



# VSA Compact Transparency Tool Background Review

Useful landscape tools, resources and  
standards

Feb 2019

# VSA Background Review

The review of initiatives and their relevance to VSA covers four areas

## Standard setting initiatives

*Provide guidance and metrics to measure progress in jurisdictional or landscape initiatives*

- Commodities jurisdictions (C/J) approach (US State department)
- Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA)
- Landscape standard, VERRA, RA/UTZ, CCBA

## Performance platforms

*Provide information on jurisdictions and J/L initiatives using a standard set of criteria*

- Governors' Climate and Forest Platform (GCF)
- Produce Protect Platform (EII)
- Landscape Assessment Framework (CI)

## Case Studies

*Examples to highlight different types of Jurisdictional and landscape initiatives*

- Produce, Conserve, Include (PCI) Mato Grosso, Brazil
- Jurisdictional Palm Oil Certification (RSPO)
- Carbon Fund Madre de Dios-Peru

## Resources and related initiatives

*(literature reviews, coalitions and tools)*

- Accountability Framework initiative (AFi)
- Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) 2020
- Balikpapan Challenge (global)
- ISEAL, WWF, IDH, CI literature reviews and guidance

# Standard Setting Initiatives

## US Commodities Jurisdictions Approach

**Description:** system used to assess (via 3<sup>rd</sup> party) initiatives and provide information to companies for preferential sourcing of commodities

**Resources:** under development and testing, it has a website and a set of criteria

**Themes:** governance, implementation and transparency of plan to reduce emissions, social and environmental safeguards, stakeholders engagement, monitoring.

<https://commoditiesjurisdictions.wordpress.com/>

**Insights:** can provide a reference for overview of jurisdiction based on 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification of results and commodities produced, as well as jurisdictions eligible for preferential sourcing.

Scoring for Criteria and Subquestions
<p align="center"><b>Criteria and Subquestions</b></p> <p><b>Overarching criteria: Consistency with UNFCCC decisions</b>            REDD+ programs should be consistent with UNFCCC REDD+ decisions, as captured in <a href="https://unfccc.int/files/land_use_and_climate_change/redd/application/pdf/compilation_redd_decision_booklet_v1.1.pdf">https://unfccc.int/files/land_use_and_climate_change/redd/application/pdf/compilation_redd_decision_booklet_v1.1.pdf</a>. Broader Sustainable Landscape programs should follow the same decisions for forest-related portions, and be consistent with any other relevant UNFCCC decisions. The criteria below have been designed to be consistent with UNFCCC decisions.</p> <p><i>Each criterion must be <b>Green</b> in order for a jurisdiction to be eligible for prioritized sourcing.</i></p>
<p><b>Criterion 1: A strategy for how to reduce emissions from forests and other lands whilst increasing agricultural productivity and improving livelihoods</b></p> <p><b>Explanation:</b> To be eligible for prioritized sourcing, a jurisdiction must be implementing a strategy that is expected to reduce deforestation and forest-related emissions, while allowing agricultural production to continue or increase.</p> <p><b>Green:</b> Subquestions 1.1 and 1.2 must be <b>Green</b> in order for Criterion 1 to be <b>Green</b>. Subquestion 1.3 must be <b>Green</b> or <b>Yellow</b> in order for Criterion 1 to be <b>Green</b>.</p> <p><b>Yellow:</b> Criterion 1 should be marked <b>Yellow</b> if either subquestion 1.1 or 1.2 is marked <b>Yellow</b>.</p> <p><b>Orange:</b> Criterion 1 should be marked <b>Orange</b> if either subquestion 1.1 or 1.2 is marked <b>Orange</b>.</p> <p><i>Reference materials[1]:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FCPF Carbon Fund Methodological Framework</li> <li>FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework</li> <li>VCS Guidance for Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ Program Design</li> </ul>
<p><b>1.1 is a strategy or action plan to reduce deforestation adopted and being implemented for the entirety of the relevant national-scale or subnational jurisdiction? (Jurisdiction is defined in this case as a full country, or one or more politically-defined areas that are no more than one administrative level below the national level, e.g. a state or province. Note that while policy measures, monitoring, and safeguards should cover a full jurisdiction, on the ground activities may cover only specific</b></p>

**Green:** Fully met. The standard requires jurisdictional programs to meet equivalent criteria or provide the specified information.

**Yellow:** Partially met. The standard requires jurisdictional programs to meet related criteria or provide relevant information, but is not fully consistent with the criterion or question below.

**Orange:** Not met. The standard does not require jurisdictional programs to meet related criteria or provide the specified information.

# Standard Setting Initiatives

## CCBA Sustainable Landscapes Rating Tool

**Description:** rapid assessment of the key conditions for jurisdictional policies and governance that enable sustainable landscapes.

**Available resources:** comparison with other platforms and initiatives; guidance to assess performance level; examples of application.

**Themes covered:** Land use planning, deforestation and fires, land tenure, biodiversity, governance, production.

<http://www.climate-standards.org/sustainable-landscapes-rating-tool/>

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/CCBA/sustainable+landscapes+rating+tool/Version+1+June+2017/Responses+to+Comments+on+SLRT\\_May2017v2.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/CCBA/sustainable+landscapes+rating+tool/Version+1+June+2017/Responses+to+Comments+on+SLRT_May2017v2.pdf)

		A (High)	B (Medium)	C (Low)		
1. Land use planning and management						
1.1 Land use plan/zoning	1.1.1 Formally adopted	Adopted by law and regulations require that it is respected.	Agreed by government and stakeholders but not fully legally adopted.	Does not yet exist. May be in development.	1	<i>Example (please delete) land use zoning plan (assembly in 2015 and/o link)". Or "B because a land use workshop in 2016 (add link)". Or "C because land use completion in 2018 (link</i>
	1.1.2 Covers entire jurisdiction	Covers entire jurisdiction land area	Covers 50% or more of jurisdiction land area	Covers less than 50% of jurisdiction land area	1	

The screenshot shows the CCBA Sustainable Landscapes Rating Tool website. At the top is the CCBA logo with the tagline 'The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance'. Below the logo is a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT THE CCBA, CCB STANDARDS, SL RATING TOOL, NEWS, and CONTACT. The main heading is 'Sustainable Landscapes Rating Tool' with a search box to the right. Below the heading is a sub-heading: '- assessing jurisdictional policy and governance enabling conditions'. A paragraph follows: 'The Sustainable Landscapes Rating Tool enables a rapid assessment of the key conditions for jurisdictional policies and governance that enable sustainable landscapes. The Tool provides a'.

**Insights:** CCBA can be a reference to develop performance indicators for VSA Compact Implementation, mainly in governance and transparency

# Standard Setting Initiatives

## Landscape standard – Verra, CCBA, RA

**Description:** Framework to assess and report on progress towards sustainability in production landscapes.

**Resources:** PC&I under development, pilots underway in 5 countries

**Themes:** healthy ecosystems, sustainable production, human well-being, good governance.

<https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Verra-LS-Fact-Sheet-final.pdf>

**Insights:** can provide criteria and indicators for measuring and reporting sustainability at landscape level, and guidance on claims for companies

### THE LANDSCAPE STANDARD



**A global framework to drive environmental, social and economic sustainability in productive landscapes**

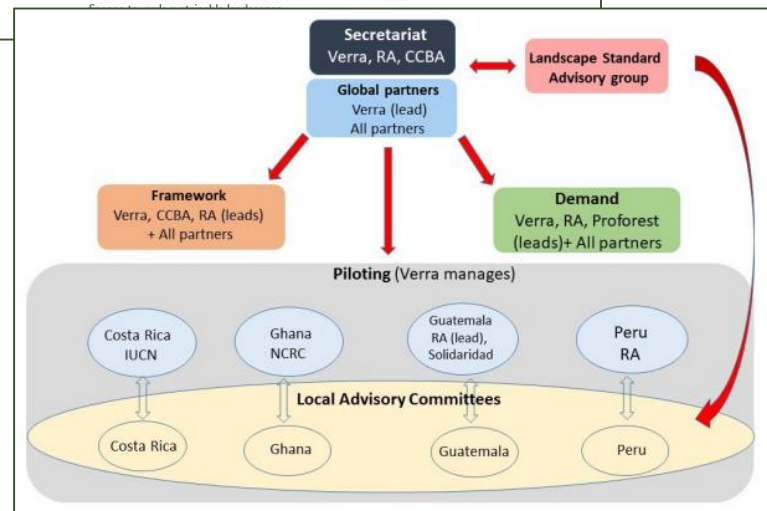
#### SUSTAINABLE COMMODITY PRODUCTION AT THE LANDSCAPE SCALE

The global demand for food, fuel, fiber and other essential goods is growing rapidly. These products are sourced from landscapes – large areas where commodity production needs to be balanced with local and national environmental, social and economic priorities. Sustainable landscape production models – for agricultural, forest and extractive goods – can meet global commodity needs while generating tangible benefits for people and the planet. To support the development of these models, there is a need for a global framework that can measure progress over time, and drive incentives and

sustainability standards, complementing sustainability efforts that target individual production sites, activities or sectors.

Goals and indicators at the global level will support targets and criteria tailored to the specific landscape context. Relative progress and absolute threshold indicators will enable reporting on both continuous improvement and compliance with sustainability commitments. This framework will provide data-based performance results to help generate incentives and finance that advance landscape sustainability actions.

#### THE LANDSCAPE STANDARD IN ACTION



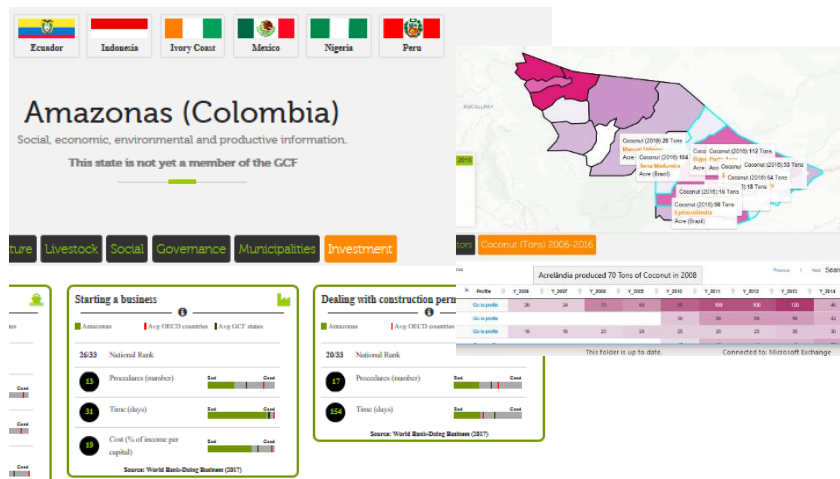
# Performance Platforms

## GCF Taskforce tools

**Description:** platform for investors to support jurisdictional initiatives

**Themes:** deforestation, carbon, commodities, social indicators, governance, investments

<http://gcfimpact.org/states>

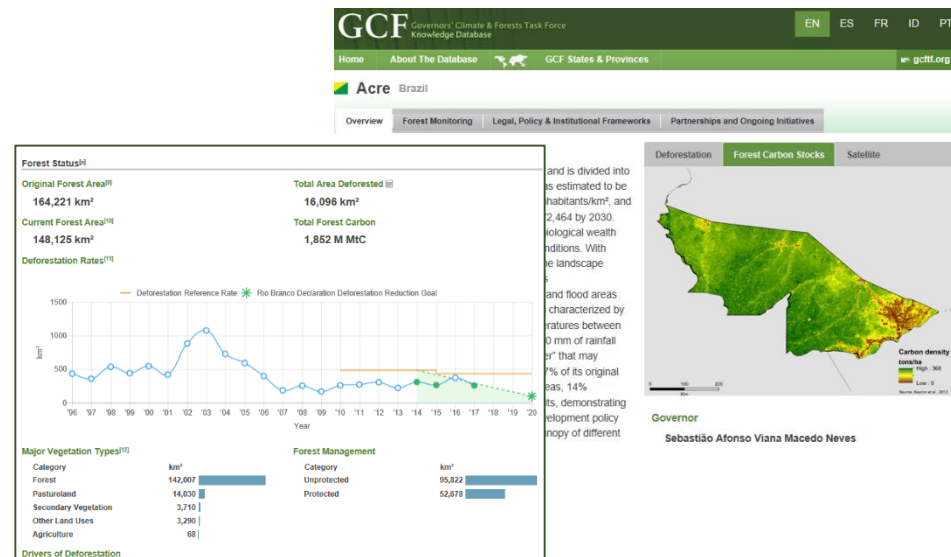


**Insights:** provides model for presenting product indicators by municipality and business indicators (starting a business, trading across borders, etc.)

**Description:** platform provides information on current status and trends for jurisdictions

**Themes:** land use and deforestation; forest carbon; REDD and policies implementation, ongoing initiatives

<http://www.gcftaskforce-database.org/About?lang=en>



**Insights:** provides model to present dynamics of deforestation rates against 2020 goal (Rio Branco Declaration)

# Performance Platform

## Produce Protect Platform (EII)

**Description:** monitoring platform of jurisdictions.

**Resources:** jurisdictional profile, main initiatives, investment opportunities, goals and progress

**Themes:** life (quality of life, illiteracy), production, deforestation, restoration, protected areas

<http://produceprotectplatform.com/>



**Insights:** provide a model to present compact goals and progress towards them, in addition to jurisdiction profile

# Performance Platform

# Landscape Assessment Framework (CI)

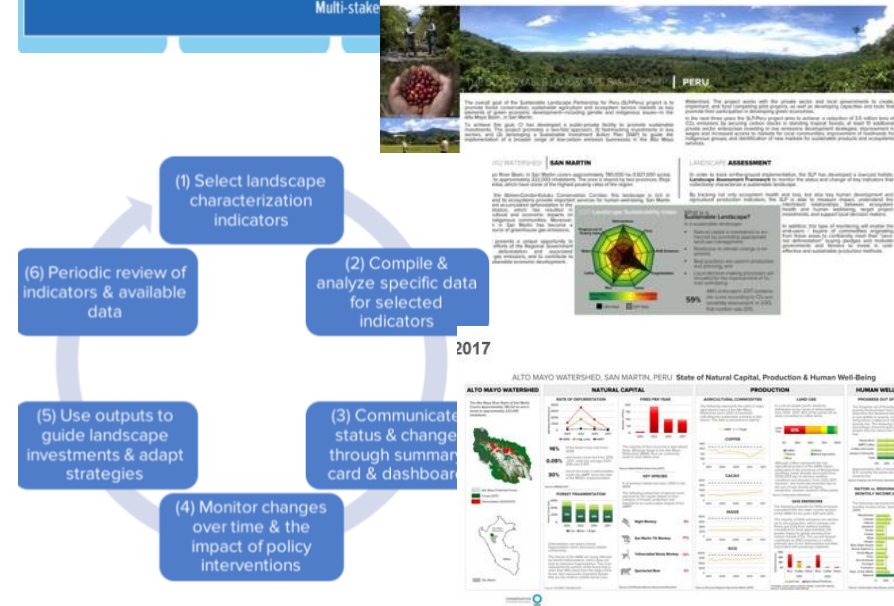
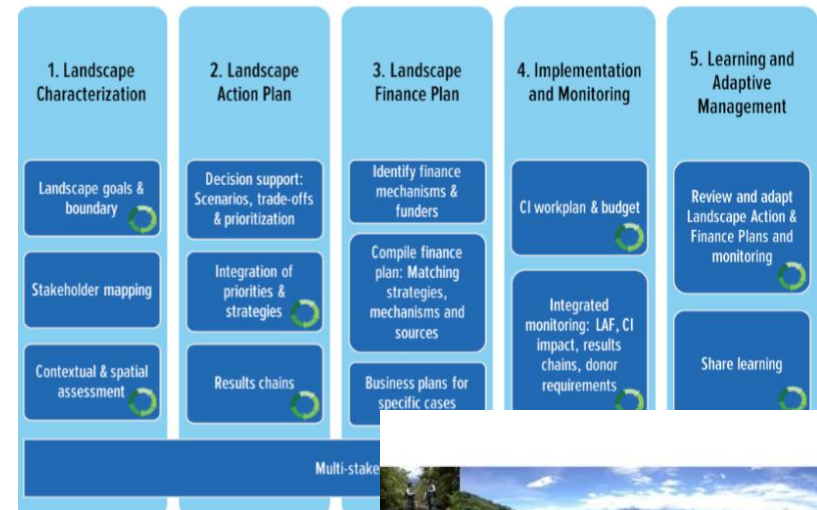
**Description:** framework/guidance to measure, monitor and communicate sustainability of a landscape.

**Available resources:** summary card of progress of landscape indicators against targets; online dashboard for monitoring and communicating; web maps to allow for simple analysis; implementation guidebook

**Themes covered:** natural capital, sustainable production, human well-being, good governance

<https://www.conservation.org/projects/Pages/Landscape-Assessment-Framework.aspx>

**Insights:** LAF can be a reference to further develop the guidance for Compact Design and as a model to present progress in different dimensions towards global references.





## Case Study

# Produce, Conserve, Include (PCI) Brazil

**Description:** multistakeholder initiative led by state government. One of the earliest jurisdictional initiatives. Strong focus on raising funds to pursue sustainable development at municipal level.

**Resources:** under implementation, PCI has a website, forms for project submission, municipal profiles, monitoring website (using Produce Protect Platform)

**Themes:** commodities production, deforestation, legal compliance, land tenure, smallholders inclusion



**Insights:** with ongoing support from IdH and two local compacts already in implementation phase, PCI provides insights about compact governance and a laboratory for the compact transparency tool.

<http://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/mato-grosso-cop21.pdf>

<http://pcimonitor.org/>

<http://pci.mt.gov.br/#apresentacao>

## Case Study

# Jurisdictional Palm Oil Certification (RSPO)

**Description:** Providing high-level guidance on a jurisdictional approach to RSPO certification

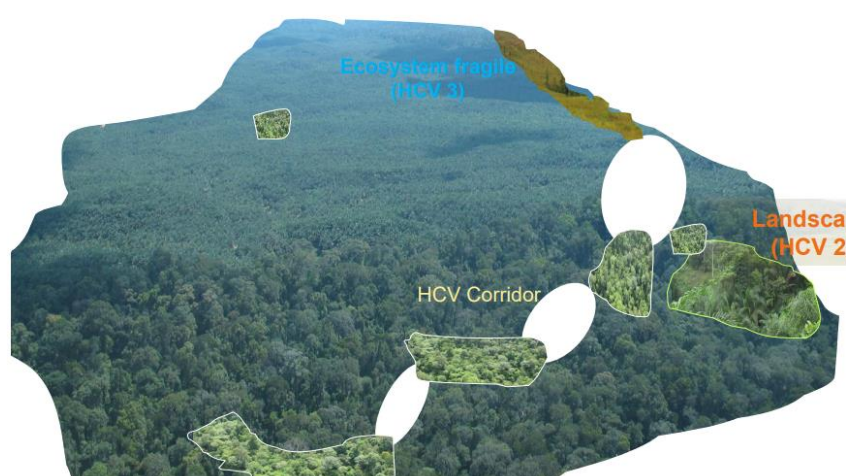
**Resources:** under development, to guide application of P&C at jurisdictional scale





**Themes:** same covered by RSPO

<https://rspo.org/about/supporting-bodies/jurisdictional-working-group>

**Insights:** potential to provide insights for supply chain transparency pillar in VSA on how to connect committed end buyers to compliant landscapes

### Integrated Conservation Areas

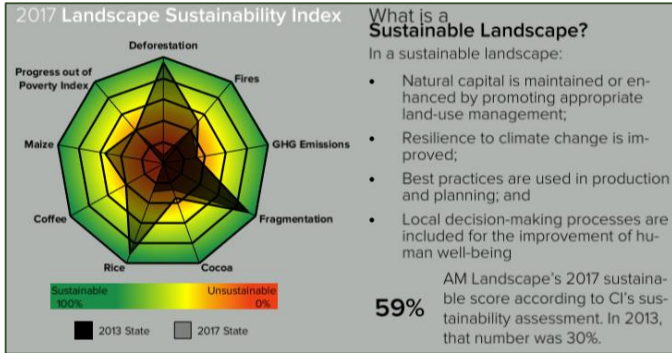


Smallholder Group	Facilitator	Market Player		
<p>If you are part of an oil palm smallholder group and are seeking potential financial or non-financial support, we invite you to participate in this platform. It provides an opportunity for you to connect with facilitators or market players and create more awareness about your project.</p>				
Country	Project Status	Group Status	Smallholders Category	Type of Support
 Solidaridad Indonesia Funding	 Seed Change Tanzania Tanzania Supply Chain Partner	 Cooperatives in Cote D'Ivoire Côte d'Ivoire Funding	 Gapoktan Tanjung Sehat Indonesia Funding	>

<http://rsep.rspo.org/>

# Case Study

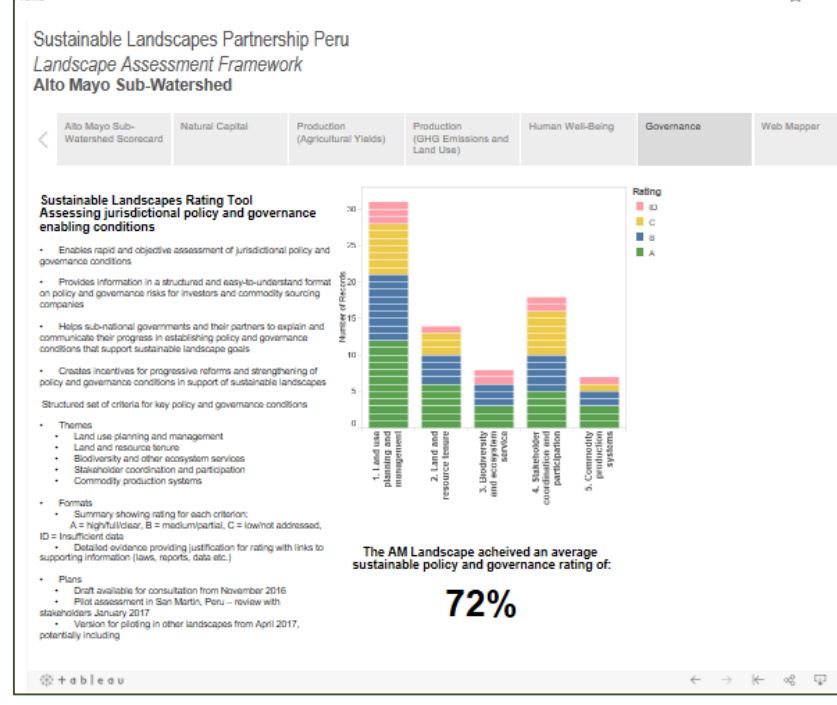
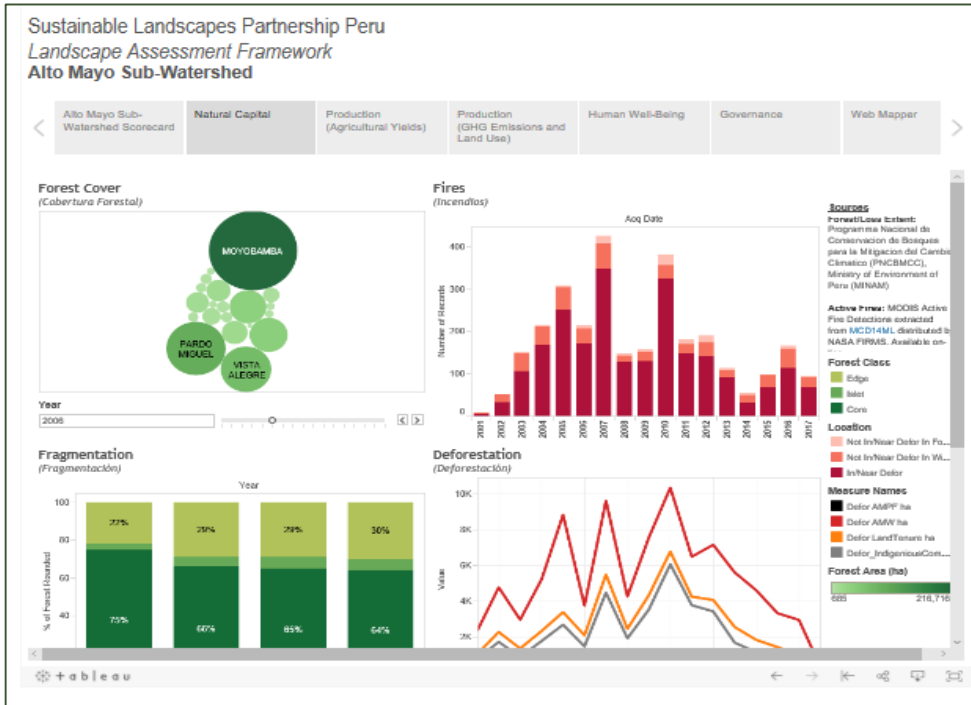
# Carbon Fund: Alto Mayo, Peru



**Description:** Platform presents state of natural capital, production and well being using appealing visuals.

**Themes covered:** CCBA tool is used to assess Governance theme, presenting a final rating for the jurisdiction.

<https://public.tableau.com/profile/carbon.fund#!/>



## Resources and related initiatives

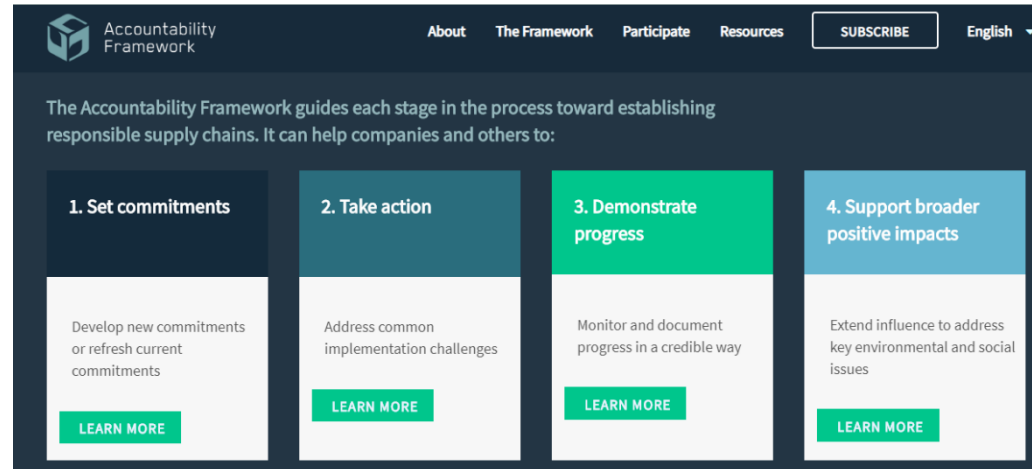
# Accountability Framework initiative (AFi)

**Description:** The Accountability Framework initiative is a collaborative effort to establish common definitions, norms, and good practices for delivering on companies' ethical supply chain commitments.

**Resources:** Core Principles, Operational Guidances (under development)

**Themes:** deforestation, conversion, and human rights.

<https://accountability-framework.org/resources/>



The screenshot shows the website for the Accountability Framework. The header includes the logo, navigation links (About, The Framework, Participate, Resources), a SUBSCRIBE button, and a language dropdown (English). The main content area features a introductory paragraph: "The Accountability Framework guides each stage in the process toward establishing responsible supply chains. It can help companies and others to:". Below this are four columns representing the stages of the framework:

1. Set commitments	2. Take action	3. Demonstrate progress	4. Support broader positive impacts
Develop new commitments or refresh current commitments	Address common implementation challenges	Monitor and document progress in a credible way	Extend influence to address key environmental and social issues
<a href="#">LEARN MORE</a>	<a href="#">LEARN MORE</a>	<a href="#">LEARN MORE</a>	<a href="#">LEARN MORE</a>

**Insights:** Afi could be useful for further development of the pillar on "committed end buyer", providing guidance for companies to support jurisdictional initiatives

## Resources and related initiatives

# Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) 2020

**Description:** Initiative to support the commitments of TFA 2020 partners to reduce deforestation in tropical forest countries.

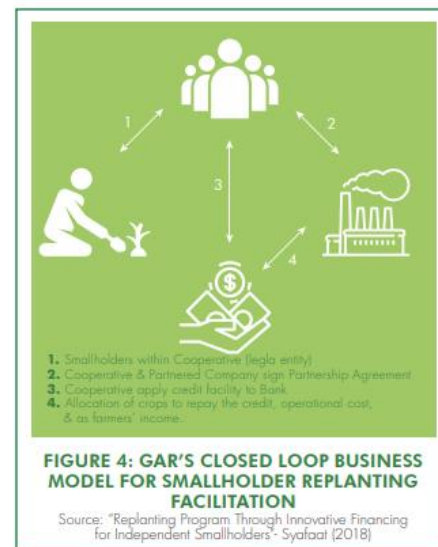
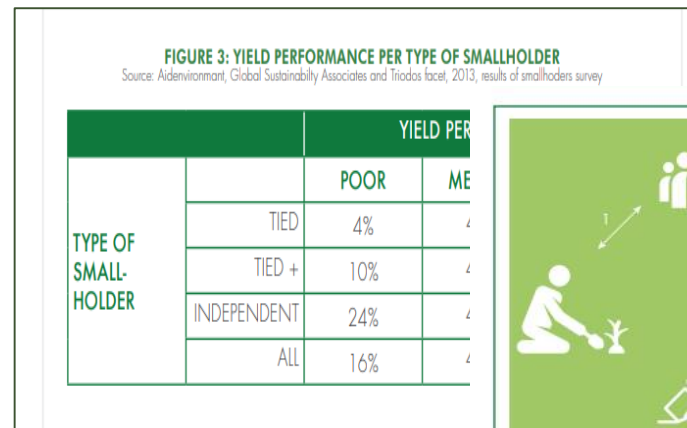
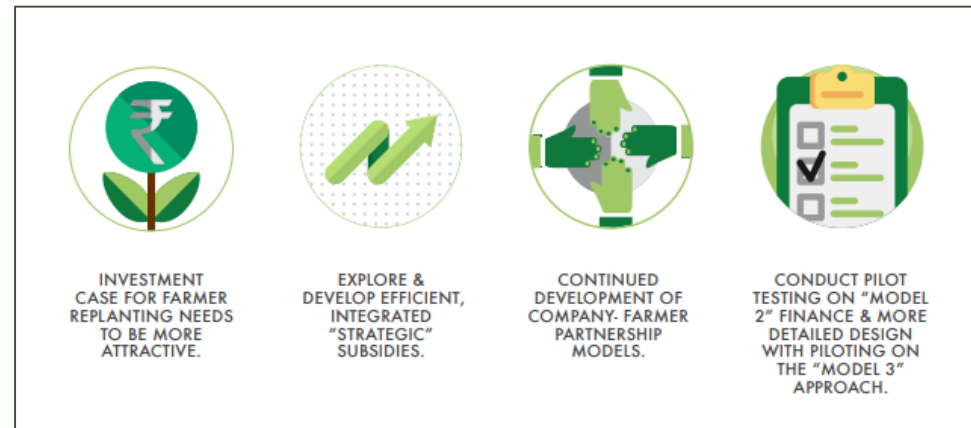
**Resources:** initiatives online map, commodities jurisdictional publications.

**Themes:** forest conservation, agricultural land use, land tenure and monitoring of tropical deforestation

<https://www.tfa2020.org/en/featured/jurisdictional-approach/>

<https://www.tfa2020.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/TFA2020-Innovative-Replanting-Models-2018-online.pdf>

**Insights:** TFA is working with Consumer Goods Forum to support linkages between companies and landscapes



## Resources and related initiatives

# Balikpapan Jurisdictional Framework

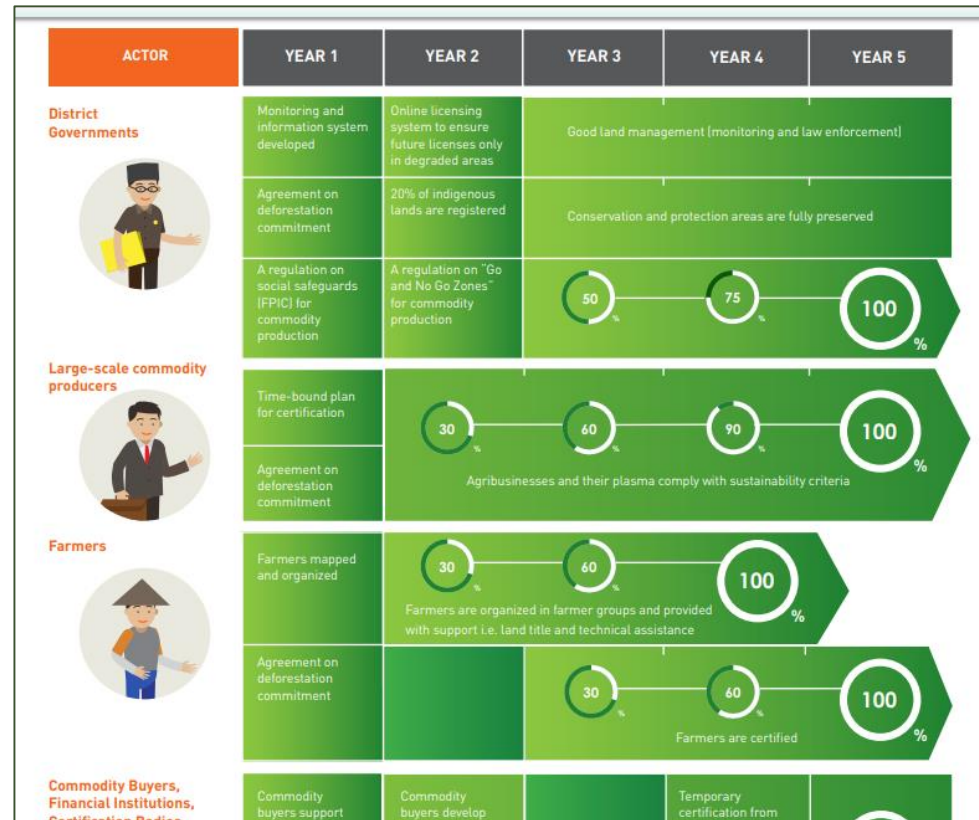
**Description:** multi-phase process to find real and practical ways for reducing deforestation and fighting climate change.

**Resources:** linked to [GCF knowledge database](#) and State jurisdictional report; not yet clear how it will be operationalized

**Themes:** sustainable commodities; financing; and indigenous communities

<http://inobu.org/balikpapan/>

<http://newsite.inobu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/INOBU-FS-5-Jurisdiction.pdf>



**Insights:** provides guidance and examples of milestones and expected roles of different stakeholders that can be useful to VSA Compact Design and Implementation

## Resources and related initiatives

# EI State of Jurisdictional Sustainability

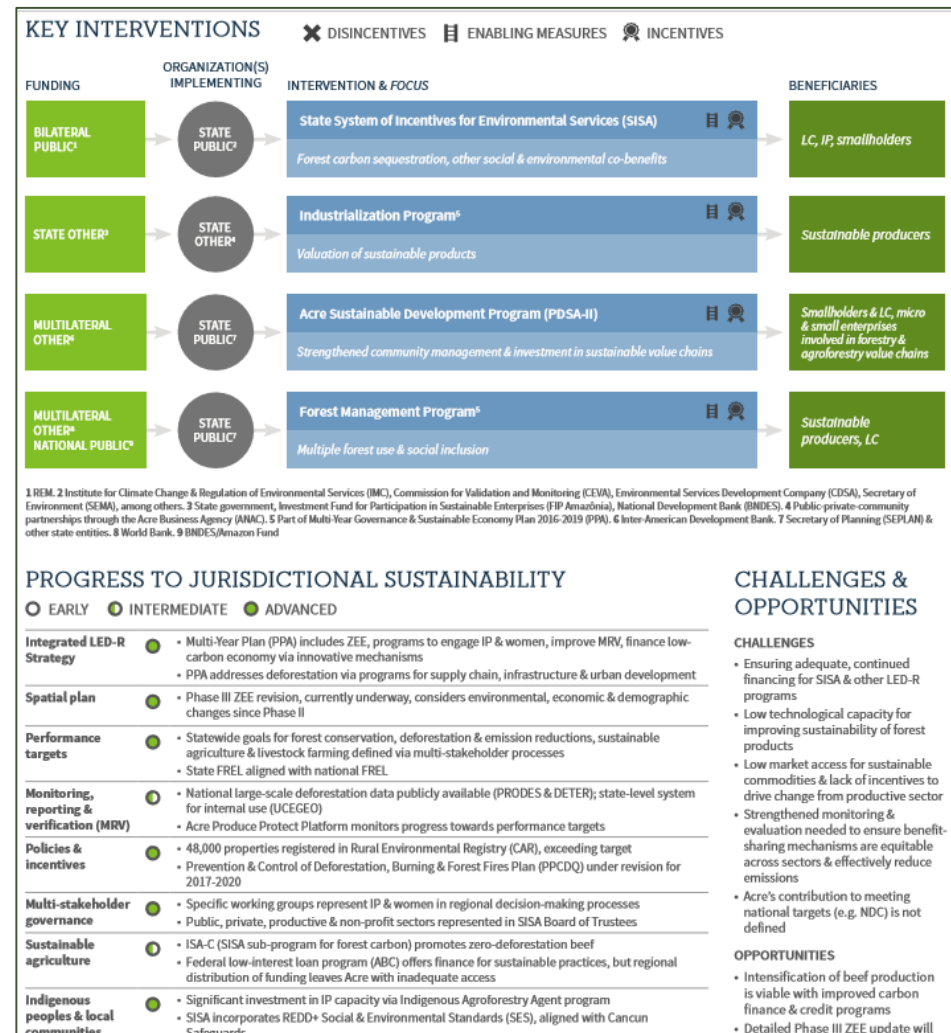
**Description:** analytical profiles and synthesis of jurisdictional sustainability of 39 jurisdictions

**Resources:** maps, infographics, present progress in different themes

**Themes:** overview indicators, MRV, goals, strategy, governance, finance, indigenous people, sustainable agriculture

<https://earthinnovation.org/state-of-jurisdictional-sustainability/>

**Insights:** reference to develop overview of compact, to present summary of action plan and to assess quality of compact outcomes.



# Summary of key insights

- To reward early progress, which is crucial to maintaining momentum, performance metrics need to incorporate process indicators (planning, agreeing on goals, setting baseline);
- Inclusive, multistakeholder platforms that include local government are essential to provide structures and mechanisms for developing local compacts, driving progress and reporting and verification.
- Both consistent global standards and local adaptation are necessary in order to allow comparisons between landscapes and to allow application of the standard for local conditions
- A credible assurance model is needed and it needs to be appropriate to type of issue, risk profile, assessment tools available, and scale
- Key challenges: variable individual progress within a landscape, lack of progress and regression, attribution of outcomes to supply chain actors
- Need for clear incentives for local producers, that could be promoted by including goals on improving productivity and/or improving farmer livelihoods