

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

A Good Practice Guide for the Private Sector

PART I

Part of the initiative:



PART I

Socio-Bioeconomy assessment **and principles**

Part of the initiative:

AMA
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NIA
FOREVER

The Nature
Conservancy 



IDB Group

PART I

Socio-Bioeconomy assessment and principles

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Table of contents

6	Acronyms	→			← Annex: Socio-Bioeconomy exclusion criteria	73
7	Introduction	→			← Glossary	75
9	Socio-Bioeconomy Eligibility Assessment	→			← References	80
15	Seven Principles of Amazonia's Socio-Bioeconomy	→			← Authors and Key Contributors	93

Acronyms

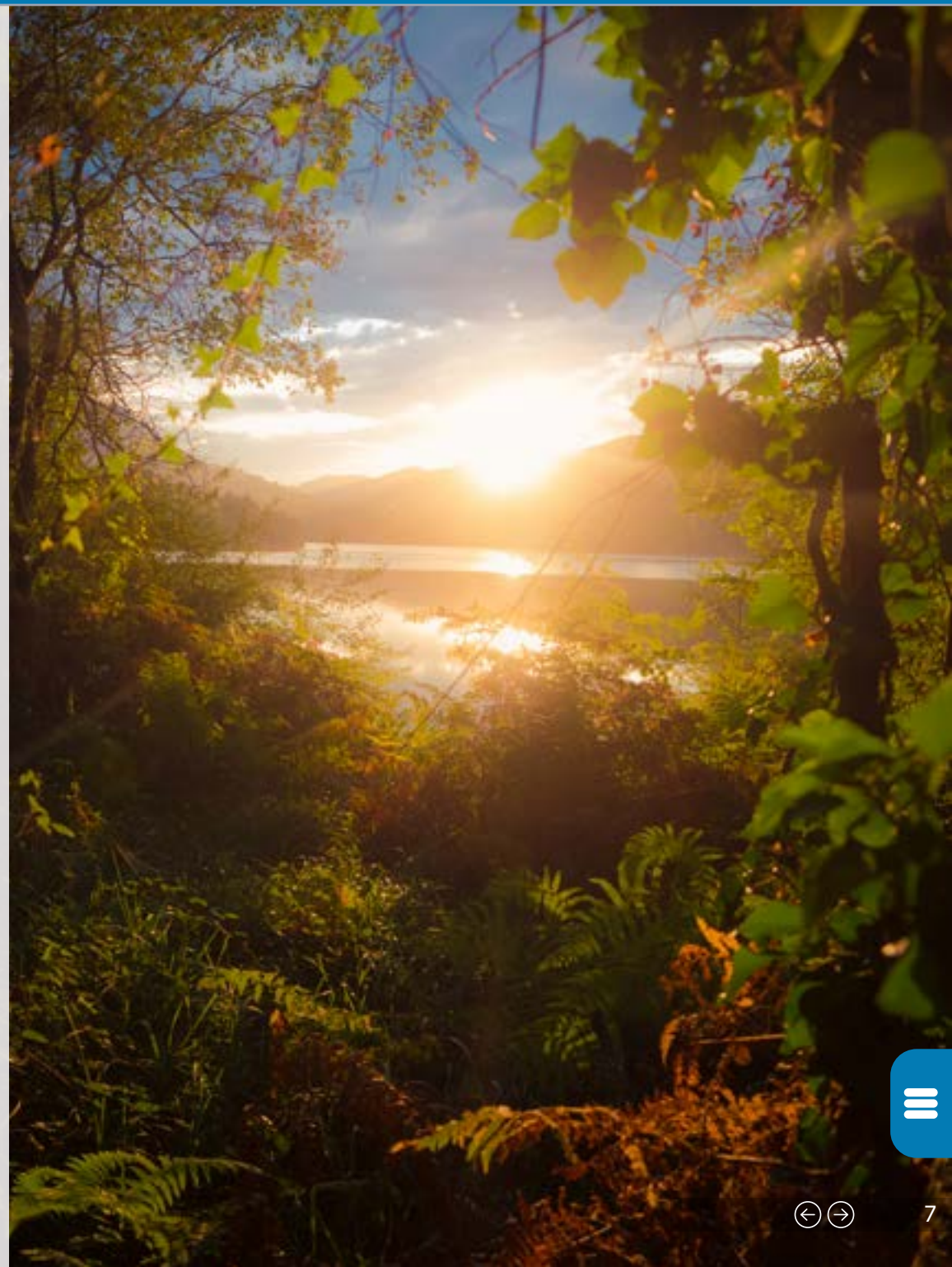
ABS	Access and Benefit-Sharing	IDB Invest IM	IDB Invest Implementation Manual
AD	Afro-descendants	IFC	International Finance Corporation
E&S	Environmental and Social	IFC PS	IFC Performance Standards
ESG	Environmental, Social, and Governance	ILO	International Labour Organization
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	IP	Indigenous Peoples
ESMS	Environmental and Social Management System	IPP	Indigenous Peoples Plan
WB ESS	World Bank Environmental and Social Standards	LC	Local communities
EUDR	European Union Deforestation Regulation	NGO	Non-governmental Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (<i>United Nations</i>)	NTFPs	Non-Timber Forest Products
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent	OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council	RA	Rainforest Alliance
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
GBVH	Gender-Based Violence and Harassment	SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
GHG	Greenhouse Gas	TC	Traditional Communities
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism	TK	Traditional Knowledge
ICP	Informed Consultation and Participation	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank	UEBT	Union for Ethical BioTrade
IDB Invest	Private sector arm of the IDB Group	WB EHS	World Bank Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines
IDB Invest ESSP	IDB Invest Environmental and Social Sustainability Policy	WB ESF	World Bank Environmental and Social Framework

Introduction

This document is Part I of a four-part Good Practice Guide for Building a Sustainable and Equitable Socio-Bioeconomy in Amazonia. Part I provides the foundational frameworks for evaluating and implementing responsible socio-bioeconomy practices. The Executive Summary offers an overview of the complete guide, while Part II covers socio-bioeconomy certifications, standards and implementation tools and Part III provides tangible case studies.

This section of the guide begins with a rapid **Eligibility Assessment** that determines whether an initiative aligns with core socio-bioeconomy principles, then progresses to **Seven Socio-Bioeconomy Principles** that guide good practice implementation. Together, these tools enable practitioners to assess current performance, identify priority improvements and operationalize responsible practices with confidence and credibility.

The frameworks presented here emerged from analysis of international standards, regional guidance and extensive validation with market actors and communities. They are designed to be proportionate and practical for diverse actors, spanning established corporations and investors to emerging community enterprises.



How to use Part I

A Start with the Eligibility Assessment: this rapid screening tool provides a yes/no checklist covering minimum socio-bioeconomy standards. Use it to quickly evaluate whether socio-bioeconomy initiatives have the foundational elements in place. Every “No” response identifies an opportunity for improvement, and users can refer to the chapter on that principle for more detailed guidance. The assessment also outlines Exclusionary Criteria—practices fundamentally incompatible with socio-bioeconomy. If any of these activities are present, address these issues before proceeding with other assessments.

B Dive deep into relevant principles: users can review each principle in detail or utilize their Eligibility Assessment results to identify the principles most critical for that initiative. Within each principle:

- **Read the purpose statement** to understand why this matters for socio-bioeconomy.
- **Complete the self-assessment**, evaluating current practices against Emerging and Established impact levels.
- **Identify current performance level** and realistic next steps for improvement.
- **Note specific tools and certifications** that can support implementation.
- **Review key concepts** to clarify terminology and technical requirements.
- **Consider transformational practices** once Emerging and Established impacts are solidified.

C Create an action plan: use assessment results to prioritize improvements. Focus first on gaps in Emerging impact practices—these are foundational. Then strengthen practices toward Established impact levels. Document current performance, target improvements and revisit assessments periodically to track progress.

D Connections to other sections of the guide: tools to implement these principles are catalogued in **Part II: Tools and Ready-to-Use Resources**. The certifications mentioned in the self-assessment matrices are analyzed in depth in **Part II: Overview of Key Certifications and Standards**, including their key strengths and limitations. The alignment between these principles and IDB Invest, IFC and World Bank requirements is mapped explicitly in **Part II: Mapping Socio-Bioeconomy Practices to Internationally Recognized Standards, Guidance and Certifications**. Real-world examples of how these principles translate into practice are showcased in **Part III: Case Studies**.

E For readers using this part as a standalone resource: decision-makers can complete the assessments and understand the principles without accessing other guide sections. However, those ready to implement improvements needing specific tools or examples can find those answers in Parts II and III.

F These frameworks are designed for continuous improvement, not perfection. Users should start where they are, be honest about gaps, and focus on steady progress toward stronger practices. The socio-bioeconomy is built on learning, adaptation, and authentic partnerships, with principles that apply to implementation as much as to the outcomes these frameworks are designed to achieve.



Socio-Bioeconomy Eligibility Assessment

Purpose

This assessment tool enables actors to quickly evaluate whether an initiative aligns with core socio-bioeconomy principles before conducting more detailed diligence. The checklist identifies key qualifications that distinguish socio-bioeconomy initiatives from conventional business models.

Use this assessment to:

- Identify initiatives with strong socio-bioeconomy foundations.
- Pinpoint areas requiring additional development or support.
- Determine focus areas for deeper diligence.

Review the assessment questions for each principle to gauge current implementation. A “No” response indicates opportunities for additional evaluation and support, directing readers to detailed, relevant chapters later in this guide. These chapters provide comprehensive frameworks, tools, and examples to strengthen practices and guide improvements.



YES

NO

☐

☒

Principle

1	Assess risks and embed robust environmental and social safeguards	
2	Respect Indigenous Peoples (IP), Afro-descendants (AD), Traditional Communities (TC) and Local Communities (LC)	
3	Establish fair, safe and legal working conditions (direct employees)	
4	Build ethical, traceable and transparent value chains	
5	Protect and restore nature, climate and biodiversity	
6	Demonstrate impact and accountability	
7	Build capacity and networks	

How to use?



Position your cursor over the corresponding circle depending on compliance with the requirement. It is recommended to save the document to ensure the conservation of the selection(s) made and allow the process to continue at another time.



Quick assessment questions

1

Assess risks and embed robust environmental and social safeguards

Does the initiative have all required permits and licenses under national and local law for its activities (e.g., environmental, land use, labor, trade)?

☐
☐

Has it screened environmental, social, gender and human rights risks?

☐
☐

Are actions in place to mitigate these risks?

☐
☐

Is there a grievance mechanism (accessible, for complaints, anti-retaliation)?

☐
☐

2

Respect Indigenous Peoples (IP), Afro-descendants (AD), Traditional Communities (TC) and Local Communities (LC)

Does the initiative have a complete stakeholder and rights-holder mapping (including IP, AD, TC, LC, women and other vulnerable groups)?

☐
☐

Is there a simple way to share project information with communities in a local language (e.g., meeting, signboard, WhatsApp group, or designated contact person)?

☐
☐

If the initiative affects the natural environment and/or livelihoods, have you held appropriate consultations where community inputs have shaped project plans, or do you have a plan to do so?

☐
☐

If Indigenous Peoples' lands, resources, knowledge, or sacred places are affected, do you have written Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) agreements, or is an FPIC plan in place?

☐
☐


3

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

Do all workers (incl. seasonal/migrant) have clear contracts and fair and timely pay?

YES

☐

NO

☐

Is child labor, forced labor and unsafe youth work fully prohibited and monitored?

☐☐

Are basic health, safety and equity measures in place?

☐☐

4

Build ethical, traceable and transparent value chains

Can the initiative trace suppliers/products back to their source?

☐☐

Are key risks (e.g., deforestation, child labor) documented?

☐☐

Does the initiative have plain-language, equitable benefit-sharing agreements with communities?

☐☐

Is there a clear anti-bribery/anti-corruption policy and whistleblowing channel?

☐☐

5 Protect and restore nature, climate and biodiversity

- Has the initiative mapped land tenure and secured agreements before operating?
- Does the initiative avoid deforestation, conversion and/or critical habitat impacts?
- Does the initiative avoid adverse impacts to rivers, wetlands and water quality?
- Does the initiative manage pollution and emissions responsibly?
- Are climate resilience and adaptation measures integrated into operations?

☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐
☐	☐

6 Demonstrate impact and accountability

- Does the initiative track results with clear roles, indicators and regular updates?
- Are lessons documented and shared with staff, partners and communities?

☐	☐
☐	☐

7 Build capacity and networks

- Has the initiative taken concrete steps to strengthen the skills, knowledge or organizational capacity of community partners?

☐	☐
-----------------------	-----------------------



Exclusionary criteria

The following practices are fundamentally incompatible with socio-bioeconomy principles and indicate initiatives requiring comprehensive redesign:

- **Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, Traditional Communities and local communities:** initiatives without proper consultation, consent, or respect for collective rights; biotrade or bioprospecting without FPIC and equitable benefit-sharing; land grabbing or involuntary displacement.¹
- **Fair, safe and responsible conduct:** use of child labor, forced labor, human trafficking, or any form of violence, coercion, or abusive security practices.
- **Ethical, traceable and transparent value chains:** illegal or unsustainable logging or trade in banned products; use of harmful agrochemicals or toxic substances.
- **Nature, climate and biodiversity:** deforestation, ecosystem conversion or degradation after the 2020 cut-off date;² large-scale monocultures; operations in protected areas without safeguards; large-scale mining or fossil-fuel projects; or other activities causing irreversible environmental harm.

The complete exclusion list is available in the Annex. →

¹ IDB Invest, IFC and WB standards allow for involuntary resettlement under certain conditions. Socio-bioeconomy, however, is based on right-relations with communities and Indigenous Peoples. By definition, socio-bioeconomy excludes involuntary land acquisition or resettlement. All access must be voluntary, negotiated and equitable.

² 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.



Seven Principles of Amazonia's Socio-Bioeconomy

The previous eligibility checklist provided a quick way to determine whether an initiative aligns with core socio-bioeconomy principles. The following seven principles build on that foundation, offering a deeper framework to guide implementation. Each principle includes a purpose statement, a detailed self-assessment tool with emerging and established practices, and references to relevant standards, tools, and examples. Together, they provide a roadmap to strengthen socio-bioeconomy initiatives over time and ensure consistency across different contexts.

Seven Principles of Amazonia's Socio-Bioeconomy

- 1** Assess risks and embed robust environmental and social safeguards
- 2** Respect Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, Traditional Communities and local communities
- 3** Establish fair, safe and legal working conditions *(direct employees)*
- 4** Build ethical, traceable and transparent value chains
- 5** Protect and restore nature, climate and biodiversity
- 6** Demonstrate impact and accountability
- 7** Build capacity and networks



Principle 1

Assess risks and embed robust environmental and social safeguards

Purpose

Beyond preventing harm, environmental and social safeguards form the foundation of responsible socio-bioeconomy investment by systematically identifying and managing risks that could harm communities, ecosystems, or project durability, while also strengthening outcomes through inclusive human-rights based approaches. This principle encompasses:

- Screening for environmental and social (E&S) risks and establishing appropriate safeguards. Considerations include deforestation, biodiversity loss, pollution and effects on Indigenous Peoples and other stakeholder and rights-holder communities—particularly women, youth and other vulnerable groups.
- Applying a socio-bioeconomy exclusion checklist to screen for activities that are incompatible with socio-bioeconomy.
- Screening for gender and human rights risks and establishing appropriate safeguards.
- Establishing appropriate grievance and redress mechanisms to document and resolve complaints or disagreements.

These systematic safeguarding approaches can proactively identify opportunities to strengthen community relationships and environmental outcomes. By implementing scalable risk management systems, culturally and gender-responsive grievance mechanisms and protections, socio-bioeconomy initiatives can build the trust and stability necessary for sustainable partnerships with communities while protecting the ecosystems that underpin socio-bioeconomy value chains.

Self-assessment

The following self-assessment helps evaluate an initiative's current level of impact across key safeguarding areas. Use the *"Emerging impact"* column to identify foundational practices that all initiatives should meet. The *"Established impact"* column outlines stronger practices expected of more mature initiatives or those operating in higher-risk contexts. The *"Notable tools and certifications"* column provides specific resources to support the implementation of each good practice area. See dedicated sections later in this guide for a more comprehensive list of possible tools and certifications that can be adapted to an initiative's location or development stage.



How to use?



Position your cursor over the corresponding circle depending on compliance with the requirement. It is recommended to save the document to ensure the conservation of the selection(s) made and allow the process to continue at another time.



Principle 1

Assess risks and embed robust environmental and social safeguards

Good practice area

1**Environmental and social screening and action plan****2****Gender and human rights safeguards****3****Grievance and redress mechanism for communities and workers**



1

Environmental and social screening and action plan

Emerging impact

- Context screen of key E&S risks and legal gaps completed, with the necessary documented follow-up actions recorded in project file or work plan.
- Stakeholder and rights-holder identification list completed, including vulnerable groups and Indigenous Peoples (*special care if peoples in voluntary isolation may be present*).
- Socio-bioeconomy exclusion checklist reviewed, and no prohibited or incompatible activities present, including recent deforestation or land conversion screened against a stated cutoff date like December 31st, 2020.

Established impact

- Mitigation hierarchy for E&S risks applied (*avoid, minimize, restore*) and document the necessary examples proportionate to risk.
- Environmental and Social Management System (*ESMS*) in place with basic policies/protocols and a designated responsible person/team.
- Environmental and Social Assessment (*ESA*) tool applied based on project risk level:
 - Low risk:** checklist or context scan;
 - High risk:** full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (*ESIA*) with scope, baseline indicators, alternatives and a management plan.
- Each tool documents risks, impacts and mitigation options, and specifies monitoring indicators, verification method, frequency and residual risks.

Notable tools and certifications

Tools:

- IFC - Environmental and social management system (*ESMS*) Implementation Handbook.
- Rainforest Alliance - Risk Assessment Tool (*Annex S03*).

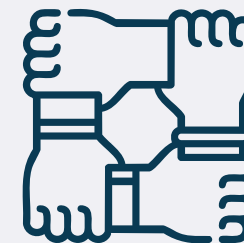
Certifications:

- FSC (*Forest Management*).
- Rainforest Alliance.



2

Gender and human rights safeguards



Emerging impact



Basic gender and human rights risk screen completed for communities and workers (*e.g., documented in meeting notes or checklist*).



Actions addressing risks included in the project plan (*e.g., separate consultation space, code of conduct clause*).

Established impact



Gender and human rights risks documented in a standalone note/ checklist and integrated into project planning with owners, timelines and verification sources.



Budgeted actions promote a gender-responsive approach, strengthening women's and youth participation (*e.g., gender-sensitive grievance channel, inclusion in decision making bodies, contract clause against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), safety infrastructure for women*).



Separate consultation space or complaint channel/protocol established for women or other vulnerable groups with confidentiality safeguards, accessibility features and response time standards.

Notable tools and certifications

**Tools:**

- IDB Invest - Gender Risk Assessment Tool (*GRAT*).
- IFC/EBRD/CDC - Addressing GBVH in Agribusiness.

Certifications:

- Fairtrade (*Small-scale Producer Organizations Standard*).
- Rainforest Alliance.

3

Grievance and redress mechanism for communities and workers



Emerging impact

- ☐ Culturally and gender-appropriate grievance mechanism in place and publicized (e.g., WhatsApp, comment box, liaison) with anonymous options where relevant.
- ☐ Anti-retaliation policy written and shared with staff and communities.

Established impact

- ☐ Grievance mechanism tailored to community preferences (e.g., gender-sensitive, anonymous if needed) and presented in local language(s).
- ☐ Procedures for documenting, responding to and resolving complaints (acknowledgment time, investigation start, resolution target) are shared with all staff.
- ☐ One or more trained staff members designated to manage the grievance process.
- ☐ Grievances are tracked and evidence of resolution exists (e.g., grievance log or resolution file).

Notable tools and certifications



Tools:

- World Bank - GRM Checklist.
- Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) - Grievance mechanism Toolkit.

Certifications:

- Rainforest Alliance (RA).
- FSC (Forest Management).

Going further: transformational practices

These transformational practices represent advanced approaches that maximize socio-bioeconomy impact by deepening community partnerships and environmental stewardship. While the self-assessment covers emerging to established good practices, these transformational practices demonstrate how actors can innovate beyond standard frameworks to create sector-leading models. Consider implementing these practices once core safeguarding systems are established and you are ready to develop new approaches that can inspire broader transformation.

Environmental and social risk screening and action plan

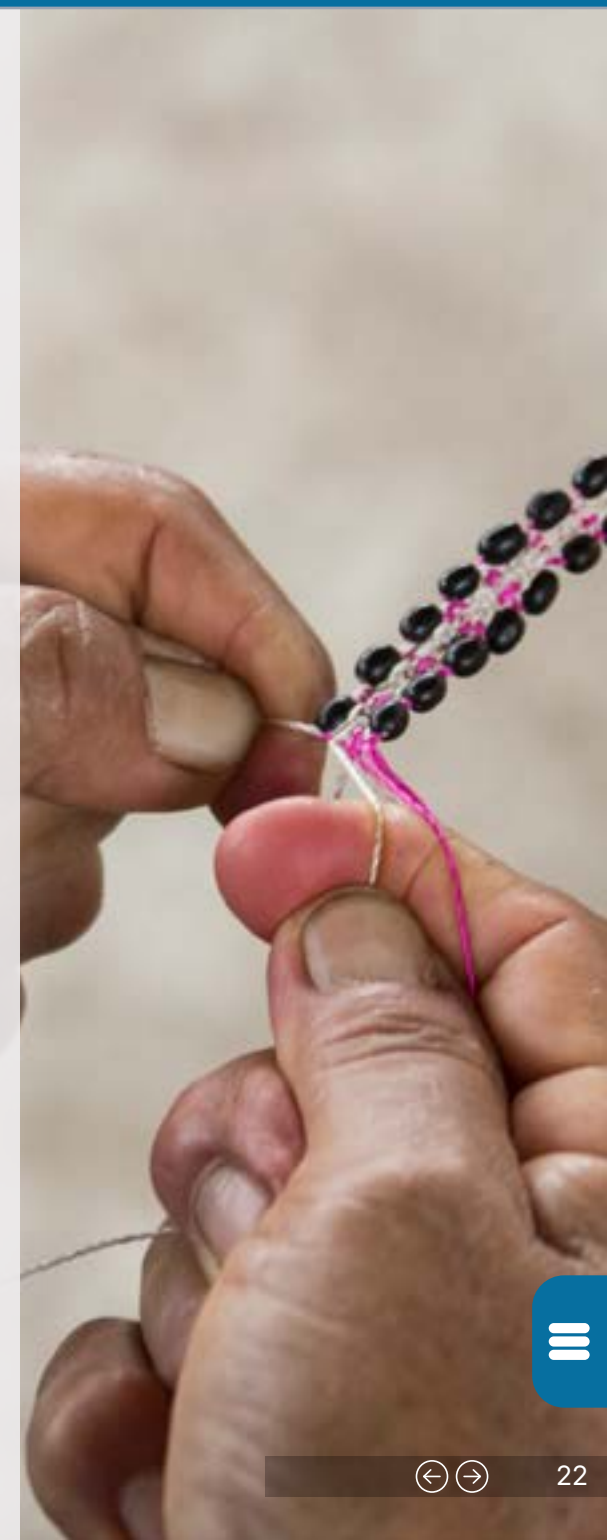
- Co-create risk assessments with communities using participatory methods.
- Publish simplified and culturally appropriate ESIA summaries for community use.
- Keep a public, evolving risk log with responsibilities and budgets.

Gender and human rights safeguards

- Embed enforceable safeguards (*e.g.*, GBV clauses, *safe facilities*) into contracts.
- Adopt advanced standards (*like W+*) to verify and strengthen women's empowerment through tradable credits.
- Create spaces for women's leadership and youth participation in governance.
- Provide community-chosen, independent rights-awareness sessions, with safe spaces for women.

Grievance and redress mechanisms

- Analyze and share grievance trends annually with rights-holders and stakeholders.
- Involve communities directly in grievance resolution (*e.g.*, *ombudspersons*).
- Use proactive tools (*surveys, listening sessions*) to detect issues early.



Key concepts

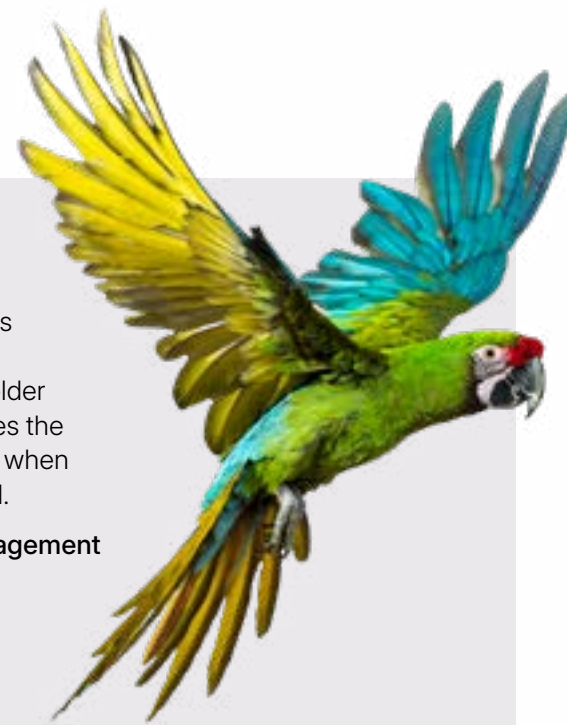
A Anti-Retaliation Policy: ensures individuals can raise complaints without fear of negative consequences and defines prohibited behaviors, corrective actions and protections for complainants and witnesses, along with proper training.

B Cut-off Date: the point in time after which deforestation or ecosystem conversion is not acceptable. Initiatives may choose their own date, but should align with laws, market rules, or certifications, applying the strictest relevant standard. In line with the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) and consistent with the New York Declaration on Forests, December 31st, 2020, is recommended to ensure credibility and market alignment. Screening against this cut-off should be part of the due diligence process to ensure credible, deforestation-free operations.

C Environmental and social (E&S) screening and planning tools: a family of tools used to identify, assess and manage environmental and social risks. They are applied proportionally to the scale, risk level and complexity of socio-bioeconomy initiatives:

- **Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA):** analytical and participatory process that identifies E&S risks and opportunities and informs project design. May include baseline data, rights-holder and stakeholder engagement and mitigation planning. ESA is the umbrella process under which other instruments are developed. In a low-risk project, it can take the form of a concise checklist. In contrast, higher-risk projects need a complete Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA – see below). Projects with unknown locations or details must develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF – see below).

- **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA):** a comprehensive study required for high-risk projects. It evaluates potential impacts, considers alternatives, integrates rights-holder and stakeholder input and applies the mitigation hierarchy. Conducted when significant impacts are expected.
- **Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF):** a planning tool applied when project details are not yet known (e.g., programs with multiple subprojects). Sets principles, procedures and responsibilities for future assessments and provides budget estimates.
- **Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP):** an operational plan that details how mitigation and monitoring measures will be carried out. Includes indicators, responsibilities, budget and sometimes thematic subplans (e.g., biodiversity). Derived from ESA or ESIA findings.
- **Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS):** an overarching system that integrates all E&S management processes. Includes policy commitments, risk identification, management programs, rights-holder and stakeholder engagement, emergency response and monitoring. An ESMS institutionalizes ESA, ESIA, ESMP and follow-up reporting.



D Gender-responsive approach: going beyond minimizing gender risks to actively promoting women's agency, leadership, and equitable access to benefits as essential for effective conservation and sustainable enterprise.

E Grievance mechanism: a culturally appropriate channel that allows community members and workers to raise concerns safely.

F Key E&S risks for socio-bioeconomy initiatives: when screening for risks, socio-bioeconomy initiatives should consider both environmental and social dimensions. Social risks include a broad range of issues, and within them, gender and human rights require special attention:

- Environmental: deforestation or land conversion (*especially critical habitats*); biodiversity or ecosystem service loss; degradation of freshwater ecosystems (*rivers, wetlands due to water overuse/pollution, habitat fragmentation, etc.*); unsustainable harvesting/extraction (*wild species, NTFPs*); soil degradation/agrochemical runoff; greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or climate vulnerability.
- Social: activities on or affecting the territories of IP, AD, TC, or LC; violation of customary land/resource rights; child labor or unsafe working conditions; harm to sacred or cultural heritage sites; weak or absent rights-holder and stakeholder engagement in relevant local languages; risks to women, youth, or other vulnerable groups. Examples of **Gender and Human Rights Risks as a sub-set of social risks** include exclusion of Indigenous women/youth/elders; gender-based violence (*including harassment*); disruption of cultural roles or traditional knowledge transmission; discrimination based on Indigenous identity, gender, or marital status; lack of recognition of women's land, resource, or leadership rights; lack of culturally appropriate information; health/safety risks linked to workers and involved communities.

G Mitigation hierarchy: a standard sequence to manage risks: Avoid → Minimize → Restore. Other frameworks add offsets for residual impacts, but this guide does not allow offsets to justify gross deforestation or conversion.



H Socio-Bioeconomy exclusion checklist: this guide establishes a new exclusion checklist that specifies activities that are incompatible with socio-bioeconomy. Socio-bioeconomy initiatives must not include:

- **Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, Traditional Communities and local communities:** Initiatives without proper consultation, consent, or respect for collective rights; biotrade or bioprospecting without FPIC and equitable benefit-sharing; land grabbing or involuntary displacement.³
- **Fair, safe and responsible conduct:** use of child labor, forced labor, human trafficking, or any form of violence, coercion, or abusive security practices.
- **Ethical, traceable and transparent value chains:** illegal or unsustainable logging or trade in banned products; use of harmful agrochemicals or toxic substances.
- **Nature, climate and biodiversity:** deforestation or ecosystem conversion after the 2020 cut-off date;⁴ large-scale monocultures; operations in protected areas without safeguards; large-scale mining or fossil-fuel projects; or other activities causing irreversible environmental harm.

The complete exclusion list is available in the Annex.

Stakeholder and rights-holder identification: process to identify all groups affected (*with criteria for inclusion, disaggregation and evidence sources, including IP, AD, TC, LC, traditional land or water users, women, youth, elders, people with disabilities and others at risk of discrimination*). Where Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation may be present, apply expert protocols (*e.g., guidance from Indigenous organizations or experienced anthropologists*) and establish exclusion zones (*areas clearly marked and mapped where no project activities or personnel are allowed*) and implement no contact procedures (*strict rules to prevent any form of interaction, including visual, verbal, or physical contact to protect their autonomy and safety*).



³ IDB Invest, IFC and WB standards allow for involuntary resettlement under certain conditions. Socio-bioeconomy, however, is based on right-relations with communities and Indigenous Peoples. By definition, socio-bioeconomy excludes involuntary land acquisition or resettlement. All access must be voluntary, negotiated and equitable.

⁴ 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 2

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

Purpose

Indigenous Peoples (IP) are foundational stewards of Amazonia, with approximately 45% of the region's primary forests within Indigenous territories. Afro-Descendants, Traditional Communities and other local communities, such as smallholders and farmers, also contribute essential knowledge and sustainable stewardship practices across Amazonia. Socio-bioeconomy initiatives must respect the fundamental rights and leadership of these diverse Peoples and communities while establishing frameworks for respectful engagement. This principle encompasses:

- Proactive and meaningful stakeholder and rights-holder engagement that begins early in initiative development, uses stakeholder mapping to understand community interests and influence and goes beyond compliance to build genuine partnerships. This includes Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) where impacts involve Indigenous customary or legal lands, resources, knowledge, or sacred places. In instances not involving Indigenous Peoples, socio-bioeconomy initiatives should establish basic communication and/or Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP), depending on the impacted groups.
- Land tenure assessments and support for legal recognition of customary rights.

- Protection of cultural heritage and traditional knowledge through honoring consent or withholding of consent, and benefit-sharing.

These approaches are grounded in principles of do-no-harm, transparency and open communication, ensuring that engagement builds lasting relationships that allow for meaningful participation and decision-making, respect community governance structures, protect cultural practices and center community priorities and traditional knowledge systems.

Self-assessment

The following self-assessment helps evaluate an initiative's current level of impact across key community engagement areas. Use the “*Emerging impact*” column to identify foundational practices that all initiatives should meet. The “*Established impact*” column outlines stronger practices expected of more mature initiatives or those operating in higher-risk contexts. The “*Notable tools and certifications*” column provides specific resources to support the implementation of each good practice area. See dedicated sections later in this guide for a more comprehensive list of possible tools and certifications that can be adapted to an initiative's location or development stage.



How to use?



Position your cursor over the corresponding circle depending on compliance with the requirement. It is recommended to save the document to ensure the conservation of the selection(s) made and allow the process to continue at another time.



Principle 2

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

1

Community engagement: determined by the initiative's impacts and the rights of the affected stakeholders and rights-holders

A

Share info with the public | Baseline: Basic Communication



B

Consult Communities Meaningfully | If people, nature, or livelihoods are affected implement Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP) processes



C

Seek Indigenous Peoples and other Tribal/Traditional Communities' Consent | If Indigenous customary or legal lands, resources, knowledge, or sacred places are affected implement Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)



2

Land tenure and resource access



3

Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge



1

Community engagement: determined by the initiative's impacts and the rights of the affected stakeholders and rights-holders

A

Share info with the public | Baseline: Basic Communication



Emerging impact



A basic external communication channel is in place (*e.g., signboard, WhatsApp group, community liaison*) with the assigned owner.



Information about the project is shared in the relevant local language with evidence of dissemination, adjusting for women or vulnerable groups specific format requirements.

Established impact



A Stakeholder engagement plan (*SEP*) exists, (*or equivalent plan for low-risk projects*), sustaining communication throughout the project lifecycle.



Staff are trained in respectful, culturally appropriate communication, Indigenous and collective rights and the local sociocultural context, and the team's composition reflects the diversity needed for meaningful communication (*e.g., women on staff to hold women-specific listening sessions*).



Internal codes of conduct and field protocols guide staff and contractors' behavior with communities, with clear consequences for breaches.



Updates are shared at a defined frequency in local languages through accessible channels.



Contact information and grievance channels are included in all communications with resolution time standards.

Notable tools and certifications



Tools:

- IDB Invest - Good Practice Note on Stakeholder Mapping and Engagement.
- World Bank - Stakeholder engagement plan Templates for High Risk and Moderate Risk Projects.

Certifications:

- Rainforest Alliance (*RA*).
- Origens Brasil®.

1

Community engagement: determined by the initiative's impacts and the rights of the affected stakeholders and rights-holders

B

Consult Communities Meaningfully | If people, nature, or livelihoods are affected implement Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP) processes



Emerging impact



If the project affects people, nature, or livelihoods, consultations are held with documented purposes and key choices to be made so local people can shape project plans.



Meetings start early, are repeated, include women and other marginalized groups, follow local customs with attendance lists, materials in local language and notes are documented.



An Engagement Plan shows how community input influenced project design.

Established impact



A SEP is developed and accessible, with roles, budget, timing and documentation.



The enterprise has an internal policy or directive guiding engagement with IP, AD, TC and LC, ensuring consistency with the SEP.



SEP specifies culturally appropriate methods tailored to different groups (e.g., elders, women, non-literate participants) with safeguards for sensitive information.



SEP includes protocols for ongoing dialogue throughout the full project cycle.



A designated community relations focal point or team coordinates engagement, ICP processes and follow-up with communities.



A robust ICP process is a good-faith, ongoing negotiation that seeks broad community support; lack of such support should be treated as a serious social and operational risk and may require redesigning, delaying, or cancelling the project.

Notable tools and certifications



Tools:

- IDB Invest - Good Practice Note on Stakeholder Mapping and Engagement.
- IFC - Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook.

Certifications:

- FSC (*Forest Management*).
- UEBT.

1 Community engagement: determined by the initiative's impacts and the rights of the affected stakeholders and rights-holders

C Seek Indigenous Peoples and other Tribal/Traditional Communities' Consent | If Indigenous customary or legal lands, resources, knowledge, or sacred places are affected implement Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)



Emerging impact

- ☐ If Indigenous or other Tribal/Traditional people's customary or legal lands, resources, knowledge, or sacred places are affected, consent is obtained before decisions are made through a documented FPIC process aligned with customary authorities.
- ☐ FPIC includes good-faith negotiation and results in a written agreement on benefits, safeguards and monitoring.
- ☐ The agreement is included in the Engagement Plan.

Established impact

- ☐ SEP is mandatory and includes a strategy for engaging Indigenous or other Tribal/Traditional Peoples and upholding FPIC as a safeguard of self-determination.
- ☐ The enterprise has an internal policy or directive guiding engagement with collective rights holders, ensuring consistency with the SEP.
- ☐ A designated community relations focal point or team coordinates engagement, FPIC processes and follow-up with communities.
- ☐ FPIC protocols are co-defined with Indigenous authorities and specify who may sign, how deliberation occurs and procedures for revisiting consent.
- ☐ Consent, if granted, is memorialized in a culturally appropriate form agreed by all parties (*e.g., written agreement, recorded statement, or ceremonial act*), respecting community traditions while meeting institutional requirements.
- ☐ Written agreements are signed, archived and reflected in the SEP/IPP.
- ☐ Safeguards are documented.

Notable tools and certifications

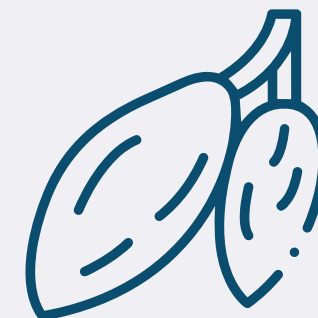
Tools:

- FAO - Free, Prior and Informed Consent Manual: An Indigenous Peoples' Right and a Good Practice for Local Communities.
- Accountability Framework Initiative - Operational Guidance on FPIC.

Certifications:

- FSC (*Forest Management*).
- Fairtrade.

2 Land tenure and resource access



Emerging impact

- ☐ Customary or collective land claims are documented.
- ☐ Plans exist to pursue legal recognition or secure custodial rights for communities with time-bound milestones and roles.
- ☐ No involuntary relocation is ever permitted, and any voluntary relocation requires demonstrable, community-level consent, documentation, mitigation and restoration to baseline or better.

Established impact

- ☐ The project includes a land tenure and resource-use assessment that maps claims, including overlaps or contested areas with conflict resolution pathways.
- ☐ A time-bound budgeted plan is developed with communities to secure recognition, titling, or legal protection.
- ☐ Where Indigenous Peoples are affected, tenure is addressed in the SEP with links to FPIC steps.

Notable tools and certifications

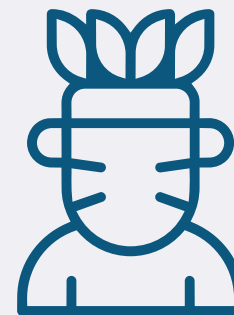
Tools:

- Namati - Community Land Protection Facilitators Guide.
- LandMark - Global Platform of Indigenous and Community Lands.

Certifications:

- FairWild.
- FSC (*Forest Management*).





3 Cultural heritage and traditional knowledge

Emerging impact

- ☐ Cultural sites and practices are identified with diverse community input, including women and other marginalized groups, with confidentiality protocols for sacred or restricted knowledge.
- ☐ Documentation (*e.g., maps, records*) is available and safely stored.
- ☐ Traditional knowledge is used only with prior consent (*proper FPIC*) and a fair documented Access and Benefit-Sharing agreement.

Established impact

- ☐ Risks and impacts on cultural heritage are assessed with support from qualified professionals, applying the mitigation hierarchy (*avoid, minimize, restore, compensate*).
- ☐ Community-led mapping of cultural heritage is documented in the SEP or IPP, with confidentiality respected.
- ☐ Chance find procedures are in place and written into civil works contracts.
- ☐ If traditional knowledge is used commercially, consent and benefit-sharing agreements are in place and documented.
- ☐ Continued community access to cultural heritage sites is ensured.

Notable tools and certifications

Tools:

- Natural Justice - Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS) Community Protocols Toolkit.

Certifications:

- FSC (*Forest Management*).
- UEBT.



Going further: transformational practices

These transformational practices represent advanced approaches that maximize socio-bioeconomy impact by deepening community partnerships and respecting the distinct rights and leadership of IP, AD, TC and LC. While the self-assessment covers emerging to established good practices, these transformational practices demonstrate how actors can innovate beyond standard frameworks to create sector-leading models. Consider implementing these practices once core engagement systems are established and you are ready to develop new approaches that can inspire broader transformation.

Community engagement

- Co-design communication plans with community committees or leaders, including women's groups.
- Track and share back community feedback, demonstrating its impact on enterprise decisions.
- Support community-led FPIC protocols.
- Create independent spaces for community councils to monitor and raise concerns.
- Co-develop dispute resolution pathways and strengthen Indigenous governance.

Land rights and cultural heritage

- Sponsor participatory mapping to secure land and resource-use rights with data sovereignty protections.
- Provide legal aid and training to strengthen community land governance.
- Support community-defined cultural heritage protocols and intergenerational knowledge transfer.



Key concepts

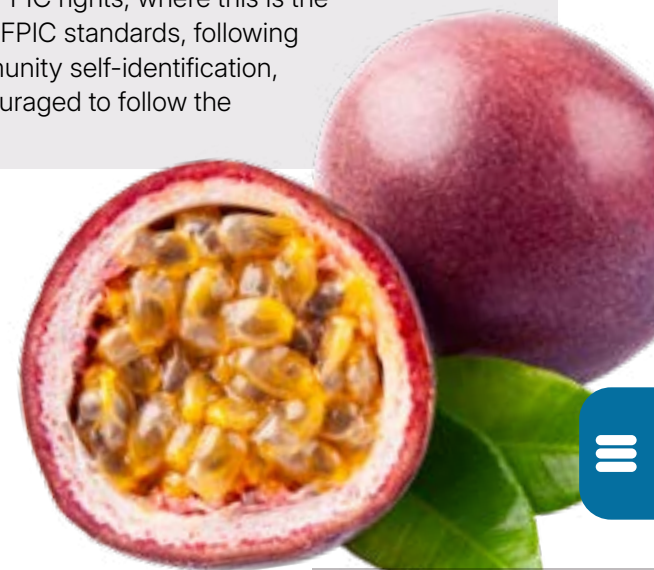
A Chance find procedures: protocols included in project contracts to protect cultural heritage that is unexpectedly discovered during project implementation (e.g., *archaeological artifacts, sacred sites*). They establish steps for halting work, notifying authorities and communities and safeguarding the find before resuming activities.

B Cultural heritage: includes both tangible (*sacred sites, ceremonial grounds, burial sites, artifacts, spiritual trees, mountains, etc.*) and intangible aspects (*oral traditions, songs, rituals, languages, medicinal knowledge, craftsmanship, spiritual practices*). Projects must document risks, apply the mitigation hierarchy, protect confidentiality where appropriate and document consent before any disclosure or use. In the socio-bioeconomy, recognizing and valuing traditional knowledge systems and ways of life is not only essential for social justice but also a foundation for sustainable production and innovation.

C Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC): the collective right of Indigenous Peoples and other Tribal or Traditional Peoples to give or withhold consent to projects that may affect their collective rights, lands, territories, resources, cultural heritage, or traditional knowledge. FPIC is required whenever Indigenous Peoples' lands, natural resources, knowledge, or sacred places may be impacted. Consent must be obtained before decisions are made and documented in written agreements, which include maps of affected areas, information materials in the local language, attendance lists, question and response records, signatory authority evidence, benefit-sharing terms, monitoring commitments, and version control. For Indigenous Peoples, **consultation and consent must take place at the people level (e.g., nation), not only with one community or subgroup**. This is because rights to territory, culture and knowledge belong collectively to the people as a whole. In Amazonia, this may include certain Afro-descendant and

other traditional communities with collective territorial rights, depending on national frameworks and community self-identification. Suppose agreements are made with only a single community. In that case, initiatives risk creating divisions and bypassing legitimate collective decision-making. Past conflicts have shown that this type of fragmented consent leads to disputes and undermines trust. Ensuring consent at the people level safeguards both collective rights and the integrity of the FPIC process.

D Indigenous Peoples (IP), Afro-descendants (AD), Traditional Communities (TC) and Local Communities (LC): the first three groups are aligned with Amazonia Forever regional program, while local communities captures communities living in or near project-affected areas (e.g., *farmers, smallholders*) who may not fall under formal definitions of IP, AD or TC but for whom a project could have environmental or social impacts. All references in the Guide to "*communities*" include all four categories unless otherwise specified. In line with ILO Convention 169, some Afro-descendant and Traditional Communities may also qualify as "*tribal peoples*" with collective FPIC rights; where this is the case, enterprises should apply FPIC standards, following national frameworks and community self-identification, and in cases of doubt are encouraged to follow the higher standard.



E Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP): a rights-based process to engage affected people, especially when activities have the potential to affect livelihoods, land use, cultural practices, or generate social or environmental risks. A robust ICP process is a good-faith, ongoing negotiation that seeks broad community support; lack of such support should be treated as a serious social and operational risk and may require redesigning, delaying, or cancelling the project. ICP requires two-way dialogue and should be conducted in ways that are culturally appropriate and accessible, with disclosure materials in the local language, attendance lists, question-and-response logs and change logs that link consultation inputs to decisions. ICP is the baseline for all affected communities. It must escalate to FPIC when the initiative affects Indigenous Peoples or other communities that meet the criteria of tribal or traditional peoples with collective territorial rights. This might include, but is not necessarily limited to, the potential for relocation, the commercial development of lands or natural resources, the impact on cultural heritage, or the use of traditional knowledge for commercial purposes.

F Land tenure and resource access: the systems and arrangements by which communities hold and use land and resources. Includes formal legal rights, customary or traditional tenure, or resource access essential for livelihoods and cultural survival. Strengthening these systems supports the cultural and economic survival of communities. Projects must not cause involuntary relocation; if relocation is genuinely voluntary, it must reflect collective, well-documented community consent and include measures to restore living conditions to at least the same level as before, or better, with all alternatives assessed first.

G Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP): a structured plan that details how rights-holders and stakeholders are informed, consulted and engaged throughout the project. IDB Invest requires a SEP in proportion to project risk, and should include stakeholder identification and analysis, information disclosure strategy, consultation framework, involvement in decision-making, grievance mechanism, ongoing engagement and reporting, resources and responsibilities, and monitoring and evaluation.

FPIC in practice: learning from implementation

Implementing Free, Prior and Informed Consent requires understanding both the legal framework and practical approaches that respect Indigenous governance systems. Different organizations have developed varied methods for conducting FPIC processes, from early community identification and culturally appropriate consultations to documenting consent in community-preferred formats such as oral agreements, visual mapping, or recorded testimonies. The case studies section illustrates how FPIC implementation can strengthen organizational structures and ensure projects respond to community priorities, while also highlighting the importance of revisiting consent throughout project lifecycles as conditions change.



Principle 3

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

Purpose

Fair, safe and legal working conditions form the cornerstone of ethical employment practices in socio-bioeconomy initiatives, ensuring that all workers in direct employment relationships—whether permanent staff, contractors, seasonal workers, or those engaged in traditional family activities—are protected from exploitation and have access to dignified work. This principle focuses specifically on employer-employee relationships rather than supplier or value chain partnerships, which are addressed under Principle 4: Build ethical, traceable and transparent value chains. This principle encompasses:

- Clear employment terms and fair compensation structures that comply with labor laws.
- Occupational health and safety systems that protect workers from hazards while providing necessary protective equipment and emergency protocols.
- Prevention measures against child and forced labor that distinguish between harmful exploitation and culturally appropriate intergenerational learning.

These approaches ensure that socio-bioeconomy initiatives create positive working environments that respect both international labor standards and local cultural contexts, while creating sustainable employment opportunities that support worker well-being.

Self-assessment

The following self-assessment helps evaluate an initiative's current level of impact across key employment practices. Use the *"Emerging impact"* column to identify foundational practices that all initiatives should meet. The *"Established impact"* column outlines stronger practices expected of more mature initiatives or those operating in higher-risk contexts. The *"Notable tools and certifications"* column provides specific resources to support the implementation of each good practice area. See dedicated sections later in this guide for a more comprehensive list of possible tools and certifications that can be adapted to an initiative's location or development stage.



How to use?



Position your cursor over the corresponding circle depending on compliance with the requirement. It is recommended to save the document to ensure the conservation of the selection(s) made and allow the process to continue at another time.



Principle 3

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

Good practice area

1

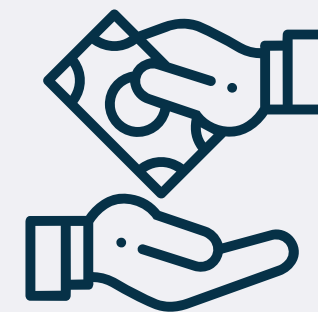
Safety, fair wages and clear terms of employment



2

Child and forced labor prevention and youth safety





1

Safety, fair wages and clear terms of employment

Emerging impact

- Every worker (*direct, contracted, seasonal, or migrant*) receives a simple written contract that spells out pay, hours, overtime, leave and severance.
- Wages, determined in line with living wage benchmarks and reflecting fair economic value of skills and experience, are paid on time with only legal deductions shown in pay slips.
- Policies prohibit discrimination and ensure equal pay for equal work. Hiring policy gives preference to local workers.
- Workers are free to organize, join associations and engage in collective bargaining without interference.
- Employers identify key safety risks and take steps to mitigate them, like providing essential protective equipment at no cost when hazards cannot be eliminated and having a simple emergency plan with clear roles and contacts.

Established impact

- A documented Occupational Health and Safety (*OHS*) system is in place, aligned with national law, covering hazard identification and provision of Personal Protective Equipment (*PPE*).
- An emergency preparedness plan exists, including evacuation protocols, emergency contacts and first-aid kits; staff receive annual training and drills.
- Worker housing (*if provided*) meets standards for safety, hygiene, privacy and non-discrimination.
- When relevant, migrant and seasonal workers receive equal pay, equal protection and access to grievance channels.

Notable tools and certifications

**Tools:**

- IFC - Environmental and social management system (*ESMS*) Implementation Handbook.

Certifications:

- Rainforest Alliance.
- Fairtrade.

2

Child and forced labor prevention and youth safety



Emerging impact

- ☐ Children under 14 are not employed or engaged in project activities except light, non-harmful, culturally appropriate activities on family or communal holdings (e.g., *accompanying parents/elders in traditional practices*). These roles cannot replace schooling or become exploitative.
- ☐ Youth aged 14-17 may only work in non-hazardous tasks that do not interfere with education or well-being.
- ☐ A risk assessment exists for all workers under 18, with regular monitoring.
- ☐ No forced labor of any kind is permitted.

Established impact

- ☐ Enterprise has a written policy prohibiting child and forced labor, with explicit recognition of culturally accepted intergenerational practices, aligned with ILO conventions and national law.
- ☐ Age verification procedures are systematically applied to all workers, including those engaged in family or traditional activities.
- ☐ Annual monitoring or third-party audits of the supply chain are conducted to identify and mitigate risks of child or forced labor.

Notable tools and certifications

Tools:

- ILO - Eliminating Child Labour in Agriculture: Training Manual.
- Rainforest Alliance - Child Labor Toolkit.

Certifications:

- FSC (*Forest Management*).
- Fairtrade.



Going further: transformational practices

These transformational practices represent advanced approaches that maximize socio-bioeconomy impact by creating productive workplace conditions and worker empowerment systems. While the self-assessment covers emerging to established good practices, these transformational practices demonstrate how actors can innovate beyond standard frameworks to create sector-leading models. Consider implementing these practices once core employment systems are established and you are ready to develop new approaches that can inspire broader transformation.

Safety, fair wages and clear terms of employment

- Co-develop Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and emergency plans with workers, addressing new risks (*e.g., heat stress, extreme weather*).
- Empower worker committees to revise protocols and review grievances.
- Share findings from independent OHS audits openly with staff and communities.

Child and forced labor prevention and youth safety

- Partner with communities to define safe cultural participation vs. labor.
- Establish youth education and protection programs with schools/NGOs.
- Require suppliers to sign Codes of Conduct banning exploitative labor while respecting traditions.



Key concepts

A Age verification procedures: practical checks such as IDs, school certificates, or community confirmation to ensure compliance with legal age requirements. This also includes records of checks and remediation procedures where documentation is missing.

B Child labor standards (*ILO Conventions 138 and 182*): children under 14 cannot be employed. Children ages 14-17 may only perform non-hazardous work that does not interfere with schooling. Any light, intergenerational, or culturally appropriate tasks must never replace education or exploit children. The community and the employer must define a permitted task list, including daily and weekly hour limits, school attendance verification, adult supervision and the provision of PPE where relevant.

C Equal treatment of workers: migrant, seasonal and contracted workers must receive the same pay, protections and grievance access as direct employees, in line with International Labor Organization (*ILO*) principles and IDB Invest standards.

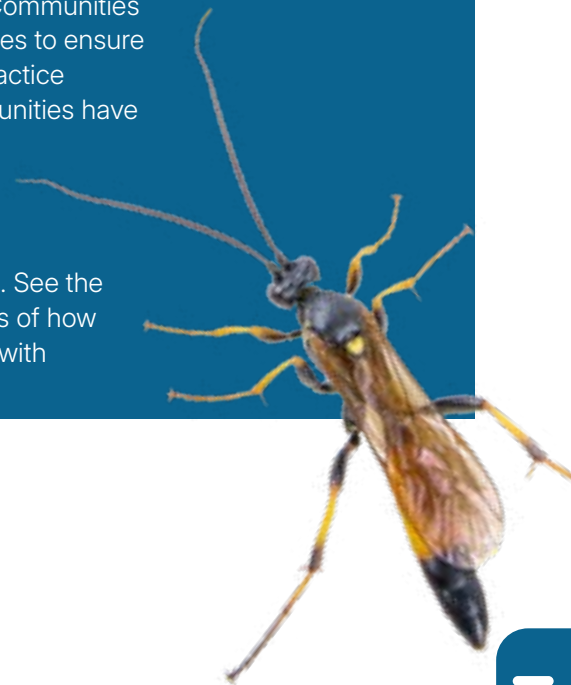
D Forced labor: any work exacted under threat, coercion, debt bondage (*e.g., recruitment fees*), or without freedom to leave (*e.g., retention of identity documents, restriction on movement*), is explicitly prohibited under *ILO Conventions 29 and 105*.

E Occupational Health and Safety (OHS): a system of policies, hazard identification, protective equipment and emergency preparedness. Ensures safe working conditions for all employees, including contractors and seasonal workers.

F Supply chain monitoring: regular audits and risk assessments to identify child labor, forced labor, or unsafe practices beyond direct operations, extending responsibility across contractors and suppliers with risk-based sampling plans, defined red flags, audit triggers, corrective action deadlines and termination thresholds for unresolved severe violations.

Cultural context: traditional knowledge transfer vs. child labor

Many Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Communities rely on youth participation in cultural activities to ensure intergenerational knowledge transfer—a practice distinct from exploitative child labor. Communities have developed innovative approaches that honor cultural learning while meeting international labor standards, such as requiring parental consent, ensuring school attendance and providing adult supervision. See the *Community Voices* case study for examples of how communities balance cultural preservation with child protection.



Principle 4

Build ethical, traceable and transparent value chains

Purpose

Ethical, traceable and transparent value chains transform traditional extractive business models into partnerships that create shared value for communities, ecosystems and socio-bioeconomy initiatives. This principle addresses the supplier and value chain relationships that are essential for responsible sourcing in Amazonian contexts. This principle encompasses:

- Comprehensive supply chain traceability systems that track materials from origin to final buyer while identifying and managing environmental and social risks.
- Equitable benefit-sharing agreements with community suppliers that ensure fair pricing, transparent payment systems and meaningful consultation in commercial terms.
- Robust governance and accountability frameworks that strengthen integrity through mechanisms including anti-bribery policies, whistleblower protections, and environmental, social and governance (ESG) oversight structures.

These approaches enable socio-bioeconomy initiatives to build trust with communities and create resilient supply chains that align with community well-being and environmental protection.

Self-assessment

The following self-assessment helps evaluate an initiative's current level of impact across key value chain management areas. Use the *"Emerging impact"* column to identify foundational practices that all initiatives should meet. The *"Established impact"* column outlines stronger practices expected of more mature initiatives or those operating in higher-risk contexts. The *"Notable tools and certifications"* column provides specific resources to support the implementation of each good practice area. See dedicated sections later in this guide for a more comprehensive list of possible tools and certifications that can be adapted to an initiative's location or development stage.



How to use?



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Principle 4

Build ethical, traceable and transparent value chains

Good practice area

1

Supply chain traceability and transparency

**2**

Commercial terms and equitable benefit-sharing

**3**

Enterprise governance and accountability





1

Supply chain traceability and transparency

Emerging impact

- ☐ A basic supplier register exists (*names, locations, products*) and is updated annually.
- ☐ Purchase records trace raw materials back to the first organized producer group (*e.g., association, cooperative, community enterprise*) using lot or batch identifiers, receiving logs and transport documents.
- ☐ Key risks (*e.g., child labor, deforestation, unsafe work*) are noted in a short file or map with a dated risk rating and the next review date.

Established impact

- ☐ A supplier register for individual and collective suppliers is maintained with contact details, source type, production practices and renewal dates.
- ☐ A traceability system (*manual or digital*) tracks inputs from origin to buyer, validated through periodic audits according to risk ratings or supplier declarations.
- ☐ A supply chain risk scan is conducted on a risk-based frequency and covers environmental and social risks, including biodiversity, deforestation and land conversion and labor practices.
- ☐ Written procedures define actions when risks are identified (*e.g., shifting suppliers, corrective action plans*) with assigned roles and timelines.
- ☐ Contracts with primary suppliers include minimum E&S clauses (*e.g., no child labor, no habitat conversion, safe working conditions*).

Notable tools and certifications

Tools:

- Origens Brasil® - Public Traceability Network and Manual.
- MapBiomas - Amazon (*annual maps*) and MapBiomas Alerta (*validated deforestation alerts*).

Certifications:

- FSC (*Forest Management*).
- Rainforest Alliance.



2 Commercial terms and equitable benefit-sharing



Emerging impact

- A written benefit-sharing agreement with community suppliers (*Memorandum of Understanding, contract, or community plan*) exists, shaped through consultation or FPIC if applicable. The document uses clear, culturally appropriate language and covers:
 - how prices are set and updated,
 - proof of full and timely payment (*e.g., receipts*) and
 - fair pricing arrangements that recognize communities' production costs, sustainable practices and ecosystem stewardship contributions.
- Enterprises support logistics and transportation solutions that enable sustainable sourcing from remote forest-based communities.

Established impact

- Agreements include clear pricing formulas and disclose the calculation basis and any deductions or premiums, with the market price of final products (*e.g., price paid to community vs. retail/export price*), and avoid exclusivity.
- Anticipated payments are preferred and a payment tracking system is in place, with receipts shared with community representatives and copies retained by the enterprise.
- Community members have access to a plain-language summary of commercial terms and a simple process to request clarifications, including payment schedules and benefit types.
- A review schedule with defined dates and responsible roles is in place to revisit and adjust benefit-sharing terms.

Notable tools and certifications

Tools:

- UEBT - Fair and Equitable Benefit-Sharing Manual.
- VEJA - Real supplier contracts with clear commercial terms.

Certifications:

- FairWild.
- Origens Brasil®.





3 Enterprise governance and accountability

Emerging impact

- ☐ A short anti-bribery clause or standalone policy is shared with staff and suppliers.
- ☐ A simple, anonymous whistleblowing channel (*e.g., WhatsApp, email*) is available with confidentiality and non-retaliation safeguards. Allegations are logged and reviewed regularly.

Established impact

- ☐ Board or senior leadership discusses and monitors Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) standards and integrity issues at least annually (*e.g., via an ESG committee or meeting minutes*) and documents decisions, action items and follow-up timelines.
- ☐ The enterprise has a written governance and ethics policy covering anti-corruption, transparency and conflict of interest, signed by all staff and contractors.
- ☐ A designated ESG officer or team is responsible for implementing and updating governance and E&S procedures.
- ☐ The whistleblower mechanism includes a clear investigation process, response timeline and guarantees confidentiality and non-retaliation.
- ☐ Governance policies are shared with communities, workers and suppliers (*e.g., posters, onboarding sessions, or summary brochures*).

Notable tools and certifications

Tools:

- IFC - Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Governance Guidebook.
- Transparency International - Business Integrity: A Toolkit for Medium-Sized Enterprises.

Certifications:

- Rainforest Alliance.
- FSC (*Forest Management*).

Going further: transformational practices

These transformational practices represent advanced approaches that maximize socio-bioeconomy impact by creating exemplary models for supply chain transparency and community partnership. While the self-assessment covers emerging to established good practices, these transformational practices demonstrate how actors can innovate beyond standard frameworks to create sector-leading models. Consider implementing these practices once core value chain systems are established and you are ready to develop new approaches that can inspire broader transformation.

Supply chain traceability and transparency

- Partner with community suppliers on participatory traceability (*e.g., QR codes, geotagging, community-led registers*).
- Join or lead networks to align traceability across regions.
- Open supply chains to participatory reviews with communities.

Equitable terms and benefit-sharing

- Support community-managed benefit funds for reinvestment (*e.g., education, reforestation*), without influencing their governance.
- Publish public benefit reports and real-time price updates.
- Extend agreements beyond cash: training, infrastructure and IP rights.

Transparent enterprise governance and accountability

- Create independent ombudspersons or advisory boards for oversight.
- Co-develop governance protocols with workers, suppliers and communities.
- Review governance practices with independent audits and publish results.



Key concepts

A Anti-Bribery and whistleblower mechanisms: governance safeguards that prevent corruption and allow anonymous reporting of misconduct, with confidentiality, non-retaliation and follow-up guarantees.

B ESG Oversight: ongoing monitoring of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) commitments by leadership or an ESG team, ensuring accountability across the enterprise and supply chain.

C Payment tracking system: mechanism (*digital or manual*) to ensure timely, transparent payments. Proof (*e.g., receipts*) is shared with community representatives.

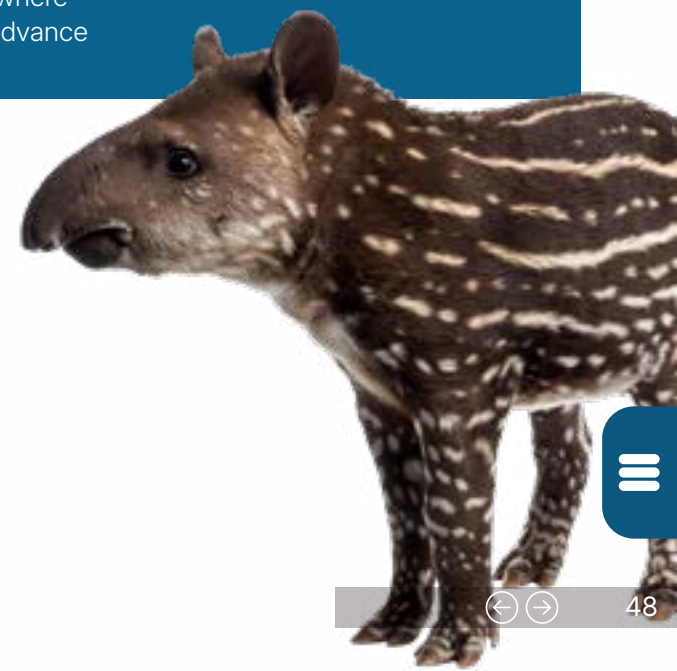
D Supplier register: a list of all suppliers with relevant details updated regularly, such as names, locations, products, contracts, production practices and compliance information.

E Supply chain risk scan: a structured review of supplier practices to identify risks like deforestation, pollution, child labor, unsafe working conditions, or biodiversity loss.

F Traceability system: a manual or digital system (*e.g., barcodes, blockchain, batch coding*) that follows raw materials from origin to buyer. Validated through audits, declarations, or certificates.

Real-World examples: equitable benefit-sharing approaches

Different organizations have developed various approaches to equitable benefit-sharing that illustrate the concepts in this section. For example, some companies use transparent pricing formulas with advance payments and open negotiations with community suppliers, while others conduct technical cost studies that account for community time and knowledge. The case studies section provides detailed examples of how transparent commercial terms can be implemented in practice, including approaches where suppliers receive fair pricing and advance payment structures.



Principle 5

Protect and restore nature, climate and biodiversity

Purpose

Protecting and restoring nature leads to positive climate benefits, which create the foundation for resilient socio-bioeconomy initiatives by safeguarding the ecosystems that underpin sustainable economic activity. This principle recognizes that healthy forests, freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity are essential to building supply chain resilience by keeping the carbon dioxide stored in the forest and not in the atmosphere, while aligning with global environmental standards. This principle encompasses:

- Forest and biodiversity conservation through zero-deforestation commitments, baseline assessments and habitat protection that maintain the natural capital essential for long-term sustainability.
- Freshwater ecosystems conservation and sustainable water stewardship that promotes biodiversity, and equitable and efficient use, while protecting shared resources.
- Comprehensive pollution, resource and greenhouse gas management that reduces environmental footprints.
- Climate risk assessment and adaptation strategies that identify threats and build resilience.

These approaches enable socio-bioeconomy initiatives to actively contribute to ecosystem protection and regeneration, meet increasing demands for verifiable environmental stewardship and demonstrate environmental leadership.

Self-assessment

The following self-assessment helps evaluate an initiative's current level of impact across key environmental stewardship areas. Use the *"Emerging impact"* column to identify foundational practices that all initiatives should meet. The *"Established impact"* column outlines stronger practices expected of more mature initiatives or those operating in higher-risk contexts. The *"Notable tools and certifications"* column provides specific resources to support the implementation of each good practice area. See dedicated sections later in this guide for a more comprehensive list of possible tools and certifications that can be adapted to an initiative's location or development stage.



How to use?



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Principle 5

Protect and restore nature, climate and biodiversity

Good practice area

1

Healthy forests, freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity

**2**

Water stewardship and sustainable use

**3**

Pollution, resource and emissions management

**4**

Climate risk resilience and adaptation





1

Healthy forests, freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity

Emerging impact

- ☐ A baseline assessment and spatial mapping (*desk scan or walkthrough*) identify critical habitats and key species relevant to the initiative, including those culturally or economically important to local communities.
- ☐ No gross deforestation or conversion of natural forests occurs, regardless of offset or compensation and after a stated cutoff date.⁵
- ☐ Baseline assessments consider all forest uses, including sustainable timber or mixed-forest systems where practiced by local communities.
- ☐ Projects must avoid any clearing or degradation of primary forests, river-edge habitats and other high-biodiversity areas, as well as any alteration of key ecological attributes of freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems—such as species composition, connectivity, water quality, and natural flows.
- ☐ Restoration activities are only for degraded areas or to enhance ecosystem services, not to compensate for new clearing. They must use native species.

5 While IDB Invest and other MDB standards often allow “no net deforestation” approaches, socio-bioeconomy practices must explicitly require **no gross deforestation**. The concept of “no net deforestation” creates a false equivalence between forest lost and forest restored: newly planted or regenerating forests rarely replicate the carbon storage, biodiversity and cultural values of intact forests. Allowing clearing with offsets risks permanent loss of critical ecological and cultural functions. For socio-bioeconomy, maintaining **standing forests as non-negotiable assets** is central to right-relations with communities, Indigenous Peoples and nature.



1

Healthy forests, freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity

Established impact



If the initiative presents high risks, a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) defines spatial boundaries, baseline year, monitoring methods and verification frequency, addressing habitat fragmentation (*terrestrial and freshwater*), species impacts and restoration measures.



Field surveys or participatory mapping with local experts or communities identify critical habitats.



The mitigation hierarchy is applied with avoidance documented before minimization, or restoration.



Native species are prioritized for reforestation or agroforestry.



Where relevant, sustainable forest management (*including community-based timber*) follows recognized standards and contributes to standing-forest economies.



Impacts on priority ecosystem services (*e.g., pollination, water cycles*) used by local communities are monitored with stated methods, quality controls, indicators and frequency. The results are expected to inform adaptive management.



In addition, initiatives include mechanisms to acknowledge and reward communities for these environmental services (*such as standing forest protection, watershed management, or biodiversity conservation*) through transparent, co-designed benefit-sharing or incentive systems (*e.g., premiums, compensation, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) or Payment for Territorial Services (PTS) schemes*).

Notable tools and certifications

**Tools:**

- KBA Partners - Guidelines on Business and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): Managing Risk to Biodiversity and the Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT).
- UEBC - Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) Manual.

Certifications:

- Rainforest Alliance.
- FSC (Forest Management).

2

Water stewardship and sustainable use



Emerging impact

- ☐ Water sources are mapped and a short note lists use, efficiency and impacts.
- ☐ Upstream and downstream users are identified.
- ☐ Basic practices (*e.g., leak checks, sediment traps*) are in place.
- ☐ No untreated discharge exceeds national water quality standards and applicable local permits are on file.

Established impact

- ☐ Water-saving practices are documented with clear targets and implementation verification.
- ☐ For low water use enterprises: a short internal note confirms no significant impacts on other users or ecosystems and lists parameters and units monitored if any.
- ☐ For high water use enterprises: a water management plan is in place, including parameter list and units, sampling frequency, monitoring of water consumption, assessment of local water risks and efficiency/reuse measures.
- ☐ Discharge permits and monitoring records are filed; exceedances trigger corrective actions with deadlines and verification.

Notable tools and certifications

**Tools:**

- WRI - Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas.
- AWS - Alliance for Water Stewardship Guidance.

Certifications:

- Rainforest Alliance.
- FSC (*Forest Management*).

3

Pollution, resource and emissions management



Emerging impact

- ☐ A short note lists key material uses (*e.g., energy, water, raw materials, waste*) and proportionate efficiency or reuse measures.
- ☐ Compliance with national pollution/waste limits is documented. Main sources of GHGs (*e.g., transport, fuel*) are identified with a clear calculation method.
- ☐ Initiatives with significant emissions commit to preparing a Scope 1 and 2 emissions estimate and record proportionate reduction actions (*e.g., solar lighting, efficient stoves*).
- ☐ Clear hazardous waste controls are in place and comply with local laws.

Established impact

- ☐ A one-page Resource and Pollution Management Plan outlines key materials, pollution sources and efficiency/reuse measures with owners, timelines and monitoring indicators.
- ☐ For initiatives with significant emissions/discharges: Scope 1 and 2 inventory is compiled and discharges are kept in line with EHS or host country limits with exceedances triggering corrective actions and closure verification.
- ☐ Priority GHG mitigation measures are implemented (*e.g., fuel switching, LED lighting, process improvement*) and tracked for performance.
- ☐ Resource efficiency measures and hazardous waste controls are implemented.
- ☐ Monitoring shows trends and corrective actions.

Notable tools and certifications

**Tools:**

- NetRegs - Generic Management Toolkit for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
- IDB - Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Accounting Manual.

Certifications:

- Rainforest Alliance.
- FSC (Forest Management).

4

Climate risk resilience and adaptation



Emerging impact



A desk-based scan identifies local climate threats (*e.g., rainfall shifts, fires, floods*).



Proportionate resilience actions are integrated into operations (*e.g., diversified planting, drainage improvements, with a clear timeline and responsible roles*).

Established impact



For initiatives in climate-sensitive areas: a climate-informed baseline is used in planning and reviewed on a defined schedule.



Proportionate resilience actions are implemented (*e.g., adjusted planting schedules, stormwater management, fire breaks*) with owner, budget and implementation schedule.



If the initiative has structural elements in high-risk areas: climate-proofing measures (*e.g., drainage, slope reinforcement*) are included and effectiveness is monitored with update triggers.

Notable tools and certifications



Tools:

- IDB Invest - Building Better Resilience: Note on Avoiding Maladaptation.
- World Bank - Climate and Disaster Risk Screening Tool.

Certifications:

- FSC (*Forest Management*).
- Fairtrade (*Small-scale Producer Organizations Standard*).

Going further: transformational practices

These transformational practices represent advanced approaches that maximize socio-bioeconomy impact by maximizing environmental stewardship and community-led conservation models. While the self-assessment covers emerging to established good practices, these transformational practices demonstrate how actors can innovate beyond standard frameworks to create sector-leading models. Consider implementing these practices once core environmental systems are established and you are ready to develop new approaches that can inspire broader transformation.

Healthy forests, freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity

- Co-create Biodiversity Action Plans with scientists and communities.
- Use community-led monitoring and biodiversity mapping.
- Integrate ecosystem service valuation and PES or PTS into business models.
- Seek independent verification of biodiversity and land-use outcomes.

Water stewardship and sustainable use

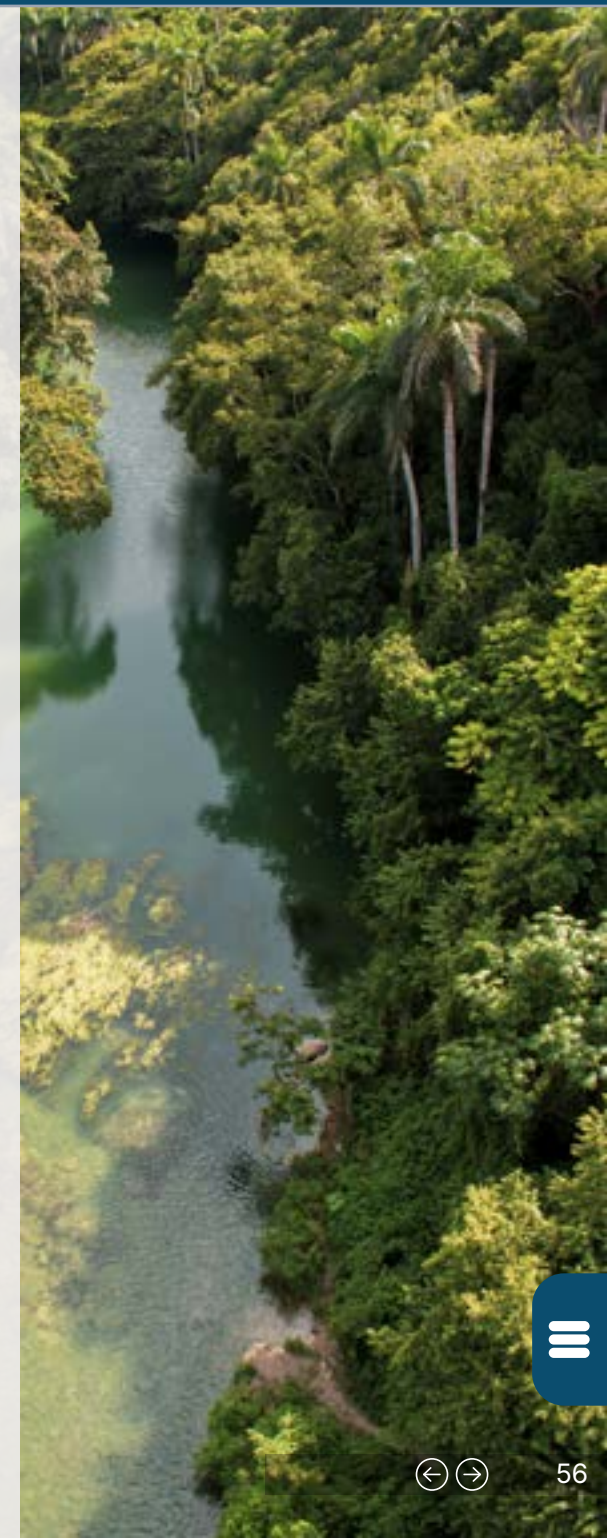
- Collaborate at the watershed level with communities and users.
- Publicly report water use intensity for transparency.
- Implement nature-based solutions (*spring protection, wetland restoration*).

Pollution, resource and emissions management

- Publicly disclose pollution and emissions data.
- Obtain third-party verification of Scope 1 and 2 emissions.
- Embed climate-smart action plans as core business drivers.

Climate risk resilience and adaptation

- Integrate traditional knowledge in adaptation strategies.
- Use nature-based solutions for resilience (*watersheds, agroforestry*).
- Submit resilience plans to independent expert review.



Key concepts

A Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP): a structured plan that identifies biodiversity risks and outlines mitigation and restoration measures, often required for higher-risk initiatives, defining spatial boundaries, indicators, monitoring frequency, roles, budget and decision rules for adaptive management.

B Climate resilience: ability of an initiative to prepare for, withstand and recover from climate shocks (*e.g., floods, fires, droughts*) through climate-related hazard mapping and analysis, an adaptation plan with owners and budgets and effectiveness monitoring with update rules.

C Critical habitat: areas essential for biodiversity (*e.g., endangered species habitat, wetlands, primary forests*). Clearing is prohibited and activities are screened against defined critical habitat criteria; geospatial evidence of screening is filed at onboarding and renewal. Where presence is confirmed, a critical habitat assessment and management plan is required; in the case of socio-bioeconomy, avoiding negative impacts to a critical habitat is the main option.

D Ecosystem services: benefits people receive from nature, such as pollination, water regulation, soil fertility, or climate regulation.

E GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions: gases that trap heat in the atmosphere and contribute to climate change. Main contributors include carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4) and nitrous oxide (N_2O). Organizations typically measure emissions in three categories: **Scope 1** covers direct emissions from project activities (*e.g., burning fuel*); **Scope 2** covers indirect emissions from purchased electricity or heat (*e.g., electricity from the grid*); **Scope 3** covers indirect emissions in an organization's value chain (*e.g., supplier emissions or product transportation*) and is often the largest source of emissions.

F Gross deforestation and conversion: any direct clearing or degradation of natural forests or ecosystems, after a stated cutoff date, including forests, wetlands and savannas, regardless of planned restoration, offset and/or compensation. Unlike “no net deforestation,” this standard prohibits the loss of standing forests and native ecosystems outright, recognizing their irreplaceable carbon, biodiversity and cultural values. Screening utilizes geospatial sources, retaining files for verification.



G Mitigation hierarchy: standard sequence for addressing environmental and social risks: Avoid → Minimize → Restore. Some frameworks add offsets for residual impacts, but this guide does not allow offsets to justify gross deforestation or conversion. It's necessary to document avoidance analysis before other measures. For socio-bioeconomy, maintaining standing forests as non-negotiable assets is central to right-relations with communities, Indigenous Peoples and nature.

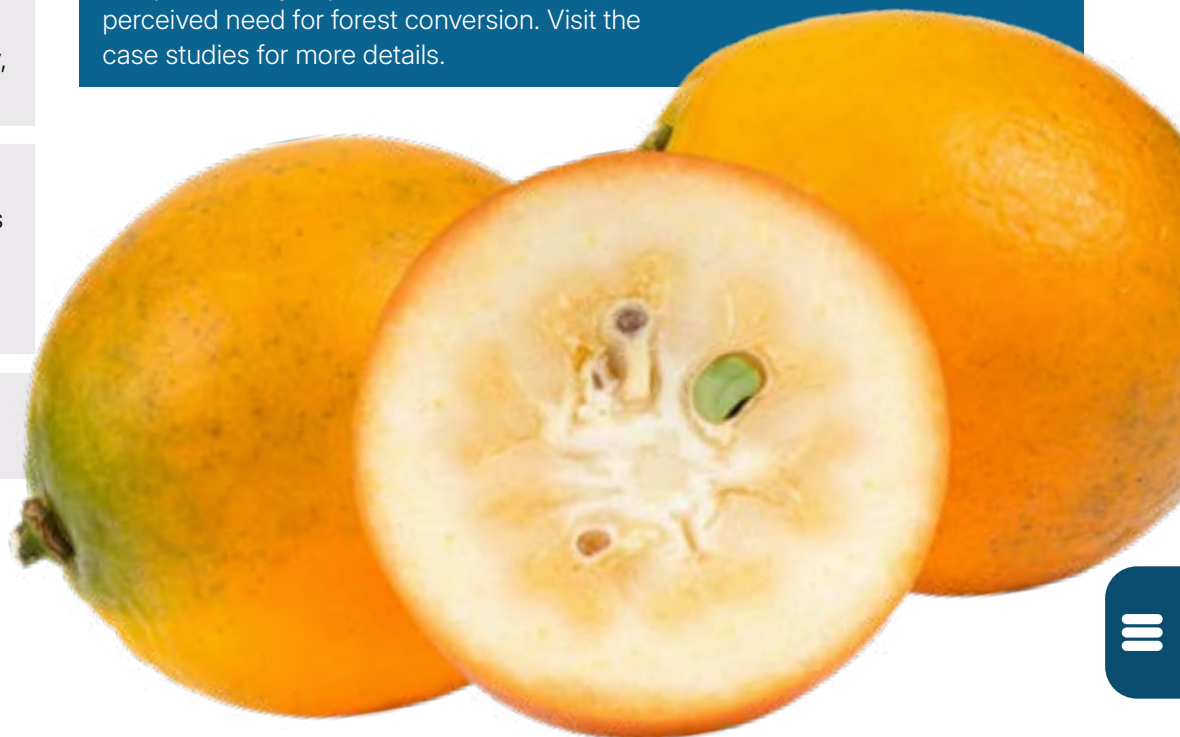
H Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES): a voluntary arrangement in which land stewards or communities receive compensation for maintaining or enhancing ecosystem services—such as carbon sequestration, water regulation, or biodiversity conservation. Governments, companies, or investors can finance PES schemes and should ensure equity, transparency, and that benefits be defined with communities.

I Payment for territorial services (PTS): a rights-based approach that compensates IP, AD, TC and LC for protecting and governing their territories as integrated socio-ecological systems. Unlike conventional PES schemes, PTS recognizes collective stewardship, cultural practices, and territorial governance as the foundation for sustaining forests, water, and biodiversity.

J Water stewardship plan: a plan that assesses water use, risks and impacts, and defines measures for efficiency, reuse and equitable access.

Zero deforestation in practice: Kallari's productivity approach

Zero deforestation means no clearing of forests after a cutoff date, regardless of restoration or offsets elsewhere—unlike 'no net deforestation' which allows clearing if compensated by planting trees elsewhere. The Indigenous-led chocolate enterprise, Kallari, demonstrates this principle by improving productivity on existing chakra lands through grafting and canopy management rather than expanding into virgin forests. Their approach shows how enterprises can meet growing market demands while maintaining no-clearing commitments, proving that productivity improvements can eliminate the perceived need for forest conversion. Visit the case studies for more details.



Principle 6

Demonstrate impact and accountability

Purpose

Demonstrating impact and accountability drives adaptive management, fostering trust among rights-holders and stakeholders by establishing systems that enable continuous improvement in line with impact evidence and community priorities. 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 encompasses:

- Comprehensive monitoring systems that track performance indicators aligned with initiative risks, rights-holder and stakeholder values and priorities.
- Adaptive management frameworks that use results to trigger improvements and document learnings.
- Transparent and culturally appropriate communication strategies that share results with communities, partners and other stakeholders in accessible formats while respecting intellectual property and sensitive information.

These systems enable socio-bioeconomy initiatives to build trust through transparency and showcase verified contributions to environmental and social outcomes.

Self-assessment

The following self-assessment helps evaluate an initiative's current level of impact across key monitoring and accountability areas. Use the *"Emerging impact"* column to identify foundational practices that all initiatives should meet. The *"Established impact"* column outlines stronger practices expected of more mature initiatives or those operating in higher-risk contexts. The *"Notable tools and certifications"* column provides specific resources to support the implementation of each good practice area. See dedicated sections later in this guide for a more comprehensive list of possible tools and certifications that can be adapted to an initiative's location or development stage.



How to use?



Position your cursor over the corresponding circle depending on compliance with the requirement. It is recommended to save the document to ensure the conservation of the selection(s) made and allow the process to continue at another time.



Principle 6

Demonstrate impact and accountability

Good practice area

1**Monitoring and performance tracking****2****Adaptive management and learning****3****Performance disclosure**



1

Monitoring and performance tracking

Emerging impact

- ☐ A basic system tracks environmental, social and financial performance.
- ☐ Roles are assigned and key indicators are monitored at a defined frequency (*e.g., monthly log, dashboard, spreadsheet*).
- ☐ Findings feed into decisions or actions with an assigned owner and deadline.

Established impact

- ☐ An Environmental and social management system (ESMS) includes a Monitoring plan.
- ☐ Monitoring includes baseline data and clearly defined indicators (*quantitative and qualitative*) appropriate to the risks, with verification methods, trigger thresholds and internal audit, community monitoring or independent assurance for high-risk topics.
- ☐ Performance indicators are defined and tracked at a stated frequency (*e.g., emissions, biodiversity status, labor incidents, social metrics*), and are jointly defined with communities when indicators are relevant to communities' priorities and expectations.
- ☐ Quality of relationships with IP, AD, TC and LC communities is assessed periodically through joint reflection spaces, and findings feed into adaptive management.
- ☐ External experts review high-risk impacts.
- ☐ Monitoring results and follow-up actions are documented and accessible.

Notable tools and certifications

**Tools:**

- IFC - ESMS Implementation Handbook (*Element 9: Monitoring and Review*).
- WWF - Community-based Monitoring, Reporting and Verification Guide.

Certifications:

- FSC (*Forest Management*).
- Rainforest Alliance.

2 Adaptive management and learning



Emerging impact

- Enterprise results are reviewed on a defined schedule (*e.g., team notes, internal reviews*).
- When issues arise, a short adaptive plan is made and lessons recorded (*e.g., logbook, after-action review*).
- Lessons and updates are shared with staff or community partners.
- Follow-up actions are traceable in enterprise files with closure verification and timestamps.
- Information shared respects Indigenous knowledge, intellectual property and sensitive or confidential data using redaction and access controls.

Established impact

- Monitoring results feed into ESMS reviews by senior management at least annually, and ongoing consultations with key rights-holder and stakeholder groups inform reviews with documented agendas, decisions and assigned owners.
- Thresholds or triggers for adapting plans are defined.
- Updates to management or mitigation plans are documented and traceable.
- Lessons and insights are shared with enterprise staff at least once a year.
- Knowledge products (*including both successes and failures*) are shared publicly or through open platforms (*e.g., events, networks, reports*).

Notable tools and certifications

Tools:

- CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance (*GIDA and Practical Application Article*).
- UNDP / Equator Initiative - Equator Prize, Case Studies and Community Dialogues.

Certifications:

- Rainforest Alliance (*RA*).
- FSC (*Forest Management*).

3 Performance disclosure



Emerging impact

- A short communication plan defines what, how and when information is shared with rights-holder and stakeholders (*e.g., results, risks, changes*), as well as it specifies audience, frequency, format, approval workflow and documentation repository.
- Information sharing respects intellectual property, Indigenous knowledge and confidential data using redaction protocols and privacy safeguards.

Established impact

- External communication procedures are documented and public (*e.g., liaison, phone, email*) with a disclosure schedule.
- At least one annual report is shared with affected communities, in accessible languages and formats, including results, risks, or changes and a mechanism for receiving and responding to feedback.
- Rights-holder and stakeholder engagement logs document dates, topics and responses as well as disclosing grievance performance metrics, for example acknowledgment time, resolution time and closure rate.

Notable tools and certifications

Tools:

- IFC - ESG Guidebook.
- Accountability Framework Initiative (AFi) - Operational Guidance on Reporting, Disclosure and Claims.

Certifications:

- FSC (*Forest Management*).
- Origens Brasil®.



Going further: transformational practices

These transformational practices represent advanced approaches that maximize socio-bioeconomy impact by creating innovative transparency and community-centered accountability systems. While the self-assessment covers emerging to established good practices, these transformational practices demonstrate how actors can innovate beyond standard frameworks to create sector-leading models. Consider implementing these practices once core monitoring systems are established and you are ready to develop new approaches that can inspire broader transformation.

Core monitoring and performance tracking

- Co-lead monitoring with communities (*women, youth, IP, AD, TC, LC*).
- Integrate local indicators and traditional knowledge alongside technical data.
- Share findings in open formats (*dashboards, bulletin boards, meetings*).

Adaptive management and learning

- Hold annual joint review sessions with communities and staff to co-develop solutions that shape initiative plans.
- Use accessible formats (*radio, infographics, storytelling*) to share lessons.

Performance transparency

- Translate results into creative, audience-friendly formats (*maps, visuals, community radio*).
- Align reporting with global standards (e.g., *Accountability Framework Initiative, Global Reporting Initiative*).
- Treat reporting as a two-way dialogue, not just disclosure.



Key concepts

A Adaptive management: a structured process for short and medium-term learning from experience, adjusting plans, strategies and actions based on monitoring results and lessons learned with predefined thresholds/triggers, documentation of changes and verification of effects.

B Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS): a structured framework that integrates environmental and social risk management into planning, monitoring and reporting, and includes policy, identification of risks and impacts, management programs, organizational capacity and competency, emergency preparedness and response, rights-holder and stakeholder engagement and monitoring and review.

C Monitoring plan: a part of the ESMS that specifies indicators, frequency, responsibilities and methods for data collection, verification and reporting.

D Performance indicators: measurable values used to track environmental, social and financial performance changes over time with a defined unit, formula, disaggregation, baseline method and year (*e.g., hectares under sustainable management, water quality, GHG emissions, accident rates, women in leadership roles*).

E Performance transparency: clear, accessible sharing of results and risks with rights-holders and stakeholders, with defined scope, frequency, format and repository, while respecting confidentiality (*e.g., Indigenous knowledge, intellectual property, personal data*).

F Stakeholder engagement logs: records of when and how rights-holders and stakeholders were engaged, what issues were raised and how responses were addressed with timestamps, responsible roles and references to corrective actions and follow-up.

G Thresholds/triggers: predefined conditions (*e.g., water quality drops, accident rates exceed targets*) that automatically prompt corrective or adaptive actions.

Beyond conventional metrics: what communities actually track

Traditional monitoring often focuses on production volumes, carbon credits and income growth — metrics that matter to external stakeholders but may miss what communities prioritize. Community voices reveal sophisticated tracking of cultural continuity, food sovereignty, women's leadership roles and youth knowledge retention. In Ecuador, Mandi Wasi Tourism tracks not only monthly revenues but also the effectiveness of waste management and visitor compliance with cultural protocols. Colombian farmers are transitioning from empirical knowledge to systematic record-keeping, documenting cacao harvests in notebooks to better understand profitability — showing how measurement can serve community development goals rather than just external reporting requirements. Visit the case study section for more details.

Principle 7

Build capacity and networks

Purpose

Building capacity and networks amplifies the collective impact of socio-bioeconomy initiatives by creating shared infrastructure for learning, collaboration and mutual support that enables sustainable growth across the sector. Individual initiatives achieve greater success when they invest in strengthening the broader ecosystem of partners, communities and stakeholders who contribute to socio-bioeconomy value chains. This principle encompasses:

- Local and community capacity building through training, mentoring and technical support that builds essential skills for environmental management, business development and sustainable practices while creating pathways for community members to become qualified suppliers and partners, while also reinforcing self-determination and community-led governance mechanisms.
- Multi-stakeholder network participation connects socio-bioeconomy initiatives with Indigenous organizations, NGOs, government agencies, market actors and other stakeholders to share knowledge, coordinate advocacy efforts and develop collaborative solutions to common challenges.

These systems enable socio-bioeconomy initiatives to tap into collective knowledge and resources, build resilient partnerships that can adapt to changing conditions and contribute to sector-wide growth that strengthens the foundation for sustainable and inclusive forest economies.

Self-assessment

The following self-assessment helps evaluate an initiative's current level of impact across key capacity-building and network areas. Use the *"Emerging impact"* column to identify foundational practices that all initiatives should meet. The *"Established impact"* column outlines stronger practices expected of more mature initiatives or those operating in higher-risk contexts. The *"Notable tools and certifications"* column provides specific resources to support the implementation of each good practice area. See dedicated sections later in this guide for a more comprehensive list of possible tools and certifications that can be adapted to an initiative's location or development stage.



How to use?



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Principle 7

Build capacity and networks

Good practice area

1

Local and Community Capacity



2

Multi-Stakeholder networks and partnerships





1

Local and Community Capacity

Emerging impact

- Training, mentoring, or technical support sessions are provided (or received) annually for local communities, workers or community enterprises. In addition to business-related support for communities, training can also be directed at strengthening community governance systems and territorial and environmental management instruments (e.g., Life Plans, ethno-zoning, etc.)
- Records are kept of participants and topics.
- Materials are adapted to local languages and contexts.

Established impact

- Training and mentoring are directly linked to the initiative's identified environmental and social risks (*from the ESMS*), to building community capacity as qualified suppliers and to strengthening community self-determination, governance capacity, and territorial and environmental management instruments.
- A training plan defines frequency, audience (e.g., *community monitors, women's groups*) and indicators to measure learning.
- Training sessions include practical components (e.g., *field demos, simulations*) and build skills that support communities' priorities and long-term well-being, such as enterprise management, negotiation with companies and public agencies, community monitoring, advocacy, etc.
- Outcomes (*attendance, evaluation results, follow-up actions*) are documented and stored in project files.

Notable tools and certifications

**Tools:**

- UNDP - Learning for Nature (*Online Capacity-Building Platform*).
- FAO - eLearning Academy.

Certifications:

- FSC (*Forest Management*).
- UEBT.



2

Multi-Stakeholder networks and partnerships

Emerging impact

A simple list of rights-holder and stakeholder organizations (*e.g.*, *Indigenous organizations, NGOs, agencies*) is kept.



Dialogue is started with at least one network, association, or platform.

Established impact

Participation is documented and contributes to dialogue, advocacy, or decision-making.



Engagement commitments are integrated into the SEP or ESMS, with outcomes traceable in project files.

Notable tools and certifications

**Tools:**

- Multi-Stakeholder Amazonia Networks and Partnerships.
- Accountability Framework Initiative (AFI) - Operational Guidance on Achieving Commitments Through Collaboration.

Certifications:

- FSC (*Forest Management*).
- Origens Brasil®.

Going further: transformational practices

These transformational practices represent advanced approaches that maximize socio-bioeconomy impact by creating robust capacity building and collaborative network models. While the self-assessment covers emerging to established good practices, these transformational practices demonstrate how actors can innovate beyond standard frameworks to create sector-leading models. Consider implementing these practices once core capacity systems are established and you are ready to develop new approaches that can inspire broader transformation.

Local and Community Capacity

- Co-design and, where possible, co-deliver trainings with local organizations and align with community priorities, integrating and strengthening traditional territorial and environmental management.
- Pair community capacity building with ongoing internal staff training or right-relations and community protocols.
- Invest in entrepreneurship, gender equity and service access.
- Build partnerships that sustain capacity building or community logistics beyond the initiative.

Multi-Stakeholder networks and partnerships

- Move from a participant to a convener or co-leader of collaboration and advocacy networks.
- Fund and sustain platforms with or for community partners.
- Integrate network knowledge directly into enterprise decisions.



Key concepts

A Capacity building: structured activities (*training, mentoring, technical support*) that build knowledge and skills of workers, communities, or partners. Effective capacity building links directly to the risks or needs identified in the ESMS and measures learning outcomes.

B Multi-Stakeholder networks: platforms or associations that bring together enterprises, communities, Indigenous organizations, governments, NGOs and other stakeholders for dialogue and joint problem-solving. They can include chambers of commerce, product roundtables, community associations, learning platforms, etc.

C Territorial and environmental management instruments: locally developed governance tools (*such as Life Plans, PGTAs, ethno-zoning, ethno-mapping, and other community-based management frameworks*) that guide IP, AD and TC in the sustainable use, protection, and governance of their territories. These instruments are key for biodiversity conservation and community-led socio-bioeconomy initiatives.

D Engagement and learning traceability: enterprises should be able to show documentation of training results, shared knowledge products and outcomes from network participation (*meeting notes, reports, or logs*).

Building enterprise capacity for rights-based community engagement

Implementing socio-bioeconomy practices requires not only strong community engagement but also **internal enterprise capacity**. The principles and practices outlined in this guide provide a roadmap for companies to strengthen their organizational systems so they can work effectively, respectfully, and consistently with Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, Traditional Communities, and local communities.

Private sector actors should ensure they have:

- Clear internal policies guiding engagement with IP/AD/TC/LC communities
- Designated staff or teams responsible for community relations and FPIC/ICP processes
- Ongoing training for staff and contractors on rights, cultural protocols and respectful communication
- Internal procedures that connect community input to decision-making, monitoring and grievance systems

While this guide focuses on environmental and social issues, **private sector actors also require sound financial and market strategies** to ensure that community partnerships are viable and sustainable over time. These aspects fall outside the scope of this guide but can be strengthened through participation in networks, partnerships, market platforms and peer-learning initiatives that help companies and investors build resilient business models and financing strategies aligned with socio-bioeconomy principles.

Building this capacity is essential for delivering socio-bioeconomy initiatives that are rights-based, inclusive and durable.



Networks in action: multi-actor collaboration models

Effective multi-stakeholder networks bring together diverse actors to create sustainable value chains that individual organizations cannot build on their own. For example, creating new market opportunities, such as Colombia's aguaje value chain, required coordination among farmer-founded organizations, multinational buyers, government agencies for permits, and development organizations for training. Rather than isolated relationships, this networked approach enabled solutions that addressed multiple challenges simultaneously. The case studies section illustrates how strategic convening can solve complex problems by leveraging each actor's unique capabilities and resources.



Annex: Socio-Bioeconomy exclusion criteria

The following activities are fundamentally incompatible with socio-bioeconomy principles. If present, they require a comprehensive redesign of the socio-bioeconomy initiative.

Indigenous Peoples (IP), Afro-descendants (AD), Traditional Communities (TC) and local communities (LC)

- **Lack of proper consultation:** projects that affect IP, AD, TC and LC without the appropriate level of consultation and consent.
- **Violation of collective rights:** blocking land access, damaging cultural or sacred sites, or operating on disputed lands without agreements with legitimate rights-holders.
- **Biotope/bioprospecting without FPIC and equitable benefit-sharing:** commercialization of biodiversity or traditional knowledge without documented consent and equitable returns.
- **Land grabbing or involuntary displacement:** any activity causing physical or economic displacement without voluntary, documented agreement.⁶

Fair, safe and responsible conduct

- **Child labor, forced labor, or human trafficking:** any form of worker exploitation or coercion.
- **Systematic wage violations:** paying workers below the legal minimum wage, failing to meet wage agreements or using deceptive payment practices (*e.g., inflated deductions, forced debt or unpaid overtime*).
- **Violence, coercion, or abusive security practices:** threats, intimidation, or violent practices against workers, communities or rights-holders.

Ethical, traceable and transparent value chains

- **Illegal or unsustainable logging and trade of banned products:** harvesting or commerce in prohibited species or products like illegal timber, wildlife, minerals, or other resources that violate sustainability or legal requirements.
- **Use of harmful substances:** application of banned agrochemicals, toxic inputs, or other harmful substances that pose risks to human health or ecosystems.



⁶ IDB Invest, IFC and WB standards allow for involuntary resettlement under certain conditions. Socio-bioeconomy, however, is based on right-relations with communities and Indigenous Peoples. By definition, socio-bioeconomy excludes involuntary land acquisition or resettlement. All access must be voluntary, negotiated and equitable.

Nature, climate and biodiversity

- **Deforestation, ecosystem conversion or degradation after the cut-off date** (*Dec 31st, 2020*):⁷ clearing, converting or degrading primary forests, freshwater ecosystems or critical habitats.
- **Monoculture plantations or extractive models:** large-scale crops (*soy, oil palm, eucalyptus, acai, etc.*) that replace diverse ecosystems or traditional production systems.⁸
- **Operations in protected areas or critical habitats without safeguards:** activities carried out without legal permission or without robust conservation measures.
- **Large-scale mining or mineral extraction:** these activities are inherently destructive to ecosystems, water and community livelihoods.
- **Fossil-fuel energy projects:** oil, gas and coal extraction or power plants. Renewable or hybrid solutions may qualify only if low-impact and community-aligned.
- **Irreversible environmental impacts:** major projects (*e.g., large dams, industrial infrastructure*) that cause significant, non-remediable harm, unless risks are demonstrably avoided.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Large-scale monoculture refers to land uses that replace diverse or natural ecosystems with single-species production systems, typically associated with industrial agriculture or plantation models, regardless of specific area thresholds. Assessment should consider landscape context, biodiversity impacts and ecological conversion.



Glossary

- **Access and Benefit-Sharing (ABS):** the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge, as established under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol.
- **Adaptive management:** adjusting strategies and actions based on monitoring results, with predefined triggers, documented changes, and verification of effects.
- **Age verification procedures:** checks (e.g., IDs, certificates, or community confirmation) to ensure workers meet legal age requirements.
- **Amazonia (Amazon Biome / Amazon Region):** a vast, interconnected tropical forest region spanning major parts of South America (*Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and French Guiana*). It emphasizes ecological connectivity and collective knowledge across national borders.
- **Anti-bribery and whistleblower mechanisms:** systems to prevent corruption and allow confidential, retaliation-free reporting of misconduct.
- **Anti-retaliation policy:** rules that protect complainants and witnesses from reprisals when raising concerns or complaints.
- **Biocultural Community Protocol (BCP):** a community-developed document that sets out customary laws, values, and procedures for engaging with external actors on access to resources or traditional knowledge.
- **Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP):** a plan outlining actions to conserve and restore biodiversity, often required by lenders for projects with potential biodiversity impacts.
- **Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP):** a plan to identify biodiversity risks and set measures for mitigation, restoration, and monitoring in higher-risk projects.
- **Biotrade/bioprospecting:** the commercial use of biodiversity resources or traditional knowledge. Biotrade refers to sustainable trade in biodiversity-based products, while bioprospecting is the search for biological resources or knowledge for commercial or scientific use.
- **Capacity building:** training, mentoring, or technical support that strengthens the knowledge and skills of workers, communities, or partners, linked to identified needs.
- **Chance find procedures:** contract protocols for protecting cultural heritage discovered unexpectedly, outlining steps to halt work, notify authorities and communities, and safeguard the find.
- **Child labor standards (ILO Conventions 138 and 182):** rules that prohibit employment of children under 14 and restrict work for ages 14–17 to safe, non-hazardous tasks that do not interfere with education. Light, culturally appropriate activities — such as helping in family enterprises or learning traditional skills — may be permitted, but must never replace schooling or expose children to exploitation or danger.
- **Climate resilience:** the capacity of projects to prepare for, withstand, and recover from climate shocks through hazard analysis, adaptation planning, and monitoring.
- **Critical habitat:** areas vital for biodiversity, such as endangered species habitats or primary forests; clearing is prohibited and impacts must be avoided or strictly managed.
- **Cultural heritage:** tangible sites and artifacts, and intangible traditions and knowledge; projects must assess risks, protect confidentiality, and secure consent before use.
- **Cut-off date:** the date after which deforestation or ecosystem conversion is not acceptable; many standards recommend December 31st, 2020, to ensure credibility.
- **Data sovereignty protections:** safeguards that ensure data collected from Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendants, Traditional Communities, and local communities remains under their ownership and control, with explicit consent on how it is stored, accessed, and shared.

- **Due diligence:** a systematic process to identify, assess, and manage environmental, social, and governance risks, often applied in supply chains, investments, and project planning.
- **Ecosystem services:** benefits people receive from nature, such as pollination, water regulation, soil fertility, or climate regulation.
- **Engagement and learning traceability:** documentation of training results, shared knowledge products, and outcomes from network participation.
- **Environmental and Social (E&S) Risks:** the combined environmental and social challenges that socio-bioeconomy initiatives must screen for and address.
- **Environmental and Social (E&S) screening and planning tools:** a set of instruments used to identify, assess, and manage environmental and social risks, applied according to project scale and risk level.
- **Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA):** a participatory process that identifies E&S risks and opportunities and informs project design; the umbrella process for other E&S instruments.
- **Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA):** a detailed study for high-risk projects that evaluates impacts, alternatives, stakeholder input, and applies the mitigation hierarchy.
- **Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF):** a framework used when project details are not yet known (*e.g., multi-subproject programs*), setting principles and procedures for future assessments.
- **Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP):** a plan detailing how mitigation and monitoring measures will be implemented, including indicators, roles, budgets, and subplans where needed.
- **Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS):** an overarching institutional system integrating policies, risk management, stakeholder engagement, emergency response, and monitoring of E&S performance.
- **Environmental and Social Standard (ESS, World Bank):** a set of requirements under the WB Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) that projects must meet to manage risks and impacts.
- **Environmental risks:** potential harms to ecosystems, including deforestation, biodiversity loss, degradation of freshwater ecosystems, water pollution, unsustainable harvesting, soil degradation, and greenhouse gas emissions, among others.
- **Equal treatment of workers:** principle that migrant, seasonal, and contracted workers must receive the same pay, protections, and grievance access as direct employees.
- **ESG oversight:** monitoring of Environmental, Social, and Governance commitments by leadership or dedicated teams to ensure accountability across operations and supply chains.
- **European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR):** an EU law that prohibits placing products linked to deforestation or forest degradation on the EU market.
- **Forced labor:** work obtained under coercion, threat, debt bondage, or without freedom to leave, prohibited under ILO Conventions 29 and 105.
- **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC):** the collective right of Indigenous Peoples to approve or reject projects affecting their lands, resources, or heritage. Consent must be obtained before decisions are made, documented transparently, and secured at the people's level, not just one community, to protect collective rights and prevent conflict.
- **Gender and human rights risks:** a subset of social risks that includes gender-based violence or harassment, exclusion of women, youth, or elders, disruption of traditional knowledge, and discrimination based on identity or status.



- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Gender-Based Violence and Harassment (GBVH):** forms of violence, abuse, or harassment based on gender, occurring in communities or workplaces.
- **Gender-responsive approach:** going beyond minimizing gender risks to actively promoting women's agency, leadership, and equitable access to benefits as essential for effective conservation and sustainable enterprise.
- **GHG (Greenhouse Gas) emissions:** heat-trapping gases that drive climate change, mainly CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O. Measured as Scope 1 (*direct*), Scope 2 (*from purchased energy*), and Scope 3 (*value chain*), with Scope 3 often the most significant source.
- **Grievance mechanism:** a culturally appropriate channel for workers or community members to raise concerns safely and without retaliation.
- **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM):** a formal process to receive, assess, and resolve complaints from workers or communities, also referred to as Grievance mechanism.
- **Gross deforestation and conversion:** any post-cutoff date clearing or degradation of natural forests or ecosystems is prohibited outright, regardless of offsets, due to their irreplaceable carbon, biodiversity, and cultural values.
- **Human rights-based approach:** integrates rights, participation, transparency, and accountability into all decisions, ensuring that communities are active partners, not passive beneficiaries.
- **IDB Invest Environmental and Social Sustainability Policy (ESSP):** the policy guiding IDB Invest's approach to managing environmental and social risks.
- **IDB Invest Implementation Manual (IM):** guidance detailing how to implement IDB Invest's sustainability policies.
- **IFC Performance Standards (IFC PS):** the International Finance Corporation's standards that define private sector responsibilities for managing environmental and social risks. Widely adopted by banks, investors, and companies as a benchmark for sustainability.
- **Indigenous Peoples (IP), Afro-descendants (AD), Traditional Communities (TC) and local communities (LC):** the first three categories are formally recognized in IDB policy and regional legislation, while local communities captures communities living in or near project-affected areas (*e.g., farmers, smallholders*) who may not fall under formal definitions of IP, AD or TC but for whom a project could have environmental or social impacts. All references in the Guide to "*communities*" include all four categories unless otherwise specified.
- **Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP):** a plan that ensures projects respect the rights and priorities of Indigenous Peoples and deliver culturally appropriate benefits.
- **Informed Consultation and Participation (ICP):** a culturally appropriate process for engaging affected people on risks to land, livelihoods, or cultural practices. If Indigenous Peoples are affected, ICP must meet the higher standard of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- **Key Biodiversity Area (KBA):** sites that contribute significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity.
- **Land tenure and resource access:** the ways communities hold or use land and resources, whether legal, customary, or traditional. Secure tenure is vital for livelihoods and cultural survival; projects must not cause involuntary relocation.
- **Mitigation hierarchy:** the standard sequence for managing risks: avoid impacts first, then minimize and restore. Some frameworks add offsets for residual impacts, but this guide does not allow offsets to justify gross deforestation or conversion. In socio-bioeconomy, maintaining standing forests is non-negotiable.
- **Monitoring plan:** part of an ESMS that sets indicators, frequency, responsibilities, and methods for data collection and reporting.
- **Multi-stakeholder networks:** platforms that connect enterprises, communities, Indigenous organizations, governments, NGOs, and others for dialogue and joint solutions.



- **Nagoya Protocol:** an international agreement under the Convention on Biological Diversity that sets rules for access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge, and for sharing benefits with provider countries and communities.
- **Nature-Based Solutions (NbS):** actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems to address societal challenges such as climate change.
- **Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs):** biological resources from forests other than industrial timber, including fruits, nuts, seeds, resins, latex, medicinal plants, fibers, fungi, honey, and animals (*e.g., fish, bushmeat, insects*). NTFPs provide food, income, medicine, and cultural value for Indigenous Peoples and local communities and are central to socio-bioeconomy initiatives.
- **Occupational Health and Safety (OHS):** policies and practices to ensure safe working conditions for all workers, including contractors and seasonal staff.
- **Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES):** a voluntary arrangement in which land stewards or communities receive compensation for maintaining or enhancing ecosystem services — such as carbon sequestration, water regulation, or biodiversity conservation. Governments, companies, or investors can finance PES schemes and should ensure equity, transparency, and that benefits be defined with communities.
- **Payment for Territorial Services (PTS):** a rights-based approach that compensates IP, AD, TC and LC for protecting and governing their territories as integrated socio-ecological systems. Unlike conventional PES schemes, PTS recognizes collective stewardship, cultural practices, and territorial governance as the foundation for sustaining forests, water, and biodiversity.
- **Payment tracking system:** a manual or digital tool to record and verify timely, transparent payments, with proof shared with community representatives.
- **Performance indicators:** quantifiable measures to track environmental, social, or financial outcomes over time (*e.g., hectares managed, GHG emissions, accident rates*).
- **Performance transparency:** sharing results and risks with stakeholders clearly and accessibly, while respecting confidentiality.
- **Right-holders:** individuals or communities with inherent, legal, or customary rights over land, resources, culture, or governance. This includes Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, Traditional Communities and local communities. Their rights exist regardless of external recognition and are tied to identity, heritage, and stewardship. Right-holders are leaders in conservation and central to decision-making, governance, and benefit-sharing.
- **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs):** businesses whose size falls below certain thresholds for employees or revenue, depending on the country.
- **Social risks:** potential harms to people and communities, such as violating land rights, unsafe labor conditions, inadequate stakeholder engagement, impacts on cultural heritage and vulnerable groups, among others.
- **Socio-bioeconomy:** a community-driven economic model grounded in the sustainable use of biodiversity and the ancestral knowledge systems, governance structures and practices of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-Descendants, Traditional Communities and local communities.
- **Socio-bioeconomy exclusion checklist:** a list of activities established in this guide that are fundamentally incompatible with socio-bioeconomy. These include projects without proper consultation or consent; child or forced labor; illegal or unsustainable logging; use of toxic substances; land grabbing or displacement; and deforestation, ecosystem conversion, or other large-scale activities causing irreversible harm. The complete exclusion list is available in Annex 1.
- **Stakeholder and rights-holder identification:** the process of mapping all groups affected by a project, including IP, AD, TC, LC, and vulnerable groups such as women, youth, elders, and people with disabilities. Special protocols apply if Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation may be present, including exclusion zones and no-contact procedures.



- **Stakeholder engagement logs:** records of consultations showing when and how stakeholders were engaged, issues raised, and how responses were addressed.
- **Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP):** a structured plan for informing, consulting, and involving stakeholders throughout the project. Required by IDB Invest, it includes identification, disclosure, consultation, grievance mechanisms, responsibilities, and monitoring.
- **Stakeholders:** individuals, groups, or entities with an interest in or influence over a project or decision, but without inherent or customary rights. This includes funders, NGOs, government agencies, and private sector actors. Their relationship is often situational or transactional, shaped by roles, responsibilities, and organizational interests.
- **Supplier register:** a regularly updated list of suppliers with details on location, products, contracts, practices, and compliance.
- **Supply chain monitoring:** audits and risk assessments to detect labor abuses or unsafe practices across suppliers, with corrective action requirements and thresholds for termination.
- **Supply chain risk scan:** a structured review of supplier practices to identify risks such as deforestation, unsafe labor, or biodiversity loss.
- **Territorial and environmental management instruments:** locally developed governance tools (such as *Life Plans*, *PGTAs*, *ethno-zoning*, *ethno-mapping*, and other community-based management frameworks) that guide IP, AD and TC in the sustainable use, protection, and governance of their territories. These instruments are key for biodiversity conservation and community-led socio-bioeconomy initiatives.
- **Thresholds/triggers:** conditions that prompt automatic corrective or adaptive action (e.g., *water quality decline*, *accident rates above target*).
- **Traceability system:** a tool (*manual or digital*) to track raw materials from origin to buyer, validated through audits or certification.
- **Traditional knowledge systems:** collective knowledge, innovations, and practices developed over generations by Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, Traditional Communities and some local communities, often linked to biodiversity management, health, and cultural identity.
- **UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples):** a UN declaration that affirms the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including self-determination, land and resource rights, cultural preservation, and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).
- **Value chains (Responsible/Traceable):** the complete set of activities from production to final product. Responsible value chains meet environmental and social standards; traceable value chains can track products and materials back to their source.
- **Water stewardship plan:** a plan to assess water use, risks, and impacts, and set measures for efficiency, reuse, and equitable access.
- **World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (WB ESF):** the World Bank's system for assessing and managing environmental and social risks in projects.
- **World Bank Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines (WB EHS):** technical reference documents with general and industry-specific examples of good international industry practice.

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- O. Lyster (*Responsible Sourcing Supervisor at VEJA, personal communication, August 2025*)
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- Asociación de Cabildos Inga del Municipio de Villagarzón Putumayo (*ACIMVIP*)
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- Consejo Regional Indígena del Orteguaza Medio Caquetá (*CRIOMC*)
- Asociación de Productores Agropecuarios del Guaviare (*ASOPROAGRO*)
- Asociación de Madres Indígenas del Guaviare (*ASOPAMURIMAJSA*)
- Asociación de Cabildos Tandachiridu Inganokuna
- Asociación de Autoridades Tradicionales del Municipio de Solano ASIMC
- Asociación de Mujeres Emprendedoras Cimiento del Hogar (*ASMUECH*)
- Asociación de Mujeres Cafeteras de El Paujil Caquetá (*AMUCAPA*)

Brazil:

- Rede Terra do Meio
- Cooperativa Agropecuária Familiar de Santarém (*COOPAFS*)
- Cooperativa de Turismo e Artesanato da Floresta TURIARTE
- Coordenação das Associações das Comunidades Remanescentes de Quilombos do Pará – MALUNGU
- Conselho Nacional das Populações Extrativistas – CNS
- Cooperativa AmazonBai
- Rede COOPERACRE
- Coordenação Nacional de Articulação das Comunidades Negras Rurais Quilombolas-CONAQ
- Federação das Organizações Quilombolas do Município de Barreirinha- FOQMB
- Coletivo de Mulheres Quilombolas do Município de Barreirinha
- Projeto Estadual de Assentamento Agroextrativista (*PEAEX*)

Ecuador:

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- Menvialimentos
- Fundación Yakum
- Asoproaomedeoki
- Asowaoca
- Aso Awakkuna
- Amukina
- Piensa en bambú
- Asoproasamuyu
- Asociación Ruku Kawsay
- Florasana Medicina Natural
- Saveeto Cosmética Natural
- Taramak Aja
- Asociación Waylla Kuri
- Awana Colectiva
- Asobean
- Asociación de Producción Artesanal Cosmética Natural Nuwa
- Musap Jabones
- Asoproarwarmi
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