



Sustainability Programme

*System Requirements for
Land Managers (v 1.2)*

System Requirements	
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Introduction

This standard contains requirements applicable to land-managers verified against the Preferred by Nature Sustainability Framework.

The system requirements are applicable to both small-scale and large-scale land managers. The requirements are formulated to be performance based, therefore the scale and complexity of operations under verification, will impact the expectations to the systems being used to ensure compliance with the sustainability indicators of the Sustainability Framework. This flexibility also means that small-holders will face less requirements where it may not be necessary to require complex documentation and procedural systems.

Scope of this standard

This standard (System Requirements) shall be used by land-managers verified against the Sustainability Framework to achieve their certification of land management operations.

This standard shall be used in combination with the Sustainability Framework.

Version history

Version 0.1, 25 September 2020

Version 1.1, 3 June 2021

Version 1.2, 15 December 2021

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

1 Scope defined

- 1.1 If the certificate covers multiple legal entities/properties (members), the certificate holder ensures compliance with all applicable requirements for all members.
- 1.2 The certificate holder ensures that Preferred by Nature and its representatives have access to evaluate compliance with the requirements at relevant locations or entities.
- 1.3 The certificate holder ensures that information about operations covered by verification requirements is available to Preferred by Nature and can be made public through a public summary of findings.
 - a) Name of entity
 - b) Location
 - c) Products or commodities
 - d) Volume of production
 - e) Key findings
 - f) Description of non-conformances
- 1.4 The scope of the operations for which the Sustainability Framework is relevant is identified, in terms of:
 - a) properties/entities/organisations;
 - b) area and location (geolocation data where relevant),
 - c) products and species.

2 Responsibilities defined and competencies in place

- 2.1 A person or position is defined that has overall responsibility for conformance with applicable requirements.
- 2.2 The appointed person/position has sufficient authority and resources to ensure that requirements are met.
- 2.3 Individual responsibilities for relevant requirements are defined and known.
- 2.4 Workers, including contractors and seasonal workers, demonstrate awareness of, and competence in, all aspects of fulfilling the requirements, relevant to their position and role.

3 Efficient systems implemented

- 3.1 Systems are implemented to achieve conformance with applicable requirements that are adequate and proportionate to the size and complexity of operations.
- 3.2 Records required to demonstrate conformance are maintained and available for internal and external evaluation.
- 3.3 Records are maintained on file for at least 5 years.

4 Activities monitored

- 4.1 Conformance with the requirements is monitored for all *entities*, appropriate to the size and complexity of operations.
- 4.2 Results of monitoring are maintained and available to evaluation of representatives of Preferred by Nature.

5 Sale of verified products

- 5.1 Material or products sold as verified and related quantities are recorded as verified sales.
- 5.2 Relevant information about the product is available and transferred to buyers, such as geolocation or other required information.

6 Communications and claims managed

- 6.1 Organisations verified as meeting all applicable requirements of the Sustainability Framework and these System Requirements, may use the Preferred by Nature Seal and make on- and off-product claims about their verified status.
- 6.2 Claims and seal use must follow Preferred by Nature seal use guide.
- 6.3 Claims and seal used must be approved in writing by Preferred by Nature prior to use.

About us

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

For more than 25 years, we have worked to develop practical solutions to drive positive impacts in production landscapes and supply chains in 100+ countries. We focus on land use, primarily through forest, agriculture and climate impact commodities, and related sectors such as tourism and conservation. Learn more at www.preferredbynature.org

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