GLOBAL COFFEE PLATFORM

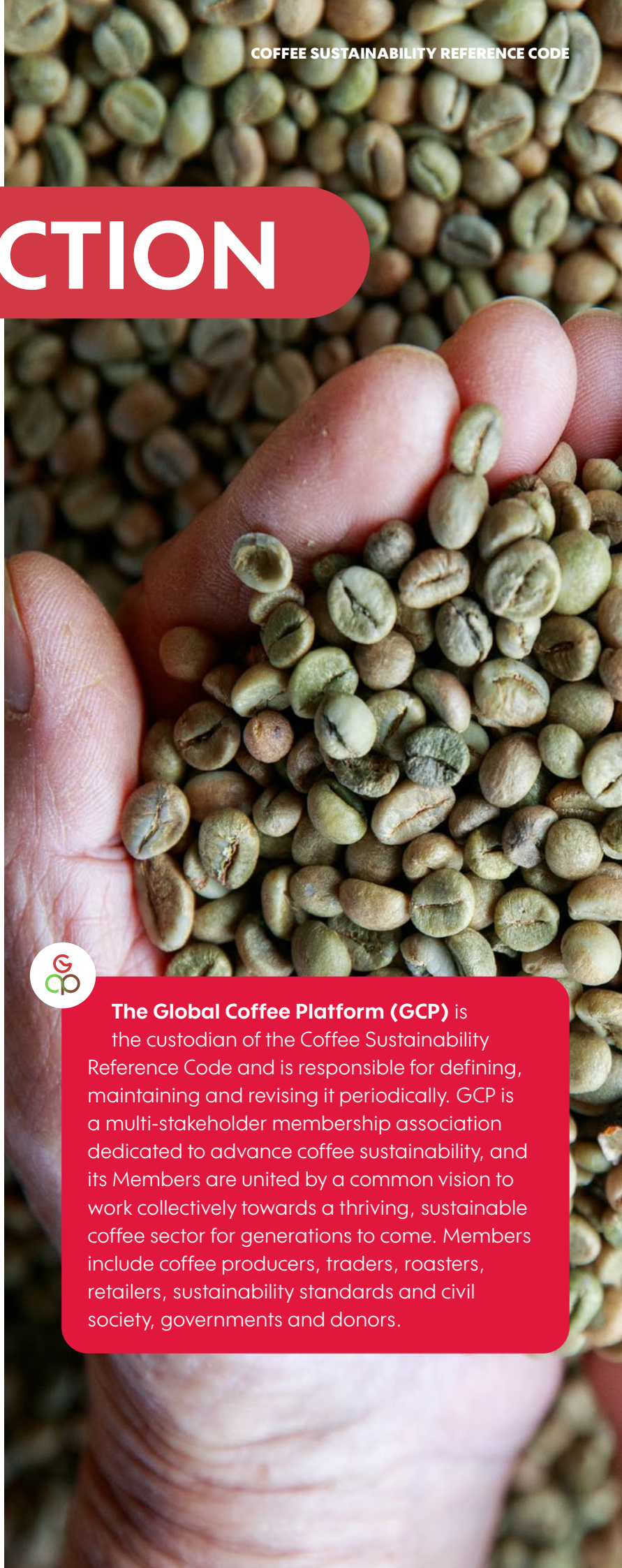
COFFEE SUSTAINABILITY REFERENCE CODE

ADVANCING SUSTAINABILITY TOGETHER

INTRODUCTION

Coffee is a positive engine for the economic and social development of the more than 50 countries that export it and makes an important contribution to the environment as a productive forest. Over 25 million families depend on coffee farming for their living and around 12.5 million farms produce coffee, the large majority of them being smallholders.[1] Women manage a quarter of these farms and provide up to 70% of the labour in coffee production.[2] However, ongoing challenges including farmers' profitability and the climate crisis – exacerbated by a global pandemic – are jeopardizing the contribution of coffee production to the local economies and the sustainability outcomes achieved in the past years. As a result, the interest of young farmers to engage in the coffee business has decreased over the years.

One of the keys for the coffee sector to address these challenges and to drive sustainability and producer prosperity is a common framework for collective action and shared responsibility. The Coffee Sustainability Reference Code serves as a guide for all coffee farmers beginning or advancing in their sustainability journey, by establishing a common language. It contributes to a shared understanding of baseline sustainability for public and private coffee stakeholders and NGOs, as well as to aligned measurement and monitoring towards increased sustainable production and consumption of coffee.



The Global Coffee Platform (GCP) is the custodian of the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code and is responsible for defining, maintaining and revising it periodically. GCP is a multi-stakeholder membership association dedicated to advance coffee sustainability, and its Members are united by a common vision to work collectively towards a thriving, sustainable coffee sector for generations to come. Members include coffee producers, traders, roasters, retailers, sustainability standards and civil society, governments and donors.

[1] ICO (2019). Coffee Development Report 2019. Growing for prosperity – economic viability as the catalyst for a sustainable coffee sector. http://www.internationalcoffeecouncil.org/media/coffeeDevelopmentReport.pdf

[2] Ibid.

SCOPE

As a global reference, the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code is an outcomes-focused framework for the foundations of sustainability in the economic, social and environmental dimensions for green coffee production and primary processing worldwide.

A shared understanding of baseline sustainability at production and primary processing is a prerequisite but is not the only way to advance the sustainability agenda in the coffee sector. Innovations and other interventions at farm level, along the supply chain, or regional and landscape approaches will be more easily aligned if there is a common reference framework on which to build.

While the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code covers the beginning of the supply chain, downstream actors are expected to share the responsibility for sustainability. This includes supporting and incentivizing the efforts of coffee producers to introduce, maintain and go beyond these baseline principles across all dimensions, as well as promoting equitable trading and sourcing practices.

USERS

As a global reference, the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code can be used in a variety of ways by different stakeholders, for example:

Coffee producers

as a reference to assess their own practices vis-a-vis baseline sustainability principles and practices and identify areas for improvement.

Managers of producers' groups

as a reference to understand where each individual producer is regarding baseline sustainability practices and identify areas for individual or group improvement. Also, to assess their own performance against principles and practices that are only relevant to groups.

Traders, roasters and retailers

as a reference for corporate sustainability strategies, responsible sourcing and origin programs, and for their commitments on responsible/sustainable sourcing.

Regions/governments involved in coffee landscape approaches

to use as the baseline to define sustainable production.

Financial institutions and investment funds

as a reference for baseline sustainability in the coffee sector which can inform eligibility criteria for investments.

Donor agencies and NGOs

as a reference for baseline sustainability in the coffee sector which can inform programming and investment support.

Sustainability standards, schemes and programs, and supply chain actors

combined with the Operational Criteria under the GCP Equivalence Mechanism, to assess those schemes/programs against the Principles and Practices set out in the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code for credibility purposes and/or to be eligible for the GCP Collective Reporting on Sustainable Coffee Purchases.

Governments in coffee-producing countries and Country Platforms

as a reference that underpins their national coffee sustainability strategies and plans (e.g. used for the development of National Sustainability Curriculum and extension services programs).

APPLICATION

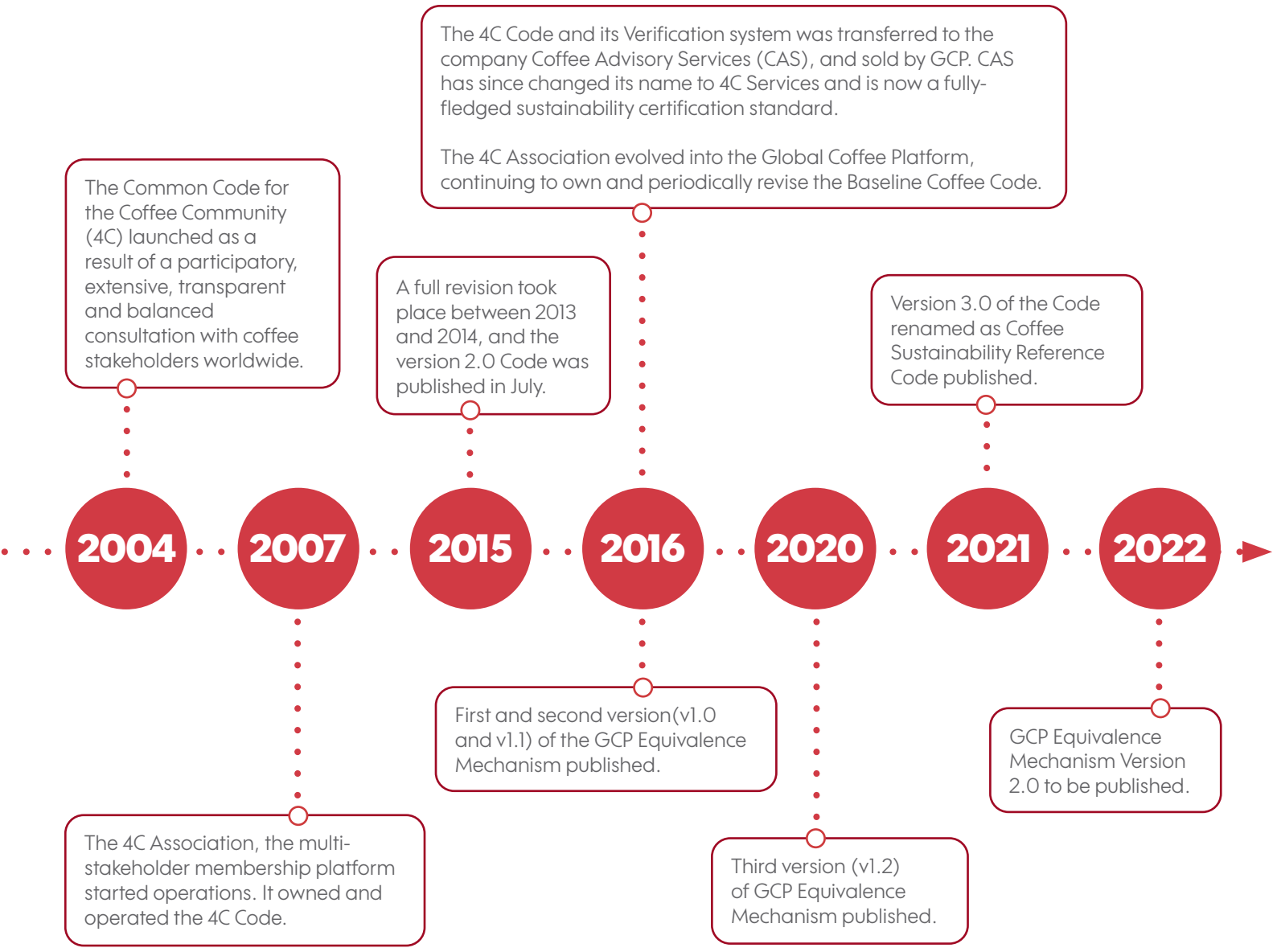
The Coffee Sustainability Reference Code is a framework rather than a standard that measures field level sustainability. There are many credible sustainability standards and schemes that already have robust implementation systems. The Coffee Sustainability Reference Code is not meant to compete with or replace these but rather serve as common language for baseline sustainability. GCP has in recent years developed a separate mechanism to enable users of these different schemes, standards and programs to identify how they relate to the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code.

This is called the Equivalence Mechanism, which allows for the assessment of whether sustainability standards and schemes can be considered equivalent to the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code. The GCP Equivalence Mechanism evaluates not only whether the Principles and Practices in the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code are included but also how those requirements are implemented (Operational Criteria). The Operational Criteria include elements such as data, assurance, traceability and claims. For more information on the GCP Equivalence Mechanism, see this link.

Sustainability schemes, standards and programs that are considered as equivalent to the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code are eligible to be included in the GCP Collective Reporting on Sustainable Coffee Purchases. The resulting annual GCP Snapshot report provides a look into the volumes and origins of the sustainable coffee purchases of roasters and retailers. For more information on the GCP Collective Reporting, see this link.

HISTORY

COFFEE SUSTAINABILITY REFERENCE CODE EQUIVALENCE MECHANISM

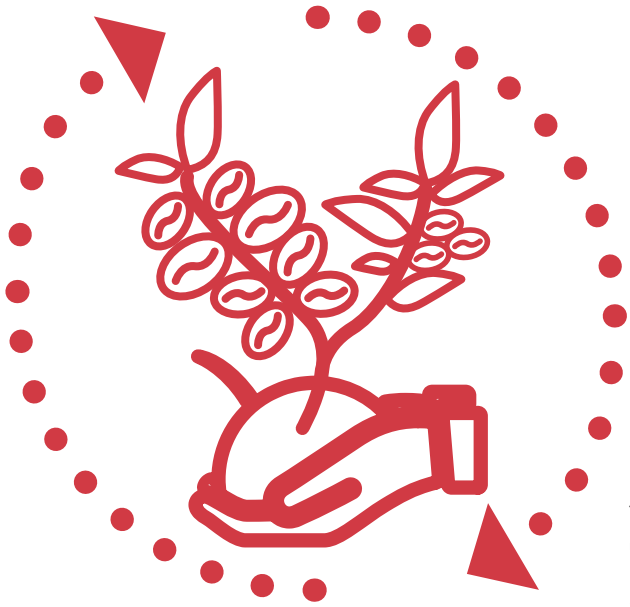


CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The Coffee Sustainability Reference Code aims to reach all producers – bringing those who are currently not participating in the market for sustainable coffee into a baseline level of sustainability. It also seeks to support those already on the journey towards sustainability in further improving their practices.

Continuous improvement is being introduced as the **fifth Critical Practice**, requiring that where the Expected Results are not met, a time-bound action plan to meet the baseline level of sustainability is put in place and monitored.

Four Practices are highlighted as Critical: elimination of the worst forms of child labour, elimination of forced labour, no deforestation, no use of prohibited pesticides. These are recognized hotspots by the sector in terms of severity and immediacy of impacts. If these practices are found, they are to be stopped immediately.



All Practices reflect a **minimum baseline threshold of sustainability.** However, recognizing that for mainstream coffee production and in particular for smallholders, some of these **Expected Results** might not yet be in place, continuous improvement is essential.

In countries where **National Sustainability Curricula** are developed, the curricula provide further guidance on the contextualization of the Principles, Practices and Expected Results.

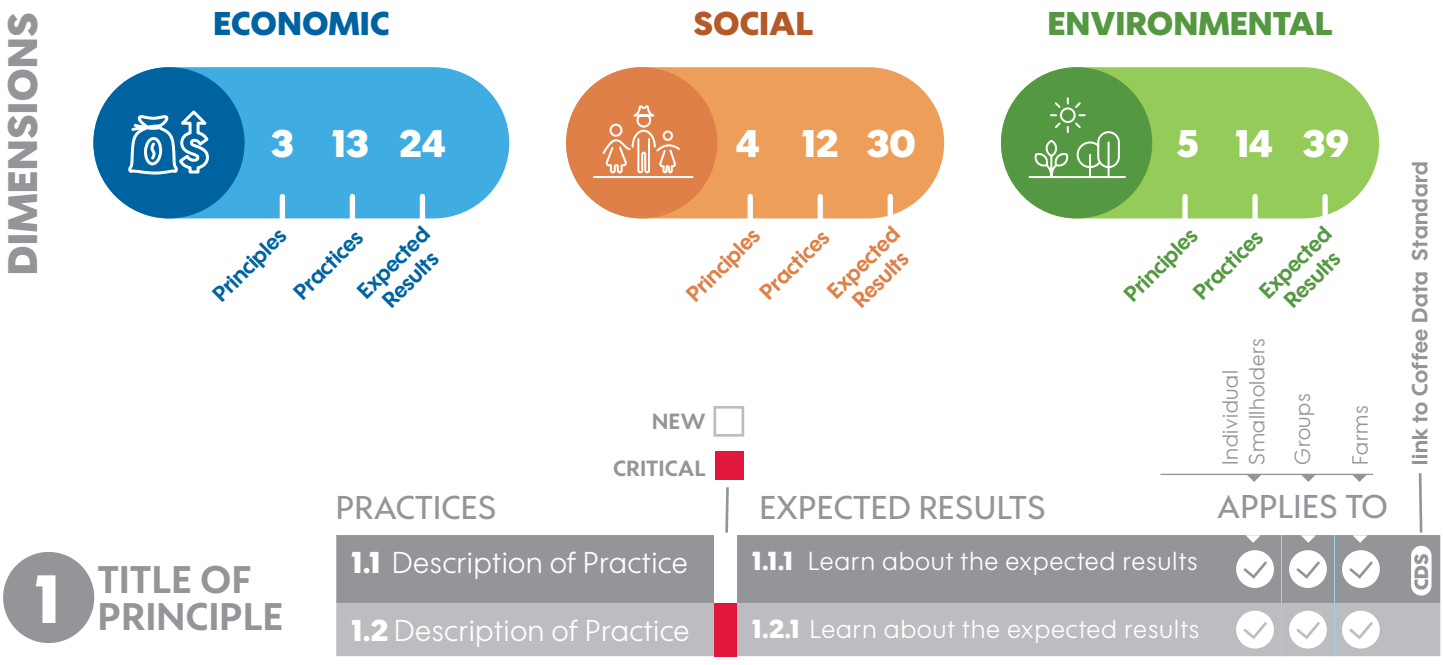
Timelines are defined by the users of the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code with implementation of the different **Practices** based on the context of the producers with whom they work, especially considering smallholders' realities. This will drive continuous improvement towards achievement of the **Expected Results**.

STRUCTURE

The Coffee Sustainability Reference Code is an outcomes-focused framework organized around the **three dimensions of sustainability: economic, social** and **environmental**, recognizing that these dimensions are interrelated and interdependent.

Each dimension includes a goal statement that is connected to the GCP Mission – farmers' economic prosperity, improved well-being, conservation of nature and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Under each dimension there are **Principles, Practices** and **Expected Results**, as follows:



Each **Principle** describes an objective or ambition and is broken down into Practices.

The **Practices** are the actions to be implemented to meet the Principles and achieve the overall aim.

The **Expected Results** are a further breakdown of the Practices. Expected Results are framed as expected outcomes. These are measurable aspects that serve different purposes depending on the users (e.g. for the farmers to understand details about Practices, for the Equivalence Mechanism to assess schemes).

Whether an Expected Result is applicable to individual smallholders, to holders of larger farms (e.g. not smallholders, estate or multi-site) or Groups (e.g. formal or informal, organized under cooperative, resource manager, government, input provider, trader) is shown under the applicability columns.

Producers mean all male and female coffee farmers, and holders of land of all sizes.

Unless explicitly stated, workers mean all workers: permanent, seasonal, part-time, piece rate, migrant and 3rd party contractors, female and male.

Smallholders mean producers who primarily rely on family labour and/ or a workforce exchange with other members of the community to carry out their coffee activities.

Definition of terms and additional references are included in the Glossary and Guidance.

OVERVIEW OF PRINCIPLES

ECONOMIC DIMENSION

1. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
2. AGRICULTURAL SERVICES
3. BUSINESS INTEGRITY

SOCIAL DIMENSION

4. RIGHT TO CHILDHOOD
5. HUMAN RIGHTS
6. WORKING CONDITIONS
7. COMMUNITY

ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION

8. BIODIVERSITY
9. PEST & WEED MANAGEMENT
10. RESOURCE CONSERVATION
11. POLLUTION PREVENTION
12. CLIMATE

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Goal statement: Producers are able to achieve better productivity and quality and improve their income from coffee, contributing to their economic prosperity and sharing the benefits with all involved in coffee production including women and youth.

Contributing to:

PRINCIPLES

1. BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
2. AGRICULTURAL SERVICES
3. BUSINESS INTEGRITY

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

1

All Producers have knowledge about the practices they need to implement for productivity, sustainability, diversity, equity, inclusion, resilience and profitability.

PRACTICES		EXPECTED RESULTS	APPLIES TO: Individual Smallholders	Groups	Farms	
1.1 Producers have training and skills development to apply techniques for good agricultural practices (GAP), and those relating to post-harvest handling, good management, and quality.		**1.1.1** Producers are aware of GAP as defined by applicable national programs/standards, post- harvest handling practices, good management and quality practices that can be implemented at farm level.	✓		✓	
		1.1.2 Producers are aware of the quality parameters of coffee beans (e.g. moisture content, physical defects, maximum residue limits).	✓		✓	
		1.1.3 Producers and workers are trained on good agricultural practices, post- harvest and handling practices and quality practices.		✓	✓	
		1.1.4 Producers belonging to groups are trained on good management practices including good corporate governance.		✓		
		1.1.5 Producers implement these practices.	✓		✓	
1.2 Producers maintain records for planning and decision making.		**1.2.1** Producers have records of main costs and income from coffee. Smallholders that are not able to maintain records are aware of their yields and main costs (such as labour and/or inputs) and income (for example the price at which they have been selling coffee).	✓		✓	CDS
	NEW	**1.2.2** Producers are aware of all their income and costs beyond coffee and including off-farm activities. This information provides a basis to identify gaps between total income and Living Income Benchmarks as they become available.	✓		✓	
1.3 Producers support diversity, equity, inclusion through participation and development opportunities for all in coffee farming and management.	NEW	**1.3.1** Gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) analysis is conducted to identify the needs, participation rates, access to resources and development, control of assets, decision-making powers, etc. of women, youth and marginalized groups.		✓	✓	
		1.3.2 Producers have a plan and implement measures to support participation and access to opportunities for all involved in farming and management.		✓	✓	
1.4 Producers have a documented set of procedures, processes and policies to ensure it can achieve a baseline level of sustainability.	NEW	**1.4.1** An internal inspection system is in place that includes at least a periodic self-assessment against baseline level of sustainability.		✓	✓	
		1.4.2 Producers and workers are aware of baseline practices of sustainability, in particular those related to Critical Practices and Human Rights.	✓		✓	
		1.4.3 Producers and workers being impacted negatively by the business activities and operations have the opportunity to raise complaints without being negatively affected.		✓	✓	
		1.4.4 The Group maintains a complete and up-to-date list of all its members and their basic data: i.e. name, gender, coffee area in hectares, coffee production potential per year in bags or kilos, location in GPS (links to traceability).		✓		
1.5 Producers engage in continuous improvement in farming practices.	NEW + CRITICAL	**1.5.1** Producers have a locally adapted and time-bound action plan to meet baseline level of sustainability.		✓	✓	
		1.5.2 Plans are regularly reviewed, progress assessed and plans adjusted as needed to drive continuous improvement.		✓	✓	

2 AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

All producers have access, without discrimination (e.g. as to gender or age), to services, inputs and information to enable improved productivity and quality.

PRACTICES	EXPECTED RESULTS	APPLIES TO: Individual Smallholders	Groups	Farms
2.1 Producers have access to information based on their needs coming from independent sources	**2.1.1** Information is regularly available to producers on practices, services, inputs, market, and climate coming from independent sources.	✓	✓	✓
2.2 Producers have access to extension services, inputs and finance.	**2.2.1** Extension services are supporting producers towards better productivity, quality and profitability. Inputs (e.g. for planting, soil improvement or pest management), equipment (e.g. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), farm tools) and finance are available.	✓	✓	✓
2.3 Producers and workers have access to relevant training and can develop their technical skills.	**2.3.1** A training policy and schedule based on identified needs is developed and addresses any barriers to access.		✓	✓
2.4 Producers have access to market information and prices reflecting quality from independent sources. (e.g. radio, member meetings, display of information).	**2.4.1** Producers are informed about local prices and price mechanism according to the quality of the coffee.	✓	✓	✓
	2.4.2 Producers receive prices that reflect the quality of their coffee.		✓	

3 BUSINESS INTEGRITY

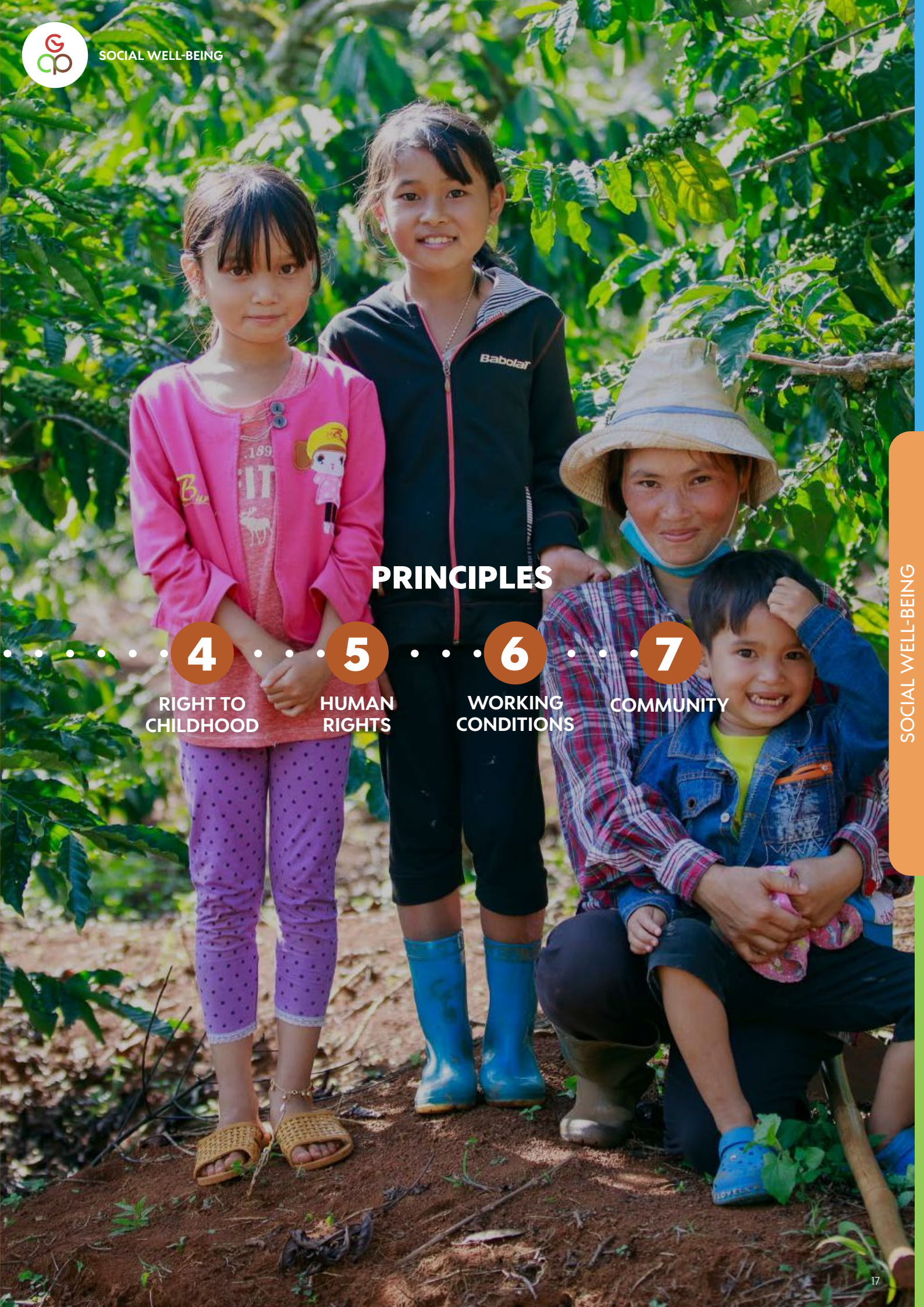
All Producers conduct their business ethically and with transparency

PRACTICES		EXPECTED RESULTS	APPLIES TO: Individual Smallholders	Groups	Farms
3.1 Producers comply with relevant legal and regulatory requirements.	NEW	**3.1.1** Producers comply with relevant legal and regulatory requirements.	✓	✓	✓
3.2 All Producers have legal and legitimate right to use the land.		**3.2.1** Producers have legal or customary rights to the land for farming or processing.	✓	✓	✓
3.3 There is no fraud, corruption, bribery and/or extortion.		**3.3.1** A policy for ethical conduct is in place and implemented in all business operations and transactions.		✓	✓
3.4 Coffee is traceable.		**3.4.1** The physical coffee and associated product documentation can be traced back to the immediate supplier or farmer and forwarded to the next buyer.	✓	✓	✓

SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Goal statement: Producers and workers employed in coffee enjoy their rights and decent working conditions. Families engaged in coffee farming also benefit, as well as their communities.

Contributing to:



PRINCIPLES

4 RIGHT TO CHILDHOOD

5 HUMAN RIGHTS

6 WORKING CONDITIONS

7 COMMUNITY

4 RIGHT TO CHILDHOOD

Children have the right to childhood and education.

PRACTICES	EXPECTED RESULTS	Individual Smallholders	Groups	Farms
4.1 Children under the age of 15, under the minimum age for work or the age of completion of compulsory education are not employed. Child labour does not include children helping their parents on their own farm, provided that working does not jeopardize their schooling or health. (ILO 182 and 138). CRITICAL	**4.1.1** Children under the age of 15 (or legal school age) attend school.	✓	✓	✓
	4.1.2 Children below the age of 18 years are not engaged in work which could jeopardize their health, safety or morals. (Worst forms of Child Labour ILO 182).	✓	✓	✓
	4.1.3 Children's participation in work is only accepted as part of light family work, outside school hours for children below 15 years old, and they are not performing hazardous work.	✓		✓

APPLIES TO CDS

5 HUMAN RIGHTS

Producers and workers enjoy their rights, and international standards on human rights are upheld.

PRACTICES		EXPECTED RESULTS	APPLIES TO: Individual Smallholders	Groups	Farms
5.1 Producers and workers are protected from discrimination and harassment (ILO 100, 111, 190).		**5.1.1** All workers receive equal treatment in terms of hiring, remuneration and benefits, access to training and promotion.	✓	✓	✓
		5.1.2 Workers are free from violence and harassment or abusive treatment, including gender-based violence.	✓	✓	✓
5.2 Workers voluntarily and freely choose employment (ILO 29, 105).	CRITICAL	**5.2.1** Workers can leave their work places and/or living quarters provided by the employer.	✓	✓	✓
		5.2.2 Identity or travel documents, salary/money or other assets belonging to workers are not retained by the employer.	✓	✓	✓
		5.2.3 Workers are not subject to debt bondage. For example, where they are forced to work for an employer in order to pay off their own debts or those they have inherited. This can also include purchasing schemes for food, accommodation and/or transport managed by the employer when the costs exceed local market rates.	✓	✓	✓
5.3 Producers and workers have the freedom of association (ILO 87, 98).		**5.3.1** Producers and workers are free to form and join independent organizations to protect and enhance their interests (e.g. federations, associations, farmer groups and trade unions and labour organizations for workers).	✓	✓	✓
		5.3.2 Representatives of producers or workers have access to the information and resources necessary to carry out their functions.		✓	✓
		5.3.3 Representatives of producers or workers are not discriminated nor adverse actions taken against them.		✓	✓
5.4 Workers have the right to collective bargaining.		**5.4.1** Regular consultations between employers and authorised workers' representatives concerning working conditions, remuneration, dispute resolution, internal relations and matters of mutual concern relating to workers are taking place.		✓	✓
		5.4.2 Results of collective bargaining are applied to workers.	✓	✓	✓

WORKING CONDITIONS

Workers have decent and safe working and living conditions.

6

PRACTICES	EXPECTED RESULTS	Individual Smallholders	Groups	Farms	APPLIES TO
6.1 Working hours comply with national laws/ international conventions and/or collective bargaining and overtime work is remunerated.	**6.1.1** Regular working hours of workers and employees are limited to 48 per week or less if provided by national law. For some specific jobs, e.g. security, more than 48 hours per week may be acceptable if specifically allowed by national law.	✓	✓	✓	
	6.1.2 Overtime is voluntary (consent) and paid according to national law. Required overtime is allowed if under extraordinary conditions, agreed to and/or negotiated in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).	✓	✓	✓	
	6.1.3 Workers enjoy at least one free day following six consecutive days worked as well as public holidays and annual leave.	✓	✓	✓	
6.2 Wages comply with existing national minimum wages or sector agreements including seasonal and piece rate workers.	**6.2.1** Wages comply with existing national minimum wages or sector agreements including seasonal and piece rate workers. Wages increase over time to reduce the gap with living wages.	✓	✓	✓	CDS
	6.2.2 Seasonal and piece rate workers receive the same benefits as regular workers (e.g. housing, food, transport, hygiene) as applicable.	✓	✓	✓	
6.3 Workers receive understandable information about their employment conditions and are aware of their rights.	**6.3.1** Workers understand their employment conditions and have written contractual agreements. Oral agreements are acceptable if allowed by national law.	✓	✓	✓	
	6.3.2 Contractual agreements are respected.	✓	✓	✓	
	6.3.3 Workers know their rights, duties and benefits (e.g. social security, maternity leave).	✓	✓	✓	
6.4 Workers have access to clean toilet facilities and to potable water. NEW	**6.4.1** Workers have access to potable water.	✓	✓	✓	
	6.4.2 Toilet and handwashing facilities are clean and accessible to workers.	✓	✓	✓	
6.5 Accommodation, where provided, is clean, safe, and meets the basic needs of the workers.	**6.5.1** Where needed, housing is provided by the employer that is clean, safe, and meets the basic needs of the workers.			✓[1]	
	6.5.2 The housing is made from appropriate construction materials, safe from hazards and pollution, providing adequate shelter.			✓[1]	
6.6 A safe and hygienic working environment shall be provided.	**6.6.1** Work environment risks and hazards are identified, monitored and minimized.	✓	✓	✓	
	6.6.2 Procedures and equipment to minimize risks and ensure healthy and safe working conditions and practices (e.g. in relation to pesticides, machinery and heavy loads) are known, implemented and monitored.		✓	✓	
	6.6.3 Workers are trained regularly on occupational, health and safety practices.		✓	✓	
	6.6.4 Monitoring of healthy and safe working conditions is carried out, including, for example, pesticide exposure, pesticide poisoning and other work-related health and safety issues. Smallholders that do not have a documented health and safety program are aware of the main risks and implement measures to address them, such as personal protection, covering open wells and safety guards on machinery.	✓	✓	✓	

[1] applies only to farms with more than 10 workers

7 COMMUNITY

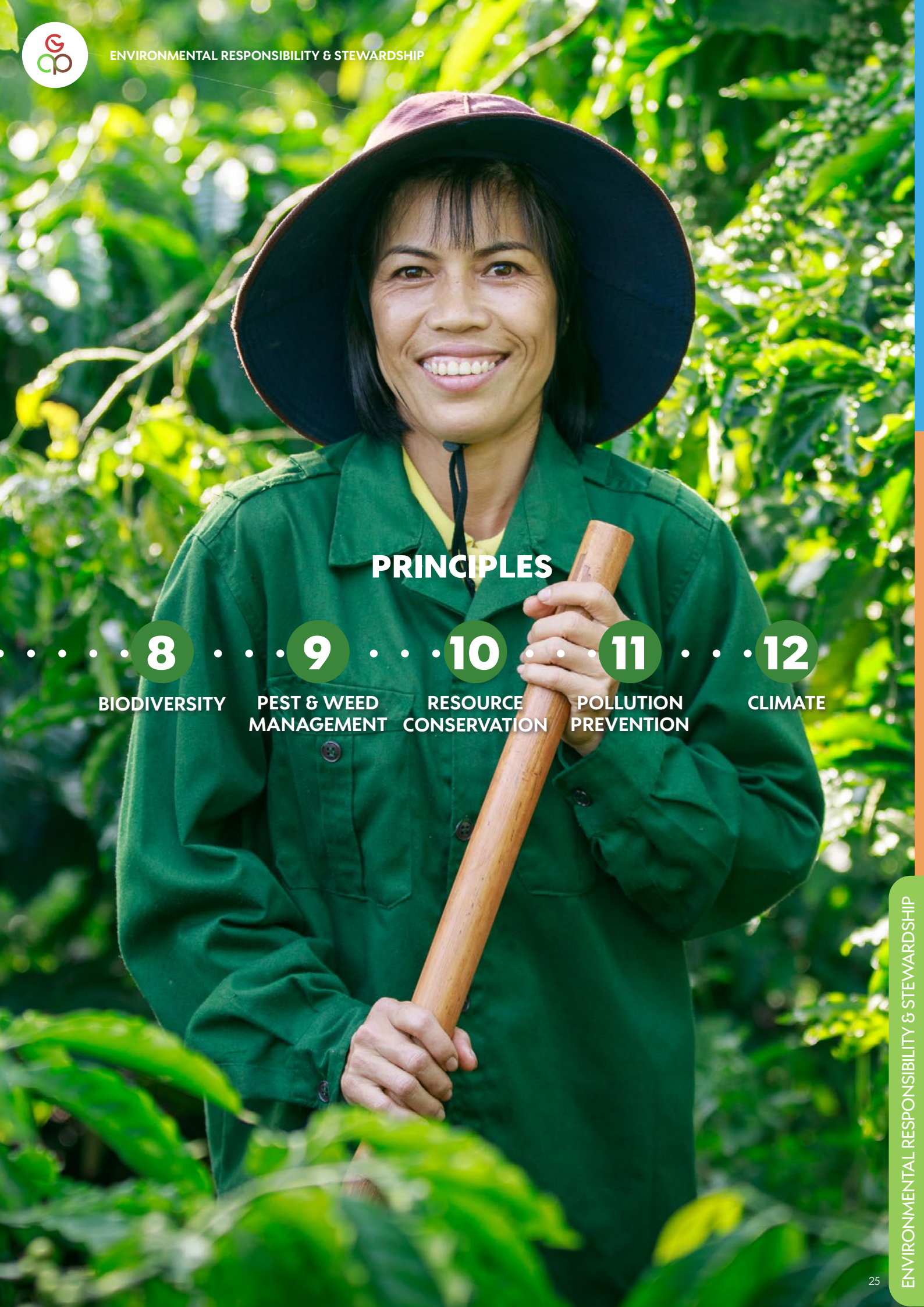
Community rights are upheld.

PRACTICES	EXPECTED RESULTS	APPLIES TO: Individual Smallholders	Groups	Farms
7.1 Land and water rights acquisition is with free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of affected people.	**7.1.1** Land and water rights acquisition is carried out with free, prior and informed consent of affected people with legal land use right including those who claim traditional land use right, especially indigenous people.	✓	✓	✓

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY & STEWARDSHIP

Goal statement: Producers protect and restore natural resources including biodiversity, soil and water, are better able to adapt to climate change and are remunerated for environmental services provided to society.

Contributing to:



PRINCIPLES

8 BIODIVERSITY

9 PEST & WEED MANAGEMENT

10 RESOURCE CONSERVATION

11 POLLUTION PREVENTION

12 CLIMATE

BIODIVERSITY

8

Maintain a healthy and balanced ecosystem through practices that protect and promote biodiversity.

PRACTICES		EXPECTED RESULTS	APPLIES TO: Individual Smallholders	Groups	Farms	
8.1 Natural forests and ecosystems are protected from conversion or degradation whether legal or not (no deforestation or conversion) after 1 January 2014 (or earlier).	CRITICAL	**8.1.1** There is no loss of natural forest after 1 January 2014 (or earlier) as a result of: 1) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; 2) conversion to a tree plantation; or 3) severe and sustained degradation.	✓		✓	
	NEW+CRITICAL	**8.1.2** Areas that are assigned as legal reserve, conservation area or otherwise secured by law are protected.	✓		✓	CPS
8.2 Conservation of biodiversity, including protected or endangered native flora and fauna and soil biota is supported.		**8.2.1** Up-to-date maps of the farm or farm area are available, including production areas, forests, water bodies and buildings.		✓	✓	
		8.2.2 No hunting or extraction of endangered species of animals and plants is practiced. In case smallholders are hunting or collecting endangered species, there is evidence of activities to raise their awareness on conservation.	✓		✓	
		8.2.3 Producers implement conservation practices as per applicable national GAP programs/standards.	✓		✓	
		8.2.4 No use of genetically modified (transgenic) organisms (GMO), and varieties in coffee production.	✓		✓	

PEST & WEED MANAGEMENT

9

Sound pest and weed management practices that minimise pesticide use and prevent health and environmental harm.

PRACTICES	EXPECTED RESULTS	APPLIES TO: Individual Smallholders	Groups	Farms	
9.1 Integrated pest, weed and disease management strategies are adopted and use of pesticides is minimised and recorded.	**9.1.1** Integrated pest management (IPM) techniques and measures are developed and being implemented.	✓	✓	✓	
	9.1.2 Highly Hazardous Pesticides in use are identified and records are kept of all pesticides used, including of application doses and dates.	✓	✓	✓	CDS
	9.1.3 Training on IPM is provided to producers and workers and locally relevant guidance is available on non-pesticidal methods for controlling coffee pests, weeds and diseases management.		✓	✓	
9.2 Pesticides and other hazardous chemicals are stored, applied and disposed of, in the least hazardous manner for human health and the environment.	**9.2.1** A plan for the application, storage and disposal of pesticides and other inputs is available and under implementation, including the identification of critical control points and risk mitigation measures.		✓	✓	
	9.2.2 Producers and workers handling or applying pesticides and other agricultural inputs are trained in proper handling (including application, storage and disposal).		✓	✓	
	9.2.3 Use, storage and waste disposal of pesticides and other agricultural inputs is in line with agronomic recommendations and applicable legislation.	✓	✓	✓	
	9.2.4 Producers and workers handling pesticides and other agricultural inputs wear personal protection equipment. In the case of smallholders, hazard awareness is being raised and personal protection measures are being implemented.	✓	✓	✓	
9.3 The use of agrochemicals meets all relevant legal requirements, including national and international treaties on highly hazardous and banned pesticides. Prohibited pesticides are not used and use of Phase-Out list pesticides is reduced.	**9.3.1** Pesticides in the Prohibited List are not used. This includes pesticides that are: 1) Listed under the Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention or Montreal Protocol, or which meet the criteria of the Conventions and are recommended for inclusion by the Conventions' respective Chemical Review Committee. OR 2) In one of the three most acutely toxic classifications via ingestion, skin contact or inhalation, or known carcinogens, classified by national or international agencies. Further details on the criteria and the detailed list of pesticides can be found in Annex Pesticides Lists.	✓	✓	✓	CRITICAL
	9.3.2 Use of pesticides in the Phase-Out List are reduced and phased out by 2030, if feasible. This includes pesticides that are classified by national and international agencies in the categories of: 1) Chronic hazard, including: probable carcinogens, known endocrine disruptors, known reproductive toxins or known mutagens. OR 2) Environmental hazard (highly toxic to bees, OR two or more of: bioaccumulation, persistence, high toxicity to aquatic organisms) Further details on the criteria and the detailed list of pesticides can be found in Annex Pesticides Lists.	✓	✓	✓	

10 RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Soil quality and water sources are maintained or improved.

PRACTICES	EXPECTED RESULTS	Individual Smallholders	Groups	Farms	APPLIES TO
10.1 Soil is protected from erosion by adequate soil conservation measures.	**10.1.1** Producers have knowledge of techniques* to maintain and control soil quality (physical, chemical and biological) and the relevant techniques are implemented. *For example: precision farming, residue management, contour tillage, grass waterways, nitrogen-fixing plants, green manures and agro-forestry techniques.	✓	✓	✓	
	10.1.2 Producers have knowledge of techniques* to prevent soil erosion and the relevant techniques are implemented. *For example: following contours with operations for soil preparation, using cover crops and placing wind breaks.	✓		✓	CDS
10.2 Soil fertility is maintained and improved.	**10.2.1** Soil and/or leaf analysis is done and documented.		✓	✓	
	10.2.2 Practices to increase fertility are in place, e.g. use of cover crops, soil is covered with leaf litter or organic mulch, (coffee) by-products available at farm level, composting, reducing soil acidity, planting shade trees and/or boundary plants, intercropping practices.	✓		✓	CDS
	10.2.3 The application of synthetic fertilizer follows agronomic recommendations, is documented and if feasible reduced over time.	✓		✓	
10.3 Water resources are conserved and used efficiently (quantity).	**10.3.1** Water sources have been identified and are conserved by recycling, and by using reduced amounts so as not to endanger their sustainability.	✓		✓	
	10.3.2 Producers are aware of water sources which are known or considered to be in critical stage or overused. If sources are in critical stage or overused, Producers engage with local stakeholders to coordinate conservation efforts.	✓		✓	CDS
	10.3.3 Measures to reduce water use are implemented. In the case of smallholders, they are trained in efficient irrigation and processing where applicable.	✓	✓	✓	
	10.3.4 At central processing level, use of water is being measured and is used efficiently.		✓	✓	

11 POLLUTION PREVENTION

Protect the environment and local communities through reducing, eliminating or preventing pollution.

PRACTICES	EXPECTED RESULTS	Individual Smallholders	Groups	Farms	APPLIES TO
11.1 Good agricultural practices are implemented to minimize impacts on surface and ground water quality.	**11.1.1** Producers implement practices to minimize water pollution from chemical residues, fertilizers and erosion or other sources as per applicable national GAP programs/standards (for example maintaining a buffer zone around water bodies, conservation or regenerating native vegetation along the water bodies).	✓		✓	CDS
11.2 Waste should be prevented or reduced where feasible (wastewater, farm and processing by-products, fossil fuels).	**11.2.1** Different types of waste generated are identified for their prevention and reduction.	✓		✓	
	11.2.2 Wastewater treatment at centralised mills/washing stations meets legal wastewater quality parameters.		✓	✓	
11.3 Where wastes cannot be prevented, reuse and recycling is maximized.	**11.3.1** Organic by-products from farming and processing are recycled and used on the farm to enhance soil fertility.	✓		✓	
	11.3.2 Wastes are separated according to the different types.	✓		✓	
11.4 Hazardous wastes are safely disposed of in order to prevent contamination of water and soil resources as well as harm to human beings and animals.	**11.4.1** Hazardous wastes are identified.	✓		✓	
	11.4.2 Hazardous wastes/wastewater are treated.	✓		✓	
	11.4.3 Safe disposal is in place and according to the different types of waste.	✓		✓	

12 CLIMATE

Producers adapt to climate change and contribute to climate change mitigation

PRACTICES		EXPECTED RESULTS	Individual Smallholders	Groups	Farms
12.1 Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures are identified and implemented.	NEW	**12.1.1** Producers have conducted a climate risk assessment plan. In the case of smallholders who do not have a climate risk plan, there is awareness about the impacts of climate such as loss of suitable area for coffee production and shifts to higher altitudes, increased water stress, poor flowering and cherry development, increased outbreaks of pests and diseases.		✓	✓
		12.1.2 Producers identify and implement measures to adapt to climate change such as GAP, on-farm shade management, increased tree cover, agroforestry, irrigation, new plant varieties and diversification.	✓		✓
		12.1.3 Producers work on carbon sequestration in the soil, for instance through agroforestry, non-tillage, planting of cover crops (soil cover, shade trees) and/or applying intercropping practices.	✓		✓
		12.1.4 Producers have identified main sources of greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions in coffee production and processing by 2024 in order to document them in subsequent years, with a view to reducing them.		✓	✓
12.2 Efforts are made to reduce the use of fossil fuels on farm and in processing.		**12.2.1** Energy use in coffee farming and processing is quantified and documented.		✓	✓
		12.2.2 Energy use is reduced and energy efficiency is improved.		✓	✓
		12.2.3 The use of renewable energy sources is maximized.		✓	✓

References

The Global Coffee Platform follows a number of internationally recognized standards and conventions, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO). Additional references can be found in the Glossary and the Guidance.

Version validity

The revision of the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code during 2020-2021 followed the ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards (version 6.0 – December 2014).

The Coffee Sustainability Reference Code version v3.0 was approved by the GCP Board on 7 July 2021 and is valid from October 2021 onwards.

Document history

Version	Effective date / as of	Details of Change
v1.0	2007	The Common Code for the Coffee Community (4C) was launched in September 2004.
v1.3	July 2010	The 4C Code of Conduct was adapted for its implementation and verification. Changes included: wording updates, modification of some principles and the addition of a new category. Generic indicators were also introduced.
v2.0	July 2015	Full revision. Changes included: inclusion of the indicators of the Unacceptable Practices, the Pesticide List, glossary and other requirements for 4C Units. Focus on coffee farming as a business: adding a new principle on productivity/profitability, starting with the economic dimension and grouping principles when applicable to small farmers. Pesticide list: more focused on coffee production and better aligned with the lists of other voluntary standards.
V2.1	April 2016	No content change, only small modifications to adjust to change in the new organizational reorganization. The Global Coffee Platform will define and maintain the Baseline Common Code (later known as Baseline Coffee Code), which is the reference for the verifiable 4C Code of Conduct operated by Coffee Assurance Services and other accredited operators.
V3.0	October 2021	Full revision. Conversion of the Baseline Coffee Code from a traffic light system of Principles, Criteria and Indicators to a reference framework of Principles, Practices and Expected Results. Renamed as Coffee Sustainability Reference Code.

Next revision of the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code

The process and procedure for regular revision follows the recommendations and requirements of the ISEAL Alliance for credible sustainability standard systems to ensure it is relevant and up to date. Stakeholders will be notified with sufficient notice of the next scheduled review. The next revision would be latest in 2026.

For more information on the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code visit the Global Coffee Platform website.

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