



# Sustainability Framework

- *Rubber adaptation V1.0*



Sustainability Framework – rubber adaptation	
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## 1 Introduction

Inspired both by existing sustainability concepts and the need to harmonise, the Preferred by Nature Sustainability Framework has been developed to provide a single framework for defining and benchmarking sustainability, that can be used across different commodities and landscapes. The framework consists of 4 principles and 29 criteria addressing different aspects of what we believe shall be considered before claiming that operations or products are sustainable.

We have carefully designed the framework to serve multiple purposes. It can be used for verification of forest and farm management as well as for other sectors such as financing, tourism and others. It can also be used by processors, traders, retailers and others to evaluate their sourcing. As we benchmark the framework against existing schemes, our intention is to recognise the assurance that these already provide, rather than duplicate.

Organisations, who have been verified by Preferred by Nature to address all the Framework criteria, will be eligible to use our new Preferred by Nature Seal and make related on-product and business-to-business claims.

For on-the-ground verification, the global universal framework is adapted to the relevant commodity. This document is the adaptation of the generic framework for rubber sector. This document will be reviewed and updated when relevant, including in cases when updates are made in the generic framework.

## 2 The adaptation process

During the adaptation process, each criterion and all underlying indicators in the Sustainability Framework are reviewed and if relevant revised, with the objective of making the framework applicable for the commodity or sector for which it is adapted. The indicators may have following status in the adapted framework.

**Adopted** – Means the indicator in the generic framework has been used in the same wording in the commodity adapted standard.

**Adapted** – The wording of the generic indicator has been modified to be more suitable for the commodity.

**Added** – New indicator has been added that addresses specific aspect, which is relevant for the sustainable practices in the commodity.

**Deleted** – An indicator from the generic framework is not considered applicable or relevant for the given commodity and has thus been deleted in the commodity adapted version.

## 3 Scope of this document

This document contains an adaptation of the Preferred by Nature Sustainability Framework V0.1 to evaluate the production of natural rubber latex.

The adapted framework found below was developed as part of a pilot test of adaptation of the Sustainability Framework to a specific commodity (in this case rubber) which was used to evaluate rubber plantation management. The adapted version can be used in different countries for rubber sector. It is not specific to any single given region or country.



## 4 Version history

Version 1.0, 5 November 2020

## 5 REQUIREMENTS

Sustainability Framework Principles and Criteria	Adaptation	Rubber adapted indicators	Type
<b>Principle 1: Management and business practices are legal and responsible</b>			
<b>1. Land tenure and management rights are secure.</b> Land tenure and the right to operate shall be clearly established according to legal processes.	<b>Adapted</b>	1.1. Land tenure rights of plantation and facilities shall be secure and obtained through legally established processes.	L
	<b>Added</b>	1.1.a Customary land tenure rights shall be documented; recognized by immediate neighbours, other legal use right holders, and obtained through customary appropriate processes and unchallenged.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	1.2. Licenses and management rights, shall be in place and issued: a) according to the legally prescribed procedure; b) in absence of conflict with third parties rights; c) specifying the legally-gazetted boundaries; d) and in the absence of corrupt practices.	L
	<b>Added</b>	1.2.a If dispute over use and management rights occur, organization shall implement precautionary action and implement below action in disputed area a) Identify and mapped disputed area. b) Stop all plantation establishment and land clearing c) Implement segregation of harvested latex d) Implement dispute resolution procedure with clear timeline e) Suspend any use of claim in relation to latex harvested from disputed area.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	1.3. Legally required rights to operate shall be in place and obtained through legally established processes.	L
<b>2. Planning and operations meet legal requirements.</b>	<b>Adopted</b>	2.1. Legal requirements related to disclosure of information shall be complied with.	L

The planning and operations shall meet legal requirements.	<b>Added</b>	2.1.a Organization shall establish and implement appropriate procedure for interested and affected stakeholders to obtain summary of environment and social assessments result, management plan, monitoring plan and results.	C
	<b>Adapted</b>	2.2. Legal requirements for plantation planning shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Added</b>	2.2.a Organization management plan shall include at minimum below element: a) The results of assessments, including Natural resources and environmental values, Social, economic and cultural resources and condition, Major social and environmental risks in the area, b) Programs and activities regarding Workers' rights, occupational health and safety, gender equality, Indigenous Peoples, community relations, local economic and social development, Stakeholder engagement and the resolution of disputes and grievances, Planned management activities and timelines, culture systems used, typical harvesting methods and equipment, The rationale for harvesting rates c) Measures to conserve and/or restore (if applicable) high conservation values. d) Measures to assess, prevent, and mitigate negative impacts of management activities on high conservation values. e) A description of the monitoring program of high conservation values and Operational impacts	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	2.3. Legal requirements for land clearance or land-use changes shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adapted</b>	2.4. Legal requirements related to operation, collecting or harvesting permits shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	2.5. Legal requirements for land preparation and management shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	2.6. Legal harvesting or production requirements shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Added</b>	2.6.a Latex taping procedure shall be documented based on best available information or published guideline.	C
	<b>Added</b>	2.6.b Latex taping procedure shall be reviewed periodically.	B

	<b>Adopted</b>	2.7. Responsible practices in land acquisition, planning and site development should be used, including: a) integrated and participatory assessment and land-use planning should be conducted as part of the land acquisition process; and b) stakeholders should be consulted prior to land acquisition and development.	B
<b>3. Taxes and fees are paid.</b> All applicable taxes and fees have been paid in a timely manner and according to legal requirements.	<b>Adopted</b>	3.1. Legal requirements for payment of royalties, land/area taxes and fees shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	3.2. Legal requirements for payment of value-added taxes and/or other sales taxes shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	3.3. Legal requirements for payment of income and profit taxes shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	3.4. Legal requirements for payment of transport, trade and/or export taxes shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	3.5. Adequate financial transaction policies and procedures should be in place to ensure proper recording of all financial transactions, as well as to identify possible money laundering. No undisclosed or unrecorded account, fund or asset shall be established or maintained.	B
<b>4. Corruption is effectively avoided.</b> Corruption shall be effectively avoided by the Organisation.	<b>Adopted</b>	4.1. Legal requirements relating to bribery, fraud and corruption shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	4.2. Payment of or accepting of bribes or other forms of corruption shall be avoided.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	4.3. Clear and effective guidelines and policies should be developed and implemented regarding business integrity expectations relating to anti-bribery, gifts and hospitality.	B

	<b>Adopted</b>	4.4. Corporate hospitality, including the exchange of gifts, should be managed according to best practices, including that the hospitality: a) be for a legitimate business purpose, which may include developing business relationships; b) not include public officials from which a decision regarding any license, permit, authorisation or any other official act or decision is pending; c) be given in an open and transparent manner; d) and not include cash, loans or cash equivalents (such as gift certificates or vouchers).	B
	<b>Adopted</b>	4.5. Conflicts of interest should be effectively controlled. a) All conflict of interests shall be identified and declared. b) Any ownership or beneficial interest, in the Organisation, by a government official, representative of a political party or an Organisation employee is declared.	B
	<b>Adopted</b>	4.6. Any political contributions and campaign expenditures shall be publicly disclosed.	B
<b>5. Trade and transport are conducted legally.</b> Trade and transport of material and products shall be conducted according to legal requirements.	<b>Adopted</b>	5.1. Legal requirements relating to trade and transport of products shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	5.2. Legal requirements relating to the classification of products for trade and transport shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	5.3. Legal requirements relating to export and/or import shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	5.4. Legal requirements relating to offshore trading and transfer pricing shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Deleted</b>		L
	<b>Adopted</b>	5.6. Legal requirements relating to due diligence or due care shall be complied with.	L
<b>Principle 2: Peoples wellbeing and human rights are respected</b>			
<b>6. Worst forms of child labour are eliminated, and employment of</b>	<b>Adopted</b>	6.1. Legal requirements related to child labour shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	6.2. The worst forms of child labour shall not be present.	C

<p><b>minors is responsibly managed.</b> Legal requirements related to child labour shall be followed and the worst forms of child labour shall be eliminated. Where minors are employed their employment shall follow best practices.</p>	<p><b>Adopted</b></p>	<p>6.3. Children under the age of 15 (or under the age for completion of compulsory education, whichever is higher) shall not be employed, except in the strict frame of the “Family Farm” work or where covered by national legislation in accordance with Article 7 of the Minimum Age Convention. a) Where young workers are employed, the employment of young people contributes to their personal education and does not expose them to undue physical risks that can harm physical, mental or emotional development. b) Young workers shall not work night shifts, during school hours, or engage in work with hazardous conditions.</p>	<p>C</p>
	<p><b>Adopted</b></p>	<p>6.4. Organisation should follow best practices in eliminating and preventing child labour a) Organisation should develop and implement a child labour prevention and monitoring plan after considering the results of consultations with community members and minors.</p>	<p>B</p>
<p><b>7. Modern slavery and forced labour do not occur.</b> No form of forced labour or modern slavery occurs.</p>	<p><b>Adopted</b></p>	<p>7.1. Legal requirements related to modern slavery, including forced labour and prison labour, shall be complied with.</p>	<p>L</p>
	<p><b>Adopted</b></p>	<p>7.2. Activities shall be implemented to stop modern slavery and forced labour.</p>	<p>C</p>
<p><b>8. Workers’ rights are respected.</b> Organisation takes social responsibility and ensures that the rights of workers are respected and/or actively promoted. The Organisation shall ensure respect for the International Labour Organization (ILO) eight fundamental Conventions.</p>	<p><b>Adopted</b></p>	<p>8.1. Legal requirements related to Freedom of Association, Rights to Organise and Collective Bargaining shall be complied with.</p>	<p>L</p>
	<p><b>Adopted</b></p>	<p>8.2. Freedom of Association, the Right to Organise and the Right to Collective Bargaining shall be respected.</p>	<p>C</p>
	<p><b>Adopted</b></p>	<p>8.3. Legal requirements related to working hours, overtime, rest time and time off, shall be complied with.</p>	<p>L</p>
	<p><b>Adopted</b></p>	<p>8.4. Regular working hours of all workers shall not exceed 48 hours per week, with at least one full day of rest for every six consecutive days worked. Workers receive one meal period break for every six hours worked.</p>	<p>C</p>

	<b>Adopted</b>	8.5. Overtime shall be voluntary and shall not result in a work week exceeding 60 total hours, except under circumstances of shorter duration where additional labour is required (e.g. peak harvest seasons).	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	8.6. Workers shall be treated respectfully and are never subjected to sexual abuse or harassment, or verbal, physical or psychological mistreatment.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	8.7. The privacy rights of employees shall fully respected, including, but not limited to, whenever an employer gathers private information or implements employee-monitoring practices.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	8.8. Workers' rights should be actively promoted and supported, including through the following: a) payment procedures guarantee the complete payment to workers of all wages due, including for overtime work; b) workers receive at least two weeks of paid vacation leave per year; and c) pregnant women who are active workers receive fully paid maternity leave of at least 12 weeks before or after birth, with at least six of these weeks being taken after birth.	B
<b>9. Discrimination is not occurring.</b> There shall be no discrimination related to employment or occupation.	<b>Adopted</b>	9.1. Legal requirements related to discrimination in employment shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	9.2. Discrimination in relation to employment and occupation shall not occur.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	9.3. Organisation should actively work to prevent discrimination.	B
<b>10. Employment is responsible and considers minimum and living wage.</b> Recruitment and employment shall be conducted according to legal requirements or higher standards.	<b>Adopted</b>	10.1. Legal requirements related to recruitment and employment shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	10.2. Recruitment shall take place in a way that avoids discrimination and ensures a fair and transparent process.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	10.3. A grievance mechanism is available for workers.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	10.4. Legal requirements related to wages and other payments shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Added</b>	10.4.a There shall be no evidence of organization taking actions to avoid paying optimum legal wage and benefits to workers.	C

	<b>Adopted</b>	10.5. Responsible remuneration is adopted.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	10.6. A living wage approach to fair compensation should be implemented.	B
<b>11. Workplaces are safe and healthy.</b> The workplace shall be safe and healthy, and the employer shall ensure that workers have access to and use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, commensurate with the activities undertaken.	<b>Adopted</b>	11.1. Legal requirements related to workplace health and safety shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Added</b>	11.1.a Health and safety aspect for establishment or re-establishment of plantation shall be planned prior to operation.	C
	<b>Added</b>	11.1.b Material Safety Data Sheet for used product or similar component shall be considered in planning health and safety aspect	B
	<b>Adopted</b>	11.2. Production equipment and utilities shall be equipped with machine guards and emergency stops and undergo routine preventive maintenance.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	11.3. The workplace shall be hygienic with adequate lighting, ambient temperature, ventilation, sanitation, potable drinking water, sanitary facilities, and food storage.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	11.4. Workers shall receive appropriate and recorded safety and health training prior to starting work and on a regular basis thereafter. Such training includes the awareness of the risks and working procedures related to the task, adequate usage of work-related tools, machines, stations, and Personal Protective Equipment.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	11.5. Personal Protective Equipment and tools, shall be available to and used by workers, be in good condition, and appropriate for the purpose.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	11.6. Workers handling chemicals shall have access to appropriate facilities for cleaning and washing.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	11.7. Workers shall have access to first-aid equipment, as well as medical services in case of emergencies.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	11.8. Organisation should actively promote a healthy and safe work environment.	B
<b>12. Employer-provided housing shall be safe and hygienic.</b> Where housing is provided it shall be provided according to legal minimum requirements or higher.	<b>Adopted</b>	12.1. Legal requirements related to housing of workers shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	12.2. Organisation should provide housing to workers if no affordable or safe accommodation is otherwise available.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	12.3. If workers' pay for housing, the cost of housing shall be commensurate with the pay and comparable to similar housing in the area/industry.	C

	Adopted	12.4. Employer-provided housing shall be safe and healthy.	C
	Adopted	12.5. Procedures for emergency management, ensuring emergency exits, first-aid supplies, fire detection and suppression equipment, training and drills, shall be in place and implemented.	C
	Adopted	12.6. Organisation shall provide workers' families with access to medical services.	C
<b>13. Gender equality is maintained and protected.</b> Gender equality shall be protected and promoted according to legal requirements or higher standards.	Adopted	13.1. Legal requirements related to gender-based discrimination shall be complied with. <sup>34</sup>	L
	Adopted	13.2. Irrespective of gender, there shall be equal remuneration for work of equal value. <sup>35</sup>	C
	Adopted	13.3. Opportunities should be explored to include women in work that promotes worker diversity and equal opportunity in the community.	B
<b>14. Fair Pricing is implemented supply chains.</b> Where Organisations are purchasing commodities or materials, they shall implement a policy for fair pricing.	Adopted	14.1. Organisations shall pay at least a price to the producer that enable producers to meet requirements of this Framework, including paying workers at least the minimum "living wage".	C
<b>15. The rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected.</b> The rights of Indigenous Peoples shall be respected according to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention	Adapted	15.1. Indigenous People affected by land-use or other operations shall be identified.	L
	Adapted	15.2. Indigenous Peoples' rights shall be respected.	L
	Adopted	15.3. The company shall define and identify Indigenous Peoples and their rights in accordance with ILO Convention 169 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples even if the national regulations of the host state fails to fully recognize these rights, fails to recognize certain indigenous groups as collective rights-holders or uses terminology or classifications which excludes the term indigenous.	C
	Adopted	15.4. There are no unresolved claims by Indigenous Peoples of collective land titling.	C

	<b>Adopted</b>	15.5. A human rights due diligence process shall be carried out in accordance with principles 17-21 of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to identify actual or potential adverse impacts on Indigenous Peoples, at the earliest possible stage and prior to any activity which may affect indigenous peoples.	C
<b>16. Community rights are respected.</b> The rights of local communities shall be respected and promoted. Where the organisation has caused or contributed to adverse impacts to Indigenous Peoples', communities' or workers' rights, the organisation shall provide for remediation through an adequate, legitimate, and culturally appropriate mechanism	<b>Adapted</b>	16.1. Organization shall implement social impact assessment and identify Local communities affected by the operations.	C
	<b>Added</b>	16.1 Continuous communication with affected communities shall be done.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	16.2. Legally recognised customary and community rights shall be identified and respected.	L
	<b>Adapted</b>	16.3. Organisation shall identify using appropriate process including consultation with expert and stakeholders the rights of local communities and respect it.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	16.4. Organisation shall provide reasonable opportunities for employment, training and other services to local communities.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	16.5. Organisation shall identify and protect sites and resources within the area of operation, fundamental for satisfying the basic needs of local communities.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	16.6. Organisation shall identify and protect sites, resources, habitats and of cultural, archaeological, or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities.	C
<b>17. Remediation measures are implemented as appropriate.</b> Where the organisation has caused or contributed to adverse impacts to Indigenous Peoples', communities' or workers' rights, the organisation shall provide for remediation through an adequate, legitimate, and culturally appropriate mechanism	<b>Adopted</b>	17.1. Where the organisation has caused or contributed to adverse impacts to Indigenous Peoples', communities' or workers' rights, the organisation shall provide for remediation through an adequate, legitimate and culturally appropriate remedial mechanism which shall be defined in agreement with the affected parties' legitimate representatives.	C
	<b>Adapted</b>	17.2. The organisation shall establish an effective grievance mechanism that adheres to the Effectiveness Criteria of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and make it publicly available.	C

	<b>Adopted</b>	17.3. The Organisation shall develop a plan for remediation that includes clear geographic and timebound targets for implementation. Remediation plans shall be: a) developed in consultation with stakeholders; b) developed and implemented in collaboration with relevant experts; c) and made available to the public	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	17.4 Outcomes of the mutually agreed remediation process shall as a minimum: a) Ensure a prompt cessation of violating actions and provide a credible guarantee that they are not repeated. b) If possible, provide full restitution and where full restitution is not possible provide just, fair and prompt compensation. c) Benefit entire communities or groups rather than individual people.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	17.5. The Organisation shall not divest its interests in land to avoid remediation or until outstanding grievances are fully resolved, or obligations have been legally transferred to another party (e.g., the new owner).	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	17.6. If the Organisation has or is acquiring interests in commodity-producing properties, it shall remediate past harms, unless this responsibility is legally held by another party.	C
<b>Principle 3: Nature and the environment are protected</b>			
<b>18. Natural ecosystems are protected from degradation and conversion.</b> The activities of the Organisation shall not contribute to deforestation and conversion of natural ecosystems to other land uses. Land-use planning, and management shall take place in a way that protects or restores natural ecosystems.	<b>Adopted</b>	18.1. Legal requirements relating to the conversion of natural forests or other natural ecosystems shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	18.2. Legal requirements related to environmental impact assessments shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Added</b>	18.2.a Environmental impact assessment shall a) be done in consultation with acknowledge experts b) be covering all operation in all stages c) be regularly updated to reflect current situation	C

	<b>Adopted</b>	18.3. Legal requirements for the use of fire as a and preparation and management tool shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	18.4. Deforestation of natural forests or conversion of other natural ecosystems is not taking place. a) For perennial crops, the plants shall not have replaced natural vegetation within the last 10 years and must be at least at the second rotation. b) For annual crops, the farms shall not have replaced natural forest or ecosystems within the last 10 years. c) There shall be no conversion of peat soils for agricultural or plantation purposes. d) Procedures to avoid fires in the context of deforestation and conversion shall be developed and implemented. e) Activities to stop or protect against the conversion of non-forest natural ecosystems to agriculture, plantation forestry, intensive livestock production, or other land uses shall be implemented. This includes taking appropriate measures to support the long-term protection of natural ecosystems in the area of influence.	C
<b>19. High Conservation Values (HCVs) are identified and protected.</b> High Conservation Values shall be identified, protected and enhanced.	<b>Adopted</b>	19.1. Legal requirements relating to biodiversity protection, protected sites, and protection of endangered/protected species shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	19.2. Animals that are endangered or protected shall not be hunted, killed or held captive.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	19.3. The Organisation shall conduct an assessment to identify the presence of HCVs.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	19.4. The Organisation shall develop and implement strategies to protect the identified HCVs.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	19.5. The Organisation should develop and implement strategies to enhance the identified HCVs.	B
	<b>Adapted</b>	19.6. Identification, protection, and enhancement activities relevant to HCVs shall be carried out in consultation with relevant and/or affected local and national stakeholders and experts.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	19.7. Organisation shall regularly monitor any changes in the status of High Conservation Values and adapt management to secure continued protection. The monitoring shall be proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of activities.	C

<p><b>20. Chemicals are used cautiously with minimal negative impacts.</b> The use of chemicals shall be avoided where possible and – where used as agents to control weeds and pests or for fertilisation –shall be applied in ways that protect human health, as well as ensuring minimal impacts on the environment.</p>	<b>Adopted</b>	20.1. Legal requirements relating to chemical use and storage shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	20.2. Legal requirements relating to the use and storage of petroleum-based products shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	20.3. Organisation shall meet the requirements of the WHO International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management – Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Chemicals <sup>43</sup>	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	20.4. Chemical drift, run-off or spills shall be effectively controlled.	C
	<b>Added</b>	20.4.a The organization shall use proper technique and tool to avoid any spillage during collection, transport and processing.	C
	<b>Added</b>	20.4.b Collection centers, mixing and processing facility in the field shall be predesigned, constructed with impermeable flooring to avoid spillage and equip with necessary safety equipment. 20.4.c Collection centers, mixing and processing facilities shall be located far from water bodies and streams.	C
	<b>Added</b>	20.4.d Organization shall assess environmental impacts resulted from the use fertilizers.	C
	<b>Added</b>	20.4.e Measures shall be implemented (including application method and season) to minimize negative impact of fertilizer.	B
	<b>Adopted</b>	20.5. Organisation shall apply chemicals with known risks for pollinators only if: a) Less toxic pesticides are not available; b)Exposure to natural ecosystems is minimised; and c) Contact of pollinators with these substances can be minimised.	C
<b>Adopted</b>	20.6. Organisation should promote organic or low chemical use production and actively seek to replace chemicals with alternative components/ingredients.	B	
<p><b>21. Waste is reduced and managed appropriately.</b> Waste from production or activities related to production shall be managed and minimised.</p>	<b>Adopted</b>	21.1. Legal requirements relating to waste and residue management shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	21.2. Wastewater from processing operations is not discharged into aquatic ecosystems unless it has undergone treatment.	C

	<b>Added</b>	21.2a Wastewater and spillage from collection centers, mixing facilities in the field shall not be discharged into aquatic ecosystems unless it has undergone treatment.	C
	<b>Added</b>	21.2b. In the event of wastewater treatment in the field is not feasible, organization shall implement collective waste-water treatment.	C
	<b>Added</b>	21.3. Untreated sewage shall not be discharged into aquatic ecosystems.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	21.4. Waste storage, treatment and disposal practices shall not pose health or safety risks to farmers, workers, other people, or natural ecosystems.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	21.5. Waste shall not be burned, except in incinerators technically designed for the specific waste type.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	21.6. A waste management plan which includes reduction, recycling, reusing, and disposal based on toxicity and hazardous characteristics, should be developed and implemented.	B
<b>22. Water resources are protected and used efficiently.</b> Where water is used as part of the production system, the Organisation shall ensure that legal requirements are met – as well as ensure that any water use and impacts on water resources are managed.	<b>Adopted</b>	22.1. Legal requirements for use of water (surface or ground water) shall be complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	22.2. Organisation shall optimise use of water and reduce potential negative impacts on production and the surrounding environment.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	22.3. Organisation should have in place a water management plan that includes the following: a) Measurement and monitoring of water resources b) Set target for water management c) Define actions to achieve targets d) Set timelines to reach targets e) Resource allocation.	B
	<b>Adopted</b>	22.4. The Organisation should use best available techniques or new innovative ideas to optimise water use.	B
	<b>Adopted</b>	22.5. The Organisation should promote water efficiency and avoid water pollution.	B
<b>23. Soil is conserved and managed appropriately.</b> Organisation shall ensure that any negative impacts on soils are managed and minimised.	<b>Adopted</b>	23.1. Legal requirements related to soil management are complied with.	L
	<b>Adopted</b>	23.2. Organisation shall reduce water and wind erosion through practices such as ground covers, mulches, re-vegetation of steep areas, terracing, filter strips, or minimisation of herbicide use to protect soils. <sup>45</sup>	C

	<b>Added</b>	<p>23.2a Environmental impact assessment shall be done prior to establishment or re-establishment of large-scale plantations.</p> <p>23.2b Measures shall be implemented to reduce negative impact of establishment or re-establishment of plantation.</p> <p>23.2c Cover crops shall be maintained to the extent of not disturbing main plants.</p> <p>23.2d Exotic species shall be field tested for invasiveness prior to wide scale use.</p> <p>23.2e Establishment or re-establishment shall be done using clone most suitable to the site with longer productive period.</p>	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	23.3. The Organisation should select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimise soil erosion.	B
	<b>Deleted</b>	23.4	B
	<b>Deleted</b>	23.5	B
	<b>Deleted</b>	23.5	B
<p><b>24. Animal health and welfare is secure.</b> The health and welfare of animals shall be ensured and protected.</p>	<b>Deleted</b>	24.1	L
	<b>Deleted</b>	24.2	C
	<b>Deleted</b>	24.3	C
<p><b>25. Natural ecosystems are restored as appropriate.</b> Where the operations have caused adverse environmental impacts, the organisation shall implement measures to restore and rehabilitate forest or ecosystems that have been impacted negatively.</p>	<b>Adopted</b>	25.1. The Organisation shall analyse and evaluate the deforestation or ecosystem degradation impacts in areas affected by the operation, including the analysis and evaluation of current land uses and land tenure/ownership, and identification of affected stakeholders.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	25.2. Based on the consultation and evaluation the organisation shall select a suitable site or landscape for restoration.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	25.3. The evaluation shall include engagement of stakeholders, to include considerations of long-term goals of forest restoration and include the interests of all stakeholder groups	C

	<b>Adopted</b>	25.4. The Organisation shall develop and implement a restoration management plan, including: preparing a topographic land-use map, including a designation of ecosystem functions and assessment of accessibility; existence of natural regeneration and needs for planting; agreeing on restoration/rehabilitation objectives; selecting the restoration/rehabilitation method; choosing the species to be used; establishing a nursery; and assessing possible positive and negative social and environmental impacts.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	25.5. The Organisation shall assess capacity-building needs and plan and implement the necessary training.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	25.6. The Organisations shall establish realistic time schedules and plan for financial requirements.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	25.7. The Organisation shall monitor restored/rehabilitated areas, and conduct maintenance activities as required	C
<b>Principle 4: Climate impacts are minimised and mitigated.</b>	<b>Adopted</b>		
<b>26. Climate impacts are identified and quantified.</b> The Organisation shall identify key emission sources that may lead to significant negative climate impacts and quantify the emissions, where feasible.	<b>Adopted</b>	26.1. The Organization shall identify key emission sources, considering land-use change, and energy and materials use.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	26.2. At minimum, the most significant emissions shall be included, considering the scope of the organization's activities. The organization shall justify its inclusion or exclusion of the emission sources.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	26.3. The Organisation shall quantify its climate impacts, including GHG emissions, appropriate to the scale, intensity, and risk of its operations.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	26.4. Where such quantification cannot feasibly be performed, the Organisation shall describe and justify such exclusions.	C
<b>27. Steps are implemented for climate change mitigation.</b> The Organization shall establish and implement a plan to minimize the negative climate impacts and evaluate the needs for climate change adaptation, depending on the risks.	<b>Adopted</b>	27.1. The Organization shall undertake efforts to reduce negative climate impacts resulting from its activities.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	27.2. Targets shall be established with a focus on reducing negative climate impacts and reduction of GHG emissions for the key areas as identified by the Organization.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	27.3. The organization shall monitor the progress of achieving its climate change mitigation targets over time and shall implement adjustments when necessary.	C

	<b>Adopted</b>	27.4. If offsetting is used, the Organisation shall identify and document any standards used to generate carbon offsets, and the amount of offset credits purchased and used.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	27.5. If applicable for the organization, it shall comply with national and/or international regulations concerning emission reduction targets for applicable climate change factors and actions.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	27.6. Organizations in the supply chain should identify suppliers that may contribute to mitigating climate change and should proactively engage with their suppliers to take an active role in facilitating positive climate action.	B
	<b>Adopted</b>	27.7. Organizations in the supply chain should develop and share actions plans with key suppliers demonstrating how the suppliers may reduce negative climate change impacts.	B
<b>28. Climate change adaptation efforts are proportionate to the risks and anticipated impacts.</b> The organization shall evaluate risks resulting from climate change that may endanger the sustainability of its operations and shall consider and implement appropriate climate adaptation measures, if relevant and applicable.	<b>Adopted</b>	28.1. The organization shall evaluate key risks for its operations in relation to climate change.	C
	<b>Adopted</b>	28.2. Measures for climate change adaptation shall be implemented for areas of high risk and proportionate to the scale of the operations and anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts.	C
<b>29. Efforts are taken for carbon removal and ecosystem restoration as appropriate.</b> The organization shall consider in justified cases, the opportunities for carbon removal and ecosystem restoration and implement related activities when feasible and relevant.	<b>Adopted</b>	29.1. The organization should consider and develop activities to increase GHG removals based on land-use practices and manage carbon stocks to reduce negative climate change impacts over time.	B
	<b>Adopted</b>	29.2. The organization should seek to further enhance its positive climate impacts through appropriate restoration activities, with a focus on regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being, with a consideration to the reference ecosystem and the changing environmental, social and economic conditions of the area.	B

## About us

Preferred by Nature (formerly known as NEPCo) is an international non-profit organisation working to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and the climate. We do this through a unique combination of sustainability certification services, projects supporting awareness raising, and capacity building.

For more than 25 years, we have worked to develop practical solutions to drive positive impacts in production landscapes and supply chains in 100+ countries. We focus on land use, primarily through forest, agriculture and climate impact commodities, and related sectors such as tourism and conservation. Learn more at [www.preferredbynature.org](http://www.preferredbynature.org)

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