A green watering can is shown pouring water onto lush green plants. The background is a blurred garden scene with various green foliage and a hint of a red and white checkered shirt.

Overview of Revisions: Sustainability Framework v1.5 → v2.0

For Stakeholder
Consultation

Preferred
by Nature
Certification



Overview of Revisions: Sustainability Framework v1.5 → v2.0

The Sustainability Framework underpins Preferred by Nature Certification services across land use, supply chains, and due diligence. Since version 1.5, two main drivers prompted the update:

- (a) **Rapidly evolving regulatory expectations** — most notably the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR); and
- (b) **Stakeholder feedback** calling for clearer, more streamlined, performance-based indicators that reduce audit complexity without lowering the bar.

The result is the proposed v2.0: simpler, outcome-focused, and easier to align with regulatory and market claims.

Stakeholder Consultation scope

This Stakeholder Consultation invites feedback on the following documents:

- **PBN-01 Sustainability Framework**
- **PBN-06 Terms and Definitions**
- **GMO Policy**
- **Pesticides Policy**

We welcome your input on these drafts and encourage you to share your comments and suggestions. On page 4, you will find the **full set of normative documents** for Preferred by Nature Certification, including the ones under consultation.

What's changed at a glance

Lean, performance-based indicators

Redundant or overlapping indicators have been consolidated. The emphasis now shifts further toward demonstrated performance, rather than documentation, supported by systems and internal monitoring proportionate to the scale and type of operation. System requirements remain clearly defined in PBN-02, which sets out expectations for management systems, documentation, and records for all types of certificate holders.

New GMO policy + new criterion

A dedicated GMO policy sets out a risk-based, precautionary approach to including GMO in certification. A new Framework Criterion 3.10 (Use of GMOs) sets indicators for disclosure, legal compliance, risk assessment and mitigation, and sustainability-benefit thresholds for any approved GMO use. Further details are provided in PBN-08 GMO Policy v0.1.

New pesticides policy and dedicated annex in PBN-01

A new Pesticides Policy sets out a tiered approach, including Prohibited List, Exceptional Use under strict conditions, and requirements for the use of Exceptional Use Pesticides. It is aligned with international conventions. Version 2.0 of the Sustainability Framework also introduces an Exceptional Use Pesticides annex that links additional Exceptional Use Pesticides controls directly to Criterion 3.4 (Chemicals).

Revised Remediation Annex

Annex A (Requirements for Remediation) in PBN-01 has been revised to clarify the triggers, expectations, and verification procedures for remedying past harm, such as human rights impacts or legacy land issues, and to improve consistency across audits and reports.

Sharper alignment with international instruments and strengthening of social responsibility

Indicator wording across all four Principles have been refined to reflect recognised instruments and evolving regulatory requirements, notably the EUDR and related Commission guidance. Crosswalks in our System (PBN-02), Due Diligence (PBN-03), and Chain of Custody (PBN-05) standards ensure the package functions as one integrated system. Principle 2 has been revised for closer alignment with international human rights instruments and ILO conventions.

Updated Terms & Definitions (PBN-06)

PBN-06 v2.0 has been renumbered (formerly PBN-09) and updated to include new terms to ensure consistency in terminology across standards.

Box 1. Normative Documents for Preferred by Nature Certification

PBN-01. Sustainability Framework

Establishes the principles, criteria, and indicators that land-use managers must follow to demonstrate responsible, sustainable practices, as well as social requirements for supply chain entities.

PBN-02. System Standard

Sets out generic quality system requirements applicable to all Preferred by Nature certified operations.

PBN-03. Due Diligence Standard

Defines requirements for supplier collaboration, supply chain information, risk assessment, and mitigation, and includes a EUDR specific annex.

PBN-04. Seal Use Standard

Sets requirements and conditions for using the Seal.

PBN-05. Chain of Custody Standard

Specifies requirements for chain of custody models and traceability systems used to manage claims and track products throughout the supply chain.

PBN-06. Terms and Definitions

Provides definitions and concepts used in the Preferred by Nature Certification programme.

PBN-07. Pesticides Policy

Defines PBN's policy on the use of pesticides.

PBN-08. GMO Policy

Defines PBN's policy on the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

How to read the table with overview of changes

The table below consists of nine columns. The columns contain the following:

- Column 1:** Indicates the number of the requirement in v1.5.
- Column 2:** Indicates the number of the requirement in v2.0.
- Column 3:** Contains the text of requirements in v1.5.
- Column 4:** Contains the proposed action for the revision.
- Column 5:** Contains the proposed text of the draft v2.0.
- Column 6:** Contains a short comment on revisions.
- Column 7:** Indicates which requirements are applicable under the Regulatory Scope.
- Column 8:** Indicates requirements applicable to land-use entities under the Sustainability Scope.
- Column 9:** Indicates requirements applicable to supply chain entities under the Sustainability Scope.

SCE	Supply Chain Entities
Reg.	Regulatory
Orig.	Original
Recom.	Recommended

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
1	1	Principle 1: Management and business practices are responsible.	No change	Principle 1: Management and business practices are responsible.	No change	✓	✓	
1.1	1.1	Land tenure and management rights are secure. Land tenure and management rights are secure and established for all rights holders and ensure that Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is obtained where operations may affect Indigenous Peoples or local communities' rights and resources.	Revise	Land tenure and management rights are secure. Land tenure and management rights for all rights holders are formally defined and legally secure; disputes are addressed through culturally appropriate, transparent, mutually agreed processes; and the certified area is effectively protected from illegal third-party encroachment.	The revision clarifies land tenure rights, highlights the need for culturally appropriate dispute resolution, and adds protection against illegal encroachment to strengthen safeguards for all rights holders.	✓	✓	
1.1.1	1.1.1	Land tenure rights are clearly defined, legally secure, and registered in compliance with applicable legal requirements.	Revise	Land tenure rights are clearly defined and legally secure, according to applicable legal requirements.	Wording streamlined by removing "registered", which may not be applicable in all contexts, while retaining clarity on the legal definition and security of rights.	✓	✓	
1.1.2	1.1.2	Land management rights are clearly defined, legally secure, and registered in compliance with applicable legal requirements.	Revise	Land management rights are clearly defined and legally secure, according to applicable legal requirements.	Simplified wording; removed registered for contexts without formal registration, while retaining focus on legal definition and security of rights.	✓	✓	
1.1.3		Land tenure and management rights are obtained through a process that ensures that Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) is secured before any activities are commenced that may affect Indigenous Peoples' or local communities' lands, territories and resources.	Delete		Indicator deleted, as the subject is fully addressed under C2.10.		✓	

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
1.1.4	1.1.3	In case of ongoing land tenure or management rights disputes, these are managed through a culturally appropriate and transparent process, agreed upon by the affected parties.	Revise	Ongoing land tenure or management rights disputes are managed through a culturally appropriate and transparent process, agreed upon by the affected parties.	Minor wording change for conciseness, without changing the meaning.		✓	
1.1.5	1.1.4	Land areas under management are protected from illegal encroachment by third parties.	Revise	The certified area is protected from illegal encroachment by third parties.	Terminology refined to specify certified area, ensuring alignment with the certification scope and greater clarity of protection obligations.		✓	
1.2	1.2	Management planning and operations are conducted responsibly. Management planning and operations are in accordance with legal requirements.	Revise	Land use and land-use planning are conducted in compliance with legal requirements. Land use is based on legal requirements and documented rights. Plans align with official zoning and permit conditions, identify no-go areas, and all required authorisations, reporting, and fees are kept current. Day-to-day operations — including outsourced work — follow these conditions, with maps, permits, and records demonstrating compliance and swift correction of any breach.	The revision expands the indicator to cover both planning and daily operations, emphasises adherence to legal requirements and documented rights, ensures consistency with zoning and permits, and introduces clear documentation and corrective measures to demonstrate compliance.	✓	✓	
1.2.1	1.2.1	Legal requirements for land use and management planning are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements related to the planning of management and operational activities are complied with.	Wording clarified to specify planning of both management and operational activities, offering greater precision than the broader term land use and management planning.	✓	✓	
1.2.2	1.2.2	Legal requirements for management activities are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements related to the implementation of management and operational activities are complied with.	Expanded to specify implementation of both management and operational activities, providing greater detail than the broader term management activities.	✓	✓	

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
1.2.3	1.2.3	Legal harvesting or production requirements are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements related to harvesting or production are complied with.	Wording adjusted for consistency with other criteria, specifying legal requirements related to harvesting or production.	✓	✓	
1.2.4	1.2.4	Legal requirements related to the disclosure of information are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements for the disclosure of information related to land tenure, management planning, and the implementation of operational activities are complied with.	Expanded to specify the types of information covered, enhancing clarity and alignment with the scope.	✓	✓	
1.3	1.3	Taxes and fees are paid. Applicable taxes and fees have been paid in a timely manner and in accordance with legal requirements.	No change	Taxes and fees are paid. Applicable taxes and fees have been paid in a timely manner and in accordance with legal requirements.	No change	✓	✓	
1.3.1	1.3.1	Legal requirements for payment of royalties, land/area taxes, and fees are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements for payment of royalties, land/area taxes, and fees are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
1.3.2	1.3.2	Legal requirements for payment of value-added taxes and/or other sales taxes are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements for payment of value-added taxes and/or other sales taxes are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
1.3.3	1.3.3	Legal requirements for payment of trade and/or export taxes and fees are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements for payment of trade and/or export taxes and fees are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
1.4	1.4	Corruption, fraud, and conflicts of interest are avoided. Corruption, fraud, and conflicts of interest are avoided, while business integrity is ensured according to best practices.	No change	Corruption, fraud, and conflicts of interest are avoided. Corruption, fraud, and conflicts of interest are avoided, while business integrity is ensured according to best practices.	No change	✓	✓	
1.4.1	1.4.1	Legal requirements relating to corruption — including bribery, fraud, and conflicts of interest — are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements relating to bribery, corruption, fraud, and conflicts of interest are complied with.	List reordered and wording simplified by removing the term including, to improve clarity and consistency.	✓	✓	

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
1.4.2	1.4.2	All forms of bribery and corruption are avoided.	No change	All forms of bribery and corruption are avoided.	No change		✓	
1.4.3	1.4.3	Conflicts of interest are identified, declared, and managed.	Revise	Conflicts of interest, situations where personal, financial, family, or organisational interests could improperly influence duties, are defined, disclosed, and controlled.	The revision includes a clear description of the types of interests considered and emphasises formal disclosure and control measures.		✓	
1.5	1.5	Trade and procurement are responsible. Trade and transport of materials, products, and animals are conducted in accordance with legal requirements and respect principles of fairness and transparency in contractual obligations.	No change	Trade and procurement are responsible. Trade and transport of materials, products, and animals are conducted in accordance with legal requirements and respect the principles of fairness and transparency in contractual obligations.	No change	✓	✓	
1.5.1	1.5.1	Legal requirements relating to CITES, trade, and the transport of products are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements related to trade and transport of products are complied with.	Scope narrowed by removing explicit reference to CITES, focusing only on trade and transport of products. While CITES is not specifically mentioned, it is addressed in the Guidance.	✓	✓	
1.5.2	1.5.2	Legal requirements related to applicable trade restrictions and sanctions are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements related to applicable trade restrictions and sanctions are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
1.5.3	1.5.3	Legal requirements relating to the classification of products are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements relating to the classification of products are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
1.5.4	1.5.4	Legal requirements relating to export and/or import are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements relating to exports are complied with.	Scope narrowed from export and/or import to exports only.	✓	✓	
1.5.5	1.5.5	Legal requirements relating to offshore trading and transfer pricing are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements relating to offshore trading and transfer pricing are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
1.5.6	1.5.6	Legal requirements relating to due diligence or due care are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements relating to due diligence or due care are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
1.5.7	1.5.7	Agreed payments are made in a timely manner, and receipts specifying price, quantity/volume/weight, qualities, deductions, and amount paid are provided.	No change	Agreed payments are made in a timely manner, and receipts specifying price, quantity/volume/weight, qualities, deductions, and amount paid are provided.	No change		✓	
1.5.8	1.5.8	Contracts with suppliers and/or buyers have clear terms, are fair and transparent, have an agreed timeframe, and are not changed or cancelled unilaterally.	No change	Contracts with suppliers and/or buyers have clear terms, are fair and transparent, have an agreed timeframe, and are not changed or cancelled unilaterally.	No change		✓	
1.6	1.6	Buildings, infrastructure, and activities are developed and maintained in a responsible manner.	Revise	Buildings, infrastructure, and activities are developed and maintained in a responsible manner. Assets are planned, constructed, and maintained in line with permits and codes, minimising health and environmental impacts. They are kept safe and functional, with appropriate access and accessibility, where relevant.	The revision specifies planning, construction, and maintenance requirements, emphasises compliance with permits and codes, minimises health and environmental impacts, and ensures safety, functionality, and accessibility.		✓	
1.6.1	1.6.1	Development of buildings, infrastructure, and activities complies with applicable codes and legal requirements.	Revise	Legal requirements related to the development of buildings, infrastructure, and activities are adhered to.	Wording adjusted for consistency by framing compliance in terms of adherence to legal requirements, without changing the scope.		✓	
1.6.2	1.6.2	Development of new buildings, infrastructure, and activities is done in a way that minimises adverse impacts on human health and the environment.	No change	Development of new buildings, infrastructure, and activities is done in a way that minimises adverse impacts on human health and the environment.	No change		✓	
1.6.3	1.6.3	Maintenance of buildings and infrastructure ensures their integrity and functionality while minimising impacts on the surrounding environment and people.	No change	Maintenance of buildings and infrastructure ensures their integrity and functionality while minimising impacts on the surrounding environment and people.	No change		✓	
1.6.4	1.6.4	Where applicable, buildings, infrastructure, and activities provide appropriate access and accessibility features.	No change	Where applicable, buildings, infrastructure, and activities provide appropriate access and accessibility features.	No change		✓	

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
1.7	1.7	The quality of the customer and visitor experience is continuously improved.	Revise	Visitor experience is safe, appropriate, and responsibly managed. Facilities are functional, clean, hazard-controlled, and suited to the activities offered and the expected number of visitors. Communications are truthful, up to date, and guide customers and visitors to act safely and responsibly.	Criterion text updated to better reflect the objective. The revision shifts focus from continuous improvement to ensuring visitor safety and appropriateness, emphasises well-maintained facilities, hazard control, and accurate communications to guide responsible behaviour.		✓	
1.7.1	1.7.1	Facilities are kept in working order, clean, and safe for customers and visitors.	Revise	Facilities for visitors are clean, safe, and in working order.	Wording shortened; the revision reorders elements for clarity without changing the meaning.		✓	
1.7.2	1.7.2	Facilities are appropriate for the activities of customers and visitors.	Revise	Facilities are appropriate for visitor activities.	The revision simplifies the wording by removing "customers", focusing the indicator on visitor activities while retaining the original meaning.		✓	
1.7.3	1.7.3	Communication with customers and visitors is accurate and reliable, and promotes responsible visits and interactions.	No change	Communication with visitors is accurate and reliable, and promotes responsible visits and interactions.	No change		✓	
2	2	Principle 2: People's well-being and human rights are respected.	No change	Principle 2: People's well-being and human rights are respected.		✓	✓	✓
2.1	2.1	Human rights are respected. Human rights are respected in all aspects of operations and activities.	Revise	Human rights are respected and protected. All operations uphold and protect internationally recognised human rights. This includes the rights to life, liberty, security, equality, freedom of expression and association, and protection from discrimination, forced labour, and exploitation. The organisation takes	Expanded to include protection in addition to respect, specify internationally recognised rights, outline proactive measures for prevention and remediation, and highlight focus on vulnerable and marginalised groups.	✓	✓	✓

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
				proactive steps to identify, prevent, and remedy any actual or potential human rights violations throughout its operations and supply chains. Special attention is given to the rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups, including Indigenous Peoples, women, migrant workers, and children.				
2.1.1	2.1.1	Human rights protected under international law, as enshrined in national law, are respected.	Revise	Legal requirements related to human rights protected under international law are complied with.	Wording aligned with legal compliance framework by specifying adherence to legal requirements, rather than general respect.	✓	✓	✓
2.1.2	2.1.2	Human rights are respected as required by international law.	Revise	Human rights, as defined in international human rights instruments, are respected.	Wording clarified by referencing international human rights instruments to specify the source and scope of rights.		✓	✓
	2.1.3		New	All forms of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment are prohibited, prevented, and not tolerated in line with international human rights instruments.	This indicator reinforces the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, in line with international human rights standards.		✓	✓
2.1.3	2.1.4	Harvesting or trading in products does not contribute to violations of international human rights or armed conflicts.	Revise	The organisation does not cause, contribute to, or benefit from human rights abuses in situations of armed conflict.	Language updated.		✓	✓
2.1.4	1.2.5	Significant past human rights violations caused by the organisation are remediated as indicated in Annex A.	Revise	Where the organisation has caused or contributed to human rights violations or harm, it provides for or cooperates in remediation, consistent with Annex 1. Note: Expectations for remediation should be proportionate to the size and impact of the organisation, and the harm inflicted.	Wording broadened to cover any human rights violations and harm, not only significant past cases, emphasising timely remediation.		✓	
2.4	2.2	Workers' rights are respected.	Revise	Workers' rights are respected.	Wording revised to focus on employment conditions that	✓	✓	✓

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
		The rights of all workers are respected, including the International Labour Organization's (ILO) ten Fundamental Conventions.		Workers are employed under conditions that respect dignity and safety.	ensure dignity and safety, rather than explicitly referencing ILO Fundamental Conventions.			
2.4.1	2.2.1	Legal requirements related to freedom of association, the right to organise, and the right to collective bargaining are respected.	Revise	Legal requirements related to freedom of association, the right to organise, and collective bargaining are complied with.	Wording adjusted from "respected" to "complied with" to align with legal compliance terminology.	✓	✓	✓
2.4.2	2.2.2	ILO Convention requirements related to freedom of association, the right to organise, and the right to collective bargaining are respected.	Revise	Workers are free to form and join organisations of their choice, to organise collectively, and to negotiate with the organisation without interference, intimidation, or retaliation.	The revision translates the ILO Convention requirements into plain language, specifying workers' rights to organise, bargain collectively, and act without interference or retaliation.		✓	✓
2.4.3	2.2.3	Legal requirements related to working hours, overtime, rest time and time off are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements related to working hours, overtime, rest time, and time off are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	✓
2.4.4	2.2.4	ILO Convention requirements related to working hours, overtime, rest time, and time off are complied with.	Revise	Normal working time does not exceed 48 hours per week. Extra hours are voluntary, fairly paid at a premium rate, and refusal is never penalised. Workers have at least one full day of rest each week and receive all legally required paid leave.	The revision specifies maximum weekly hours, conditions for overtime, rest periods, and paid leave, translating the ILO Convention requirements into clear, actionable provisions.		✓	✓
2.4.5		Overtime is voluntary and does not result in a workweek exceeding 60 total hours, except in circumstances of shorter duration where additional labour is required.	Delete		Merged into 2.2.4.		✓	
2.4.6	2.2.5	Workers are treated with respect and are never subjected to abuse, harassment (including sexual), or verbal, physical, or psychological mistreatment.	No change	Workers are treated with respect and are never subjected to abuse, harassment (including sexual), or verbal, physical, or psychological mistreatment.	No change		✓	✓

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
2.4.7	2.2.6	Workers' privacy rights are respected, including — though not limited to — situations where an employer gathers private information or implements employee-monitoring practices.	No change	Workers' privacy rights are respected, including — though not limited to — situations where an employer gathers private information or implements employee-monitoring practices.	No change		✓	
2.4.8	2.2.7	Legal requirements related to the recruitment and employment of workers are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements related to the recruitment and employment of workers are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
2.4.9	2.2.8	Employment conditions of workers — including wages, bonuses, work hours, overtime, vacation, and other benefits — are documented and made available to workers before employment.	No change	Employment conditions of workers — including wages, bonuses, work hours, overtime, vacation, and other benefits — are documented and made available to workers before employment.	No change		✓	
2.4.10	2.2.9	Responsibilities towards workers are not avoided by hiring de facto permanent, long-term, full-time workers under seasonal or temporary contracts.	No change	Responsibilities towards workers are not avoided by hiring de facto permanent, long-term, full-time workers under seasonal or temporary contracts.	No change		✓	
2.4.11	2.2.10	Where migrant workers are employed, the following conditions are ensured: (a) Employment complies with all applicable legal requirements. (b) Migrant workers are legally authorised to enter, reside, and engage in remunerated work in the area/country. (c) Migrant workers and their families are free to travel and leave the area/country without restriction, except as defined by law.	Revise	Where migrant workers are employed, the following conditions are ensured: (a) Employment complies with all legal requirements. (b) Migrant workers hold valid work and residence permits. (c) Workers and their families are free to travel and leave the area or country, except where restricted by law.	The revision simplifies wording, clarifies that valid permits are required, and streamlines phrasing on travel freedoms while retaining the original meaning.		✓	
2.4.12	2.2.11	Migrant workers are ensured equal opportunities and treatment no less favourable than that of local workers.	Revise	Migrant workers receive equal opportunities and treatment as local workers, and are protected at all stages of recruitment and employment from discrimination, coercion, deception, retention of personal documents, and recruitment fees that could result in debt bondage.	The revision expands the scope to include protection throughout recruitment and employment, specifying key risks such as discrimination, coercion, document retention, and exploitative fees, while		✓	✓

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
					maintaining the principle of equal treatment.			
2.2	2.3	Child labour is not present, and employment of young workers is responsibly managed. Child labour is eliminated, and children are protected. Where young workers are employed, their employment follows best practices.	Revise	Child labour is prevented, and young workers are protected. Child labour is prevented, and the worst forms are eliminated. Children and young workers are protected from work that harms their health, safety, education, or development. Where young workers are legally employed, only safe, age-appropriate work is permitted, in compliance with applicable laws.	The revision strengthens the language from “not present” to “prevented,” emphasises elimination of the worst forms of child labour, and provides detailed protections for children and young workers, including health, safety, education, and legal compliance.	✓	✓	✓
2.2.1	2.3.1	Legal requirements related to child labour and the employment of young workers are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements related to child labour and the employment of young workers are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
	2.3.2		New	Children and young workers are not employed in dangerous work, their schooling is not disrupted, and they are always properly supervised.	This has been aligned with specific international standards and clarified for greater precision.		✓	
2.2.2	2.3.3	Children under the age of 15 (or under the age for completion of compulsory education, whichever is higher) are not employed, except within the framework of “Family Farm” work or where permitted by national legislation.	Revise	Children under 15, or under the age of completing compulsory education (whichever is higher), are not employed. Light work for children aged 12–14 is permitted only where allowed by law, and must be non-hazardous, voluntary, supervised, carried out outside school hours, and must not interfere with health or education.	The revision clarifies age limits, adds provisions for light work, and specifies conditions to ensure it is safe, voluntary, supervised, and does not interfere with health or education, aligning with legal requirements.		✓	✓
2.2.3	2.3.4	Where young workers are employed, the following are ensured: (a) Young workers only work outside compulsory school hours. (b) Young workers do not work more than eight hours a day.	Revise	Young workers (above the minimum age and under 18) are employed only in non-hazardous, age-appropriate tasks. Their work is supervised, not performed at night, limited to a maximum of eight hours per day, and scheduled outside compulsory school hours.	The revision consolidates and clarifies the conditions for young workers, emphasising non-hazardous, age-appropriate tasks, supervision, and compliance with school		✓	✓

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
		(c) Young workers are not unsupervised during night hours.			hours, night work restrictions, and daily hour limits.			
2.3	2.4	Modern slavery, forced or compulsory labour do not occur. Forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking do not occur, and no dependence is created nor restrictions imposed on workers' freedom to choose their employer.	Revise	Modern slavery, forced or compulsory labour, and human trafficking are not used, supported, or tolerated. Workers' freedom to choose and leave their employment is fully respected and protected.	Wording expanded to include prohibition of support or tolerance of abuses and to explicitly protect workers' freedom to choose and leave employment.	✓	✓	✓
2.3.1	2.4.1	Legal requirements related to forced labour and modern slavery are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements related to forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking are complied with.	Scope expanded to explicitly include human trafficking in addition to forced labour and modern slavery.	✓	✓	✓
2.3.2	2.4.2	Modern slavery, forced or compulsory labour are not used, promoted, or supported in any way.	Revise	Forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking are prohibited and prevented. All work is freely chosen. Workers may leave their jobs with notice and are not held in debt bondage. Any cases are stopped and remedied immediately.	The revision expands the scope to explicitly include human trafficking, clarifies that all work must be freely chosen, specifies protections against document retention and debt, and emphasises immediate remediation of any violations.		✓	✓
2.3.3	2.4.3	Withholding of salary, benefits, documents, or property is not used to restrict workers' freedom.	Revise	Workers retain full control of their wages, benefits, identity documents, and personal belongings. Any form of withholding, unreasonable restriction, or exploitative debt (including debt bondage or recruitment fee deductions) is strictly prohibited.	The revision clarifies the types of assets and benefits protected, explicitly prohibits exploitative practices such as debt bondage and recruitment fees, and strengthens language on workers' control and freedom.		✓	
2.3.4	2.4.4	Workers have the right to leave the workplace after completing their workday.	Revise	Workers have the right to: (a) Leave the workplace immediately after their paid workday. (b) Move freely within and outside company-controlled premises during rest periods; and	Wording expanded to specify not only leaving after work but also freedom of movement during rest periods and unrestricted use of personal		✓	

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
				(c) Use personal communication (e.g., phones, internet) without surveillance, confiscation, or unreasonable restriction.	communication, enhancing worker rights and autonomy.			
2.3.5	2.4.5	Workers are free to terminate their employment, provided they give their employer reasonable notice.	Revise	Workers have the right to terminate their employment voluntarily, in accordance with legal requirements, without penalty or intimidation.	Wording revised to emphasize voluntary termination, legal compliance, and protection from penalty or intimidation.		✓	
	2.4.6		New	Workers do not pay recruitment fees or costs.	Eliminate worker-paid recruitment fees by ensuring transparency and implementing a time-bound plan to comply with international standards (ILO Conventions 29, 105, 181; UNGPs; OECD; CSDDD) and mitigate debt-bondage risks.		✓	
2.5	2.5	Discrimination does not occur. There is no discrimination in employment or occupation.	Revise	Discrimination does not occur. All workers are treated equally and without discrimination, regardless of gender, ethnicity, nationality, religion, social status, or other protected characteristics.	Wording expanded to specify protected characteristics and reinforce equal treatment for all workers.	✓	✓	✓
2.5.1	2.5.1	Legal requirements related to non-discrimination are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements related to non-discrimination are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
2.5.2	2.5.2	There is no discrimination in hiring, remuneration, access to training, promotion, termination, or retirement.	Revise	All workers receive fair and equal treatment in all aspects of employment, including recruitment, remuneration, training, promotion, termination, and retirement.	Wording expanded to specify gender and ethnic equality, cover all employment aspects, and align with international human rights standards.		✓	✓
	2.5.3		New	Workers are protected from harassment or exclusion and can raise concerns without fear of retaliation.	Address gaps in protection against harassment, discrimination, and retaliation by requiring safe, accessible grievance mechanisms and non-retaliation safeguards —		✓	

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					moving from policy to demonstrable practice and aligning with ILO Conventions C190/C111, CEDAW, and UNGPs/OECD.			
2.6	2.6	Workers are remunerated in a responsible manner. All workers — permanent, contract, seasonal, and migrant — are paid in line with or above legal requirements, with due respect for their right to a decent standard of living.	Revise	Workers are remunerated responsibly. All workers — including permanent, contract, seasonal, and migrant — are paid in accordance with national laws. Where minimum wages fall short of providing a decent standard of living, progressive steps are taken to ensure alignment with international standards on living wages.	Wording expanded to clarify compliance with legal requirements and introduce progressive steps toward a living wage where minimum wages are insufficient.	✓	✓	
2.6.1	2.6.1	Legal requirements concerning workers' wages and related payments, such as social insurance, are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements related to workers' wages and entitlements, including social insurance, are fully complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
2.6.2	2.6.2	The remuneration received for a standard workweek by a worker in a given location is sufficient to afford a decent standard of living for the worker and their family.	Revise	Workers' wages meet or exceed recognised industry benchmarks, where available.	Wording simplified for clarity while maintaining the focus on remuneration according to industry benchmarks..		✓	
2.6.3	2.6.3	Workers' wages meet or exceed minimum industry standards or other recognised wage benchmarks.	Revise	Workers are paid for a standard work week at a level that enables a decent standard of living for themselves and their families, as part of a continuous improvement approach towards achieving living-wage goals.	Wording revised to introduce continuous improvement toward living wages.		✓	
2.6.4	2.6.4	Payment is made directly to all workers to ensure they receive and retain their wages safely.	No change	Payment is made directly to all workers to ensure they receive and retain their wages safely.	No change		✓	
2.6.5	2.6.5	Where an employer provides services for which workers pay, such as medical services, schooling, meals, and other amenities, these are valued fairly and do not exceed local market prices.	Revise	Where employers charge workers for goods or services (e.g. food, transportation, medical care), the costs are fair, reasonable, and do not exceed local market rates.	Wording revised to clarify examples, emphasize fairness and reasonableness of costs, and ensure they do not exceed local market rates.		✓	

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2.6.6	2.6.6	Workers' wages and benefits are received as contractually agreed for each pay period.	Revise	Workers are informed, in a language they understand, of their wages, benefits, deductions, and payment schedule before employment and at each pay period, and receive the agreed wages and benefits on time and in full.	Wording expanded to include clear communication in the worker's language, transparency on deductions and payment schedule, and assurance of timely, full payment.		✓	
2.7	2.7	Facilities, operations and activities are safe. Facilities and activities are safe and healthy, and workers have access to and use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment commensurate with the activities undertaken.	Revise	Facilities, operations and activities are safe and healthy. Workers have access to and use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and proactive measures are taken to identify and reduce health and safety risks through training, participation and continuous improvement.	Wording expanded to emphasise proactive health and safety measures, training, worker participation, continuous improvement, and use of appropriate PPE.	✓	✓	✓
2.7.1	2.7.1	Legal requirements related to workplace health and safety are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements related to workplace health and safety are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
2.7.2	2.7.2	Equipment, vehicles, machinery and utilities are safe and in good working order, and relevant safety features are complete and functioning.	No change	Equipment, vehicles, machinery and utilities are safe and in good working order, and relevant safety features are complete and functioning.	No change		✓	✓
2.7.3	2.7.3	Indoor workplaces are hygienic, with adequate lighting, temperature, ventilation, sanitation, drinking water, sanitary facilities, as well as break facilities and food storage.	No change	Indoor workplaces are hygienic, with adequate lighting, temperature, ventilation, sanitation, drinking water, sanitary facilities, as well as break facilities and food storage.	No change		✓	
2.7.4	2.7.4	Workers are competent in relevant health and safety issues, including handling chemicals and machinery, and receive appropriate health and safety training.	Revise	Workers are competent in relevant health and safety issues, including handling chemicals and machinery, and receive appropriate training.	Wording slightly simplified by removing repetition of "health and safety" while retaining the focus on competence and appropriate training.		✓	
2.7.5	2.7.5	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and tools are available to and used by workers,	No change	Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and tools are available to and used by workers,	No change		✓	✓

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		are in good condition, and are appropriate for the specific activity.		are in good condition, and are appropriate for the specific activity.				
2.7.6	2.7.6	Workers handling chemicals have access to appropriate facilities for cleaning and washing.	Revise	Workers handling hazardous substances have access to appropriate cleaning and washing facilities.	Wording revised to use “hazardous substances” for broader coverage and maintain clarity on access to cleaning and washing facilities.		✓	
2.7.7	2.7.7	Expectant and nursing mothers are not engaged in activities that expose them to health and safety risks.	Revise	Expectant and nursing mothers are not engaged in activities that expose them to health and safety risks, and have access to pre- and post-natal medical care.	Revised to include requirements aligned with ILO Convention 183.		✓	
2.7.8	2.7.8	Emergency exits, fire detection, emergency alarms, and fire suppression equipment are in place, visible, and in working order, and workers are competent to handle equipment and react to emergencies.	No change	Emergency exits, fire detection, emergency alarms, and fire suppression equipment are in place, visible, and in working order, and workers are competent to handle equipment and react to emergencies.	No change		✓	✓
2.7.9	2.7.9	Workers have access to appropriate first-aid equipment and medical services in case of emergencies.	No change	Workers have access to appropriate first-aid equipment and medical services in case of emergencies.	No change		✓	✓
2.8	2.8	Employer-provided accommodation is safe and hygienic. Where accommodation is provided by the employer to workers, it is in a safe and hygienic condition and is offered free of charge or for a fee commensurate with pay.	Revise	Employer-provided accommodation is safe, hygienic, and does not undermine workers’ rights. Accommodation is safe and hygienic, does not restrict freedom of movement, and any fees are fair, non-exploitative, and proportionate to wages and local conditions.	Wording expanded to include protection of workers’ rights, freedom of movement, and fairness of fees relative to wages and local conditions.	✓	✓	✓
2.8.1	2.8.1	Legal requirements for employer-provided worker accommodation are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements for employer-provided worker accommodation are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
2.8.2	2.8.2	Accommodation is offered to workers if no affordable or safe accommodation is otherwise available, especially in remote locations where commuting is not a viable option or where workers are expected to	Revise	When no safe or affordable housing alternatives are available, particularly in remote locations, the employer provides accommodation to workers.	Wording simplified for clarity while retaining focus on provision of accommodation where safe or affordable alternatives are unavailable.		✓	

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		stay on the premises for an extended period.						
2.8.3	2.8.3	If workers pay for employer-provided accommodation, the cost is proportional to their pay and comparable to similar accommodation in the area or industry.	No change	If workers pay for employer-provided accommodation, the cost is proportional to their pay and comparable to similar accommodation in the area or industry.	No change		✓	
2.8.4	2.8.4	Employer-provided accommodation is safe and hygienic.	Revise	Employer-provided accommodation is safe, hygienic and provides adequate space, privacy and basic facilities.	Wording expanded to include requirements for adequate space, privacy, and basic facilities, enhancing standards for accommodation quality.		✓	✓
2.8.5	2.8.5	Where workers and their families live in employer-provided accommodation, the employer ensures access to medical, educational and social services.	No change	Where workers and their families live in employer-provided accommodation, the employer ensures access to medical, educational and social services.	No change		✓	
2.9	2.9	Gender equality is maintained and protected. Gender equality is protected according to legal requirements and best practices, including equal remuneration for work of equal value and adequate maternity leave.	Revise	Gender equality is maintained and protected. Gender equality is respected and promoted. Women and men have equal rights, pay, and opportunities, and are protected from discrimination and harassment. Where barriers exist, the organisation takes fair action to reduce them.	Wording expanded to emphasise legal compliance, protection from discrimination and harassment, and proactive measures to address structural inequalities and promote equal pay, participation, and opportunity.	✓	✓	
2.9.1	2.9.1	Legal requirements related to gender equality in the workplace are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements related to gender equality, non-discrimination, and protection from harassment in the workplace are complied with.	Scope expanded to explicitly include non-discrimination and protection from harassment in addition to gender equality.	✓	✓	
2.9.2	2.9.2	Job opportunities are available to everyone, irrespective of gender, on the same conditions.	No change	Job opportunities are available to everyone, irrespective of gender, on the same conditions.	No change		✓	
2.9.3	2.9.3	Irrespective of gender, equal remuneration is provided for work of equal value.	No change	Irrespective of gender, equal remuneration is provided for work of equal value.	No change		✓	

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2.9.4	2.9.4	Legal requirements related to maternity and paternity leave are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements related to maternity, paternity and parental leave are complied with.	The revision explicitly includes parental leave alongside maternity and paternity leave, ensuring broader compliance with family-related legal requirements.	✓	✓	
2.9.5	2.9.5	Pregnant women who are permanent workers shall have at least four weeks of maternity leave, with pay or access to similar income.	Revise	Legal requirements regarding maternity leave are complied with, and where eligibility thresholds apply (e.g., minimum employment duration or contract type), they are clearly communicated and consistently enforced.	The revision broadens the focus from a fixed leave period to full compliance with legal maternity leave requirements, emphasising clear communication of eligibility and consistent enforcement.		✓	
	2.9.6		New	Where legal requirements provide less, the organisation shall progressively ensure at least 14 weeks of paid maternity leave.	Address gaps where national legislation falls short by requiring progressive alignment with ILO C183 and related human-rights standards — ensuring a minimum of 14 weeks' paid leave, health protection, and medical access — to reduce maternal and child health risks, prevent discrimination, and establish a high compliance benchmark across countries.		✓	
2.10	2.10	The rights of Indigenous Peoples are known and respected. The rights of Indigenous Peoples are known and respected, and interaction with them is conducted in a respectful and culturally appropriate manner.	Revise	The rights of Indigenous Peoples and tribal peoples are respected. The lands, territories, rights, and cultural heritage of these groups are acknowledged and respected through culturally appropriate engagement.	Wording expanded to include tribal peoples, align recognition with self-identification under human rights instruments, and explicitly acknowledge lands, territories, rights, and cultural heritage through culturally appropriate engagement.	✓	✓	✓

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2.10.1	2.10.1	Indigenous Peoples potentially affected by the organisation's activities are identified.	Revise	The organisation identifies Indigenous Peoples and tribal peoples who might be affected by its activities, even if they are not recognised under national law.	Wording expanded to include tribal peoples, recognise self-identification under human rights instruments, and cover cases where national law does not grant recognition.		✓	
2.10.3	2.10.2	Legal requirements related to the rights of Indigenous Peoples are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements that recognise and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and tribal peoples are complied with.	Scope expanded to include tribal peoples in addition to Indigenous Peoples.	✓	✓	
2.10.4	2.10.3	Legal requirements related to the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), including those set out in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, are followed.	Revise	Prior, informed and culturally appropriate consultation, or FPIC where applicable, is carried out in good faith with Indigenous Peoples and tribal peoples, in accordance with legal requirements.	Wording revised to emphasise good-faith, culturally appropriate consultation with Indigenous and tribal peoples, applying FPIC where relevant and in line with legal requirements.	✓	✓	
2.10.2	2.10.4	The rights of Indigenous Peoples are respected and upheld, following the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).	Revise	Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is obtained before any activity that may affect Indigenous Peoples' rights, lands, territories, resources, or cultural heritage. The process is documented, inclusive, and led through Indigenous decision-making structures.	Wording expanded to specify when FPIC is required, emphasise documentation and inclusivity, and highlight leadership through Indigenous decision-making structures.		✓	✓
	2.10.5		New	Agreements reached through FPIC processes, including benefit-sharing arrangements, are documented, implemented in good faith, and monitored with the participation of Indigenous Peoples.	This addition addresses the enforcement gap by requiring FPIC agreements — including benefit-sharing — to be documented, implemented in good faith, and jointly monitored with Indigenous Peoples, and aligning with UNDRIP, ILO 169, and CBD Article 8(j).		✓	

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2.10.5	2.10.6	The impacts of activities on Indigenous Peoples are identified, and adverse effects are avoided.	Revise	The actual or potential impacts on the rights, lands, territories, or resources of Indigenous Peoples are identified in collaboration with them, and effective measures are implemented to avoid or mitigate adverse effects.	Wording expanded to include actual or potential impacts, cover Indigenous Peoples not recognised under national law, emphasise collaboration, and require measures to avoid or mitigate adverse effects.		✓	
2.10.6	2.10.7	Interaction with Indigenous Peoples is conducted in a respectful and culturally appropriate manner.	Revise	Engagement with Indigenous Peoples is respectful, inclusive, and culturally appropriate, and reflects their preferred forms of communication, decision-making, and representation.	Wording expanded to include self-identified groups not recognised under national law, emphasise inclusivity, and respect preferred forms of communication, decision-making, and representation.		✓	
2.11	2.11	Community rights are respected and protected. The provision in Indicator 1.1 regarding the use of FPIC as part of management ensures that this point is duly considered.	Revise	Community rights are respected and protected. Local communities are engaged respectfully, their legitimate rights are upheld, and their well-being is supported through agreed benefits resulting from meaningful dialogue.	Wording expanded to emphasise respectful engagement, upholding legitimate rights, and supporting community well-being through agreed benefits from meaningful dialogue.	✓	✓	✓
2.11.1	2.11.1	Communities potentially affected by the operations are identified.	Revise	Communities affected by the operations are known.	Wording revised to focus on actual affected communities rather than potential, improving clarity and applicability.		✓	
2.11.2	2.11.2	Legally recognised customary and community rights are identified and respected.	Revise	Legally recognised customary rights of local communities are identified and respected.	Wording slightly simplified by specifying “local communities” while retaining focus on legally recognised customary rights.	✓	✓	✓
2.11.3	2.11.3	Reasonable opportunities for employment, training and other services are available to communities.	Revise	Equitable opportunities are provided for local communities to benefit from the organisation, including access to employment, training and development support.	Wording expanded to emphasise equity and broader benefits, including training and development support for local communities.		✓	

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2.11.4	2.11.4	Sites and resources within the area of operation fundamental for satisfying the basic needs of communities are identified and protected.	Revise	Resources and areas essential for the basic needs or livelihoods of local communities are identified through meaningful consultation and protected from degradation, loss of access or displacement. Where adverse impacts occur, appropriate mitigation or remedy is provided.	Wording expanded to emphasise identification through meaningful consultation, protection from degradation or displacement, and provision of mitigation or remedy where adverse impacts occur.		✓	
2.11.5		Sites, resources and habitats of cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of communities affected by operations, are identified and protected as appropriate.	Merge		Merged with the new indicator 2.12.2.		✓	
2.12	2.12	Culture is respected and valued. Properties, sites and/or traditions of historical, archaeological, cultural and/or spiritual significance are protected, valued and enhanced, always respecting the intellectual property rights of local and Indigenous communities.	Revise	Cultural heritage is respected and protected from harm or loss. For Indigenous Peoples and local communities, cultural knowledge, traditions and intellectual property are safeguarded through culturally appropriate engagement, with their rights respected in accordance with international standards.	Wording revised to emphasise protection from harm or loss, safeguard cultural knowledge and intellectual property, and ensure culturally appropriate engagement in line with international standards.		✓	
2.12.1	2.12.1	Cultures are respected and valued, and negative impacts on local culture are minimised.	Revised	Cultures are respected and valued, and negative impacts on local culture are minimised, while ensuring that cultural practices do not infringe on human rights and are considerate of environmental values.	The revision strengthens the indicator by ensuring that respect for cultural practices is balanced with the protection of human rights and environmental values. This addition promotes ethical and sustainable implementation, preventing potential conflicts between cultural traditions and broader social or ecological responsibilities.		✓	I

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2.12.2	2.12.2	Local practices, properties, sites, and traditions of historical, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, and land management significance are identified and protected.	Revise	Cultural and spiritual heritage including, local practices, properties, sites, and traditions of historical, archaeological, cultural, and spiritual significance are identified and protected.	Wording revised to focus on cultural and spiritual heritage identified by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and ensure protection in line with national laws and international standards.		✓	
2.12.3	2.12.3	Historical and archaeological artefacts are not sold, traded, or displayed, except as permitted under local and international law.	Revise	Historical and archaeological artefacts are not sold, traded, or displayed, except in accordance with applicable laws.	Wording simplified to refer generally to applicable laws while retaining the prohibition on unauthorised sale, trade, or display of artefacts.		✓	
	2.12.4		New	Traditional knowledge, cultural expressions, and intellectual property of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are not used without their consent and equitable benefit-sharing.	Address a gap by safeguarding Indigenous and local communities' traditional knowledge and cultural intellectual property from misappropriation — requiring FPIC and equitable benefit-sharing in line with UNDRIP, CBD Article 8(j)/Nagoya, ILO 169, and WIPO guidance.		✓	
3	3	Principle 3: Nature and the environment are protected.		Principle 3: Nature and the environment are protected.		✓	✓	
3.1	3.1	Forests and other ecosystems are not converted. Activities do not contribute to deforestation or the conversion of forests or other natural ecosystems.	Revise	There is no deforestation or conversion of Other Natural Ecosystems. Activities do not contribute to deforestation or the conversion of Forests or Other Natural Ecosystems.	Wording expanded to explicitly prohibit conversion of Other Natural Ecosystems in addition to forests, while maintaining the focus on preventing contribution through activities.	✓	✓	✓
3.1.1	3.1.1	Forests are not converted to Agriculture after 31 December 2020.	Revise	After 31 December 2020, Primary Forest, Naturally Regenerating Forest, Planted Forest or Plantation Forest, has not been converted to Agricultural Land.	Wording clarified to specify types of forests covered — Primary, Naturally Regenerating, Planted, or	✓	✓	

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					Plantation — and their protection from conversion to agricultural land after 31 December 2020, aligning with the EUDR "no deforestation" definitions".			
3.1.2		Primary Forest is not degraded or converted to Plantation Forest, Other Planted Forest or Other Wooded Land after 31 December 2020.	Delete		This indicator has been deleted, as the issue is addressed under Criterion 3.2, aligning with the objective of avoiding degradation of forests or other natural ecosystems.			
3.1.3		Naturally Regenerating Forest is not degraded or converted to Plantation Forest or Other Wooded Land after 31 December 2020.	Delete		This indicator has been deleted, as the issue is addressed under Criterion 3.2, aligning with the objective of avoiding degradation of forests or other natural ecosystems.			
3.1.4		Natural Forest is not degraded or converted to other forest types or Other Land, and Primary Forest is not converted to Other Natural Ecosystems after 31 December 2020.	Delete		This indicator has been deleted, as the issue is addressed under Criterion 3.2, aligning with the objective of avoiding degradation of forests or other natural ecosystems.		✓	
3.1.5		Other Wooded Land and Other Natural Ecosystems are not converted to Plantation Forest, Other Land, or Agriculture after 31 December 2020.	Delete		This indicator has been deleted, as the issue is addressed under Criterion 3.2, aligning with the objective of avoiding degradation of forests or other natural ecosystems.		✓	
3.1.6	3.1.2	Other Natural Ecosystems are not converted to Other Planted Forest or Other Wooded Land after 31 December 2020.	Revise	Natural Forests and Other Natural Ecosystems have not been cleared or converted to agriculture, infrastructure, or other intensive land uses in the past 10 years, except in the following limited cases:	Wording revised to broaden the scope, covering Natural Forest and Other Natural Ecosystems and prohibiting clearance or conversion to agriculture, infrastructure, or other		✓	

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				<p>(a) Clearing is required by law or is strictly essential for safe, lawful operations (e.g, small buildings, access tracks, firebreaks).</p> <p>(b) The footprint is minimal relative to the certified area, and no viable alternatives exist.</p>	intensive land uses over the past 10 years.			
3.1.7	3.1.3	Where conversion of Natural Forests or other Natural Ecosystems has occurred within the last 10 years, restoration activities are implemented to compensate for past ecosystem loss in line with the Preferred by Nature Ecosystem Restoration Standard.	Revise	If Natural Forest or Other Natural Ecosystems were converted, or otherwise destroyed, in the last 10 years, the Organisation shall restore an equivalent or better ecological value, preferably on-site, in alignment with the Preferred by Nature Ecosystem restoration Standard. If on-site restoration is not possible, the restoration can be off-site in the same landscape or ecoregion.	Wording revised to specify restoration of equivalent or better ecological value, prioritise on-site restoration, and allow off-site restoration within the same landscape or ecoregion if necessary.		✓	
4.1.3	3.1.4	If there is a risk that sourcing activities may cause significant indirect land use change through conversion or destruction of forests or natural ecosystems elsewhere, steps are taken to mitigate this risk.	No change	If there is a risk that sourcing activities may cause significant indirect land use change through conversion or destruction of forests or natural ecosystems elsewhere, steps are taken to mitigate this risk.	No change, but moved from 4.1.3, as the indicator is focused on deforestation.		N/A	✓
4.1.2	3.1.5	Animal feed shall be from sources that do not contribute to deforestation.	No change	Animal feed shall come from sources that do not contribute to deforestation.	Moved from 4.1.2, as this indicator directly relates to deforestation.	✓	✓	✓
3.2	3.2	<p>Natural Forests and Other Ecosystems are not degraded.</p> <p>Activities are conducted to avoid degradation and ensure the long-term productivity of the resource.</p>	Revise	<p>Natural Forests and Other Natural Ecosystems are not degraded.</p> <p>Management, harvesting and any other resource use in or adjacent to Forests and Other Natural Ecosystems must be carried out in a way that maintains the land's health and productivity into the future.</p>	Wording expanded to specify management, harvesting, and other resource use, emphasising maintenance of ecosystem health and long-term productivity.	✓	✓	
3.2.1		Legal requirements relating to activities in non-forest areas, including Other Natural Ecosystems, are complied with.	Delete		Already addressed under indicator 1.2.2.		✓	

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	3.2.1		New	After 31 December 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary Forest has not been converted to Planted Forest. Primary Forest and Naturally Regenerating Forest have not been converted to Plantation Forest or Other Wooded Land. 	New indicator introduced to address specific issues related to the EUDR definition of “degradation.”	✓	✓	
3.2.2	3.2.2	The use of natural resources ensures the long-term productivity and yield of those resources.	Revise	The rates of extraction from Natural Forests and Other Natural Ecosystems do not exceed the natural regeneration capacity and ensure the long-term yield and health of the resource.	Wording revised to emphasise that extraction rates from Natural Forests and Other Natural ecosystems, does not exceeding natural regeneration capacity, ensuring both long-term yield and ecosystem health.		✓	
	3.2.3		New	Other Natural Ecosystems under management are not degraded and retain their native vegetation structure, soil organic integrity, natural hydrology and key functional species.	Including a “no-degradation” indicator for other natural ecosystems addresses the gap left by forest-only legislation such as the EUDR and protects high-carbon, biodiversity-rich landscapes from soil, hydrological, and vegetation decline. It future-proofs the Framework by aligning with emerging global norms that require the safeguarding of all natural ecosystems, not just forests.		✓	
3.2.3	3.2.4	If clear-cuts are used for forest management, their size is minimised to be ecologically appropriate for the forest ecosystem, type, and biome.	Revise	Where clear-cutting is legal, the block size, shape, and rotation follow ecological limits for the forest type and landscape connectivity.	Wording revised to emphasise legal compliance, ecological limits for block size, shape, and rotation, and maintenance of landscape connectivity.		✓	

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3.2.4	3.2.5	Fire risk is controlled, and fire is only used for land preparation where environmental and social benefits are demonstrated.	No change	Fire risk is controlled, and fire is only used for land preparation where environmental and social benefits are demonstrated.	No change		✓	
3.3	3.3	Ecosystems and biodiversity values are identified and protected. Ecosystem and biodiversity values are identified, maintained and enhanced, subject to the precautionary approach, in alignment with the HCV Network's guidance.	Revise	Ecosystem functions, biodiversity values and habitats are identified, protected and restored where feasible. Ecosystem and biodiversity values are identified, maintained and enhanced, subject to the precautionary approach, in alignment with legal requirements. Note: The HCV Network's approach can be used to meet this criterion.	Wording expanded to include ecosystem functions and habitats, emphasise restoration where relevant, and ensure alignment with both legal requirements and HCV Network guidance.	✓	✓	
3.3.2	3.3.1	Ecosystem and biodiversity values within the production area are known and maintained or enhanced.	Revise	Legal requirements regarding protected areas and sites, protected and endangered species, and restoration are complied with.	Wording revised to include ecosystem functions and habitats, and to clarify the scope as the certified area rather than the broader production area.	✓	✓	
3.3.1	3.3.2	Legal requirements related to biodiversity conservation and restoration, protected sites and the protection of endangered or protected species are complied with.	No change	Key natural features, habitats, and species within the certified area are known, including: (a) Water bodies and riparian zones (b) Erosion-prone soils and slopes (c) Areas of natural vegetation (d) Important habitats (including breeding, roosting, and denning sites), and (e) Occurrences of rare, threatened, or legally protected species.	No change		✓	
3.3.3	3.3.3	Forests and other natural ecosystems are managed in a way that maintains or enhances the functions and services provided by ecosystems, including related biodiversity and structural complexity.	Revise	Management and operations protect, maintain, and — where possible — enhance natural features, habitats and species, wildlife, and ecosystem functions.	The revision clarifies that management and operations actively maintain or enhance ecosystem functions, emphasises safeguarding biodiversity, habitats, and natural vegetation, and situates		✓	

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					these requirements within the certified area.			
3.3.4	3.3.4	Rare, endangered, or protected animal and plant species are identified, and their populations are protected, maintained, or enhanced.	No change	Rare, endangered, or legally protected animal and plant species are protected, maintained, or enhanced.	No change		✓	
	3.3.5		New	Management and operations adjacent to Natural Forests and Other Natural Ecosystems are conducted in a way that avoids negative impacts on them.	This indicator addresses the often-overlooked “edge effects” from farms, pastures, and roads that can degrade neighbouring forests, wetlands, or savannahs through runoff, chemical drift, or invasive species. By requiring proactive planning for adjacent land uses, the Framework becomes fully applicable to agricultural landscapes and protects the long-term productivity and ecological functions of nearby natural ecosystems.		✓	
3.3.5	3.3.6	The introduction of invasive species is avoided, and invasive species already present are controlled as far as possible.	No change	The introduction of invasive species is avoided, and invasive species already present are controlled as far as possible.	No change		✓	
3.4	3.4	Chemicals are used responsibly with minimal negative impacts. The use of chemicals is minimised, and any application ensures the protection of human health and minimises environmental impacts.	Revise	Chemicals are used responsibly, with minimal negative impacts on the environment and people. Prohibited pesticides are not used. Pesticide use is minimised, and any application ensures the protection of human health and minimises environmental impacts.	Wording expanded to explicitly prohibit certain pesticides while maintaining focus on minimising use and protecting human health and the environment.	✓	✓	
3.4.1	3.4.1	Legal requirements for chemical use and storage are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements for the purchase, storage, handling, application, record-	Wording expanded to specify all stages of chemical and fertiliser management — purchase, storage, handling,	✓	✓	

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				keeping and disposal of chemicals and fertilisers are complied with.	application, record-keeping, and disposal — ensuring comprehensive legal compliance.			
3.4.2	3.4.2	Prohibited chemicals are not used.	Revise	Active ingredients listed on PBN's Prohibited Pesticides List, as outlined in the PBN Pesticides Policy, are neither purchased, stored, nor used.	Wording revised to specify that prohibited active ingredients are not purchased, stored, or used, aligning with PBN's Prohibited Pesticides List.		✓	
	3.4.3		New	Where active ingredients listed on PBN's Exceptional Use Pesticides List are used, the requirements set out in the PBN Pesticides Policy and Annex B of this standard shall be met, in addition to the indicators of Criterion 3.4.	Establishes a controlled exemption pathway with additional conditions (PPE, notification, monitoring) for rare, justified cases — reflecting best-practice pesticide policies in other schemes.		✓	
	3.4.4		New	An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) system is implemented that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritises preventive practices (e.g. crop rotation, habitat management, resistant varieties). • Uses biological and mechanical control methods before chemical ones; and • Ensures that any chemical pesticide use is justified, targeted and minimised. 	Incorporates a hierarchy of controls that prioritises non-chemical options and requires evidence of need, thereby operationalising the “minimise” principle set out in the criterion.		✓	
3.4.3	3.4.5	Where chemicals are used, they are stored and applied to ensure minimal adverse impacts on people, ecosystems and the environment.	Revise	Chemicals are stored and applied safely, in line with the manufacturer's instructions, so that people are not exposed to harm, water and soil are not polluted, and ecosystems are not damaged.	Made more concrete and practical by specifying how chemicals should be handled (safely, following manufacturer's instructions) and clarifying the intended outcomes (protecting people, water, soil, and ecosystems). This reduces ambiguity and supports easier		✓	

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					implementation and verification compared to the broader, less specific wording.			
3.4.4		The use of chemicals is monitored and minimised.	Merge		Monitoring and justification components are now addressed under the IPM requirement in 3.4.4, eliminating redundancy.		✓	
3.4.5	3.4.6	Chemical drift, run-off and spills are effectively avoided and controlled.	Revise	Where pesticides are used, mixing, storage and application prevent drift, run-off, spills and contamination of other products.	Wording revised to specify measures during mixing, storage, and application to prevent drift, run-off, spills, and cross-contamination.		✓	
3.4.6	3.4.7	Chemicals with known risks for pollinators or other non-target species are only used if: (a) Non-chemical methods or less toxic pesticides are not available. (b) Exposure to natural ecosystems is minimised; and (c) Contact of pollinators and other non-target species with these substances can be minimised.	No change	Chemicals with known risks for pollinators or other non-target species are only used if: (a) Non-chemical methods or less toxic pesticides are not available. (b) Exposure to natural ecosystems is minimised; and (c) Contact of pollinators and other non-target species with these substances can be minimised.	No change		✓	
3.4.7	3.4.8	Where fertilisers are used: (a) The type of fertiliser is selected based on soil assessment and crop nutrient needs over the growing season; and (b) The amount, timing and application of fertiliser are adjusted to plant nutrient needs and to minimise nutrient loss to the surrounding environment.	No change	Where fertilisers are used: (a) The type of fertiliser is selected based on soil assessment and crop nutrient needs over the growing season; and (b) The amount, timing and application of fertiliser are adjusted to plant nutrient needs and to minimise nutrient loss to the surrounding environment.	No change		✓	
	3.4.9		New	Where refrigeration, cooling, or fire suppression systems are used, any ozone-depleting substances are identified and phased out in accordance with legal requirements.	This new indicator addresses risks from ozone-depleting substances, aligning the Standard with international agreements and legal		✓	

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					requirements. It ensures organisations manage and phase out harmful chemicals beyond pesticides, covering refrigeration, cooling, and fire suppression systems.			
3.5	3.5	Waste is reduced and managed responsibly. The volume and negative impacts of waste from activities, including production and processing, are managed and minimised to meet legal requirements.	No change	Waste is reduced and managed responsibly. The volume and negative impacts of waste from activities, including production and processing, are managed and minimised to meet legal requirements.	No change	✓	✓	
3.5.1	3.5.1	Legal requirements relating to waste management are complied with.	Revise	Applicable legal requirements for the generation, storage, transport, treatment, and disposal of waste are met.	Wording expanded to cover all stages of waste management — generation, storage, transport, treatment, and disposal — ensuring comprehensive legal compliance.	✓	✓	
3.5.2	3.5.2	Waste storage, treatment, and disposal practices do not pose health or safety risks to people or natural ecosystems.	Revise	Waste is stored, treated, disposed of, or burned — based on toxicity — only in facilities that are adequate and operated so that risks to people or natural ecosystems are managed.	Wording revised to specify that waste handling, including burning based on toxicity, occurs in adequate facilities with managed risks to people and ecosystems.		✓	
3.5.3		Waste is not deposited outside appropriate, legally approved waste storage facilities.	Merge		Merged into 3.5.2.		✓	
3.5.4		Waste is not burned, except in incinerators technically designed for the specific waste type and for energy recovery.	Merge		Merged into 3.5.2.		✓	
	3.5.3		New	Biomass waste (such as straw, stalks, or other biomass) is managed in an environmentally sustainable manner, such as incorporating residues back into the soil, composting for use as organic fertiliser, or	Encourages the circular use of crop residues, reduces open burning, and supports on-farm soil carbon enhancement or renewable-energy generation		✓	

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				utilising residues for on-farm mulching or bioenergy purposes, where feasible.	— aligning waste management with climate and soil-health objectives.			
3.5.5	3.5.4	Waste is managed to ensure reduction, recycling, reuse, and safe disposal based on the toxicity of the materials.	No change	Waste is managed to ensure reduction, recycling, reuse, and safe disposal based on the toxicity of the materials.	No change		✓	
3.5.6		In the case of cross-border transportation of hazardous waste, the requirements of the Basel Convention are complied with.	Delete		This content is now addressed under the expanded legal-compliance scope of 3.5.1, removing redundant text.		✓	
3.6	3.6	Pollution is minimised or prevented. Pollution resulting from production, processing, or other activities is controlled and minimised, and meets legal requirements.	Revise	Pollution is minimised or prevented. The organisation prevents air, water, soil, noise, and light pollution. Emissions and discharges are first avoided, then reduced through clean production, and any remaining releases comply with applicable permits and responsible practices.	Wording expanded to specify pollution types, prioritise avoidance and reduction through clean production, and ensure any remaining emissions comply with permits and responsible practices.		✓	
	3.6.1		New	Legal requirements for emissions and discharges to air, water, soil, and nuisance emissions (noise, odour, light) — including permits, limits, monitoring, and reporting — are complied with.	Adds the legal dimension to the Criterion.		✓	
3.6.1		Wastewater and sewage from operations are not discharged into the surrounding environment, including aquatic ecosystems, unless they have undergone treatment to reach a safe level.	Revise		Wording revised to specify off-site wastewater standards, requiring compliance with permits, national standards, or recognised international guidelines for receiving waters.		✓	
3.6.2		The use of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) is conducted according to legal requirements and minimised as far as possible.	Move		Moved to Criterion 3.4, as it relates to chemical use.		✓	

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3.6.3	3.6.2	Land management is conducted in a way that reduces run-off to the surrounding environment, including aquatic resources.	Revise	Land-use practices minimise run-off, erosion, and agro-chemical leaching into surface and groundwater.	Wording revised to emphasise minimisation of run-off, erosion, and agro-chemical leaching into both surface and groundwater.		✓	
3.6.4	3.6.3	The release of pollutants into the air is prevented or reduced and meets all legal emission levels.	Revise	Air, noise, and light pollution are prevented or reduced to meet legal emission levels and are minimised or avoided where possible.	Wording expanded to include noise and light pollution in addition to air pollution, and emphasises minimisation or avoidance wherever possible.		✓	
3.6.5		Pollution from noise and light is minimised or avoided.	Merge		Merged with 3.6.4.		✓	
3.7	3.7	Water resources are protected and used efficiently. Where water is used, legal requirements are met, and water resources are protected and used responsibly to ensure long-term viability.	No change	Water resources are protected and used efficiently. Where water is used, legal requirements are met, and water resources are protected and used responsibly to ensure long-term viability.	No change	✓	✓	
3.7.1	3.7.1	Legal requirements for the use and protection of surface and groundwater are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements for the use and protection of surface and groundwater are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
3.7.2	3.7.2	Ground and surface water use is optimised and potential negative impacts on the surrounding environment are reduced.	Revise	Water resources are managed to maintain their quality, availability, and ecological function. Water use is planned to avoid significant negative impacts on other users, surrounding ecosystems, and natural vegetation.	Wording revised to emphasise maintaining water quality, availability, and ecological function, and to plan water use to avoid impacts on other users, ecosystems, and vegetation.		✓	
3.7.3		Water resources are used and managed to ensure that water quality and balance are maintained or improved and do not restrict other users' availability.	Merge		Merged into 3.7.2.		✓	

Orig.#	v2.0 #	31Jan25 Indicators v1.5	Recom. action	Requirements v2.0	Comments/notes	Reg.	LU	SCE
3.7.4		Natural water bodies are protected from adverse impacts of activities, including chemical, fertiliser and slurry drift and run-off.	Delete		Merged into 3.7.2.		✓	
3.7.5	3.7.3	Riparian buffer zones are protected.	Revise	Buffer zones are established and maintained around streams, rivers, wetlands, and ponds.	Wording revised to specify establishment and maintenance of buffer zones around various water bodies, rather than just protecting existing riparian zones.		✓	
3.8	3.8	Soil is conserved and managed appropriately. In terms of biodiversity, organic matter content, and other physical, chemical, and biological attributes of the soil, soil health is maintained or improved. Negative impacts on soils are managed and minimised.	Revise	Soil health is protected, maintained, and enhanced. Soil biodiversity, organic matter, and key physical, chemical, and biological functions are conserved. Practices prevent erosion, compaction, contamination, and other adverse impacts, ensuring soils remain productive and ecologically resilient over time.	Wording expanded to emphasise protection, maintenance, and enhancement of soil health, specifying biodiversity, organic matter, key functions, and prevention of erosion, compaction, contamination, and other adverse impacts for long-term productivity and ecological resilience.	✓	✓	
3.8.1	3.8.1	Legal requirements related to soil management are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements related to soil management are complied with.	No change	✓	✓	
3.8.2	3.8.2	Water and wind erosion are reduced through practices such as ground covers, mulches, protection and re-vegetation of steep areas, terracing, or filter strips to protect soils.	No change	Water and wind erosion are reduced through practices such as ground covers, mulches, protection and re-vegetation of steep areas, terracing, or filter strips to protect soils.	No change		✓	
3.8.3	3.8.3	Harvesting, cultivation, and grazing practices are implemented to maintain or improve the soil's physical, chemical, and biological condition.	Revise	Harvesting, cultivation, and grazing practices and limitations are implemented to maintain or improve the soil's physical, chemical, and biological condition.	Wording revised to include "limitations," emphasising that both practices and their restrictions contribute to maintaining or improving soil condition.		✓	

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3.8.4		Harvesting, cultivation, and grazing are not practised on vulnerable soils where they cause long-term damage to the ecological functions of the soil, such as very steep slopes and peat soil types.	Merge		Merged into 3.8.3.		✓	
3.8.5	3.8.4	Plant and animal materials are managed to maintain or improve soil biodiversity and organic matter content, and do not contribute to the contamination of crops, soil, or water by nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.	No change	Plant and animal materials are managed to maintain or improve soil biodiversity and organic matter content, and do not contribute to the contamination of crops, soil, or water by nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.	No change		✓	
3.9	3.9	Animal welfare and health are secured. Animal health and welfare are ensured, reducing animal stress and allowing them to exercise their natural behaviours.	No change	Animal welfare and health are secured. Animal health and welfare are ensured, reducing animal stress and allowing them to exercise their natural behaviours.	No change		✓	
3.9.1	3.9.1	Legal requirements relating to animal health, welfare, medication, transport, and traceability are complied with.	No change	Legal requirements relating to animal health, welfare, medication, transport, and traceability are complied with.	No change		✓	
3.9.2	3.9.2	Animals are fed to satisfy their nutritional needs and maintain good health.	No change	Animals are fed to satisfy their nutritional needs and maintain good health.	No change		✓	
3.9.3	3.9.3	Animals can access environments that allow them to move freely and exhibit natural behaviour.	No change	Animals can access environments that allow them to move freely and exhibit natural behaviour.	No change		✓	
3.9.4	3.9.4	Animals have continuous access to fresh, clean water sufficient to eliminate competition between them.	No change	Animals have continuous access to fresh, clean water sufficient to eliminate competition between them.	No change		✓	
3.9.5	3.9.5	Measures (such as vaccination and hygiene) are taken to prevent diseases while minimising risks of antimicrobial resistance, as well as pain and injury to the animals.	No change	Measures (such as vaccination and hygiene) are taken to prevent diseases while minimising risks of antimicrobial resistance, as well as pain and injury to the animals.	No change		✓	

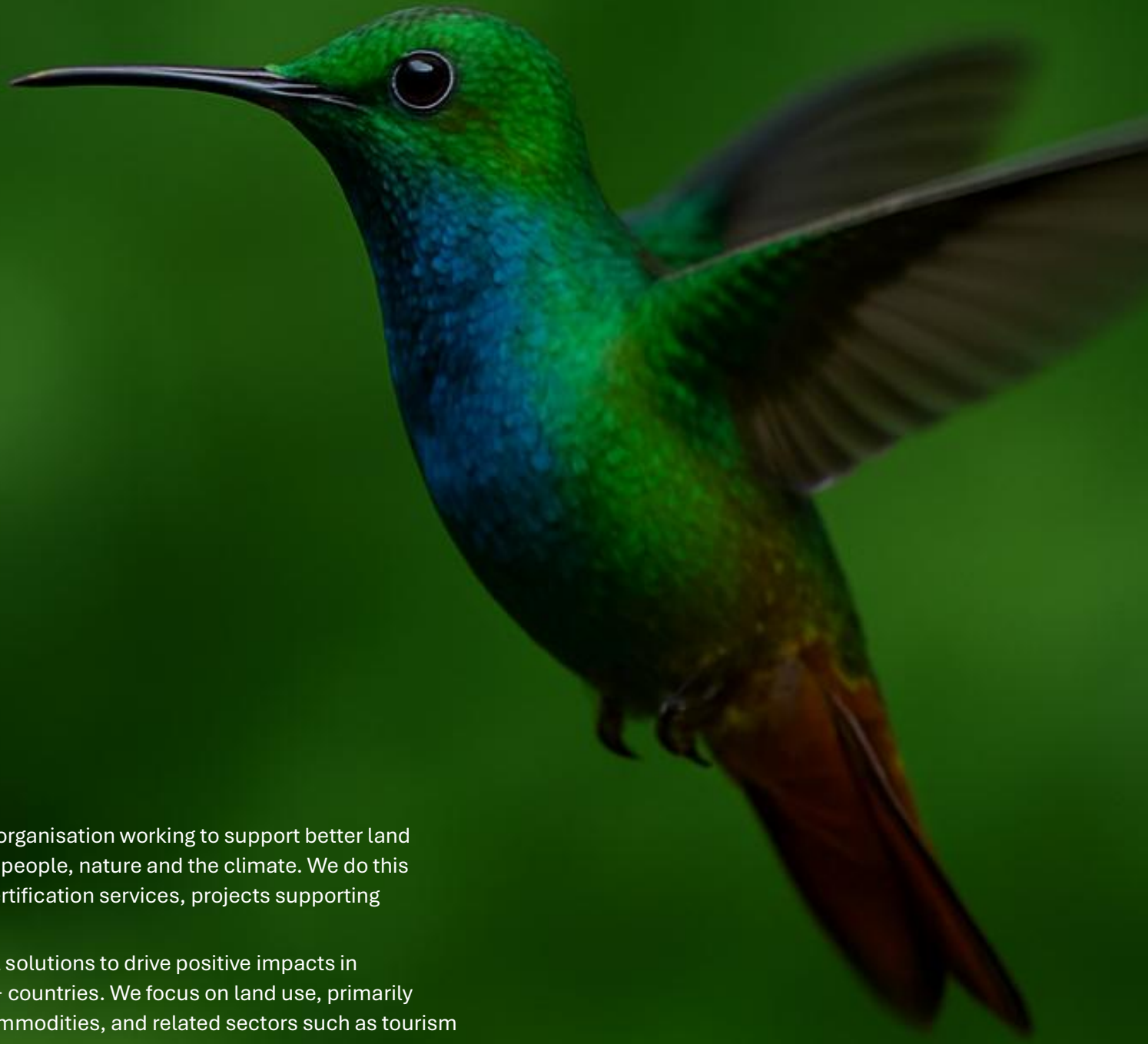
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3.9.6	3.9.6	Housing, pens, and handling facilities have adequate space, ventilation, lighting, and drainage; are safe, minimising the risk of disease, injury, and stress to the animals; and are adjusted to climatic zone conditions.	No change	Housing, pens, and handling facilities have adequate space, ventilation, lighting, and drainage; are safe, minimising the risk of disease, injury, and stress to the animals; and are adjusted to climatic zone conditions.	No change		✓	
3.9.7	3.9.7	Transportation of animals considers their size, climatic conditions, and need for water and food (in case of long-distance transportation), minimising animal stress.	No change	Transportation of animals considers their size, climatic conditions, and need for water and food (in case of long-distance transportation), minimising animal stress.	No change		✓	
3.9.8	3.9.8	Animal handling is done by workers with experience and competence in animal welfare.	No change	Animal handling is done by workers with experience and competence in animal welfare.	No change		✓	
	3.10		New	Use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) is disclosed and responsibly managed. Contingent on prior approval by PBN, the use or presence of GMOs is transparently disclosed. GMOs are only used where legally permitted and where they demonstrably contribute to sustainability outcomes.	Introduced to provide clear, scheme-wide rules for any GMO use, ensuring legal compliance, ecological integrity, and market transparency where certificate-holders work with, or near, genetically modified material.		✓	
	3.10.1		New	GMOs under the scope have been approved to conform to key sustainability requirements by PBN prior to use. Note: Refer to the PBN GMO Policy for details on the approval requirements and process.	Requires a PbN sustainability screening prior to introduction, ensuring that only GMOs with demonstrable environmental or social benefits enter certified supply.		✓	
	3.10.2		New	GMO use within the scope of certification is legal in the country or region in question.	Confirms that any GMO within scope is authorised in the relevant jurisdiction, thereby preventing breaches of national biosafety laws.		✓	

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	3.10.3		New	GMOs used within the scope of certification are covered by legal approvals and permits, and associated conditions are met.	Introduces a second compliance check: not only confirming legal status but also verifying that all permits and their conditions (buffer zones, monitoring, etc.) are being followed.		✓	
	3.10.4		New	GMOs are used in a manner that prevents significant environmental harm, including gene flow to wild relatives, contamination of non-GMO areas, and adverse effects on non-target species.	Establishes performance safeguards (isolation, stewardship) to prevent gene flow, non-target impacts, and contamination of non-GMO production areas.		✓	
	3.10.5		New	Full disclosure of GMO use is provided to all buyers, ensuring no misleading non-GMO claims.	Ensures full buyer disclosure so that “non-GMO” or “identity-preserved” claims are not misleading, enabling downstream actors to fulfil their labelling obligations.		✓	
4	4	Principle 4. Climate impacts are reduced and mitigated.	No change	Principle 4. Climate impacts are reduced and mitigated.	No change		✓	
4.1	4.1	Greenhouse gas emissions are reduced. Best business practices to minimise major greenhouse gas emissions are implemented and adjusted according to the risks, proportionate to the scale and nature of the operation.	Revise	Significant greenhouse gas emission sources are identified, considering management practices, land-use change, livestock, energy, sourcing, and use of materials.	Wording revised to emphasise systematic, targeted measures aligned with sector best practices, with actions proportional to risk, scale, and environmental impact.		✓	
4.1.1	4.1.1	Significant greenhouse gas emission sources are identified, considering management practices, land-use change, livestock, energy, sourcing, and use of materials.	No change	Significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions are known, taking into account management practices, land-use change, livestock, energy, and the sourcing and use of materials.	No change		✓	
4.1.2		Animal feed shall be from sources that do not contribute to deforestation.	Move		Moved to 3.1.			

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4.1.3		If there is a risk that sourcing activities may cause significant indirect land use change through conversion or destruction of forests or natural ecosystems elsewhere, steps are taken to mitigate such risk.	Move		Moved to Criterion 3.1.			
4.1.6	4.1.2	If applicable, national and/or international regulations concerning emission reduction targets for relevant climate change factors and actions are complied with.	Revise	Legal requirements related to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change are complied with.	Wording simplified to focus on compliance with legal requirements and international regulations regarding emission reduction targets.		✓	
4.1.4	4.1.3	Efforts are taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from activities, meeting at minimum the industry sector's best practices and considering the best available technology.	Revise	Efforts are made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from activities, meeting at minimum the best practices of the industry sector and taking into account the size, type, and region of the operation.	The revision refines the language, replacing “best available technology” with context-specific considerations of operation size, type, and region, while maintaining alignment with industry best practices.		✓	
4.1.5	4.1.4	The amount of soil carbon is maintained or increased.	Revise	Soil carbon levels are maintained or increased, demonstrated through practices such as cover cropping, reduced tillage, or organic matter enhancement.	Wording expanded to specify practices — cover cropping, reduced tillage, and organic matter enhancement — that support maintenance or increase of soil carbon levels.		✓	
	4.1.5		New	Fertilisers, particularly nitrogen, are managed to ensure that applications do not exceed plant uptake capacity, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.	Over-application of nitrogen fertilisers drives nitrous oxide, a potent greenhouse gas. This aligns the Framework with its climate-performance focus and gives auditors a clear, outcome-based check on fertiliser management.		✓	
	4.1.6		New	Methane emissions from production (e.g., livestock and paddy fields) are reduced through measurable best practices (e.g.,	Addresses a high-potency greenhouse gas with established mitigation		✓	

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				improved feed composition, herd management, alternate wetting and drying).	methods (feed additives, Alternative Wetting and Drying, herd management), in line with IPCC guidance.			
	4.1.7		New	Fossil fuel use in operations is minimised through energy efficiency measures or transition to renewable energy where feasible.	Extends coverage to Scope 1 and 2 energy emissions, supporting transition pathways and reducing operating costs.		✓	
	4.1.8		New	Open burning of crop residues is prohibited, except when demonstrably necessary for pest or disease control and legally permitted.	Burning crop residues creates harmful smoke, raises fire risk, and wastes organic matter that keeps soils healthy. Prohibiting routine burning encourages safer options like mulching or incorporating residues.		✓	
4.2	4.2	Climate change adaptation efforts are implemented proportionate to the risks. Risks resulting from climate change that may endanger the sustainability of operations are considered, and appropriate climate adaptation measures are implemented.	Revise	Climate change adaptation efforts are implemented proportionate to the risks. Risks resulting from climate change that may endanger the sustainability of operations are identified, and appropriate climate adaptation measures are implemented.	Wording revised to clarify that climate change risks are identified before implementing appropriate adaptation measures.		✓	
4.2.1	4.2.1	The critical risks for the operation resulting from, or potentially resulting from, climate change are identified.	No change	The critical risks for the operation resulting from, or potentially resulting from, climate change are identified.	No change		✓	
4.2.2	4.2.2	Measures for climate change adaptation are implemented for high-risk areas and are proportionate to the scale of the operations and anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts.	No change	Measures for climate change adaptation are implemented for high-risk areas and are proportionate to the scale of the operations and anticipated social, economic, and environmental impacts.	No change		✓	
4.3	4.3	Efforts are taken for GHG removal and ecosystem restoration as appropriate. Opportunities for GHG removal, ecosystem restoration, and implementing related	No change	Efforts are taken for GHG removal and ecosystem restoration as appropriate. Opportunities for GHG removal, ecosystem restoration, and implementing related	No change		✓	

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		activities are considered when feasible and relevant.		activities are considered when feasible and relevant.				
4.3.1	4.3.1	Best business practices to ensure GHG removals based on land use, land management practices, and carbon stocks to promote positive climate regulation over time are implemented.	Revise	The key natural elements storing carbon within the certified area — such as trees, soil, and vegetation — are known. Note: Where relevant, and depending on the size and impact of operations, the carbon stock shall be quantified.	Wording revised to focus on establishing and maintaining current data on carbon stocks and ecosystem conditions, using methods proportional to the operation's resources and impact, rather than prescribing specific practices for GHG removals.		✓	
4.3.2	4.3.2	If implemented, ecosystem restoration efforts aim to both regain the ecological functionality of the reference ecosystem and enhance human well-being, while considering the area's changing environmental, social, and economic conditions.	Revise	Management activities ensure long-term carbon storage and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem integrity. NOTE: The extent and intensity of these practices are commensurate with the operation's scale and the magnitude of potential GHG removal.	Wording revised to focus on management activities that maintain long-term carbon storage and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem integrity, with the scale and intensity of actions proportional to the operation and potential GHG removals.		✓	
	4.3.3		New	Ecosystem restoration activities are implemented, where feasible, in degraded, non-productive areas.	Targets restoration efforts to areas with the highest carbon-gain potential and minimal conflict with existing production, translating aspirational removals into practical, on-the-ground action.		✓	



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

For 30 years, we have worked to develop practical solutions to drive positive impacts in production landscapes and supply chains in 100+ countries. We focus on land use, primarily through forest, agriculture and climate impact commodities, and related sectors such as tourism and conservation.

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