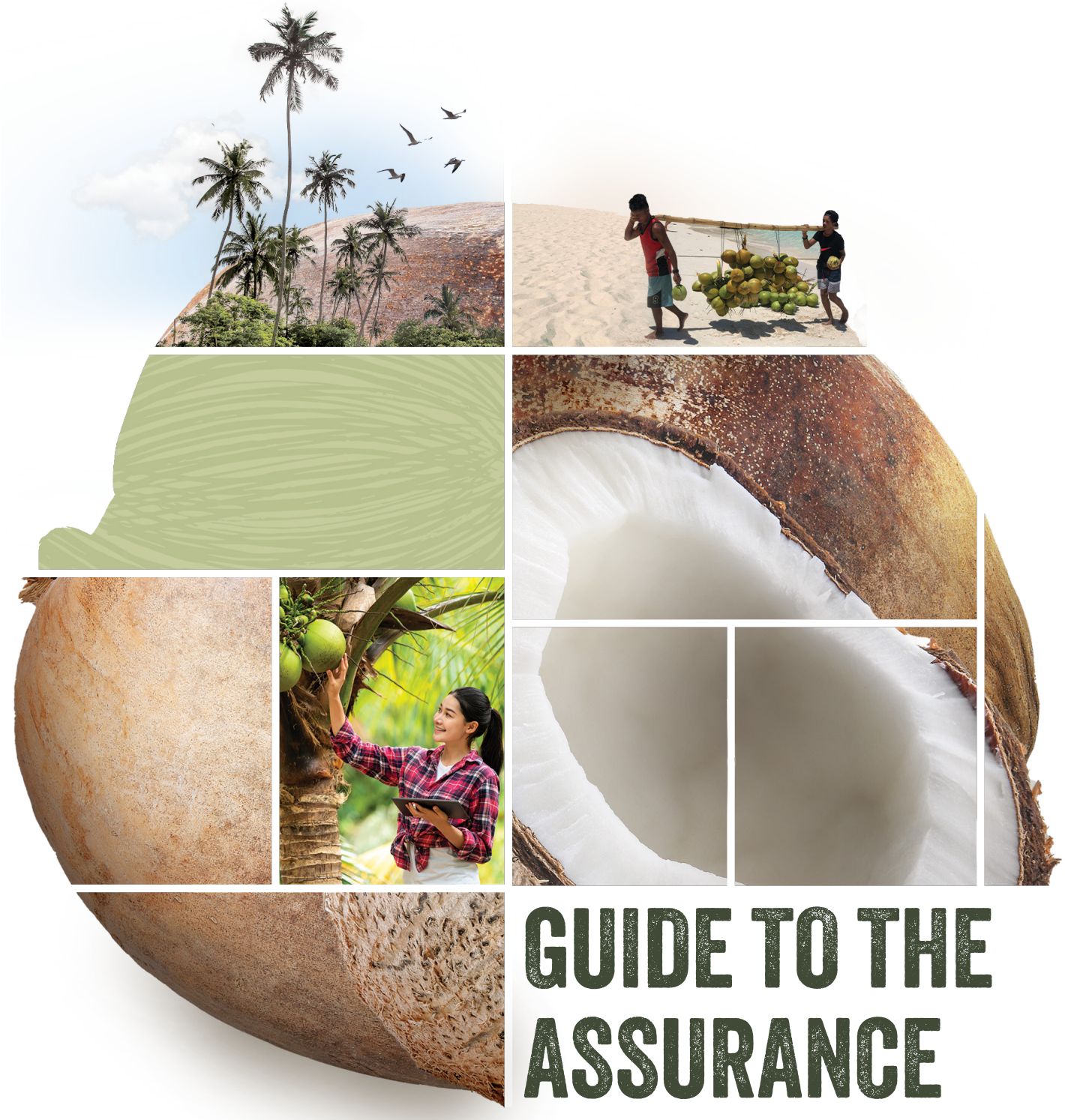
SUSTAINABLE COCONUT PARTNERSHIP



GUIDE TO THE ASSURANCE SYSTEM

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

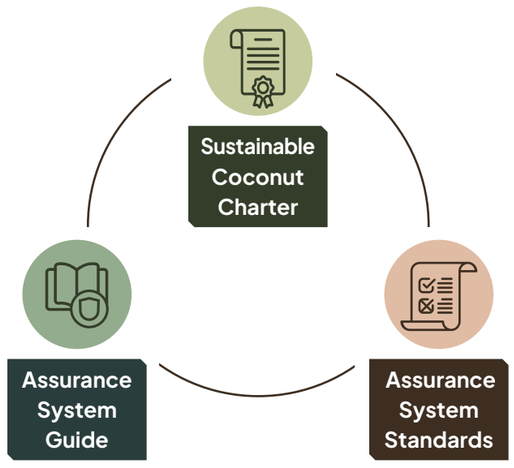
The Sustainable Coconut Charter's Assurance System provides a mechanism to substantiate sustainability claims and champion companies as agents of change and sustainable trade partners.

Designed to verify and ensure compliance with the Sustainable Coconut Charter's principles and ambitions across the coconut supply chain, it fosters transparency, accountability, and sustainable practices. Pragmatic and progressive, it is aligned with the sector's needs and structured to be cost-effective, ensuring that every dollar invested drives lasting, meaningful change.

How was the Assurance System developed?

The Assurance System development was led by a voluntary taskforce comprising companies within the Sustainable Coconut Partnership (SCP). This involved leading experts across the supply chain with practical on the ground experience in coconut production involving smallholders. The process benefited from extensive consultations outside the partnership, with some of the sector's top processors and buyers contributing practical experience. The taskforce looked for alignment with international standards such as Accountability Framework and ISEAL to ensure robustness, completeness and best practices to overcome gaps reported in certification while tackling the unique challenges of the coconut sector. Expert consultants from Peterson Projects and Solutions also supported the system's development.

Members of SCP publicly voted to create and adopt the Assurance System on **November 23, 2023,** during the Sustainable Coconut Roundtable Annual Conference in Jakarta, in the presence of senior representatives from production-country governments. **The system was officially announced on September 27, 2024, during the 2024 Sustainable Coconut Roundtable in Manila.**



Who is it for?

PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES

that produce, process, buy, retail or trade coconut and coconut products can adopt the standards to ensure their sourcing is Assurance System's standards.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

can use the standards as a reference against which to measure sustainability in the coconut sector.

REGIONS/GOVERNMENTS, AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

that are involved in multi stakeholder programmes at the jurisdictional/landscape/island level can adopt the standards to guide and verify their programs'/projects' adherence to sustainable practices within the coconut sector.

GOVERNMENTS AND POLICYMAKERS

can incorporate the principles of the Assurance System as a reference for baseline sustainability in the coconut sector, guiding program development and investment decisions.

Acknowledgements

The Assurance System is the result of collaborative efforts by stakeholders across the coconut supply chain, sector experts, partners, and contributors whose input and expertise shaped its development and implementation. The companies involved in the Assurance Taskforce in 2024 include **Nestlé, Unilever, Barry Callebaut, AAK, TM Duche, Dumaguete Oil Mills, Primex Coco Products, Aluan, Oleofats, and One Peterson.**

Effective date & next revision

This Assurance System takes effect on March 1, 2025, and will be calibrated during its first year. The standards of the Assurance System will be reviewed for updates regularly based on decisions made by SCP members.

Feedback

We welcome feedback from all users to continuously improve this system. Please send your comments and suggestions to info@coconutpartnership.org to help us enhance its impact.

Published March 2025

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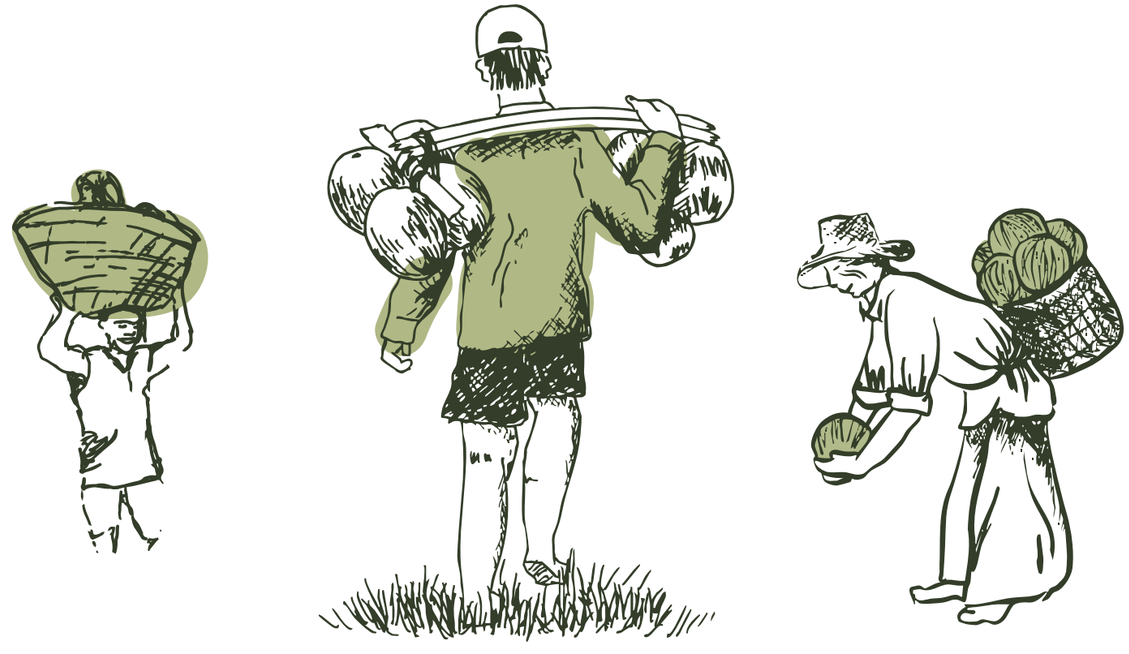


BACKGROUND

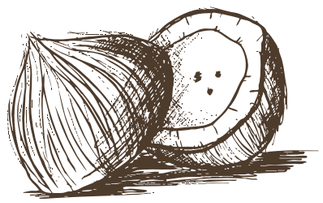
The Coconut Sector

The coconut sector holds a significant global presence, producing over 60–65 million tonnes annually across more than 90 countries. With coconut palms cultivated on more than 12 million hectares—primarily in Southeast Asia—over 70% of the world's supply originates from this region.

Despite its importance, the coconut sector is often overshadowed by other crops in global discussions, even as demand continues to rise steadily. However, demand is outpacing supply, with production stagnating and farms being abandoned throughout Southeast Asia, underscoring the urgent need for rejuvenation.

The sector faces numerous crises: climate change-induced volatile weather and aging, unproductive trees are driving farmers to leave their farms, while younger generations are increasingly reluctant to work on plantations. Many coconut farmers remain trapped in poverty, unable to break the cycle.

As demand for coconuts grows, competition for limited supplies will escalate. Without coordinated efforts to responsibly regenerate the coconut sector, stakeholders will face rising costs and mounting risks. A united effort is required—a critical mass of committed stakeholders ready to implement large-scale solutions.



The Need for Responsible Rejuvenation

Through collective action, stakeholders have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to revitalize a sector that, while currently not in crisis, faces growing risks that threaten its long-term sustainability. The sector must work to secure a brighter future for the next generation of farmers, restore plantations at scale and responsibly, and increase investments at the farm level. Transparency and traceability must also be prioritized to ensure a resilient sector.

The case is clear: without urgent action, the costs of "fixing" the sector will become prohibitively high for supply chain actors. By contrast, meaningful collective action can create a responsible and resilient coconut sector that benefits all. This is the mission of the Sustainable Coconut Partnership.

About the Sustainable Coconut Partnership

The SCP is a global platform uniting the entire coconut supply chain—from farmer cooperatives to international FMCG companies—to build a responsible and resilient sector. Guided by a stakeholder-developed Charter, SCP empowers members to adopt best practices and achieve measurable outcomes: improving farmers' livelihoods, protecting human rights and ecosystems, and strengthening climate resilience.

SCP brings together producers, processors, manufacturers, brands, civil society organizations, governments, and donors in a shared commitment to sustainability. Its Charter provides a scalable framework to tackle systemic challenges and uplift communities, ensuring a thriving coconut sector for all.

Find out more about the SCP:
www.coconutpartnership.org

SCP brings together producers, processors, manufacturers, brands, civil society organizations, governments, and donors in a shared commitment to sustainability.

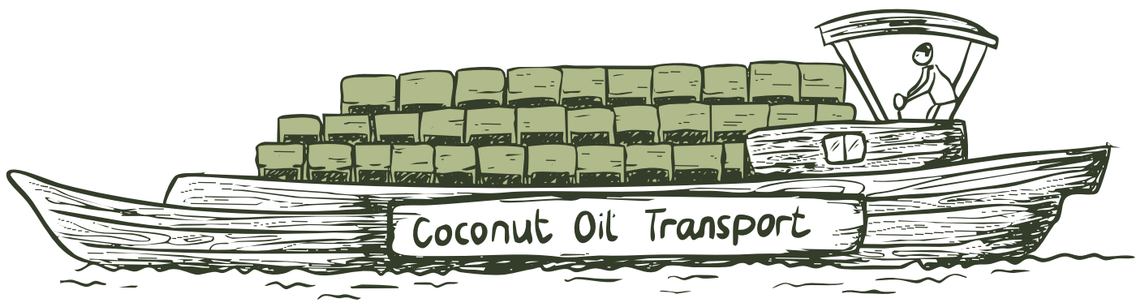
The Sustainable Coconut Charter

The Sustainable Coconut Charter is designed to harmonize requirements across long and complex coconut supply chains, and improve traceability and transparency. The Charter represents a common ground within the sector and was developed as a collaboration between buyers, processors and producers with the goal to improve farmers' livelihoods, protect the natural environment, and build climate resilience. As the custodian of the Charter, SCP is responsible for its definition, maintenance, and periodic revision through a global, multi-stakeholder alignment process.

The Charter outlines key focus areas, principles, and expected outcomes for the Partnership's programs and supply chain management. Specifically, it aims to:

- Harmonize buyer requirements for supply chain partners and improve transparency.
- Streamline actions toward meaningful, pre-competitive collaboration and robust sustainability programs at supply chain, jurisdictional, and landscape levels.
- Help companies define, benchmark, and implement impactful sustainability practices.
- Address the lack of market uptake and transformation of existing systems.
- Provide an Assurance System to verify sustainability for buyers and processors, enabling confident investments in sustainable sourcing.
- Support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Find out more about the Charter:
www.coconutpartnership.org/sustainable-coconut-charter



THE ASSURANCE SYSTEM

For meaningful and widespread transformation to take root in the coconut sector, it is essential to harness the power of markets to unlock private and public investments in supply chains.

To achieve this, we developed an Assurance System that is complementary to existing sustainability standards for this commodity, but adapted specifically to the sector's issues and built on a game-changing approach that promotes shared responsibility across the coconut supply chain. **The System addresses the barriers preventing market transformation, for example**

REQUIREMENTS AND CRITERIA ARE SPREAD ACROSS THE SUPPLY CHAIN (farmers, cooperatives/traders, first point of processing, downstream actors) rather than placing a disproportionate burden on farm groups to meet requirements.

A FOCUS ON COCONUT AREAS WITH NEEDS GOING BEYOND GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES:

- replanting programmes
- youth engagement
- market prices transparency
- key aspects of supply chain management and
- transparency in smallholder supply chains.

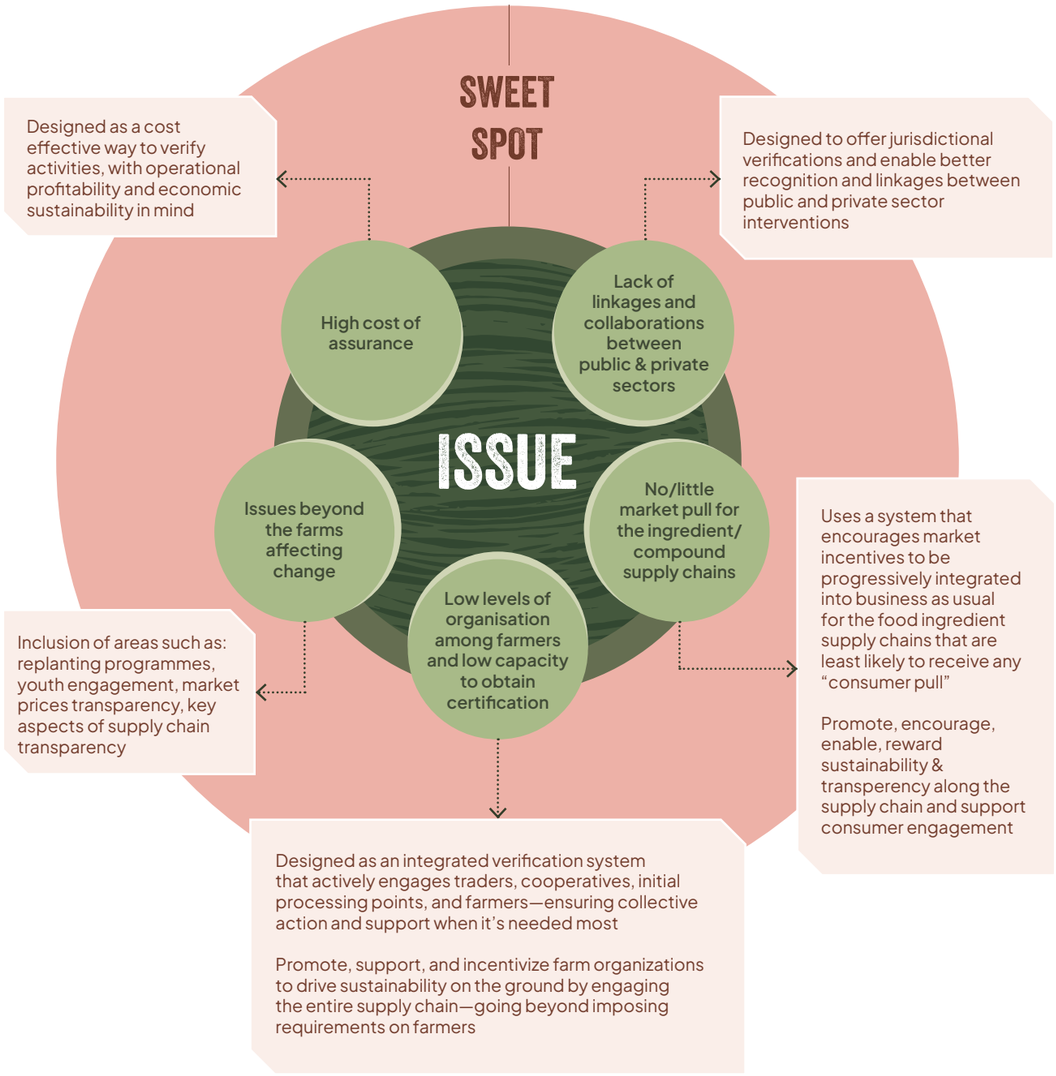
SYSTEM ENABLES BETTER LINKAGES BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS in a context where there is still little market pull, because the majority of coconut is sold as ingredients of other products.

A SYSTEM BETTER ADAPTED TO FARMS with limited levels of organization while keeping costs reasonable.

Unique Features of the System

During the development of the Assurance System, key issues were found and their corresponding solutions identified to ensure the System's unique position and features.

These are outlined below, and detailed in Annex 1.



Sector-wide consultations have highlighted the limited appeal of traditional certification tools, particularly those based on conventional pass/fail systems and targeting good agricultural practices only, which have led to minimal participation across the sector. While there has been some growth in niche markets and higher-value consumer-facing coconut products, the impact of certification has largely been restricted to localized supply chains with limited volumes and a small number of operators.

The majority of coconut production and supply chains operate in lower-value markets, such as oil, desiccated coconut, and husk and shell products. These markets have remained largely disengaged, citing overly stringent criteria and standards that are poorly adapted to the unique challenges of the coconut sector, where there is little market pull or consumer demand for certification.

To address these challenges, the new Assurance System adopts a tiered approach that emphasizes performance and continuous improvement through two standards (see next section).

The System offers flexibility by accommodating various levels of project maturity while upholding a strong commitment to ongoing progress. Tier-specific claims provide transparency, clearly communicating each participant's current level of achievement. This approach enables members to start their journey from their current position and make measurable progress, increasing the likelihood of widespread adoption and long-term success of the Assurance System.

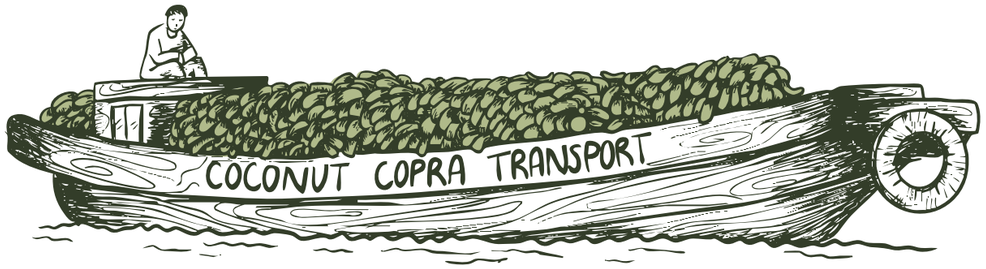
One Assurance System, Two Standards, Three Scopes

The SCP's Assurance System is fit for purpose, pragmatic, progressive, and sector aligned. It consists of two core standards as outlined below:

	Supply Chain Standard	Origin Standard
STANDARDS	To verify overall company performance and drive transparency in the sector, recognizing companies' overall efforts.	To verify sustainability programs at two scopes:
SCOPE	Company level verification	Supply Chain level verification Jurisdictional/ landscape/ island-level verification
ACTORS	For private sector producers, processors, traders, buyers, brands	For coalitions of public, private sector and civil society parties

The standards are articulated around the SCP Charter's 22 Principles & Ambitions to:

- Bridge the sustainability gap
- Increase industry transparency
- Enable market transformation
- Increase investability of coconut and reduce risks in the face of increased regulations.



Supply Chain Standard

Purpose

A company level verification for organizations sourcing and processing coconut products, enabling overarching company-level verification.

Verification

This standard assesses and regulates an organization's performance while ensuring continuous improvement in alignment with the supply chain principles of the Charter.

Scope

It promotes market transformation and collaboration among sectoral change-makers, signaling to the market that the organization is a responsible trade partner committed to creating a responsible and resilient coconut sector.

◆ Overview of the Supply Chain Standard and its Impact Areas

Governance & Transparency
2 principles · 4 topics · 12 practices

Chain of Custody
3 principles · 3 topics · 17 practices

Partnerships for Active Implementation
2 principles · 3 topics · 4 practices

Reporting and Assurance
2 principles · 3 topics · 9 practices

◆ A Multi-Level Claim System

The Supply Chain Standard enables secondary-party, company-level verification, ensuring performance and continuous improvement in alignment with the Charter.

BASIC MEMBERSHIP

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP

SILVER MEMBERSHIP

GOLD MEMBERSHIP

◆ Claims that can be made

Each level signals to the market that the organization is a sustainable trade partner committed to creating a responsible and resilient coconut sector that positively impacts farmers' livelihoods, the climate, and the environment and is at a certain level of maturity in their journey.

- Claims can be displayed on company websites and commercial documents but must not imply certification of specific products or traded volumes.
- Only B-to-B claims are possible.

Overview of the claims that can be made based on the Supply Chain Standard.

BRONZE MEMBER

Score: >30% to <60%

SILVER MEMBER

Score: >60% to <80%

GOLD MEMBER

Score: >80%

Time required for verification

Conducted remotely on a digital platform, the process typically takes several weeks to prepare and only 1–2 days for the actual verification and any clarification requests. This streamlined approach means less disruption to members operations and a quicker path to demonstrating commitment.

SUPPLY CHAIN STANDARD CRITERIA

Impact Area 1: Governance & Transparency

Enable sustainability management in coconut supply chains through good and transparent governance.

1.1. Developing policies and commitments in line with the core expectations of the sustainable coconut charter

Transparent policies and commitments enable to mobilize organizations and help manage and measure compliance responding to stakeholders requests and the increasing need for sustainable coconut products. Hence, organizations are expected to develop transparent policies and commitments for coconut products.

TOPICS		PRACTICES	SCORE
Commitment	1.1.1	The policy or commitment's scope is in line with more than 50% of the "ORIGIN" principles and ambitions of the coconut charter (see charter)	0,5
	1.1.2	The policy or commitment's scope is in line with more than 75% of the "ORIGIN" principles and ambitions of the coconut charter	1
	1.1.3	The policy or commitment's scope is in line with 100% of the "ORIGIN" principles and ambitions of the coconut charter	2
	1.1.4	The policy or commitment explicitly mentions that the organization commits to continuously supporting its upstream suppliers.	1
	1.1.5	The organization has an anti-bribery and ethical business policy in place of which is also implemented through trainings.	1
	1.1.6	The organization identifies/appoints at least one relevant personnel who will be able to implement the supply chain requirements whose job description includes this scope.	2
	1.1.7	The personnel appointed to implement the supply chain requirements is well-versed in the Sustainable Coconut Charter, or has undergone the appropriate training to be able to implement the Supply Chain requirements.	2
	1.1.8	The organization holds an internal annual training / preparation event / awareness raising event on upholding and maintaining the principles and ambitions of the charter.	1

1.2. Developing adequate sustainability governance structure

An effective governance requires distribution of rights and responsibilities among different stakeholders, including board of directors, managers, teams and stakeholders in coconut value chain. Developing adequately resourced sustainability governance structures can help make implementation of commitments and policies possible.

TOPICS		PRACTICES	SCORE
Management structure	1.2.1	The organization has a clear description of the management structure to meet its commitment, as well as the responsibilities of relevant personnel in implementing the supply chain requirements	1
	1.2.2	The organization has written procedures or equivalent to ensure the implementation of the supply chain requirements, updated records demonstrating progress or compliance with the requirements.	1
	1.2.3	All documents related to the supply chain requirements are stored for at least 3 years (one verification cycle).	1
Continuous Improvement Plan	1.2.4	The organization conducts an annual top management review of their sustainability goals and alignment with the supply chain requirements. This includes the development of a continuous improvement plan with clear measurable targets.	1

Impact Area 2: Chain-of-Custody

Enhance supply chain traceability through sustainable and efficient sourcing, processing, production and other related value chain strategies for greater transparency.

2.1. Mapping for supply chain compliance

Managing sustainable supply chains involves identifying, visualizing, and understanding the various components, processes, and stakeholders within a supply chain. It is a crucial tool for creating transparency, gathering key sustainability information to enable an organization to manage its supply base and enable truly sustainable supply chains. It helps organizations identify, manage, and improve various aspects of their supply chain to align with sustainability goals, reduce risks, and enhance overall performance.

TOPICS		PRACTICES	SCORE
Supply Chain Mapping	2.1.1	A stakeholder mapping exercise is conducted to indicate the different stakeholders/groups influencing coconut charter's compliance of the organization.	1
	2.1.2	The organization has an onboarding process for their suppliers, including sustainability requirements aligned with the coconut charter.	2
	2.1.3	In cases where off-site processing facilities, storage or sub-contractors are engaged, a clause in the contract with the sub-contracted party indicates the need for the sub-contracted party to comply with the supply chain requirements.	2
	2.1.4	The organization has included in their responsible sourcing policies a requirement for suppliers to comply with the principles and ambitions of the Sustainable Coconut Charter.	2

2.2. Traceability

One of the key challenges to many buyers and processors looking to advance on their sustainability journey is limited traceability – not knowing where the products originated – which limits the opportunity for downstream players to support supply chain improvements. Enhancing traceability enables buyers and processors to mitigate risks in supply chains, particularly in relation to farmer livelihood and longterm supply, including responsible use of chemicals, laborers, and animals.

TOPICS		PRACTICES	SCORE
External traceability	2.2.1	The organization has an internal dashboard reporting % of traceability to country / region crusher or 1st point of processing / plantation, which is updated at least once a year.	2
	2.2.2	The organization publicly reports: **> 50%** traceability to country.	0,5
	2.2.3	The organization publicly reports: **100%** traceability to country.	1
	2.2.4	The organization publicly reports: **>50%** traceability to the first point of processing (The first actor in the supply chain that conducts any raw material processing)	1,5
	2.2.5	The organization publicly reports: **100%** traceability to crusher/first point of processing.	2
	2.2.6	The organization publicly reports: **>50%** traceability to region/jurisdiction (smallest administrative division according to the respective national government)	2,5
	2.2.7	The organization publicly reports: **100%** traceability to region/jurisdiction (smallest administrative division according to the respective national government)	3
	2.2.8	The organization publicly reports: **> 50%** traceability to farms.	3,5
	2.2.9	The organization publicly reports: **100%** traceability to farms.	4

2.3. Practicing risk assessment and due diligence

Organizations involved in agricultural supply chains generally face supply chain risks, and at least 89% of the companies have experienced it in the last five years. The regulatory expectations for due diligence and risk monitoring practices in supply chains is increasing globally. Supply chain risk management, supply chain segmentation and due diligence practices are an integral part of organization's overall risk management strategy and provide a layer of oversight, ideally reducing the likelihood and/or severity of risk exposures and helping to build a baseline towards sustainable supply chains.

TOPICS		PRACTICES	SCORE
Risk assessment	2.3.1	A risk assessment is done on all Tier-1 suppliers providing products to the organization to assess social and environmental risks such as but not limited to risks related to the origin of coconut and the supply chain, identification and management of grievances and compliance to legislation.	1
	2.3.2	Due diligence (comparing existing practices of the suppliers with the Sustainable Coconut Charter ORIGIN requirements) is conducted for T1–suppliers of interest (identified earlier through the risk assessment).	1
	2.3.3	**> 50%** of the sourced volume is covered by a due diligence.	1
	2.3.4	**100%** of the sourced is covered by a due diligence.	1

Impact Area 3: Partnership for Active Implementation

Ensure partnership between actors along the supply chains to meet the charter's principles and ambitions

3.1. Implementing effective supply chain engagement plan

Supply chain engagement plan is an important practice to ensure sustainability of coconut production, processing and sourcing. An engagement plan across a segmented supply chain is an essential tool to address issues identified in risk assessments and due diligences.

TOPICS		PRACTICES	SCORE
Action plan	3.1.1	The action plan contains at the minimum: Challenges, Needs, Support Activities, Timelines, investments.	1
Implementation	3.1.2	The organization monitors their suppliers performance and progress on compliance, with evidence of the implementation of the action plan recorded.	1
	3.1.3	The organization sets continuous improvement targets for their suppliers, and the action plan is updated accordingly.	1

3.2. Participating in collaborative initiatives

Research and practices have shown that industry players are poorly equipped to tackle alone the underlying systemic sustainability issues in the coconut sector alone. Collaborative initiatives addressing capacity gaps and working collaboratively to solve pre competitive issues helps demonstrate organization's commitment to responsible and ethical practices while fostering innovation and long-term sustainability in the industry.

TOPICS		PRACTICES	SCORE
Collaborative initiatives	3.2.1	The organization is a member of one or more industry sustainability associations, or other external multi stakeholders initiatives to reduce negative environmental or social outcomes associated with coconut production (Including the SCP).	1

Impact Area 4: Reporting and Assurance

Establishing regular monitoring and reporting in relation to the coconut charter's core and supply chain expectations.

4.1. Practicing transparent disclosure & reporting

Many coconut companies in coconut supply chain have made commitments to eliminate deforestation, respect human rights, ensure child/forced labor free supply chain. However, in absence of public disclosure, monitoring of the commitments, and reporting of the progresses, the stakeholders do not get awareness on the good practices of the company.

TOPICS		PRACTICES	SCORE
Transparent Disclosure	4.1.1	The organization provides adequate information on their membership and activities related to sustainable coconut and their engagement through the partnership to relevant stakeholders publicly on their website and directly to their stakeholders identified in the mapping.	1
	4.1.2	The organization publishes a clear annual target for compliance with the supply chain requirements, and publicly reports on the progress made.	2
Grievance mechanism	4.1.3	A grievance mechanism is in place, which includes elements of (1) anonymity for the person raising the grievance, (2) multiple language submissions are possible and (3) grievance raisers are protected from contract termination.	2
	4.1.4	Evidence of any grievance being monitored is available to show that grievances received are being screened, recorded, responded to, categorized and assigned a consequence rating.	1
	4.1.5	Grievances raised directly at the organization are tracked and processed accordingly.	2
	4.1.6	Evidence of efforts or mechanisms (e.g. emails, meetings) to collaborate with T1 suppliers to track and process grievances raised at the of the organization is available.	1
	4.1.7	Evidence of efforts or mechanisms (e.g. emails, meetings) to collaborate with T2 suppliers to track and process grievances raised at the of the organization is available.	1

4.2. Substantiating claims

The reporting of the sustainable practices in coconut industry is important. However, the reporting are supposed to be substantiated with the valid methods and verification. In absence of them, the companies will have challenges to get the acceptance of claims as the credible information.

TOPICS		PRACTICES	SCORE
Verification	4.2.1	The organization has a sustainable sourcing target that aims at increasing the share of sustainably verified products.	1
	4.2.2	The organization has a sustainable sourcing target that aims to reach 100% sustainably sourced products within a given timeframe, and is able to show progress over time.	3

Origin Standard

Purpose

A production and processing level verification for “sustainable farming projects” verifying volumes of product compliant with the Charter.

Verification

This standard recognizes and controls levels of performance and continuous improvement of Core Principles and Ambitions of the SCP Charter for responsible production of coconut products.

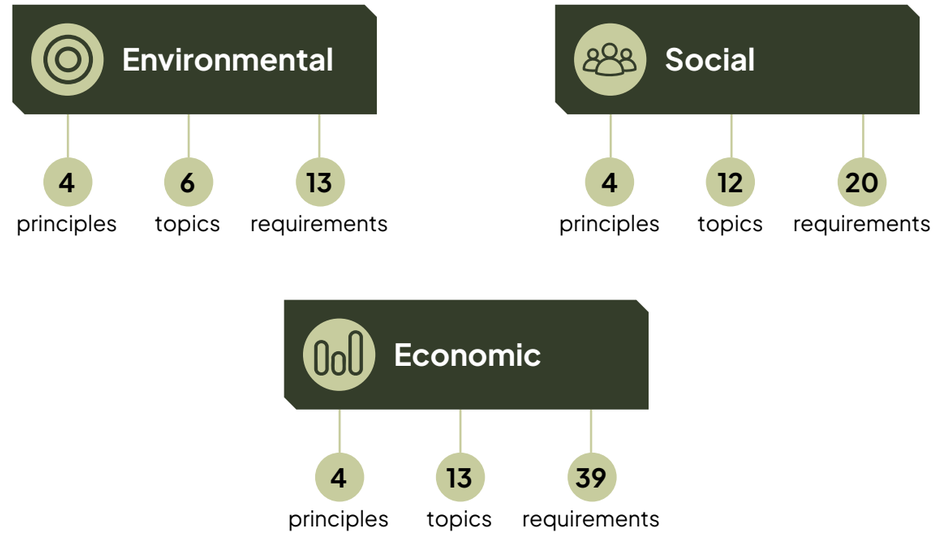
Scope

At either supply chain or the local/ jurisdictional / landscape / island levels, allowing volumes of products to be verified and traded.

The Origin Standard consists of three stages of performance, verified by a third-party Verification Body (VB). The claim and its performance level can be displayed on company websites, commercial documents, provided the chain of custody (COC) – mass balance or segregated – is maintained.

The Origin Standard’s assessment framework is built on the three interconnected dimensions of sustainability—economic, social, and environmental. Each dimension encompasses Principles, Topics, and Requirements, identifying key actors and outlining a progressive set of practices. These practices are assigned points within the grading system, reflecting continuous improvement.

Overview of the Origin Standard and its Impact Areas



Claims that can be made

The Origin standard opens three levels of claims (Engaged, Verified in Transition, Verified Sustainable) and volumes of products can be verified and claimed (see System rules for details) with a dedicated chain of custody model.

**Whether Mass Balance or Segregated is added to the logo depends on the Chain-of-Custody model.*

Transparency is a key requirement of SCP members. SCP expects any sustainability claims made in relation to sustainable coconut products, regardless of whether SCP itself is referenced in the claim, to be accurate and verifiable. SCP members who make false or misleading claims will face sanctions from SCP. It is therefore expected that all members fulfil the requirements set out in the System's rules to ensure that any claims made uphold the objectives and principles of the Sustainable Coconut Charter.

Time required for verification

The duration of the verification process varies depending on the size and complexity of the operation being assessed. While it typically takes several months for a company to prepare and to complete the assessment – including initial assessment, corrective action implementation, and final verification – the standard has been made to be as lean as possible while guaranteeing the claim made which had always been a weak spot of certification.

ORIGIN STANDARD CRITERIA

Impact Area 1: Economic

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 F Farmers · C/T Cooperatives/Traders · P Processors · O Other Actors

TOPICS	ACTORS		REQUIREMENTS	SCORE
GAP training	C/T P O	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
	C/T	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
	P	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
	P	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	F C/T P O	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
	F	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
	F	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

	F C/T P	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
	F C/T P O	1.1.9	All farmers record pesticides applied and keep updated records for consultation.	1,5
	F C/T P O	1.1.10	All farmers have access to and implement agrochemical reduction plans.	1,5
Nutrient management	F C/T P O	1.1.11	A nutrient management plan is developed for each farm.	1
	F C/T P	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
	F C/T P	1.1.13	Regular leaf or soil tests are conducted to assess plant conditions and support more precise fertilizer applications.	1,5
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	F P	1.1.14	A pest and disease census is conducted for all farms before formulating a chemical application schedule.	1,25
	F C/T P	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	F C/T P	1.1.16	A soil management plan is developed to prevent soil erosion and degradation and is shared with all farmers.	1,25
	F C/T P	1.1.17	All farmers are implementing the soil management plan to avoid soil erosion and degradation.	1,5
Product quality	P	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
	P	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.

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

TOPICS	ACTORS		REQUIREMENTS	SCORE
Replanting and quality planting materials	F P	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
	F C/T	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
	C/T P	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
	C/T	1.3.4	Farmers have access to a nursery from which they can source quality materials for replanting.	1,25
	C/T	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
	C/T	1.3.6	All farmers have access to high yielding varieties to replace their unproductive trees.	1,5
	C/T P	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	C/T P	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.

TOPICS	ACTORS		REQUIREMENTS	SCORE
Online tools	C/T P	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
	P	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
	P	1.4.3	Digital tools are used to help ensure a traceable supply chain down to farm level.	1,5
	P	1.4.4	Digital tools are used to make online payments to farmers for their products.	1,5

Impact Area 2: Social

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.

TOPICS	ACTORS		REQUIREMENTS	SCORE
Use of safety equipement	C/T	2.1.1	Farmers and farm workers should be trained on the safe and proper handling of agricultural inputs, especially crop protection products.	1
	C/T	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
	C/T	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.

TOPICS	ACTORS	REQUIREMENTS		SCORE
Farmer Rights	C/T	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
	C/T P	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..

TOPICS	ACTORS	REQUIREMENTS		SCORE
Child labor	F C/T P	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
Discrimination	C/T P O	2.3.2	Steps are taken to monitor and prevent child labor comprehensively.	1,5
Working hours	C/T P	2.3.3	No workers are subject to discrimination during the hiring process or whilst working on the farm.	1,25
No forced labour	F C/T P	2.3.4	Total weekly working hours for an employed farm worker does not exceed 60 hours.	1,5
Grievance mechanism	C/T P O	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
Fair compensation	C/T P	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
		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	C/T P	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
	C/T P	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
	F C/T P	2.3.10	All permanent farm workers are provided with employment contracts in a language they understand.	1,5
Worker dignity	F	2.3.11	No worker is subject to any form of psychological, physical, sexual or verbal abuse, intimidation, or harassment.	1
	C/T P O	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	C/T P O	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.

TOPICS	ACTORS	REQUIREMENTS		SCORE
Awareness	C/T P O	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
	C/T P O	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

Impact Area 3: Environmental

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.

TOPICS	ACTORS		REQUIREMENTS	SCORE
No deforestation	C/T P O	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	C/T P O	3.1.2	Trainings are conducted for farmers to increase awareness on biodiversity challenges in the area.	1
	C/T	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
	C/T	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.

TOPICS	ACTORS		REQUIREMENTS	SCORE
Trainings	C/T P O	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	O	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
	C/T	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.

TOPICS	ACTORS		REQUIREMENTS	SCORE
GHG	P	3.3.1	All energy intensive processes at the processing facility are identified and listed.	1
	P	3.3.2	Measures are taken to improve the energy efficiency at the processing facility.	1,25
	P	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.

TOPICS	ACTORS		REQUIREMENTS	SCORE
Regenerative Agriculture	C/T P O	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
	C/T P O	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
	C/T P O	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

How Claims are Verified

Origin Standard

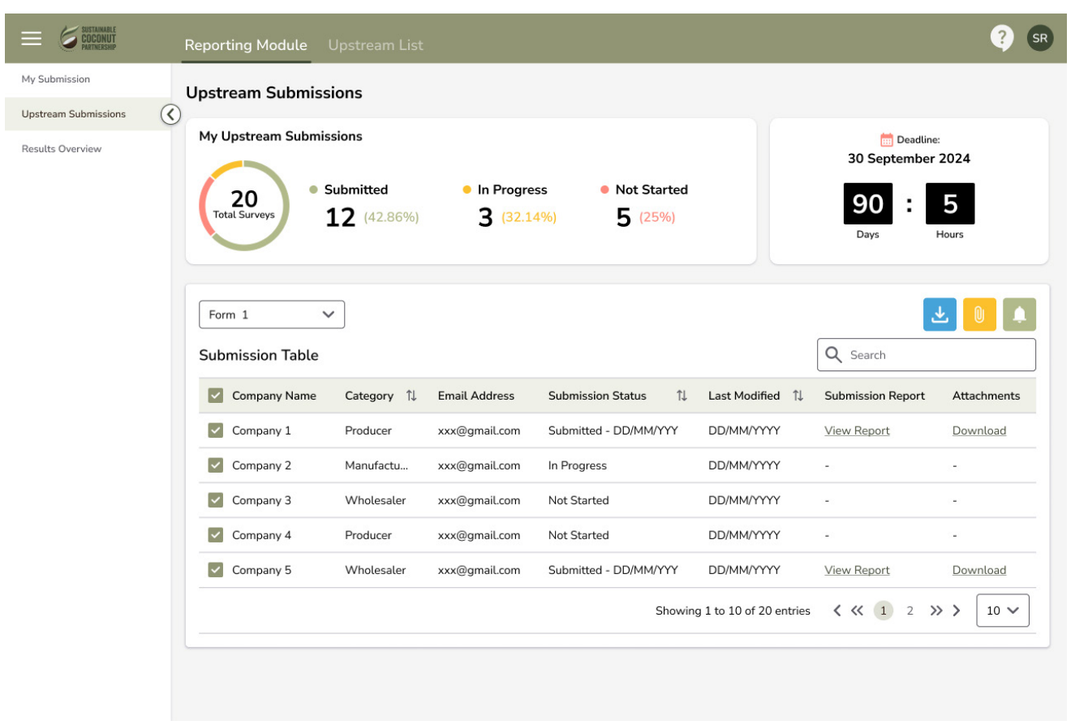
Verifications are conducted by third-party verification bodies (VB) accredited by the SCP and assessed against an Internal Management System (IMS). The VB then notifies SCP upon receiving the application form, completion of audit and award of claim.

Supply Chain Standard

Verifications are conducted via a digital platform (Coco Insights) that streamlines the audit process by digitizing data verification and enabling remote meetings.

Organizations have two options:

1. **Information can be shared on a declarative basis (no external verification).**
2. **Information can be verified by an accredited VB.**



How to get Verified with the Sustainable Coconut Partnership?

1 Understand the Sustainable Coconut Charter Standards and select the one that matches your context and needs

- **A** Familiarize yourself with the specific requirements relevant to your company/supply chain/ jurisdictional/landscape project.

2 Conduct a Self-Assessment and gap analysis

- **A** Conduct a self-assessment of your farm or operation against the SCP Standards. Identify areas of compliance and areas for improvement.
- **B** Document your findings and develop an action plan to address any gaps.
  1. **Origin standard:** through the Internal Management System (IMS)
  2. **Supply Chain Standard:** – through uploads on the digital platform Coco Insights
- **C** If you need support: SCP conducts verification pilots. For companies interested in this support mechanism, contact info@coconutpartnership.org

3 Apply to an Accredited Verification Body

- **A** Choose an accredited verification body recognized by the SCP, discuss your verification goals and validate its scope.
- **B** Fill up the application form provided by the VB and obtain a scope/quote for the verification process.
- **C** Prepare all required documentation, including farm maps, worker records, and records of environmental and social performance.

4 Verification

- **A** **Origin Standard:** A qualified auditor from the verification body will conduct an on-site assessment of your operation.
- **B** **Supply Chain Standard:** Access the digital platform to upload information and proceed to the remote audit.

5 Validation Decision – claim level (Origin Standard only)

- **A** Based on the audit findings, the VB will make a decision on whether to validate your project and assign the claim level.

6 Validation of verification

- **A** If validated, you will receive a certificate of compliance from the VB with your claim level attached.

7 Annual Audits (Origin Standard only)

- **A** After initial verification, you will undergo annual surveillance audits to ensure continued compliance with the Standards.

8 Continuous Improvement

- **A** Continuously strive to improve your alignment with the Charter and address any identified areas for improvement to progress in your claim level all the way to

  Origin Standard: Sustainable claim status
  Supply Chain Standard: Gold Level

ANNEX 1:

KEY FEATURES OF THE ASSURANCE SYSTEM

A Progressive Approach

CHALLENGE

Many farmers and companies report that existing coconut sustainability standards set the bar too high for meaningful participation and long-term viability. Most sustainability assurance certifications relying on conventional pass/fail approaches remain niche, particularly in lower-value ingredient and compound markets, such as oil, desiccated coconut, and husk and shell products, where there is less consumer-driven demand for sustainability.

RESPONSE

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

CHALLENGE

Excessive and overwhelming focus on sustainability requirements passed on to farmers.

RESPONSE

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 Approach

CHALLENGE

Approaches to issues of social and environmental sustainability in the coconut sector tend to be siloed.

RESPONSE

In order to establish transparent, reliable metrics that are sector-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

CHALLENGE

Certification systems tend to be costly, complex and time-consuming. This makes it challenging for operators in the coconut sector to be verified.

RESPONSE

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 piloting 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.

ANNEX 2:

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can the Assurance System be used to engage supply chain partners and foster collaboration?

The Supply Chain Standard provides a shared framework, aligning data exchange and insights on traceability and the Charter's principles. Customers may ask for unified sustainability data and insights to their suppliers and suppliers can share the same data to their customers. Partners can use the system's traceability data to identify bottlenecks, inefficiencies or opportunities in the supply chain together, and then collaboratively develop solutions.

The Origin Standard provides a shared language and set of principles for sustainable coconut production for supply chain projects or wider jurisdictional/landscape approaches, enabling partners to work towards shared goals in a structured way. By using these standards, partners can build trust, improve transparency, and ultimately create a more resilient and sustainable coconut supply chain.

How does the Assurance System seek alignment with applicable regulations?

The SCP is addressing the coconut supply chain's challenges in meeting certification demands by developing a practical alternative—this Assurance System—while supporting other sustainability standards where possible.

To ensure alignment with national and international regulations, standards, and best practices in sustainability, labor, and environmental protection, the system integrates insights from our Human Rights Working Group, which is guiding members on due diligence. Compliance points will be incorporated as countries finalize related laws.

The Assurance System aligns with recognized frameworks like the Accountability Framework principles and ISEAL's codes of good practice. A sector-wide review was conducted to provide a structured path toward greater sustainability, with findings to be published in 2025.

Will the Sustainable Coconut Partnership recognize and support other systems (e.g., Rainforest Alliance, FairTrade, Organic)?

The SCP aims to foster collaboration and recognize the value of other recognized sustainability standards. As of early 2025 we are exploring pathways for mutual recognition and equivalency agreements with other systems and mutually recognized standards to be published during the course of the year.

How often is verification reviewed and updated?

Annual surveillance audits are conducted to ensure ongoing compliance for both SCP standards. The SCP standards themselves are also periodically reviewed and updated to reflect evolving best practices and address emerging challenges.

What are the costs associated with the verification process, and who is responsible for covering them?

Besides interventions mobilized by the entity(ies) seeking verification which are typically shared either by the project proponent or between supply chain partners involved, costs associated with verification include application fees, audit fees, and the implementation of any necessary corrective actions. These costs are typically borne by the entity seeking verification and can also be shared via agreement between parties.

Origin Standard

Compliance to the Assurance System requires membership to the SCP, and annual audit and program/compliance fees that can be covered collectively by joining groups. These investments should be approached with operational profitability in mind as they create value by:

- Securing supply though higher yields for suppliers
- Better market access (increased revenues from sales)
- Compliance with new regulations that avoid future sanctions for non-compliance
- Better and closer relation with suppliers, enabling a stronger more profitable commercial relationship.

Supply Chain Standard

The verification is made remotely on a digital platform that streamlines the audit process by digitizing data verification and enabling remote meetings ensuring its cost effectiveness. The platform also helps suppliers and customers to exchange unified sustainability information based on the sector's accepted framework of the Sustainable Coconut Charter Supply Chain Standard.

What data or documentation do businesses need to provide for verification?

Supply Chain Standard

Required documentation may include records and proof of companies' policies, supplier engagement, mapping, records of environmental/ social impact assessments and other relevant information demonstrating compliance with the principles.

Organizations have two options:

1

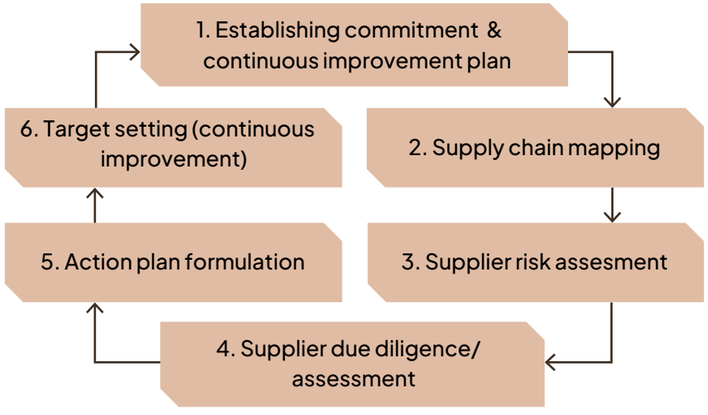
Information can be shared on a declarative basis (no external verification): This is intended to encourage members to critically examine and share with other members their own compliance on a declarative basis. Based on this self-declaration, the member organization can also understand whether improvements need to be made

2

Information can be verified by an accredited Verification Body: The goal of this verification is to assign a score to the organization based on the level of their compliance to the Supply Chain Standard. This is done by the SCP secretariat.

The steps are as follows:

- **Step 1:** Establishing commitments and developing a continuous improvement plan.
- **Step 2:** Supply chain mapping can begin. Once supply chain actors (T1) are identified.
- **Step 3:** A supplier risk assessment can be conductedto determine which suppliers should undergo due diligence.
- **Step 4:** Due diligence can be done using either the Origin or Supply Chain Standard as foundation.
- **Step 5:** Build an action plan with clear steps to address any challenges identified. At the end of the cycle, new targets should be set to continue advancing sustainability.



Origin Standard

To become verified, you'll need to develop a system for managing your journey towards sustainability and tracking your progress. This system is an **Internal Management System (IMS)**, helping you organize your efforts and make your supply chain management easier. You'll also need to choose a Chain of Custody (CoC) model to effectively track your product or material through the supply chain, verifying ownership, handling, and control at each stage. The Sustainable Coconut Partnership recognizes two CoC models: **Mass Balance** and **Segregated.**

The Steps are as follows:

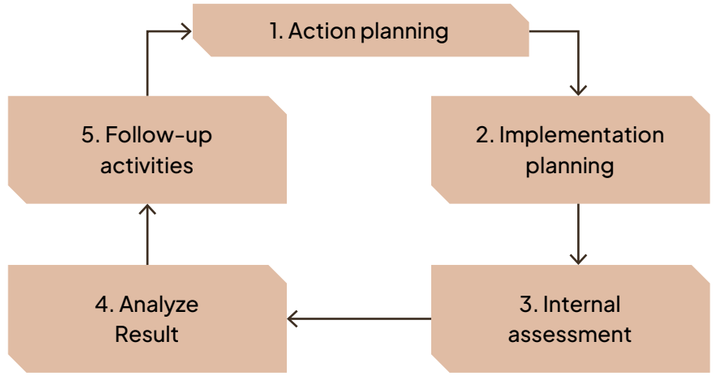
- **Step 1 Identify / action plan:** This step focuses on the identification of what activities need to be conducted with the relevant actors to implement the SCP or maintain compliance. The activities should be outlined in an action plan which includes objectives formulated inline with SMART principle.

- **Step 2. Implementation planning**: An implementation plan should be developed outlining when the activities defined in the first step should be implemented and completed. This also includes a clear identification of who will conduct the activities and which stakeholders will be involved in the verification process itself.

- **Step 3. Internal assessment:** An internal assessment is intended as a first party assessment where the organization assesses compliance to the standard amongst the verification group. The scope of the assessment should be the SCP Origin standard practices.

- **Step 4. Analyze results:** After the internal assessments have been conducted, results should be reviewed, analyzed and summarized to inform the next step. Results could indicate the need for capacity building on a particular topic, training or any other intervention that could support the verification group.

- **Step 5. Continuous improvement:** Any activity conducted to help the verification group close the observed compliance gaps observed during step 3 and 4. This step is also intended to further develop and implement additional SCP requirements to increase the score and keep improving the sustainability score of the group.



The cyclical Internal Management System (IMS) system in place to support the implementation of the SCP Origin standard across the upstream stakeholders.

See System rules for further details.

What happens if a business fails to meet the requirements during verification? Can they reapply?

Our verification process uses a points-based system to assess how well a group (Origin Standard) or organization (Supply Chain Standard) meets the criteria. If a business doesn't achieve the minimum required score, they won't be able to use the standard's claim. They can address the areas where they lost points and reapply for verification once they've made the necessary improvements.

How are monitoring, compliance and transparency ensured throughout the verification process?

Transparency is a core principle of our verification process. We ensure this through a combination of clear documentation, standardized procedures, and independent oversight. We also maintain a system for stakeholder feedback and complaints.

Origin Standard

A compliance statement is issued after the Initial/Main verification which is valid for 3 years, providing the surveillance verifications are passed and the SCP have approved the verification report issued by the Verification Body.

The accredited Verification Bodies oversee the verification process, monitor compliance, and address any concerns or complaints related to the verification with oversight from the SCP.

Supply Chain Standard

Detailed requirements for Verification Bodies on how to become accredited are currently being developed and will be ready when the platform will be launched.

Second party verification must be conducted either by the SCP secretariat or accredited entity. Third party verification can only be conducted by SCP approved Verification Bodies.

What measures are in place to prevent greenwashing or misuse of claims?

We take greenwashing and misuse of our verification claim very seriously. Our multi-layered approach includes rigorous third-party audits, clear guidelines for claim usage, ongoing monitoring of verified entities. The Secretariat will investigate complaints and take appropriate action.

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