



Hogan
Lovells

BaSE | *Business &
Sustainable Enterprise*

Impact Report 2025

HL BaSE

HL BaSE is Hogan Lovells' global impact economy practice, providing accessible, high-quality legal advice to social enterprises, charities, and other purpose-driven organisations to drive positive change.

Operating across our international offices, HL BaSE has advised over 330 impact economy clients tackling critical challenges such as climate action, social inclusion, and economic empowerment.

HL BaSE is committed to advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals and delivering legal support for business as a force for good.

For more information click the links below



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■ Our Impact

In 2025 we dedicated



21,205 hours



Valued at £14,450,000



Supporting 330 social enterprises

■ HL BaSE Training



30 impact ventures



9 countries



123 legal volunteers

The 2025 HL BaSE Training programme brought together over 123 Hogan Lovells lawyers and client delegates from across EMEA to our London office for two days of immersive learning and collaboration. Delegates heard from sector leaders including Wietse van de Werf, Founder & CEO of Sea Ranger Service, Marc Koska, Founder of ApiJect, and Mark Cheng, Founder and Managing Partner of Social Innovation Circle, as well as colleagues from our EMEA network.

During the programme, delegates participated in interactive sessions focused on social enterprise business models and the legal challenges facing purpose-driven organisations. Most importantly, delegates were introduced to 30 impact ventures whom they will go on to support with pro bono legal advice for up to six months. From World Cetacean Alliance who work to protect whales, dolphins, and porpoises in their habitats, to KIDS Charity who are on a mission to create life-changing opportunities for children and young people, we were lucky to be joined by innovators and entrepreneurs from across Europe.

Since its launch, HL BaSE Training has trained over half of the firm's lawyers, deepening their understanding of commercial and financial skills, and the relevance of social and environmental impact for all of our clients.





■ HL BaSE Catalyst



10 workshops across **7** countries



56 client volunteers



55 social enterprises

HL BaSE Catalyst is a pro bono programme dedicated to supporting social entrepreneurs while enabling us to collaborate closely with in-house counsel from our private sector clients to provide tailored legal advice. By working together on matters that reflect our shared values, we are able to maximise our collective impact and drive meaningful change.

2025 marked our largest year to date, with 10 workshops held across New York, Rome, London, Paris, Madrid, Amsterdam, Alicante and Germany. These workshops brought together legal professionals and social entrepreneurs in a collaborative environment, fostering open discussion and practical problem-solving to help the ventures navigate legal challenges and scale their impact.



■ HL BaSE Catalyst

Return to New York

HL BaSE hosted a Catalyst workshop at our New York office providing an invaluable opportunity to reconnect in person with the vibrant New York social enterprise community. The workshop offered bespoke legal and business advice to a diverse group of changemakers.

Our lawyers, working alongside in-house counsel from our clients, advised five inspiring ventures:

- APOPO works to protect people and the planet using trained rats and other scent-detection animals to speed up landmine and tuberculosis detection, returning safe land back to communities for development and freeing people from serious illness so they can get back on their feet.
- Hip Hop Public Health was jointly developed by a neurologist and a hip hop artist to harness the power of music and culture to create research-based educational resources, improving health outcomes in disadvantaged communities.
- Inkludo is a newly formed non-profit facilitating impact financing for social enterprises in key sectors such as renewable energy, healthcare, and agriculture across the Global South.
- Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team is an international non-profit dedicated to improving lives through accurate and accessible geographic data. Its global community of mappers leverage open data to reduce risks and revolutionise disaster management.
- The Urban Pinnacle is on a mission to empower underserved communities through an app which enables users to engage in programmes and initiatives that support their journey toward self-sustainability.

■ Partnership for the goals

Rivers Trust

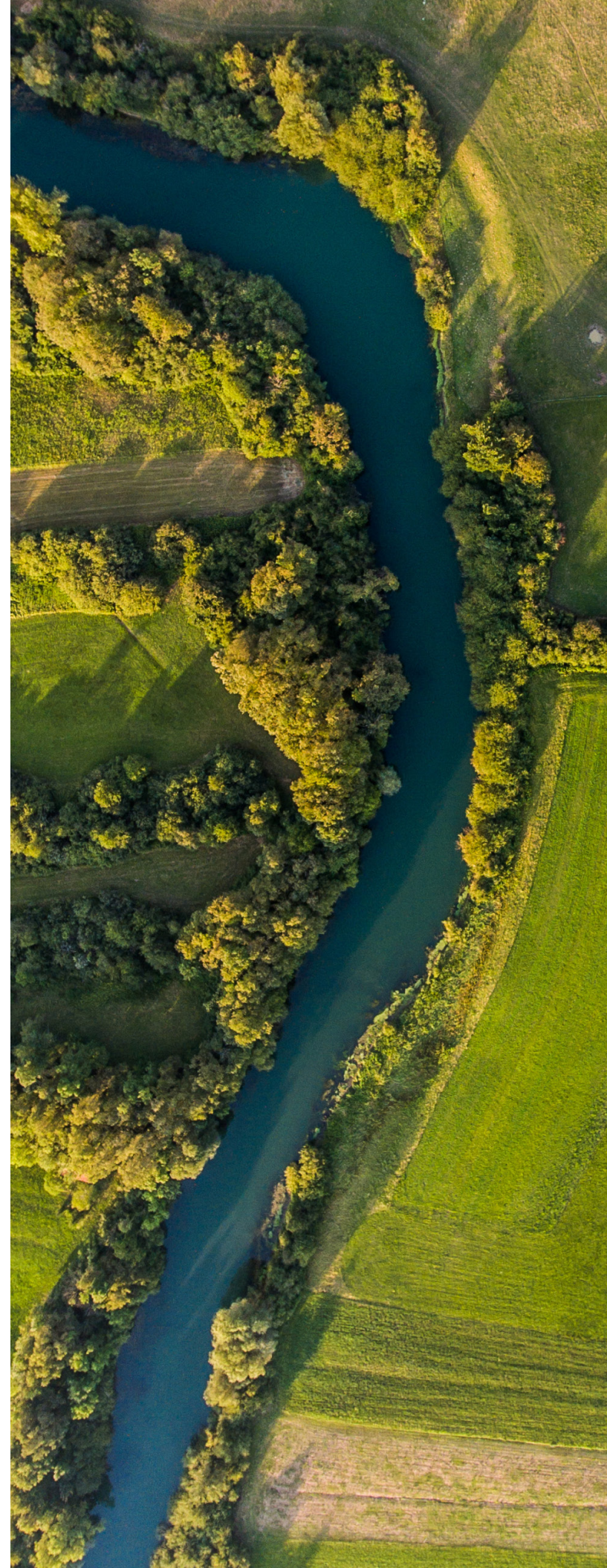
In its second year of partnership with The Rivers Trust, teams across Hogan Lovells fundraised, volunteered, and provided pro bono legal and business advice to support the Rivers Trust movement and its vision of wild, healthy, natural rivers, valued by all.

The Rivers Trust is the umbrella organisation representing 65 member trusts across England, Wales, and Ireland, supporting river guardians and tackling climate change and pollution by creating habitats, managing soil, and monitoring water quality, while also promoting river resilience through improved catchment management and nature-based solutions.

Our three-year partnership will enable The Rivers Trust movement to significantly increase its positive impact, which last year included planting half a million trees, creating or restoring 894 hectares of wetland, and opening 544km of river to fish passage.

HL BaSE has provided advice to several Rivers Trusts on a wide range of matters.

As an example, HL BaSE advised The Rivers Trust on entering into an IP licensing arrangement with The Adventures of Scout, enabling The Rivers Trust to use illustrations of the Scout character as a virtual “river ambassador” for its awareness campaigns and to create educational resources which will be shared with member trusts, schools and educators. We also advised member trusts on how to appropriately use The Rivers Trust’s commissioned illustrations and educational materials.



“Our rivers are in a desperate state, and they are on the frontline of both the climate crisis and catastrophic biodiversity loss. There is an urgent need to restore natural features such as wetlands, riverside trees and healthy soils to re-build our resilience to climate change and aid nature’s recovery. The partnership with Hogan Lovells has already been a great support to our growing movement of local Trusts, helping us to raise awareness of the critical state our rivers are in and deliver sustainable solutions at a landscape scale across the UK and the island of Ireland.”

Mark Lloyd,
CEO, Rivers Trust

Hamburg Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship

HL BaSE is partnering with the Hamburg Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship which supports social entrepreneurs in creating impactful solutions for societal challenges.

HL BaSE advised social enterprises from the Alliance's network including:

- Redezeit für dich ("Speaking time for you"), a platform tackling loneliness founded by four practising coaches from Hamburg with over 350 volunteer listeners. As trained coaches, therapists and mental health experts, they volunteer their time to listen; and
- Himmel & Humus, a community-supported agricultural initiative based in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Germany, focused on regenerative farming processes and growing high-quality regional vegetables while promoting community involvement and sustainability.



"Thanks to the partnership with Hogan Lovells the members of Social Entrepreneurship City Hamburg can take advantage of pro bono legal advice and therefore have a legally secure foundation for their important work!"

Boris Kozlowski,
Co-Managing Director, Hamburg
Alliance for Social Entrepreneurship

Bright Tide

HL BaSE collaborated with Bright Tide, which works to tackle the climate and nature crises by supporting innovative ventures in this space, to support its AgriBlue.AI Accelerator Programme. The accelerator focused on bringing together pioneering ventures driving innovation at the intersection of agriculture, aquaculture, and ocean health. In addition to hosting the accelerator's launch and joining Bright Tide for an event at the Embassy of Mexico in the United Kingdom, we hosted a Catalyst workshop for the ventures on the programme.

With over 50 participants, lawyers from Hogan Lovells worked alongside volunteers from our clients to advise 10 remarkable ventures. The workshop aimed to equip the ventures with essential legal insights to navigate the complex contractual, intellectual property, and nature finance aspects of their work.

- SeaGrown harnesses offshore seaweed farming on the Yorkshire coast to enhance marine biodiversity, restore ocean health, and create sustainable products.
- Ponterra is a tech-enabled reforestation developer delivering high-quality tropical forest carbon removals at scale.



“At a time when funding for environmental and social initiatives is increasingly scarce, the pro bono legal support provided by the HL BaSE team has been invaluable to our cohort of ventures. By giving these early-stage impact organisations access to expert guidance, they are able to navigate complex legal challenges with confidence, unlocking new ways to grow, scale, and maximise their positive impact. This support not only strengthens the foundations of their businesses but also enables them to pursue innovative solutions to some of the most pressing environmental and social challenges. In today’s tough funding environment, such strategic legal advice is one of the most effective ways to help ventures build sustainable, long-term impact for people and the planet.”

Harry Wright,
Founder and Director, Bright Tide

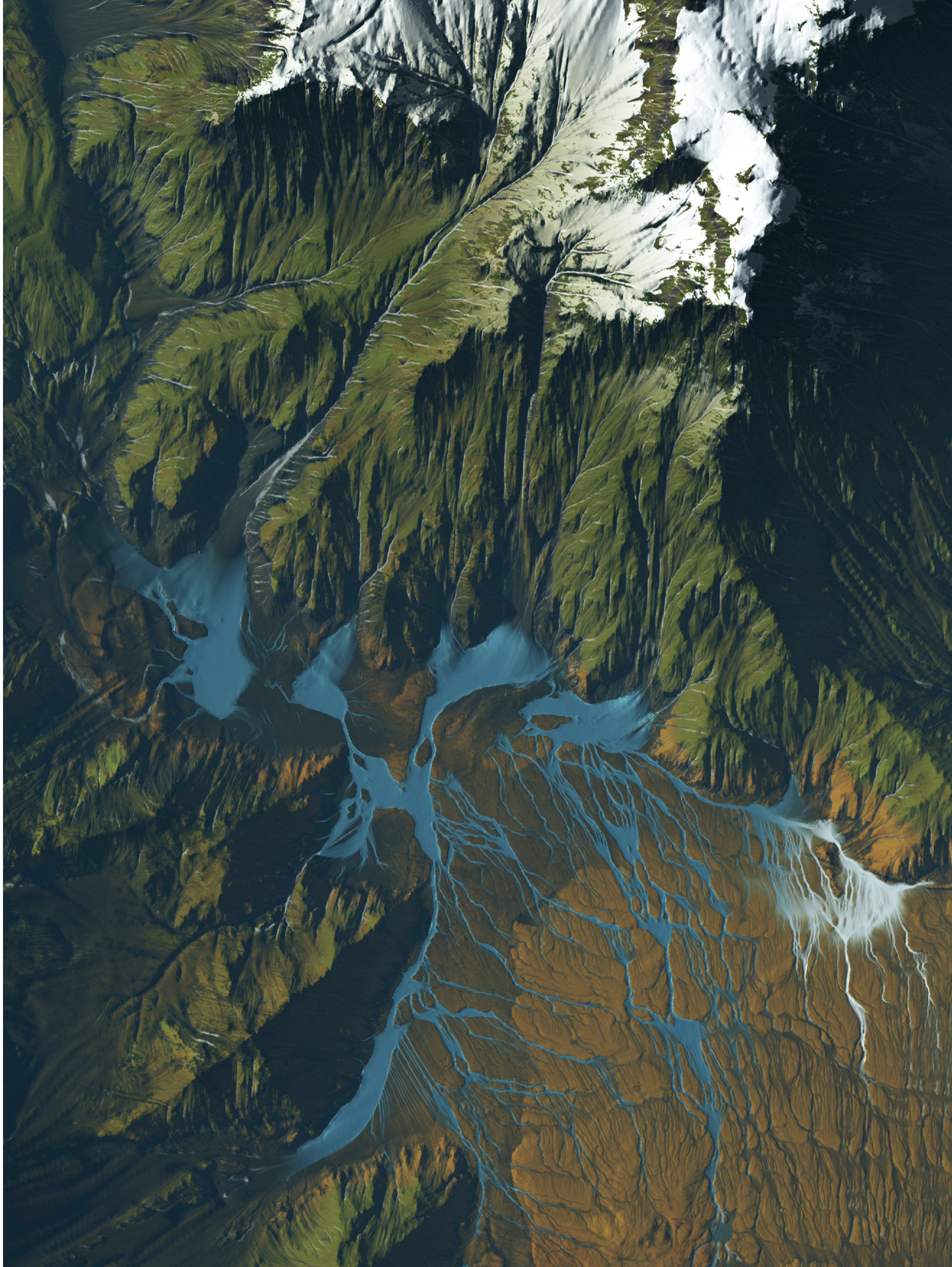
MB100

HL BaSE continued its longstanding partnership with Meaningful Business to support their annual Meaningful Business 100 (MB100) awards. From large-scale reforestation to the development of AI-powered health insights, the winners came from 39 countries and work across a diverse range of sectors, roles, and technologies.

Selected by an interdisciplinary panel of judges, including Marie-Aimée de Dampierre, the Chair of Hogan Lovells, the winners were recognised as global leaders who combine profit with purpose to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The winners will go on to gain access to investment opportunities, capacity-building resources, and pro bono services as part of the year-round MB100 programme.



MEANINGFUL
BUSINESS



“Congratulations to the winners of the 2025 Meaningful Business 100! It was a pleasure to be a judge again this year and help select outstanding leaders driving scalable, real-world solutions to global problems.”

Marie-Aimée de Dampierre,
Chair, Hogan Lovells

Earth Fixers

To amplify the voices driving environmental change, HL BaSE joined forces with social enterprise magazine *Pioneers Post* to produce an exclusive editorial series showcasing some of the entrepreneurs and innovators that we work with who are tackling climate change.

In 2025 we published four features, beginning with a spotlight on our startup clients who are harnessing artificial intelligence to protect the planet, including Synature AG which has developed a 'smart microphone' and uses AI to monitor biodiversity, and ecodetect which provides underwater wildlife detection systems for marine renewable energy operators.

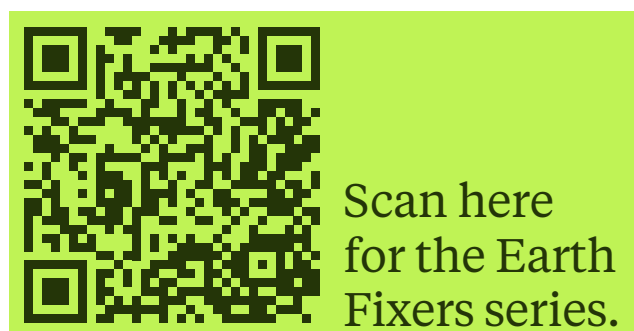
Recent articles include:

- When fashion faces the future: the biomaterials startups going back to nature

Our demand for more and more clothes is bad news for the planet. New, nature-derived materials promise a lighter footprint – but can they convince price-conscious shoppers, investors and retailers to take a leap into the unknown.

- Making waves: The new generation of startups using AI to save the planet

From tracking underwater creatures to optimising crop yields, many entrepreneurs now use AI to tackle environmental challenges. But, with much uncertainty - and concerns about AI's negative impact - they're entering unknown waters.



■ Our Clients EMEA

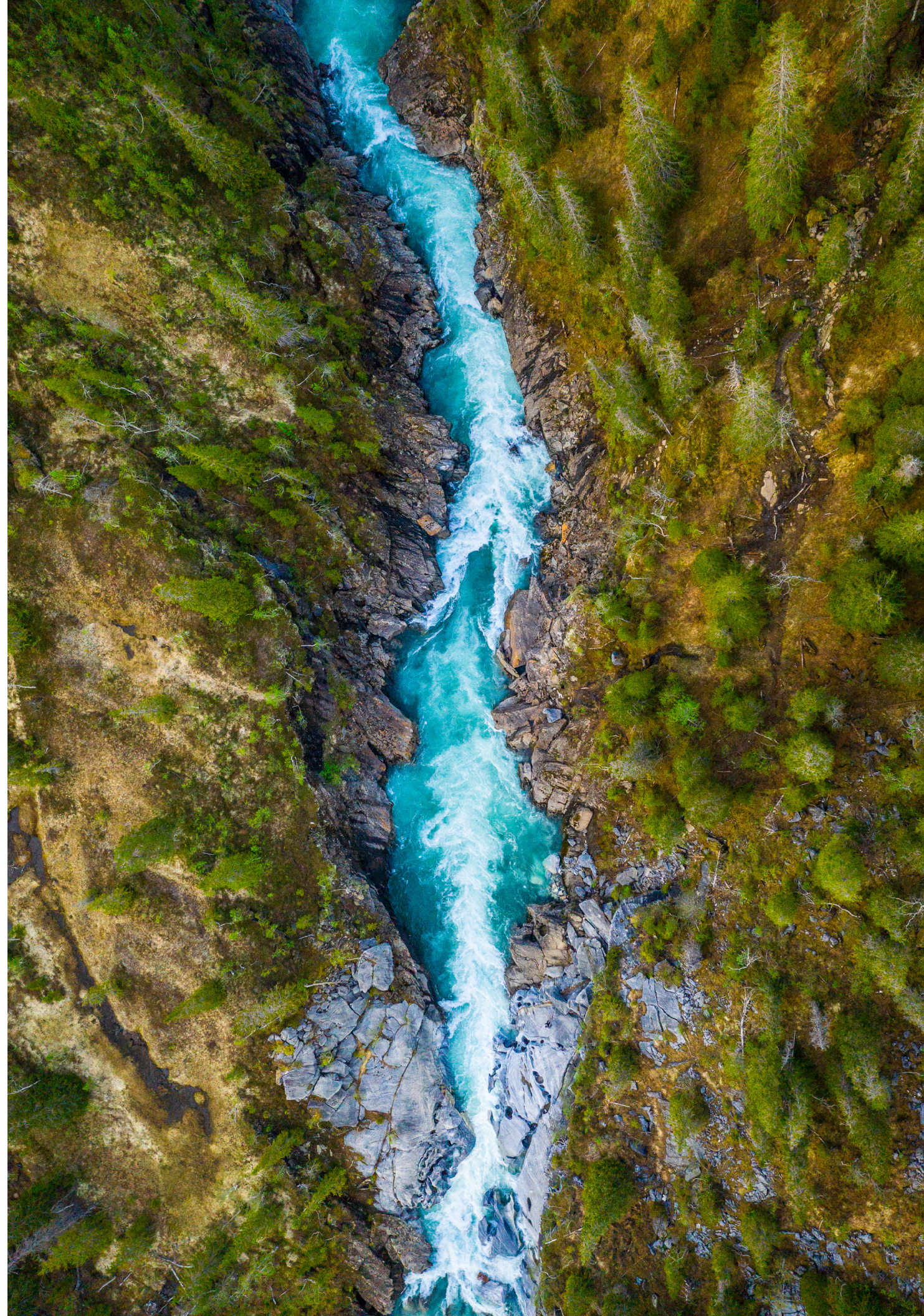
Rights of Rivers

After two years of dedicated work, including a River Rights Summit and the drafting of a Charter for the River Ouse, Lewes District Council passed a groundbreaking motion to support a Charter for the Rights of the River Ouse, the first of its kind in the UK.

The Charter recognises the River Ouse's rights, including the right to exist in a natural state, to flow and be free of pollution, and to have native biodiversity. HL BaSE worked with long-time pro bono client, Environmental Law Foundation, alongside Love Our Ouse, barrister Monica Feria-Tinta and many other stakeholders to draft the Charter.

Whilst local authorities are not able to create legal personality for rivers in this way, the River Charter approach paves the way for discussions about giving nature legal rights in the UK. It is innovative and revolutionary and recognises how important river ecosystems are to humans and other species.

Following this incredible success, we partnered with Environmental Law Foundation to publish a new practical guide for local communities and local authorities to recognise their local rivers' rights. Access the guide [here](#).



“Together ELF and Hogan Lovells have been at the forefront of developing strategy for how local communities can work with local government to accelerate rights of rivers approaches for river protection and governance in England. In partnership we have also published guidance on how local authorities and community groups can approach rights of rivers in their communities. We cannot thank Hogan Lovells enough for their continuing support.”

Emma Montlake,
Executive Director,
Environmental Law Foundation

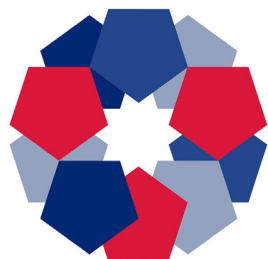
British Muslim Trust

The British Muslim Trust (“BMT”), founded by the Randeree Charitable Trust and Aziz Foundation, is a leading organisation in the UK tackling and monitoring anti-Muslim hatred across the UK. BMT provides a multi-channel national helpline through which victims, witnesses, mosques, and third-party reporting services can safely and easily report incidents and hate crimes of anti-Muslim hate.

BMT is dedicated to addressing the persistent and critical issue of underreporting within Muslim communities, particularly as anti-Muslim hate crimes are estimated to be up to three times higher than the figures captured by official statistics. In 2025 alone, hate crimes targeting Muslims accounted for 45% of all religiously motivated offences, reflecting a 19% increase from 2024.

BMT is on a mission to empower Muslims across the UK to report incidents with confidence, and to ensure they receive meaningful and compassionate follow-up support that helps victims regain their confidence, safety, and sense of dignity.

It is equally committed to holding institutions and wider society accountable by exposing the depth and impact of Islamophobia and anti-Muslim hatred, driving improvements in policing, and contributing to long-term systemic change.



**BRITISH
MUSLIM
TRUST**



“Hogan Lovells has played a pivotal and deeply valued role in our journey. Their expertise, generosity, and unwavering commitment have been instrumental to our growth and impact. We are sincerely grateful for their partnership and look forward to continued collaboration, including future legal representation for victims as we advance into the next phase of our work.”

Akeela Ahmed,
CEO,
British Muslim Trust

Earth Rover

The Earth Rover Program began with a shared conviction among three people in different fields – an environmental journalist, a seismologist, and a soil scientist – that a better understanding of the ground beneath our feet is crucial to solving some of our most urgent existential problems: three-quarters of the world’s soils are degraded.

The Earth Rover Program unites farmers, researchers, and innovators across disciplines to improve our understanding and use of the soil, representing a major leap forward in global efforts to improve the sustainable use of our soils and help prevent climate and ecological collapse. Using seismological techniques to map the world’s soils, the Program builds open scientific tools and partnerships to monitor, understand, and restore the land, advancing food security, climate stability, and biodiversity through science, technology, and collaboration.

HL BaSE advised on setting up the new Earth Rover Program non-profit entity, as well as on IP and employment law.



“At the Earth Rover Program, we know that groundbreaking technology requires world-class legal support. Hogan Lovells was a true partner in this journey. Their expertise was not only vital to the initial establishment of the Earth Rover Program as a not-for-profit entity, but also in navigating the complexities of protecting our intellectual property. Their support helped the Earth Rover Program to ensure that we are able to steward our innovations to provide technology on a low-cost basis to farmers and citizen scientists worldwide.”

Tarje Nissen-Meyer,
Co-Founder,
Earth Rover Program

**EARTH
ROVER
PROGRAM**

International Lawyers Project

International Lawyers Project (“ILP”) works to advance economic and environmental justice and the rule of law by providing pro bono legal expertise to civil society, communities, and governments throughout the world, particularly in the Global South. Over the last 20 years, ILP has supported partner clients in more than 100 countries.

HL BaSE has had a relationship with ILP over many years, and our lawyers provide pro bono legal analysis, legal research, capacity building, and policy and legal reform advice to ILP’s partners, with a particular focus on multi-jurisdictional work.

Our lawyers in Continental Europe played a key role in helping ILP and its partner, the counter-wildlife-trafficking charity TRAFFIC, develop the world’s first Wildlife Trade Integrity Index. This new tool maps the implementation of anti-corruption policies and measures designed to curb the smuggling of wild species, an illicit transcontinental trade estimated to be worth hundreds of billions of pounds annually.

The Index assesses the strength of government legislation, its enforcement in practice, the use of accountability tools such as transparent decision-making and whistleblowing mechanisms, and compliance with international legal commitments. During the pilot phase of the Index’s development, we tested the indicators across nine jurisdictions on four continents, including Colombia, South Africa, France, and Malaysia.



“Without the depth of expertise and global reach of Hogan Lovells’ staff, ILP would never have been able to take this project from concept to reality.”

Gabriel Sipos,
Senior Legal Manager,
ILP Governance and
Accountability Programme

Planet of the Grapes

Planet of the Grapes works with grape waste from the winemaking of local organic and biodynamic vineyards and transforms this into a new generation of textiles that are both animal leather alternatives and 100% petroleum synthetic alternatives. Their biomaterials are up to 84% bio-based and 100% animal free.

Planet of the Grapes is based in the South of France and the processing of grape waste and making of biomaterials all happen within a radius of under 500km. It is on a mission to minimise environmental impact and build a socially responsible supply chain.

Our Paris office advised Planet of the Grapes on drawing up a template partner agreement for future use.



“The HL team was incredible in the detail, fine tuning and follow up of drawing up a very solid contract that can be reused again and again. They were incredible with their hands on support and follow up in between negotiations with our partner.”

Samantha Mureau,
Founder,
Planet of the Grapes



■ APAC

Beneficial Returns

Beneficial Returns is an impact investment fund manager that partners with mission-driven enterprises addressing urgent social and environmental challenges. Kawanasi is an Indonesian-based social enterprise working with Indigenous communities in Eastern Indonesia’s Spice Islands to sustainably harvest and market kenari nuts, a forest product sourced from biodiverse tropical rainforests.

For generations, kenari trees have been integral to local livelihoods and forest ecosystems. However, pressure from logging and mining has increasingly threatened these forests, particularly as younger generations are drawn toward short-term income opportunities. Kawanasi offers a viable alternative; by connecting kenari nuts to domestic and international markets, the enterprise creates stable income for Indigenous collectors, around 60% of whom are women, while keeping forests standing.

Beneficial Returns, through its Singapore-based lending entity, provided a \$250,000 (USD) loan to support Kawanasi’s growth. This financing will enable the enterprise to purchase larger volumes of kenari nuts and spices, expand into new export markets including the United States and Latin America, and strengthen long-term community incentives for forest conservation.

HL BaSE advised Beneficial Returns on the structure of the cross-border financing, navigating the legal complexities of a transaction involving a foreign lender and an Indonesian borrower.



Beneficial Returns



“Thanks to Hogan Lovells’ support, money flowed from benevolent investors to rural communities in a way that empowers the poor and protects the environment, while benefiting consumers. We are so grateful.”

Alex Tee,
Managing Director,
Beneficial Returns

Empact

Empact is a Singapore-based social enterprise on a mission to bridge the gap between government agencies, grant-makers, corporates, and volunteers with the needs of the social sector. In 2024, it worked with 20 foundations and 16 government agencies and schools to strengthen the impact ecosystem and facilitate long term sustainability of social organisations in the region. It also supported 276 social organisations in Singapore and 19 other locations across Asia to build capacity through skills training, consultancy, tech implementation, and shared services.

Our Singapore office advised Empact on its compliance with Singapore’s Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA) and the implementation of strong data governance practices through preparing essential policies and contractual templates, and advising on their data breach response plans.



“We greatly appreciate Charmian and her team from Hogan Lovells taking the time to support us in reviewing and establishing critical data governance policies and practices to strengthen our organisational capacity. This engagement has provided Empact a strong foundation from which to base our practices as we continue to scale our social impact beyond Singapore.”

Yap Keng Hwee,
Deputy CEO,
Empact



Americas

The Generation Forest

The Generation Forest is an international organisation dedicated to combatting climate change and promoting sustainable development through the creation and restoration of CO2-absorbing, biodiverse, and productive, sustainable forests that benefit the climate, local communities, and the environment, all while promoting a new and responsible model for forestry.

HL BaSE provides ongoing environmental, health and safety, regulatory, and social impact advice to The Generation Forest on the implementation of a green carbon project in Mexico.

Although possessing vast natural resources, the regulatory framework involving the legal development of carbon projects in Mexico is still relatively new, therefore these projects require specialised legal services with expertise on both national and international-related environmental and social obligations. Lawyers in our Mexico offices are advising Generation Forest on developing a legally sound and risk-aware implementation strategy that integrates environmental compliance, community engagement, carbon credits marketing and ESG considerations for the successful deployment of the carbon project in Mexico.



“Your professionalism and continued support this year have played a key role in supporting the development of the Generation Forest initiative in Mexico. Together, we have achieved so much, and we truly could not have done it without you.”

Elena von Radecki,
Project Coordinator and Promoter,
The Generation Forest

Nuup

Nuup is a non-profit on a mission to create a more equitable and resilient food system in Mexico and beyond. Its work centres on connecting and empowering smallholder farmers, businesses, and other stakeholders in the agricultural value chain. Nuup provides digital tools, data-driven insights, and collaborative platforms to improve transparency, efficiency, and sustainability in food production and distribution. HL BaSE provided tax advice to Nuup in relation to their operations in Mexico.

Nuup was featured in our Earth Fixers series with Pioneers Post, read more here:

Farming with a future: how social enterprise Nuup helps Mexico's smallholders to thrive.



“The pro bono support we received from Hogan Lovells was crucial for our organisation. It enabled us to gain a better understanding of the legal and tax changes applicable to authorised beneficiaries, allowing us to operate with greater peace of mind, safe in the knowledge that our decisions are properly supported from legal and tax perspectives.”

Vincent Lagacé,
Co-CEO & Co-Founder,
Nuup

Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team

Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team is an international non-profit that leverages open-source mapping to support disaster response, humanitarian aid, and climate resilience worldwide. By mobilising volunteers and local communities to create and update digital maps, it helps governments, NGOs, and responders access critical geographic data for planning and emergency relief, particularly in vulnerable and underserved regions.

HL BaSE advised on navigating legal and regulatory challenges as it expands its global impact. Our New York office also advised on strategic and operational issues as part of our Catalyst programme in New York, further strengthening the organisation's capacity to deliver life-saving mapping solutions and enhance climate resilience in at-risk communities.



“I am now armed with so much more information to help us move forward in our business model evolution, which will help our organisation become more sustainable and will catalyse a growing sector of mappers in LMICs. As a nonprofit, these sorts of initiatives can make all the difference to us, as we have such limited resources, and I am now emboldened to take action. We are incredibly grateful.”

Liz Chamberlain,
Deputy Executive Director,
Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team



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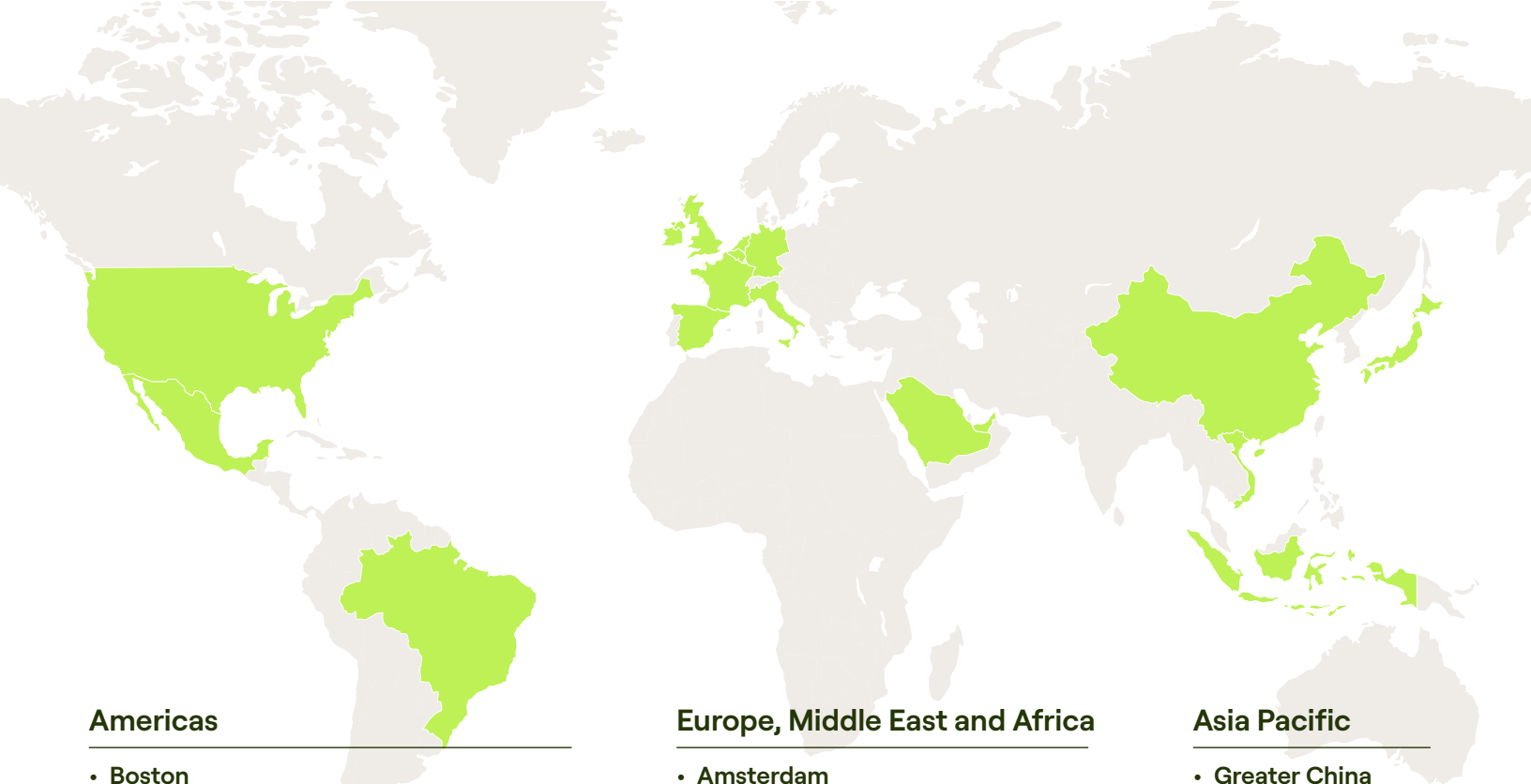
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