



# Landscape Standard: Generating tangible benefits for people and planet

**A global framework to drive environmental, social and economic sustainability in productive landscapes to generate tangible benefits for people and the planet.**

The global demand for food, fuel, fiber and other essential goods is growing rapidly. These products are sourced from landscapes where commodity production needs to be balanced with local and national environmental, social and economic priorities.

## **Driving landscape-scale sustainability**

Coordinated action on landscape-scale sustainability is imperative to achieve shared goals of sustainable livelihoods, ecosystems and supply chains. The Landscape Standard (LS) is a new framework that provides a scientifically rigorous yet practical set of principles, criteria and indicators to assess the state and trajectory of sustainability within a landscape. By providing credible performance data to inform sourcing

and investment decisions, the LS aims to generate market incentives for ongoing improvements in sustainability performance at the landscape level.

The LS is a collaborative initiative led by Rainforest Alliance, Verra and the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance, in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature, Nature Conservation Research Centre, Proforest and Solidaridad, with input from a broad range of stakeholders. The initiative received support from the BHP Foundation and the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).



## Understanding the cumulative impact

Throughout the world, ecosystems continue to decline in spite of significant investments being made to improve sustainability. To better address the challenges, an understanding of the cumulative impact of activities across an entire landscape is required. By focusing on landscape-wide outcomes, issues across multiple sectors can be addressed, including demands to halt deforestation and build sustainable supply chains.

The LS complements existing sustainability standards and approaches, including farm-level certification, by understanding the cumulative impact of all actions within a landscape, including environmental, social and economic dimensions. This sets the LS apart from other sustainability standards and complements sustainability efforts that target individual production sites, activities or sectors.

With the LS, stakeholders within a landscape (including national or regional government, agricultural commodity producers, mining, forestry infrastructure or tourism companies, as well as stakeholders sourcing goods and services from or investing in a landscape) have a credible way to assess and report progress on landscape-scale sustainability outcomes in a consistent and holistic manner. Performance data is measured over time and can be used to report both continuous improvement and compliance with sustainability commitments. This will enable stakeholders to demonstrate foresight and leadership by being transparent about the state of sustainability beyond their direct operations or supply chain.

The information can also be used by stakeholders within the landscape, including governments, to attract investment and markets for their goods and services. The LS also helps businesses to understand the sustainability risks and opportunities associated with sourcing from or investing in a particular landscape.

### The Landscape Standard in action

To ensure the LS is practical and widely applicable, a number of pilots are underway in Ghana, Peru, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Mexico.

The support of the BHP Foundation also enables the LS to be tested in new geographies and contexts, including sites in Mexico and Peru, where the focus is on building and securing long-term demand.



## Conserving the environment for future generations

The BHP Foundation's Environmental Resilience Global Signature Program was developed to drive new ways of conserving and sustainably managing natural environments for the benefit of future generations. We do this by investing in large-scale projects which aim to improve how the environment is valued, enhance conservation planning, and share learnings with others.

The projects we support bring together international institutions, governments, civil social and business, aligning our aspirations behind a common goal to achieve lasting change by seeking to:

- deliver high-impact, enduring interventions in areas of international significance
- engage with people who live in the landscapes to involve them in our efforts, build their capacity and support their livelihoods
- use these projects to pilot new approaches and share our learnings so that others can take them on with confidence
- develop replicable environmental policy frameworks to advance the future of conservation.

The Foundation believes resilient environments are fundamental to thriving societies. They sustain cultures and livelihoods, provide food security and water resources, support biodiversity and address climate change. We help to manage natural environments, conserving them for the benefit of future generations and improving how their resources are valued.

The Landscape Standard initiative is enabled through the BHP Foundation's Environmental Resilience Global Signature Program. This will position the LS for long-term viability.

For more information on the BHP Foundation and the Environmental Resilience Global Signature Program, visit [bhp.com/foundation](https://bhp.com/foundation).