



**ProCredit**  
H O L D I N G

## GROUP CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY



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## 1. Our journey and commitment to sustainability

As the effects of global warming continue to intensify, climate change remains a significant challenge and poses risks for entire societies. Given their influence over the allocation of capital and the direction of economic activity, banks have an important role to play in supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts. Banks also face significant risks associated with climate change, including physical risks from extreme and chronic weather events, as well as transition risks from policy changes, technological innovations, and shifting consumer preferences.

Reducing and managing the adverse environmental and social impacts of our operations and lending activities has always been a key objective of the ProCredit group. Internally, we have successfully done so through our Environmental Management System, which we implemented in 2015 to minimise the impact of our own operations on the climate and environment. Our green loans and thorough [environmental and social \(E&S\) risk assessment](#) further enable us to promote climate awareness among our clients. Our green lending criteria, verified by a third-party, are disclosed in our [Green Bond framework](#).

We are now taking the next step in contributing to the climate change mitigation and adaptation process by supporting our clients in their efforts to decarbonise and build up their resilience to withstand physical and transition risks.

We cannot do this alone, however. We need to do it together with our staff, clients and suppliers, and all other stakeholders who are as committed as we are to building a more resilient and green society.



Global challenges need to be addressed as a society, and that is our strategy. We want to walk **together** with our staff, clients and suppliers in the transition to **net zero** and **adaptation** to climate change.

**2015**

**Measuring our emissions.** ProCredit began its journey on climate action in response to the Paris Agreement, creating a tool that supports the company in collecting, assessing and disclosing our internal emissions.

**2018**

**Setting our first target.** We initially set the ambitious target to achieve carbon neutrality in our own operations (Scope 1 and 2 emissions) and a 20% green portfolio by the end of 2023. Our progress in emissions reductions is displayed in the graphic on page 5.

**2019**

**Sustainable supplier screening and assessment.** Implementation of a system to assess suppliers in terms of sustainability, including environmental measures related to climate mitigation (e.g. green labelling, energy efficiency measures, renewable energy).

**2020**

**Assessment of physical climate risks in the agricultural sector.** We assessed the effect of incremental and acute climate changes (temperature, rainfall and sea level rise, flood, drought, wildfire, and other hazards) in our countries of operation.

**Plastic strategy** published with the aim of reducing plastic use by improving client footprints for plastics, while also assessing risks, promoting reductions, supporting circularity and raising awareness.

**2021**

**First loan portfolio emissions accounting.** We reported our portfolio emissions (Scope 3) following the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) standard.

**2022**

**Portfolio assessment of climate risks and reaffirmed commitment to net zero.** A physical and transition risk screening was conducted for the group portfolio. Furthermore, we joined the Net-Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA) and committed to setting near- and long-term emissions reduction targets for the group, in line with the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) Net-Zero Standard.

**Achieving a 20% green portfolio.** In 2022, we achieved our target of allocating 20% of our loan portfolio to support the green investments of our clients. (For more details, see our [Impact Report Package 2022](#), section: Sustainable Finance)

**2023**

**Inauguration of our own 3 MWp PV park in Kosovo.** With this project, we aim to avoid 4,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq of emissions annually.

**2024**

**Net Zero targets set and validated** externally by the SBTi (Science Based Target initiative) as ambitious enough to comply with the Paris Climate Agreement.

### Our emissions reduction since 2015

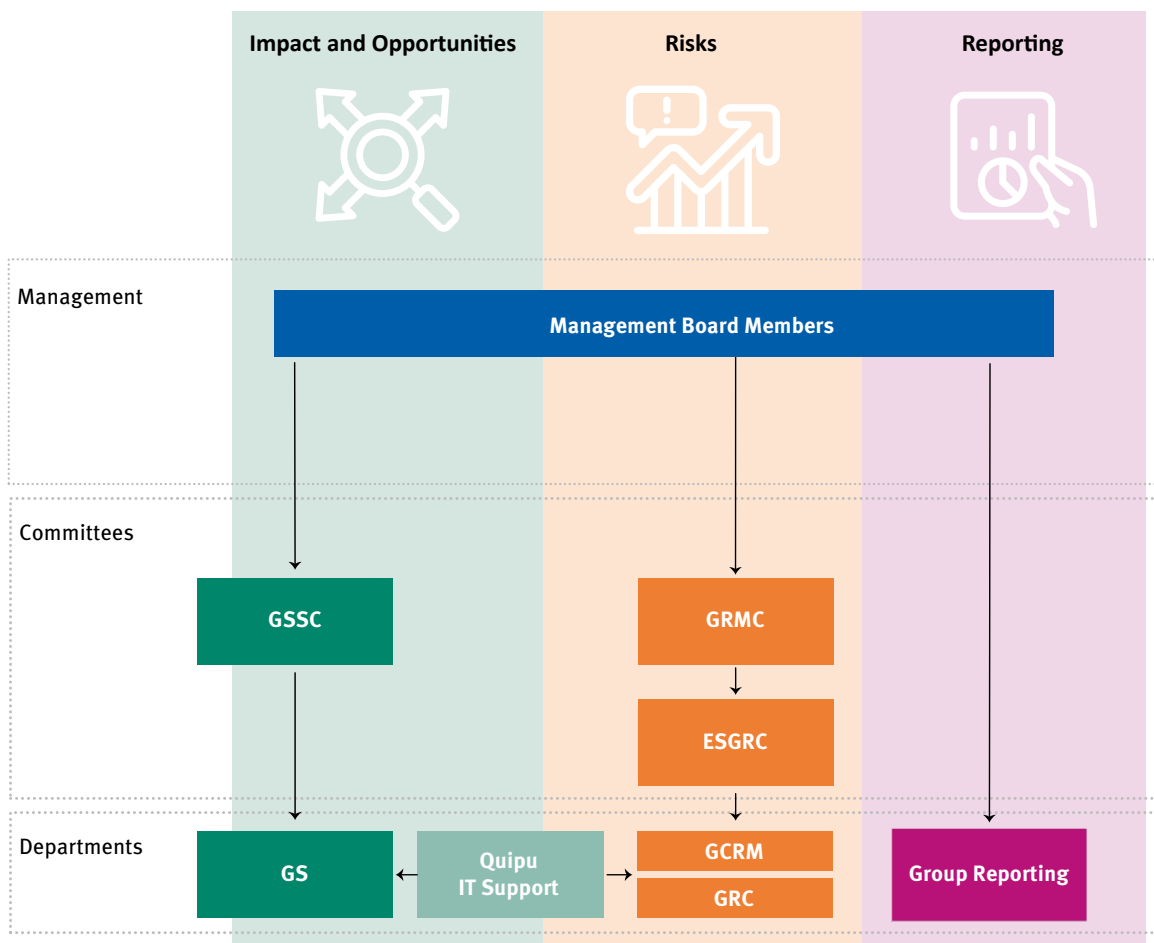


## 2. Governance on climate action

To structure proper governance on climate action, we considered the **double materiality** concept related to climate:

1. The **impact** of our operations on climate change through our direct and indirect emissions
2. The possible **financial effects (risks and opportunities)** that climate change has on the group

Furthermore, nothing can be improved if it is not measured, which underscores the importance of setting, monitoring and fulfilling our climate action goals. Therefore, to ensure that climate action is fully integrated into the group’s organisational structure, the topic has been divided into three main areas – Impact and Opportunities, Risks, and Reporting – along with all the respective bodies, committees and departments as shown in the graphic below. With this structure we aim to ensure senior management oversight, clear definition of responsibilities, and regular reports on the topic. Moreover, our internal documents, including policies, procedures, plans and strategies, are reviewed annually to ensure continued relevance in our countries of operation.



**GSSC:** Group Sustainability Steering Committee  
**GRMC:** Group Risk Management Committee  
**ESGRC:** Group ESG Risk Management Sub-Committee

**GS:** Group Sustainability Team  
**GCRM:** Group Credit Risk Management Team  
**GRC:** Group Risk Control

Note: Cross-departmental working groups have been instrumental for setting up this strategy and further institutionalising these topics. Each department has updated its processes to incorporate the strategy.

### 3. Where we stand

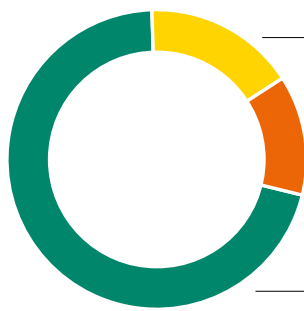
#### 3.1 Where we stand: Our impact

Sustainability is a central part of our business strategy. This is reflected in our continuous yearly reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the improvements made to our environmental and social assessment system to identify possible negative impacts and risks posed by our clients' business activities. Of course, there is still work to do, so it is important to know where we stand.

#### Scope 1 and 2 emissions 2022

**4 ktCO<sub>2</sub>eq**

#### Scope 1 & 2 by source FY 2022



**16%** Heating

**13%** Vehicles

**71%** Electricity

#### Scope 3 financed emissions 2022

**770 ktCO<sub>2</sub>eq**

#### GHG emissions of lending portfolio by sector activity 2022

| Sector activity        | Total outstanding (EUR m) | Attributed emissions (tonne CO <sub>2</sub> eq.) | Data quality score (1=high, 5=low) |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Agriculture (A)        | 850                       | 358,424  | 4.2                                |
| Industry (C)           | 1,237                     | 259,634  | 4.2                                |
| Retail (G)             | 1,417                     | 53,822   | 4.2                                |
| Transport (H)          | 237                       | 26,448   | 4.2                                |
| Utilities (D)          | 29                        | 22,185   | 4.6                                |
| Construction (F)       | 362                       | 15,751   | 4.2                                |
| Water distribution (E) | 24                        | 11,929   | 4.1                                |
| Minerals (B)           | 15                        | 4,674  | 4.1                                |
| Other sectors          | 627                       | 16,659   | 4.2                                |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>4,800</b>              | <b>769,527</b>                                   | <b>4.2</b>                         |

Using the GHG Protocol and PCAF standards, we account for our Scope 1 and 2 emissions and our most relevant Scope 3 emissions related to our lending activities. We define 2022 as our baseline year for setting our net-zero targets. The details of our emissions are disclosed in our [Impact Report Package 2022](#).

### 3.2 Where we stand: Our risks

Given our geographical outreach and loan portfolio composition, we are exposed to different physical and transition risks that arise from climate change. Our long-standing, borrower-level E&S risk assessment approach has now been complemented with analyses of:

#### Transition risk

- Our exclusion list significantly reduces a priori the group's exposure to transition risk. Fossil fuel extraction is just one example of an emissions-intensive activity that is excluded from financing, which also limits the risk of stranded assets.
- We have set key risk indicators (KRIs) for transition risk and the risks arising from the environmental impact of our loan portfolio, and we monitor these on a quarterly basis.
- We assess our clients' and our own transition risk exposure by analysing the following aspects: policy and regulation risk, technology risk, and market risk arising from changes in consumer preferences.
- Forward-looking stress-tests based on the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGSF) scenarios help us to quantify the potential effects of climate change on our loan portfolio.

0 €

exposure in crude petroleum &  
natural gas extraction

#### Physical risk

- We are identifying geographies in our portfolio that have an elevated exposure to acute and chronic physical risk such as: flood, drought, wildfire, etc. This knowledge paves the way for targeted adaptation and mitigation measures to safeguard our clients and our portfolio. Currently, our green loans help clients to become early movers in this area, and we aim to support them further in building more resilient businesses. As an example, 15% of our green loan portfolio is allocated to the agricultural sector (e.g. irrigation systems that directly address such risks).
- As the impact of climate hazards is likely to increase over time, we are conducting stress-tests to estimate the future climate risk exposure in our loan portfolio.
- In order to make our clients' businesses – and in turn our portfolio – more resilient to the effects of climate change, we take physical risks into account when assessing client credit risk. Client geolocation data helps us monitor our exposure to physical climate risks via defined KRIs.

**15%**  
of all green loans in  
agriculture

**19%**  
of group business loan portfolio  
in agriculture



## 4. Our strategy

### 1. Net zero by 2050

We have committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2050. This includes reducing our own emissions (Scope 1 and 2) as well as those related to our loan portfolio (Scope 3, category 15).

### 2. Building a climate-resilient portfolio

We strive to take account for climate change-related (physical and transition) risks throughout our risk management framework and we support our clients in making their businesses more resilient in coping with such risks.

#### Mitigation

Actions to reduce emissions that cause climate change



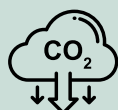
Energy efficiency

Renewable energy



Waste management & recycling

Low-carbon transportation



Low-carbon products & services



Sustainable agriculture



Climate-smart infrastructure



Water and energy conservation

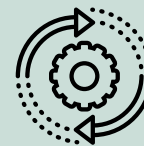
#### Adaptation

Actions to manage the impacts of climate change

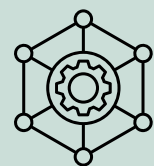
Extreme weather insurance



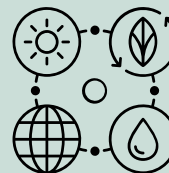
Business model transition



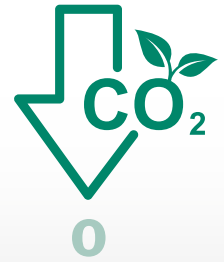
Climate-resilient infrastructure



Biodiversity conservation



## 4.1 Our strategy: Net zero by 2050



### Net zero by 2050

We have committed to reaching net zero emissions by 2050. This includes reducing our own emissions (Scope 1 and 2) as well as those related to our loan portfolio (Scope 3, category 15).

#### 1. Reducing our own footprint first

- Together with green suppliers and our staff, we aim to reduce our own emissions by 42% before 2030 (2022 as baseline year). We plan to achieve this goal by increasing the share of renewable electricity suppliers and electric cars and by introducing energy efficiency measures both at our premises and in our processes.

#### 2. Supporting our clients' transition

- We will help our clients in their efforts to decarbonise, from emissions accounting and setting reduction targets to getting the financial support they need to implement their strategies. We want to continue to be their “Hausbank” during this transition. Our target for 2027 is to engage with the clients responsible for 28% of the total emissions arising from our portfolio, supporting them in setting their own targets. Here, we will focus on the agriculture and manufacturing sectors.

#### 3. Prioritising low-carbon activities

- By implementing even stricter environmental and social criteria in lending, we steer growth in the business loan portfolio towards less carbon intensive activities.

#### 4. Promoting green electricity (project finance)

- Our energy project financing activities consist exclusively of renewable energy (RE) projects, and we will continue working to be a strong financial partner for decarbonisation in our countries of operation.

#### 5. Increasing support for green investments

- Currently, 20% of our portfolio is allocated to supporting our clients in the acquisition of green assets, such as energy efficient equipment, PV systems, green buildings, e-cars, waste management equipment and other items. In the next 5-7 years, we aim to increase this share to 25%.

## 4.2 Our strategy: A climate-resilient portfolio

### Building a climate-resilient portfolio

We strive to take account for climate change-related (physical and transition) risks throughout our risk management framework and we support our clients in making their businesses more resilient in coping with such risks.



### 1. Integrating climate risk into our risk management framework

- Integrating climate risk into the Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP) stress-testing framework.
- Ongoing analysis of the materiality of specific climate risks, as part of the risk inventory update process.
- Ensuring a robust internal governance setup for managing climate change-related risks, and subsequent rollout to subsidiary banks.
- Defining key indicators for climate risk monitoring and management.

### 2. Identifying climate risk clusters in our portfolio

- Conducting regular analyses and mapping of transition risk and physical climate risk, at the level of economic subsectors and specific geographies.

### 3. Supporting our clients

- Providing green loans to our clients in order to boost their resilience to climate-related risks and reduce their transition risks.
- Collecting relevant client data for granular climate risk analyses in the medium term.

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