

CGF Forest Positive Coalition

Intro to the Beef DCF Methodology

July 2025



proforest



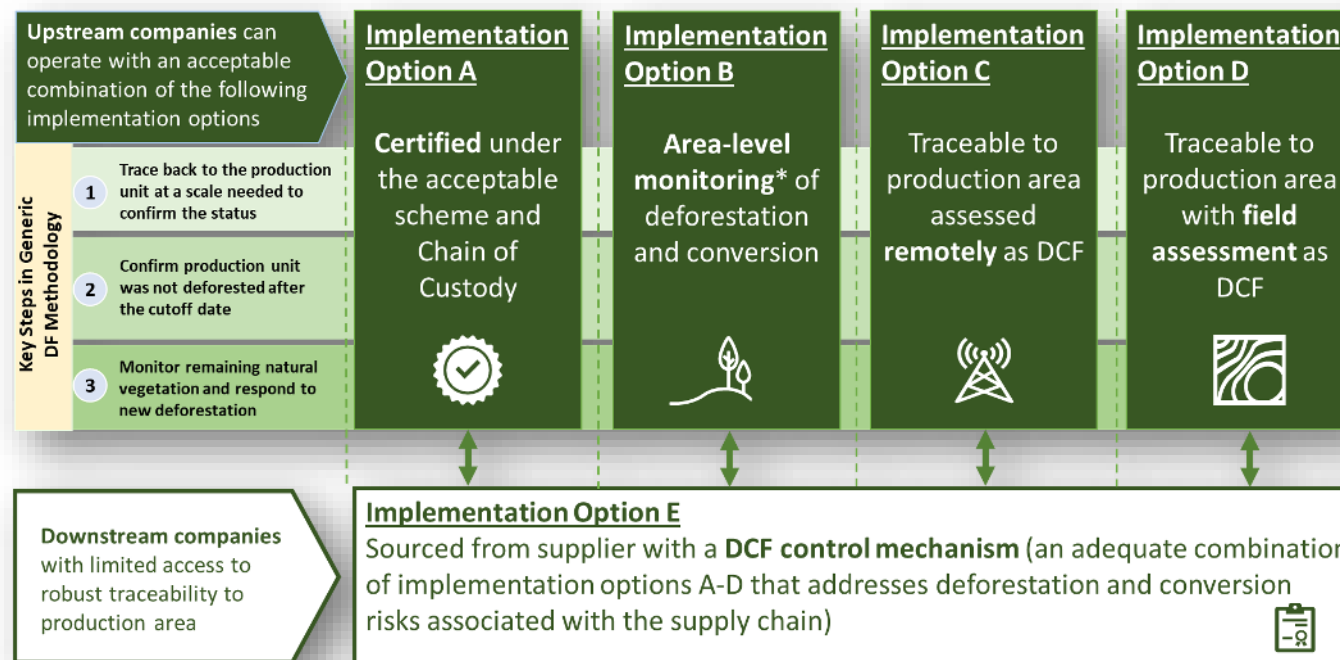


Introduction

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Objective of the webinar

- Key users to understand the CGF Forest Positive Coalition's Deforestation and Conversion Free Sourcing Methodologies
- To improve key users' ability to support CGF-FPC member DCF reporting



*Sectorally aligned language; formerly referred to as “negligible risk”



CGF Forest Positive Coalition & Theory of Change

The Consumer Goods Forum: Forest Positive Coalition



Members:



Partnerships:



CGF Forest Positive Coalition: Theory of Change



CGF Forest Positive Coalition: Commodity Roadmaps



The Roadmaps



Palm Oil



Soy



PPP



Beef

Five Elements of the Roadmaps

- Managing own supply chains;
- Working with suppliers, traders and/or meatpackers;
- Monitoring production bases;
- Engaging in production landscapes and regions; and
- Promoting transparency and accountability,

*With individual and collective commitments,
actions, and KPIs for each element*

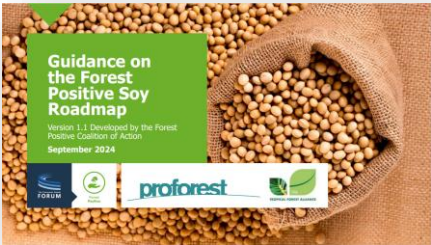
CGF Forest Positive Coalition: Resources Available



Roadmap Implementation Guidance



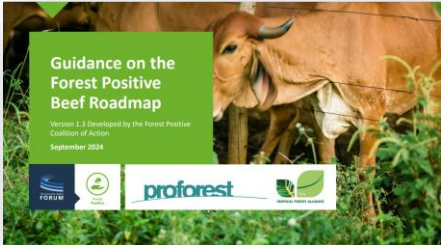
Palm Oil



Soy



PPP

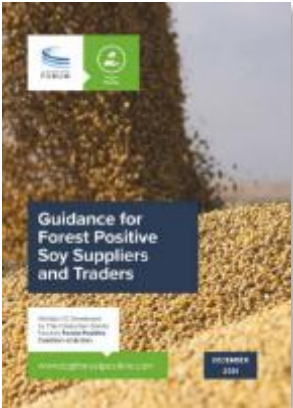


Beef

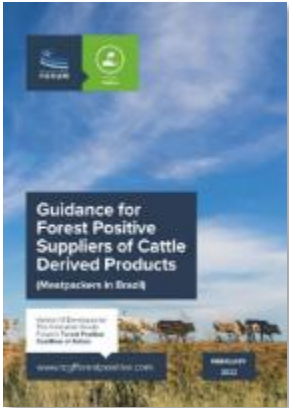
Guidance for Forest Positive Suppliers



Palm Oil



Soy



Beef (EN)



Beef (PT)

Palm Oil Monitoring & Response Framework



FPC Roadmaps: Element 1



Element 1 covers members' own supply chains and volume sourcing, including a commitment to be deforestation and conversion free with corresponding KPIs to track progress to DCF.



DCF COMMITMENT

Public commitment to eliminate legal and illegal deforestation and conversion of natural ecosystems in the commodity supply chain



KPI REPORTING

KPI: % DCF for commodity volume using FPC commodity specific DCF Methodology

SCOPE: Report on full commodity scope, and disclose any exclusions

FPC Roadmaps: Element 2



Element 2 covers how members' suppliers can be 'forest positive' across the supplier's commodity business, not just for volumes sourced by FPC members.



COMMITMENT

Members communicate and implement the 'forest positive approach' with suppliers and collaborate with them to address barriers to sector-wide progress.



KPI REPORTING

KPIs: Suppliers engaged on the elements of the Forest Positive Approach as well as supplier performance

SCOPE: Suppliers commit and implement the approach across their commodity business



Generic FPC DCF methodology

Generic DCF Methodology

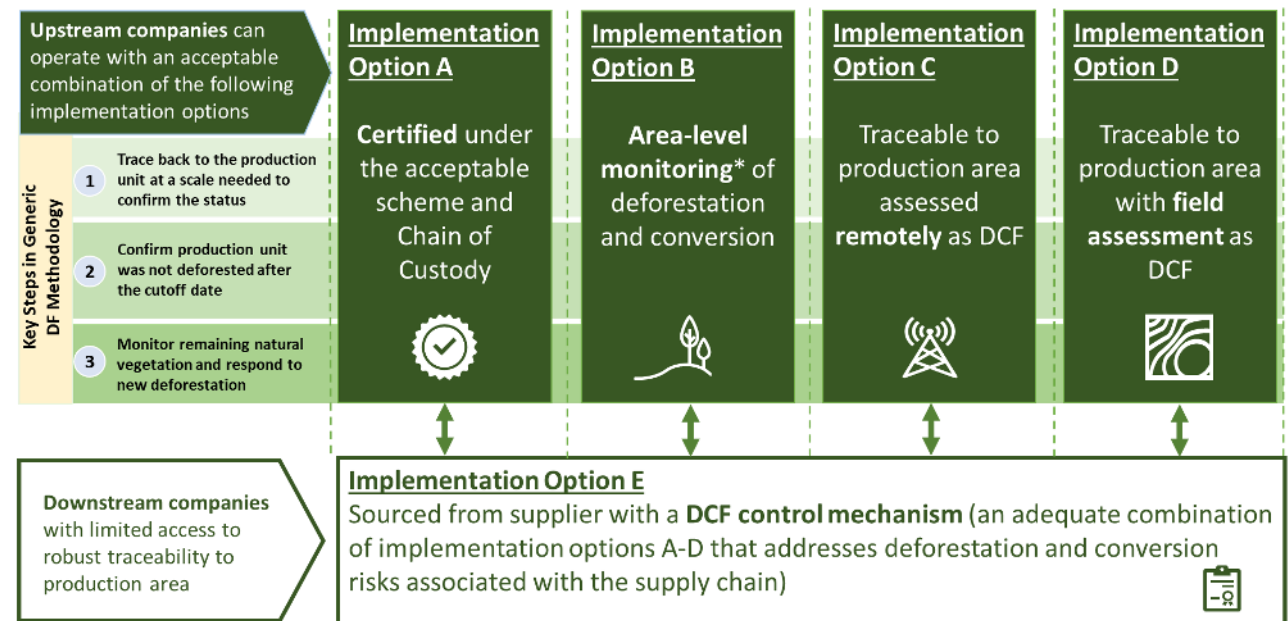


Developed in consultation with key partners, including:



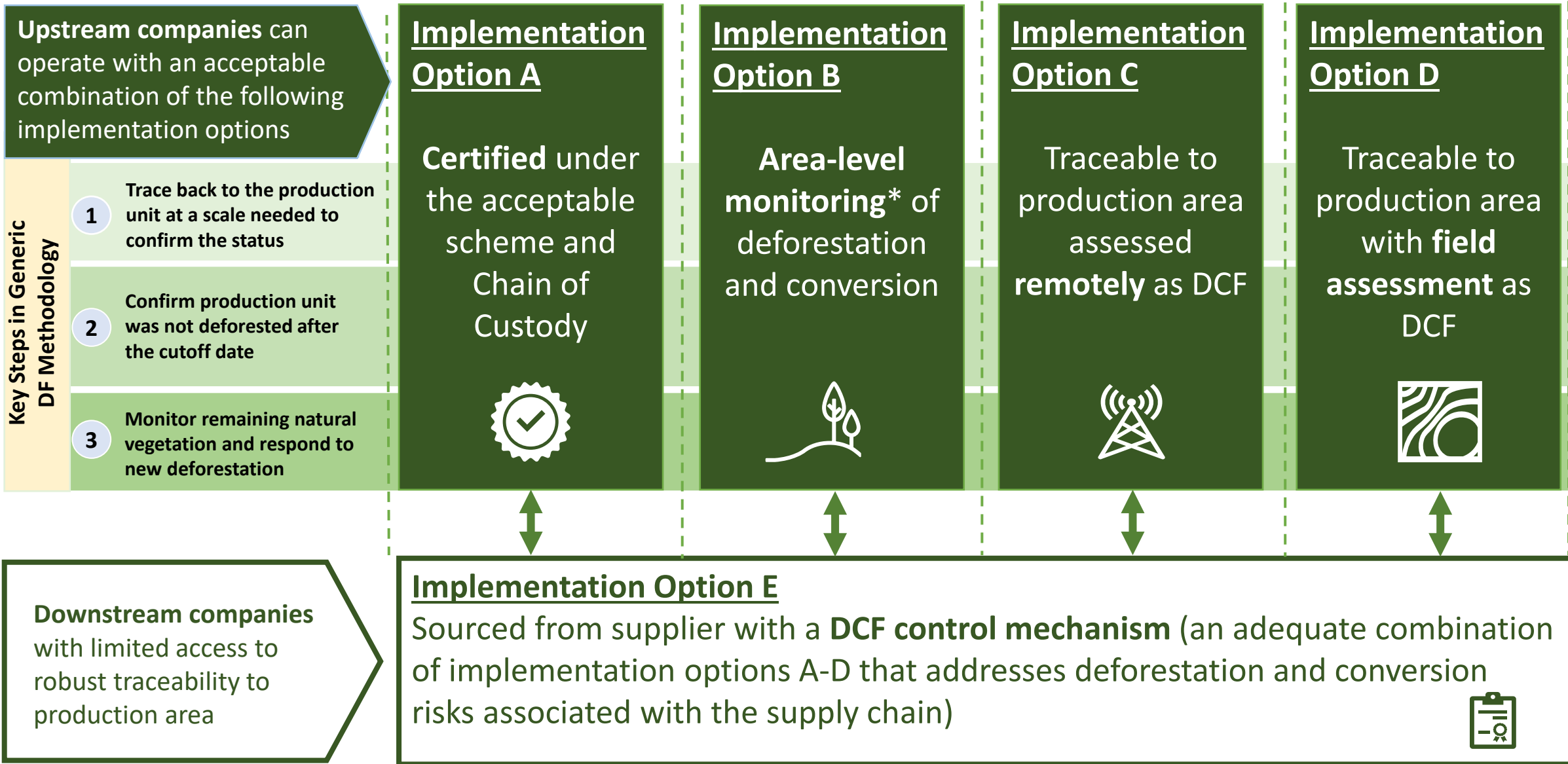
Alignment: The coalition has worked to achieve an aligned approach to DCF to provide greater consistency and credibility for reporting on %DCF volumes across members and in the sector. By socialising the methodology, the coalition can support wider uptake and alignment across the sector.

Transparency: The coalition has a commitment to report transparently on DCF, with the intention to engage suppliers to uptake these same principles.



*Sectorally aligned language; formerly referred to as “negligible risk”

Generic DCF Methodology



*Sectorally aligned language; formerly referred to as “negligible risk”

Generic DCF Methodology



The generic methodology is adapted into commodity specific interpretations for each of the four CGF-FPC commodities



*Palm
Oil*



Soy



*Pulp, Paper, and
fibre-based
packaging*

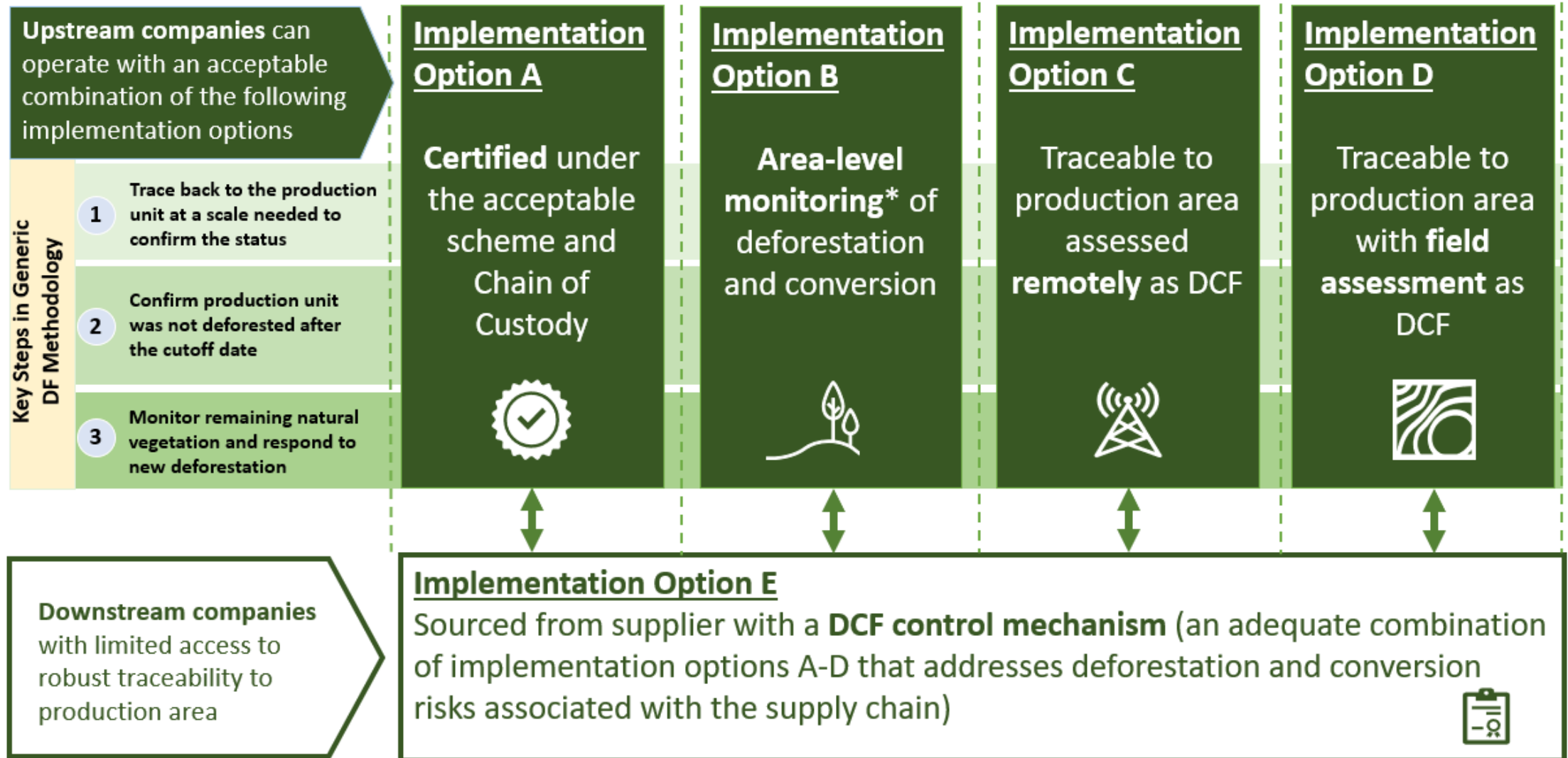


*Cattle
Derived
Products*



CGF-FPC Beef DCF Methodology

Beef DCF Methodology

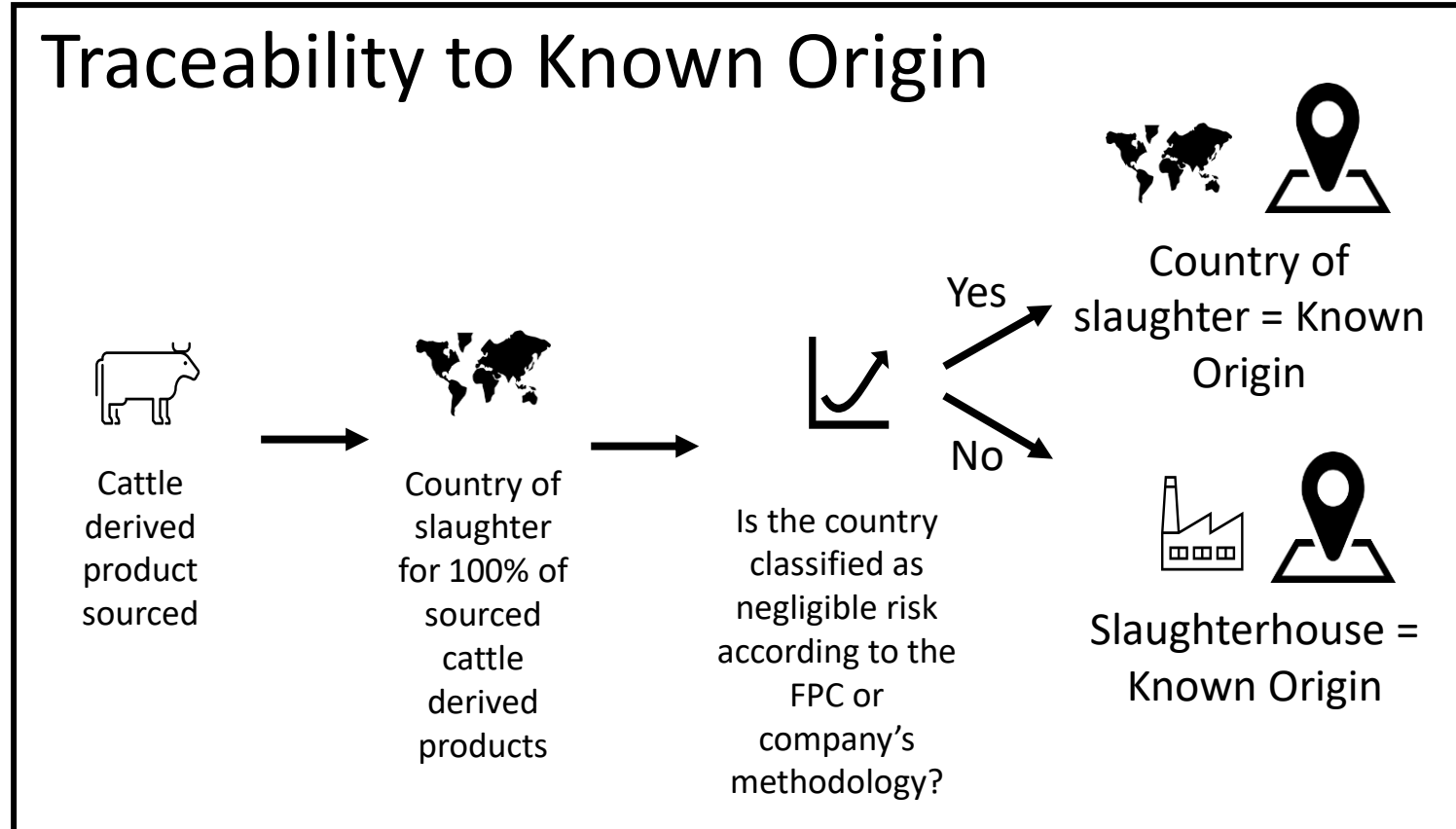


**Sectorally aligned language; formerly referred to as "negligible risk"*

Traceability Expectations for Beef

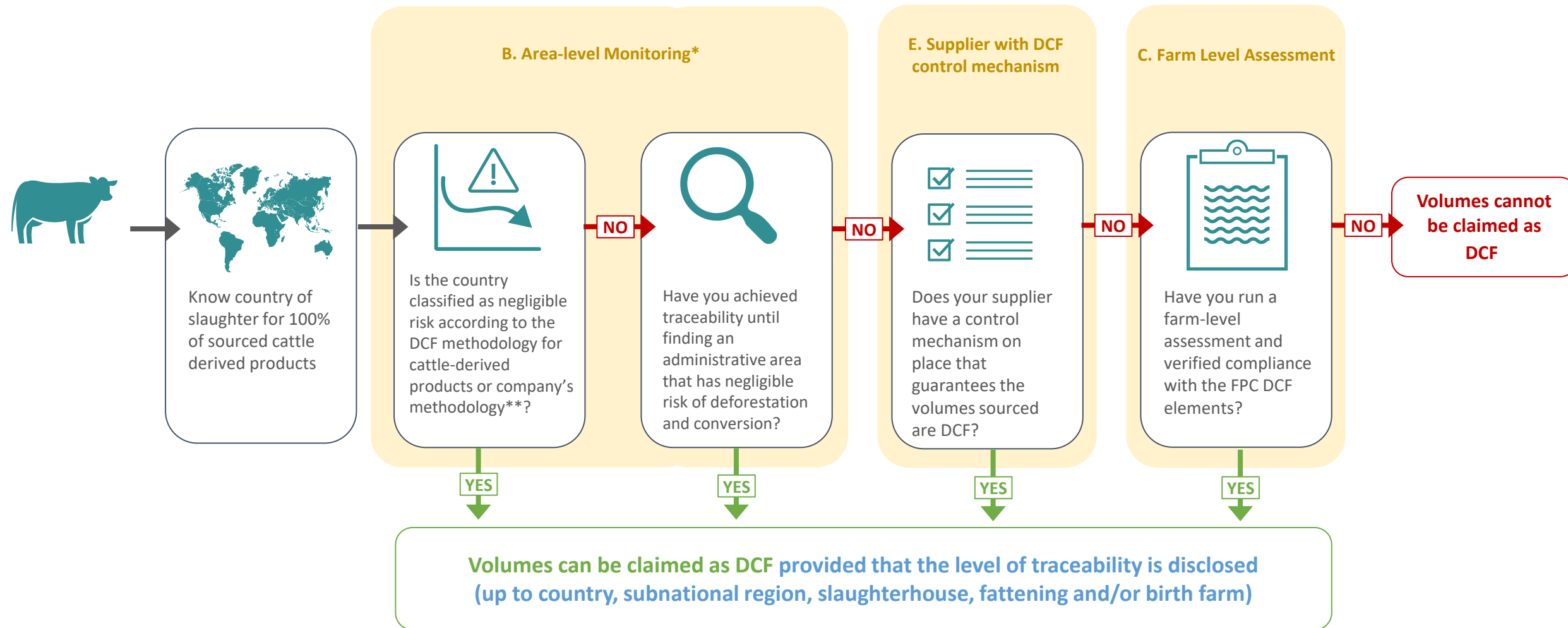


In the case of beef*, what is considered “known origin” varies according to the level of risk and DCF control mechanisms. **Coalition members should identify the country of slaughter for 100% of the purchased cattle products.** If the country is not classified with negligible risk using the FPC methodology for classifying negligible risk countries and priority countries, cattle product origins need to be traced back to slaughterhouse.



*Even though we refer to “Beef”, the Coalition efforts encompass all cattle-derived products, where “beef” is used for brevity. Nevertheless, the scope (which cattle-derived products are covered by each companies’ commitments and actions) is to be individually determined by each company and clearly stated

Cut-off date: Alignment with the legal cut-off date in Brazil (22 July 2008) and with sectoral cut-off dates where they exist (such as Brazilian Amazon and Cerrado), and initiatives such as GTFI. Cut-off dates are also based on the type of deforestation (legal or illegal) and type of suppliers (direct or indirect).



**This solution is identified as "Negligible Risk" in the CGF FPC Beef WG documents, which was the name previously used*

***If the risk classification methodology used is the company's own, it is recommended that it be made public. A DCF methodology for cattle derived products for classifying negligible risk countries and priority countries for action based on deforestation and conversion risk linked to cattle production was already developed by Trase in discussions with AFi Secretariat and Proforest. This methodology will likely be public in 2025 but is already available for FPC members*

Option B: Area-level monitoring*



Coalition members should trace back to the production unit at a scale needed to confirm the DCF status of an area. Companies should trace the cattle-derived products to an origin (country, and/or subnational level) where risk of deforestation and conversion is **negligible**.

An FPC methodology for classifying negligible risk countries and priority countries for action based on deforestation and conversion risk linked to cattle production was already developed by Trase in discussions with AFi Secretariat and Proforest. Using the datasets in this methodology and based on a 5% deforestation threshold allowance in relation to global deforestation, countries were categorized into two groups: **at-risk** or **DCF** for deforestation and conversion. The methodology and its lists of countries will likely be public in 2025, but they are already available for FPC members, and they can refer to this methodology in their reporting.

Members are encouraged to use that list for DCF claims. When companies are ready and want to move further, members can adopt the 1% deforestation threshold. Moreover, on at-risk countries, members can still do further investigation and reclassify countries to a negligible risk category provided the proper reference to data sources and methodology used are made public. Members can also gather further traceability information in non-negligible risk countries and run a risk analysis at subnational level for the DCF claims, provided they disclose the level of traceability associated with the claim (up to country, subnational region, slaughterhouse, fattening and/or birth farm).

**"Negligible risk" was the name previously given to what is now called "area-level monitoring" sectorally*

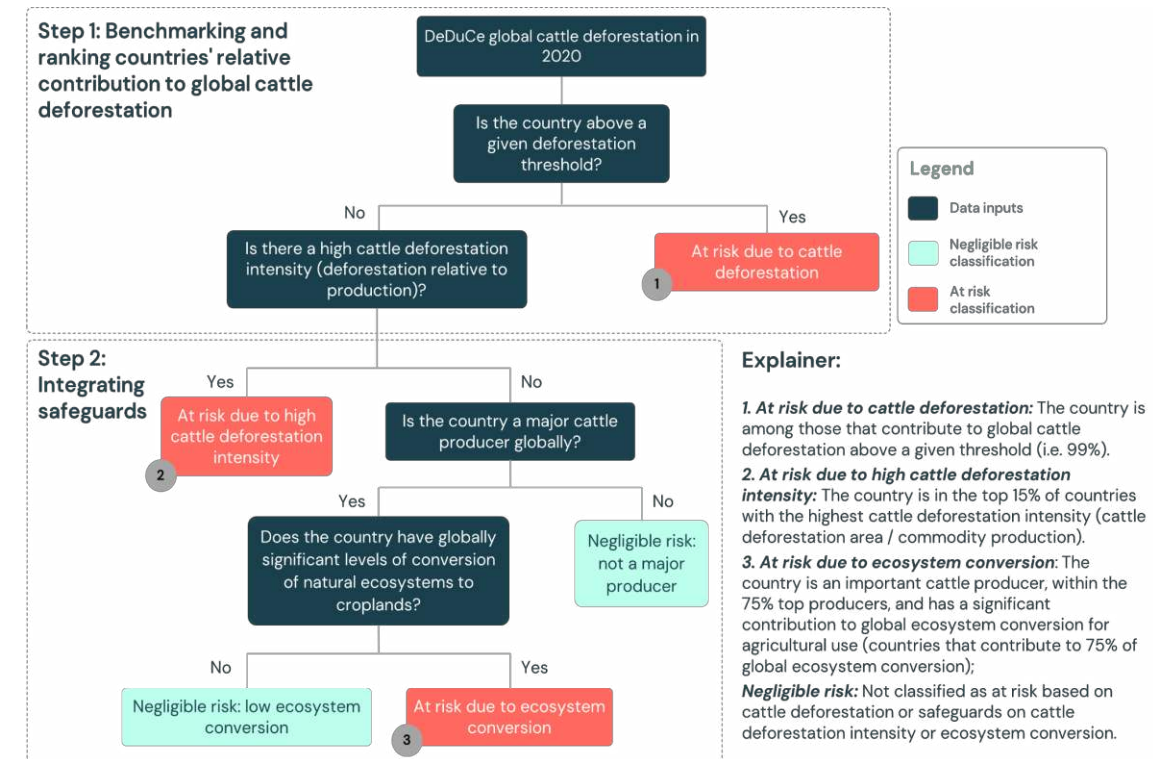


Option B: Area-level monitoring*



The main information on the FPC methodology for classifying negligible risk countries and priority countries for action based on deforestation and conversion risk linked to cattle production are:

- **Datasets:**
 - Deforestation Driver and Carbon Emission (DeDuCE, 2024) for 2020 global cattle deforestation;
 - OECD (2019) for 2004-2019 ecosystem conversion to agriculture;
 - FAO (2022) for 2016-2020 cattle production and cattle global exports.
- **Countries classification:**
 - As DCF: 132
 - As at-risk: 39
- The countries identified as priority for actions by the CGF FPC Beef WG members are classified as at-risk countries



Decision tree with risk categorisation based on DeDuCE cattle deforestation and inclusion of safeguards

*"Negligible risk" was the name previously given to what is now called "area-level monitoring" sectorally



Option B: Area-level monitoring*

What may FPC company buyers request from suppliers?



- Country of origin (country of the slaughterhouse location)
- Specific location of the slaughterhouse
- Further traceability of volumes (direct cattle suppliers, indirect cattle suppliers up to birth farm)

Option E: Supplier DCF Controls



Most relevant for **downstream supply chain actors** with limited access to robust traceability to production area data.

Sourced from supplier with DCF control mechanism: companies should verify that meatpackers have a control mechanism (i.e., a Purchase Control System) in place that guarantees that the volume sourced is DCF. It is recommended that the DCF control mechanism must be in line the Monitoring Protocol for Cattle Suppliers in the Amazon, for Amazon Biome sourcing regions, and the Voluntary Monitoring Protocol for Cattle Suppliers in the Cerrado, for Cerrado Biome sourcing regions, which have as one of its rules the establishment of a “purchase control system for suspending non-compliant cattle suppliers”. The meatpackers from both biomes are recommended to publicly available independent audit of the purchase control system.

Furthermore, as stated in the [Guidance for Forest Positive Suppliers of Cattle-derived products](#), meatpackers are also expected to:

- ✓ Maintain regular engagement with producers
- ✓ Develop and have mechanisms in place to identify and address non-compliances
- ✓ Support initiatives delivering forest positive development at landscape and sectoral level

Option E: Supplier DCF Controls

What may FPC company buyers request from suppliers?



- A DCF control mechanism in place, preferably with evidence of its functioning, and that following criteria are met:
 1. **No deforestation and conversion:** Conversion of any type of natural ecosystem is considered
 2. **Illegal or Legal:** Illegal and legal conversion is considered
 3. **Cut-off date:**
 - For Brazilian Amazon and Cerrado: aligned with the Guidance for Meatpackers or earlier cut-off dates.
 - For other biomes and countries: 2020 the latest
 4. **Legal requirements:** Legal compliance (e.g. Forest Code) is included
 5. **Assessed unit:** The whole farm is assessed
 6. **Human Rights:** Respect for indigenous and quilombolas lands and no slave labor

Option C: Remote Assessment



Traceable to production area assessed remotely as DCF: Where the risk is not negligible and the supplier or meatpacker has no DCF control mechanism, Coalition members should run their own farm-level assessment to verify sourced volumes are DCF. They will need traceability to farm for that. The assessment should be aligned with the [Monitoring Protocol for Cattle Suppliers in the Amazon](#) and the [Voluntary Monitoring Protocol for Cattle Suppliers in the Cerrado](#). On the remote assessment for a DCF claim, companies should verify whether all the following elements are being followed.

DCF Definition Element	Forest Positive Coalition Criteria
No deforestation and conversion	Conversion of any type of natural ecosystem is considered
Illegal or legal	Illegal and legal conversion is considered
Cut-off date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Brazilian Amazon and Cerrado: aligned with the Guidance for Meatpackers or earlier cut-off dates. For other biomes and countries: 2020 the latest
Legal requirements	Legal compliance (e.g. Forest Code) is included
Assessed Unit	The whole farm is assessed
Human Rights	Respect for indigenous and quilombolas lands and no slave labor



Option C: Remote assessment

What may FPC company buyers request from suppliers?



- Information on direct and indirect cattle suppliers:
 - Farm location (geolocation and address)
 - CAR number (environmental registry of the farm)
 - GTA (animal transit guide)
 - Owners' individual identification number (CPF, CPNJ)

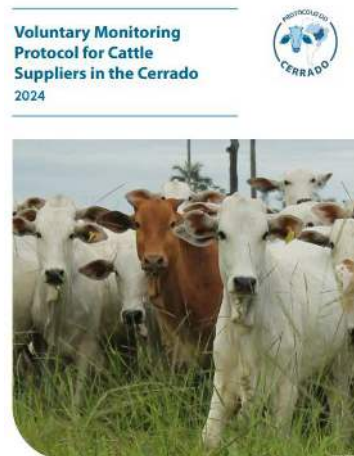


Option A: Certification



Currently, there is **no widely recognized, standardized, and consolidated certification system for the cattle supply chain**, as exists for other agricultural commodities. In the case of beef, **the lack of a globally accepted, robust certification scheme limits the use of certification as a viable implementation option for deforestation- and conversion-free (DCF) sourcing**.

On the other hand, the cattle sector relies on complementary initiatives that act as technical guidance tools or sustainability frameworks. Even though they do not constitute formal certifications, they **represent meaningful and pragmatic pathways to operationalize sustainability commitments in the cattle supply chain**.



The [Cerrado Protocol](#) is a voluntary, multi-stakeholder initiative that expands the Amazon Protocol's criteria to the Cerrado biome, incorporating native vegetation conversion monitoring, cut-off dates, and action plans for supplier regularization.



The [Amazon Protocol](#) (Beef on Track) is a set of technical criteria jointly developed by the private sector and the Federal Public Prosecutor's Office (MPF), providing guidance on socio-environmental monitoring of direct suppliers.



The [Indirect Suppliers Working Group \(GTFI\)](#) brings together the various stakeholders of the Brazilian beef production chain to discuss solutions for traceability, monitoring and transparency with a focus on deforestation by indirect suppliers.

Option D: Field assessment

Field assessment of the production area is not commonly used as an implementation option, although it may be part of a certification or audit process. Unlike other agricultural supply chains such as palm oil and soy, **conducting field assessments directly in production areas is not widely adopted in the cattle supply chain**. This is due to a combination of several factors that make such an approach less viable or representative for the sector. Below are some key reasons:

1. Highly fragmented and dispersed production base (especially in Brazil)
2. Complex supply chain, with multiple indirect suppliers and several property transfers before slaughter
3. Instead of relying on physical visits, the sector makes extensive use of remote sensing and geospatial tools, including satellite imagery analysis, spatial overlays with some areas (such as Indigenous lands, protected areas, and embargoed zones) and monitoring through Animal Transit Permits (GTAs)
4. Regulatory and market demands are increasingly met through document verification and action plans, and usually field assessment is not a mandatory option

Therefore, similar to certification, **field assessment of production areas is not considered a viable implementation option to ensure DCF beef volumes for the CGF FPC Beef WG**.

How is this reflected in members' commitment to promote transparency and accountability through public reporting?



- The goal is for every member's own supply chain to be as transparent as possible, including members' understanding of their direct and indirect cattle supply chains, the progress made and remaining work to be done
- KPIs were developed for the roadmap elements* and all members are committed to annual reporting on them

ELEMENT 1: OWN SUPPLY CHAIN	ELEMENT 2: SUPPLIER & MEATPACKERS
Public information requirements	Public information requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.1 Policy commitments to the forest positive goals <input type="checkbox"/> 1.2 Timebound action plan summary <input type="checkbox"/> 1.3 Beef Footprint across all product categories	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.1 Supplier list <input type="checkbox"/> 2.2. Summary of the Forest Positive Approach for meatpackers and own brand manufacturers
KPIs	KPIs
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.4 % of total commodity volume that is in scope of Element 1 reporting a) % of the total commodity volume that is in scope of your Element 1 reporting b) Narrative explanation on the % excluded from scope <input type="checkbox"/> 1.5 % with known origin and per classification of origin <input type="checkbox"/> 1.6 % Deforestation and Conversion free (DCF) volumes and breakdown as indicated a) % of cattle products purchased that are DCF and to what level upstream this has been ascertained b) % of cattle products purchased broken down into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volumes that are DCF due to negligible risk origins • Volumes that are DCF due to suppliers with DCF control mechanisms • Volumes that are DCF due to remote assessment c) Year on Year Change in % DCF <input type="checkbox"/> 1.7 % progressing towards DCF	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.3 T1 suppliers to whom the Forest Positive Approach and its implementation have been communicated <input type="checkbox"/> 2.4 Performance of T1 suppliers against Forest Positive Approach including progress on delivery across entire operations <input type="checkbox"/> 2.5 Meatpackers sourcing from priority origins that have been engaged and are being evaluated <input type="checkbox"/> 2.6 Performance of meatpackers against Forest Positive Approach including progress on delivery across entire operations

*Currently, only Elements 1, 2 and 4 have KPIs for reporting. Since Element 4 relates to Engaging in Production Landscapes, this webinar will focus exclusively on exploring the KPIs of Elements 1 and 2

Verification



Guidance for reporting

- **Verification is considered good practice** but is not a requirement for reporting on DCF
- Companies that have their report verified independently, are encouraged to provide information on this

Resources available



- **The Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI)** has an [Operational Guidance on Monitoring and Verification](#), but they are currently updating the guidance on when to use verification for different reporting contexts

Efforts towards addressing non-DCF Volumes



Working with suppliers within supply chains:

- To effectively manage deforestation risk within supply chains by implementing DCF Control mechanisms, for example
- To develop a strategy to support fattening farms to leverage management and transparency approaches, as well as potential incentives on capacity building, technical assistance and reintegration processes, to address non-conformities, including the ones in relation to deforestation and conversion
- Where no DCF approaches can be applied, material cannot be considered as DCF, and engagement is crucial to collaboratively mitigate risks

Working beyond supply chains:

- Engage in production landscapes to collaboratively transform cattle production in order to address systemic issues and support best practices in origins in where traceability cannot yet lead us to (see Element 4 of the [FPC Beef Roadmap](#) and [FPC Landscape strategy](#))
- Leverage co-funding for landscape initiatives related to the cattle supply chain in the Coalition's priority origins through partnerships with FPC members, suppliers, donors and investors



Resources

Resources



For further information on the following topics, visit the links below:

- For the Beef Roadmap follow this [link](#)
- For the Guidance on the Forest Positive Beef Roadmap follow this [link](#)
- For the Guidance for Forest Positive Suppliers of Cattle-derived products (meatpackers in Brazil) follow this [link](#) (English version) or this [link](#) (Portuguese version)
- For the Monitoring Protocol for Cattle Suppliers in the Amazon follow this [link](#)
- For the Voluntary Monitoring Protocol for Cattle Suppliers in the Cerrado follow this [link](#)



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commitment to build a
forest positive future.**



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Thank you!