



Sustainability Programme

Terms and Definitions (v 1.2)

Terms & Definitions	
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Terms & Definitions

Biodiversity: The variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

Source: Convention on Biological Diversity 1992, Article 2). <https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf>

Carbon Footprint: The total amount of greenhouse gases produced to directly and indirectly support human activities, usually expressed in equivalent tons of carbon dioxide (eCO₂). This means that Carbon footprint may include the emissions of other Green House gasses than carbon dioxide (such as methane).

Certification Scheme: 3rd party scheme providing assurance of conformance to a normative Framework.

Chain of custody: The path taken by raw materials, processed materials, finished products and co-products from the area of production to the consumer or (in the case of reclaimed/recycled materials or products containing them) from the reclamation site to the consumer, including each stage of processing, transformation, manufacturing, storage and transport where progress to the next stage of the supply chain involves a change of ownership (independent custodianship) of the materials or the product.

Source: FSC-STD-40-004 V2-1. <https://fsc.org/en/document-centre/documents/resource/302>

Chemical: In the Sustainability Framework Chemicals are broadly defined as distinct compounds or substances, which have been artificially prepared or purified. Chemicals in this context may include different types of agro-chemicals, such as pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, as well as fertilisers. It may also include other chemicals used in processing and manufacturing of agricultural or forest products. (Also see the definition of *Prohibited chemicals* in this document.)

Child: Any person under 15 years of age, unless the minimum age for work or mandatory schooling is higher by local law, in which case the stipulated higher age applies in that locality.

Source: [Social Accountability Standard 8000- 2014.](#)

Child Labour: The term "child labour" is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical and mental development.

It refers to work that:

- is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children; and
- interferes with their schooling by:
 - depriving them of the opportunity to attend school;
 - obliging them to leave school prematurely; or
 - requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work.

In accordance with international labour standards, a minor, between the age of 12 and 15 may work, in parallel with studying, on a farm owned or operated by that parent or person standing in place of their parents [a guardian] if the following conditions are met:

- The minor freely reports their wish to help and learn at the family farm if interviewed outside the farm
- Work takes place outside of schooling
- Work is supervised always by a parent or guardian
- Work does not take place at night, does not consist of heavy lifting duties or hazardous work conditions, defined as:
 - Operating or assisting to technically operate any type of machine, including tractor and power engines

- Working from a ladder or scaffold (painting, repairing, or building structures, pruning trees, picking fruit, etc.) at a height of over 2 metres,
- Working in a confined space (example silo or a storage designed to retain an oxygen deficient or toxic atmosphere)
- Handling or applying any type of agricultural chemicals

The above requirements apply as well to agricultural schools – apprentices and students that can be present on farms.

Not all work done by children should be classified as child labour that is to be targeted for elimination. Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling, is generally regarded as being something positive. This includes activities such as helping their parents around the home, assisting in a family business or earning pocket money outside school hours and during school holidays. These kinds of activities contribute to children's development and to the welfare of their families; they provide them with skills and experience and help prepare them to be productive members of society during their adult life.

Source: [International Labour Organization](#)

Child labour, worst form of: Whilst child labour takes many different forms, a priority is to eliminate without delay the worst forms of child labour as defined by Article 3 of ILO Convention No. 182:

- (a) all forms of slavery or practices similar to slavery, such as the sale and trafficking of children, debt bondage and serfdom and forced or compulsory labour, including forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict;
- (b) the use, procuring or offering of a child for prostitution, for the production of pornography or for pornographic performances;
- (c) the use, procuring or offering of a child for illicit activities, in particular for the production and trafficking of drugs as defined in the relevant international treaties;
- (d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

Source: [Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 \(No. 182\)](#).

Community rights: Although "community rights" is not a defined concept in international law, community members are entitled to the full range of human rights. Moreover, given the social, economic and political structures and cohesion of communities, there may often be a collective aspect to their rights. In this regard, there may be commonalities between community rights and indigenous peoples' rights, especially when projects impact lands and resources that concern entire communities rather than individuals

Complaint: A complaint is defined as a formal expression of dissatisfaction by any person or organisation presented as a complaint to an organisation or a person.

Conflict timber: Organisations such as Global Witness use the term *conflict timber* to describe the harvesting or trade of forest products used to fund parties engaged in *armed conflicts* resulting in serious violations of human rights, violations of international humanitarian law or violations amounting to crimes under international law.

Source: [Transparency International](#)

Conflict of interest: A conflict of interest occurs when a person's or entity's vested interests may affect their actions, judgment, and/or decision-making. For a public servant a conflict of interest' involves a conflict between the public duty and private interests of a public official, in which the public official has private-capacity interests which could improperly influence the performance of their official duties and responsibilities.

Source: OECD, <https://www.oecd.org/gov/ethics/2957360.pdf>

Control measure: An action that the organisation shall take to mitigate the risk of sourcing material from unacceptable sources.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): A multilateral treaty that aims to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Source: [CITES](#)

Conversion: ¹Conversion is defined as change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or severe degradation that results in profound change in the ecosystem's species composition, structure or function.

Source: [Afi Definitions](#)

Core sustainability requirements: Indicators of the Sustainability Framework that includes requirements that are considered by Preferred by nature to be required for achieving sustainability in production or processing.

Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI): A global index of the perceived level of corruption in individual countries. The index has been developed by Transparency International.

Source: [Transparency International](#)

Corruption: Transparency International defines corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. Corruption can be classified as grand, petty and political, depending on the amounts of money lost and the sector where it occurs.

Customary law: Interrelated sets of customary rights may be recognised as customary law. In some jurisdictions, customary law is equivalent to statutory law, within its defined area of competence and may replace the statutory law for defined ethnic or other social groups. In some jurisdictions customary law complements statutory law and is applied in specified circumstances.

Source: FSC standard FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2. <https://fsc.org/en/current-processes/fsc-std-01-001-v5-2-fsc-principles-and-criteria-pc-for-forest-stewardship>

Customary rights: Rights which result from a long series of habitual or customary actions, constantly repeated, which have, by such repetition and by uninterrupted acquiescence, acquired the force of a law within a geographical or sociological unit.

Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2. <https://fsc.org/en/current-processes/fsc-std-01-001-v5-2-fsc-principles-and-criteria-pc-for-forest-stewardship>

Deforestation: Loss of natural forest as a result of:

- conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use;
- conversion to a plantation forest; or
- severe and sustained degradation.

This definition pertains to deforestation-free supply chain commitments, which generally focus on preventing the conversion of natural forests. Severe degradation (scenario iii in the definition) constitutes deforestation even if the land is not subsequently used for a non-forest land use. Loss of natural forest that meets this definition is considered to be deforestation regardless of whether or not it is legal. Adopted from the Accountability Framework.

Source: [Afi Definitions](#)

Deforestation-free (synonym: no-deforestation): Commodity production, sourcing, or financial investments that do not cause or contribute to deforestation of natural forests. Adopted from the Accountability Framework.

Source: [Afi Definitions](#)

Discrimination: any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, national or territorial or social origin, caste, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, family responsibilities, marital status, union membership, political opinions, age or any other issue.

Source: [ILO Convention 111](#)

Examples include discrimination based on:

- a) Race, colour, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender, caste, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin;
- b) Nationality or migratory status;
- c) Civil status;
- d) Medical condition;
- e) Family condition, including pregnant women and parents with children, or any other protected status as included in applicable laws;
- f) Worker organisation membership or being an organiser;
- g) Having filed complaints within the complaints or grievance mechanisms;

Source: [Sustainable Agriculture Standard](#)

Due Diligence System (DDS): A set of steps or actions taken to ensure that due diligence is exercised. The due diligence system may consist of written guidelines and procedures that describe the due diligence process in detail.

Due diligence: In the context of this Framework, due diligence is considered to define the actions taken by Organisations to ensure that production, processing or sourcing of commodities is done in a responsible way, using a risk-based approach. A general definition of the term is “the care that a reasonable person exercises to avoid harm to other persons or their property”.

Source: [Merriam Webster](#)

Ecosystem restoration: (In relation to environmental harms): The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem, and its associated conservation values, that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.

Source: [Accountability Framework definitions](#)

Ecosystem services: The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include:

- a. provisioning services such as food, forest products and water;
- b. regulating services such as regulation of floods, drought, land degradation, air quality, climate and disease;
- c. supporting services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling;
- d. and cultural services and cultural values such as recreational, spiritual, religious and other non-material benefits.

Source: [R. Hassan, R. Scholes and N. Ash. 2005. Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Series.](#)

Endangered species: Plant or animal species categorised as endangered by national law, or by international organisations such as IUCN. In descending order of threat, the IUCN Red List threat categories are as follows: Extinct or Extinct in the Wild. Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable: species threatened with global extinction.

Source: [IUCN](#)

Employer-provided housing: housing provided to workers by the employer. For healthy and safe housing the following should be met:

- a) Employer provided housing shall be clearly segregated from factory and production area and have clearly segregated housing for males and females for respect of privacy, where necessary.
- b) Employer provided housing shall be safety built and maintained in a hygienic condition.
- c) Workers shall be able to enter and leave buildings freely.
- d) Employer provided housing shall have automatic fire detection and alarm systems.
- e) Employer provided housing shall respect personal floor space and a minimum cubic content of air.
- f) Employer provided housing shall be provided with adequate lighting and ventilation.
- g) Employer provided housing shall have windows large enough to enable the workers to read by natural light and be constructed to allow the entrance of fresh air whether there is artificial lighting or ventilation turned on.
- h) Employer provided housing shall have appropriate ventilation that is properly functioning and maintained.
- i) Employer provided housing shall be equipped with sleeping facilities with beds and mattresses above the floor and quiet and dark enough to allow for good quality of sleep.
- j) Employer provided housing shall enable access to potable water, electricity, clean shower and toilet facilities respecting the right of privacy, sanitary food preparation and storage facilities.
- k) Employer provided housing shall have personal storage equipment with lockable lockers.

Source: adapted from the ILO Workers' housing recommendation.

https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:R115

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Systematic process used to identify potential environmental and social impacts of proposed projects, to evaluate alternative approaches, and to design and incorporate appropriate prevention, mitigation, management and monitoring measures.

Source: based on Environmental impact assessment, guidelines for FAO field projects. Food and agriculture organization of the United Nations (FAO). Rome. <http://www.fao.org/climatechange/29103-02e9a33753ffc325da1e25250c06c927b.pdf>

Fertiliser: organic or inorganic substances containing chemical elements that improve the growth of plants and the fertility of the soil. In inorganic or mineral fertilizers, the nutrients are inorganic salts, obtained by extraction and/or physical and chemical processes. The three primary plant nutrients are nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

Source: OECD. <https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=947>

Forest: Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use.

In the context of the Sustainability framework differentiation is made between *natural forest* and plantation

Source: [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

Forest degradation: forest degradation is defined as the result of human activity that cause a reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of forest ecosystems, resulting in the long-term reduction of the overall supply of benefits from forest, which includes wood, biodiversity and other products or services.

Source: EU. https://ec.europa.eu/environment/publications/proposal-regulation-deforestation-free-products_en

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC): A legal condition whereby a person or community can be said to have given consent to an action prior to its commencement, based upon a clear appreciation and

understanding of the facts, implications and future consequences of that action, and the possession of all relevant facts at the time when consent is given. Free, prior and informed consent includes the right to grant, modify, withhold or withdraw approval. FPIC is required prior the approval and/or commencement of any project that may affect the lands, territories and resources that Indigenous Peoples customarily own, occupy or otherwise use in view of their collective rights to self-determination and to their lands, territories, natural resources and related properties.

Understanding the terminology associated with FPIC can help companies to effectively contribute to, facilitate, lead and assess FPIC processes:

- **Free:** Consent is given by the affected indigenous people or local communities voluntarily without coercion, duress, and intimidation.
- **Prior:** The consent is given before the specified activity is authorised or commenced.
- **Informed:** The consent is given after the indigenous people or local communities has received the relevant, timely and culturally appropriate information necessary to make a fully informed decision.
- **Consent:** The IP/LC take a collective decision to grant or withhold approval of the specified activity.

Source: [United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

Gender Equality: Gender Equality means that women and men have equal conditions for realising their full human rights and for contributing to, and benefiting from, economic, social, cultural and political development. Gender equality is therefore the equal valuing by society of the similarities and the differences of men and women, and the roles they play. It is based on women and men being full partners in their home, their community and their society.

Source: [UNESCO](#)

Genetically modified organism (GMO): An organism in which the genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating and/or natural recombination.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG): A gas that contributes to the natural greenhouse effect. The Kyoto Protocol covers a basket of six greenhouse gases (GHGs) produced by human activities: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride. Annex I Parties' emissions of these gases taken together are to be measured in terms of carbon dioxide equivalents on the basis of the gases' global warming potential.

Source: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/help/glossary/eea-glossary/greenhouse-gas>

GHG Offset: A carbon offset is a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. Carbon offsets are measured in tonnes of **carbon** dioxide-equivalent (CO₂e). Carbon offset schemes allow individuals and companies to invest in environmental projects around the world in order to balance out their own carbon footprints. The projects are usually based in developing countries and most commonly are designed to reduce future emissions. This might involve rolling out clean energy technologies or purchasing and ripping up carbon credits from an emissions trading scheme. Other schemes work by soaking up CO₂ directly from the air through the planting of trees.

Hazardous work: Hazardous work is defined as work that may expose the worker to one or more of the following:

1. **Mechanical hazards**
Certain equipment poses a cutting or crushing hazard.
2. **Chemical hazards**
Certain substances and compounds pose a chemical hazard.
3. **Physical hazards**
Physical hazards may comprise noise, vibration from machinery, work at elevated heights, cold, heat, or unusually high or low air pressure.

4. Electrical hazards
There is a particular electrical hazard involved in working on live wires or in the vicinity of exposed live components, and in the maintenance and repair of high-tension current equipment and lifts.
5. Bodily strain
Bodily strain may result from heavy lifting and other work involving unequal loading.
6. Biological hazards
Certain biological factors pose a specific hazard.
7. Certain other types of work.

Source: adopted from ILO. <https://www.ilo.org/safework/areasofwork/hazardous-work/lang--en/index.htm>

High Conservation Value (HCV): Any of the following values:

- HCV1: Species Diversity. Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species, and rare, threatened or endangered species, that are significant at global, regional or national levels.
- HCV 2: Landscape-level ecosystems and mosaics. Intact forest landscapes and large landscape-level ecosystems and ecosystem mosaics that are significant at global, regional or national levels, and that contain viable populations of the great majority of the naturally occurring species in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- HCV 3: Ecosystems and habitats. Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.
- HCV 4: Critical ecosystem services. Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.
- HCV 5: Community needs. Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the necessities of local communities or Indigenous Peoples (for example for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water), identified through engagement with these communities or Indigenous Peoples.
- HCV 6: Cultural values. Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or Indigenous Peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or Indigenous Peoples.

Source: [FSC standard FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2](#).

Human rights: Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination.

Source: [United Nations](#)

Illegally harvested wood: Wood that has been harvested in violation of applicable laws related to harvesting in that location or jurisdiction.

Source: [Adapted from FSC Glossary of Terms \(FSC-STD-01-002, updated 19 October 2017\)](#).

ILO fundamental Conventions: The eight ILO fundamental Conventions are: the [Forced Labour Convention, 1930 \(No. 29\)](#), the [Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 \(No. 105\)](#), the [Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 \(No. 87\)](#), the [Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 \(No. 98\)](#), the [Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 \(No. 100\)](#), the [Discrimination \(Employment and Occupation\) Convention, 1958 \(No. 111\)](#), the [Minimum Age Convention, 1973 \(No. 138\)](#), and the [Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 \(No. 182\)](#).

Source: ILO

Indicator: A quantitative or qualitative variable which can be measured or described, and which provides a means of judging whether a Management Unit complies with the requirements of a Criterion. Indicators and the associated thresholds thereby define the requirements for responsible management at the level of the Management Unit and are the primary basis of conformance evaluation.

Source: [Adapted from FSC Glossary of Terms \(FSC-STD-01-002, updated 19 October 2017\).](#)

Indigenous Peoples: People and groups of people that are characterised by all of the following points:

- The key characteristic or criterion is self-identification as Indigenous Peoples at the individual level and acceptance by the community as their member;
- Historical continuity with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies;
- Strong link to territories and surrounding natural resources;
- Distinct culture and beliefs;
- Form non-dominant groups of society, and;
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities.

Sources: ILO, Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Factsheet 'Who are Indigenous Peoples' October 2007; United Nations Development Group, 'Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues' United Nations 2009, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2008.

Industry wage standards: Industry wages are wages paid for all occupations within an industry.

Land Tenure: Land tenure is the relationship, whether legally or customarily defined, among people, as individuals or groups, with respect to land. (For convenience, "land" is used here to include other natural resources such as water and trees.) Land tenure is an institution, i.e., rules invented by societies to regulate behaviour. Rules of tenure define how property rights to land are to be allocated within societies. They define how access is granted to rights to use, control, and transfer land, as well as associated responsibilities and restraints. In simple terms, land tenure systems determine who can use what resources for how long, and under what conditions.

Source: [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#)

Legal Compliance indicators: Indicators of the Sustainability Framework that requires compliance with applicable legislation.

Living wage: The remuneration received for a standard workweek by a worker in a particular place sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the worker and her or his family. Elements of a decent standard of living include food, water, housing, education, health care, transportation, clothing, and other essential needs including provision for unexpected events.

Source: [Global Living Wage Coalition](#)

Local community: Communities of any size that are in or adjacent to the Management Unit, and also those that are close enough to have a significant impact on the economy or the environmental values of the Management Unit or to have their economies, rights or environments significantly affected by the management activities or the biophysical aspects of the Management Unit.

Source: [FSC Glossary of Terms \(FSC-STD-01-002, updated 19 October 2017\).](#)

Low risk: A conclusion, following a risk assessment, that there is negligible or insignificant risk that material that does not meet specific criteria (legal or otherwise) is sourced or traded in a supply chain. Risk mitigation actions are not required for products with low-risk designation.

Source: Adapted from [Requirements for sourcing FSC Controlled Wood FSC-STD-40-005](#)

Modern Slavery: is defined as situations where when people are:

- forced to work – through coercion, or mental or physical threat;
- owned or controlled by an ‘employer’, through mental or physical abuse or the threat of abuse;
- dehumanised, treated as a commodity or bought and sold as ‘property’, or;
- physically constrained or have restrictions placed on their freedom of movement.

Modern slavery can take different forms:

- **Forced labour** – any work or services which people are forced to do against their will under the threat of some form of punishment.
- **Debt bondage or bonded labour** – the world’s most widespread form of slavery, when people borrow money they cannot repay and are required to work to pay off the debt, then losing control over the conditions of both their employment and the debt.
- **Human trafficking**– involves transporting, recruiting or harbouring people for the purpose of exploitation, using violence, threats or coercion.
- **Descent-based slavery** – where people are born into slavery because their ancestors were captured and enslaved; they remain in slavery by descent.
- **Child slavery** – many people often confuse child slavery with child labour, but it is much worse. Whilst child labour is harmful for children and hinders their education and development, child slavery occurs when a child is exploited for someone else’s gain. It can include child trafficking, child soldiers, child marriage and child domestic slavery.
- **Forced and early marriage** – when someone is married against their will and cannot leave the marriage. Most child marriages can be considered slavery.

Source: [Anti-Slavery International](#)

Natural ecosystem: An ecosystem that substantially resembles—in terms of species composition, structure, and ecological function—one that is or would be found in a given area in the absence of major human impacts. This includes human-managed ecosystems where much of the natural species composition, structure, and ecological function are present.

Natural ecosystems include:

- Largely “pristine” natural ecosystems that have not been subject to major human impacts in recent history
- Regenerated natural ecosystems that were subject to major impacts in the past (for instance by agriculture, livestock raising, tree plantations, or intensive logging) but where the main causes of impact have ceased or greatly diminished and the ecosystem has attained species composition, structure, and ecological function similar to prior or other contemporary natural ecosystems
- Managed natural ecosystems (including many ecosystems that could be referred to as “semi-natural”) where much of the ecosystem’s composition, structure, and ecological function are present; this includes managed natural forests as well as native grasslands or rangelands that are, or have historically been, grazed by livestock
- Natural ecosystems that have been partially degraded by anthropogenic or natural causes (e.g., harvesting, fire, climate change, invasive species, or others) but where the land has not been converted to another use and where much of the ecosystem’s composition, structure, and ecological function remain present or are expected to regenerate naturally or by management for ecological restoration

Source: [Accountability Framework definitions](#)

Natural forest: In the context of the Sustainability Framework a *natural forest* is a forest area with many of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems, such as complexity, structure and biological diversity, including soil characteristics, flora and fauna, in which all or almost all the trees are native species, not classified as plantations. *Natural forest* includes the following categories:

- Primary or undisturbed forest that has not been disturbed by human activity in modern history.

- Forest affected by harvesting or other disturbances, in which trees are being or have been regenerated by a combination of natural and artificial regeneration with species typical of natural forests in that site, and where many of the above-ground and below-ground characteristics of the natural forest are still present. In boreal and north temperate forests which are naturally composed of only one or few tree species, a combination of natural and artificial regeneration to regenerate forest of the same native species, with most of the principal characteristics and key elements of native ecosystems of that site, is not by itself considered as conversion to plantations.
- Natural forests which are maintained by traditional silvicultural practices including natural or assisted natural regeneration.
- Well-developed secondary or colonising forest of native species which has regenerated in non-forest areas.
- The definition of 'natural forest' may include areas described as wooded ecosystems, woodland and savanna.
- Natural forest does not include land that is not dominated by trees, was previously not forest, and that does not yet contain many of the characteristics and elements of native ecosystems. Young regeneration may be considered as natural forest.

Natural forest and plantations are mutually exclusive, meaning that a tree plantation, as defined under "plantation" will not be considered a natural forest.

Non-conforming product/material: any material or product that is produced, processed or traded in violation of applicable legislation or the requirements of the Sustainability Framework.

Organisation: Individual, company or legal entity responsible for meeting the requirements of this Framework. Organisation covers all legal entities owned or managed directly by that legal entity.

Origin: The geographic source of materials, which at a minimum must specify the country of production/harvest, and where applicable, sub-national region or farm or forest where the produce was harvested or produced.

Plantation: defined as forest stands established by planting or/and seeding in the process of afforestation or reforestation. They are either of introduced or indigenous species. In addition, the structure and diversity of plantations are generally uniform with same-age stands of the same species, and does generally not have the characteristics and functions of a natural forest.

Source: FAO, FRA2000. <http://www.fao.org/3/y1997e/y1997e08.htm>

Post-consumer reclaimed material: Material that is reclaimed from a consumer or commercial product that has been used for its intended purpose by individuals, households or by commercial, industrial and institutional facilities in their role as end-users of the product and would otherwise have been discarded as waste. This definition therefore excludes material that is reclaimed from a process of secondary manufacture or further downstream industry, in which the material has not been intentionally produced, is unfit for end-use and may or may not be capable of being re-used on-Site in the same manufacturing process that generated it.

Processing: processing denotes activities of processing primary commodities or raw materials. Processing may be primary or secondary.

Production: referred to primary production at farm or forest level, such as the growing of crops and trees.

Prohibited chemicals: Chemicals that may not be used by entities verified as being in compliance with the Sustainability Framework. This list has been developed by Preferred by Nature, and includes chemicals with active ingredients classified according to at least one of the following criteria:

1. listed in Annex A or B of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POP) and/or recommended for inclusion in Annex A or B of the Stockholm Convention by the POPs Review Committee (POPRC);

2. listed in the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozon Layer;
3. listed in Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (PIC) or recommended for inclusion in Annex III by the Chemical Review Committee (CRC);
4. listed in classes Ia and Ib under the World Health Organisation's Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard;
5. classified as reproductive toxicity category 1 or carcinogenic toxicity category 1 or mutagenic toxicity category 1 or Carcinogenic toxicity category 2 and reproductive toxicity category 2, according to the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals as implemented/applied by the European Union (Regulation 1272/2008 and Regulation 1107/2009) and by Japan.

It should be noted that some pesticides or chemicals on the prohibited list may be used in certain instances specific circumstances that limits the risk from said ingredients. As an exception, it is allowed to use rodenticides with active ingredients in the prohibited list, for control or rodents, but only if the chemical is contained in dedicated bait boxes, thus preventing access for other than the intended purpose.

In cases where Preferred by Nature develops a commodity specific adaptation of the Sustainability Framework, the list of *Prohibited Chemicals* may be adjusted considering the specifics within the commodity.

See Annex 1 for the list of prohibited chemicals.

Protected Species: Animal or plant species protected by national or international law.

Publicly available information: Information that has been published or broadcast for public consumption, is available on request to the public, is accessible on-line or otherwise to the public, is available to the public by subscription or purchase, could be seen or heard by any casual observer, is made available at a meeting open to the public, or is obtained by visiting a place or attending an event that is open to the public.

Records: Written or stored information. Records may mean copies of documents, or information stored digitally with information on systems and data collected, that can be used to show compliance with Framework requirements.

Remediation: Terms used interchangeably or in combination with one another to refer to both the process of providing redress for a negative impact and the substantive outcomes that can counteract, or make good, the negative impact. These outcomes may take a range of forms such as apologies, restitution, rehabilitation, restoration, financial or non-financial compensation, and punitive sanctions (whether criminal or administrative, such as fines), as well as the prevention of harm through, for example, injunctions or guarantees of non-repetition.

In the context of the Sustainability Framework, remediation activities refers to social issues.

Source: [Accountability Framework definitions](#)

Responsible Recruitment: covers issues related to the recruitment process, as follows:

- a) Medicals shall only be mandated for after an offer of employment has been made and where it is relevant to the safety & health of the individual and those around him/her.
- b) Pregnancy screening or testing is not used at any time before or after the jobseeker signs an employment agreement, except where required by law.
- c) Recruitment related information (including the details of working conditions, worker's legal rights, nature of work, wages and benefits, duration of contract) and the employment contract shall be provided to a jobseeker in a language they understand.
- d) Recruitment fees / costs shall not be charged to jobseekers, nor shall deposits for job placement services, from jobseekers, his/her employers, agents, nor subagents.

- e) Recruitment of migrants shall include full transparency about terms, conditions and any employment costs and the migrants shall be informed about the labour laws applicable in the place of work prior to granting their written consent.
- f) Only charges or deductions for room and board that are permitted or required by law and are consistent with market rates shall be applied and communicated to jobseekers prior to signing an employment contract.
- g) Employment contracts shall specify hours of work, including regular hours, requirements for overtime and days off, specify and comply with all legally required breaks, including breaks for prayer, and provide at least one day off in every seven days.
- h) The Organisation shall provide reasonable opportunities for employment, training and other services to local communities, contractors and suppliers proportionate to scale and intensity of its management activities.

Responsible remuneration: process of managing remuneration of workers, including:

- a) Employers shall not engage in making personal loans to workers or jobseekers under circumstances where repayment terms could be defined as debt bondage or forced labour.
- b) Employees shall not be required to participate in any forced saving scheme, unless required by law.
- c) Employers shall not avoid obligations to employees under labour or social security laws and regulations arising from the regular employment relationship using labour-only sub-contracting, home-working arrangements, or apprenticeship schemes where there is no real intent to impart skills or provide regular employment, nor shall any such obligations be purposefully avoided through the excessive use of fixed-term contracts of employment.
- d) Wage calculations shall be transparent, equitable and objective including for remuneration based on production, quotas or piecework and overtime hours shall be specified separately.
- e) Recognition and promotion processes and practices shall be made based on worker performance, without discrimination on and with the aim to provide equal opportunities for empowerment.
- f) Deductions from wages as a disciplinary measure shall be prohibited, nor shall any deductions be made from wages without the expressed permission of the worker concerned.
- g) All disciplinary remuneration measures shall be recorded.

Rights holder: Any person, group of persons or entity (typically Indigenous Peoples or other local communities) who holds customary or legal use rights, in accordance with UNDRIP and national laws or traditions.

Species: A group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding. The species is the principal natural taxonomic unit, ranking below a genus. The common and (where applicable) full scientific name is required for all species included within the scope of the management system.

Specified risk: A conclusion, following a risk assessment, that there are risk that illegal or otherwise non-conforming products may enter the supply chain. Risk mitigation is required.

Stakeholder: Any person, group of persons or entity that is or is likely to be subject to the effects of the activities of a Management Unit. Examples include, but are not restricted to persons, groups of persons or entities. The following are examples of affected stakeholders:

- Local communities
- Indigenous peoples
- Workers
- Neighbours

- Landowners
- Local processors
- Local businesses
- Tenure and use rights holders, including landowners
- Organisations authorised or known to act on behalf of affected stakeholders, for example social and environmental NGOs, labor unions, etc.

Source: FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2

Substantiated complaint: A grievance or objection raised against an Organisation regarding its Certification, due diligence system or timber legality risk, which is accompanied by or is found to be established by proof or competent, verifiable, evidence.

Sub-supplier: Any entities further up the supply chain that are supplying material to the suppliers or other sub-suppliers.

Supplier: The entity that supplies material to the Organisation.

Supply chain: The route of products and entities that take legal ownership of the products from the source area – where the material is harvested or produced – to the Organisation that takes final ownership of the material.

Threatened species: Species that meet the IUCN (2001) criteria for Vulnerable (VU), Endangered (EN) or Critically Endangered (CR), and are facing a high, very high or extremely high risk of extinction in the wild.

Source: Based on IUCN. (2001). IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria: Version 3.1. IUCN Species Survival Commission. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

Waste: Waste means any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard. In the context of the Sustainability Framework waste may encompass a range of different materials.

Source: EU Waste Framework Directive. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018L0851&from=EN>

Worker, migrant: a person who migrates from one country to another with a view to being employed otherwise than on his own account and includes any person regularly admitted as a migrant for employment.

Source: ILO Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97).

https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::p12100_instrument_id:312242

Worker, permanent: Permanent workers, work for an employer and do not have a predetermined end date to employment. The definition of a permanent worker may include different types of employment, and cover any person who works on a farm, forest or for a group administrator and is paid for his or her work. In terms of the requirements of the Sustainability Framework permanent workers can encompass different types of workers including documented, undocumented, migrant, workers of sub-contractors and outsourced workers, as well as persons temporarily absent from a job or enterprise at which they recently worked for illness, parental leave, holiday, training or industrial dispute.

Worker, seasonal: A seasonal worker is a worker who is under a form of temporary employment linked to specific periods of the year and sectors (for example, fruit pickers in the agricultural sector). Seasonal workers may also encompass different types of workers, as is the case with permanent workers.

Water Bodies: 'Water bodies' includes, but is not limited to, water courses, rivers, streams, lagoons, springs, lakes, reservoirs and ditches.

Young worker: Any worker under the age of 18 but over the age of a child (15), as defined above.

Source: [Social Accountability Standard 8000- 2014](#)

Annex 1: Preferred by Nature list of prohibited chemicals

CAS Nr	Active Ingredient	Conventions			Acute Toxicity		Mutagenicity	Reproductive toxicity		Carcinogenicity				
		1. Stockholm Annex A and B	2. Montreal, Ozone Depleting	3. Rotterdam, Annex 3	4. WHO Ia	4. WHO Ib		H330 "Fatal if inhaled"	See note below the table	5. EU GHS Muta 1	5. Japan GHS Muta 1	5. EU GHS Repr 1	5. Japan GHS Repr 1	5. EU GHS Carc 1
71751-41-2	Abamectin					Y	Y							
34256-82-1	Acetochlor			Y				CRC						Y
107-02-8	Acrolein					Y	Y							
15972-60-8	Alachlor			Y										
116-06-3	Aldicarb			Y	Y		Y							
319-84-6	alpha-BHC; alpha-HCH	Y												
96-24-2	Alpha-chlorohydrin					Y				Y				
61-82-5	Amitrole								Y					
90640-80-5	Anthracene oil											Y		
84-65-1	Anthraquinone								Y					
	Arsen and its compounds									Y				
68049-83-2	Azafenidin								Y					
2642-71-9	Azinphos-ethyl					Y								
86-50-0	Azinphos-methyl			Y		Y	Y							
17804-35-2	Benomyl			Y				F	Y	Y	Y	Y		
68359-37-5	Beta-cyfluthrin; Cyfluthrin					Y	Y							
319-85-7	beta-HCH; beta-BCH	Y												
28434-01-7	Bioresmethrin								Y	Y				
28434-01-7	Bioresmethrin									Y				
92-52-4	Biphenyl, Diphenyl													Y
2079-00-7	Blasticidin-S					Y								
	Borax; Borate salts								Y	Y				
10043-35-3	Boric acid								Y	Y				
56073-10-0	Brodifacoum				Y		Y		Y					
28772-56-7	Bromadiolone				Y		Y		Y					
63333-35-7	Bromethalin				Y									
1689-84-5	Bromoxynil						Y			Y				
56634-95-8	Bromoxynil heptanoate									Y				
1689-99-2	Bromoxynil octanoate									Y				
34681-10-2	Butocarboxim					Y								
34681-23-7	Butoxycarboxim					Y								
95465-99-9	Cadusafos					Y								
592-01-8	Calcium cyanide				Y									
2425-06-1	Captafol			Y	Y				Y			Y	Y	
63-25-2	Carbaryl													Y
10605-21-7	Carbendazim								Y	Y	Y	Y		
16118-49-3	Carbetamide									Y				
1563-66-2	Carbofuran			Y		Y	Y	F						
55285-14-8	Carbosulfan			Y			Y	CRC						
57-74-9	Chlordane	Y		Y										
54593-83-8	Chlorethoxyphos				Y									
470-90-6	Chlorfenvinphos					Y								
24934-91-6	Chloromphos				Y									
3691-35-8	Chlorophacinone				Y		Y			Y	Y			
1897-45-6	Chlorothalonil						Y							
2921-88-2	Chlorpyrifos	Y						CRC		Y				
5598-13-0	Chlorpyrifos-methyl													
67-97-0	Cholecalciferol									Y	Y			
56-72-4	Coumaphos					Y								
5836-29-3	Coumatetralyl					Y	Y			Y				
8001-58-9	Creosote										Y	Y	Y	
560121-52-0	Cyenoptyrafen													Y
94361-06-5	Cyproconazole									Y				

CAS Nr	Active Ingredient	Conventions		Acute Toxicity			Mutagenicity	Reproductive toxicity		Carcinogenicity	
50-29-3	DDT	Y	Y					Y	Y		Y
919-86-8	Demeton-S-methyl				Y						
333-41-5	Diazinon								Y		Y
120-36-5	Dichlorprop							Y	Y		
62-73-7	Dichlorvos; DDVP				Y	Y					
141-66-2	Dicrotophos				Y						
56073-07-5	Difenacoum			Y		Y			Y		
104653-34-1	Difethialone			Y		Y			Y		
110488-70-5	Dimethomorph								Y		
39300-45-3	Dinocap								Y		
1420-07-1	Dinoterb				Y				Y		
82-66-6	Diphacinone			Y							
298-04-4	Disulfoton			Y							
	DNOC and its salts		Y			Y		Y			
17109-49-8	Edifenphos				Y						
115-29-7	Endosulfan	Y	Y			Y					
297-99-4	E-Phosphamidon			Y							
106-89-8	Epichlorohydrin									Y	Y
2104-64-5	EPN			Y							
133855-98-8	Epoxiconazole								Y		
29973-13-5	Ethiofencarb				Y						
13194-48-4	Ethoprophos; Ethoprop			Y		Y					Y
106-93-4	Ethylene dibromide; 1,2-dibromoethane		Y							Y	Y
107-06-2	Ethylene dichloride; 1,2-Dichloroethane		Y								Y
75-21-8	Ethylene oxide		Y				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
96-45-7	Ethylene thiourea								Y	Y	
52-85-7	Famphur				Y						
22224-92-6	Fenamiphos				Y	Y					
103112-35-2	Fenchlorazole-ethyl										Y
55-38-9	Fenthion		Y				CRC ;F				
90035-08-8	Flocoumafen			Y		Y			Y		
69806-50-4	Fluazifop-butyl								Y		
79622-59-6	Fluazinam					Y			Y		
70124-77-5	Flucythrinate				Y						
640-19-7	Fluoroacetamide		Y		Y						
85509-19-9	Flusilazole								Y		
50-00-0	Formaldehyde										Y
22259-30-9	Formetanate				Y	Y					
98886-44-3	Fosthiazate									Y	
65907-30-4	Furathiocarb				Y	Y					
77182-82-2	Glufosinate-ammonium								Y		
100784-20-1	Halosulfuron-methyl								Y		
23560-59-0	Heptenophos				Y						
118-74-1	Hexachlorobenzene	Y	Y	Y						Y	Y
608-73-1	Hexchlorocyclohexane; BHC mixed isomers		Y								
57520-17-9	Iminoctadine triacetate								Y		
36734-19-7	Iprodione										
18854-01-8	Isoxathion				Y						
58-89-9	Lindane	Y	Y							Y	Y
330-55-2	Linuron								Y		
121-75-5	Malathion										Y
8018-01-7	Mancozeb								Y		
12427-38-2	Maneb									Y	
2595-54-2	Mecarbam				Y						
131-72-6	Meptyldinocap								Y	Y	
	Mercury and its compounds		Y			Y					
10265-92-6	Methamidophos		Y		Y	Y					
950-37-8	Methidathion				Y						
2032-65-7	Methiocarb				Y						
16752-77-5	Methomyl				Y						
72-43-5	Methoxychlor	Y					CRC				
74-83-9	Methyl bromide		Y								
7786-34-7	Mevinphos			Y							
2212-67-1	Molinate								Y		
6923-22-4	Monocrotophos		Y		Y	Y					
54-11-5	Nicotine				Y	Y					

CAS Nr	Active Ingredient	Conventions			Acute Toxicity			Mutagenicity	Reproductive toxicity		Carcinogenicity	
98-95-3	Nitrobenzene								Y	Y		
1113-02-6	Omethoate				Y	Y						
23135-22-0	Oxamyl			Y		Y						
301-12-2	Oxydemeton-methyl				Y							
	Paraffin oils; mineral oils											
1910-42-5	Paraquat dichloride		Y			Y	CRC ; F					
56-38-2	Parathion		Y		Y	Y						
298-00-0	Parathion-methyl		Y		Y	Y	F					
87-86-5	PCP; Pentachlorophenol	Y	Y		Y	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y
298-02-2	Phorate		Y		Y							
13171-21-6	Phosphamidon		Y		Y							
32809-16-8	Procymidone								Y			
31218-83-4	Propetamphos				Y							
60207-90-1	Propiconazole								Y			
12071-83-9	Propineb											Y
114-26-1	Propoxur							Y				
75-56-9	Propylene oxide, Oxirane							Y				Y
148-24-3	Quinolin-8-ol; 8-hydroxyquinoline								Y	Y		
105024-66-6	Silafluofen								Y			
143-33-9	Sodium cyanide				Y							
62-74-8	Sodium fluoroacetate (1080)				Y	Y						
148477-71-8	Spirodiclofen								Y			Y
57-24-9	Strychnine				Y							
4151-50-2	Sulfuramid		Y									
3689-24-5	Sulfotep				Y							
1314-84-7	Zinc phosphide				Y							
137-30-4	Ziram					Y		Y				
23783-98-4	Z-Phosphamidon		Y	Y			F					
96182-53-5	Tebupirimifos				Y							
111988-49-9	Thiacloprid								Y	Y		
79538-32-2	Tefluthrin				Y	Y						
13071-79-9	Terbufos				Y							
148-79-8	Thiabendazole								Y	Y		
39196-18-4	Thiofanox				Y							
640-15-3	Thiometon				Y							
137-26-8	Thiram		Y			Y	F	Y	Y			
52-68-6	Trichlorfon		Y					Y		Y		
55219-65-3	Triadimenol								Y			
24017-47-8	Triazophos				Y							
	Tributyltin compounds		Y									
81412-43-3	Tridemorph								Y			
68694-11-1	Triflumizole								Y			
2275-23-2	Vamidothion				Y							
81-81-2	Warfarin				Y	Y			Y	Y		
50471-44-8	Vinclozolin								Y	Y		

F: Annex III of the Rotterdam Convention includes certain specific formulations.
 CRC : agreed by the Chemical Review Committee and the Conference of the Parties that the chemical meets the criteria of the Convention but yet not formally listed because of COP voting
 FAO HHP = 1 = pesticides on Annexes of PIC & POP Convention AND/OR Carc 1A/B;
 Repr. 1A/B, Muta. 1A/B according to GHS
 FAO HHP 2 = Recommended for PIC & POP Convention and/or **active ingredients (not formulations)** classified as WHO Ia/Ib

About us

Preferred by Nature is an international non-profit organisation delivering a unique combination of sustainability certification services, development projects, and stakeholder trainings. Our mission is work together to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and the climate.

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 forest, agriculture and climate impact commodities, and related sectors such as tourism and conservation.

Our vision is a world where human choices ensure a sustainable future.

Learn more at www.preferredbynature.org

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