

The Book Chain Project (BCP) is a collaborative initiative of over 25 publishers working together to build sustainable supply chains.

Launched in 2006, the initiative began as a way to address deforestation in the publishing paper supply chain. It does this by gathering forest-source data directly from pulp and paper mills and assessing that data using the BCP due diligence approach. Although the scope of our work has grown since then, deforestation due diligence remains central to what we do.

Today, BCP engages with more than 450 paper mills and 600 printers across the supply chain to gather and assess information on forest sources, as well as energy, water, and chemical usage. Through our tools, guidance documents, forums and webinars, BCP helps to build the capacity of the book supply chain.

Following the announcement of the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) in 2023, BCP began investing in the development of our existing processes to ensure they met EUDR requirements. As part of this work, we have been heavily engaged with the supply chain to support its readiness for the regulation.

In December 2025, the European Commission announced that printed materials—including books and journals—would no longer fall within the scope of the EUDR. Paper placed on the market in Europe will remain in scope; however, paper manufactured outside Europe and used in books or journals printed outside Europe will no longer be included.

BCP's role is to support publishers in gaining greater visibility of supply chain impacts, enabling them to make informed decisions and buy responsibly. Our existing due diligence approach applies to all suppliers participating in the initiative, regardless of origin.

Many of the supply chains now excluded from EUDR requirements are located in areas with potential deforestation and/or forest degradation risk. These supply chains have been, and will continue to be, a focus of engagement for publishers and for this project to ensure that neither deforestation nor forest degradation is taking place.

BCP's collective approach has always been to make meaningful, incremental improvements to the due diligence process over time—leveraging available data, forest certification schemes, technologies and partnerships to increase confidence in our risk assessments and the underlying data. Since 2025, BCP has partnered with the World Resources Institute's Global Forest Watch and the Zoological Society of London to further enhance this process in preparation for EUDR.

Publishers remain committed to evolving and strengthening this due diligence work, building on the foundations of the BCP, the lessons learned in recent years, and the partnerships established as part of our EUDR response.

Even though many supply chains BCP engages with no longer face the regulatory imperative of EUDR, we will continue to develop and improve our due diligence processes, focusing engagement where risks are highest.

As always, we will work closely with suppliers to build their capacity to meet our due diligence requirements. Together with our supply chain partners, BCP will continue to ensure book supply chains remain free from deforestation.

Supported by the following Book Chain Project participating organisations

