Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative
Scheme Management

Changes Yes/No	Key Themes	Approved Requirements	Changes Proposed
Yes		The lead auditor performing audits for the audit firm shall have the following experience: - a minimum of 1-year experience in social compliance auditing and a minimum of 100 social compliance audit days or - a minimum of 2 years experience in any other type of auditing and 150 audit days of which a minimum of 50 are social compliance audit days. Other audit days may include management system, health and safety, labour inspections, investigations, audit components or - a detailed combination of minimum relevant experience of 3 years in social compliance training, and social compliance audit days, a minimum of which 50 are social compliance audit days, that are publicly available and consistent with standard industry practices and norms.	The Scheme Owner shall require that Lead auditors or audit teams performing audits for the audit firm: -Possess language skills suitable for verbal and written communication with the client and the client's relevant stakeholder groups. This can be supplemented by an interpreter. -Have sufficient knowledge and experience of current international, national and local/regional laws and the industry's relevant (social and/or environmental) best practices in the sector Lead auditors performing audits for the audit firm shall have at least: - Successful completion of an accredited lead auditor training on relevant standards (e.g ISO 14001 for environmental and SA 8000 for social). - Participated as an observer auditor under training at different organisations, of which at least three (3) assessments shall be as the acting lead auditor under supervision (shadow audit) For **Environmental** Standards: auditor experience for relevant standards for at least two (2) audits as the Lead Auditor For **Social** Standards: participation in a minimum of 20 social compliance audit days. 5 years of related work experience in the scheme's field or a total of 5 years of a combination of: -Related work experience in the scheme sector or -For environmental: environmental management (at least 2 years), relevant post-secondary or higher education -For Social: Social Compliance Audits, relevant post-secondary or higher
Yes		The Scheme Owner shall require audit firms that auditor competence is demonstrated on a recurring basis. The competence assessment of lead auditors and audit team members shall include the following: • an assessment of knowledge of local and national labour and human rights issues and legislation; • an assessment of skills in interviewing workers on human and labour rights issues, • an assessment of knowledge of the relevant sector; • an assessment of the personal attributes of the auditor, to ensure they conduct themselves in a professional manner; • a period of supervision (witnessed audits) to cover specific audit techniques and specific category knowledge; • a documented sign off by the audit firm of the satisfactory completion of assessment requirements.	The Scheme Owner shall require audit firms that auditor competence is demonstrated on a recurring basis. The competence assessment of lead auditors and audit team members shall include the following: • an assessment of knowledge of local and national labour and human rights/environmental issues and legislation; • an assessment of skills in interviewing workers on human and labour rights issues, • an assessment of knowledge of the relevant sector; • an assessment of the personal attributes of the auditor, to ensure they conduct themselves in a professional manner; • a period of supervision (witnessed audits) to cover specific audit techniques and specific category knowledge; • a documented sign off by the audit firm of the satisfactory completion of assessment requirements.

Yes		The Scheme Owner shall require audit firms to provide specific training to auditors on a regular basis, based on the most pertinent social compliance risks in the regions they operate in and individual performance reviews. Scheme owners shall require audit firms to document training attendance.	The Scheme Owner shall require audit firms to provide specific training to auditors on a regular basis, based on the most pertinent social compliance/environmental risks in the regions they operate in and individual performance reviews. Scheme owners shall require audit firms to document training attendance.
Yes		The Scheme Owner shall require that the scope of the audit includes an on-site assessment of the main site and all other pertinent off-site locations, including accommodation facilities, where provided or mandated.	The Scheme Owner shall require that the scope of the audit includes an on-site assessment of the main site and all other pertinent off-site locations, including surroundings and/or waste disposal and waste water treatment plants and accommodation facilities, where provided or mandated.
Yes		The Scheme Owner shall clearly define the expected duration of audits and the rationale for the determination of the duration of the audit that audit firms are required to follow during the audit. The rationale shall at a minimum include the size of the workforce and should include additional criteria that will ensure the effectiveness of the audit such as the physical size of the location to audit, number of locations, nationalities of the workforce, product lines and product categories, etc.	The Scheme Owner shall clearly define the expected duration of audits and the rationale for the determination of the duration of the audit that audit firms are required to follow during the audit. The rationale shall at a minimum include the size of the workforce/level of environmental risk and should include additional criteria that will ensure the effectiveness of the audit such as the physical size/geographical location of the location to audit, number of locations, nationalities of the workforce, product lines and product categories, etc.
Yes		The Scheme Owner shall define the methodology for defining the number of workers to be interviewed. Interviewed workers shall reflect a wide range of workers and include potentially vulnerable workers and those in less skilled positions.	The Scheme Owner shall define the methodology for defining the number of workers to be interviewed. Interviewed workers shall reflect a wide range of workers and include potentially vulnerable workers and those in less skilled positions/workers with responsibilities in the EMS.

Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative
Environmental Benchmark

Key Themes	Requirements	Implementation Examples	Scope			
			Primary Production	Forestry	Livestock	Manufacturing
1. Environmental Management System	1.1 The standard shall require that top management demonstrates its commitment to environmental sustainability.	An environmental policy, public statements, training and implementation plan and programs, organisation charts, environmental management system, etc.	x	x	x	x
	1.2 The standard shall require that the organization's environmental commitments, including goals and objectives, are publicly available.	Web site information, public environmental reports, etc.	x	x	x	x
	1.3 The standard shall require that the organization's environmental commitments are communicated internally as appropriate.	Intranet information, posters, informative letters and emails, employee handbook, induction programs, training materials, etc.	x	x	x	x
	1.4 The standard shall require that the responsibility for the implementation of the standard's requirements is assigned to top management.	Organisations chart, job descriptions, environmental policy, letter of assignment, etc.	x	x	x	x
	1.5 The standard shall require that personnel in relevant business functions receives training on the standard's requirements, appropriate for their roles and responsibilities.	Assessment of training needs, training plans and programs, training content, attendance records, etc.	x	x	x	x
	1.6 The standard shall require that contractors under its control, doing work that affects its environmental performance and its ability to fulfil its compliance obligations, are competent on the basis of appropriate education, training or experience.	Contracting procedures, contractor monitoring and/or evaluation program, contractor's professional licenses, certifications and/or accreditations, etc.	x	x	x	x
	1.7 The standard shall require that the organisation's has a responsible sourcing policy with the aim of buying high risk ingredients, materials and components that comply with the standard's requirements.	Ingredients, materials and components risk assessment, responsible sourcing policy, procedure for approval of suppliers, supplier certifications, verification protocol for high risk components.	x	x	x	x
	1.8 The standard shall require that records on the amounts produced and their respective certification claim(s) are maintained and available to stakeholders for chain of custody and certification of finished products.	Record keeping procedures, record storage systems, etc.	x	x	x	x
	1.9 The standard shall require the geolocation of all plots of land used for the production of cattle, cocoa, coffee, oil palm, rubber, soya and wood.	Geolocation data, contract with geolocation service, geolocation digital applications, supplier due diligence procedure, etc.	x	x	x	Not applicable
	1.10 The standard shall require that records and documentation (e.g., measurements, training records...) are maintained and accessible for a defined period of time to demonstrate compliance with the standards' requirements.	Record keeping procedures, record storage systems, etc.	x	x	x	x

	1.11 The standard shall require that significant environmental aspects and impacts (negative and positive) are identified and that risks and opportunities related to its environmental aspects are determined.	Risk assessment procedure and results, list of significant aspects, list with risk and opportunities, etc.	x	x	x	x
	1.12 The standard shall require that a management plan is implemented, including environmental goals, objectives and actions to achieve the objectives.	Documented management plan, measurable objectives and targets, environmental management system, environmental management certifications, etc.	x	x	x	x
	1.13 The standard shall require that the environmental performance of the organisation is monitored, the progress periodically reviewed and the results of this monitoring and evaluation fed back into the planning process to ensure continuous improvement.	A description of monitoring systems of environmental performance, monitoring records, management review process and/or minutes of meeting, review and update of the management plan, etc.	x	x	x	x
2. Compliance, transparency and complaints	2.1 The standard shall require that the organisation fulfils its compliance obligations.	Legal register, legal compliance audit records, permits and licenses, etc.	x	x	x	x
	2.2 The standard shall require that the organisation makes adequate information on its sustainability performance available to stakeholders.	Publication of environmental reporting, information shared on the webpage, sustainability performance communications to stakeholders, etc.	x	x	x	x
	2.3 The standard shall require that a mechanism to address complaints or concerns, regarding the organisation's environmental performance or its compliance obligations, is established. The mechanism shall be accessible and understandable to all workers and external parties.	Grievance or complaint procedures, hotline contract, records of received complaints, complaint investigation reports, etc.	x	x	x	x
	2.4 The standard shall require that the confidentiality of any complaint raised is provided, and information is revealed only as necessary to investigate and handle the complaint.	Grievance or complaint procedures, hotline contract, records of received complaints, complaint investigation reports, emails and communications concerning complaints, etc.	x	x	x	x
	2.5 The standard shall require that no worker or external party that lodged a complaint in good faith is retaliated against.	Grievance or complaint procedures, hotline contract, records of received complaints, complaint investigation reports, emails and communications concerning complaints, etc.	x	x	x	x
3. Pollution prevention	3.1 The standard shall require that systems and processes shall be implemented for pollution prevention and to minimise the risk of pollution incidents.	Procedures for management, storage, handling and disposal of all hazardous substances, training materials and records, employee licenses, adequate storage facilities, adequate washing facilities, waste disposal procedures, availability of	x	x	x	x
	3.2 The standard shall require that systems and processes shall be implemented to prevent the drift or run-off of pollutants to neighbouring areas.	Drift prevention plan, justification for the use of aerial applications, records of aerial applications, maintenance and calibration records of application equipments, pesticide-free spatial and vegetative buffers, etc.	x	x	x	x
	3.3 The standard shall require that systems and processes are in place to contain and mitigate the contamination of air, soil and/or surface and groundwater.	Guidance documents, standard operating procedures (procedures), training materials and records, appropriate materials and supplies necessary to manage spills, machinery maintenance logs and inspection records, etc.	x	x	x	x
	3.4 The standard shall require that pollution incidents are communicated to affected stakeholders, as appropriate.	Register of incidents, communications to stakeholders, emergency plan including communication requirements, training materials on emergency procedures, etc.	x	x	x	x

	3.5 The standard shall require that an emergency response plan is in place, detailing: -roles and responsibilities, -training requirements and	Documented emergency plan, training materials and records on emergency procedures, drill plan and reports, emergency information in the premises, job descriptions, etc.	x	x	x	x
	3.6 The standard shall require that major incidents shall be investigated and the results of the investigation communicated to the affected stakeholders.	Incident investigation process, incident investigation reports, notifications of major incidents, etc.	x	x	x	x
4. Management of potentially hazardous substances	4.1 The standard shall require that an inventory of hazardous substances used and stored is maintained.	Procedures for management, storage, handling and disposal of all hazardous substances, list of hazardous substances used and stored on the production site, etc.	x	x	x	x
	4.2 The standard shall require that only officially registered products are used. Where no official registration exists, the standard shall require that guidance is provided on health, physical and environmental hazards in accordance with applicable national legal requirements.	Procedures for management, storage, handling and disposal of all hazardous substances, list of hazardous substances used and stored on the production site, safety data sheets (SDSs), training materials or guidance to help workers who	x	x	x	x
	4.3 The standard shall forbid the use of hazardous chemicals listed by WHO (1A and B) and the Stockholm convention (A, B and C) and Rotterdam convention (Annex III).	List of prohibited chemicals, training materials and records concerning training about prohibited chemicals, etc.	x	x	x	x
	4.4 The standard shall require that systems and processes shall be implemented for the safe handling, storage, use, transportation and disposal of all hazardous substances, in order to minimize the potential for negative impacts on human health.	Procedures for management, storage, handling and disposal of all hazardous substances, training materials and records, employee lienceses, H&S manual, PPE use guidance and instructions, records of PPE provision and inspection,	x	x	x	x
5. Pest Control	5.1 The standard shall require that the organisation optimizes the use of pest control products by practicing Integrated Pest Management or an IPM equivalent method.	Pest/disease scouting and monitoring protocol, pest monitoring records, training and guidance documents for pest monitoring, guidance and training to select the most selective crop protection treatment options, list of approved	x	x	x	x
	5.2 The standard shall require that the pest control and management practices include: - systematic pest monitoring (insects, weeds, diseases...) - use of non-chemical pest management strategies (cultural, physical/mechanical,	Pest/disease scouting and monitoring protocol, pest monitoring records, training and guidance documents for pest monitoring, guidance and training to select the most selective crop protection treatment options, list of approved	x	x	x	x
	5.3 The standard shall require that the use of pest control products is recorded, including: - the product/trade name and active ingredients used, - the location treated,	Pest control products application records, training materials on pesticide application, etc.	x	x	x	x
6. Soil Health	6.1 The standard shall require that areas at risk of erosion are identified and that measures for soil erosion prevention and mitigation shall be implemented.	Testing records on pH, NPK, organic matter, aggregate stability, compaction, infiltration rate, measures of the microbial community, etc.	x	x	x	x
	6.2 The standard shall require that measures to maintain soil health and promote soil health recovery shall be implemented.	Mapping of sensitive soils and erosion-prone areas, soil management plans, application of best practices such as tillage systems, cover cropping and addition of soil amendments, etc.	x	x	Not applicable	Not applicable
	6.3: The standard shall require that soil health is measured and monitored on a regular basis, as appropriate.	Testing records on pH, NPK, organic matter, aggregate stability, compaction, infiltration rate, measures of the microbial community, etc.	x	x	Not applicable	Not applicable

	6.4 The standard shall require that fertilizer use is based on the crop needs and available nutrients in the soil.	Testing records on pH, NPK, organic matter, etc.	x	x	Not applicable	Not applicable
	6.5 The standard shall require that the use of fertilizers is recorded.	Fertilizer application records, training materials on fertilizer application, etc.	x	x	Not applicable	Not applicable
7. Energy Use and GHG emissions	7.1 The standard shall require that the energy consumption is measured and monitored, and that types of energy sources used for production, processing and transport are quantified and documented.	Records of energy measurements, energy purchase contracts and bills, etc.	x	x	x	x
	7.2 The standard shall require that energy efficiency measures shall be implemented to reduce the use of energy per unit of product.	Energy management plan, energy efficiency certificates, energy analysis data and reports, etc.	x	x	x	x
	7.3 The standard shall require that measures shall be implemented to optimise the use of renewable energy.	Energy management plan, energy efficiency certificates, energy analysis data and reports, energy optimisation software, green energy certifications, etc.	x	x	x	x
	7.4 The standard shall require that scope 1 and 2 GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions are measured and monitored.	Records and calculations of GHG emission measurements, energy purchase contracts and energy bills, GHG reporting documents, etc.	x	x	x	x
	7.5 The standard shall require that measures shall be implemented to reduce GHG emission in line with applicable protocols.	GHG Reduction Programs & Strategies, GHG emission analysis data and reports, energy certifications, software tools, etc.	x	x	x	x
8. Water Protection	8.1 The standard shall require that sources of water used for production and processing, if any, are identified.	Water source map/list, water protection policy, etc.	x	x	x	x
	8.2 The standard shall require water consumption for production and processing is measured and monitored.	Water consumption measurement and analysis records, etc.	x	x	x	x
	8.3 The standard shall require that measures shall be implemented to reduce the use of production and processing water.	Water management plan, water protection policy and strategy, soil moisture measurement records, etc.	x	x	x	x
	8.4 The standard shall require that measures shall be implemented to avoid the depletion of groundwater resources beyond its recharge capacity.	Water management plan, water protection policy and strategy, etc.	x	x	x	x
	8.5 The standard shall require that measures shall be implemented to ensure that irrigation is tailored to the crop needs.	Water management plan, water protection policy and strategy, crop irrigation needs assessment, precision irrigation methods, soil moisture measurement records, etc.	x	x	Not applicable	Not applicable

	8.6 The standard shall require that measures shall be implemented to protecting the water quality of rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, other water bodies and riparian areas during production and processing.	Establish and maintain a streamside management areas along surface waters, preharvest planning including consideration of the potential water quality effects, effluent reduction programs, watershed analysis and management	x	x	x	x
9. Waste	9.1 The standard shall require that systems and processes are implemented for the safe handling, storage, transportation and disposal of waste.	Procedures for handling, storage, transport and disposal of waste, vendor agreements with waste management services, training materials and records, availability of SDSs, waste adequate management facilities, etc.	x	x	x	x
	9.2 The standard shall require that systems and processes shall be implemented for resource recovery, including repurpose, reuse, compost or recycle of residues and waste.	Waste segregation guidelines and training materials, waste reduction training reports, resource valuation reports, composting facilities and training materials, resource delivery notes, etc.	x	x	x	x
	9.3 The standard shall require that systems and processes shall be implemented to reduce the generation of processing and manufacturing waste.	Waste reduction plan, waste reduction strategy, waste reduction programs, waste generation measurement and monitoring, training materials on waste reduction, training records on waste reduction.	x	x	x	x
	9.4 The standard shall require that systems and processes shall be implemented to prevent the excessive loss of food crops, other harvest products and/or merchantable waste during harvest and on-farm storage.	Training and guidance materials on food loss prevention, processes and measures to avoid mould and vermin, crop loss monitoring records, crop storage inspection reports, etc.	x	x	x	Not applicable
	9.5 The standard shall require that open-air burning of residues, wastes or by-products is avoided and, where possible, eliminated.	Procedures for disposal of waste and by-products, vendor agreements with waste management services, training materials and records, etc.	x	x	x	x
	9.6 The standard shall require that the waste generated and diverted from the landfill is measured and monitored.	Records of total waste produced and waste sent to landfills, delivery notes from landfills, etc.	x	x	x	x
10. Land use and biodiversity	10.1 The standard shall require that areas within or close to the production or processing sites, that fall under the definition of high conservation value (HCV), ecologically important, special sites or protected areas are identified.	Contracting procedures, contractor monitoring and/or evaluation program, contractor's professional licenses, certifications and/or accreditations, etc.	x	x	x	x
	10.2 The standard shall require that production or processing does not occur in areas that fall under the definition of high conservation value (HCV), ecologically important or special sites, protected areas, or their officially designated buffer zones. Exceptions might apply if the HVC values are maintained.	Map, catalogue and management plans of HVC, ecologically important, special sites or protected areas, employee training materials, due diligence protocol for the acquisition of land, etc.	x	x	x	x
	10.3 The standard shall require a public deforestation/conversion policy: - identifying the regions of application and relevant natural forest and ecosystems types, - committing to prevent the conversion of natural forests, or other natural	Deforestation/conversion policy, action plan with milestones, map with identified natural forests and ecosystem types, policy publication at the company website, employee training on the policy, etc.	x	x	x	x
	10.4 The standard shall require that the organisation avoids, remedies or mitigates negative environmental impacts, which may arise from the organisation's activities, on biodiversity values and the quality of areas that fall under the definition of high conservation value (HCV), ecologically important or special sites or protected areas.	Map, catalogue and management plans of HVC, ecologically important, special sites or protected areas, employee training materials, due diligence protocol for the acquisition of land, risk assessment of production, processing and	x	x	x	x

	10.5 The standard shall require that fire is not used for preparing or cleaning fields, except when specifically justified in the IPM plan or as tool in forest management for regeneration, wildfire protection and habitat management or a recognized practice of indigenous people.	Procedures and employee training materials for preparing and cleaning fields, etc.	x	x	x	Not applicable
	10.6 The standard shall require native habitats and natural communities within or close to the production or processing sites are protected.	Assessment report of native habitats and natural communities to determine their presence, due diligence for farmland acquisition, policies and practices for managing native habitats and natural communities; employee training	x	x	x	No changes needed
	10.7 The standard shall require that endemic, rare, threatened or endangered species permanently or temporary present on the production or processing sites are protected. Hunting or collecting of these species shall not be allowed.	Analysis on the presence of rare, threatened or endangered species on site, due diligence before land acquisition, employee training on rare, threatened or endangered species identification and management, etc.	x	x	x	x
	10.8 The standard shall require that measures are implemented to prevent alien invasive species from invading areas outside the production or processing sites.	Information and guidance materials on alien invasive species on site, employee training materials on management of alien invasive species, etc.	x	x	x	Not applicable
11. Animal welfare (Livestock only)	11.1 The standard shall require that adequate measures for animal welfare are implemented.	Animal welfare policy and principles, documents about animal welfare protection including guidance on disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling, and humane	Not applicable	Not applicable	x	Not applicable
12. Forest postive practices (Forestry Only)	12.1 The standard shall require that the organisation supports initiatives delivering forest positive development.	Forest positive policy, participation or support of initiatives delivering forest positive development at landscape/jurisdictional and/or sectoral level.	Not applicable	x	Not applicable	Not applicable
	12.2 The standard shall require that the protective functions of forests such as their potential role in erosion control, flood prevention, water purification and protection, climate regulation, carbon sequestration and other regulating or supporting ecosystem services shall be maintained or enhanced.	Contracting procedures, contractor monitoring and/or evaluation program, contractor's professional licenses, certifications and/or accreditations, etc.	Not applicable	x	Not applicable	Not applicable
	12.3 The standard shall require that the health and vitality of forest shall be monitored.	Measurement and monitoring of forest health indicators such as Crown Condition, Tree Damage, Tree Mortality, Standing Dead Trees, Lichen Communities, Soil Quality, Non-native Invasive Plants, Fragmentation, etc.	Not applicable	x	Not applicable	Not applicable
	12.4 The standard shall require that the health and vitality of forest shall be maintained or enhanced.	Forets positive policy. Forest health evaluation reports, Programs to maintain or enhance forest health, etc.	Not applicable	x	Not applicable	Not applicable
	12.5 The standard shall require that wood harvesting levels shall not exceed a rate that can be sustained in the long term.	Wood harvest policy. Forest management plans including long-term sustainable harvest levels and measures. Identification of the maximum sustainable harvest, measuring and monitoring indicators comparing net growth	Not applicable	x	Not applicable	Not applicable
	12.6 The standard shall require that structural and biological diversity is encouraged or maintained to enhance the stability, vitality and resilience of the forests to adverse environmental factors and strengthen natural regulation mechanisms.	Forets positive policy. Measurement and monitoring of forest structural diversity and resilience. Programs and plans to maintain structural diversity and natural regulation mechanisms. Measures to increase fire resiliences such as	Not applicable	x	Not applicable	Not applicable
	12.7 The standard shall require that degraded forests shall be rehabilitated as far as economically viable.	Forest rehabilitation plans and programs, Reports on rehabilitation programs, Tree planting records, etc.	Not applicable	x	Not applicable	Not applicable

	12.8 The standard shall require that harvesting, processing and transport activities shall be conducted in a way that minimise damage to ecosystems.	Forest management procedures. Training of workers on forest management practices. Reforestation and afforestation policies, programmes and plans.	Not applicable	x	Not applicable	Not applicable
	12.9 The standard shall require that native species and local genotypes are used for forest reforestation/afforestation unless there is clear and convincing justification for using others.	Identification of local species and genotypes. Reforestation and afforestation policies, programs and plans.	Not applicable	x	Not applicable	Not applicable
	12.10 The standard shall require that afforestation does not take place in ecologically important non-forest ecosystems or in locations which negatively impact ecologically important natural communities, threatened and endangered species, or native natural communities which could be at risk of becoming rare.	Reforestation and afforestation impact assessments, plans and programs.	Not applicable	x	Not applicable	Not applicable
13. Ecodesign	13.1 The standard shall require that products are designed and packaged to be as readily recyclable and compostable as possible and stimulate circularity in packaging.	Eco design policies and procedures. Product life-cycle analysis. Product eco design requirements.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	x

Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative
Environmental Benchmark

Glossary

Affected 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 (for example, in the case of downstream landowners), persons, groups of persons or entities located in the neighbourhood of the Management Unit.
Alien invasive species	An alien species whose introduction and/or spread threaten biological diversity.
Animal feed	Substance or product, including additives, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be used for oral feeding to animals. EXAMPLE: Raw materials, fodder, meat and bone meal, mixed feed and other end products, pet food, etc.
Animal welfare	How an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.
Biodiversity values	Include diverse considerations from ecological, genetic, economic, cultural, social, scientific, educational, recreational, aesthetic and intrinsic perspectives. Valuation and values of biodiversity require the recognition of a wide range of worldviews and plural value dimensions of the meaning and importance of nature associated with the quality of human life seen as interdependent in terms of biophysical, sociocultural, economic, health or holistic perspectives
Circularity	Circularity in packaging refers to creating a closed-loop system that optimises resource use, minimises waste, and promotes sustainable practices such as reducing packaging materials, using reusable packaging, and prioritising recycling.
Compliance obligations	Legal requirements that an organisation has to comply with and other requirements that an organisation has to or chooses to comply with.
Contractor	External organisation that provides services to the organisation in accordance with agreed specifications, terms and conditions.
Conversion	Change of a natural ecosystem to another land use or profound change in a natural ecosystem's species composition, structure, or function. _ Deforestation is one form of conversion (conversion of natural forests). _ Conversion includes severe degradation or the introduction of management practices that result in a substantial and sustained change in the ecosystem's former species composition, structure, or function
Cut-off date	The date after which deforestation or conversion renders a given area or production unit non-compliant with no-deforestation or no-conversion commitments, respectively.

Deforestation	Loss of natural forest as a result of: i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; ii) conversion to a tree plantation; or iii) severe and sustained degradation.
Degradation	Changes within a natural ecosystem that significantly and negatively affect its species composition, structure, and/or function and reduce the ecosystem's capacity to supply products, support biodiversity, and/or deliver ecosystem services. Degradation may be considered conversion if it: a) is large-scale and progressive or enduring; b) alters ecosystem composition, structure, and function to the extent that regeneration to a previous state is unlikely; or c) leads to a change in land use (e.g., to agriculture or other use that is not a natural forest or other natural ecosystem).
Ecodesign	The integration of environmental aspects into product design with the aim of improving the environmental performance of the product throughout its whole life cycle.
Ecologically important sites	Sites of exceptional ecological importance including areas with critically imperilled or imperilled species or natural communities (species or natural communities with NatureServe conservation status ranks of G1 or G2), rare natural communities or unique ecological landscape features.
Ecosystem	The complex system of plant, animal, fungal, and microorganism communities and their associated non-living environment interacting as an ecological unit. Ecosystems have no fixed boundaries; instead their parameters are set to the scientific, management, or policy question being examined. Depending upon the purpose of analysis, a single lake, a watershed, or an entire region could be considered an ecosystem.
Environmental aspect	Element of an organisation's activities or products or services that interacts or can interact with the environment.
Environmental impact	Any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organisation's environmental aspects.
Environmental performance	Performance related to the management of environmental aspects.
Fertiliser	Material of natural or synthetic origin (other than liming materials) that is applied to soils or to plant tissues (usually leaves) to supply one or more plant nutrients essential to the growth of plants This covers: a) organic fertiliser and inorganic fertiliser; b) soil applied and foliar fertiliser; c) single and compound fertiliser. It does not cover the function of organic material to increase or maintain the microbial soil life necessary to facilitate nutrient uptake.
Forest	Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 metres 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 other land use. Forest includes natural forests and tree plantations.
Forest degradation	Means structural changes to forest cover, taking the form of the conversion of: (a) primary forests or naturally regenerating forests into plantation forests or into other wooded land; or (b) primary forests into planted forests.

Forest plantation	Forest of introduced species, and in some cases native species, established through planting or seeding, mainly for production of wood or non-wood goods and services. Note 1: Includes all stands of introduced species established for production of wood or non-wood goods and services. Note 2: May include areas of native species characterised by few species, intensive land preparation (e.g. cultivation), straight tree lines and/or even-aged stands. Note 3: Application of the definition requires consideration of national forestry terminology and legal requirements.
Forest positive	Forest positive is a vision for deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) agricultural production that actively supports thriving natural environments, resilient forest communities, and a carbon-free climate, all the while driving responsible business growth.
Forest positive busir	As forest positive businesses, protecting forests is at the heart of how we operate. We are committed to implementing business models that help forest ecosystems and communities thrive. In doing so, we help ensure the long-term success of our companies, the sustained health of our planet, and the wellbeing and livelihoods of the millions of people who live in and depend on forest environments.
Goal	Desired outcome to be accomplished over a long time frame.
Greenhouse gas (GHG)	Gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, natural or anthropogenic, that absorbs and emits radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere and clouds. Greenhouse gases caused by human activities and relevant for this document include carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF3).
Hazardous substance	Substance or preparation that is, under certain conditions, likely to be injurious to health, safety or the environment
High Conservation Value (HVC)	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 basic 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.
Integrated pest management	Approach that emphasises the growth of a healthy crop with the least possible disruption to agro-ecosystems and encourages natural pest control mechanisms Natural pest control mechanisms can be such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Integrated pest and disease management is a consideration of all available plant protection methods and subsequent integration of appropriate measures that discourage the development of populations of harmful organisms and keep the use of plant protection products and other forms of intervention to levels that are
Livestock	Domesticated animals, usually kept on a farm. For example cattle, sheep, horses, pigs, chickens.

Major incident	Event with potential for multiple personnel casualties, significant environmental damage, installation failure, or any combination of these consequences.
Management plan	Management plan: documented information specifying objectives, actions and control arrangements concerning the management of ecosystem resources and services for a set period of time.
Native habitats	Areas where a native species naturally occurs and that have the living and nonliving environmental conditions necessary for survival, including areas for feeding, shelter, protection and/or reproduction.
Native species	Native species: a species that has been observed in the form of a naturally occurring and self-sustaining population in historical times.
Natural communities	An assemblage of interacting plant species and animal species and their common environment, recurring across the landscape, in which the effects of human intervention are minimal.
Natural forest	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: • 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.
Objective	Actionable targets that need to be achieved within a defined time frame
Pesticides	Any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling or mitigating a pest or disease; or intended for use as plant or insect growth regulators, defoliants, desiccants, or nitrogen stabilisers. The term pesticide includes bactericides, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, miticides, molluscicides, nematicides, avicides, repellents and piscicides. Pesticides may be conventional, biopesticides, or antimicrobials. Source: Bee Better Certification
Pests	Organisms that interfere with the production and utilization of crops and livestock or that are detrimental to humans or human concerns.
Pest control products	

Pollutants	Substance which either alone or in combination with other substances or through its products of degradation or emissions can have a harmful effect on human health or the environment.
Pollution incident	Situation where a harmful substance (solid, liquid, or gas) is released (willingly or otherwise) into nature, potentially causing harm to ecosystems, wildlife, and humans.
Pollution prevention	Pollution prevention: processes, practices, techniques, materials, products, services or energy to avoid, reduce or control (separately or in combination) the creation, emission or discharge of any type of pollutant or waste, in order to reduce adverse environmental impacts Prevention of pollution can include source reduction or elimination; process, product or service changes; efficient use of resources; material and energy substitution; reuse; recovery; recycling, reclamation; or treatment
Publicly available	Obtainable by any person, without unreasonable barriers of access. Note: Information that is published on an organisation's website and can be found through a basic and quick search is considered to be publicly available. 'Available on request' is not the same as publicly available.
Renewable Energy	Energy from renewable non-fossil sources, namely wind, solar, aerothermal, geothermal, hydrothermal and ocean energy, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas and biogases
Residues	Any sub product resulting from the different processes or created during harvesting
Relevant business functions	Business functions that affect the organisation's environmental performance and its compliance obligations.
Risks and opportunities	Potential adverse effects (threats) and potential beneficial effects (opportunities).
Scope 1 GHG emissions	Direct greenhouse (GHG) emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organisation (e.g., emissions associated with fuel combustion in boilers, furnaces, vehicles).
Scope 2 GHG emissions	Indirect GHG emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling.
Soil health	The continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans.
Special sites	Include unique geological or culturally important features that are recognized regionally or nationally or by Indigenous Peoples. They are filled with valuable information about geology or culture and history that explain human history. Their loss can mean the destruction of irreplaceable information and of areas of cultural significance and undermine the social dimension of sustainability. Conservation of Special Sites helps build local support and social licence to operate.

Structural diversity	The volumetric capacity (total, occupied, and unoccupied) and physical arrangement of biotic components within ecosystems.
Top management	Person or group of people who direct and control an organisation at the highest level.
Waste	Any residue of a production operation, transformation or use, any substance, material, product that its holder intends for disposal.

Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative Environmental Benchmark

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