Setting clear nature, climate, and human rights goals with the Accountability Framework

THURSDAY 22 JUNE 2023
9am EDT / 2pm BST / 3pm CEST
Before we start

Recording
The webinar recording will be emailed to all participants and available on the AFi website.

Questions
Please use Zoom’s Q&A function throughout the webinar to submit your questions and up-vote other questions you’d like to see answered.

Chat
The chat function is disabled.

Post-event survey
Please tell us how we can improve in our post-event survey.
Today’s speakers

**Autumn Fox**  
Mars

**Leah Samberg**  
The AFi and Rainforest Alliance

**Marco Daldoss Pirri**  
SYSTEMIQ and SBTN

**Martha Stevenson**  
WWF and SBTi
Setting supply chain goals with the Accountability Framework

Core Principles 1-3 of the Accountability Framework guide companies at all stages of the supply chain to set strong goals, commitments, and policies related to deforestation, natural ecosystem conversion, and human rights.

- Operational Guidance
- How to guide on policy development
Why are commitments important?

- To formalise intentions into specific, time-bound sets of actions and results
- To articulate sustainability goals to the company’s stakeholders
- To clarify the company’s expectations for its suppliers
- To support accountability and tracking of progress towards goals
No-deforestation and no-conversion commitments

Company policies should include a commitment to eliminating deforestation and conversion of other natural ecosystems from the company’s operations, supply chains, and financial investments.

May be separate no-deforestation and no-conversion commitments

OR

May be a broad no-conversion commitment that addresses natural forests as well as other natural ecosystems
No-deforestation and no-conversion commitments

No-deforestation and no-conversion commitments should include a cutoff date

- Date after which conversion renders materials non-compliant
- Should be clearly stated for all commodities or for each commodity
- May not be later in time than the date the policy is issued
- Should align with existing sectoral cutoff dates where possible
- For no-deforestation commitments, should not be later than 2020

* For more information see Operational Guidance on Cutoff dates
No-deforestation and no-conversion commitments

No-deforestation and no-conversion commitments should also include:

- A commitment to taking appropriate measures to support the long-term protection of natural ecosystems in the company’s operations.

- A commitment to conducting or supporting restoration or compensation in cases where social or environmental harms have occurred.

*For more information, see Operational Guidance documents on Remediation and Access to Remedy and on Environmental Restoration and Compensation.*
Commitments to respect human rights

Company policies should include a commitment to respect internationally-recognised human rights.

This includes the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, workers, and others who may be affected by company activities.

* For more information, see Operational Guidance documents on Free, Prior and Informed Consent, Respecting the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and Workers’ Rights
Commitments to respect human rights

Commitments to respect human rights should include:

- Carrying out operations consistent with internationally-recognised human rights instruments/guidelines such as UNDRIP, ILO, and UNGPs
- Conducting human rights due diligence
- Securing free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)
- Providing or supporting remedy when social harms have occurred
- Rights-holder and stakeholder engagement
- Providing grievance mechanisms
- Protecting environmental and human rights defenders
Clear and ambitious commitments

Commitments should be comprehensive in scope:

- Apply across all segments of the company’s business
- Apply to all supplies including in operations, direct, and indirect suppliers
- Apply to all activities
Clear and ambitious commitments

Commitments should be timebound

Commitments should have an ambitious target date and timebound milestones

The AFi recommends that companies set or strengthen commitments to no-deforestation and no-conversion supply chains to include a target date that is as early as possible and no later than 2025
Accountability Framework
Company commitment to DCF sourcing and respect for human rights

Industry approaches to responsible sourcing
DCF supply chain and supplier policies

SBTi FLAG targets to reduce GHG emissions
- No-deforestation commitment
- Elimination of all natural ecosystem conversion

SBTN Land Target to protect nature
Elimination of all natural ecosystem conversion
Polling

For audience members who represent supply chain companies:

• Is your company part of industry associations or multi-stakeholder groups that have collective policies or commitments on deforestation, conversion, or human rights?

• Is your company setting an SBTi FLAG target?

• How has your company engaged with the SBTN land targets?
Science Based Targets
Connecting to the Deforestation & Conversion Free Agenda

Martha Stevenson & Marco Daldoss Pirri
SBTi was started in 2014, as a climate target setting platform and has over 5,300 companies committed to setting targets in line with climate science, however did not require GHG emissions from land use change until SBTi-FLAG was launched in 2022.

SBTN was started in 2019 to align corporate targets with global nature goals. SBTN launched their first set of methods in May 2023, including a ‘no conversion of natural ecosystems target’ and a landscape engagement target. 17 companies will pilot these methods in 2023.
SBTi Forest Land & Agriculture Guidance
WHY UNDERTAKE FLAG GUIDANCE?
FLAG expands SBTi to include AFOLU emissions (22% of global emissions)

SBTi Coverage
Before FLAG
SBTi does not uniformly require FLAG emissions in target setting

SBTi Coverage
After FLAG
SBTi targets comprehensively cover all IPCC categories of GHG emissions

Data Source: IPCC AR6
Land Conversion

GHG Emissions (CO₂) from Land Conversion

► All land use change/conversion emissions are included in the FLAG target setting pathways.

► Companies must include all land use change/conversion emissions in their inventory 20 years back from their baseline year in alignment with Greenhouse Gas Protocol draft.

Additional Deforestation Commitment Requirement

► In addition, companies are required to submit a ‘no deforestation’ commitment, taking the following form:

“[Company X] commits to no deforestation across its primary deforestation-linked commodities, with a target date of [no later than 2025].”

► Companies are recommended to align commitments with the Accountability Framework initiative (AFi) guidance including a 2020 cut-off date, no conversion commitment, and no peat burning commitment.
Deforestation- and conversion-free supply chains and land use change emissions: A guide to aligning corporate targets, accounting, and disclosure

September 29, 2022

Initial research paper from the UN Climate Change High-Level Climate Champions, Global Canopy, The Accountability Framework initiative, WWF and the Science Based Targets initiative.

June 2022
Safe and just Earth system boundaries

*The just boundary has been breached in many places locally, but is still to be assessed at the global level.
FIRST LAND TARGETS FOR COMPANIES TO TAKE INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

- **Target 1 No Conversion of Natural Ecosystems**: Stop direct and indirect conversion of all natural, terrestrial ecosystems.
- **Target 2 Land Footprint Reduction**: Reduce the global occupation of production systems and liberate land, ideally for ecosystem restoration.
- **Target 3 Landscape Engagement**: Engage in materially relevant landscape scale initiatives to support actions and enabling conditions that lead to substantial improvements in nature.

*For Forest, Land and Agriculture (FLAG) companies: to set land targets you must additionally set an SBTi FLAG target.*
DESIGNED TO ALIGN AND BUILD ON EXISTING SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

SBTN Land Targets utilize existing work on climate, deforestation-free and conversion-free commitments as momentum for developing commitments to nature:

Land targets also align with the two major international frameworks related to land and biodiversity:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage of value chain</th>
<th>Location of operation</th>
<th>Deforestation and conversion free (DCF) target*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site owners/operators</td>
<td>All natural lands</td>
<td>2025: 100% DCF across all sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producers</td>
<td>All natural lands</td>
<td>2025: 100% DCF across Global and Regional conversion-driving commodities (Annex 1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Origin of commodities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage of value chain</th>
<th>Core Natural Lands</th>
<th>“Global conversion-driving commodities”</th>
<th>“Regional conversion-driving commodities”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sourcing from producers and from first point of aggregation</td>
<td>2025: 100% DCF</td>
<td>2025: 80% DCF</td>
<td>2025: 80% DCF</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2027: 80% DCF</td>
<td>2030: 100% DCF</td>
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<td>2027: 100% DCF</td>
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<td>2027: 100% DCF</td>
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<td>2030: 100% DCF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sourcing from stages downstream of first point of aggregation</td>
<td>2025: 80% DCF</td>
<td>2027: 80% DCF</td>
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*Notes:
1. Companies must meet no-deforestation by 2025 for all stages of the value chain, in alignment with AFI and the SRTI FLAG requirements.
2. Companies can and should define target dates that are more ambitious than those required, should they be able to meet the requirements in less time, if a regional or place-based initiative has a more ambitious target date, or should global progress on conversion-free commitments for a specific commodity exceed these target requirements. For example, if a company has an existing zero-deforestation commitment and/or are working in support of the Accountability Framework Initiative’s 2025 target date ambition for high-risk commodities.
Core Natural Lands

Priority area that help companies determine where to focus their initial efforts on eliminating ecosystem conversion within natural lands identified by the SBTN Natural Lands Map.

"Core Natural Lands" refers to places with acknowledged ecological importance that require immediate action to prevent conversion due to:

1. Existing legislation and/or initiatives, which include commitments to deforestation and conversion-free commodities.
2. Extinction/collapse risk, irreplaceability, or natural uniqueness.
3. Maintaining natural ecosystem contiguity or intactness.
4. The provision of critical natural assets or contributions to people.
TARGET 2 - LAND FOOTPRINT REDUCTION

Land footprint for the purpose of this targets refers to the amount of land required per year to produce or extract the products produced or sourced by a company, and it is reported in hectares per year.

To achieve climate and biodiversity goals, there is a need to reduce the global agricultural footprint to free up land for ecosystem restoration and to sustain functional integrity (i.e., the capacity to provide ecological function and NCP).

The methodology used to quantify the reduction targets is based on the IPCC (2018) SSP1 scenario that identified the need to free-up 500 Mha of agricultural lands by 2050. Which is aligned with the Sustainable Developments Goals (and therefore balances human needs with goals on nature).

Safe and just Earth system boundaries reinforce the rationale for this target delineating the need for 50-60% of intact nature, whilst we lay behind at 45-50%. Additionally, to sustain functional integrity, at least 20-25% of each square km of working lands needs to be semi-natural habitat.
TARGET 3 - LANDSCAPE ENGAGEMENT

Landscape Engagement requires companies to prioritize landscapes for engagement and to commit to increase ecological and social conditions in landscapes.

Landscape Engagement is broad by design and encompasses a variety of potential actions that companies, and other stakeholders, can collectively implement for achieving holistic, multiple-objective, environmental, biodiversity, and social outcomes.

The target addresses the regenerative, restorative, and transformative actions required by companies setting Science Based Targets for Nature.

This approach links in-supply chain metrics (i.e., no conversion, land footprint reduction) with collective action at the landscape level, in and around direct operations and supply chains.
SBTN Land Targets:
1. No Conversion of Natural Ecosystems
2. Land Footprint Reduction
3. Landscape Engagement

FLAG:
1. Elimination of all conversion emissions
2. Req - No deforestation commitment by 2025
3. Rec - No conversion, no peat burning target 2025

Implementation of your no-deforestation and no-conversion commitment is directly aligned with your SBTi-FLAG and SBTN Land Targets.

Additionally, SBTi-FLAG and SBTN Land Targets decrease land management emissions, increase carbon removals, reduce pressure on nature, and deliver regenerated and restored working and natural lands.
Thank You!

Recording
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Email the AFi Backbone Team via contact@accountability-framework.org