

Ethical Scouting

Together for a better world



Ethical-Scouting - a project of the Steyler Ethik Bank



Nature and goal of the project

Steyler Ethik Bank works to realize a world with respect to Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) through ethical investment. As an ethical investor, Steyler Ethik Bank carefully selects companies that fulfill these principles and values. Selection is based on a fair evaluation of the social and environmental behavior of companies. Steyler Ethik Bank wants to collaborate with SSpS, SVD and VIVAT International (referred to as VIVAT) to get your grassroots experiences and knowledge of what is happening on the ground as a support for its selection process and investment decisions.

Basic understanding of the project

Companies are responsible for many issues that impact JPIC. Local residents and missionaries have to suffer from social injustice and the consequences of destruction of the local environment in many countries. Steyler Ethik Bank wants to use its influence on companies as a tool to tackle the social and ecological challenges caused by companies. To be credible and successful in this endeavor, we need valuable information about their local practices.

Handling of your information

Steyler Ethik Bank will use your information internally for investment decisions and possibly for a dialogue with the companies to challenge them to change their unethical practices. If necessary changes

are not made, Steyler Ethik Bank can choose to stop investing in such a company.

Sources of your information

Your grassroots reports should be based on your own observation or reports from people working or living near the company's area. By providing "exclusive" information and not media reports, you help us to link our ethical investment decision to your daily missionary work.

Safeguard of your security

Steyler Ethik Bank understands that your security situation is related to the level of freedom of speech in the country where you work. To ensure your safety, Steyler Ethik Bank will protect your anonymity and not divulge your personal or congregational names.

Win-Win-Situation

You can help Steyler Ethik Bank and its credibility as an ethical investor. At the same time, the project gives you hope that companies might change their social and environmental behavior and helps you pursue the mission of the Arnold family and VIVAT. Steyler Ethik Bank has been financially supporting the SSpS and SVD Missionary projects since 1964. The better the Bank's performance based on good decisions as an ethical investor is, the more financial support the Bank can provide for the mission of the Arnold family.

The Steyler Bank was founded 1964 by the congregation of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). The bank is located in Sankt Augustin, Germany. In Germany members of the SVD congregation are called „Steyler Missionaries“. Therefore, the original name of the Bank is Steyler Bank, lately changed into Steyler Ethik Bank to emphasize our ethical focus. Internationally, the Bank is also called SVD Bank.

Ethical Scouting - Ways of communication



Usually, Steyler Ethik Bank does the first step and requests the network of SSpS, SVD and VIVAT to provide information from the grassroots about a company which is relevant for our investment decisions. Steyler Ethik Bank will contact the Congregational JPIC Coordinators and they will contact you by email. Then you have two alternative choices to answer the email:

A. Formless Information

You can give your information entirely formless. Just write down what you have seen, heard or read about the company. EXAMPLE:

“Dear N.N. (= SSpS / SVD JPIC coordinator), I read the request of Steyler Ethik Bank on the company X. I have asked some people who are working in the company. They reported me the following negative experiences: Company X disrespects human rights in a massive way. People are seen and treated as objects. ... The consequences for the indigenous people are disastrous. ... Labor rights are massively disregarded and violated, water consumption threatens groundwater level ...”

B. Questionnaire

You can also use the following questionnaire that helps to identify features of social and environmental behavior of companies.

- Your Name and Organization
- Your security situation (free or serious situation with fear of life)
- Name of Company
- Country / Region / City
- Controversies in the Company:
 1. Controversial Environmental Practices
e.g. air pollution, water pollution, destruction of forests, land grabbing
 2. Violations of Human Rights e.g. human trafficking, pressure on indigenous people, exploitation of women, children, . . .
 3. Violations Labor Rights e.g. slave-like working conditions, unfair salaries, excessive working hours, . . .

4. Others e.g. bribery, fraud, money laundering . . .
- Source of information e.g. own observation, reports from people working in or living nearby the company, . . .

C. Your initiative

In addition to responding to our requests you can also provide Steyler Ethik Bank with information based on your experience and ministry.

Steyler Ethik Bank will find ways to make use of this information, either for own initiatives and/or by sharing it with other partners (investors, rating agencies) with special interest in involved companies. This way of communication might motivate you to tell us more about the economic realities in your country.

An EXAMPLE of an informal email:

“I write this email just to share of an environmental disaster we are coping with these days in relation to the forest fires in Indonesia. Many cases of the rainforest fires in Indonesia mostly involve palm oil and timber corporations. Up to now, there are 10 national and foreign corporations which are allegedly getting involved in the forest fires. Thousands of people are suffering, children have been reported to have died, products of Indonesian palm oil corporations primarily go to the European market. If you or your networks are interested in knowing more information about the issue, we are happy to share it.”

Steyler Ethik Bank is looking forward to collaborating with you!

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may 2019

Photos: www.fotolia.de (Mr. Vertigo, Jürgen Fälchle, Sergey Sivens, Bernie Moto, Bildergala, Poco BW, billionphotos.com) www.istockphoto.com (Joel Arillet)

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