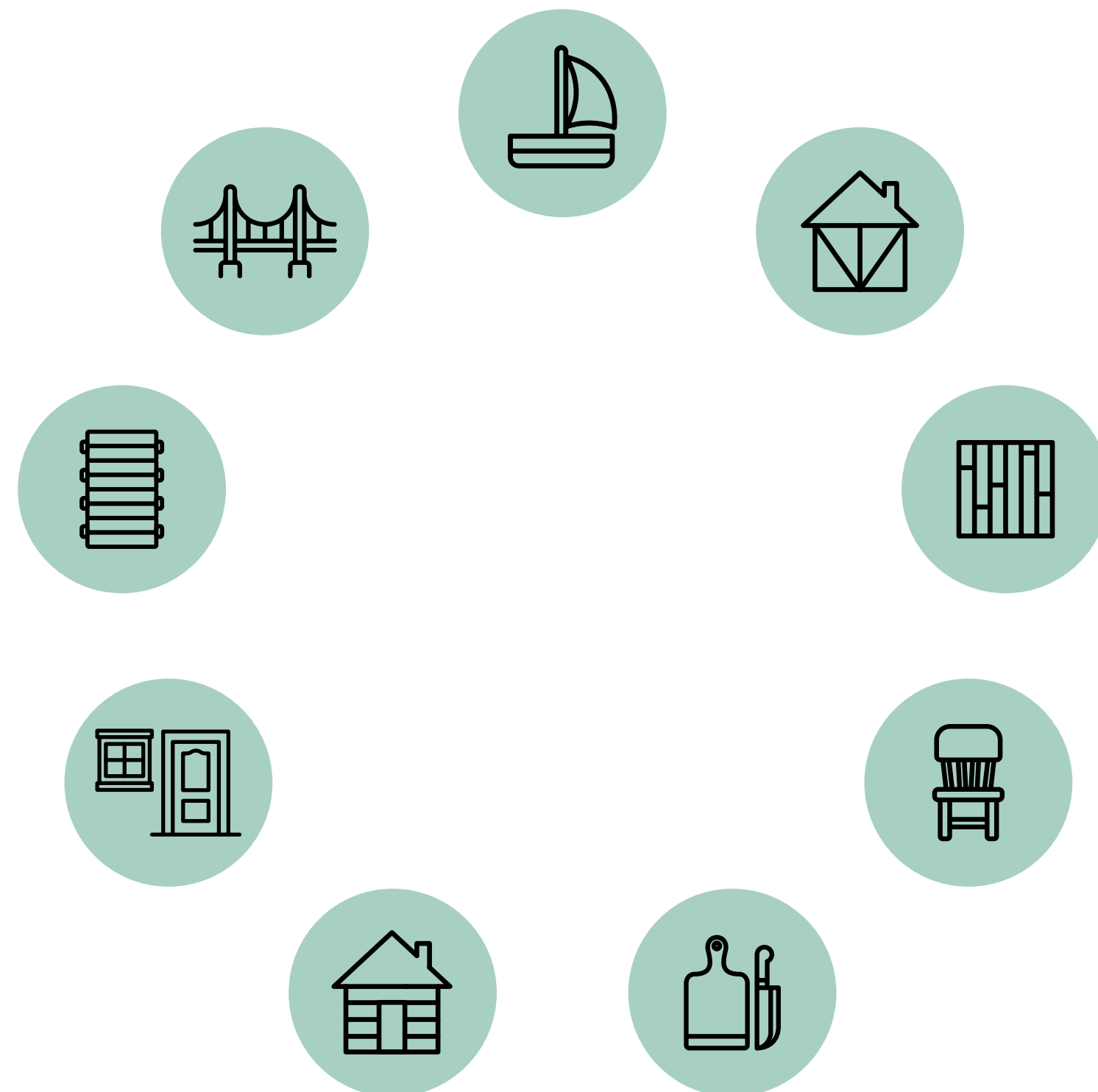


The right timber for the right application

Quality and long lifespan are key priorities for us. We therefore take on an advisory role towards our customers, providing them with valuable insights to help them make well informed choices. This also means that we are not afraid to address certain issues openly and honestly. For example, we explain that thermally modified timber, although popular, is energy intensive and not always suitable for every application.

To support customers in making the most sustainable choice, we classify all timber species according to their **durability class**, based on their expected lifespan as defined in the Houtvademecum. This classification ranges from **Class 1** (very durable, lifespan > 25 years) to **Class 5** (non durable, lifespan < 5 years).

By **raising awareness** of these differences and advising customers to select the right type of timber for the right application, we actively promote the use of longer lasting wood species with a lower environmental impact. On our website, customers can easily view the available timber species by durability class.



At Vandecasteele Houtimport, we foster a strong culture of reuse—whether it concerns office materials or wood waste. We strive to reuse or recycle everything and avoid discarding materials unnecessarily. This approach has been embedded in our operations for more than 35 years and, in fact, has always been part of our way of working.



Valorising waste and by products

At Vandecasteele Houtimport, we foster a strong culture of reuse—whether it concerns office materials or wood waste. We strive to reuse or recycle everything and avoid discarding materials unnecessarily. This approach has been embedded in our operations for more than 35 years and, in fact, has always been part of our way of working.

For **ICT equipment**, we work with **AXI**, our hardware and software partner, which collects obsolete ICT materials for reuse or recycling. With regard to plastic packaging, we ask our suppliers to avoid it wherever possible, as it generates additional waste and handling efforts. Any plastic we do receive is folded and stacked for reuse. **Paper, cardboard, metal and plastic** are sold for **recycling**.

Our wood waste is processed into fibreboards or pallets by partners such as **Geldof, Buurman** and **Recywood**. Remaining wood is made available to the local community (including youth organisations or horticultural schools). In this way, lower grade timber that would otherwise be considered waste is transformed into valuable and meaningful projects.

Reducing our ecological footprint

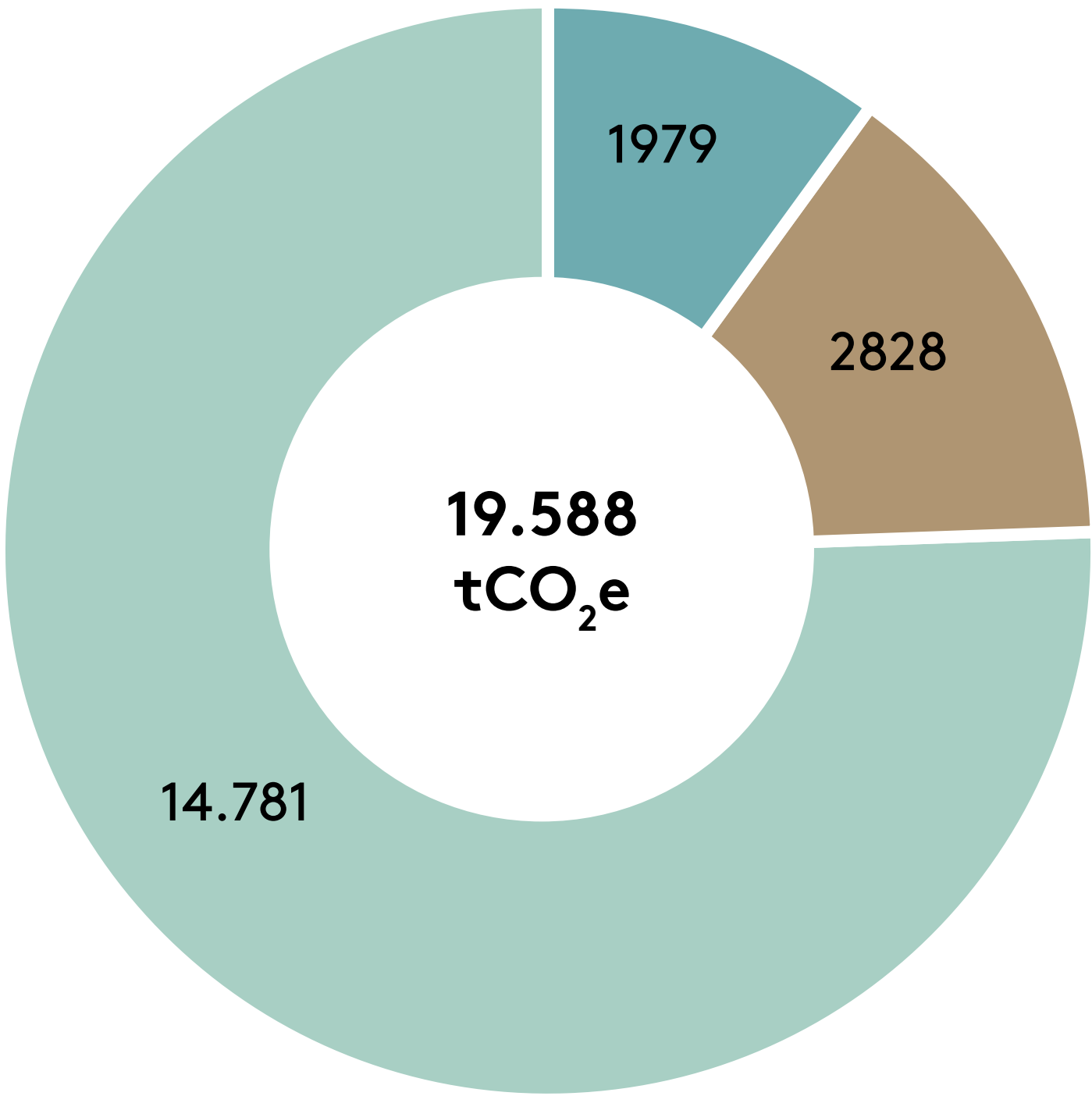
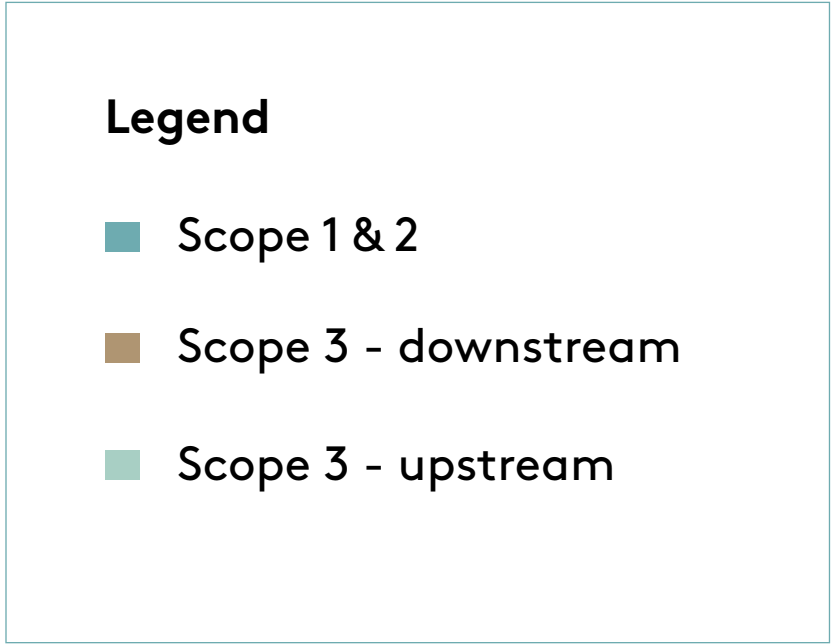
Calculate it on
our website



Trees absorb CO₂ as they grow, thereby reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. When wood is subsequently used in buildings or other long lasting products, this **carbon remains stored**. A second climate benefit is that timber can, in many cases, replace materials such as steel, concrete and bricks, whose production requires large amounts of energy and results in significant CO₂ emissions. **By choosing timber** sourced from sustainably managed forests, **construction becomes a more environmentally responsible choice**. On our website, customers can calculate in just two steps how much CO₂ is stored in their timber products. In addition, we continuously strive to further reduce our own ecological footprint through improvements in our operations and business practices.

[Discover our CO₂ calculator](#)

Total carbon footprint
(scopes 1,2 and 3) of
Vandecasteele Houtimport



- Scope 1**
Direct emissions from sources owned or controlled by the company, such as company vehicles and buildings.
- Scope 2**
Indirect emissions from energy consumed by the company but not produced by it, such as electricity and heat.
- Scope 3**
Other indirect emissions not included in Scope 1 or 2, such as the purchase of goods and services, business travel and waste processing.

In 2025, as a timber importer, we calculated our **full carbon footprint for the first time**. Whereas previously we reported only on Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, we have now also included **Scope 3 emissions**: all indirect emissions across the value chain, including transport, production at supplier level and the use of our products. This broader analysis provides a far more comprehensive view of our climate impact and forms a solid basis for defining **targeted and effective emission reduction measures**.

Scope 3





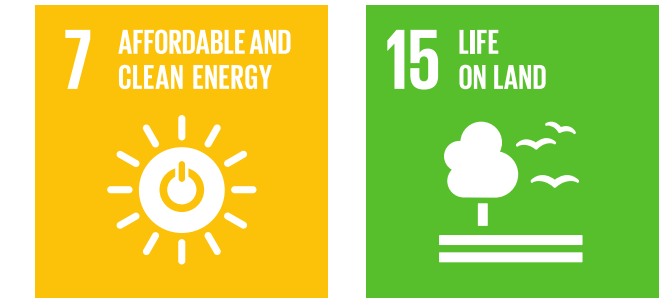
Our carbon emissions



Scope 1 & 2

Our Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions primarily result from the use of our trucks and forklifts. Thanks to our contracts for **100% renewable electricity**, our electricity related emissions are zero. All lighting on our site is **100% LED**, and our rooftops are equipped with **222 kWh of solar panels**, complemented by a battery system to store solar energy.

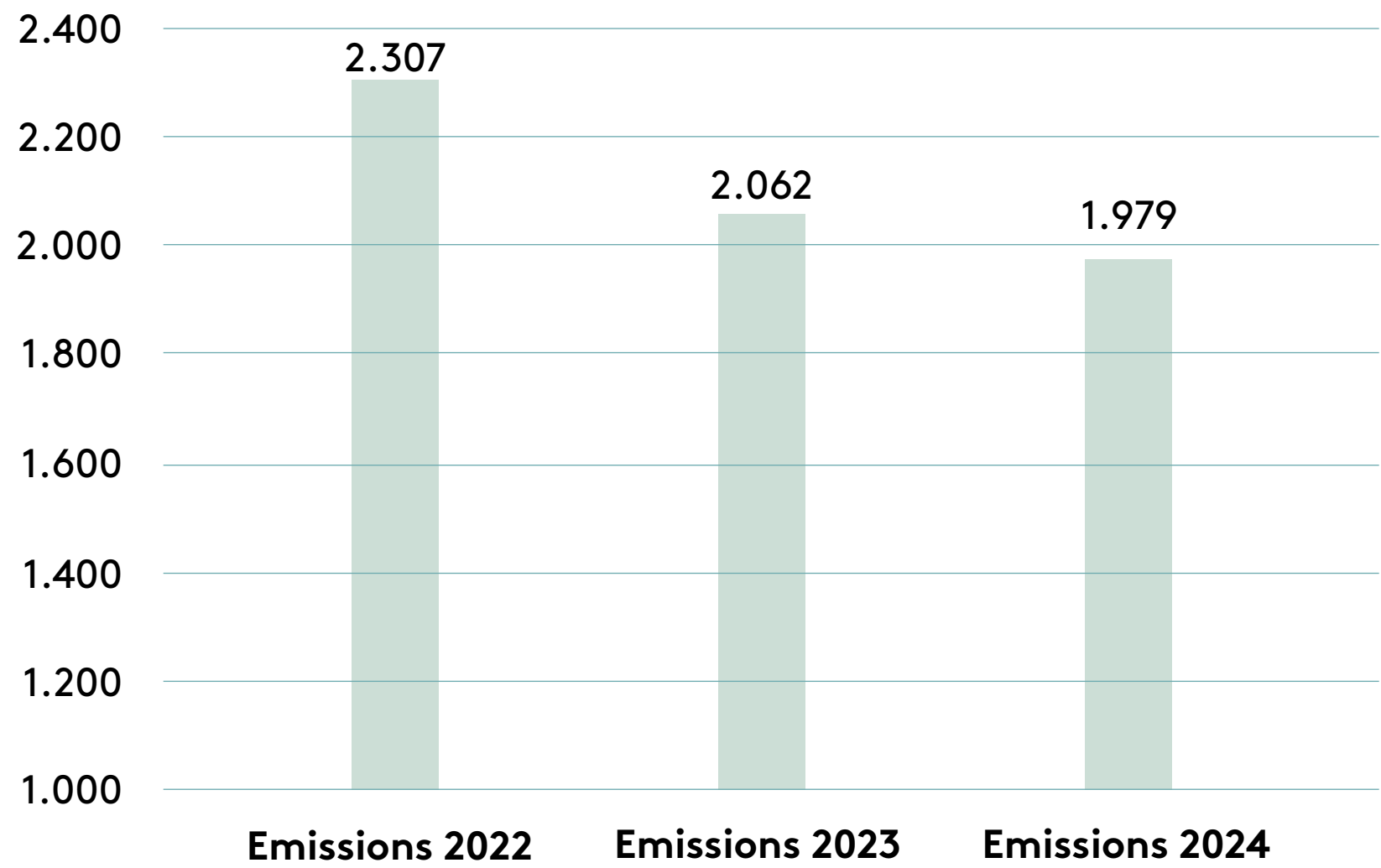
In addition, **35% of our employees participate in our bicycle leasing programme**, and the remote working options we offer further help reduce CO₂ emissions related to commuting.



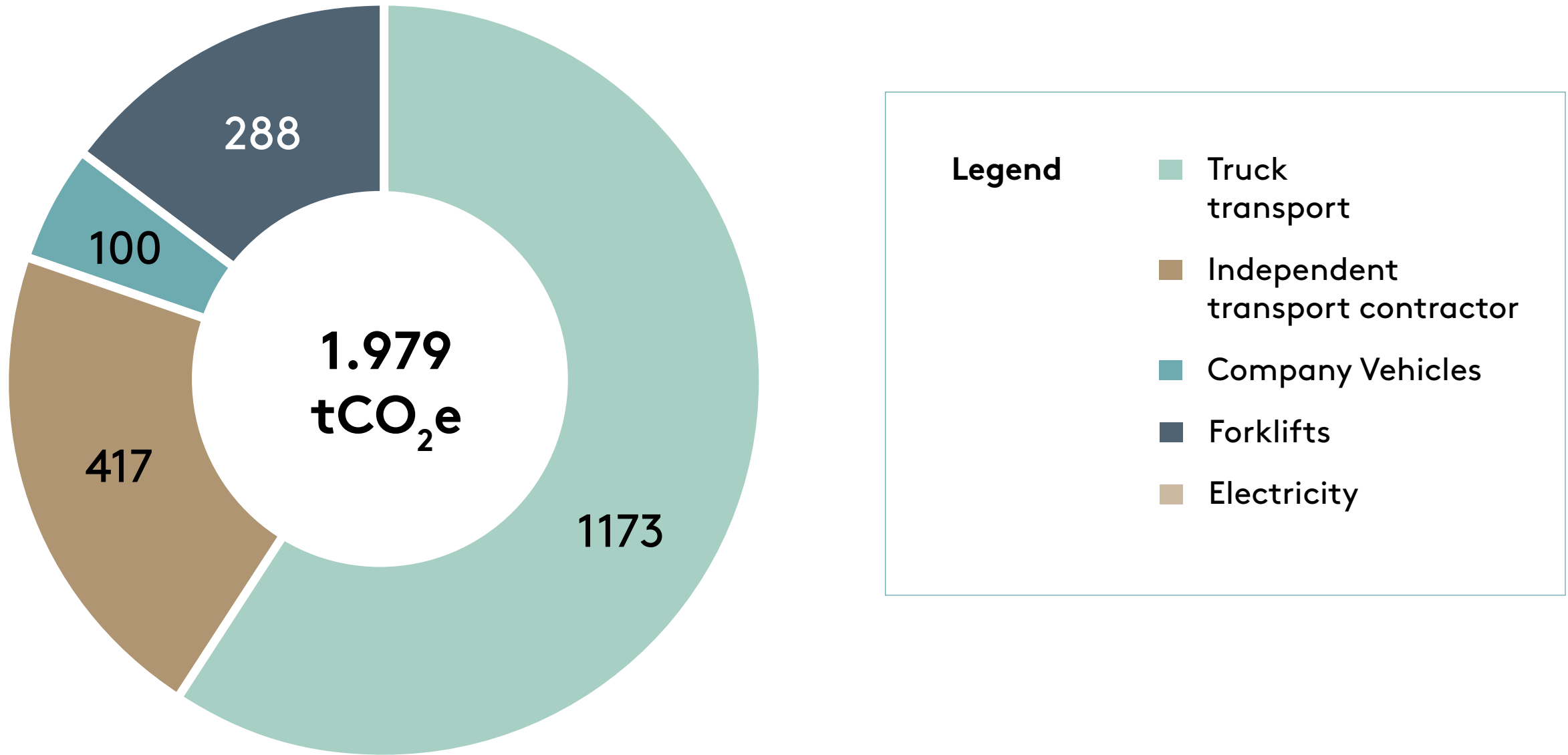
To further reduce our emissions year after year, we focus on more efficient internal logistics, the renewal of our vehicle and equipment fleet, and smarter transport solutions:

- Our **vehicle fleet** is now almost **fully electric**, with only two hybrid cars still in use. Charging stations have been installed on our site.
- We invested in five new electric forklifts; **by 2027, our entire forklift fleet will be fully electric.**
- For our 17 trucks, a fully electric alternative is not yet feasible. However, over the coming years we will replace four vehicles at a time, consistently opting for **the most environmentally friendly solution available on the market.**
- We have implemented **new transport optimisation software**, enabling us to better plan routes and loads and avoid empty truck journeys as much as possible.
- We strongly invest in **intermodal transport**. Containers are shipped from the Port of Antwerp by inland waterways to the River Terminals in Wielsbeke and Zwevegem, after which they cover only the final 23 kilometres by road. This approach significantly reduces road transport and cuts CO₂ emissions along the entire route by approximately 50%.
- Over the past year, our share of inland waterway transport increased from **45% to 54%**. In 2024, VandeCastelele Houtimport imported **1,463 containers** via the Port of Antwerp, **660** of which were transported further to Aalbeke by inland shipping. In 2025, this amounted to 1,407 containers, of which 761 arrived via inland waterway transport.

Scope 1 & 2 Emissions (tCO₂e)



Emissions Scope 1 & 2 (tCO₂e)





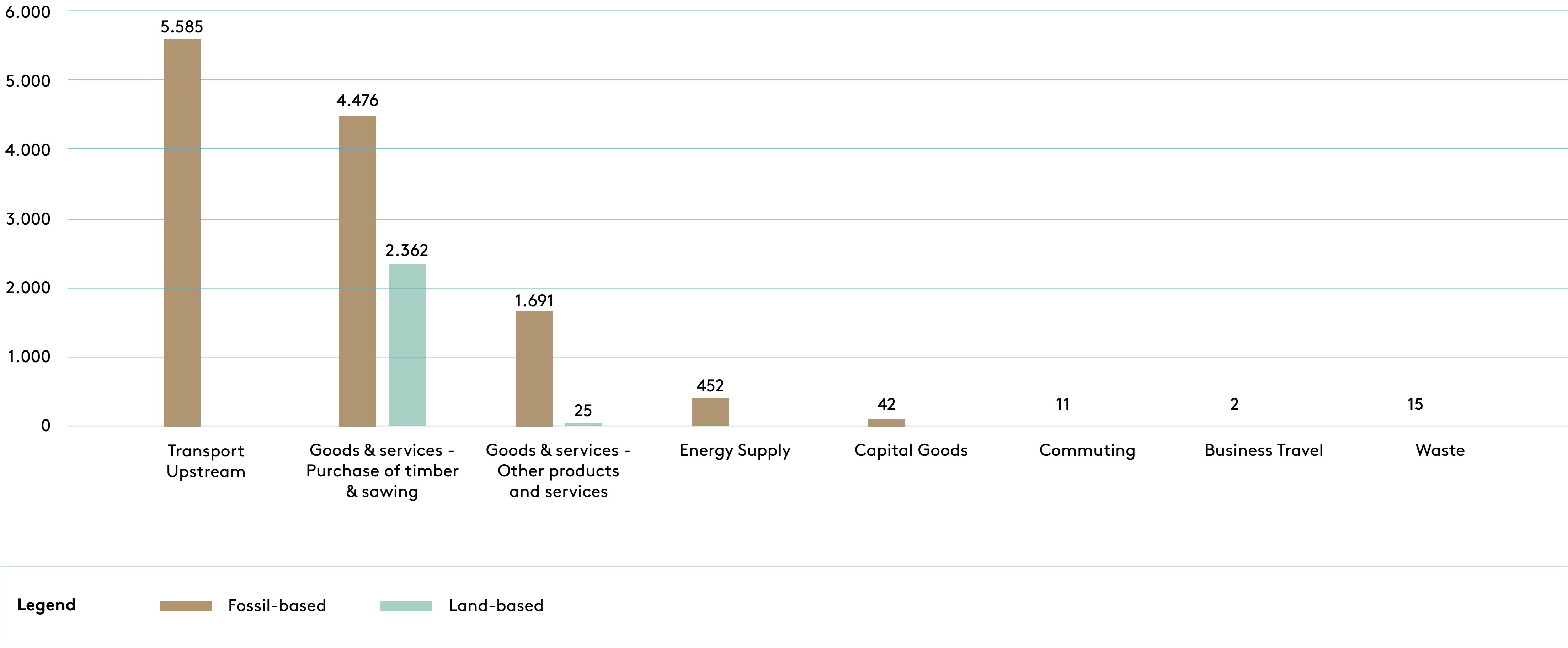
Scope 3

The purchase, transport and processing of timber account for the largest share of our carbon footprint, together representing 14,781 tCO₂e.

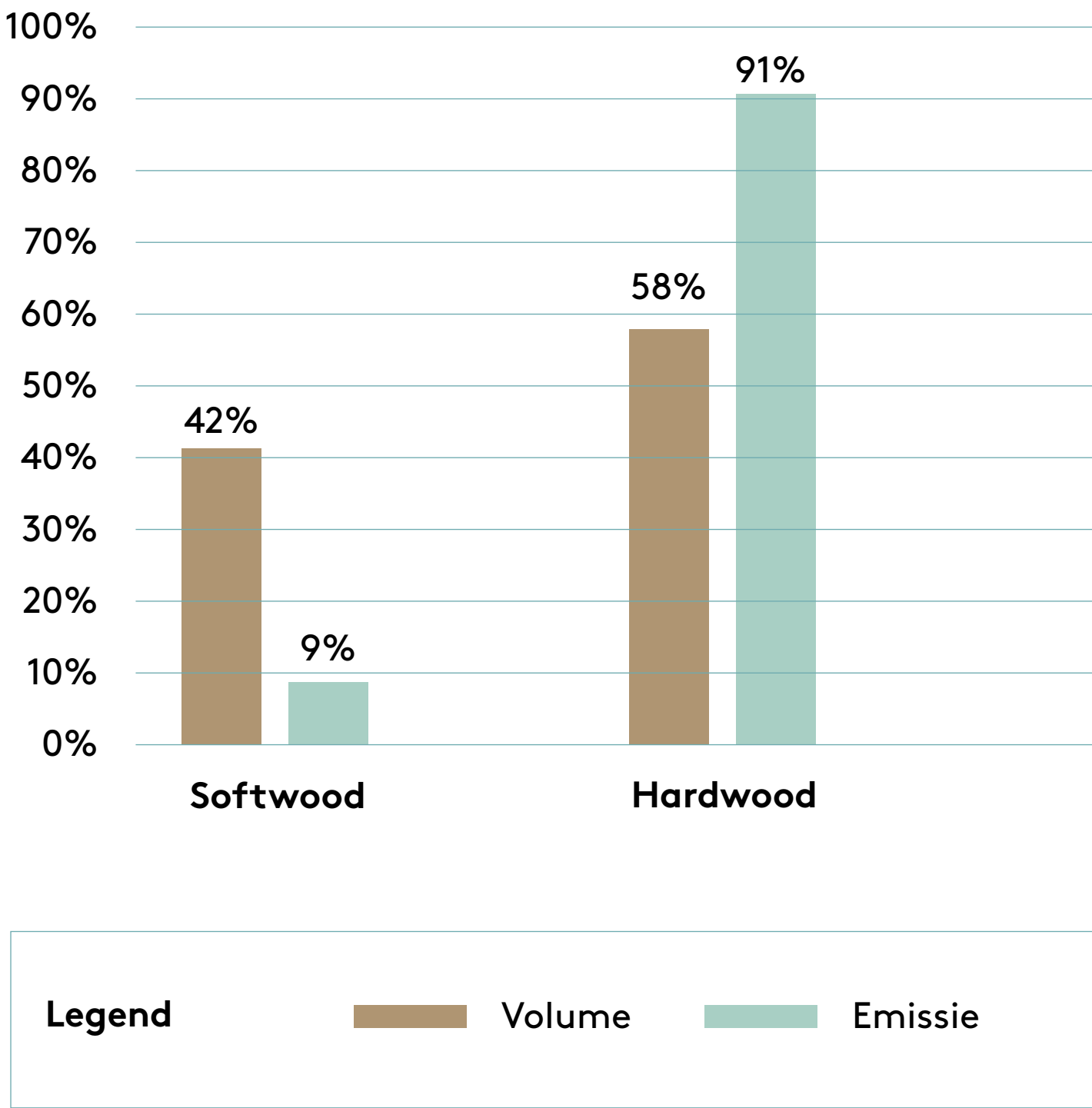
Our **softwood** is mainly sourced from the Scandinavian countries and the Baltic States, while our **tropical hardwood** is procured from countries such as Cameroon, Brazil, Gabon, Malaysia and Congo. These five countries of origin together account for nearly **70% of our emissions**. In addition, we also import timber from Indonesia and New Zealand, where long transport distances typically have a significant impact on emissions.

International transport is carried out by container ships to the Port of Antwerp. This transport is organised in cooperation with shipping companies, over which we have limited direct influence. However, these partners do provide transparency regarding their climate efforts, enabling us to make more informed and **responsible purchasing decisions**. As a result of this analysis, we ceased sourcing timber from New Zealand last year, due to the considerable transport distance and its associated climatic impact.

Upstream Scope 3 - Emissions (ton CO₂e) per category



**Softwood vs. Hardwood:
volume vs. emissions**



Upstream Scope 3 emissions represent the environmental impact generated **before the product reaches our company**. The calculation of our carbon footprint also provided insight into differences between timber species. While **hardwood accounts for 58% of the total volume of timber purchased**, it is responsible for **91% of the emissions related to purchased goods**. This significant difference is largely driven by sourcing locations, transport distances and processing requirements. In addition, **wood treatment processes**—such as planing and drying—play an important role in overall emissions. For certain timber species, specific emission factors are not yet available, meaning that assumptions had to be applied in our calculations. We expect more granular and accurate data to become available in the future. To further improve the quality of our assessments, we will request **product carbon footprint data** from our largest suppliers. This will allow us to better identify and promote **alternative timber species with a lower CO₂ footprint** for specific applications.

Downstream Scope 3 emissions—representing the impact **after the product leaves our company**—account for **14.4% of our total emissions**. These include the further processing of timber into windows, doors and other applications, as well as the use and maintenance phase, such as painting and varnishing. By advising our customers as effectively as possible on selecting **the right timber for each application**, we aim to maximise product lifespan and thereby reduce environmental impact over the full life cycle.

Caring for our people



Sustainable relationships with our employees



Our family values

Our company is built on five core values: **trust, sustainability, passion, long term vision and engaged partnership**. These values have been passed down from generation to generation. We strive to establish long term relationships and partnerships not only with our customers and suppliers, but also with our employees. We deliberately invest in sustainable cooperation, guided by one central principle: **trust**.

We embrace a prudent stewardship mindset, where investments that may not yield immediate returns but create value for future generations are fully endorsed. This philosophy extends to our approach towards employees. Work performance alone is not the sole focus; we maintain an open and accessible dialogue, listen carefully to individual concerns and show genuine care for one another. Employees who require additional support can rely on access to external wellbeing coaching or tailored personal guidance.

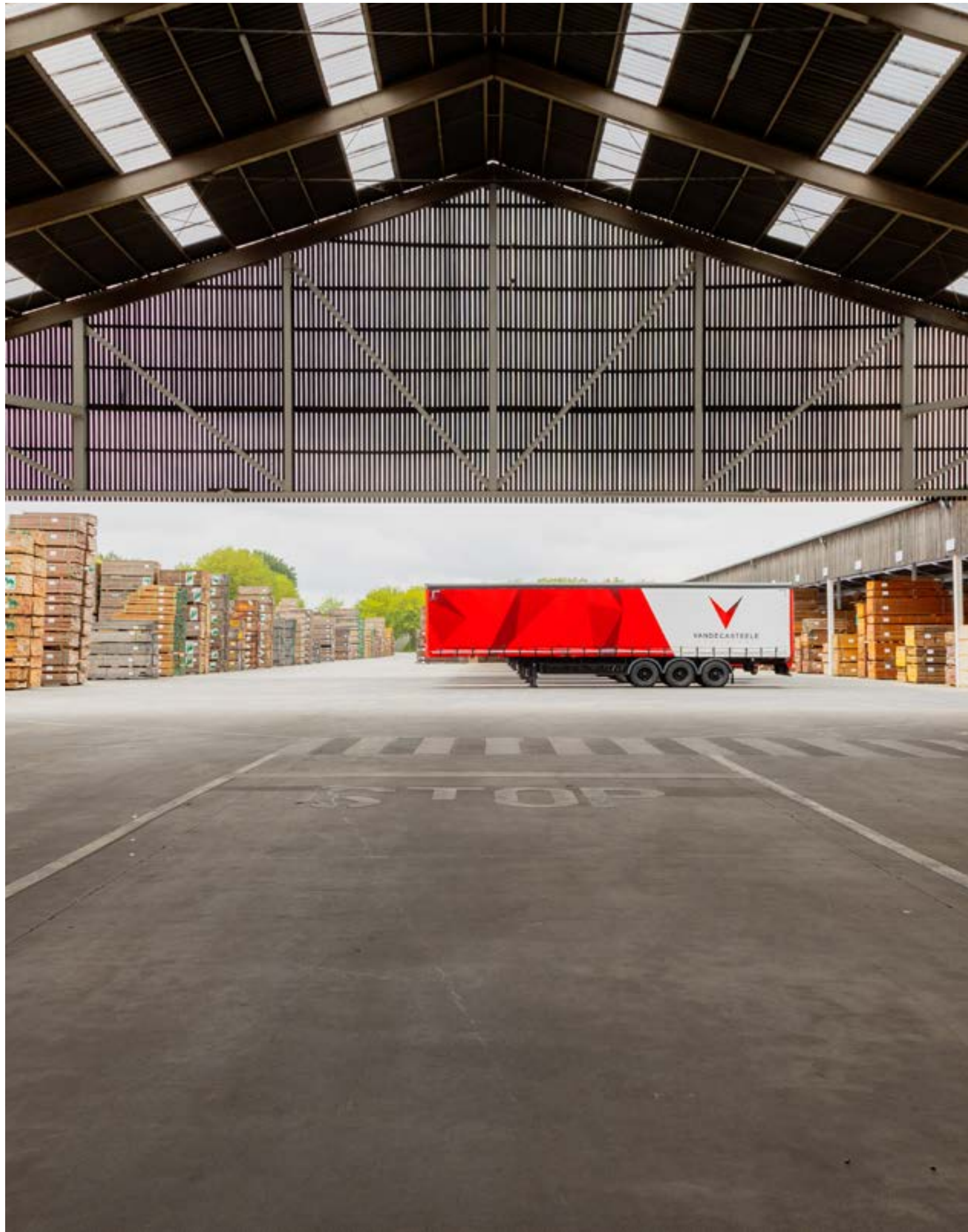




Our company is built on five core values: trust, sustainability, passion, long term vision and engaged partnership.

For both blue collar and white collar employees, we invest in **tailor made training programmes**. Over the past year, employees followed both general and specific training courses, including product knowledge, French language courses, training for confidential counsellors, and more. We also actively promote **peer to peer learning** through knowledge sharing. All training initiatives are monitored and managed through a dedicated **training matrix**.

In both **2024 and 2025**, we provided an average of **40 hours of training per employee per year**, including external training and one to one learning sessions. In addition, we organise several **team building activities** each year, as well as an **annual family day** and **Christmas celebration**. Regular **performance and development reviews** are held with all employees. In 2025, the **average length of service** within our company amounted to **12.9 years**, reflecting strong employee loyalty and long term engagement.



A safe and healthy working environment

Safety and prevention are key priorities within our organisation. Despite the continued expansion of our storage racks and the high volume of incoming timber, our warehouse is consistently kept in excellent condition—thanks to the **daily commitment of all our employees**.

We invest continuously in safety and prevention through regular warehouse inspections. Since 2023, we have been working with new steel racking systems, currently totalling **13 kilometres of racks**, which contribute to a more ergonomic and secure working environment. Every three months, we hold a **prevention and safety meeting** to evaluate existing procedures and identify opportunities for improvement.

In **2024 and 2025**, we recorded **six and two occupational accidents respectively**, none of which were classified as serious. Each incident is thoroughly analysed to identify root causes and prevent future occurrences. We maintain a detailed incident and accident register, with ankle sprains and crush injuries being the most common types reported. In addition, we offer an **annual first aid training course**, which all employees can attend on a voluntary basis.



Health and wellbeing as a key priority

Health and wellbeing are high on our agenda. For employees on long term sick leave, we maintain regular contact and, in preparation for their full return, offer **tailored tasks aligned with their reintegration process**. This approach supports continued engagement and helps prevent prolonged absence from the workplace.

We strive to create a working environment in which everyone feels **welcome, respected and valued**, regardless of background, gender, age or cultural origin. Our workforce represents a wide range of nationalities (including Belgian, French, Romanian and others), and language is not a barrier. Employees are given the opportunity to follow **Dutch and French language courses**.

We apply a **zero tolerance policy towards discrimination and harassment** and actively encourage employees to report any concerns or incidents. Our objective is to provide a **safe, inclusive and supportive working environment**, enabling everyone to realise their full potential.

With respect for employees and vulnerable communities in our supply chains

We apply a policy of
monitoring decent
working conditions
among both suppliers
and subcontractors.



In production countries in Africa and South America, decent working conditions are not always self evident. However, for timber that is fully certified by schemes such as FSC or PEFC, we can rely on the fact that labour conditions—alongside environmental practices—are subject to independent verification.

Where suppliers are not yet certified, we commission a **professional external auditor** to prepare an audit report. This assessment covers, among other aspects, employee safety, decent work conditions and the payment of living wages. Where gaps or shortcomings are identified, we engage in active dialogue with the supplier. It is essential for us that suppliers take concrete action on improvement points, and that a clear **improvement pathway** is demonstrated. We are encouraged by the tangible impact we see on suppliers' progress as a result of this approach.

To formalise these expectations, we have developed our own **Responsible Purchasing Policy (RPP)**, which all suppliers are required to sign prior to doing business with us. This policy contains comprehensive provisions on human rights and decent work, incorporates FSC requirements and is updated annually. The RPP applies not only to our timber suppliers but also to all subcontractors.

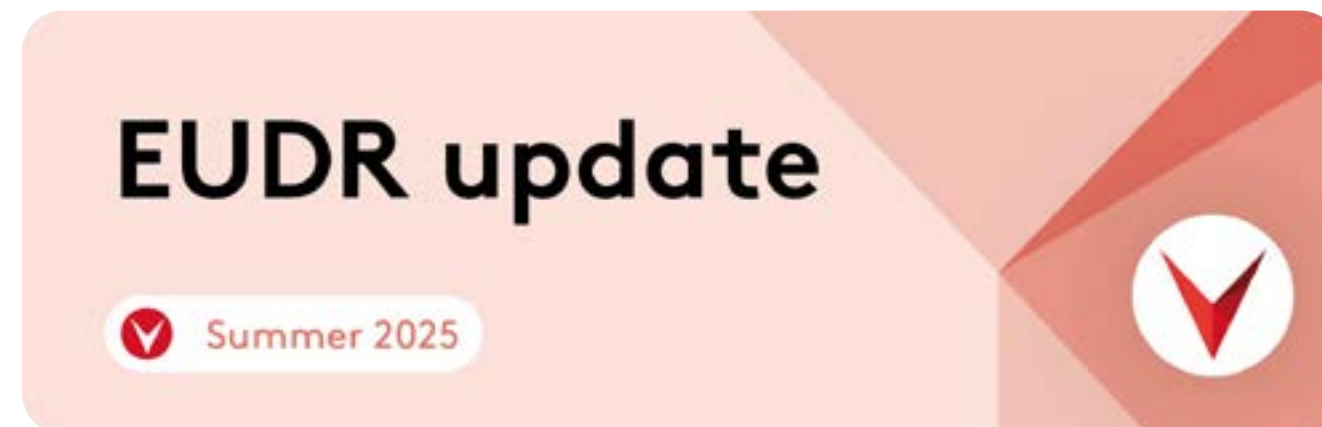
Our subcontractors are located in **Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Germany, Poland and Estonia**. They carry out processing activities on our timber, such as drying, planing, impregnation and thermal modification. External transport companies are also assessed against the same standards. We systematically map all subcontractors and require them to complete and sign a tailored declaration, in line with the legislation applicable in their respective countries.

With a heart
for good
governance and
supply chain
management





Bringing everyone along with the European Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)



The EUTR (EU Timber Regulation) has already introduced strict regulatory requirements for the timber trade. By the end of **2026**, the new **EUDR (EU Deforestation Regulation)** will also enter into force. This regulation will require a broader range of companies—including those importing **soy, palm oil, coffee, cocoa or meat**—to demonstrate that their activities do not contribute to deforestation. The origin of all products must be **accurately traceable and fully documented**. Companies will be required to prove that products are not sourced from recently deforested areas, for example through the use of **satellite imagery, land registration data and certification schemes**. In addition, businesses must identify potential deforestation risks within their supply chains and take appropriate measures to mitigate those risks. These requirements are expected to lead to **greater transparency across the sector** and a more **level playing field**, as all companies exporting to the European Union will be subject to the same standards. At **Vandecasteele Houtimport**, we fully support the objectives of the EUDR. Going forward, **Preferred by Nature** will carry out annual audits to assess our compliance with the requirements of the regulation. We also aim to actively **share our experience in due diligence and supply chain responsibility** in order to raise awareness of the relevance of the EUDR among our suppliers and within the wider sector, and to clearly demonstrate what its practical implementation entails.

The importance of strong supplier relationships

We focus on building long term relationships with our suppliers and actively involve them in our sustainability journey.



We source timber from **Africa, South America, North America, Europe and Southeast Asia**. We maximise the procurement of certified timber and complement certification with our own audits. In addition, we commission external audit assessments, conduct site visits and engage in active dialogue with our suppliers on **environmental and social standards**.

Long term partnership is central to our approach. We actively inform our suppliers about the requirements of the **EUTR and EUDR**, and work together to identify further opportunities for improvement. By involving our suppliers in our vision and expectations, we support them throughout this transition. Through **audits** and ongoing dialogue, suppliers gain a clear understanding of the steps required to strengthen compliance and maintain a **sustainable partnership**. This collaborative approach reflects a shared commitment to doing the right thing, in the right way.

Ambassador of Certified Timber



Raising customer awareness

In parallel with our continuous commitment to sourcing **100% certified timber**, we also aim to raise awareness among our customers about **responsible timber use**. Choosing certified timber from sustainably managed forests is essential, but it is equally important to select **the right timber for the right application**, ensuring long service life and optimal performance.

This process starts with our sales teams, who must be thoroughly informed themselves and willing to engage customers in open discussions about the benefits of sustainable timber. Through this proactive approach, we ensure that our customers not only receive a high quality product, but also a solution that lasts longer and has a lower environmental impact.

We also actively inform our customers about the **EUDR**, explaining what this new regulation entails and how Vandecasteele Houtimport is preparing for and implementing its requirements. In **2025**, we developed an **EUDR newsletter in five languages**, which was distributed to both our suppliers and our customers, supporting transparency and shared understanding across the value chain.



Driven by enthusiasm,
we inspire a greener
future across the sector.



Our communication role within the sector

By sourcing timber from a wide range of countries and offering an extensive portfolio of diverse timber species, we have built strong expertise over the years. As a major player in this international market, we recognise our **role as a frontrunner and reference point** within the sector. We therefore consider it essential to be actively present at industry events and to share our knowledge and experience.

We participate in **international discussions on the implementation of the EUDR legislation in Europe**. In recent years, we have contributed to conferences in **Brussels and London**, where we shared concrete examples to demonstrate how due diligence is becoming an integral part of day to day business operations. In doing so, we emphasise the importance of close cooperation and transparent communication with all stakeholders in order to gather the necessary information throughout the supply chain. Within the sector, we aim to serve as a **sounding board and knowledge partner**. We actively participate in sector organisations and promote sustainable timber trade through our external communications, including trade fairs and social media.



KPI's - Environmental Indicators

Water, Pollution and Biodiversity	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Total water consumption	946	816	512	394	m³/j
Mains water consumption	76	108	169	122	m³/j
Mains water consumption per FTE	1,01	1,38	2,14	1,54	l/pp
Rainwater use (car wash & warehouse)	870	708	343	272	m³/j
Discharged industrial wastewater	870	708	343	272	m³/j
Discharged domestic wastewater	76	108	169	122	m³/j
Total pollutants released to air or soil	0	0	0	0	
Sites located in or near biodiversity sensitive areas	0	0	0	0	
Rainwater Consumption per Vehicle	5,14	4,31	2,14	1,70	m³/vehicle
Energy	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Green electricity purchased	345	284	316	321	MWh
Green electricity self generated	103	114	105	107	MWH
Total grey electricity purchased	0	0	0	0	MWH
Green electricity self generated and consumed	64	73	69	54	MWh
Total natural gas purchased	0	0	0	0	
Total diesel for company cars	0	0	0	0	
Electrified company cars	1	4	4	21	
Green electricity fed into the grid	39	41	38	0	MWh
Diesel for forklifts	109.488	74.368	107.893	108.062	l/year
Energy per m³ of processed wood	0,18	0,15	0,13	0,13	MWh/m³

Waste	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Total non hazardous waste	474	474	274	262	T/
Total hazardous waste	1,53	1,57	1,57	1,95	T/
Total recycled waste	422	440	238	239	T/
Total reused waste	0	0	0	0	T/
PMD (plastic, metal & beverage cartons)	0,012	0,012	0,012	0,012	T/
Residual waste (weight based collection)	41,72	34,18	36,84	20,58	T/
Residual waste ratio	8,96%	7,19%	13,21%	8,25%	%
Total waste management costs	6.422	8.717	6.605	11.018	€
Sawdust	92,96	104,58	69,72	58,10	T/
m³ > waste timber	0,21	0,21	0,04	0,06	kg residual waste / m³ processed timber
m³ > waste PE/PP	0,01	0,01	0,01	0,01	kg PEPP/m³ Processed timber
m³ > metal waste	0,00	0,01	0,00	0,00	kg steel / m³ processed timber
m³ > Residual waste	0,02	0,02	0,01	0,01	kg residual waste / m³ processed timber
Amount people > paper	3.750	3.606	3.797	2.373	Sheets of paper / employee

KPI's - Commuting patterns

Mode of transport	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Cycling	22,48	31,25	31,06	31,06	%
On foot	6,21	3,48	3,79	3,79	%
Public transport	1,56	1,39	0,00	0,00	%
Carpooling	2,52	1,39	1,52	1,52	%
Car (individual use)	64,40	61,11	62,13	62,13	%
Moped	3,86	1,39	1,52	1,52	%

Logistics and transport performance	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Inland waterway transport via CY Wielsbeke and Zwevegem – rail transport via Rekkem	220	269	660	761	containers per year
Total container transport		1094	1463	1408	
Total volume traded	193.296	194.972	240.277	247.191	m³ per year
Road transport distance (trucks)	1.865.999	1.711.267	1.765.925	1.817.210	km/year
Fuel consumption – goods transport	556.390	484.324	466.446	514.444	l/year
Average fuel consumption per 100 km: target 30	29,82	28,3	25,25	28,31	l/100 km
Idling: less than 9% of operating time	7,26%	9,26%	8,92%	8,51%	%
Coasting time (roll out) *target ≥ 8	5,44	5,86	5,79	5,85	%
Brake-to-stop ratio: 1 op 3 = 33%	21,5%	31,7%	25,0%	25,0%	%
Cruise control usage: minimum 40%	43,98	40,98	38,44	38,09	%
CO ₂ emissions – goods transport	1480	1189,79	1077,56	1126,27	Tonnes
Fuel intensity – goods transport / production (liter/ton)	3,44	2,87	1,83	2,08	Liter/ton

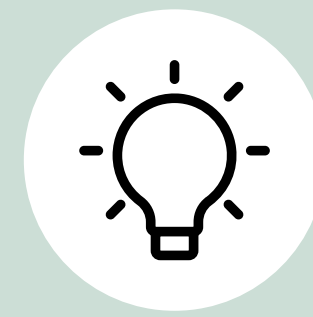
Carbon Footprint	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Total CO ₂ emissions (Scope 1+2+3)			19.588	19.588	tCO ₂ e
CO ₂ emissions – Scope 1	2.242	1.997	1.979	1.979	tCO ₂ e
CO ₂ emissions – Scope 2 (only green electricity purchased)	65	65	0	0	tCO ₂ e
CO ₂ emissions target Scope 1+2 for 2034			1.189	1.189	tCO ₂ e
CO ₂ emissions – Scope 3			17.609	17.609	tCO ₂ e
CO ₂ emissions – Scope 3 upstream			14.781	14.781	tCO ₂ e
CO ₂ emissions – Scope 3 downstream			2.828	2.828	tCO ₂ e
CO ₂ intensity: emissions per processed m³			0,08	0,08	tCO ₂ e
IT investment	3.845	4.347	5.236	5.235	€/pp





EcoVadis

In 2023, Vandecasteele Houtimport underwent an evaluation by **EcoVadis**, an international sustainability assessment platform. EcoVadis assesses companies across four key domains—**Environment, Labour & Human Rights, Ethics, and Sustainable Procurement**—covering the entire value chain of Vandecasteele Houtimport. In 2023, we were awarded a **Bronze Medal**. We actively addressed the identified improvement areas, and a new EcoVadis assessment is scheduled for **2026**.



Voka Charter for Sustainable Entrepreneurship

The **Charter for Sustainable Entrepreneurship** is an initiative of **Voka – Chamber of Commerce**, designed to support companies in their transition towards sustainable business practices. Vandecasteele Houtimport has been a participant since the very beginning, taking part in the programme continuously since **2001**.

Each year, a structured **action plan** is defined, comprising at least **10 new sustainability actions**, linked to the **17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, with a particular focus on the SDGs that are most closely aligned with our core activities. Since joining the Charter, we have implemented **more than 700 sustainability actions**. In **2019**, Vandecasteele Houtimport was awarded the **UNITAR “SDG Pioneer” certificate**. In **2021**, we achieved the **“SDG Champion”** certification by demonstrating our transition towards fully certified timber sourcing. In **2025**, we once again received the **“SDG Champion”** distinction, this time in the category **“Strategic Champion”**. Across all aspects of our business operations. These recognitions confirm our long standing commitment to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** and underline our **strategic and integrated approach to sustainability**, which is embedded across all aspects of our business operations.







About this report

This publication is the second sustainability report of Vandecasteele Houtimport. It provides a fair and accurate overview of Vandecasteele Houtimport's performance in the areas of environmental, social and governance (ESG) matters that are relevant both to its stakeholders and to the company itself.

Reporting period

1 January 2024 – 31 December 2025

Additional information

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Contact Details

For questions regarding this report, please contact:
Geneviève Standaert – genevieve@vandecasteele.be
Isabelle Polfliet – isabelle@vandecasteele.be

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