



# Sustainability Framework

## A universal blueprint for turning sustainability into action

Today, sustainability is an expectation of any business, no matter what product you sell or where you operate. Without a solid plan to protect people, nature, and the climate, companies can lose the confidence and support of investors, governments, and consumers.

Despite the growth of different tools to improve production and sourcing practices, the market is missing a common framework, with clear indicators, that everyone can use. To address this gap, we have assembled a universal set of principles and criteria that represent the core aspects of sustainability across all commodities and supply chains.

The Sustainability Framework is built on our decades of experience mapping supply chains, working with land managers and assessing risk, making it a resource that will deliver results for land managers, retailers, and every step in between.

### The EU Regulation on deforestation free products

The Regulation requires that products are produced in compliance with relevant legislation and that they are deforestation-free.

**In order to address these requirements for agricultural commodities and wood products respectively, indicators of the Sustainability Framework are marked to show if they are relevant to the EU Regulation.**

The Sustainability Framework can be used to ensure alignment with the requirements of the EU Regulation on deforestation free products by following the set of indicators marked as being applicable for the Regulation.

- Secure land tenure
- Clear management rights
- Payment of taxes and fees
- Avoid corruption
- Responsible transport and trade

### MANAGEMENT and BUSINESS

Practices are legal  
and responsible.



### PEOPLE

People's well-being  
and human rights are  
respected.



- No child labour
- No modern slavery
- Respect workers' rights
- No discrimination
- Safe workplaces
- Gender equality
- Indigenous Peoples rights
- Community rights

- Ecosystem and HCV protection
- Chemicals minimised
- Waste management
- Water resources
- Soil conservation
- Animal welfare

### NATURE

Nature and the  
environment are  
protected.



### CLIMATE

Climate impacts are  
reduced and  
mitigated.



- GHG reduction
- Climate adaptation
- GHG removal
- Ecosystem restoration



## A Common Sustainability Framework for Everyone

### The Sustainability Framework can put any business on the path from legal compliance to best practice.

By bringing together the essential aspects of sustainability across all commodities and landscapes, Preferred by Nature's universal framework is a starting point for delivering real impacts in any circumstance.

Whether you are a small-scale forest operator at the start of your journey, or a large manufacturer sourcing palm oil, soy, or other commodities from around the world, our framework is a building block for continuous improvement.

Depending on your location in the supply chain, you can use the framework in different ways. This flexibility does not compromise the integrity of your commitments or the strength of their implementation. Protecting people, nature, and the climate is the top priority.

### Use the framework for

Timber, Beef, Palm Oil, Soy, Rubber, Rice, Coffee, Cocoa, Herbs, Fruits, Seeds... and any forest or agricultural product with impacts on people, nature, or the climate.



Timber



Beef



Biomass



Nuts



Soy



Herb &  
Spices



Tourism



Tea



Textile



Oil seeds



Cocoa



Paper &  
Packaging

**Goal:** Set and achieve sustainability commitments

**How:** Generate commodity-specific indicators you can meet and have verified



### Sustainability Framework

**Goal:** Implement a due diligence system or responsible sourcing programme

**How:** Use a risk-based approach to ensure sustainable practices at the farm or forest

### Upstream



Land Managers, Producers,  
Factories, Mills, Processors



Traders, Manufacturers,  
Brands, Retailers

### Downstream





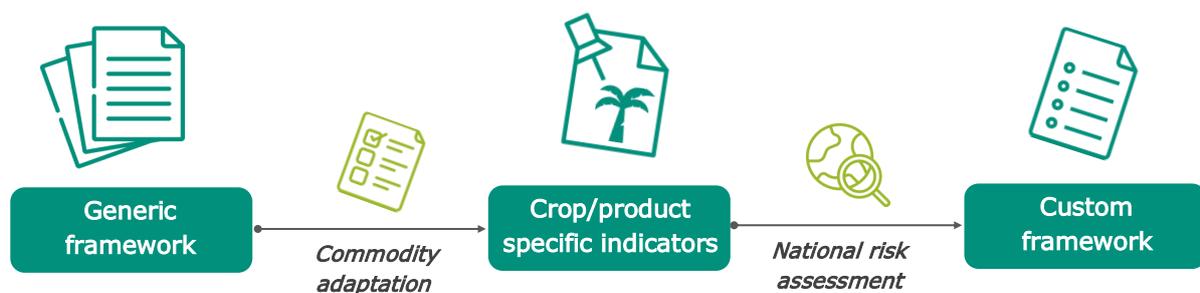
## Global Principles and Local Adaptation

For more than 25 years, Preferred by Nature has helped companies navigate legality while striving for sustainability in sectors and regions that pose unique risks.

Drawing on this expertise, we will customise the Sustainability Framework to the relevant sector and associated risks.

The framework will pass through a comprehensive risk assessment to adapt the generic indicators to your specific commodity and location. This process deepens the essential sustainability aspects of your product, while highlighting the high-risk areas that need attention. At the same time, low-risk indicators will be filtered out so that your efforts can be targeted where they will make the biggest impact.

Through this smart approach, we create the most direct and efficient path to achieving your sustainability goals:



### Alignment with international tools

Our work builds on the strength of existing programmes while filling gaps where suitable tools are missing. Our efforts have been built to align to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Accountability Framework, leveraging their guidelines.

Our Sustainability Framework will also be bench-marked against certification schemes to recognise the assurance they provide rather than duplicate their efforts.

### Verification and claims

Depending on your goals, you might choose to address all or a subset of the relevant topics in the Sustainability Framework. You might also choose to have your commitments officially verified by Preferred by Nature. These decisions will determine what you are permitted to say about your achievements, ranging from generic off-product communications to on-product claims and labelling with the Preferred by Nature™ seal.





## Work with us

The Sustainability Framework is built on our global knowledge base of how forest and climate impact commodities can be traded legally and sustainably.

With the framework as an anchor, our wrap-around services can help businesses in all industries and steps of the supply chain to turn commitments into action. Whether you need advice, field auditing, or due diligence tools to meet your sustainability targets, we have the solutions.

We can help at any stage of your sustainability journey:

### COMMIT.

Set bold sustainability targets, supported by strong policies



**ACT.** Implement credible systems to produce, trade, trace and source responsibly

### COMMUNICATE.

Share your achievements so that your efforts are recognised by stakeholders



### What you gain

- Expert support
- Single tool for all commodities
- Customised risk assessments
- Transparent systems
- Efficient pathway for change
- Recognition of achievement with our seal

## About us



### Our Mission

To support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature, and the climate



### Our Vision

A world where human choices ensure a sustainable future



### Our Impacts

- Certified more than 80 million hectares of forest area and 2 million hectares of farms
- Certified more than 4 000 supply chain companies
- Contributed to establishment of 100+ protected areas
- Active in 109 countries

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