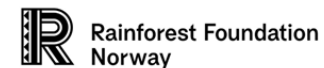




# The Accountability Framework initiative (AFi)

A collaborative effort to eliminate deforestation, ecosystem conversion, and human rights abuses from agricultural and forestry supply chains



AFi Backbone Team co-hosted by:





# The Accountability Framework

A practical roadmap for responsible supply chains

The Framework includes Core Principles, Operational Guidance, and Definitions that are:



## Global

All regions where production of forest and agricultural commodities poses risk of deforestation, conversion, and human rights abuses



## Cross-commodity

Soy, palm oil, beef and leather, timber, rubber, cocoa, coffee, and others



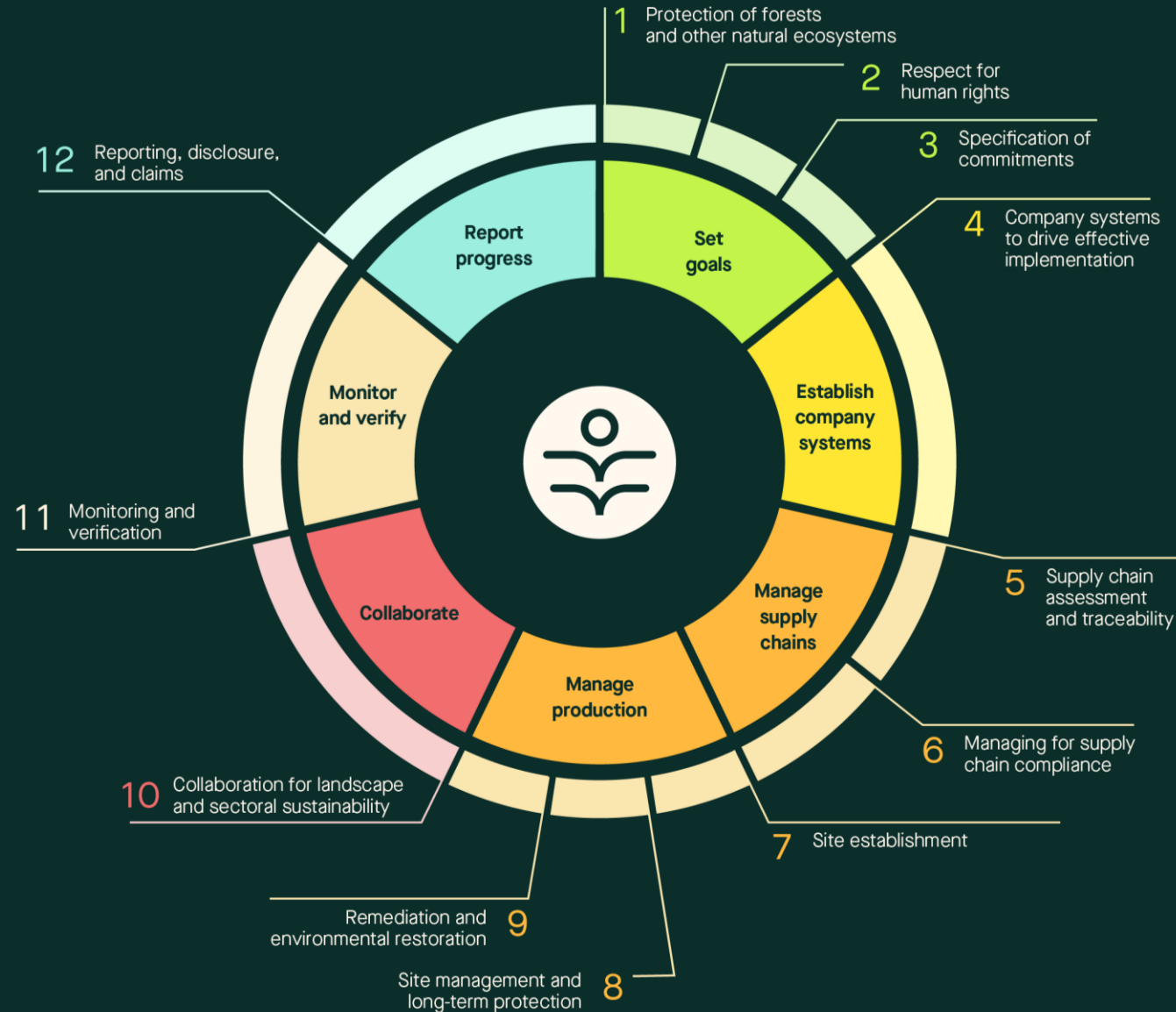
## End-to-end supply chain

Producer, processor, trader, manufacturer, retailer



# The Accountability Framework

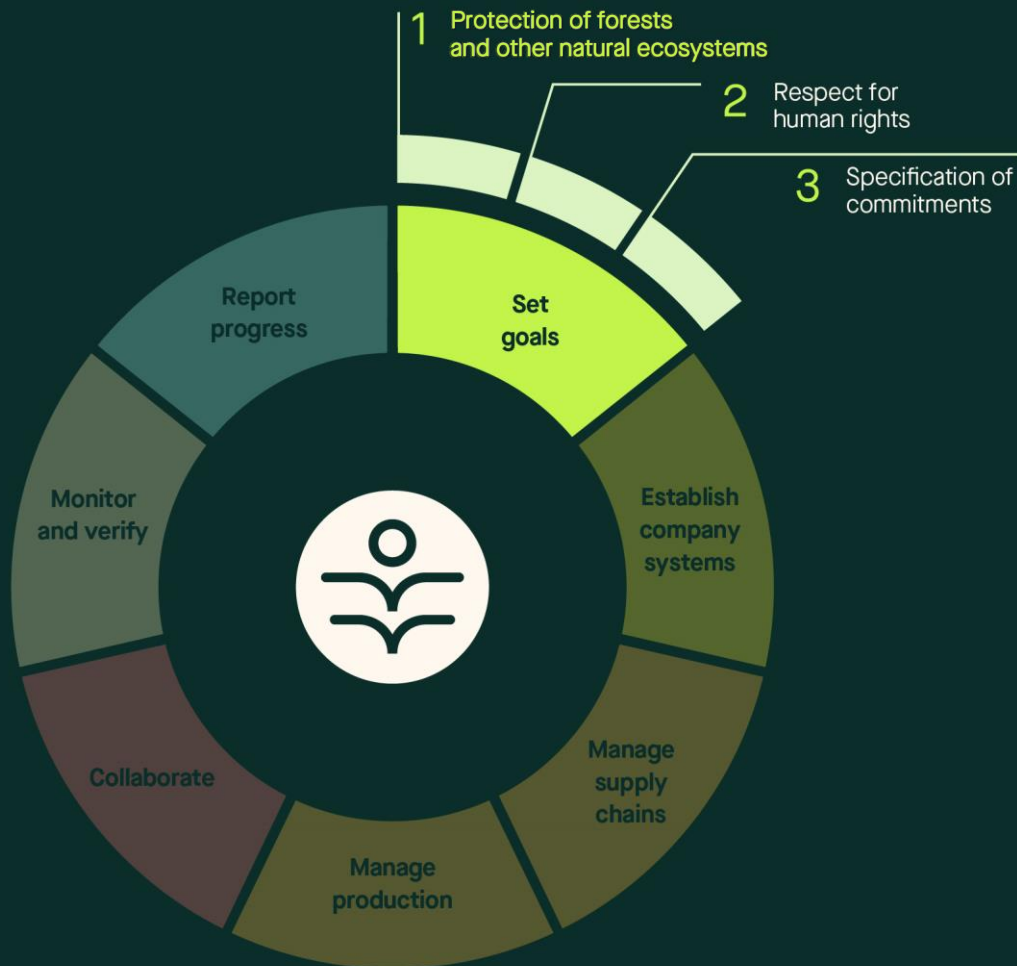
Core Principles and action areas





# Commitments to no-deforestation and no-conversion

## Core Principle 1: Protection of forests and other natural ecosystems

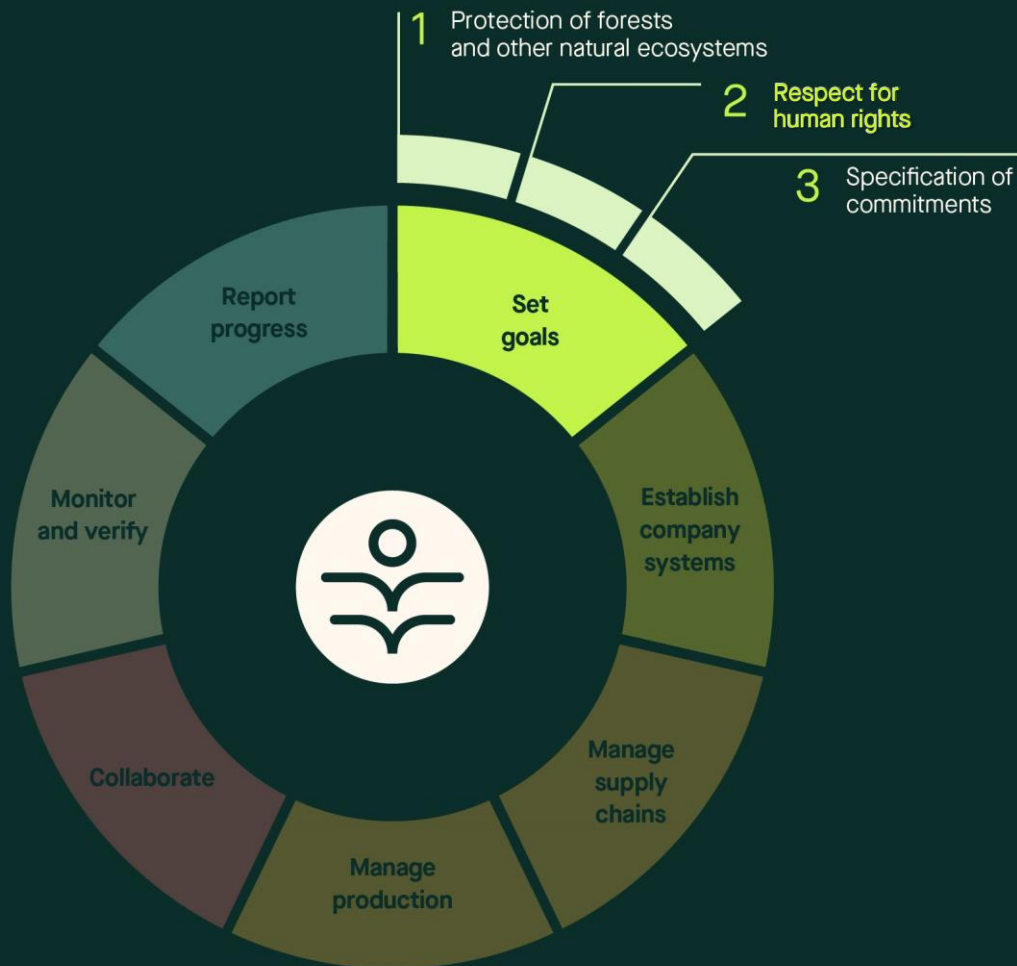


- Eliminate deforestation from supply chains
- Eliminate conversion of other natural ecosystems from supply chains
- Specify appropriate cutoff dates



# Commitments to respect human rights

## Core Principle 2: Respect for human rights

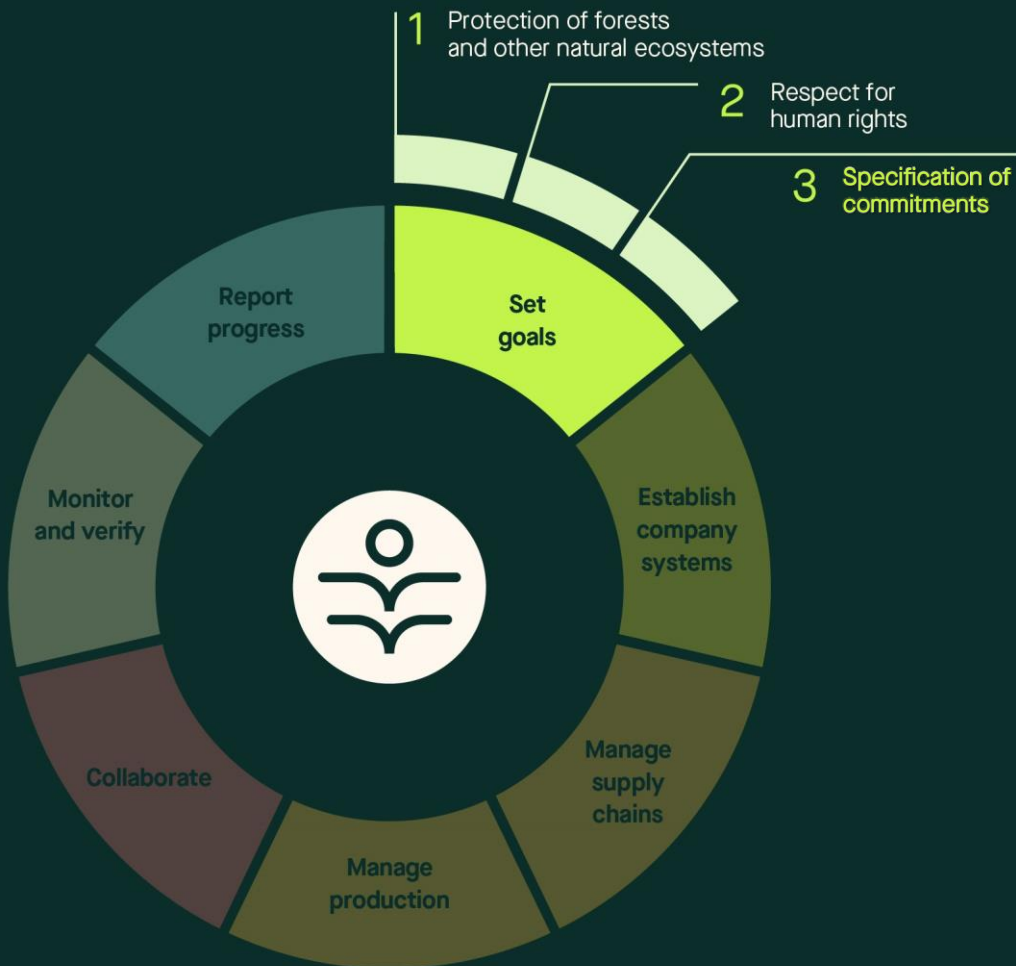


- Respect internationally-recognised human rights, including rights of:
  - Indigenous Peoples and local communities
  - Workers
  - Environmental and human rights defenders
- Securing free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)
- Providing or supporting remedy when social harms have occurred
- Providing grievance mechanisms



# Commitments are clearly specified and broad in scope

## Core Principle 3: Specification of commitments



- Commitments apply across all segments of the company's business, eg, all product lines and markets
- Commitments apply to all supplies and suppliers (including indirect suppliers)



# Managing for responsible supply chains

Commodity buyers, including retailers, should take appropriate action at three levels:



**Product volume compliance**



**Supplier performance**



**Sourcing area level impact and risk**



# Three ways to demonstrate product volume compliance

1

## Monitoring of production units

- Trace volumes to the production units of origin
- Assess and verify compliance on each production unit
- (Verified) information on compliance status may be passed to buyers as part of B2B supply chain control mechanisms

2

## Certification

Volumes may generally be considered compliant if:

- they are certified according to a standard whose criteria align with the buyer's commitments on no-D, no-C, and human rights
- they are controlled using physical chain of custody

3

## Monitoring of sourcing areas

- Trace volumes to a sourcing area where there is no or negligible recent D/C or risk of specific human rights harms
- Monitor sourcing areas on an ongoing basis, and respond rapidly to new D/C occurrence or human rights risk



# Key elements of supplier engagement

1

## **Clear communication of expectations**

- Materials offered for sale must be produced and controlled in accordance with the buyer's commitments
- Suppliers have policies, systems, and processes for responsible production and sourcing that cover their entire business and that align with those of the buyer
- Suppliers adequately monitor and control their supply base and can furnish information on compliance and performance to the buyer

2

## **Support for supplier progress**

- Buyers engage suppliers to support compliance upstream
- Support prioritises engagement with smallholders and others who may require more assistance to participate in responsible supply chains

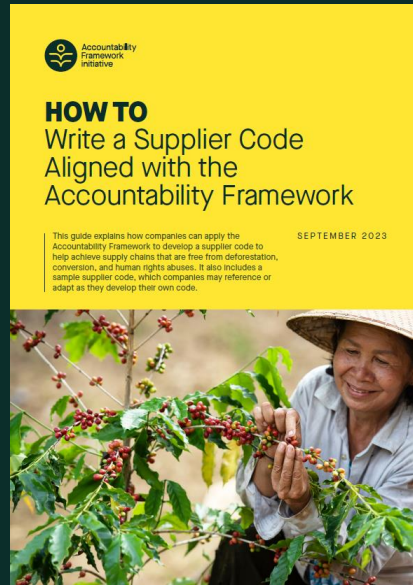
3

## **Manage for non-compliance**

- Buyers manage non-compliance with suppliers to resolve such issues expeditiously and implement time-bound plans, including remediation
- Progress is monitored and reported on, with action taken in response



# AFi resources



**How to Write a Supplier Code Aligned with the Accountability Framework**  
Available in the 'Resources' section of the AFi website



**AFi e-learning platform**  
May be accessed from the AFi website