



WWF Standards Assessment Tool 2026

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The WWF Standards Assessment Tool (SAT) builds on WWF's earlier Certification Assessment Tool (CAT) and the later Certification Benchmarking Tool (CBT) to assess which voluntary sustainability standards (VSS) best support WWF's conservation goals. This updated, final iteration reflects evolving expectations in the standards landscape—especially across climate, biodiversity and freshwater, forestry, and social and governance criteria—and captures the perspective and work of WWF Switzerland and WWF Germany, with input from experts across the WWF network.

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Contents: Part I — Governance (73 indicators, 6 sections) · Part II — Content (146 indicators, 10 sections)



Part I — Governance

I.A. Mission & governance

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
I.A.1	GOVERNANCE	Mission & Impact Goals: The scheme defines goals and expected social, environmental and economic benefits and impacts.
I.A.2	GOVERNANCE	Resourced Secretariat: The scheme publicly provides its organizational structure, including the composition of its governing bodies and secretariat contact details.
I.A.3	GOVERNANCE	Open Membership: The scheme is open to membership for all stakeholders and organizations seeking certification.
I.A.4	GOVERNANCE	Voting Rights: Ordinary members have voting rights.
I.A.5	GOVERNANCE	Non-Voting Rights: Non-voting membership categories are clearly defined.
I.A.6	GOVERNANCE	Member Code Compliance: Scheme members, certificate holders or those engaging on behalf of the standard commit to the scheme's membership policy, e.g. a Code of Conduct or equivalent membership requirements.
I.A.7	GOVERNANCE	Membership Sanctions: Procedures exist to suspend or terminate membership for breaches or violations related to the Code of Conduct or membership requirements.
I.A.8	GOVERNANCE	Mandated Decision Forum: The scheme's highest decision-making forum is elected and accountable to the members.
I.A.9	GOVERNANCE	Inclusive Governance Balance: The highest decision-making forum (board, council, assembly) is open to participation by economic, environmental, and social stakeholders and holds a balanced representation between the stakeholder groups.
I.A.10	GOVERNANCE	Constituency Power Balance: Economic stakeholders cannot outvote non-economic environmental or social stakeholders in the highest decision-making forum. Voting power is balanced between economic and social and environmental interests.
I.A.11	TRANSPARENCY	Core Documents: Core normative documents (statutes, bylaws, code of conduct, audit manual) are publicly available.
I.A.12	TRANSPARENCY	Member Transparency: Names and affiliations of members or certificate holders are publicly available on a website.
I.A.13	TRANSPARENCY	Financial Disclosure: The scheme publicly discloses financial information such as annual balances and sources of income, which is audited by independent parties.
I.A.14	TRANSPARENCY	Normative Change Approval: Changes to core normative documents require approval by members or their representatives.
I.A.15	SAFEGUARDS	Executive Oversight: Executive (secretariat) functions are overseen by the highest-decision making forum.
I.A.16	SAFEGUARDS	Whistle-blower Protection: There are procedures in place to protect whistle-blowers or human right defenders that raise grievances against members as well as governance, executive or secretariat functions.



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
I.A.17	COMPLAINTS & APPEALS	Dispute Resolution Procedures: Clear procedures exist for resolving disputes and disagreements within the highest decision-making forum.
I.A.18	COMPLAINTS & APPEALS	Dispute & Complaint Handling: There are public procedures and corrective actions in place and clear time-bound requirements for handling disputes and complaints against members, as well as governance and executive, and secretariat functions..
I.A.19	COMPLAINTS & APPEALS	Appeals Procedures: There are public procedures for appealing the handling of disputes and complaints related to governance, and executive and secretariat functions as well as members.

I.B. Impact & Evaluation

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
I.B.1	IMPACT	Impact Framework: An impacts framework, defining impacts, outcomes, goals and causal pathways (theory of change) is prepared in accordance with the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems.
I.B.2	IMPACT	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Integration (MEL): The scheme uses the MEL results for its reviews of goals, causal pathways and impacts framework.
I.B.3	IMPACT	Continuous Improvement Support: The scheme provides educational programs to its members to support learning and continuous improvement.
I.B.4	TRANSPARENCY	Impact Transparency: The impact framework is publicly available.
I.B.5	TRANSPARENCY	Public MEL Reports: Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning reports, tracking intermediate outcomes, are publicly available and published every one to two years.

I.C. Standard Setting

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
I.C.1	STANDARD SETTING	ISEAL Standard Compliance: Development of standards follows the guidance of the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems.
I.C.2	STANDARD SETTING	Inclusive Participation: Economic, social, and environmental stakeholders are actively involved in standard development and review.
I.C.3	STANDARD SETTING	Consensus Development: Standards are developed through consensus or processes that ensure a balanced decision-making among stakeholder groups.
I.C.4	STANDARD SETTING	External Expert Input: Standards are developed by taking into account inputs from academic and external, non-member constituencies.
I.C.5	STANDARD SETTING	Public Consultation: Draft standards are subject to at least one round of public consultation.
I.C.6	STANDARD SETTING	Consultation Transparency: Stakeholder inputs to the development and review of the standard are documented.



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
I.C.7	STANDARD SETTING	Member Standard Approval: Standards are formally approved by members or their representatives.
I.C.8	STANDARD SETTING	Regular Standard Revision: Standards are revised at least every 5 years.
I.C.9	STANDARD SETTING	Auditable Indicators: Standards have auditable indicator(s) for each criterion.
I.C.10	STANDARD SETTING	Absolute Performance Requirements: The majority of standard indicators require an absolute level of performance, expressed through mandatory language. In line with ISO drafting conventions (ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2), "shall" indicates a must requirement, while "should", "can", and "may" indicate a recommendation or range of interpretation.
I.C.11	STANDARD SETTING	Major/Minor Indicator Methodology: Standards distinguish major/minor requirements and mandatory/ recommended requirements with documented methodology
I.C.12	STANDARD SETTING	Proportional Smallholder Requirements: Where applicable, standards have separate requirements and clear definitions for small and/or medium sized management units.
I.C.13	STANDARD SETTING	International Benchmark Standard: For certification systems with national standards, there is an international benchmark standard that establishes a binding level of ambition through clearly defined criteria and indicators, against which the national standards must be aligned.
I.C.14	STANDARD SETTING	No Requirement Weakening: National interpretations or adaptations of international or generic standards shall meet or exceed the requirements of the international version.
I.C.15	TRANSPARENCY	Public Standards: Standard documents are publicly available on the scheme website
I.C.16	ASSURANCE	Certification Decision Procedures: Procedures pertaining to decisions covering various aspects of certification (non-conformities and their resolution, certificate granting and revocation, etc.) are documented.

I.D. Certification

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
I.D.1	TRANSPARENCY	Public Certificate Database: The scheme publishes a list of certified units, including company names, addresses, locations, and certificate expiry dates.
I.D.2	TRANSPARENCY	Public Audit Summaries: Summary reports of certification and surveillance audits are publicly available or provided upon request.
I.D.3	TRANSPARENCY	Public Fee Disclosure: The scheme must publish, or require certification bodies to publish, the fee structure free of charge, either on a publicly accessible website or upon request.
I.D.4	ASSURANCE	Accredited Certification Bodies: Producers are certified by accredited, independent third party certification bodies operating in compliance with ISO requirements
I.D.5	ASSURANCE	Full Unit Certification: Producers are required to certify all (eligible) units under their control in accordance with a time-bound plan.



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
I.D.6	ASSURANCE	Certificate Validity Limits: Certificates are valid for up to five years, with annual or more frequent surveillance audits and a full certification audit required at renewal.
I.D.7	ASSURANCE	Risk-Based Auditing: Certification bodies are required to conduct risk-based auditing and surveillance.
I.D.8	ASSURANCE	Unannounced Audits: Certification requirements of the scheme allow for unannounced audits.
I.D.9	ASSURANCE	Stakeholder Consultations: Certification bodies consult with affected environmental and social stakeholders.
I.D.10	ASSURANCE	Corrective Action Deadlines: Certificate holders are required to rectify non-conformances identified during certification and surveillance audits within a set timeframe.
I.D.11	ASSURANCE	Certification Sanctions: Sanctions are specified and applied for cases where non-conformities are not rectified within prescribed timeframes
I.D.12	ASSURANCE	Auditor Competence: The audit team is required to obtain formal training or demonstrate technical expertise covering the full scope of the standard.
I.D.13	ASSURANCE	Conflict-Free Auditors: Certification bodies are required to ensure that auditors have no real or potential conflicts of interest with clients
I.D.14	ASSURANCE	Remote Audit Rules: In the case of remote auditing, the scheme defines which requirements can be assessed remotely and which ones require on-site verification.
I.D.15	COMPLAINTS & APPEALS	Certification Dispute Procedures: Certification bodies have formal and accessible procedures for handling disputes and complaints related to certification and audits, with clear timelines.
I.D.16	SAFEGUARDS	Reporter Protection: Effective mechanisms are established to protect the anonymity and safety of persons providing sensitive information, including the protection of whistle-blowers and human rights defenders.

I.E. Accreditation

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
I.E.1	ASSURANCE	Independent Accreditation Body: The accreditation body shall be an independent legal entity in compliance with ISO 17011
I.E.2	ASSURANCE	Accreditation Validity: Accreditation of certification bodies is valid for no more than five years after which a new full accreditation is required.
I.E.3	ASSURANCE	Witness Audits: Accreditation audits must include witnessing or compliance audits conducted by the certification body at the operator level (production unit).
I.E.4	ASSURANCE	Risk-Based Accreditation: The accreditation organization conducts risk-based auditing and surveillance of accredited certification bodies.
I.E.5	ASSURANCE	Accreditation Sanctions: Certification bodies that do not ensure rectification of non-conformances within specified timeframes or do not apply relevant sanctions to certificate holders will face sanctions by the accreditation body.



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
I.E.6	TRANSPARENCY	Accreditation Summary Reports: Summaries of the accreditation assessments of certification bodies are publicly available
I.E.7	COMPLAINTS & APPEALS	Accreditation Dispute Procedures: Accreditation bodies implement formal and accessible procedures for handling disputes and complaints related to performance and accreditation of certification bodies.
I.E.8	SAFEGUARDS	Accreditation Whistle-blower Protection: Effective mechanisms are established to protect the anonymity and safety of persons providing sensitive information, including the protection of whistle-blowers and human rights defenders.

I.F. Chain of Custody/ Claims

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
I.F.1	CHAIN OF CUSTODY & CLAIMS	Custody Monitoring: Procedures are in place for monitoring custody and trade of materials from certified producers (regardless of Chain of Custody model).
I.F.2	CHAIN OF CUSTODY & CLAIMS	Segregation Roadmap: The scheme prohibits mixing of certified materials or aims to achieve fully segregated supply chains.
I.F.3	CHAIN OF CUSTODY & CLAIMS	Certified Material Integrity: When mixing certified with non-certified materials and still making a certified claim is permitted, the scheme must set minimum requirements for the non-certified portion to ensure credibility. At a minimum, non-certified inputs must not be: (i) illegally sourced; (ii) genetically modified or derived from GMO sources; (iii) taken from or impacting HCV/HCS areas; (iv) produced with violations of traditional or human rights; or (v) linked to the conversion of natural or plantation forests to agricultural use.
I.F.4	CHAIN OF CUSTODY & CLAIMS	Custody Procedure Audits: Certification bodies conduct audits of chain of custody procedures along the supply chain and at participating companies.
I.F.5	CHAIN OF CUSTODY & CLAIMS	Claims & Label Checks: Certification bodies assess certificate holders' use of claims, trademarks or labels, on and off products.
I.F.6	CHAIN OF CUSTODY & CLAIMS	Claims Model Alignment: Claims are clearly associated with the supply chain model.
I.F.7	CHAIN OF CUSTODY & CLAIMS	No Labeling of Non-Certified Material: No product containing non-certified material is labeled or sold as certified.
I.F.8.	CHAIN OF CUSTODY & CLAIMS	Risk Assessment for Non-Certified Material: When mixing certified and non-certified materials, and claiming the output as certified is allowed, a risk assessment must be conducted at producer level for the non-certified material.
I.F.9.	CHAIN OF CUSTODY & CLAIMS	Addressing Fraud & Contamination Risk: Certification system incorporates best-practice systems and methods to control false claims and the risk of unacceptable materials contaminating certified products.



Part II — Content

II.A. Legality and Community relations

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.A.1	LEGALITY	Legal Land Title: Producers are required to have legal land tenure, title or registration. If required, the management unit is a legally defined entity.
II.A.2	LEGALITY	Legal Compliance: Producers are required to comply with all applicable local, national and international laws and regulations, as well as relevant international conventions.
II.A.3	LEGALITY	Legal Training: Producers can provide evidence of their relevant training and fulfil legal requirements to manage and oversee operations.
II.A.4	ASSESS	Social Impact Assessment: Producers carry out a social impact assessment to identify, avoid and mitigate adverse impacts on human rights or social conditions
II.A.5	DO NO HARM	Anti-Corruption Policies: Producers implement policies to prevent and prohibit corruption and fraud and make these policies known to workers, suppliers, contractors and relevant stakeholders.
II.A.6	DO NO HARM	Conservation Management: Producers develop and implement management and monitoring plans to ensure long-term protection of conservation and community values in the management unit.
II.A.7	DO NO HARM	Respecting Tenure Rights: Producers are required to identify and respect legal and customary rights of tenure, water rights, access and use of other parties that apply to the management unit.
II.A.8	DO NO HARM	Avoid Land Conflicts: Producers refrain from acquiring or gaining control of land, water or resources, which are subject to ongoing land conflicts, before they have been resolved through a mutually-agreed negotiation process consistent with FPIC.
II.A.9	DO NO HARM	Mitigate Negative Impacts: Producers compensate or mitigate negative impacts on indigenous peoples, local communities through appropriate measures with a fair and equitable procedure involving FPIC.
II.A.10	ENGAGE	FPIC for Communities: Producers are required to document and obtain free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) prior to any activity that may affect indigenous peoples' and local communities' rights, lands, resources, territories, livelihoods, and food security.
II.A.11	ENGAGE	Stakeholder Engagement: Producers are required to actively engage with stakeholders, ensure transparent disclosure of relevant information, and respect their rights to meaningful and effective participation in all matters that may affect them.
II.A.12	REMEDY	Remedy Past Land Issues: Producers are required to provide remedy or compensation for past acquisitions of land use rights that were not obtained with free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).
II.A.13	REMEDY	Grievance Mechanism: Producers develop and maintain a grievance mechanism accessible to adversely affected stakeholders, including workers, which ensures the protection of environmental and human rights defenders, whistle-blowers, complainants, and community spokespersons, and maintains confidentiality or their anonymity, when requested.



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.A.14	WORKER WELLBEING	Local Economic Support: Producers are required to support economic development near the management unit by providing opportunities for local employment and provision of services, or funds for community development activities.

II. B Workers' rights & Food security

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.B.1	LEGALITY	Written Contracts: Producers ensure that workers have legally binding contracts in written form.
II.B.2	LEGALITY	Working Hours Compliance: Producers are required to ensure that working hours, rest days, overtime and leave comply with, or exceed, applicable legislation and minimum standards of the respective sector.
II.B.3	ASSESS	Worker Risk Due Diligence: Producers conduct due diligence to assess their operations for risks to workers' rights, including those associated with migrant labour, vulnerable workers, child labour, and dangerous work, and implement measures to mitigate identified risks.
II.B.4	DO NO HARM	Human Rights Compliance: Producers are required to abide by the ILO core conventions as per the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.
II.B.5	DO NO HARM	No Forced Labour: Producers ensure that workers are not subjected to forced or compulsory labour in the management unit as defined in ILO 29 and ILO 105
II.B.6	DO NO HARM	No Abusive Practices: Producers refrain from and prohibit abusive practices or undue disciplinary procedures.
II.B.7.	DO NO HARM	Non-Discrimination: Producers ensure that there are no forms of discrimination allowed in the management unit.
II.B.8	DO NO HARM	No Child Labour: Producers ensure that there are no forms of child labour in the management unit.
II.B.9	DO NO HARM	Safe Workplaces: Producers provide safe and healthy workplaces and provide adequate training to workers.
II.B.10	ENGAGE	Freedom of Association: Producers respect the rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining.
II.B.11	ENGAGE	Women's economic empowerment: The scheme promotes women's economic empowerment, including non-discrimination, equal access to training, income opportunities, productive resources, leadership roles, and participation in decision-making where relevant.
II.B.12	WORKER WELLBEING	Maternity Rights: Producers respect the right to maternity leave (as defined in ILO 183).
II.B.13	WORKER WELLBEING	Living Wages: Producers must provide living wages, or legal minimum wage, whichever is higher.
II.B.14	WORKER WELLBEING	Fair Compensation: Producers are required to provide wages and benefits for a standard working week that meet, at a minimum, national legal standard or industry standard, whichever is higher.



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.B.15	WORKER WELLBEING	Childcare Support: Producers provide adequate conditions for female workers to nurture or breastfeed children, or provide adequate childcare facilities.
II.B.16	WORKER WELLBEING	Education Access: Producers are required to ensure that primary education is available for children living in the management unit.
II.B.17	WORKER WELLBEING	Medical Care Access: Producers provide access to medical care and compensation for occupational injuries for all workers. Medical care includes dependents of workers living in the management unit.
II.B.18	WORKER WELLBEING	WASH Access: Producers are required to ensure access to safe drinking water, adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene (WASH).
II.B.19	WORKER WELLBEING	Pension & Benefits: Producers provide access to a provident fund, pension system or equivalent compensation to all workers.
II.B.20	WORKER WELLBEING	Supplier Worker Rights: Producers ensure that equal rights and benefits apply to workers employed by suppliers and contractors.
II.B.21	WORKER WELLBEING	Food Security Monitoring: Producers regularly monitor the food security situation of workers and local communities near the management unit and take appropriate measures to ensure that food security is maintained.
II.B.22	WORKER WELLBEING	Worker Food Access: Producers improve access to adequate, safe, sufficient and affordable food for all workers of the operation.
II.B.23	WORKER WELLBEING	Pre-Intensification Food Security Assessment: Producers shall assess the overall food-security situation of communities in the area of production, including impacts on food security and water availability prior to any significant intensification or expansion of cultivation or infrastructure.
II.B.24	WORKER WELLBEING	Farmer/Worker Training: Producers provide training and capacity building for smallholder farmers and workers involved in the operation focused on improving their agronomic skills and livelihoods.

II.C. Biodiversity

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.C.1	ASSESS	Biodiversity assessment & maintenance: Producers must identify, map, and periodically ($\geq$ every 3 years) assess key biodiversity values within the management unit and in the connected landscape (e.g., corridors, shared water bodies), and manage to achieve no-net-loss of these values as a minimum outcome.
II.C.2.	ASSESS	Biodiversity impact assessment (ex-ante): Conduct ex-ante biodiversity impact assessments for new activities, expansions, or significant changes (incl. water abstraction/drainage, infrastructure, quarrying). Assess species, habitats, ecosystem functions, and connectivity at site & landscape scales.
II.C.3.	ASSESS	Biodiversity monitoring & transparency: Conduct annual biodiversity monitoring using standardized methods (e.g., fixed plots, transects, eDNA, camera traps where relevant). Publish a summary of results and actions to stakeholders. Ideally, contribute to public databases



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.C.4.	EUDR	No cultivation on converted land: Producers are not allowed to expand cultivation or plantations on peat soils and/or areas of high below-ground carbon stocks.
II.C.5	EUDR	Scope of forests (EUDR relevant): Deforestation scope refers to all forests that fall under the definition of FAO
II.C.6	EUDR	Conversion of natural forest into tree plantations (EUDR relevant): Producers are not allowed to convert: (a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land; or (b) primary forests into planted forests; after 31 December 2020.
II.C.7	DO NO HARM	Fire for land clearing: The scheme prohibits the use of fire for land clearing and restricts residue burning except where legally required and demonstrably necessary for phytosanitary or safety reasons.
II.C.8.	DO NO HARM	No activities on converted natural ecosystems: Producers are not allowed to grow commodities, nor expand cultivation or plantations on any converted natural ecosystems after December 31, 2020. Natural ecosystems include but are not limited to wetlands, peatlands, savannahs, mangroves, and marine habitats. No expansion into: (i) legally protected areas; (ii) internationally, nationally, or community recognized conservation areas; (iii) HCV/HCS areas; (iv) Key Biodiversity Areas. Any non-compliance post cut-off requires documented remedy and restoration.
II.C.9.	DO NO HARM	Mitigation hierarchy for biodiversity impacts: Apply the mitigation hierarchy (avoid → minimize → restore/rehabilitate → offset as last resort) to all activities with potential biodiversity impacts; quantify residual impacts and demonstrate alignment with the overall no-net-loss objective.
II.C.10.	DO NO HARM	Protection of rare, threatened, endangered (RTE) species: Identify and protect RTE species (e.g., IUCN Red List, national lists, CITES), implement species-specific measures (timing, buffers, nest/den protection), prohibit intentional harm, capture, or trade of protected species and prohibit destruction and degradation of critical habitats.
II.C.11.	DO NO HARM	Operational mortality risk reduction: Identify and mitigate operational mortality risks of wildlife (e.g., fencing, canals, roads, powerlines, pits, chemicals, heavy machinery, early mowing), monitor incidents, and retrofit/problem-solve to reduce mortality over time.
II.C.12.	DO NO HARM	Invasive alien species (IAS) prevention: Prevent introduction and spread of invasive alien species through biosecurity protocols; implement early detection and rapid response; control/eradicate priority IAS using approved, least-harm methods; avoid planting/releasing known IAS ; report any IAS to the responsible authority.
II.C.13.	DO NO HARM	Human–wildlife coexistence: Implement non-lethal human–wildlife coexistence measures (husbandry, waste control, deterrents, protective fencing) and incident response protocols. Ban persecution or retaliatory killing except where legally authorized for safety and under strict controls. Sustainable hunting and wildlife management practices are not subject to this indicator.
II.C.14.	DO NO HARM	Protected biotopes & critical habitats: Identify any protected area (including but not limited to: Key Biodiversity Area, national and regional lists, Ramsar Sites, IUCN Protected Areas Categories I-IV, HCV/HCS sites, etc.) in a radius of minimum 1km around the management unit. If some are identified, take all measures to avoid harm to these areas.



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.C.15.	DO NO HARM	Wild collection & harvest practices: If species are collected or harvested in the wild, the collection practices are adapted to have a neutral or positive impact on the species and on the environment where it's collected
II.C.16.	DO NO HARM	Organised wildlife crime: The scheme prohibits and requires control measures against illegal hunting, fishing, gathering, logging, wildlife trade and related organised wildlife crime within the management unit and associated operations.
II.C.17.	MANAGE CHEMICALS	Integrated Pest Management: Producers are required to implement integrated pest management practices that exclude prophylactic application of synthetic pesticides and replace hazardous pesticides with safer alternatives wherever feasible.
II.C.18.	MANAGE CHEMICALS	Integrated weed management & avoid herbicide resistance: Producers implement integrated weed management practices to prevent or manage herbicide resistance within their operations.+I67
II.C.19.	MANAGE CHEMICALS	No Hazardous Pesticides: Producers are not allowed to use hazardous chemicals according to the WHO classification (classes 1A/1B), the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions, and the PAN International list of Highly Hazardous Pesticides.
II.C.20.	MANAGE CHEMICALS	Nutrient balance: Producers are required to monitor the nutrient balance of major elements (e.g. phosphorous and nitrogen) and ensure that crop-specific thresholds are not exceeded.
II.C.21.	MANAGE CHEMICALS	Organic fertilizers: Producers are required to prioritize use of organic fertilizers instead of synthetic products.
II.C.22.	MANAGE CHEMICALS	Handling of agrochemicals: Producers are required to document all application, handling, storage and disposal of agrochemicals and to ensure that procedures comply with legal requirements and with good practice and/or manufacturers' recommendations.
II.C.23.	MANAGE CHEMICALS	Pesticide-free buffer: A pesticide-free buffer is maintained in and around protected areas and biodiversity values, as well as from small and large water bodies and vulnerable water zones. The size of the buffer zone is determined based on the area's environmental needs and vulnerability, as well as the farm size
II.C.24.	DO BETTER	Buffer zone to pesticides: Producers are required to respect a minimum application distance of pesticides, growth promoters and liquid fertilizers to natural ecosystems and areas of human activities, if applied by helicopter or airplanes. The size of the buffer zone is determined based on the area's environmental needs and vulnerability, as well as the farm size
II.C.25.	DO BETTER	Identify, map, manage, restore natural ecosystems: Maintain and, where degraded, restore natural ecosystems within/adjacent to the unit, ensuring functional connectivity (corridors, riparian buffers, stepping stones). Maintain a minimum of 10% semi-natural/native habitat on or adjacent to the unit, prioritizing the most ecologically valuable areas.
II.C.26.	DO BETTER	Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) & training: Maintain a Biodiversity Action Plan with objectives, measures, timelines, responsibilities, and KPIs; provide role-specific training to implement it; review at least every 3 years.
II.C.27.	DO BETTER	Diversity Mix: Producers are required to cultivate a mix of genotypes of each main crop.



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.C.28.	DO BETTER	Agroforestry: Where possible and relevant for the landscape, promote the simultaneous association of indigenous trees and crops or pasture in the same field.
II.C.29.	DO BETTER	Seed Management: Promotes the use of local and/or ancient varieties and/or farmer-owned seeds Use farm-saved seeds or community seed banks or seed saver networks
II.C.30	DO BETTER	Beneficial Organisms: Promotes the presence of beneficial organisms (including but not limited to: pollinators, birds, nematodes, insects, arachnids, fungi)

II.D. Freshwater

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.D.1	LEGALITY	Respecting Water Rights: Producers respect basin and/or community water rights.
II.D.2	LEGALITY	Legal Water Abstraction: Producers ensure that water abstraction is legal.
II.D.3	LEGALITY	Legal Water Discharge: Producers ensure that water discharge and practices that influence water quality are legal.
II.D.4.	TRANSPARENCY & CATCHMENT COLLABORATION	Public Water Transparency: Producers make information about planned and actual water use publicly available, and consult with affected stakeholders in relation to water use plans.
II.D.5.	TRANSPARENCY & CATCHMENT COLLABORATION	Catchment Collaboration: Producers identify and collaborate with other water users and relevant stakeholders in the catchment, either directly or else through participation in existing catchment level associations or plans, to address catchment level issues and water policies.
II.D.6.	TRANSPARENCY & CATCHMENT COLLABORATION	Catchment governance and policy engagement: Producers participate in catchment governance and engage with water policy processes to support sustainable water resource management.
II.D.7.	WATER USE	Tracking Water Use: Producers are required to collect or at least have access to information about planned and actual water use on a monthly basis over the year, and information about the availability of any 'blue water' required to meet the needs of the operations.
II.D.8.	WATER USE	Water Dependency Assessment: Producers are required to assess their water dependencies and impacts, including catchment pressures, make long-term projections for water use in the catchment, consider resilience implications for their operations, and develop and implement an adaptive water management plan to respond to changing conditions and seasonal fluctuations.
II.D.9.	WATER USE	Indirect Water Impacts: Producers are required to assess indirect water use (water related dependencies) and, if it is significant, to implement actions to reduce the impact of such indirect use, including in the supply chain.
II.D.10.	WATER USE	Minimize Water Use: Producers are required to implement all applicable and effective actions to ensure that water use is minimized.



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.D.11.	WATER USE	Environmental Flow Limits: Producers respect clear, explicit limitations of water use, if this would compromise the 'environmental flow' requirements of any affected water courses.
II.D.12.	WATER QUALITY	Water Quality Monitoring: Producers are required to identify catchment water quality pressures and quantify their impacts on water quality periodically.
II.D.13.	WATER QUALITY	Water Quality Thresholds: Producers respect clear, explicit thresholds defining impacts on water quality such that if the producers cause any significant negative impact on water quality they could not be certified.
II.D.14.	WATER QUALITY	Mitigate Water Impacts: Producers are required to implement all applicable and effective actions to ensure that any negative impacts of operations on water quality are minimized.
II.D.15.	WATER QUALITY	Effluent management: Producers implement best management practices to minimize and monitor effluent discharge from fertilizers, pesticides, and soil, ensuring compliance with legal and certification standards.
II.D.16.	OTHER WATER ISSUES	Socially/Culturally Important Water Areas: Producers identify water-related culturally or socially significant areas and engage with stakeholders to prevent adverse impacts on these areas.
II.D.17.	OTHER WATER ISSUES	Water-related Land Use Conversion: Producers avoid conversion of critical water-related ecosystems and actively engage in restoration efforts where degradation has occurred.
II.D.18.	OTHER WATER ISSUES	Endangered Freshwater Species: Producers identify and assess impacts on rare or endangered freshwater species and implement measures to avoid harm and support conservation.
II.D.19.	OTHER WATER ISSUES	Aquatic invasive species: Producers implement preventative measures to minimize the risk of introducing or spreading aquatic invasive species associated with their operations.

II.E. Climate Impacts

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.E.1.	CLIMATE INFORMATION	Emission Profile: The scheme shall provide an aggregate emission factor for their certified materials [i.e. unit CO ₂ e per unit output].
II.E.2.	CLIMATE INFORMATION	Attributional Accounting: The scheme shall use attributional accounting methods in compliance with robust international standards to calculate certified materials' emission profile.
II.E.3.	CLIMATE INFORMATION	Emission Outcome: The scheme shall be transparent about whether it is associating certified materials with emission outcome statements based on consequential accounting methods.
II.E.4.	CLIMATE INFORMATION	Physical traceability (CoC): The scheme should include a chain of custody (CoC) standard which allows to establish the physical traceability (connection or connectivity) between material content and certified characteristics, in compliance with robust international standards.
II.E.5.	CLIMATE INFORMATION	Physical traceability (alternatives): The scheme could offer non-chain of custody-related approaches to establishing the physical connectivity



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
		between material content and certified characteristics but should be transparent about its rationale, underlying methodology and safeguards.
II.E.6.	CLIMATE INFORMATION	Impact traceability: The scheme could include a chain of custody (CoC) standard which only allows establishing the administrative relationship (via CoC book and claim model) between material content and certified characteristics but should be transparent about its rationale, safeguards and run an evaluation program on its impacts.
II.E.7.	CLIMATE PERFORMANCE	Net Zero-aligned pathway: The scheme shall prescribe a pathway for the net zero-alignment of certified materials' emission profile, aligned with robust IPCC-C1/P1-P2 scenarios (e.g. SSP1-1.9).
II.E.8	CLIMATE PERFORMANCE	Interim and target year net Zero-aligned benchmark values: The scheme should prescribe interim net zero-aligned benchmark values at actionable intervals and an ultimate net zero-alignment year for certified materials' emission profiles.
II.E.9	CLIMATE INTERVENTION	Emission sources: The scheme shall identify major emission sources impacting certified materials' emission profile.
II.E.10	CLIMATE INTERVENTION	Incentivizing interventions: The scheme shall incentivize the right interventions to reduce the major emission sources impacting certified materials' emission profile.
II.E.11	CLIMATE INTERVENTION (Agriculture)	Emissions from Land Use Change: The scheme shall mitigate land use change emissions by requiring certified materials to be deforestation- and conversion-free, with a recommended cut-off date of no later than 2020.
II.E.12	CLIMATE INTERVENTION (Agriculture)	Emission from Land Management: The scheme shall require the producers to mitigate CO2 and non-CO2 emissions from relevant land management practices.
II.E.13	CLIMATE INTERVENTION (Agriculture)	Biogenic Removals: The scheme shall encourage producers to implement agricultural practices that continuously increase and conserve carbon removals stored in agricultural carbon pools.
II.E.14	CLIMATE INTERVENTION (Agriculture)	Climate Resilience: The scheme shall encourage producers to implement (agricultural) practices that mitigate physical climate risks and adapt to the local effects of climate change.

II.F. Agriculture

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.F.1	SOIL HEALTH	Soil Erosion: Producers are required to monitor, avoid and minimise soil erosion.
II.F.2	SOIL HEALTH	Soil Compaction: Producers are required to monitor, avoid or minimise soil compaction.
II.F.3.	SOIL HEALTH	Soil Contamination Monitoring: Producers are required to regularly monitor possible risks of soil contamination (e.g. heavy metals) by periodically reviewing suspected inputs.
II.F.4.	SOIL HEALTH	Soil salinity: Producers monitor soil salinity levels and implement management practices to prevent or reduce salinity impacts on soil and water quality.



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.F.5.	SOIL HEALTH	Soil moisture: Producers regularly assess soil moisture status and optimize water use to maintain soil health and crop productivity.
II.F.6.	GMOs	No GMOs: The standard does not allow the use of GMO crop species.
II.F.7.	PEST MANAGEMENT	Agricultural pests & diseases: Producers monitor pest and disease pressures and apply sustainable control measures to minimize impacts on crops, soil, and water resources.
II.F.8.	AGROECOLOGY	Crop Rotation / Intercropping: Producers of annual crops are required to practice crop rotation. Producers of perennial crops are required to practice intercropping or integrate mixtures of crops and native species.

II.G.Forestry

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.G.1	FORESTRY STEWARDSHIP	Natural Resource Diversity: Producers are required to promote the use of a diverse range of natural resources and services from within the management unit.
II.G.2	FORESTRY STEWARDSHIP	Sustainable Harvest: Producers are required to ensure that products are not harvested at levels above sustainable yields.
II.G.3	FORESTRY STEWARDSHIP	Site-Appropriate Management: Producers are required to use management practices appropriate for the tree species, site conditions and management objectives.
II.G.4	FORESTRY STEWARDSHIP	Forest Monitoring: Producers are required to monitor forest condition and take measures to maintain and improve forest vitality and tree species composition.
II.G.5	FORESTRY STEWARDSHIP	Adaptive Regeneration: Producers are required to use tree species for regeneration that are well adapted to site conditions.
II.G.6	GMOs	No GM Trees: Producers are not allowed to use genetically modified trees in the management unit.
II.G.7	CLIMATE & FORESTS	Emission from Timber Harvest and Forest Management: The scheme shall require mitigation of CO2 and non-CO2 emissions from relevant timber harvest and forest management practices.
II.G.8	CLIMATE & FORESTS	Biogenic removals: The scheme encourages forestry practices that continuously increase and conserve carbon removals stored in carbon pools.
II.G.9	CLIMATE & FORESTS	Climate Resilience: The scheme encourages practices that mitigate physical climate risks and adapt to the local effects of climate change.

II.H. Mining

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.H.1	MINING IMPACT MANAGEMENT	Biodiversity Risk Management: Mining entities are required to measure and avoid indirect negative impacts on biodiversity/ecosystem services from unplanned but predictable developments, or associated facilities such as roads, railways, ports, captive power plants or transmission lines, etc.



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.H.2	MINING IMPACT MANAGEMENT	ASM Impact Management: Large-scale mining entities that source from ASM operations (artisanal and small-scale mining) are required to regularly review and develop time-bound action plans to reduce and exclude major social and environmental impacts in ASM sourcing areas.
II.H.3	MINING CLOSURE	Early Closure Planning: Mining entities incorporate closure planning into the early stages of project development.
II.H.4	MINING CLOSURE	Post-Closure Risk Assessment: Mining entities assess long-term post-closure environmental risks, to have robust strategies for disaster management that are reviewed by external experts and not to initiate a project if independent EIA finds that perpetual, active remediation treatment of mine waste will be required.
II.H.5	MINING CLOSURE	Financial Rehabilitation Provision: Mining entities are required to put in place financial provisions to ensure availability of adequate resources to meet rehabilitation and mine closure and post-closure requirements.
II.H.6	MINING CLOSURE	Site Rehabilitation: Mining entities are required to rehabilitate environments disturbed or occupied by mining activities.
II.H.7	MINING CLOSURE	Native Vegetation Restoration: Mining entities are required to store topsoil for renaturation and not to introduce invasive alien species during revegetation, but instead are required to restore nature with native plant species that are well adapted to site conditions and the needs of local fauna and flora.
II.H.8	MINE WASTE MANAGEMENT	Tailing Dam Standards: Mine tailing dams are constructed according to the best available standards.
II.H.9	MINE WASTE MANAGEMENT	No Aquatic Disposal: Mining entities are prohibited from using riverine, lake or marine habitats for tailings disposal.

II.I. Supply Chain

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.I.1	RESPONSIBLE SOURCING	Certified Sourcing Plan: Supply chain participants comply with a time-bound plan towards 100% sourcing of certified material
II.I.2	RESPONSIBLE SOURCING	Certified Sourcing: Supply chain participants commit to preferential sourcing from certified producers
II.I.3	RESPONSIBLE SOURCING	Use Sustainable Materials: Supply chain participants undertake demonstrated efforts to use other sustainable materials in their operations that are not within the scope of the scheme.
II.I.4	RESPONSIBLE SOURCING	Circular Business Models: Supply chain participants evaluate if they can switch linear business models to circular ones, through sharing, offering maintenance, repair and refurbishment as well as reuse models.
II.I.5	GMOs	No GMO Materials: Supply chain participants avoid any use of GMO alongside certified materials
II.I.6	SUPPLYCHAIN ASSURANCE	Product Claims Compliance: Product claims regarding the use and composition of certified materials are adhered to.
II.I.7	SUPPLYCHAIN ASSURANCE	Chain of custody: requirements must be adhered to in transportation, storage, handling and processing of certified materials.



ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.I.8	SUPPLYCHAIN ASSURANCE	Certified Material Documentation: Purchases, trading and sales of certified material are documented.
II.I.9	SUPPLYCHAIN ASSURANCE	Conversion Rate Adherence: During processing of certified material applicable conversion rates must be adhered to and documented
II.I.10	TRACEABILITY	Traceability Data Collection (EUDR/ management standard): The producer collects, organises and keeps for at least 5 years* the following information of relevant commodities: - for wood: the common name of the species and their full scientific names - the quantity of the relevant product/commodity - the country of production - the geolocation and date or time range of production
II.I.11	TRACEABILITY	Traceability Data Transmission (EUDR / Chain of custody standard): Each actor in the supply chain shall transmit the following information along the supply chain: - for wood: the common name of the species and their full scientific names - the quantity of the relevant product/commodity - the country of production - the geolocation and date or time range of production

II.J. Waste management

ID	CATEGORY	INDICATOR
II.J.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Waste Reduction: Producers are required to minimise waste by applying the reduce, reuse, and recycle framework or other environmentally appropriate utilisation methods.
II.J.2	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Safe Disposal: Unavoidable waste needs to be safely disposed.
II.J.3	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Recyclability: In their purchasing decisions producers and supply chain participants take into account the recyclability of materials
II.J.4	WASTE MANAGEMENT	No Contamination: Producers must ensure that no durable persistent materials and substances – such as microplastic – contaminate or remain in soils, water bodies or conservation areas.
II.J.5	WASTE MANAGEMENT	Biodegradable Plastics: Where plastic materials are used at large scale, the use of biodegradable sources should be preferred, where possible.
II.J.6	FOOD LOSS	Identify Food Loss: Producers and supply chain participants identify food loss and waste arising from the processing and handling of the certified product in their operations.
II.J.7	FOOD LOSS	Reduce & Track Waste: Producers and supply chain participants define targets to reduce food loss and waste arising from the processing and handling of the certified product and track progress.
II.J.8	FOOD LOSS	Minimize Food Loss: Food loss of the certified product is minimized through proper storage and handling.