Sustainable Coconut Charter's Assurance System

	SCHEME RULES
	THE SUPPLY CHAIN STANDARD
	CHAIN OF CUSTODY
X	**ORIGIN STANDARD**

Document name:	**Document code:**	**Version:**	
Sustainable Coconut Charter - Origin Standard	SCP-OS-01	1- Calibration	
Date of Publication:	**Date of revision:**	**Valid from:**	**Expires by:**
24/02/2025	DD-MM-YYYY	24/02/2025	24/02/2030

Requirement Number	Subject	Change
(no update yet as this is version 0)		

Contents

Origin Standard Background

The Sustainable Coconut Assurance System aims to provide a mechanism to substantiate sustainability claims and champion companies as agents of change and sustainable trade partners.

Its framework is designed to verify and ensure compliance with the Charter across the supply chain, fostering transparency, accountability, and sustainable practices. It is pragmatic, progressive, and aligned with the needs of the sector and meant to be.

Designed to foster alignment and common ground among buyers, processors, cooperatives, and farmers alike, the Sustainable Coconut Charter aims to unite stakeholders across the coconut supply chain to improve farmers' livelihoods, protect the natural environment, and build climate resilience — ensuring a responsible and resilient sector for all.

The Assurance System development involved leading experts in coconut production and standard-setting. A voluntary taskforce comprising companies within the SCP—some of the industry's top processors and buyers—brought practical, on-the-ground experience. It benefited from extensive consultations outside the partnership, looking for alignment with international standards such as Accountability Framework and ISEAL standards to ensure robustness and completeness and best practices to overcome gaps in certification while tackling the unique challenges of the coconut sector. Expert consultants from Peterson Solutions also supported the system's development.

Inception: Members of SCP publicly voted to create and adopt the Assurance System on November 23, 2023, during the Sustainable Coconut SCP Roundtable annual conference in Jakarta, in the presence of senior representatives from production-country governments after underscoring a critical need for market interventions that can genuinely drive positive change as current assurance schemes used in the sector are perceived to have major complexities and niche-focus for a sector still not mature in sustainability and therefore not always suitable for implementation in the wider coconut sector especially in the markets where coconut is sold as an ingredient of other food& beverages, fuel, oleochemical and wood, shell and fiber products.

The framework also addressed complexity, cost effectiveness and specific challenges unique to coconut production, such as the industry's heavy dependance on smallholder farmers, the complexity of its supply chain, among others. The documentation and record requirement has often proven complex for these smallholder farmers to implement. This assurance system therefore took these challenges into account to ensure the development of a suitable framework, tailored to the coconut industry.

The Sustainable Coconut Charter Assurance system seeks to stimulate market transformation by leveraging trade dynamics to support scalable, sustainable solutions for both the industry and coconut growers.

A comprehensive review of industry practices was undertaken to ensure this approach offers a gradual pathway towards greater sustainability within the coconut industry and developed for a stepwise progress versus thriving for perfection in a long, complex supply chain at a time where traceability and transparency is still a challenge globally.

SCP addressed the current limitations of the coconut supply chain in meeting the demands of existing certification programs, by developing a practical alternative while continuing to promote the achievements on other sustainability standards. This approach offers a gradual pathway towards greater sustainability within the coconut industry.

Purpose	Verification	Scope
A production and processing level verification for "sustainable farming projects" verifying volumes of product compliant with the Charter.	This standard recognizes and controls levels of performance and continuous improvement of Core Principles and Ambitions of the SCP Charter for sustainable production of coconut products.	At the local/jurisdictional / landscape / island levels allowing volumes of products to be verified and traded. At a conventional level

A Progressive Approach

The Assurance System adopts a grading approach with three claim levels. By design, this system promotes a culture of continuous improvement rather than enforcing rigid step-by-step progress or striving for perfection in coconuts' long and complex supply chain.

This progressive framework empowers businesses to drive market transformation and gradually provide essential support across the supply chain, addressing the ongoing global challenges of traceability and transparency.

Integrated Verification

Responsibility for applying the Assurance System is distributed across the supply chain. The application of the system is designed to encourage upstream stakeholders—farmers, cooperatives/traders, first points of processing, and other actors—to work collaboratively, rather than placing a disproportionate burden on farm groups to meet requirements.

By addressing this often-overlooked aspect of supply chain management in smallholder systems, we aim to create better pathways for investments to reach farmers, who are the backbone of the supply chain.

Our system focuses on a tailored set of practices for each actor in the chain. It ensures that assurance reports provide clear insights into the performance of each stakeholder within the system.

Coconut-Specific Strategy

In order to establish transparent, reliable metrics that are industry aligned, and focus on coconut specific issues, we conducted extensive research and consultations with experienced operators. This pointed to the need to go beyond a sole focus on agricultural practices and farm boundaries to solve systemic issues in the coconut sector.

Our system includes focusing on: replanting programmes, youth engagement, market prices transparency and key aspects of supply chain management and transparency in smallholder supply chains.

Designed with operational profitability and economic sustainability in mind

To make the system more cost-effective and efficient, we considered how better-designed interventions, operational efficiency, and improved break-even projections could help operators maintain their verification status.

Our system incorporates features such as a grading approach, a lean and fit-for-purpose standard, and allowances for additional scopes like supply chain management and jurisdictional approaches. These elements aim to share responsibility for sustainability more equitably across the chain.

Active management of the standard by the Sustainable Coconut Partnership ensures that it remains adaptive and calibrated for operational profitability and economic sustainability. At the same time, it delivers credible, data-driven, and verified insights.

Volume and Performance Claims

Our system will verify both volume claims and assess companies' sustainability performance, recognizing verified companies as sustainable trade partners and agents of change. We are aligning our practices with leading sustainability standards to ensure robust performance recognition.

Introduction

The Origin standard is based on the Sustainable Coconut Charter developed in 2023 as a result of stakeholder discussions. Through multi-stakeholder process the current Origin standard has been conceived. This has resulted in a standard with 12 principles and 72 progressive indicators / practices. Figure 1 provides an schematic overview of the standard.

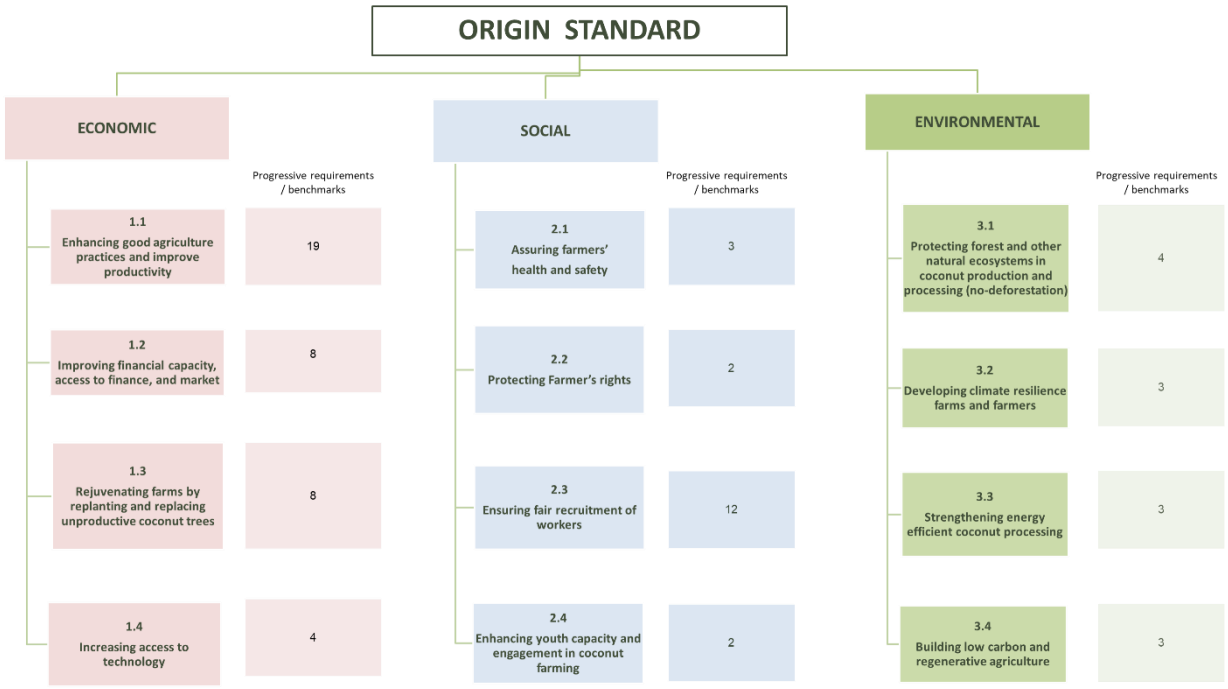

Figure 1, schematic overview of the Origin Standard showing its principles and the number of indicators.

This document is part of the assurance scheme of the Sustainable Coconut Partnership. This scheme consists of 4 key documents:

- **The Scheme rules, outlining the management of the assurance scheme.**
- The Supply chain standard, outlining requirements for supply chain members.
- The Origin standard, outlining requirement upstream supply chain actors.
- The Chain of Custody standard, outlining requirements to ensure credible claims.

The **purpose** of the origin standard is to provide a production and processing level assurance scheme for "sustainable farming projects" where actors work and support farmers in line with the "Core principles and ambitions of the charter".

This standard recognizes and controls the level of performance based on continuous improvement and allowing operators to progressively include all principle and ambitions. This is enabled by the **grading** system this standard employs.

The **scope** of the origin standard includes the upstream actors working and supporting farmers in their coconut production efforts to achieve sustainability inline with the origin standard. The SCP facilitates both standard implementation in the context of a supply chain through its conventional implementation approach. But the SCP also supports the use of a jurisdictional approach where initiative for implementation is taken by a government entity and stakeholders which are not perse part of the supply chain. This is further detailed in the Scheme Rules document.

Claims and scoring

Through implementation of this standard, different types of **claim** can be made based on achieved scores determined by a third party verification (refer to the scheme rules chapter **3.6** for detailed guidance on this). Figure **2** depicts the relationship between the score achieved and the claim that can be made.

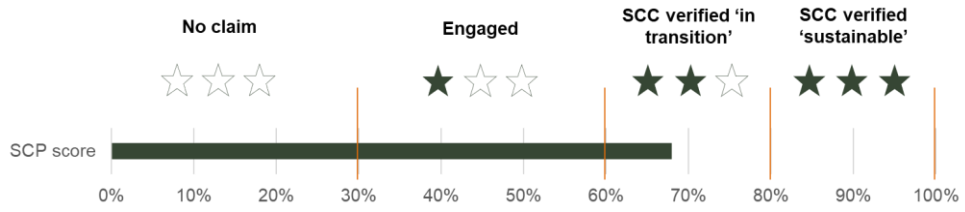

Figure 2, An example of the grading system and its relation to claims that can be made.

The grade percentage is calculated based on the score associated with each practice described. Equation **1** shows how the score is calculated.

ORIGIN std. SCORE (%) =

(Obtained score) / (Total attainable score)

Equation 1, showing the calculation method for the scores.

On -product claims and/or volume claims can be made based on the mass balance and segregated chain of custody principles. This also has influence on the logo to be used as described in the Scheme Rules document.

CLAIM*	CONDITION TO MEET CLAIM	Chain-of-Custody
1 star - ENGAGED - '*Coconut [material name] issued from an origin/jurisdiction engaged to a transition towards sustainability following the sustainable coconut charter*'	Achieve a score >30% but <60% as a result of a third party verification.	The Chain-of-Custody system is indicated on the logo to be used by stating either 'Mass-Balance' or 'Segregated' *(logo's can be viewed in the scheme rules)*.
2 star - VERIFIED IN TRANSITION - '*Coconut [material name] issued from an origin/jurisdiction in transition towards sustainability following the sustainable coconut charter*'	Achieve a score >60% but <80% as a result of a third party verification.	
3 star - CHARTER ASSURED - '*Coconut [material name] issued from an origin/jurisdiction creating a responsible and resilient coconut sector following the sustainable coconut charter*'	Achieve a score >80% as a result of a third party verification.	

**For volume or on-product claims the Chain-of-Custody (CoC) practices need to be complied with as well by supply chain actors. This is further described in the Scheme Rules.*

Stakeholder involvement

The origin standard is unique in the fact that it not only focuses on sustainability at the farm level, but also includes the upstream actors within the coconut supply chain, with the aim of fostering cooperation. It also ensures that smallholder farmers which may struggle to implement the practices are supported.

It is for this reason that the standard identifies 4 different stakeholder groups:

- F – Farmers.
- C/T – Collection/Trader.
- P – Processor.
- O – Others (millers/large agri-traders/etc..).

The relevant actor is indicated using the letters in the list above against each practice. In many cases, multiple actors are indicated against a practice as cooperation is required or it is simply for multiple actors. The goal is again to support farmers in their quest towards more sustainable and resilient farming practices, which cannot be done without the support and change of the supply chain actors themselves as well.

Definitions

A set of definitions is included in the table below to help navigate the SCP standard.

Assurance	Demonstration that specified requirements relating to a product, process, system, person, or entity are fulfilled.
Buyer	An individual, company or entity that purchases raw materials, processed materials, or finished products from an supply chain actor.
Chain of Custody	The process by which inputs, outputs, and associated information are transferred, monitored and controlled as they move through each step in the relevant supply chain.
Claim	An intended message to describe or promote a product, process in the supply chain, business, or service with respect to its sustainability attributes or credentials.
Child Labor	Work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development. International standards set the general minimum age for admission to employment or work at 15 years (13 for light work) and the minimum age for hazardous work at 18 (16 under certain strict conditions). They provide for the possibility of initially setting the general minimum age at 14 (12 for light work) where the economy and educational facilities are insufficiently developed. Hazardous work is work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out, is likely to jeopardise the health, safety, or morals of young persons. Children between the ages of 13 and 15 years old may do light work, as long as it does not harm their health or development, or hinder their attendance at school or participation in vocational orientation and training.
Collective Bargaining	All negotiations that take place between an employer, a group of employers, or one or more employers' organisations, on the one hand, and one or more workers' organisations, on the other, for: (i) determining working conditions and terms of employment; and/or (ii) regulating relations between employers and workers; and/or (iii) regulating relations between employers or their organisations and a workers' organisation or workers' organisations.
Trader	A business that purchases and sells raw or primary processed agricultural or forestry materials. Traders commonly also provide transport services for these goods. Trading companies may also engage in primary or secondary processing.
Deforestation	Loss of natural forest as a result of i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; ii) conversion to a tree plantation; or iii) severe and sustained degradation.
Degradation	Changes within a natural ecosystem that significantly and negatively affect its species composition, structure and/or function, reduce the ecosystem's capacity to supply products, support biodiversity, and/or deliver ecosystem services.
Direct Supplier	Supplier having direct contractual agreements with a supply chain buyer further downstream.
Downstream	A position in the supply chain further from raw material origin and closer to the stage of final sale and consumption.
Due Diligence	A risk management process implemented by a company to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for how it addresses environmental and social risks and impacts in its operations, supply chains, and investments.

Farm Group	A producer group whose membership is composed of smallholder producers.
First Processing Plant	A business, cooperative, or other entity that conducts the first stage of processing after an agricultural or forestry raw material is harvested.
Forced Labour	All work or service that is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered themselves voluntarily, including all forms of debt bondage and human trafficking for the purpose of forced labour.
Grievance Mechanism	Any routinised process through which grievances concerning business-related negative impacts to human rights or the environment can be raised and remedy can be sought.* Grievance mechanisms may be state-based or non-state-based and they may be judicial or non-judicial.
Jurisdictional Initiative	A type of landscape initiative that is delineated by administrative boundaries and implemented with a high level of government involvement.
Livelihood	A person's or a group's way of making a living, from the environment or in the economy — including provisions for basic needs and assurance of access to food, clean water, health, education, housing, and the materials needed for their life and comfort — either through their own direct use of natural resources or through exchange, barter, trade, or engagement in the market. It encompasses the capabilities, assets, and activities required to secure the necessities of life.
Plot of land	Land within a single real-estate property, as recognised by the law of the country of production, which enjoys sufficiently homogeneous conditions to allow an evaluation of the aggregate level of risk of deforestation and forest degradation associated with relevant commodities produced on that land.
Management System	A set of policies, processes, procedures and resources used by an organization to ensure it can fulfil the tasks required to achieve its objectives.
Mass Balance	A supply chain model for administratively monitoring the inputs and outputs of certified/verified material throughout the supply chain. It allows for the mixing of these materials at any stage in the supply chain.
Non-compliance (NC)	The state of not complying with or fulfilling (or only partially complying with or fulfilling) a given law, standard, commitment, or target.
Producer	The owner or manager of a production unit. This includes smallholders and other individual owners/managers, corporate entities, and communities that own or manage production systems.
Segregation (SG)	A supply chain model where coconut material is sourced from two or more verified sources and kept separate from any other coconut material throughout the supply chain.
Smallholder	A person who farms a plot of land to support his or her household. A plot of land is a smallholding up to 25 acres (10.12 hectares) of land or is defined to be a smallholder farm by the national government or partnership organization.
Supplier	A producer or company that supplies raw materials, processed materials, or finished products to a buyer.
Traceability	The ability to follow a material or product or its components through each of the supply chain stages (e.g. production, processing, manufacturing, and distribution).
Third-Party	A person or organization performing or providing a specific service to an SCA, other than the SCA itself.
Upstream	A position in the supply chain closer to the raw material origin
Verification Body	An independent body selected by an SCA to perform the independent verification assessment.

Origin Standard Criteria

Economic impact area 1

Goal of this impact area: Achieving increased smallholder farmers' economic opportunities, income and subsequently improving their livelihoods.

Principle 1.1: Enhancing good agriculture practices and improve productivity

Coconut yields in recent years have declined. This has been attributed to factors such as the use of suboptimal planting materials, challenges in agronomic practices, climate pressures, extreme weather events, and biotic stresses. It is essential to support farmers to increase productivity and re-invest in their farms to break poverty traps without compromising the environment.

	ACTORS						
TOPICS	**F**	**C/T**	**P**	**O**	**#**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**Score**
GAP training		x	x	x	1.1.1	Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) training is provided to all farmers which shall include some of the practices suggested in this document.	1
		x			1.1.2	Productivity is tracked to measure improvements achieved with the implementation of the SCP standard. This could include number of nuts per tree, nuts per ha, etc. Estimates can be made based on a representative sample of the farm population included in the verification scope.	1,25
			X		1.1.3	Demonstration farms are set-up to showcase farming practices and demonstrate their effectiveness. They should be located at a reasonable distance from the farm group to ensure accessibility for farmers to visit, with farmers encouraged or incentivized to visit them.	1,25
			X		1.1.4	Trainings are conducted at demonstration farms to raise awareness and train farmers on the SCP charter practices.	1,5

Agrochemicals and Waste	x	x	x	x	1.1.5	All farmers should be provided with a list of approved and banned Crop Protection Products (CPPs) and those prohibited under the Stockholm and Rotterdam conventions in a language that is clear, and they understand.	1
	x				1.1.6	All farmers should store their agrochemicals according to label instructions. If no label instructions are present, they are stored to out of reach of children, away from food and in a locked box or cupboard. Chemicals should be stored in their original packaging.	1,25
	x				1.1.7	Only approved pesticides are used by individual farmers and prohibited pesticides are avoided based on the shared lists under practice 1.1.3.	1
	x	x	x		1.1.8	All farmers triple rinse (with water) and pierce empty agrochemical containers, and/or handle hazardous waste as appropriate according to any available local legislation. Left over rinsing water is applied to the crops. The empty containers are stored on farm until they can be appropriately disposed of.	1,25
	x	x	x	x	1.1.9	All farmers record pesticides applied and keep updated records for consultation.	1,5
	x	x	x	x	1.1.10	All farmers have access to and implement agrochemical reduction plans.	1,5
Nutrient management	x	x	x	x	1.1.11	A nutrient management plan is developed for each farm.	1
	x	x	x		1.1.12	Fertilizer applications are completed according to schedules (unless with appropriate justifications e.g. late delivery, adverse weather etc), and records kept for each farm.	1,25
	x	x	x		1.1.13	Regular leaf or soil tests are conducted to assess plant conditions and support more precise fertilizer applications.	1,5
	x		x		1.1.14	A pest and disease census is conducted for all farms before formulating a chemical application schedule.	1,25

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	x	x	x		1.1.15	An IPM strategy is pursued with the goal of reducing agrochemical applications. Therefore, limiting blanket applications of agrochemicals.	1,5
Soil Management	x	x	x		1.1.16	A soil management plan is developed to prevent soil erosion and degradation and is shared with all farmers.	1,25
	x	x	x		1.1.17	All farmers are implementing the soil management plan to avoid soil erosion and degradation.	1,5
Product quality			x		1.1.18	All farmers have received training on post-harvest processes (drying, handling, storage, and packaging) at farm level to ensure improved quality and to reduce the potential for contamination.	1
			x		1.1.19	All farmers have access to processing facilities that prevent contamination of the product.	1,25

Principle 1.2: Improving financial capacity, access to finance, and market

Coconut business contributes to social and economic well-being of local farmers by providing food, and employment opportunities. However, with the reduced yields, livelihoods are at risk. For example, Danida Green Business Partnerships (DGBP) reports that the coconut farmers are usually poor and about 50% of 3.5 million farmers in some countries have been living below the poverty line (<$2 per day). Most of these farmers are smallholders who cultivate less than four hectares of land. A lack of funds to invest back into the farm; knowledge to maximize farm productivity, coconut yield and quality; strength to collectively bargain; access to markets; and suitable financial service contribute to poor agriculture practices,

	ACTORS						
TOPICS	**F**	**C/T**	**P**	**O**	**#**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**Score**
Income diversification		x			1.2.1	All farmers receive training on good business practices for their farming business.	1

		x	x		1.2.2	A farm business plan is created together with each farmer and relevant supply chain actors with the objective to strengthen farmer livelihoods and income.	1,25
Transparent pricing		x			1.2.3	Clear prices are communicated to the cooperative/traders in advance. Clear contracts need to be in place in an understandable language for the cooperative/traders.	1,25
			x		1.2.4	Clear prices are to be communicated to the farmers cooperatives and traders in advance. Clear contracts need to be in place in an understandable language for the farmers	1,5
Fair pricing		x	x	x	1.2.5	Farmers included in the verification scope will be compensated for additional costs involved with the implementation of the origin standard. This will be paid on top of the market price for the coconut products.	1
Price incentives and capital access			x	x	1.2.6	A development plan is made by the supply chain actor detailing how the premium that will be received for sustainable or verified products will be used to strengthen farmer livelihoods. This plan should be inclusive of feedback and inputs of representatives from all actors included in the verification scope.	1
		x	x	x	1.2.7	The supply chain actors provide transparency and clarity about the premiums received for sustainable or verified products. These premiums are shared amongst all actors and in a way that structurally strengthens the farmer livelihoods.	1,25
			x		1.2.8	The supply chain actor has a management system in place to record and track received and shared premiums with all actors involved in the verification scope. This management system needs to describe what methodology is in place to distribute the premium (a quota system or an allocation system for example).	1,5

Principle 1.3: Rejuvenating farms by replanting and replacing unproductive coconut trees, and improving farm health and safety

It is estimated that up half the world's coconut trees are senile, and up to 80% of coconut trees are over 32 years old in Southeast Asia leading to low yields and incomes. Some replanting is done with poorly selected materials, without cutting down the old trees.

	ACTORS						
TOPICS	**F**	**C/T**	**P**	**O**	**#**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**Score**
Replanting and quality planting materials	x		x		1.3.1	A regular census of unproductive and productive trees on the farm is conducted. Plans for replanting or rejuvenating them are drawn up based on the census.	1
	x	x			1.3.2	Seednut selection is done carefully depending on coconut varieties, pollination, quality, etc. Farmers are either trained to perform this task or be accompanied by a knowledgeable advisor.	1
		x	x		1.3.3	Either a reputable nursery is identified, or a new nursery site is identified (on or off farm) to further develop the seedlings. When selecting a coconut nursery site, the following topics need to be taken into account in the site selection process soil type, climate, secure water source and the nursery structure to ensure a viable nursery to be established.	1,25
		x			1.3.4	Farmers have access to a nursery from which they can source quality materials for replanting.	1,25
		x			1.3.5	The seedling nursery is well managed including having proper watering schedules, nutrient applications and agrochemical use ensuring healthy seedlings are produced.	1,25
		x			1.3.6	All farmers have access to high yielding varieties to replace their unproductive trees.	1,5

		x	x		1.3.7	Replanting and rejuvenation of coconut trees is monitored and tracked within the sourcing region. A management plan is developed to guide this process.	1,5
Crop insurance		x	x		1.3.8	A crop insurance program is established to compensate farmers in case yields are damaged because of weather/climate events.	1,5

Principle 1.4: Increasing access to technology

In many rural areas, poor infrastructure and access to technology (for planting, inputs management, monitoring insects and pests, harvesting, market information or even processing), are factors that limit farmers to create value and farm as a business . In addition, farmers do no have easy access to market information and outreach, and the online marketing of products at farmers level is still inadequate. In absence of these, farmers have not been fully engaged with buyers as well as extension services to benefit them, and maximize benefits.

	ACTORS						
TOPICS	**F**	**C/T**	**P**	**O**	**#**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**Score**
Online tools		x	x		1.4.1	Digital tools (e.g apps, social media, etc) are used to improve accessibility to agricultural advice, trainings and general updates for the farm group.	1
			X		1.4.2	Digital tools are used to share weather forecasts or market information to the farmers to help them anticipate future events.	1,25
			X		1.4.3	Digital tools are used to help ensure a traceable supply chain down to farm level.	1,5
			X		1.4.4	Digital tools are used to make online payments to farmers for their products.	1,5

Social impact area 2.

Protecting fundamental human rights, preventing child labor and forced labor in coconut production and processing.

Principle 2.1: Assuring farmers health and safety.

International Labor Organization of United Nations outlines agriculture as one of the most hazardous occupations worldwide with harvesters and farm processors with the highest frequency and fatality rates of injury. With dangerous harvest and dehusking processes observed all across coconut supply chain mixed with exposure to pesticides and other agrochemicals constitutes a major occupational risk which may result in poisoning and death and, in certain cases, work-related cancer and reproductive impairments.

	ACTORS						
TOPICS	**F**	**C/T**	**P**	**O**	**#**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**Score**
Use of safety equipement		x			2.1.1	Farmers and farm workers should be trained on the safe and proper handling of agricultural inputs, especially crop protection products.	1
		X			2.1.2	All the persons working on the farm, including the farm owner, are provided with appropriate Personal Protective Equipement (PPEs) to protect them during their work.	1,25
		X			2.1.3	First aid kits should be readily available at all farms to treat minor injuries of farmers or farm workers on site.	1,5

Principle 2.2: Farmer protection and land right.

In many countries, coconut farmers are smallholders. Livelihoods Funds report that 80% of coconut farmers in some countries are smallholders with less than 2 hectares of land.. Moreover, the small holder farmers' land rights is contested in some countries, where farmers face challenges to own, occupy, use and administer formal and customary rights.

	ACTORS						
TOPICS	**F**	**C/T**	**P**	**O**	**#**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**Score**
Farmer rights		X			2.2.1	The legitimate right of farmers to use their land can be demonstrated. This can include claims supported by national legislation or customary/indigenous rules.	1
		x	x		2.2.2	Contracts with farmers will follow national or indigenous customs but are always in a language both parties clearly understand and agreed upon.	1,25

2.3 Ensuring fair recruitment of workers

Coconut farmers face shortage of workers and the wage rate is usually high. There is usually a considerable wage difference between men and women, with women being paid less than men. Child labor also occurs, as a means to meet family's economic needs..

	ACTORS						
TOPICS	**F**	**C/T**	**P**	**O**	**#**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**Score**
Child labor	x	x	x		2.3.1	No children below the age of 15 are employed on the farm. Children (under 15) present at the farm are protected from safety risks.	1
		x	x	x	2.3.2	Steps are taken to monitor and prevent child labor comprehensively.	1,5
Discrimination		x	x		2.3.3	No workers are subject to discrimination during the hiring process or whilst working on the farm.	1,25
Working hours		x	x		2.3.4	Total weekly working hours for an employed farm worker does not exceed 60 hours.	1,5
No forced labour	x	x	x		2.3.5	Forced labor is not permitted on the farm (this includes slavery, serfdom, violence, threats, intimidation or other forms of domination and oppression in the workplace).	1

Grievance mechanism		X	x	x	2.3.6	Workers and farmers have access to effective grievance mechanisms to mitigate any issues prevalent on the farms or in the supply chains.	1,5
Fair compensation		X	x		2.3.7	Wages, payments and benefits (including in-kind) meet at least legal or industry minimum standards, or collective bargaining agreements (where applicable), whichever is higher.	1
Working conditions		X	x		2.3.8	Workers are provided a hygienic, safe and healthy workplace environment to prevent work-related accidents, injuries and illnesses. The same applies in case housing is provided.	1
		x	x		2.3.9	Workers are provided with adequate access to free and safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) at the workplace and housing when provided.	1,25
	x	x	X		2.3.10	All permanent farm workers are provided with employment contracts in a language they understand.	1,5
Worker dignity	x				2.3.11	No worker is subject to any form of psychological, physical, sexual or verbal abuse, intimidation, or harassment.	1
		x	x	x	2.3.12	All workers have equal employment opportunities and are not discriminated in the workplace nor in the hiring process.	1,25
Freedom of association		x	x	x	2.3.13	Farmers should not be prevented or prohibited to freely associate and participate in collective bargaining.	1,5

2.4 Enhancing Young/Upcoming Farmers' capacity and engagement in coconut farming

Youths are gradually moving out of coconut farming, they are demotivated to work in the coconut production fearing their lives to be trapped in vicious circles of poverty. Decades long public authorities surveys, consultations and research are documenting youth exile while showing that farmers need not be poor with sufficient level of education and awareness to opportunities on coconut farms.

	ACTORS						
TOPICS	**F**	**C/T**	**P**	**O**	**#**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**Score**
Awareness		x	x	x	2.4.1	Schools/universities/customary gathering places are engaged to share experience and knowledge about coconut farming to get younger persons enthusiastic for a career in the coconut sector.	1,25
		x	x	x	2.4.2	Financial incentive programs should be developed for young starting coconut farmers. Incentives can (examples) include the donation of seedlings/young trees, funds to bridge the first years until the crop is established or agricultural inputs.	1,5

Environmental impact area 3.

Protecting ecosystems, soils and biodiversity in coconut plantations and mitigating climate change impacts for coconut farmers.

3.1 Protecting forest and other natural ecosystems in coconut production and processing (no-deforestation)

Deforestation in coconut landscapes has been reported in high-biodiversity lowland coastal forests where coconut cultivation is a key land use. A study conducted in Sumatra reports three major drivers of deforestation and forest degradation i.e., land clearing for agriculture, coconut plantation, and aquaculture. The deforestation has contributed to degraded biodiversity and reduced wild life and birds.

	ACTORS						
TOPICS	**F**	**C/T**	**P**	**O**	**#**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**Score**
No deforestation		x	x	x	3.1.1	There is no expansion or production on areas converted from natural forests and natural ecosystems from 31 December 2019 onwards.	1
Biodiversity		x	x	x	3.1.2	Trainings are conducted for farmers to increase awareness on biodiversity challenges in the area.	1

		x			3.1.3	High biodiversity zones, high conservation value areas or areas with indigenous significance are identified, demarcated and protected by the organization.	1,25
		x			3.1.4	On farm practices are implemented stimulating biodiversity (at least one practice). Examples of practices include: (1) Wildflower meadows, (2) Wildlife corridors and strips, (3) bird nest boxes, (4) Wetland creation, (6) establishing pasture, (7) creation of landscape elements (ponds, terraces, windbreaks, etc..).	1,5

3.2 Developing climate resilient farms and farmers

Climate change has already started impacting coconut farming. A study projects that about 127,000 ha of current coconut farms are likely to be affected by changes in precipitation and longer dry seasons in insular part of Southeast Asia, reducing coconut yields and displacement of cultivation areas in the region. This, in turn, will add pressure on biodiversity conservation. Good agricultural techniques, enhanced irrigation coupled with replanting with more adequate varieties is a good way to improve climate resilience.

	ACTORS						
TOPICS	**F**	**C/T**	**P**	**O**	**#**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**Score**
Trainings		x	x	x	3.2.1	Farmers are given training on appropriate and practical climate change adaptation measures and practices which can be taken at farm level to strengthen farm resilience.	1
Practices				x	3.2.2	A risk assessment is conducted to identify key impact areas of climate change on the coconut farm enabling identification of appropriate adaptation measures to be taken amongst the farm base.	1,25
		x			3.2.3	Practices identified in the risk assessment are actively implemented at field level to limit the negative impact of climate change.	1,5

3.3 Strengthening energy efficient coconut processing

Usage of fossil fuel such as coal, oil, natural gas and biomass in coconut processing for machinery and plants produce greenhouse gas emissions. Replacing such energy sources with improved biomass or other renewable energies can yield significant emissions reduction, savings and energy efficiency at processing level.

	ACTORS						
TOPICS	**F**	**C/T**	**P**	**O**	**#**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**Score**
GHG			x		3.3.1	All energy intensive processes at the processing facility are identified and listed.	1
			x		3.3.2	Measures are taken to improve the energy efficiency at the processing facility.	1,25
			x		3.3.3	Energy use at the processing facility is tracked and recorded. This data is used to monitor the effectiveness of the implemented measures aimed at improving the energy efficiency of the processing facility.	1,5

3.4 Building low carbon and regenerative agriculture

With increasingly senile trees and inadequate agricultural practices, soil health and farm ecosystem are degrading resulting low yield and depletion of soil carbon. In addition, onfarm residue is one of the sources of carbon emissions in coconut production. Moreover, the farmers use coal and fossil fuel. Regenerative agriculture principles like intercropping, crop rotation, increasing use of biological amendments, and reduced use of persistent chemical pesticides and fertilizers are supporting both low carbon, soil health and biodiversity while increasing yields.

	ACTORS						
TOPICS	**F**	**C/T**	**P**	**O**	**#**	**REQUIREMENTS**	**Score**
Regenerative Agriculture		x	x	x	3.4.1	Trainings are conducted focusing on regenerative agriculture to build capacity of the farmers. Suitable regenerative practices include: (1) intercropping (planting a secondary crop in between the coconut trees), (2) Livestock integration (the use of livestock on the coconut plantation), (3) rainwater harvesting (to collect and store rainwater instead of allowing the water to run-off) and (4) use of only natural fertilizers instead of synthetic fertilizers.	1
		x	x	x	3.4.2	>25% of the farmers included in the verification scope has implemented one or more regenerative practices at their farm. Examples of practices are mentioned in criteria 3.4.1.	1,25

		X	x	x	3.4.3	>50% of the farmers included in the verification scope has implemented one or more regenerative practices at their farm. Examples of practices are mentioned in criteria 3.4.1.	1,5