Building a sustainable and **equitable Socio-Bioeconomy in Amazonia**

A Good Practice Guide for the Private Sector

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Part of the initiative:

AMAZONIA FOREVER

The Nature Conservancy

IDB Group

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For the full list of Authors, Acronyms, Glossary, and References, please see the last section in PART I: Socio-Bioeconomy Assessment and Principles.

The strategic imperative for **Amazonia's socio-bioeconomy**

Amazonia[1] presents one of the most significant opportunities for private sector actors to align their operations with environmental and social impact. Home to the world's largest rainforest and river basin, unparalleled biodiversity and nearly 60 million people,[2] the region is increasingly central to climate stability, supply chain resilience and environmental and social performance.

1 This territorial definition is based on RAISG - Rede Amazônica de Informação Socioambiental Georreferenciada. See: https://raisg.socioambiental.org.

2 This population estimate by 2025 was calculated by AmazoniaForever360+ (2023) using the Global Human Settlement Layer (GHSL), specifically the GHS-POP R2023A dataset developed by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). More information can be found on the GHSL website: https://ghsl.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ghs_pop.php.

The urgency is mounting. Amazonia has long been one of Earth's most critical carbon sinks, but scientists underscore that it is approaching a tipping point that could shift it to a carbon source,[3] with catastrophic implications for global climate stability. Growing regulatory frameworks for responsible sourcing, consumer demand for traceability and investor focus on environmental and social performance are fundamentally changing the calculus for Amazonian operations. Traditional extractive production models that clear forests and displace communities are increasingly exposed to regulatory penalties, reputational damage and supply chain disruption.

Amidst these changes, a different model is emerging: A socio-bioeconomy, driven by communities, that creates value by maintaining the integrity of forest, freshwater and cultural systems and respects Amazonia as a vital landscape.

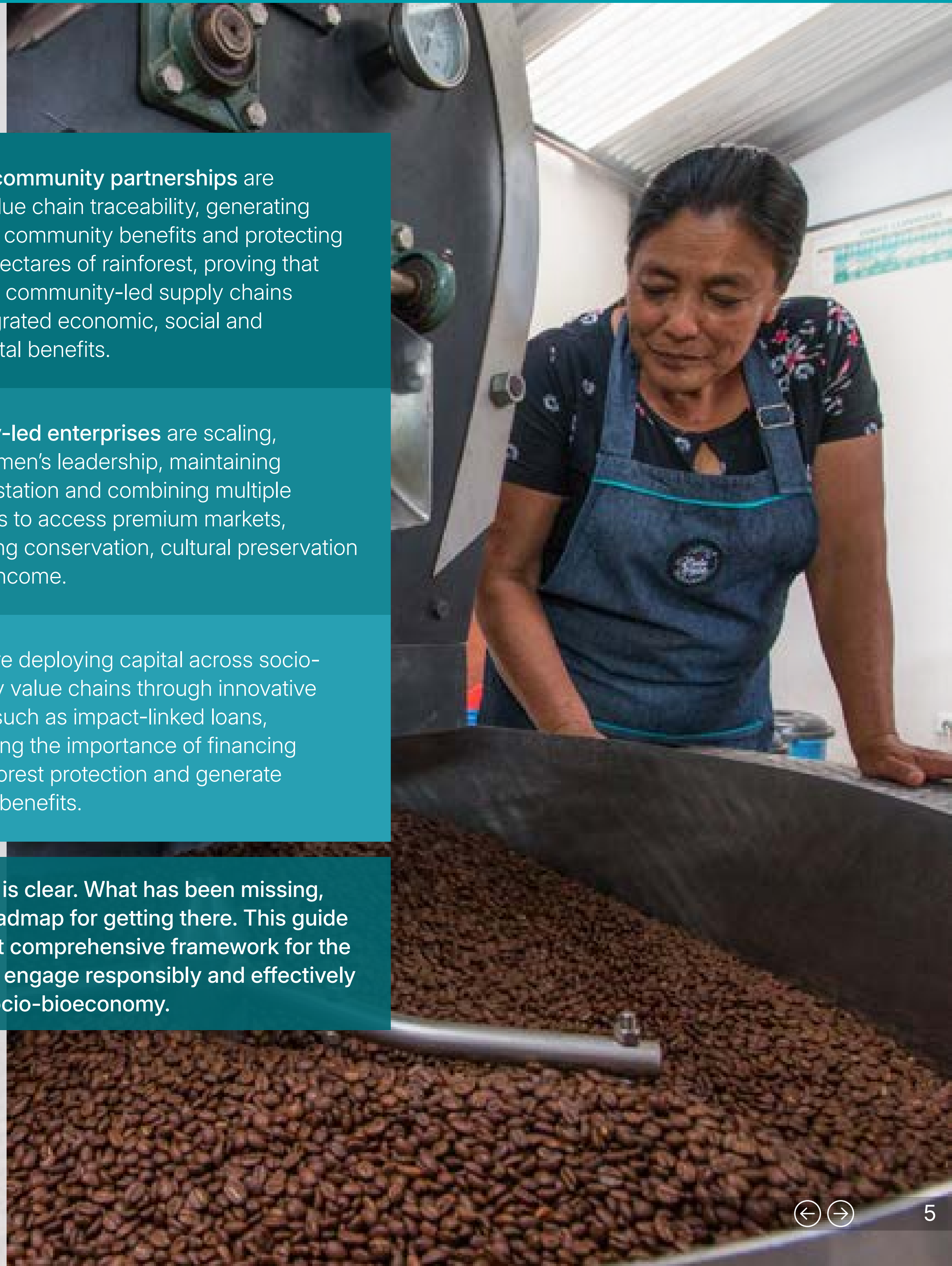
Early movers in Amazonia's socio-bioeconomy are creating prosperity while protecting and regenerating the region's natural and cultural assets.

1 **Company-community partnerships** are ensuring value chain traceability, generating income and community benefits and protecting millions of hectares of rainforest, proving that transparent, community-led supply chains deliver integrated economic, social and environmental benefits.

2 **Community-led enterprises** are scaling, uplifting women's leadership, maintaining zero deforestation and combining multiple certifications to access premium markets, strengthening conservation, cultural preservation and family income.

3 **Investors** are deploying capital across socio-bioeconomy value chains through innovative structures, such as impact-linked loans, demonstrating the importance of financing to support forest protection and generate community benefits.

The opportunity is clear. What has been missing, until now, is a roadmap for getting there. This guide provides the first comprehensive framework for the private sector to engage responsibly and effectively in Amazonia's socio-bioeconomy.



3 Gatti et al. (2021). *Amazonia as a carbon source linked to deforestation and climate change.* Nature.

What is **socio-bioeconomy?**

To date, there has been no unified definition of socio-bioeconomy in Amazonia. The concept remains fluid—shaped by evolving approaches, concepts and principles. Related terms and concepts include nature-based economies, indigenous economies, sociobiodiversity economies, biocultural economies, community conservation enterprises, or simply bioeconomies.

Building on growing regional dialogue about reimagining the bioeconomy for Amazonia,[4] this guide recognizes the socio-bioeconomy as:

A community-driven economic model grounded in the sustainable use of biodiversity and the ancestral knowledge systems, governance structures and practices of Indigenous Peoples *(IP)*, Afro-descendants *(AD)*, Traditional Communities *(TC)* and local communities *(LC)*.

This rich cultural socio-biodiversity, represented by more than 410 distinctive ethnic groups or nations,[5] forms the foundation of the region's socio-bioeconomy potential.

4 IDB. (2023). *Re-Imagining Bioeconomy for Amazonia.*
5 Athayde et al. (2021). *Amazon Assessment Report 2021,* Ch. 10.

The Socio-Bioeconomy differential

Conventional economic approaches extract value from nature. The **socio-bioeconomy creates value by maintaining and regenerating healthy forests, carbon, freshwater and cultural systems.** This approach goes beyond respecting traditional knowledge to explicitly recognizing the economic contribution from incorporating that knowledge and leadership throughout the value chain. It ensures that what is taken from nature is returned through cycles of restoration, reciprocity, and renewal.

Classification depends not on specific products, but on **how they are produced and their community impact.** Cacao harvested through deforestation is not socio-bioeconomy. The same product cultivated in community-managed systems with equitable benefit-sharing represents the model at its best.

The socio-bioeconomy applies **human rights-based** and **gender-responsive approaches** to ensure benefits are equitably shared, participation is inclusive, and decision-making reflects the leadership of women, youth and community members. These are not merely ethical commitments — they are business fundamentals that strengthen outcomes, reduce risk and improve long-term performance.

Who this guide serves: **opportunities for diverse actors**

Actors in Amazonia's socio-bioeconomy have an unprecedented opportunity to create shared value through innovative partnerships that combine traditional knowledge with market access, environmental stewardship with economic development, and community autonomy with international standards.

This guide provides the practical frameworks needed to realize that potential. **Financial institutions,** including IDB Invest, can use it to evaluate investments against socio-bioeconomy principles and environmental and social due diligence requirements. **Companies** can apply it to build sustainable, equitable and transparent supply chains. **Communities** can use it to articulate their governance systems and production approaches in ways that resonate with potential partners while maintaining cultural integrity. **Governments** can reference it to inform programs that protect community rights while facilitating responsible private sector engagement. **Supporting organizations,** like technical assistance providers, development agencies and NGOs can apply it to structure capacity building programs and strengthen socio-bioeconomy enabling environment.

The guide's structure: four integrated, standalone documents

This Good Practice Guide is designed as **four complementary documents** that work together as a cohesive framework while also functioning independently:

1

Executive Summary *(this document)*: provides a complete overview of the guide, including the socio-bioeconomy strategic value, validation process and principles, functioning as a clear entry point for decision-makers to quickly understand the socio-bioeconomy opportunity and determine which parts of the guide to use.

2

Part I: Socio-Bioeconomy Assessment and Principles: features a Socio-Bioeconomy Eligibility Assessment for rapid screening against minimum standards, followed by a detailed exploration of Seven Socio-Bioeconomy Principles, including self-assessments, recommendations for transformational practices and key concepts.

3

Part II: Tools, Resources, and Certifications: operationalizes the principles by highlighting relevant certifications, mapping good practices to international standards and sharing a curated library of implementation tools.

4

Part III: Case Studies: showcases real-world application through examples of proven business models, partnership structures, and measurable outcomes.

Each document stands alone for quick reference—whether decision-makers need just the eligibility screening, a specific principle's self-assessment, the certifications comparison table or a relevant case study. **Together, the documents provide a complete roadmap** to understand socio-bioeconomy principles, implement good practices and learn from proven models.

The following sections summarize what users will find in each part of the guide. For further guidance, refer to the respective section within each document.

PART I

Socio-Bioeconomy **assessment and principles**

Part of the initiative:

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Socio-Bioeconomy eligibility assessment

This section provides a rapid screening to evaluate whether initiatives align with socio-bioeconomy core standards before investing resources in more detailed diligence.

The assessment also outlines **Exclusionary Criteria**—practices fundamentally incompatible with socio-bioeconomy, such as child or forced labor, illegal logging, deforestation after the 2020 cutoff date[6] or operations without proper community consultation and consent.

Seven Principles of Amazonia's Socio-Bioeconomy

The Seven Principles outline a shared vision for socio-bioeconomy in absence of a standard definition. They align with IDB Invest recommendations for distinguishing socio-bioeconomy from business as usual and help operationalize recognized guidance, including from the G20 High Level Principles on Bioeconomy. This alignment supports collaboration, comparability and credibility while keeping the guide impact-focused and practical for the Amazonian context.

Each of the Seven Principles includes:

1 **Purpose:** highlighting why this principle is critical to socio-bioeconomy impact.

2 **Practices:** organized into an assessment matrix that helps users determine what level of impact they are demonstrating *(**emerging or established**)* and provides tools for implementation. **Transformational practices** go beyond emerging and established impact to encourage more robust innovation and outcomes, including co-creating solutions with right-holders, upholding higher environmental and social standards and strengthening trust through shared decision-making, transparency, ongoing learning and accountability.

Key concepts with clear definitions and explanations relevant to the practices.

6 In line with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and consistent with the New York Declaration on Forests, December 31st, 2020 is applied as the cut-off date for deforestation and ecosystem conversion.

Principle 1: Assess risks and embed robust environmental and social safeguards

Purpose: beyond preventing harm, environmental and social safeguards strengthen the quality of socio-bioeconomy outcomes, increase operational resilience and support more equitable and productive partnerships. This principle offers the screening tools and safeguard systems needed to identify, prevent and manage risks proactively.

Practices:

1. **Environmental and Social Screening and Action Plan:** identify key environmental and social risks, apply exclusion criteria, and implement a risk-proportional management system.

2. **Gender and Human Rights Safeguards:** integrate gender and human rights considerations into project design, not only to prevent harm, but to promote leadership and strengthen equitable relationships.

3. **Grievance and Redress Mechanism for Communities and Workers:** ensure accessible, confidential, and culturally appropriate channels for resolving community and worker complaints.

Key Concepts: Socio-Bioeconomy Exclusion Criteria • Environmental and Social Management Systems *(ESMS)* • Mitigation Hierarchy • Gender-Responsive Approaches • Deforestation Cut-Off Dates

Principle 2: Respect Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, Traditional Communities and local communities

Purpose: Indigenous Peoples manage approximately 45% of Amazonia's primary forests,[7] and Afro-descendants, Traditional Communities and local communities contribute essential knowledge and stewardship practices across the region. Authentic partnerships with these groups are not only imperative to uphold human rights, they also provide strategic advantages, including market differentiation, supply security and regulatory compliance. This principle outlines how to navigate community engagement processes—including FPIC— and the design of equitable agreements and partnerships.

Practices:

1. **Community Engagement:** build transparent, inclusive, and continuous dialogue with communities through information sharing, consultation, and thorough consent processes.
2. **Land Tenure and Resource Access:** recognize and help communities strengthen collective and customary land and resource rights.
3. **Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge:** protect cultural heritage, respect traditional knowledge and secure informed consent and equitable benefit-sharing before using.

Key Concepts: Stakeholder Engagement Plans *(SEP)* • Informed Consultation and Participation *(ICP)* • Free, Prior and Informed Consent *(FPIC)* • Land Tenure and Resource Access Rights • Cultural Heritage • Chance Find Procedures

7 FAO & FILAC. (2021). *Forest governance by Indigenous and Tribal Peoples: An opportunity for climate action in Latin America and the Caribbean.*

Principle 3: Establish fair, safe and legal working conditions *(direct employees)*

Purpose: fair, safe and legal working conditions are the foundation for dignified livelihoods and responsible enterprises. Labor violations create legal liability, reputational risk and supply chain disruption. When all workers in direct employment relationships—whether permanent staff, contractors or seasonal workers—are treated fairly and work safely, socio-bioeconomy initiatives build trust, stability and product quality. This principle provides guidance on how to audit current practices, develop compliant employment policies and demonstrate labor standards alignment to buyers and investors.

Practices:

1. **Safety, Fair Wages and Clear Terms of Employment:** ensure all direct workers receive fair pay, safe working conditions, and equal treatment.

2. **Child and Forced Labor Prevention and Youth Safety:** prohibit forced and exploitative labor, uphold international child labor standards, and respect safe and culturally appropriate youth participation.

Key Concepts: Occupational Health and Safety *(OHS)* • Child Labor Standards • Age Verification Procedures • Forced Labor

Principle 4: Build ethical, traceable and transparent value chains

Purpose: evolving regulations are making traceability mandatory. This principle promotes responsible value chains built on transparency, fairness and integrity. It guides enterprises to trace products from origin to market, establish equitable and culturally appropriate commercial agreements with communities and strengthen governance systems that ensure accountability and prevent corruption.

Practices:

1 **Supply Chain Traceability and Transparency:** track products from origin to buyer, assess supply chain risks, and ensure responsible sourcing through clear records and audits.

2 **Commercial Terms and Equitable Benefit-Sharing:** establish transparent, fair, and culturally appropriate agreements that recognize communities' unique costs, contributions and rights.

3 **Enterprise Governance and Accountability:** uphold integrity through anti-corruption policies, transparent decision-making, and accessible channels for reporting irregularities.

Key Concepts: Supplier Registers • Traceability Systems • Supply Chain Risk Scans • Payment Tracking Systems • Anti-Bribery and Whistleblower Mechanisms • Environmental, Social and Governance Oversight

Principle 5: Protect and restore nature, climate and biodiversity

Purpose: healthy forests and freshwater ecosystems are the foundation of supply chain resilience in Amazonia and the key to keeping carbon from being released into the atmosphere. Deforestation and ecosystem degradation create material business risks—from regulatory penalties to operational disruption to stranded assets. This principle provides clarity on how to develop environmental management systems, conduct biodiversity assessments and demonstrate alignment with science-based climate targets.

Practices:

1. **Healthy Forests, Freshwater Ecosystems and Biodiversity:** protect and restore forests, freshwater ecosystems, and biodiversity, prioritizing native species and avoiding any deforestation, degradation or ecosystem conversion.

2. **Water Stewardship and Sustainable Use:** manage water resources responsibly to improve efficiency, prevent contamination, and ensure equitable use across users and ecosystems.

3. **Pollution, Resource and Emissions Management:** reduce pollution and emissions through efficient resource use, monitoring, and compliance with environmental standards.

4. **Climate Risk Resilience and Adaptation:** integrate climate risk assessments and adaptive measures into planning and operations.

Key Concepts: Critical Habitat • Gross Deforestation • Biodiversity Management Plans *(BMP)* • Ecosystem Services • GHG Emissions • Climate Resilience

Principle 6: Demonstrate impact and accountability

Purpose: investors, buyers and regulators increasingly demand verifiable evidence of impact and authentic commitment to sustainability. Robust monitoring and evaluation systems are strategic assets that help socio-bioeconomy initiatives identify opportunities for improvement, build credibility and demonstrate value to partners. This principle provides guidance on how to design monitoring systems, conduct evaluations and report results in ways that satisfy diverse rights-holders' and stakeholders' requirements.

Practices:

1. **Monitoring and Performance Tracking:** establish clear indicators and systems in partnership with communities to track environmental, social and financial results.
2. **Adaptive Management and Learning:** use monitoring results and lessons learned to adjust plans, strengthen performance and share knowledge across teams and communities.
3. **Performance Disclosure:** communicate results, risks and changes openly with stakeholders and rights-holders through accessible, culturally appropriate formats.

Key Concepts: Environmental and Social Management System *(ESMS)* • Monitoring Plans • Performance Indicators • Adaptive Management • Thresholds/ Triggers • Stakeholder Engagement Logs.

Principle 7: Build capacity and networks

Purpose: sustainable supply chains require capable partners. Success depends on investing in the broader ecosystem of partners, communities and stakeholders who contribute to socio-bioeconomy value chains. This principle demonstrates how to design training programs, identify partnership opportunities and leverage collective resources to solve shared challenges.

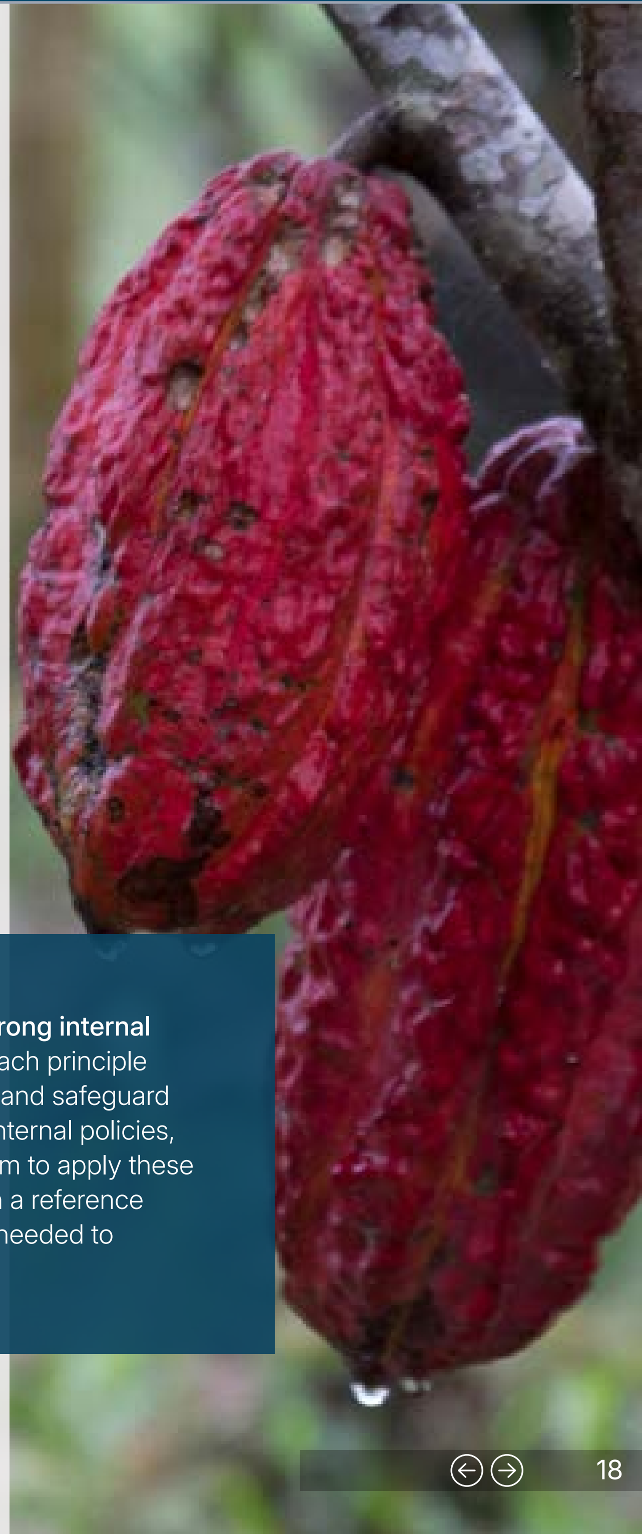
Practices:

1. **Local and Community Capacity:** strengthen local skills, governance systems, and territorial management through training, mentoring, and technical support aligned with community priorities.

2. **Multi-Stakeholder Networks and Partnerships:** proactively engage rights-holder and stakeholder networks to exchange knowledge, coordinate advocacy, and co-develop collaborative solutions.

Key Concepts: Capacity Building • Territorial and Environmental Management Instruments • Multi-Stakeholder Networks • Engagement and Learning Traceability

Socio-bioeconomy initiatives also require actors to have **strong internal capacity** to implement these principles effectively. While each principle describes practices to engage communities, protect rights and safeguard ecosystems, companies and financiers must develop the internal policies, trained teams and organizational procedures that allow them to apply these standards consistently. This guide therefore serves as both a reference for good practice and a roadmap for building the capacity needed to operationalize socio-bioeconomy commitments.



PART II

Tools, resources, **and certifications**

Part of the initiative:

AMAZONIA FOREVER

Overview of key certifications and standards

Among numerous existing standards and certifications, this guide identifies eight that are most relevant to Amazonian socio-bioeconomy non-timber forest products *(NTFPs)*, including food, cosmetics, and textiles. These certifications were selected for their market recognition, emphasis on standing forest conservation, requirements for fair community participation and/or credible third-party oversight.

Each certification overview includes its scope, key strengths, oversight mechanisms and limitations.

Summary of relevant certifications for the amazonian context			
Certification	Focus Area	Strengths	Limitations
Forest Stewardship Council *(FSC)*	Timber and non-timber forest products.	Strong protections for High Conservation Values, Indigenous rights, and FPIC; widely recognized internationally.	Can be administratively demanding for small enterprises.[8]
FairWild	Wild-harvested plants, fungi, and lichen.	Emphasizes ecological sustainability and community development; highly relevant for botanicals.	Lower market visibility compared to larger multiproduct certifications, despite strong relevance for wild-harvest supply chains.[9]
Union for Ethical BioTrade *(UEBT)*	Cosmetics, natural pharmaceuticals, personal care and food sectors.	Robust Nagoya Protocol compliance,[10] and biodiversity enhancement; strong industry recognition.	Lower consumer visibility due to its business-to-business focus.[11]
Fairtrade International	Food commodities.	Ensures minimum prices and community investment premiums; strong governance and credibility in agriculture.	More limited applicability to NTFPs.[12]
Rainforest Alliance	Multi-commodity sustainable agriculture.	Comprehensive environmental and social standards; strong global market recognition.	Less tailored to Amazonian NTFPs.[13]
Origens Brasil®	Brazilian Amazon products.	Unique network focused on Indigenous and conservation-area products; provides QR code traceability and community engagement.	Limited but growing, international recognition beyond Brazil compared to labels with wider geographical reach.[14]
EU Organic	Organic food for EU markets.	Strong environmental protection; mandatory for prepacked organic food.	Lacks explicit social equity, traditional knowledge, and forest conservation safeguards.[15]
USDA Organic	Organic food for US markets.	Promotes biodiversity and includes process-based verification.	Does not address social equity, Indigenous rights, or forest conservation outcomes.[16]

8 FSC. (2019). *Smallholder Forest Management Certification Guide.*
9 TRAFFIC. (2017). *Implementing the FairWild Standard for wild plant trade.*
10 The Nagoya Protocol (2010) is an international agreement under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that establishes a legal framework for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.
11 Mallet, P. et al. (2021). *Fair Trade and sustainable agricultural practices.*
12 Fairtrade International. (2023). *15th edition monitoring report.*
13 Rainforest Alliance. (2020). *Sustainable Agriculture Standard (Version 1.4).*
14 Origens Brasil®. (n.d.). *Official website.*
15 European Union. (2018). *Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on organic production.*
16 USDA. (2025). *National Organic Program regulations (7 CFR Part 205).*

Internationally recognized standards, guidance, and certifications

Financial institutions and companies often face a complex web of due diligence requirements and sector-specific guidelines, including the IDB Invest Sustainability Policy, IFC Performance Standards and the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework *(ESF)* and Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines *(EHS)*.

While these international standards provide comprehensive guidance across sectors and geographies, they are not explicitly designed for community-focused, forest-based economies in Amazonia. The socio-bioeconomy requires specific interpretations and applications—particularly around indigenous rights, territorial governance, traditional knowledge and forest conservation—that may not be immediately apparent when reading the standards themselves.

This section makes those connections clear by mapping each socio-bioeconomy principle and practice area to these widely used frameworks. The mapping includes seven comprehensive tables, one for each socio-bioeconomy principle.

Each table provides:

1. **Minimum due diligence expectations** under IDB Invest Policy, with specific requirements *(e.g., "Do not clear critical habitat," or "Keep records showing consistency with host country law").*
2. **Exact references** to corresponding IFC and World Bank standards so users can easily verify alignment.
3. **Certifications and standards** showing which of the eight covered certifications demonstrate compliance with IDB Invest minimum standards and where additional verification might be required.

Tools and ready to use resources

Implementors often face challenges translating good practices into tangible actions. Even with clear guidance, practitioners need practical tools, such as checklists, templates, assessment forms, and step-by-step manuals.

This section provides a **curated library of the most relevant and ready to use resources,** aligned with the guide's Seven Principles and organized by specific practice area. It leverages an analysis of more than 100 tools and guidance documents to prioritize those that are most practical, internationally recognized, and immediately applicable.

Tools include:

1. **Risk assessments and safeguards:** environmental and social risk assessment templates, gender-based violence screening tools and grievance mechanism checklists.
2. **Respect for communities:** stakeholder mapping templates, FPIC manuals, community land protection guides, and access and benefit-sharing toolkits.
3. **Fair, safe and legal working conditions:** Environmental and Social Management System *(ESMS)* handbooks and forced and child labor workbooks.
4. **Ethical, traceable and transparent value chains:** traceability templates, equitable benefit-sharing manuals and contracts and responsible sourcing and governance guidance.
5. **Nature, climate and biodiversity:** conservation, biodiversity and water assessments, pollution and greenhouse gas emission guidance, and climate risk screening tools.
6. **Impact and accountability:** monitoring and performance verification tools, transparency guidance and principles for Indigenous data governance.
7. **Capacity and networks:** resources for strengthening community capacity and engaging in multi-stakeholder networks.

PART III

Case studies

Part of the initiative:

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While frameworks and standards provide important guidance, practitioners also benefit from concrete examples showing how diverse actors — from indigenous cooperatives managing traditional territories to multinational corporations restructuring supply chains — successfully operationalize socio-bioeconomy principles in real-world contexts. Without these practical examples, enterprises, financiers and community organizations face uncertainty about what good practice looks like in reality.

This section bridges that gap with case studies demonstrating how socio-bioeconomy principles translate into measurable environmental, social, and economic outcomes. The cases span the full spectrum of actors: community enterprises and organizations, multinational corporations, impact investors, and supporting organizations — showcasing models that decision-makers can adapt to their own contexts.

Each case study provides:

1 **Implementation details** showing specific practices across all seven socio-bioeconomy principles.

2 **Measurable outcomes** with environmental, social and economic benefits.

3 **Replicable approaches** for partnerships, equitable benefit-sharing, traceability, monitoring and other adaptable innovations.

Case study highlight: community voices shape socio-bioeconomy development

The section begins with a case study synthesizing insights from Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, Traditional Communities and local communities across Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. This foundation ensures the guide reflects community priorities and experiences, recognizing communities not as beneficiaries but as active architects of solutions. Subsequent cases demonstrate implementation at different scales—from an Indigenous-led enterprise producing chocolate through zero deforestation agroforestry, to private companies engaging in equitable community partnerships that protect millions of hectares of forest, to financiers and supporting organizations creating the investment readiness and enabling conditions for the socio-bioeconomy to succeed.

Together, these cases provide an actionable blueprint showing that socio-bioeconomy development is more than theoretical. It is already generating results and offering proven pathways that others can follow and scale across Amazonia.

Designed for real-world impact

Amazonia Forever is an IDB regional program that aims to scale up financing, share strategic knowledge, and enhance coordination to accelerate sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development across Amazonia. The scaling of bioeconomy and creative economy represents one of the program's five core pillars, supported by a range of initiatives, funds, networks and projects.

As part of Amazonia Forever, IDB Invest has developed the Amazonia Forever Roadmap, a strategic framework that acts as a sandbox to pilot its new business model in Amazonia. Through this roadmap, IDB Invest reaffirms its commitment to sustainably increasing participation and investments in the region. In support of its commitment to enhance Amazonia's socio-bioeconomy, IDB Invest partnered with The Nature Conservancy *(TNC)* to create this Good Practice Guide through an unprecedented validation process ensuring it meets both market needs and community realities.

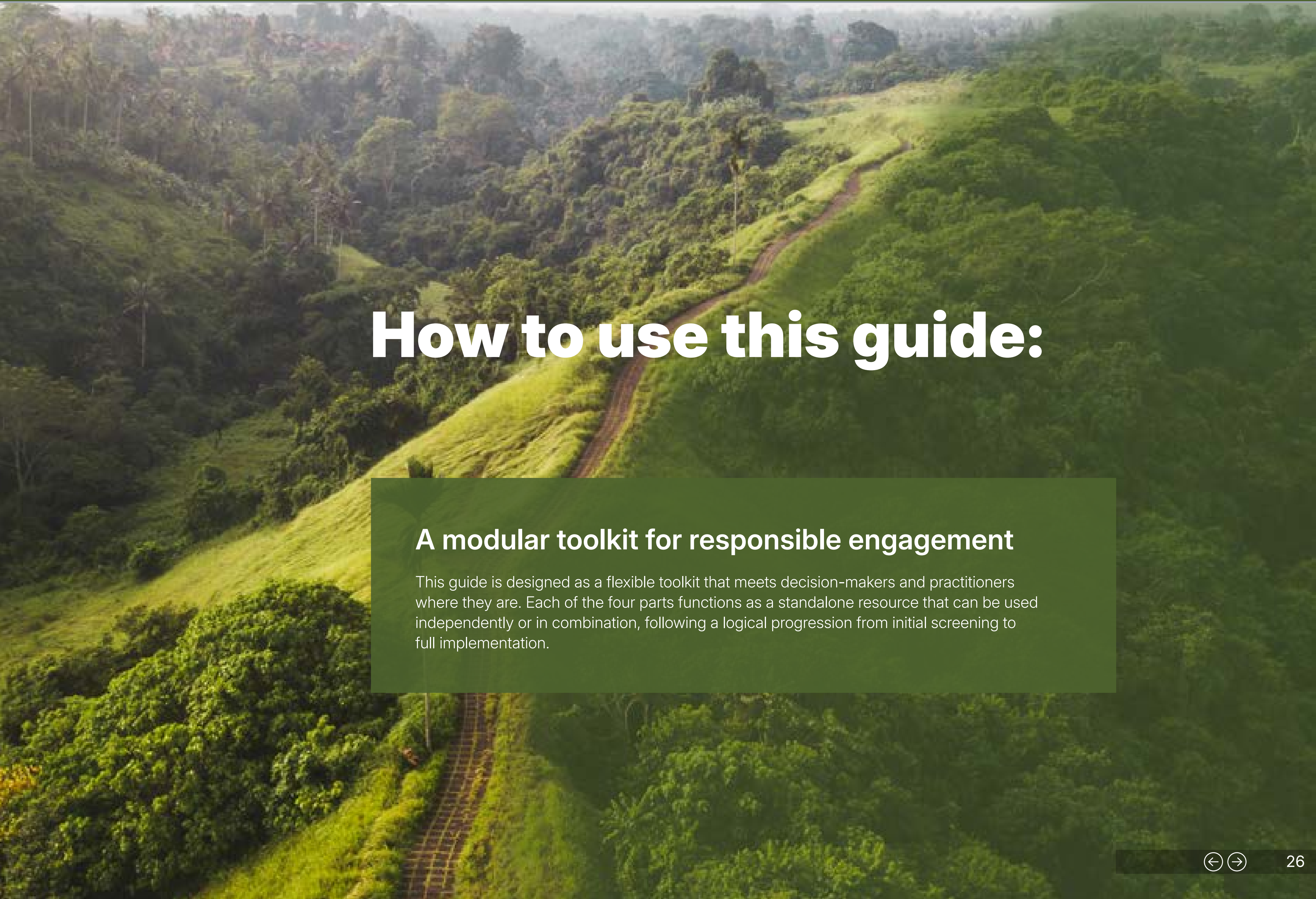
The Good Practice Guide's development included interviews with leading market actors, analysis of more than 40 documents on Amazonia's socio-bioeconomy, review of over 100 tools and 28 international frameworks, deep dives into eight certifications most relevant to the region, six real-world case studies, and five days of in-person workshops with 57 organizations representing Indigenous, Afro-descendant, Traditional and local communities. The guide aligns with IDB Invest Sustainability Policy and Manual, IFC Performance Standards and Guidance Notes and the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework and Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines. The result: a practical guide that integrates community realities with investment standards, reflects current market practices and gaps and has been validated by diverse stakeholders to ensure it is both credible and immediately applicable.

The path forward

Amazonia's economy is transforming from extraction to regeneration, driven by communities who have stewarded these forests for generations and supported by companies, investors, governments and institutions ready to align their operations with environmental and social impact. Climate tipping points, regulatory frameworks and market expectations are converging to make responsible engagement both urgent and unavoidable.

This guide provides the roadmap that has been missing: a comprehensive, validated framework that translates principles into practice, standards into action, and aspiration into measurable outcomes. Its tools, standards and proven models allow financial institutions, companies, communities, governments, and supporting organizations to act with confidence.

The question is no longer whether socio-bioeconomy can succeed in Amazonia – it is how quickly it can scale. Every partnership, safeguard, hectare and community contributes to a future where ecosystems, cultures and economies thrive together. The opportunity for action is now.



How to use this guide:

A modular toolkit for responsible engagement

This guide is designed as a flexible toolkit that meets decision-makers and practitioners where they are. Each of the four parts functions as a standalone resource that can be used independently or in combination, following a logical progression from initial screening to full implementation.

Steps:

1

Assess alignment

Use the Socio-Bioeconomy Eligibility Assessment *(Part I)* as a rapid screening tool to evaluate whether initiatives meet core socio-bioeconomy foundations—including required permits, risk screening, FPIC compliance, and traceability—before committing deeper resources.

2

Evaluate practices

Apply the self-assessment tools in the Seven Socio-Bioeconomy Principles *(Part I)* to identify current impact levels *(emerging vs. established vs. transformational)* and prioritize improvements.

3

Review standards

Consult the Overview of Key Certifications and Standards *(Part II)* to identify how the eight frameworks *(FSC, FairWild, UEBT, Fairtrade, Rainforest Alliance, Origens Brasil®, EU Organic, USDA Organic)* best relate to your needs.

4

Align with requirements

Reference the Internationally Recognized Standards, Guidance and Certifications *(Part II)* to see exactly how socio-bioeconomy practices align with IDB Invest, IFC and World Bank frameworks, demonstrating alignment with due diligence requirements.

5

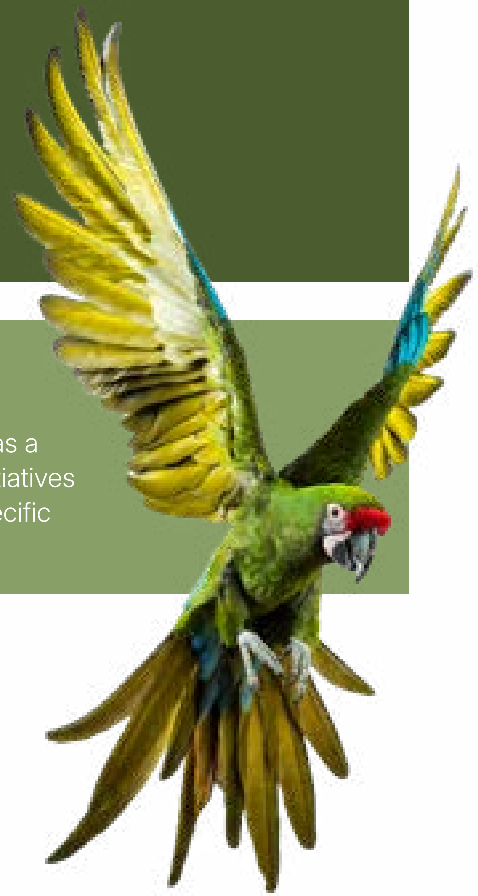
Apply implementation tools

Use the Tools and Resources *(Part II)* section to access ready-to-use templates, checklists, and manuals—including Environmental, Social and Impact Assessment forms, FPIC protocols, traceability platforms, and monitoring frameworks—to support practical implementation.

6

Learn from practice

Explore the Case Studies *(Part III)* to identify proven business models, partnership structures, financing innovations, and implementation lessons that can be adapted across Amazonia.



The key advantage: you don't need to use everything. Navigate directly to what you need, when you need it. The guide works equally well as a comprehensive reference for developing new initiatives or as a targeted quick-reference resource for specific implementation challenges.

Authors and key contributors

TNC Authors

- Lisa Ferguson
- Sarah Gammage
- Gabriela Jaramillo
- Ro'otsitsina Juruna
- Natália Leite
- Linett Leon

TNC Contributors

- Marina Aragão
- Carolina Carrillo
- Gabriela Celi
- Mónica Chávez
- Adriana Correa
- Luis Dávalos
- Daniela Lizano
- Rafael Mendoza
- Juan Carlos Parra
- Aline Perez
- Carolina Polaina
- Ximena Checa Rivas
- Alfredo Salinas
- Juliana Simões
- Helcio Souza
- Fabián Tamayo
- Teresa Veloz
- Isaí Vitorino

IDB Contributors

- Daniel Hincapie
- Tatiana Schor
- Vanessa Licht Tellez
- Johanna Hansmann

IDB Invest Contributors

- Gabriel Azevedo
- Jaime Garcia Alba
- Leonardo Mazzei
- Mauro Mora Núñez
- Milena Correia Cafruni
- Paula Valencia
- Thomaz Pacheco

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