



## Press Release

### **&Green Fund's first investment in Colombia: Scaling up Hacienda San José's disruptive business model for the cattle sector**

**Bogota/Amsterdam, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022** - Stichting andgreen.fund (“&Green”) is partnering with Hacienda San José (“HSJ”) for an ambitious sustainable scaleup of its operations in rural Colombia, ultimately impacting up to 180,000 hectares by the end of the loan tenor. &Green, a fund established to de-link tropical commodity production from deforestation, will work together with HSJ to secure the protection and restoration of up to 27,000 hectares of tropical forest in Colombia's underdeveloped Orinoquía region. The 12-year loan facility of COP 30 billion (approx. USD 7.5 million) allows for the development of a ‘blueprint’ for the transition to a sustainable, deforestation-free Colombian cattle sector.

This transaction marks &Green's first investment in Colombia, where unsustainable, extensive cattle ranching is considered a major driver of (illegal) deforestation. Cattle ranching in Colombia is typically operated on a low-productivity, low-cost basis with inefficient use of land and resources, which is unsustainable both from an environmental and economic perspective.

HSJ has paved the way for the sustainable intensification of cattle production in the country, with a vision to develop the Colombian cattle sector into a globally relevant market for premium quality beef. Gabriel Jaramillo, the founder of HSJ notes that “As a centre of excellence for cattle ranching in Colombia, HSJ combines state of the art genetic selection with regenerative farming techniques to optimize productivity without compromising the integrity of the landscape. In &Green we have found a likeminded partner to support our vision to disrupt the sector and create value for Colombian cattle farmers and the wider communities in which we and they operate”.

&Green's investment in HSJ helps to catalyse the transformation of the Colombian cattle sector by:

- **Expanding** HSJ's sustainable intensification model across 180,000 hectares of degraded land, applying &Green's impact and sustainability framework to guide the acquisition and development of new areas.
- **Protecting and restoring** up to 27,000 hectares of forest, halting the destructive fire cycle and restoring soil health across the landscape.
- **Fostering social inclusion** through sharing of knowledge and genetics, employment creation, and community engagement focused on education, health and gender equality.
- **Sharing data** and learnings with the industry to inspire positive change.

Claudia Martinez, member of the &Green Board added: “As a Colombian national, I welcome &Green's investment in the economic growth of one of our most remote regions. Especially in the Orinoquía, it is vital that development considers both the economic potential as well as the social, cultural and natural wealth present in the region. The partnership between HSJ and &Green brings

a refreshing, holistic perspective that has the potential to create impact well beyond the borders of HSJ's operations".

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**For more information please contact:**

[info@andgreen.fund](mailto:info@andgreen.fund)

**About &Green** ([www.andgreen.fund](http://www.andgreen.fund))

&Green, incorporated as a Dutch Stichting, was developed under the leadership of IDH in close collaboration with *Norwegian International Climate and Forests Initiative (NICFI)*. It is a blended finance debt fund investing in commercial projects that can demonstrate decoupling of commodity production from deforestation while being socially inclusive. &Green is focused on tropical forest jurisdictions with progressive forest protection strategies and targets in place. Its targets sectors are the commodities that are driving deforestation such as palm oil, soy, beef, forestry and others. Current contributors to the fund include the Government of Norway, through its International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI), *Unilever*, the British-Dutch consumer goods company, and the *Global Environment Facility (GEF)*, with *UN Environment* acting as its implementing agency. The Dutch advisory firm *SAIL Ventures* acts as the fund's investment advisor.

**About HSJ** ([www.hsj.com.co](http://www.hsj.com.co))

Hacienda San José is an advanced agro-industrial company in the production of cattle genetics of the Nelore Ciclo Corto Cia. breed and beef production, in the Vichada region of the Colombian highlands. HSJ was founded in 2014 and, over the past eight years, has become the centre for excellence for cattle ranching in Colombia. It now aims to further transform the local and international sector with disruptive production practices. HSJ is looking to promote local interest in Colombia to invest in the sustainability of the sector in the upcoming decade.