

UN
environment
programme



finance
initiative

Principles for
Responsible Banking

TEMPLATE

Responsible Banking Progress Statement for PRB Signatories



Summary

Helaba 2025

Banks should fill in the following summary table, utilizing the italicized prompts.

<p>Principle 1: Alignment</p>	<p>Principle 2: Impact & Target Setting</p>	<p>Principle 3: Clients & Customers</p>
<p>Content <i>Briefly describe your bank’s sustainability strategy, and which international, regional or national frameworks and UN Sustainable Development Goals it aims to align with. Note any changes in the reporting year.</i></p> <p>Sustainability and social responsibility are central guiding principles for Helaba and are deeply embedded in the bank’s identity. As a public-law institution, Helaba operates in public interest and assumes responsibility for the well-being of current and future generations. Under the mission statement “Achieve more together”, Helaba is committed to creating long-term value for society and the environment and integrates sustainability as an integral and binding component into the group wide business strategy.</p> <p>A central pillar of transforming Helaba’s business model towards a net-zero economy is the transition plan which guides strategic decision-making – particularly in priority transition sectors of Helaba – through clearly defined decarbonization pathways. Helaba is not only supporting clients in their</p>	<p>Content <i>Briefly describe the bank’s most significant impact areas and the steps taken to identify, measure and manage them—including impact analysis results, targets set (including sectors, portfolio coverage, and KPIs), actions taken, and progress against the targets. Where targets have been set, share details of the bank’s transition/action plan, and progress made. Explain how the bank addressed interlinkages between impact areas where possible.</i></p> <p>Example Progress Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>% of bank’s portfolio covered by the impact analysis and each set target</i> • <i>Updated values of KPIs defined by bank to measure progress against targets</i> <p>Based on the Bank’s 2024 PRB impact analysis, Helaba has prioritized the following three key impact areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. climate stability 2. biodiversity & healthy ecosystems and 3. circularity. <p>These impact areas are reflected in the material topics of Helaba’s Double Materiality Assessment (DMA) which was conducted in accordance with the</p>	<p>Content <i>Briefly describe how the bank works responsibly with clients and customers in relation to significant impacts, including products and services offered, internal policies and processes and engagement to implement targets/action plans/transition plans to encourage sustainable practices/economic activities. Note any changes in the reporting year.</i></p> <p>Example Progress Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>% of clients and/or customers engaged in key sectors in areas of significant impact.</i> ▪ <i>USD sustainable finance volume mobilized and/or as a percentage of the global or sector portfolio</i> <p>Within Helaba Bank the lending business is the most effective lever for promoting a sustainable economy and achieving the 1.5°C climate target. In line with its public mandate, Helaba encourages sustainable practices among its customers by offering financing solutions that provide incentives for responsible transformation. These solutions range from green and social loans to sustainable development loans. The Bank’s Sustainable Lending Framework and Sustainable Investment Framework form the foundation for transparent and consistent</p>

<p>transition to climate-neutral business models but also in the adaptation of circular strategies.</p> <p>To fulfil its ambition of enabling the broader economy’s transformation, Helaba has set strategic goals in 2022 for 2025 across all ESG dimensions.</p> <p>With regard to these targets, Helaba has recorded a largely stable positive development. Many of the goals were achieved, including a reduction of own emissions by more than 30%, a share of sustainable business volume in the lending portfolio of over 50%, and the delivery of more than two training days per employee per year. To further underscore its ESG ambition, Helaba has reviewed and updated its previous targets in light of the progress achieved and has set new, forward-looking objectives for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable management guides us in our business activities. • Through our actions, we are making a measurable contribution to achieving the Paris Climate Agreement. • We promote diversity and take responsibility in society. <p>The targets are anchored in six measurable KPIs to implement a group-wide steering framework and ensure that sustainability is embedded in decision-making and performance monitoring.</p> <p>Helaba’s sustainability approach aligns with key international and national frameworks, including the climate targets of the German</p>	<p>European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS). Climate stability is material for Helaba due to its own operations, its lending and development finance activities, and its real estate portfolio. Biodiversity is material mainly through the bank’s lending activities, while circularity and resource use are material across both the lending activities and the real estate portfolio, underscoring the topics’ relevance for Helaba.</p> <p>The three impact areas are closely interconnected. Climate stability depends on healthy ecosystems and biodiversity which store carbon and regulate the climate. At the same time circular economic models lower resource extraction, emissions and land-use, thereby reducing pressure on both the climate and the natural habitat. Against this background, Helaba selected climate stability and circular economy as focus areas for target setting, noting the presence of interlinkages between biodiversity and both impact areas. Helaba acknowledges these interlinkages in its PRB target setting process, with the aim of ensuring consistency, impact orientation and support for long-term resilience.</p> <p>Climate Stability</p> <p>Helaba has made significant progress in its key impact area climate stability by implementing a transition plan with interim operational targets for 2030. The decarbonization strategy is a core component of the transition plan and plays a key role in aligning the business model with the Paris Climate Agreement.</p> <p>To advance the implementation of this strategy, Helaba has been developing sector-specific decarbonization pathways since 2023, aligned with</p>	<p>classification of sustainable activities across the group. These frameworks define ecological and social criteria in accordance with the EU Taxonomy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that both financing and investment decisions exclude harmful activities and actively contribute to positive change. Helaba currently contributes positively to at least ten SDGs. For example, Helaba finances 3.36 million MWh of renewable electricity (SDG 7), 3.07 million m² of energy-efficient building space (SDG 7 and SDG 11) and 2.83 billion tkm of transport capacity of sustainable rail freight transport (SDG 9).</p> <p>Helaba understands the importance of its role in empowering clients in their transformation towards more sustainable business models. The Bank has therefore created the Sustainable Finance Advisory (SFA) team which provides tailored sustainability-related finance solutions that address the specific financing needs and sustainability targets of its clients. The SFA raises awareness of ESG opportunities, structures sustainable transactions, and assists customers in identifying suitable external partnerships to further advance their transition.</p> <p>Climate Stability</p> <p>To support its clients with decarbonization and stay in line with its decarbonization pathways, Helaba has implemented the Transition Readiness Assessment (TRA). This customer questionnaire supports the structured engagement with corporate clients in the lending portfolio facing significant climate-transition challenges. Through the TRA, Helaba assesses clients’ transition readiness and capabilities and monitors their progress over time. The questionnaire is mandatory for clients whose activities fall within Helaba’s sectoral</p>
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<p>Federal Government, the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization.</p>	<p>the 1.5-degree target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in its loan portfolio. To identify the sectors with the greatest impact on climate stability, the bank calculates its financed emissions using the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF) Global GHG Accounting and Reporting Standard. The decarbonization pathways are determined using the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) methodology, which provides explicit 1.5°C-aligned sectoral trajectories. The bank has defined the following intensity-based decarbonization targets in their decarbonization pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial real estate (commercial use): By 2030, the physical intensity is to be reduced to 26.3 kgCO₂e/m², corresponding to a reduction of 60.9%. • Commercial real estate (residential use): By 2030, the physical intensity is to be reduced to 21.0 kgCO₂e/m², corresponding to a reduction of 49.8%. • Power generation: By 2030, the physical intensity is to be reduced to 83.3 gCO₂e/kWh, corresponding to a reduction of 67.9%. • Steel: By 2030, the physical intensity is to be reduced to 1.3 tCO₂e/t steel, corresponding to a reduction of 23.9%. • Cement: By 2030, the physical intensity is to be reduced to 506.9 kgCO₂/t cementitious product, corresponding to a reduction of 18.7%. • Automotive: By 2030, the physical intensity is to be reduced to 107.9 gCO₂/vkm, corresponding to a reduction of 41.8%. <p>To assess future emission trends in line with the decarbonization pathways, Helaba has introduced</p>	<p>decarbonization targets or are characterized by high emissions intensity and credit exposure. Further, Helaba compiles an ESG risk score for its customers, thereby integrating sustainability performance into its lending practices.</p> <p>Circularity</p> <p>To support clients in their circular transformation needs, Helaba is building up sector-specific knowledge on circular economy topics by providing trainings and supporting materials for its employees. These measures enable client-facing employees to identify customers' transformation needs for expanding circular business practices and closely advise them on implementation. This advisory approach helps translate Helaba's commitment to circularity into measurable action.</p>
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	<p>the Portfolio Alignment Score (PAS) to its KPI system. The PAS quantifies the aggregate deviation of the decarbonization path at the overall portfolio level in years by weighing the contribution of each sector portfolio according to their share of financed emissions. The PAS is reported to the Sustainability Board on a quarterly basis. In case of deviations, the Bank responds with targeted measures from a predefined catalog of actions.</p> <p>Circularity</p> <p>To improve the understanding of its circularity-related impacts, Helaba conducted a pilot to establish a baseline for selected circularity indicators within its loan portfolio and to benchmark these against available industry values. The pilot focused on corporate clients in the real estate/construction and water management sectors and relied on publicly available data, in particular disclosures from CSRD and voluntary sustainability reports.</p> <p>The results of this pilot indicate that, at this stage, it is not yet possible to develop a reliable baseline and benchmark at the NACE code level. This is primarily due to the limited availability and comparability of relevant data, resulting from the reduced scope of reporting companies in the context of the EU Omnibus Regulation.</p> <p>Helaba aims to continuously enhance the quantitative database used to assess the circularity impact of its loan portfolio, taking into account the evolving regulatory landscape. To this end, the pilot phase was accompanied by the further development of an IT infrastructure enabling a structured collection and analysis of existing and future circularity data.</p> <p>Given the current data limitations, Helaba has set the following process-oriented circularity target as an</p>	
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	<p>intermediate step towards a future impact target: <i>Implement an internal circularity definition and corresponding employee training for two market segments by the end of 2026.</i></p> <p>The internal circularity definition is intended to specify the relevance of circularity for Helaba’s business activities and to provide a framework for further action, including the integration of circularity into client dialogue. On this basis, Helaba has systematically assessed potential circularity-related action areas for its borrowers and identified portfolio segments that are highly relevant for circular economy considerations such as Automotive, Energy and Materials. This approach supports the identification of clients’ circular transition needs. The development of the internal definition is accompanied by strengthening internal expertise on circularity through the provision of support materials and targeted employee training. These initiatives aim to enable Helaba’s employees to advise clients in a well-founded manner on circular economy topics. Furthermore, Helaba envisages to link these circular economy initiatives with its Sustainable Lending Framework.</p>	
<p>Links & references <i>[References to where additional information can be found in external reporting. Include links and page numbers.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Konzernlagebericht > Grundlagen des Konzerns • NHB 2025 > Übergreifende Angaben > Geschäftsmodell, Strategie, Ziele und Wertschöpfungskette (S.7f.) • NHB 2025 > Umweltinformationen > Klimaschutz und Klimawandel > Konzepte > Konzernweites Konzept – Co2- 	<p>Links & references <i>[References to where additional information can be found in external reporting. Include links and page numbers.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHB 2025 > Wesentlichkeitsanalyse • NHB 2025 > Ressourcennutzung und Kreislaufwirtschaft im Kerngeschäft> Konzepte • NHB 2025 > Ressourcennutzung und Kreislaufwirtschaft im Kerngeschäft>Maßnahmen • NHB 2025 > Ressourcennutzung und Kreislaufwirtschaft im Kerngeschäft>Ziele 	<p>Links & references <i>[References to where additional information can be found in external reporting. Include links and page numbers.]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Conduct • ESG information for analysts > https://www.helaba.com/de/nachhaltigkeit/esg-information/esg-information.php • NHB 2025 > Übergreifende Angaben > Geschäftsmodell, Strategie, Ziele und Wertschöpfungskette > ESG-Ziele (S.10ff.) • NHB 2025 > Umweltinformationen >

Reduktion im Eigenbetrieb		<p>Klimaschutz und Klimawandel > Konzepte > Client Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NHB 2025 > Umweltinformationen > Klimaschutz und Klimawandel > Konzepte > Sustainable Lending Framework• NHB 2025 > Umweltinformationen > Klimaschutz und Klimawandel > Konzepte > Sustainable Investment Framework• NHB 2025 > Umweltinformationen > Klimaschutz und Klimawandel > Maßnahmen > Fortlaufende Vergabe nachhaltiger Finanzierungsprodukte
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<p>Principle 4: Stakeholders</p>	<p>Principle 5: Governance & Culture</p>	<p>Principle 6: Transparency & Accountability</p>
<p>Content Briefly describe how the bank consults, engages and collaborates/partners with relevant stakeholders for the purpose of implementing the Principles. This could include understanding impacts, setting ambitious targets, advocating for enabling regulatory/policy environments, and creating partnerships that contribute to addressing significant impacts. Note any changes in the reporting year.</p> <p>Helaba maintains an open and continuous dialogue with its stakeholders to ensure that their expectations and perspectives are integrated into the group’s strategy and business model. The comprehensive DMA, conducted by Helaba in accordance with the ESRS, incorporates the requirements and expectations of both internal and external stakeholders. The differing interests of investors, customers, employees, suppliers, regulators and organizations were considered in the analysis based on an internal assessment.</p> <p>With customers being an integral external stakeholder, Helaba is focused on active engagement around the topics of sustainable finance and ESG-related products. This includes targeted formats such as customer questionnaires for high impact climate sectors, dedicated sustainability consultations or collaborations with, for example Sparkassen partners. Helaba is also engaging in exchanges with regulators and policymakers to meet evolving sustainability requirements and collaborates with selected sustainability initiatives and industry associations to gain insights and contribute to market standards. For example, Helaba actively engages with the German</p>	<p>Content Briefly describe the key governance structures in place (Board and Executive level) and related accountability mechanisms to implement the Principles. This could include how governance supports your bank’s management of significant impacts and risks, including target implementation and monitoring of action/transition plans. In addition, briefly describe how a culture of responsible banking is driven internally (e.g. via employee learning & development). Note any changes or progress in the reporting period.</p> <p>Example Progress Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Details of remuneration practices linked to sustainability targets. ▪ % of employees trained on responsible banking topics. <p>Helaba’s sustainability governance ensures that responsibility and accountability for sustainability are firmly embedded at the highest level of the organization. The Executive Board holds overall responsibility for sustainability and approves the sustainability strategy as an integral part of the Group’s business strategy. It regularly reviews progress, target achievement, and key developments in sustainability and risk management, with the relevant KPIs being evaluated on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>The Group Sustainability Management function, headed by the Chief Sustainability Officer within the Group Steering unit, coordinates the implementation of the strategy across the Group. It is complemented by the Sustainability Board, which monitors target achievement and sustainability reporting, as well as the Group</p>	<p>Content Provide reference to additional relevant reports, if not listed as references with P1–P5. Briefly note whether/where assurance of sustainability information has been undertaken (optional).</p> <p>Since 2024, Helaba has published its sustainability report in accordance with the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Standard, meeting growing expectations for transparency and comparability. Prior to that, the Bank has already reported comprehensively under the GRI Standards, providing a consistent view of its environmental, social and governance performance.</p> <p>In addition to regulatory disclosures, Helaba makes its sustainability strategy available as a standalone publication and summarizes its ambition, ESG targets, products and governance in a dedicated section on its website. The Bank also offers a separate ESG information page for analysts as well as rating agencies, providing structured and in-depth insights tailored to capital market stakeholders.</p> <p>Through these measures, Helaba strengthens its accountability, supports informed stakeholder dialogue and enables a transparent, data-driven assessment of its sustainability performance.</p>

<p>Sustainable Finance Cluster and the Association of German Public Banks (VÖB). Feedback from these exchanges directly informs the further development of Helaba’s sustainability strategy, product design, and risk management framework.</p> <p>In addition, Helaba maintains ongoing dialogue with internal stakeholder groups. Employee engagement is fostered through regular employee surveys, HR exchanges, sustainability training (i.e. on climate stability, circularity and biodiversity) and recurring forums at business-area and site level, including annual staff assemblies and exchanges with the Executive Board. Owners and governing bodies are closely involved in strategy development, with employee representatives contributing their views at board level. The Executive Board also receives tailored sustainability training that enables it to assess sustainability related impacts, risks and opportunities for the Helaba Group.</p> <p>This structured engagement process with internal and external stakeholders ensures that Helaba’s sustainability actions are aligned with stakeholder priorities, enhance trust, and strengthen the Bank’s contribution to a resilient and future-oriented financial system.</p>	<p>Sustainability Committee and Roundtable, which ensure coherence and collaboration across subsidiaries and divisions. Risk-relevant aspects of sustainability are embedded into the existing risk strategy and risk management systems.</p> <p>Helaba’s culture of responsible banking is built on the Code of Conduct, which is supported by a whistleblowing system that enables confidential, anonymous reporting via an independent ombudsperson. This framework is complemented by a comprehensive compliance management and training in responsible conduct and sustainable finance for the Executive Board and employees. Helaba further requires its suppliers and service providers to adhere to the supplier Code of Conduct. By signing the Code, all business partners commit to the Bank’s shared values. Additionally, the Corporate Citizenship Program and the commitment to the Diversity Charta demonstrate Helaba’s culture of diversity and social engagement. Together, these initiatives foster ethical behavior, inclusion and community engagement, thereby strengthening a culture of responsibility across the Group.</p>	
<p>Links & references <i>[References to where additional information can be found in external reporting. Include links and page numbers,]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Conduct • NHB 2025: Übergreifende Angaben zum Nachhaltigkeitsbericht > Grundlagen für die Erstellung des Konzernnachhaltigkeitsberichts > Stakeholderorientierte Perspektive • NHB 2025: Übergreifende Angaben zum Nachhaltigkeitsbericht > Interessen und 	<p>Links & references <i>[References to where additional information can be found in external reporting. Include links and page numbers,]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHB 2025 > Compliance > Governance Information • Sustainability Strategy 2025 > Governance (p. 11) • NHB 2025: Übergreifende Angaben zum Nachhaltigkeitsbericht > Geschäftsmodell, Strategie, Ziele und Wertschöpfungskette > Strategien im Kontext der Nachhaltigkeit 	<p>Links & references <i>[References to where additional information can be found in external reporting. Include links and page numbers,]</i></p>

<p>Standpunkte der Stakeholder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHB 2025: Übergreifende Angaben zum Nachhaltigkeitsbericht > Vorgehen zur Wesentlichkeitsanalyse • NHB 2025 > Umweltinformationen > Klimaschutz und Klimawandel > Konzepte > Berücksichtigung von Interessenträgern im Rahmen der Konzepte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHB 2025: Governance in Bezug auf Nachhaltigkeit und Nachhaltigkeitsberichterstattung > Die Rolle des Vorstands, des Verwaltungsrats und der Trägerversammlung • NHB 2025: Umweltinformationen > Klimaschutz im Kerngeschäft > Transitionsplan für den Klimaschutz im Kerngeschäft > Umsetzung und Überwachung der Konzepte • NHB 2025: Beschäftigte des Helaba-Konzerns > Zufriedenheit von Beschäftigten durch attraktive Arbeitsbedingungen im Eigenbetrieb > Konzepte > Gesellschaftliches Engagement • NHB 2025: Beschäftigte des Helaba-Konzerns > Zufriedenheit von Beschäftigten durch attraktive Arbeitsbedingungen im Eigenbetrieb > Maßnahmen > Gesellschaftliches Engagement • NHB 2025: Beschäftigte des Helaba-Konzerns > Zufriedenheit von Beschäftigten durch attraktive Arbeitsbedingungen im Eigenbetrieb > Maßnahmen > Weitere Maßnahmen • ESG information for analysts > https://www.helaba.com/de/nachhaltigkeit/esg-information/esg-information.php 	
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