About us

Preferred by Nature (formerly known as NEPCon) is an international non-profit organisation.

We work with businesses, NGOs and governments on developing solutions to major global challenges such as deforestation and climate change.

250+ staff and a wide network of partners and consultants

Operate in 6 continents with Headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark

25+ legal entities covering service delivery and project activities all over the world

For over 25 years, we have worked to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and the climate.

We do this through innovative projects, capacity building and sustainability services.
About us

Deliver **sustainability services** in forestry, agriculture, responsible sourcing, biomass, carbon footprinting, and tourism

in more than **100 countries**

We focus on providing **high-quality services** and offer services under **well-recognised schemes** and schemes that **we own**. We also help develop and improve the systems we work with.

We have implemented **120+ non-profit projects** on natural resources management.

We have contributed to the **establishment of 100+ protected areas** and the **development of 65 management plans** for natural areas.

We make our **risk assessments, tools** and other **information freely available** on the **Sourcing Hub** at [www.preferredbynature.org/sourcinghub](http://www.preferredbynature.org/sourcinghub)

Active certificates issued by Preferred by Nature (Sept 2019)
Vision

A world where human choices ensure a sustainable future
Mission

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

In brief

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

**Goal 1**
Reach and Impact
Promote sustainable practices in landscapes and supply chains
Our focus is to promote the increased adoption of sustainable practices in production landscapes and supply chains where the greatest potential for positive change lies, leading to a healthier environment and climate, and sustainable livelihoods.

**Goal 2**
Brand and Networks
Build brand recognition that multiplies sustainability impact
Our focus is to use the Preferred by Nature brand to drive impact, creating a multiplier effect where more stakeholders will engage in our programmes and services.

**Goal 3**
Our Organisation
Strengthen our organisation in all areas to achieve our mission
Our focus is to maximise and strengthen our workforce, systems and finances to ensure long-term stability so we can achieve our goals.
Our Strategy

Goal 1: Reach and Impact

Promote sustainable practices in landscapes and supply chains

Our focus is to promote the increased adoption of sustainable practices in production landscapes and supply chains where the greatest potential for positive change lies, leading to a healthier environment and climate, and sustainable livelihoods.
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<th>Goal 1: Reach and Impact</th>
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<td><strong>1.1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Innovation in sustainability assurance</td>
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<td>We will revolutionise and reinvent traditional sustainability certification to create efficiency, add value, and increase positive impacts, while building on our status as a leading provider of global assurance services.</td>
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<td><strong>1.4</strong></td>
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<td>Solutions for smallholders and communities</td>
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<td>We will increase access to and benefits of sustainability solutions for smallholders, communities and small and medium enterprises, through developing and adapting risk-based assurance, certification standards and practices that are more appropriate to their scale.</td>
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<td><strong>1.8</strong></td>
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<td>Greater influence on corporate and public policy</td>
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<td>We will seek out opportunities to engage companies and governments and influence how they use, reference or benchmark credible, rigorous sustainability standards in their development and sustainability policies.</td>
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<td><strong>1.11</strong></td>
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<td>Measuring and communicating our impacts</td>
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Our Strategy

Goal 2: Brand and Networks

Build brand recognition that multiplies sustainability impact.

Our focus is to use the Preferred by Nature brand to drive impact, creating a multiplier effect where more stakeholders will engage in our programmes and services.

2.1 Effective brand assets
We will define the components of an effective brand for use by staff and partners, including communications messages that reflect our credibility and leadership.

2.2 Tailored communications to targeted audiences
We will define and reach out to our most important target groups for building awareness and develop strategic communications messages that speak to these audiences about the issues and needs they care most about.

2.3 Leverage brands to create market demand
We will develop deep relationships with brand-owners as well as other organisations with high potential for creating market pull throughout sustainable supply chains.

2.4 Client-focused marketing support
We will support businesses in their consumer-focused marketing, including providing approved messages and other support that allows customising while maintaining credibility of sustainability claims.

2.5 Partnerships to drive more impact
We will continue to build partnerships with leading and aligned organisations to identify and act on shared sustainability goals, and/or mutually support each other’s work.
**Our Strategy**

**Goal 3: Our Organisation**

Strengthen our organisation in all areas to achieve our mission.

Our focus is to maximise and strengthen our workforce, systems and finances to ensure long-term stability so we can achieve our goals.

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<td><strong>Highly skilled and valued staff</strong>&lt;br&gt;We will continue to recognise our staff as our greatest asset in achieving impact. We will invest in our human resource functions including career development, compensation and benefits, and other important areas.</td>
<td><strong>Capacity for relevant sectors, issues and regions</strong>&lt;br&gt;We will ensure our staff offers balanced expertise covering relevant sustainability issues, products, commodities and parts of the world. We will strengthen our in-house expertise on social issues.</td>
<td><strong>Balanced internal and external resources</strong>&lt;br&gt;We will continue to ensure high quality services by focusing on better balancing of our human resources, enabling us to deliver activities consistently while managing risks related to reliance on external resources and seasonal workload fluctuations.</td>
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<td><strong>Data-driven management</strong>&lt;br&gt;We will enhance our data management systems to be efficient, scalable and results-focused. We will continue to value effective data gathering and reporting.</td>
<td><strong>Financial resilience</strong>&lt;br&gt;We will ensure that we have a financial model that gives us sufficient, appropriate and diversified funding to deliver on our annual work plans and our longer-term strategic goals.</td>
<td><strong>‘Walking the walk’ of sustainability</strong>&lt;br&gt;We will practice our own values; being a great place to work where we constantly reduce our sustainability footprint, source more responsibly, and improve in a range of other areas.</td>
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<td><strong>Optimised structure and service delivery</strong>&lt;br&gt;We will strengthen our organizational structure to enhance service delivery, maintaining our values-driven approach that will enhance collaboration among teams, ensure local expertise and global consistency, and foster close cooperation.</td>
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Our Way

The operating principles listed below reflect our values and approach to our work. They guide us in our daily work and serve as a beacon in decision making, forming the foundation of how we operate. Collectively they are what we like to call, the Preferred by Nature Way.

1. We choose our activities based on transparency, credibility and potential for positive change.
2. We are committed to monitoring the impacts of our activities.
3. We seek to add value by addressing the needs and gaps in global sustainability efforts.
4. We seek to minimise systems costs while maximising the positive impacts and credibility.
5. We openly share our expertise, knowledge and tools to mainstream sustainability.
6. We conduct our own operations according to the sustainability principles we promote.
7. We observe ethical business practices, expecting same from our clients and partners.
8. We aim to ensure gender equality at all levels of the organisation.
9. We engage passionate staff with high integrity, support professional and personal development, and reward engagement, execution and excellence.
10. We strive to be a financially healthy organisation to better fulfill our mission.
Preferred by Nature

and the SDGs

Our collaboration with schemes, businesses and other stakeholders contributes to many of the SDGs.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) build the framework for the global transformation by 2030. SDG implementation defines sustainable business practices.

We want to be a driving force in reaching the SDGs because we see the promotion of sustainable practices in landscapes and supply chains as a way towards a better future. The SDGs guide us in this strategy as we strive for solutions that have a positive impact on people and the environment.

Here are just a few examples. Our work to promote the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources directly links with SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production. We do this through training people and organizations on better practices and responsible sourcing and through our global assurance services. On SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, we work with a broad range of sustainability standards, many of which regulate working conditions and labour rights, including provisions to eliminate modern slavery and child labour. We support SDG 15 Life on Land through our donor-funded projects, assurance services and by integrating technology where it can push the adoption of responsible land use practices more quickly. Offering better access to sustainability solutions and markets for smallholders and communities contributes to several SDGs, including SDGs 1, 16, 15 and 5. We support SDG 13 Climate Action to build climate resilience by engaging governments to use robust sustainability standards in their policies.

We have done a mapping of our strategic objectives to the SDG targets and assigned a Preferred by Nature impact score for each SDG, indicating our relative contribution to the SDG through our strategy and work.
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

We are committed to monitoring and evaluating the impacts and outcomes of our work and consistently communicating the results to stakeholders. This includes evaluating our effectiveness, measuring how we are progressing towards our mission, and ensuring that we revise our future plans based on what we learn. We also will cultivate an organisational culture and approach to monitoring and evaluation that emphasises learning and continual improvement. In that light, we will treat this strategy as a living document to be reviewed annually and updated as needed based on our evaluation processes.

Up and Running...

This strategy sets out our highest goals and objectives. But the document is only our starting point. We will develop specific action plans, divide responsibilities and bring the Preferred by Nature team together to learn and adjust efforts as we go.
Founded in 1994, Preferred by Nature (formerly known as NEPCon) is a non-profit organisation working to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and the climate in over 100 countries around the world.