



# Company Assessment Methodology 2020

How are the 350 companies in the Forest 500 assessed?

**About the Forest 500:**

Forest 500, a Global Canopy project, identifies and ranks the most influential companies and financial institutions in the race towards a deforestation-free global economy.

**Contact:**

To contact the Forest 500 team please write to [forest500@globalcanopy.org](mailto:forest500@globalcanopy.org)

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**About Global Canopy:**

Global Canopy is an innovative environmental organisation that targets the market forces destroying tropical forests. Since 2001, we have been testing new approaches to tackling deforestation, and guiding companies, investors and governments worldwide to think differently about our planet's forests. See: [www.globalcanopy.org](http://www.globalcanopy.org)

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## COMPANY ASSESSMENTS

The Forest 500 company assessment methodology is used to annually rank the 350 companies that have the greatest influence within global forest risk commodity (FRC) supply chains. Each year, the below indicators are used to track the progress of commitments towards addressing potential deforestation in palm oil, soy, beef, leather, timber, and pulp and paper supply chains, as relevant to each company's operations. For further explanation as to how companies are selected, and identified as 'powerbrokers' please see the Forest 500 Selection Methodology<sup>a</sup>.

Companies are assessed against the information which has been made publicly available on their websites, or through reporting portals such as CDP Forests and certification schemes<sup>b</sup>. In all cases only sources published publicly by the company itself are accepted. Wherever possible companies are assessed in their native language to allow for subjectivities in language.

This methodology was created in 2014 and has been reviewed annually by Global Canopy and external experts working on these issues, to ensure that it continues to reflect best practice in company action on deforestation. Scores are automatically calculated according to how answers are categorised by the assessor as per the methodology in this document.

Companies are assessed against four categories. Companies are assessed against three categories. Their **Overall approach** including information on the company and its exposure to forest risk is collected once for the entire company, then for each commodity the **content of commitments** including scope and ambition is scored. The transparency of each company in **reporting** progress against commodity commitments and **implementation** is scored. Companies are scored out of 100 points, with the following point breakdown forming each score:

COMMITMENT AREA	MAXIMUM POINTS
1. Overall approach	16
2. Content of commitments	28
3. Social Considerations	18
4. Reporting and Implementation	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

Companies receive both a Total Score and a Commodity Score for the commodities they are assessed for. The Commodity score is made up of the answers to sections 2-4 for a specific commodity and thus sections 2-4 are repeated for the number of commodities a company is assessed for. In addition to the answers to the indicators themselves, which produce the scores for each company, we also collect additional information for each indicator which does **not** impact the companies' scores.

To calculate the total score for a company, a company's commodity scores (for sections 2-4) are averaged across all commodities they are assessed for – with commodities the company is a powerbroker for being given twice the weighting<sup>c</sup> – allowing us to gauge the level of ambition and progress across a company's entire operations.

### How does Forest 500 assess company subsidiaries?

Forest 500 always assess companies at the holding company level first, as we expect these large companies to have deforestation policies which they apply to all of their operations and subsidiaries – not exclusively the subsidiary with their largest exposure to Forest Risk Commodities. As a result of this, we always assess the 350 holding companies first.

<sup>a</sup> For further details, see the Forest 500 Selection Methodology available here: <https://forest500.org/about/how-do-we-rank-500>

<sup>b</sup> Only accepted for indicators 4.1, 4.2, and 4.9

<sup>c</sup> See 'Changes since last year: weighting of commodity scores' for more detail

If we find the holding company does not have any commitments, we will then look to the subsidiaries through which they are exposed to the forest risk commodities. We assess subsidiary information for some of our indicators (1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3) and the company will lose points for the scope of any commitments. We will not assess a subsidiary company for other indicators, where we do not collect the scope and where it is important that the whole company is covered.

### How does Forest 500 assess retailers?

Retailers are assessed for private label products rather than the products sold by the company but are owned and branded by a third party. Retailers are included in the Forest 500 due to market share of own brand banner sales, while third party producers of products are assessed as manufacturers if the company does not directly retail its own goods.

## Changes since last year

### Alignment with AFT's Common Methodology

This year, the Forest 500 company methodology was aligned with the Common Methodology<sup>d</sup> of the Accountability Framework Initiative<sup>e</sup>. The methodology was developed by a group of reporting and assessment initiatives including CDP Forests, Ceres, Global Canopy, Forest Trends/Supply Change, World Resources Institute/Global Forest Watch Pro, Zoological Society of London/SPOTT, Proforest, and Climate Advisers, led by The Meridian Institute, Climate Focus, and Rainforest Alliance on behalf of the Accountability Framework Initiative. Forest 500 has adopted the majority of the Common Methodology, remaining differences are summarised in the tables below:

#### Additional Forest 500 indicators

NUMBER	ORIGINAL INDICATOR
1.1	Company-wide commitment to achieve deforestation-free and/or conversion-free production and/or procurement for all high risk commodity supply chains
1.2	Signatory to or member of voluntary initiatives seeking to end or reduce soft commodity driven deforestation
1.3	Awareness of the importance of protecting forest ecosystems
2.2	Pulp and paper: Commitment to reduce the amount of virgin wood fibre content used for paper and board materials
	Palm oil: Commitment to exclude products originating from new developments of palm oil on high carbon stock (HCS) areas and/or peatlands of any depth
2.6	Commitment that addresses gender equality issues in relation to suppliers

#### Excluded Common Methodology indicators

Common Methodology ID	ORIGINAL INDICATOR	Why indicator was excluded
1.1a	What percentage of the company's annual revenue depends on each commodity?	This information is not publically available.
7.6	What is the maximum potential deforestation or conversion in the sourcing region that can be attributed to material in the company's	This indicator is crucial in efforts to halt commodity-driven tropical deforestation. However, the Forest 500 companies are not at the stage where they would publicly report

<sup>d</sup> a set of norms and guidance on ethical supply chains developed by a coalition of civil society partners.

<sup>e</sup> <https://accountability-framework.org/>

supply chain, and what methodology is used to calculate that estimation?	this information. For now, this indicator will be excluded, with this decision being reviewed every year.
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## Upstream and downstream companies assessed differently

As part of the alignment with the Common Methodology, the Forest 500 company methodology now assesses companies differently in the Implementation and Reporting section depending on whether they are an upstream or downstream company for each specific commodity. This change in methodology reflects the different roles these companies play in supply chains, and the best practice they should follow as a result.

Upstream companies are those which are producers or processors for a specific commodity, while downstream companies are defined as traders, manufacturers, or retailers.

## Weighting of commodity scores

In addition to updating our company assessment methodology in 2020, we have also adjusted the weighting of a company’s overall score. Previously, to calculate the total score for a company, a company’s commodity scores (for sections 2-4) are averaged across all commodities they are assessed for – allowing us to gauge the level of ambition and progress across a company’s entire operations.

In 2020, a company’s commodity scores are still averaged across all commodities they are assessed for, but the score for the commodities they are powerbrokers for are double-weighted. This means that the commodities which a company uses more of make up a higher proportion of their overall score, providing a better reflection of a company’s action on tropical deforestation.

In light of this, Forest 500 assesses companies for all of the six forest-risk commodities (palm oil, soy, timber, pulp and paper, beef, and leather) that they are exposed to throughout their supply chains – regardless of the extent of their exposure to each specific commodity. This holds the 350 companies with the greatest influence on tropical deforestation accountable for their influence on tropical deforestation.

## OVERALL APPROACH

Indicators 1.1 through 1.10 are assessed once per company.

NUMBER	INDICATOR	POINTS
1.1	Company-wide commitment to achieve deforestation-free and/or conversion-free production and/or procurement for all high risk commodity supply chains	Total points available: 6
Guidance	<p><i>The commitment must be <b>company-wide</b> (i.e. must be at the parent company level and apply to all operations and sourcing/production) and apply to at least <b>all high risk commodities</b> that a company produces and/or procures, namely soy, palm oil, beef, leather, timber, and pulp and paper.</i></p> <p><i><b>Conversion-free/zero-gross conversion/zero-net conversion</b> is understood as no conversion of natural ecosystems anywhere (also referred to as zero/zero gross conversion), <b>deforestation-free</b> is understood as no loss of natural forests anywhere (also referred to as zero/zero gross deforestation), while <b>zero net deforestation</b> is understood as a commitment to offset forest loss through forest restoration. Commitments through certification alone do not score for this indicator.</i></p> <p><i>To score points the company must <b>commit</b> to one of these approaches and cannot aim to ‘reduce deforestation’ through these means.</i></p> <p><i>Where companies are members of the Consumer Goods Forum or signatories to the New York Declaration on Forests, a commitment to address forest loss related to the company's own operations and supply chains must be stated to score points here. Some interpretation has been required where companies have not used the terms ‘zero’ or ‘zero net’ in their commitments; for example, commitments to ‘eliminate’ deforestation are interpreted as deforestation-free.</i></p>	
Answer options	Zero-gross/zero-net commitment or a zero deforestation/deforestation-free commitment that explicitly includes all other natural ecosystems	6
	Zero deforestation/Deforestation-free commitment or, for timber, pulp & paper companies only, commitment to well implemented harvest and no deforestation of HCV & HCS areas	4
	Zero net deforestation or, for soy, palm oil, leather and beef companies only, no deforestation of HCV and HCS forests	2
	Commodity-specific commitment - commitment that does not apply to all of the commodities the company is exposed to	0
	No overarching deforestation commitment	0
Extra details	Which commodities does the commodity-specific commitment apply to?	NA

1.2	Signatory to or member of voluntary initiatives seeking to end or reduce soft commodity driven deforestation	Total points available: 1
Guidance	<p><i>The company is a signatory to or an active member of one or more voluntary initiatives that seek to end or reduce soft commodity deforestation.</i></p> <p><i>Including: Consumer Goods Forum Deforestation resolution (being a member of the CGF is not sufficient), New York Declaration on Forests, Soy Moratorium, Cerrado Manifesto Statement of Support, G4 Cattle Agreement, Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 partner, Global Agribusiness Alliance, Palm Oil Innovation Group, World Business Council for Sustainable Development Forest Solutions Group, UN Global Compact, WWF Global Forest &amp; Trade Network, High Conservation Value Resource Network, Natural Capital Coalition, or similar initiatives focused on ending or reducing soft commodity driven deforestation in relation to high risk commodities (soy, palm oil, beef, leather, timber, and pulp and paper).</i></p> <p><i>Other initiatives than listed can be accepted as long as they are "seeking to end or reduce soft commodity driven deforestation".</i></p> <p><i>A company can score for this indicator if a subsidiary exposed to the forest-risk commodities is a signatory to or a member of voluntary initiatives seeking to end or reduce soft commodity driven deforestation.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	1
	No	0
1.3	Awareness of the importance of protecting forest ecosystems	Total points available: 1
Guidance	<p><i>The company shows an understanding of the services <b>forests</b> provide and risks associated with forest conversion, including, but not limited to, for communities, livelihoods, resource and land rights, ecosystems, climate regulation, water security, health security, biodiversity, and/or habitats.</i></p> <p><i>Use of the term 'high conservation value forest' is accepted as it implies an understanding of the importance of forests. Awareness is demonstrated through statements in company communications (e.g. company web pages, annual reports, policy documents).</i></p> <p><i>A company can score for this indicator if a subsidiary exposed to the forest-risk commodities shows an awareness of the importance of forest ecosystems.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	1
	No	0

1.4	Does the company identify deforestation as a business risk?	Total points available: 1
Guidance	<p><i>The company recognises that deforestation poses a risk to the company and/or industry itself. Business risk can be recognised in multiple ways, including but not limited to financial, operational, competition, or reputational risk.</i></p> <p><i>This risk can be identified using terms including 'risk', 'threat', and 'impact', as well as through language acknowledging the potential future impact of deforestation on the company, including those suggesting that the company is adapting to respond to environmental issues caused by deforestation.</i></p> <p><i>A company can score for this indicator if a subsidiary exposed to the forest-risk commodities identifies deforestation as a business risk.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	1
	No	0
Extra details	Does the company recognise the risk as financial, operational, competition, reputational, or other? Please detail.	NA
1.5	Does the company's board have a committee or is there a high-level management position that is formally focused on deforestation-related issues?	Total points available: 1
Guidance	<p><i>The company has a committee, working group, or a management position dedicated to deforestation-related issues, or the sustainable sourcing of forest-risk commodities. The committee, working group, or management position, must be mandated to focus on either deforestation or sustainable sourcing related issues for at least one, but ideally all, forest-risk commodities.</i></p> <p><i>To score for this indicator, the company must explicitly state that the committee, working group, or management position works on issues on forests or deforestation.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	1
	No	0
Extra details	How often does the committee or board meet to assess company's progress on addressing deforestation-related issues?	NA
	Which commodities does it apply to?	NA

1.6	Does the company link executive compensation to deforestation-related issues?	Total points available: 0
Guidance	<p><b><i>This is a non-scoring indicator.</i></b></p> <p><i>The company must disclose whether the compensation for company executives is connected to, determined by, or associated with the company's impact on deforestation, or connected issues. A clear connection must be made between executive compensation and company performance relating to deforestation.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes, for all commodities	NA
	Yes, for at least one commodity	NA
	No	NA
Extra details	Does it disclose the percentage of pay at risk?	NA
1.7	Target to reduce GHG emissions from Land use change in their operations/Supply chain?	Total points available: 3
Guidance	<p><i>For producers, this indicator applies directly to their operations. For operators at later supply chain stages, this is related to commodity sourcing.</i></p> <p><i>Companies must explicitly refer to 'land use' in their GHG emissions reduction target to score for this indicator, regardless of their stage in the supply chain.</i></p> <p><i>To be considered a target, the commitment must have a numerical element, e.g. a measurable target or deadline.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	3
	No	0

1.8	Total amount of GHG emissions in metric tons of CO <sub>2</sub> -equivalent, arising from land use change (including deforestation, conversion, and draining of peatland or wetlands)	Total points available: 3
Guidance	<p><i>For producers, this reporting is related to a company's own operations (direct; Scope 1). For operators at later supply chain stages, this reporting should relate to land use change in their commodity supply chains (indirect; Scope 3).</i></p> <p><i>Companies must explicitly refer to 'land use' in their GHG emissions reduction target to score for this indicator, regardless of their stage in the supply chain.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	3
	No	0
Extra details	Which method is used to calculate the GHG emissions arising from land use change?	NA
	What is the total volume of GHG emissions arising from land use change?	NA
1.9	Does the company disclose how many hectares of conservation area are being supported or facilitated by the company on land it does not own or manage?	Total points available: 0
Guidance	<p><b><i>This is a non-scoring indicator.</i></b></p> <p><i>The company must disclose a numerical value noting the total or partial area of conservation area being supported or facilitated by the company on land <b>outside</b> of their direct operations. This can include conservation area supported as part of a project, either by the individual company or in conjunction with other stakeholders.</i></p> <p><i>To be counted for this indicator, the conserved area must be in tropical regions/forests. If not specified, it will be assumed that the conserved area is located in tropical regions, as this is where the company is primarily exposed to tropical deforestation.</i></p> <p><i>To score for this indicator the disclosure must have been in the last two reporting periods (2018, 2019 or 2020 if reports are already available).</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	NA
	No	NA
Extra details	How many hectares of conservation area are being supported or facilitated by the company on land it does not own or manage?	NA

1.10	Does the company report how many hectares of reforestation or restoration are being or have been conducted or facilitated by the company?	Total points available: 0
Guidance	<p><b><i>This is a non-scoring indicator.</i></b></p> <p><i>The company must disclose a numerical value noting the total or partial area of reforestation or restoration being conducted or facilitated by the company itself. This can include areas that have been reforested or restored as part of a project, and does not have to be on land owned by the company.</i></p> <p><i>To be counted for this indicator, the restored or reforested area must be in tropical regions/forests. If not specified, it will be assumed that the restored or reforested area is located in tropical regions, as this is where the company is primarily exposed to tropical deforestation.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	NA
	No	NA
Extra details	How many hectares of reforestation or restoration are being or have been conducted or facilitated by the company?	NA

## CONTENT OF COMMITMENTS

Companies are only assessed for their commitments for the commodities relevant to their operations.

NUMBER	INDICATOR	POINTS
2.1	Company has a commitment to exclude production or procurement of products originating from natural forests, , and/or high conservation value areas, OR a commitment to produce and/or procure sustainably produced commodities	Total points available: 8
Guidance	<p><i>The commitment states that the company will not source from one or more of the landscape definitions below. Commitments that state the company will or plans to only source commodities whose production is certified by a credible certification scheme that protects one or more of these landscape types are accepted. Companies relying on several certification schemes must state a preference for one that is credible.</i></p> <p><i>Commitments are categorised into:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Conversion-free commitment/Zero conversion: commitment to commodity production or sourcing that prevents clearing or conversion of any native vegetation, beyond just forests.</i></li> <li>- <i>Forest-related commitment, subcategorised into: NDPE, Zero deforestation, or Zero net deforestation commitment, Commitment to the protection of priority forest types (Primary/natural/intact forests or high conservation value forests or commitment to credible certification schemes that protect one of more of the priority forest types).</i></li> <li>- <i>Sustainability commitment: commitments to produce or procure ‘sustainably’ or ‘responsibly’ produced commodities. Or commitment to certification that is not listed as credible under this methodology.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Commitments under this indicator are classified under these categories to enable differentiation among companies on the level of ambition of commitments falling under this indicator. If a company has multiple commitments under this indicator, only the strongest commitment is scored.</i></p> <p><i>Certification schemes can score for this indicator, providing the company has committed to certification. Solely being a member of a certification scheme/body does not score for this indicator. (see notes on commodity commitments page 6 for accepted schemes)</i></p> <p><i>The company must state the specific commodity by name. General statements will not score for this indicator.</i></p>	
Answer options	Zero-gross conversion	8
	Zero-net conversion	7

	Zero-gross deforestation	6
	Zero-net deforestation	5
	Protects priority forests (including High Conservation Value, primary, intact forests)	4
	Sustainability commitment	2
	No commitment	0
Extra details	Which certification schemes are used?	NA
	Does the company have a commitment to the protection of other specific named ecosystems? Including: Savannah, Mangroves, HCS, Peat, etc.	NA
	<b>(For downstream soy companies only)</b> Does the company commitment also explicitly apply to hidden/indirect soy?	NA
2.2 Commodity-specific	Pulp and paper: Commitment to reduce the amount of virgin wood fibre content used for paper and board materials	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<i>Pulp and paper: The commitment states the company will reduce the volume of virgin wood fibre used in paper and packaging products through usage of recycled content, efficient use leading to a reduction of material inputs, or use of alternative fibres that consider full life cycle, biodiversity, and food security impacts.</i>	
Answer options	Yes	4
	No	0
Extra details	Reduce the volume of virgin wood fibre used in paper and packaging products through usage of recycled content	NA
	Reduction of material inputs	NA
	Use of alternative fibres that consider full life cycle, biodiversity, and food security impacts	NA

2.2 Commodity-specific	Palm oil: Commitment to exclude products originating from new developments of palm oil on high carbon stock (HCS) areas and/or peatlands of any depth	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>Palm oil: The commitment states the company will not source palm oil produced on high carbon stock (HCS) land and/or peatlands of any depth (i.e. setting no limit on depth).</i></p> <p><i>A commitment to RSPO certification is considered as a commitment for this indicator, due to the NDPE requirement introduced in October 2018.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	4
	No	0
Extra details	Does the commitment apply to HCS?	NA
	Does the commitment apply to peatlands?	NA
2.3	Commitment to develop and implement supply chain traceability systems	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>Traceability is an important tool for companies to ensure compliance of their supply chains with their commitments.</i></p> <p><i>'Full traceability' varies for companies at different stages in the supply chain. For producers, processors, and traders, it is defined as the ability to follow a product back to production level (i.e. farm, estate, plantation, ranch or forest management unit). For manufacturers and retailers, it is defined as tracing supplies upstream to a level where they are able to ascertain compliance or detect non-compliance with their sourcing commitments.</i></p> <p><i>To be awarded full points, companies must have a commitment to develop a company-specific system to achieve full traceability or, as a minimum, full traceability for all high risk tropical forest regions as defined by the company (due to the unique footprint of each company's operations). Manufacturers and retailers that commit to establishing traceability to at least first importer without specifying additional compliance assurances (as described above) are awarded half points.</i></p> <p><i>Companies must be committing to implement their own traceability system; they cannot score for use of a certification schemes chain of custody system or for asking their suppliers to implement a system.</i></p>	
	Traces to Point of production	4
	Downstream company, traces to Processing Facility, checks compliance	4
	Downstream company, traces to Processing Facility, no compliance check	2
	Upstream company, traces to Processing Facility	0

	Downstream company, traces to First Importer, checks compliance	4
	Downstream company, traces to First Importer, no compliance check	2
	Upstream company, traces to First Importer	0
	Downstream company, traces to Importer, checks compliance	0
	Downstream company, traces to Importer, no compliance check	0
	Upstream company, traces to Importer	0
	Downstream company, traces to Tier 1 supplier, checks compliance	0
	Downstream company, traces to Tier 1 supplier, no compliance check	0
	Upstream company, traces to Tier 1 supplier	0
	No traceability commitment	0

**Note:** Indicators 2.1 and 2.3 are weighted higher for timber, soy, beef and leather for a total of 16 points across this category since we do not have a commodity-specific indicator (2.2) for these commodities.

## SCOPE OF COMMITMENTS

**Indicators 3.1-3.6 are repeated for individual commodity commitments assessed in Section 2.** Points are then scaled to share the maximum score across all of the commitments in Section 2. Indicators 3.1 to 3.3 are assessed once for each 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3 commitment in Section 2. If a company does not have a commitment, they cannot be scored for these indicators.

NUMBER	INDICATOR	POINTS
3.1	Does the commitment apply to all of the company's sourcing regions or operations?	Total points available: 6
Guidance	<p><i>Where commitments are made by the parent company, and do not specifically exclude any sourcing regions or operations, the commitment is taken to apply to all of the company's sourcing regions or operations.</i></p> <p><i>Where commitments appear on a subsidiary company's website and the subsidiary covers the company's relevant sourcing regions and operations, the commitment has also been interpreted as applying to all sourcing regions and operations.</i></p> <p><i>Where commitments appear on a subsidiary company's website and the subsidiary is not the parent company's only operations in that commodity then the commitment does not apply to all sourcing regions or operations.</i></p> <p><i>Commitments that only apply to products from specific ecosystems or regions, for example the Amazon, to 'rainforests', or to 'high risk areas', are considered not to apply to all sourcing regions.</i></p> <p><i>For retailers, commitments which apply to the entirety of the companies' own-brand products are considered as applying to all operations.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	6
	No	0
Extra details	If no, what is excluded?	NA
	Details of exclusions of segment, subsidiaries, product lines, locations or others are collected.	
	What is the rationale for any exclusions?	NA
	What percentage of commodity production/sourcing is excluded?	NA

3.2	Target date for full implementation of company commitment	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>The target date refers to the date by which the company plans to achieve its commitment. Commitments with no date target date are awarded no points. Commitments that are already achieved (fully implemented) are considered ‘current’.</i></p> <p><i>Commitments that have begun to be implemented but have not achieved the goal are not Current and should either specify the deadline or be awarded no points. If the target date for full implementation has passed and not been updated, and the target has not been achieved, the company is scored as having no target date.</i></p>	
Answer options	Current/2020	4
	2021	3-5
	2022	3
	2023	2.5
	2024	2
	2025	1.5
	2026	1
	2027-2030	0.5
	2031-2050	0
Extra details	What actions or steps are identified for time-bound implementation?	NA

3.3	Does the company have an interim milestone(s) included in their plan to achieve full implementation of the company commitment?	Total points available: 2
Guidance	<i>To score for this indicator, companies with commitments must also disclose interim time-bound milestone(s) for achieving their commitment. Commitments that are already achieved (fully implemented)/current score full points for this indicator, as do commitments with target dates of 2021 or earlier.</i>	
Answer options	Yes	2
	No	0
Extra detail	What date is given for the interim milestone(s)?	NA

## SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Indicators 2.4-2.8 are only assessed once per commodity. Companies can score in this section even if they have no commodity-specific commitments.

NUMBER	INDICATOR	POINTS
2.4	Commitment that addresses workers' rights in relation to suppliers	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>Companies can score points for this indicator regardless of if they have a commodity commitment assessed in indicator 2.1, 2.2, or 2.3. It is assessed once per commodity rather than being repeated for each commitment.</i></p> <p><i>For producers, this should also apply to smallholders or contractors.</i></p> <p><i>Commitments should state the company will require that the standards laid out in the United Nations (UN) International Labor Organization conventions, UN Declaration of Human Rights or UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are upheld, or use similar language specifying the fundamental principles and rights at work. These include: freedom of association and recognition of collective bargaining; the elimination of forced labour; the abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination.</i></p> <p><b>Companies must state all four fundamental principles or commit or explicitly state that they will operate in line with international standards containing all four principles to score points for this indicator.</b> Where one subsidiary is responsible for the company's commodity-usage, the commitment may appear on the subsidiary's website rather than the parent company's website.</p>	
Answer options	Yes	4
	No	0
Extra details	ILO, UNGP or UN Declaration of Human Rights	NA
	Right to be free from discrimination	NA
	Right to be free from child labour	NA
	Right to be free from forced labour	NA
	Right to freedom of association	NA

2.5	Does the company offer support to smallholder producers to help them enter responsible supply chains and/or achieve compliance with commitments?	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>Companies can score points for this indicator regardless of if they have a commodity commitment assessed in indicator 2.1, 2.2, or 2.3. It is assessed once per commodity rather than being repeated for each commitment.</i></p> <p><i>Commitments should focus on encouraging and/or increasing small-scale farmer participation in commodity supply chains and/or increasing investments and/or capacity in improving the yields and livelihoods of small-scale farmers in regions companies source from. This can include increasing the number of small-scale farmers they source from and providing training, financial, and/or technical support to increase the productivity and quality of small-scale farmer commodity production, encourage product diversification, and/or facilitate greater market access from small-scale farmers they source from. Commitments can also focus on developing long-term stable business partnerships with small-scale farmers and developing fair and transparent contracts that do not exploit small-scale farmers.</i></p> <p><i>Commitments can also include support for smallholders focused on achieving compliance with the companies' deforestation commitments or certification schemes relevant to the commodity.</i></p> <p><i>Companies are not awarded points where a commitment is associated with only one concession or area, is project-specific, or refers to a philanthropic community initiative.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	4
	No	0
Extra details	How many smallholders do they support, and what percentage does this represent in terms of their sourcing from smallholders?	NA
	What is the nature of that support? Certification, Technical assistance/support, Education and training, Economic, or Other	NA
2.6	Commitment that addresses gender equality issues in relation to suppliers	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>Companies can score points for this indicator regardless of if they have a commodity commitment assessed in indicator 2.1, 2.2, or 2.3. It is assessed once per commodity rather than being repeated for each commitment.</i></p> <p><i>For producers, this indicator applies directly to their operations. For operators at later supply chain stages, this is related to commodity sourcing. Companies are not awarded points where a commitment is associated with only one concession or area; is project-specific or refers to a philanthropic community initiative; or references gender equality without any further indication of a commitment to address these issues.</i></p> <p><i>Commitments to address labour and worker's rights through attention to sexual and gender-based harassment, equal pay and remuneration, and/or gender-based discrimination are a minimum bar and score 1 point. Companies that address gender related labour rights and <b>specifically refer to improving gender 'equality' as a whole</b> score half points.</i></p>	

	<p><i>Companies that commit to address the inclusion of women in their commodity supply chains score half points. This can include increasing sourcing of commodities from producers that are making an active effort to increase the participation of women in commodity supply chains, and addressing issues faced by women in agricultural supply chains including but not limited to securing land rights and increasing access to technology, financial services, training, and markets.</i></p> <p><b>To score full points for this indicator, the company must meet all of the above criteria.</b></p> <p><i>At Forest 500 we acknowledge that sex and gender are separate, and are not defined by the other. However, in the Forest 500 company assessment methodology due to the global scope of companies we are assessing, we do accept references to either sex or gender for this indicator.</i></p>	
Answer options	Commitment to address the inclusion of women and ensure equality in commodity supply chains	4
	Commitment to address the inclusion of women in commodity supply chains	2
	Commitment to address gender related labour rights <i>and</i> go beyond individual rights to commit to ensure <b>equality</b> of women in the supply chain	2
	Commitment to address gender related labour rights including discrimination and/or harassment	1
	No commitment	0
2.7	Does the company commit to taking measures to provide remediation where it has caused or contributed to harm related to deforestation or conversion?	Total points available: 2
Guidance	<p><i>Companies can score points for this indicator regardless of if they have a commodity commitment assessed in indicator 2.1, 2.2, or 2.3. It is assessed once per commodity rather than being repeated for each commitment.</i></p> <p><i>Providing remediation following an environmental or social harm can take vastly different forms depending on the harm. It can include remediation in the form of environmental restoration, payment, restoring polluted water supplies, but this list is non-exhaustive.</i></p> <p><i>A company does not have to detail a remediation response to a specific harm caused, but must commit to provide remediation in the instance of causing or contributing to harm.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	2
	No	0

2.8	Does the company commit to securing the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of potentially affected indigenous peoples and/or local communities prior to acquiring new interests in land or resources and prior to new developments or expansions?	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>Companies can score points for this indicator regardless of if they have a commodity commitment assessed in indicator 2.1, 2.2, or 2.3. It is assessed once per commodity rather than being repeated for each commitment.</i></p> <p><i>For producers, this indicator applies directly to their land holdings and/or operations. For operators at later supply chain stages, this is related to commodity sourcing.</i></p> <p><i>Use of the term FPIC in reference to indigenous people and/or local communities is required to score points under this indicator. To score full points for this indicator, companies must commit to securing FPIC prior to acquiring new interests, developments, or expansions, and also disclose how many land developments or site acquisitions indicated the use of FPIC.</i></p> <p><i>Companies are not awarded points where a commitment is associated with only one concession or area; is project-specific or refers to a philanthropic community initiative; or references human rights without any further indication of a process to address these rights.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes, the company commits to securing FPIC and the company discloses how many land developments or site acquisitions, by either itself or its suppliers, indicated the use of FPIC to secure consent of indigenous peoples/local communities	4
	Yes, the company commits to securing FPIC prior to acquiring new interests, developments, or expansions	2
	No	0
Extra details	What is the status of those FPIC processes?	NA
	What percentage/number of new interests, developments, or expansions has the company used FPIC to secure consent of indigenous peoples/local communities?	NA

## IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORTING

**Indicators 4.1 and 4.2 are repeated for individual commodity commitments assessed in Section 2.** Points are then scaled to share the maximum score across all of the commitments in Section 2.

NUMBER	INDICATOR	POINTS
4.1	Progress on commitment implementation is reported	Total points available: 6
Guidance	<p><i>Reporting can be available on the company's own site or via external portals such as CDP, or certification schemes. To be awarded points, companies must have reported on their own website within the last two years (2018-2020) or in at least one of the last two reporting periods for RSPO (2018 and/or 2019; 2020 if the report has already been released), RTRS (2018 and/or 2019; 2020 if the report has already been released).</i></p> <p><i>Qualitative reporting on implementation is accepted as well as quantitative reporting on progress.</i></p> <p><i>For indicator 2.2, the RSPO ACOP report can only be classed as progress reporting if it is data recorded in 2019 or later. This is due to the RSPO NDPE requirement only coming into place at the end of October 2018.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	6
	No	0
Extra details	Does the company report on the degree of compliance/progress with commitments, disaggregated by relevant factors such as origin or supply chain stage?	NA
	<b>(for 2.3 only)</b> What percentage of the commodity volume in the company's supply chain can be traced to origin in low-risk jurisdictions?	NA
	<b>(for 2.3 only)</b> What percentage of the commodity volume in the company's supply chain is traceable to applicable supply chain levels (e.g. direct suppliers/processing facility/production unit)?	NA
	<b>(for upstream companies 2.1 only)</b> How many hectares of deforestation and/or conversion have occurred since the commitment cut-off date on land owned, controlled, or managed by the company?	NA
	<b>(for upstream companies 2.1 only)</b> How much of this is in protected areas, primary forests, intact forest landscapes, and/or peatlands?	NA

	<b>(for downstream companies 2.1 only)</b> How many hectares of deforestation and/or conversion have occurred since the commitment cut-off date in the operations of the company's direct or indirect suppliers?	NA
	<b>(for downstream companies 2.1 only)</b> How much of this is in protected areas, primary forests, intact forest landscapes, and/or peatlands?	NA
	<b>(Upstream 2.1 only)</b> How many hectares of land owned, controlled or managed is certified?	NA
4.2	Progress on commitment implementation is verified	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>Progress towards meeting commitments is assessed and documented through verification processes that are conducted following norms of good practice for credibility, rigor and independence. This can be completed through internal company verification systems, existing control systems (e.g. credible certification schemes) or through other credible third-party verification processes e.g. auditing and verification of a company's reporting.</i></p> <p><i>To be awarded points, companies must have reported on their own website within the last two years (2018-2020) or in at least one of the last two reporting periods for RSPO (2018 and/or 2019; 2020 if the report has already been released), RTRS (2018 and/or 2019; 2020 if the report has already been released), and CDP (2018 and/or 2019; 2020 if the report has already been released).</i></p> <p><i>For indicator 2.2, the RSPO ACOP report can only be classed as progress reporting if it is data recorded in 2019 or later. This is due to the RSPO NDPE requirement only coming into place at the end of October 2018.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes, using a third-party verification scheme or certification scheme.	4
	Yes, using an internal verification system.	2
	No	0
Extra details	Which tools, approaches, third-party verification, including certification, schemes are used?	NA
	Which processes or groups does the company use for third party verification?	NA
	Is the performance of compliance of some suppliers, sources, or origins not verified, and if so why not?	NA
	What percent of the company's supply volume is verified using company verification systems?	NA
	For what percent of the company's supply volume is third-party verification of performance relative to commitments conducted?	NA

**Indicators 4.3 to 4.8 are only assessed once per commodity, and apply to all companies regardless of their stage in the supply chain, e.g. producer, processor, trader, manufacturer, or retailer.**

NUMBER	INDICATOR	POINTS
4.3	Does the commitment specify a cut-off date for deforestation, conversion, or other actions that would be considered non-compliant?	Total points available: 2
Guidance	<i>This indicator assesses whether a company specifies a cut-off date for deforestation or conversion in their supply chain. Clearance after the cut-off date would render a given area or production unit non-compliant with the company's commitment.</i>	
Answer options	Yes	2
	No	0
Extra details	What cut-off date is specified?	NA
4.4	The company reports on their participation in collaborative actions to advance sustainability in the production or use of this commodity with multiple stakeholders or jurisdictional partners	Total points available: 2
Guidance	<i>The company reports on their active participation in collaborative activities to advance sustainable commodity production including but not limited to participation in industry schemes (e.g. Palm Oil Innovation Group, Global Agribusiness Alliance), NGO-private sector initiatives (e.g. Collaboration for Forests and Agriculture), jurisdictional approaches, and/or collaborations with local communities/governments. Any collaborative actions must have taken place between 2018 and 2020, and must be commodity specific.</i> <i>To be counted for this indicator, collaborative actions must have revolved around tropical regions/forests. If not specified, it will be assumed that the collaborative action was related to tropical regions, as this is where the company is primarily exposed to tropical deforestation. Consultancies cannot score for this indicator.</i>	
Answer options	Yes	2
	No	0
Extra details	What initiatives does the company participate in?	NA
	What is the nature of that participation? Attending & contributing to meetings, Providing support/ advice/ experience/ expertise, Providing financial support or Providing technical capacity.	NA

4.5	Does the company conduct commodity-specific risk assessments related to forest risk?	Total points available: 2
Guidance	<p><i>The company must commit to conducting risk-assessments for their operations, which explicitly includes forests or deforestation. This can include HCV/HCS assessments.</i></p> <p><i>If a company commits to conducting risk-assessments for all of their operations, regardless of commodity, it is assumed that they are doing so for all commodities, and will receive full points for each commodity-specific 4.5 indicator.</i></p> <p><i>Companies must have scored for 2.1 to score for this indicator.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	2
	No	0
Extra details	For what percentage of material produced or sourced by the company has forest risk been assessed?	NA
	How frequently are assessments conducted?	NA
4.6	Does the company conduct assessments to ensure that their operations and supply chains comply with all applicable laws?	Total points available: 2
Guidance	<p><i>The company must evidence that they are ensuring that their operations and supply chains comply with all applicable local, regional, national, and international laws. This can include the disclosure of a process to conduct assessments, how frequently these assessments are conducted, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Companies which state that all of their companies comply with all applicable laws, or commit to ensuring this but do not disclose a process, cannot score for this indicator.</i></p> <p><i>Companies do not need to have scored for 2.1 to score for this indicator.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	2
	No	0

4.7	Does the company have grievance mechanisms in place to identify and remedy adverse social and environmental impacts linked to their operations and/or supply chain?	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>Companies are assessed for whether they have a system in place to identify and resolve complaints and conflicts. Companies must have their own mechanism and cannot score here for a policy to require their suppliers to have a grievance mechanism.</i></p> <p><i>The mechanism should be open to everyone and allow environmental and/or social issues in their supply chain to be reported (i.e. not a system for their employees to report issues on their direct operations). The assessment team must be able to view and input into the grievance mechanism directly in order for the company to score for this indicator.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	4
	No	0
Extra details	What is the nature of the grievance mechanism used by the company (own mechanism, that of external company, internationally recognised mechanism, etc.)?	NA
	Does the company publish grievances that have been made against it, as well as responses and resolutions including status and timeframes?	NA
	Which issues does the grievance mechanism cover? Social issues and/or Environmental issues	NA
4.8	The volume of commodity production or usage is reported	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>Reporting can be available on the company's own site or on external portals such as CDP or RSPO. To be awarded points, companies must have reported on their own website within the last two years (2018-2020) or in at least one of the last two reporting periods for RSPO (2018 and/or 2019), and RTRS (2018 and/or 2019).</i></p> <p><i>Companies score half-points for reporting either the non-certified/non-compliant volume, or the certified/compliant volume of the commodity. To score full points, the company must disclose both the non-certified/non-compliant volume and the certified/compliant volume.</i></p> <p><i>Full points are awarded if a subsidiary that represents the company's major commodity use reports usage and the parent company itself does not. No points are awarded for reporting of partial operations i.e. less than all of a company's operations. Capacities are not the same as reporting the actual volume of commodity produced or used, and are not accepted here.</i></p>	
Answer options	Reporting non-certified/non-compliant volume	2
	Reporting certified/compliant volume	2

	No reporting	0
Extra details	Which certification schemes are used?	NA
	What is the certified volume?	NA
	What is the compliant volume?	NA
	What is the non-certified/non-compliant volume?	NA
	For what percent of the company's supply volume is third-party verification of performance relative to commitments conducted?	NA

**Indicators 4.9 to 4.14 are also only assessed once per commodity. They can only be scored if the company has a commitment in section 2.1, otherwise there is no commitment for monitoring or engagement to be related to. Unlike previous indicators, some of the below indicators only apply to upstream companies (defined as producers and processors), or downstream companies (defined as traders, manufacturers, and retailers).**

NUMBER	INDICATOR	POINTS
Upstream companies only		
4.9	Does the company conduct or facilitate environmental and social impact assessments for new site development or land acquisition?	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>This indicator applies to upstream companies only.</i></p> <p><i>The company must commit to conducting or facilitating environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA) for at least one site development or land acquisition. Companies do not score for the number of ESIA's that are conducted, nor for the proportion or percentage of new sites or land acquisitions which are covered by ESIA's, but this information is recorded.</i></p> <p><i>ESIA's do not need to be published on the company website to score for this indicator.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes	4
	No	0

Extra details	For what percentage of production units has an ESIA been carried out as part of the land use planning process?	NA
	How does the company remedy adverse social and environmental impacts linked to their operations and/or supply chains?	NA
Upstream companies only		
4.10	Does the company publicly reports their production sites/location of land holdings, and/or location of company-owned processing facilities?	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>This indicator applies to upstream companies only.</i></p> <p><i>The company must publicly disclose their exact sourcing regions/production sites, and/or location of land holdings, and/or the location of company-owned processing facility. Disclosure can include publishing resources like concession maps, coordinates of processing facilities, interactive maps. Companies must also disclose their certified sourcing regions/production sites/location of land holdings/the location of company-owned processing facilities to score full points for this indicator - failure to disclose the certified locations only scores half points.</i></p> <p><i>If the company does not own any processing facilities, they can still score full points by reporting the location of uncertified land-holdings, and certified land holdings, and those under conservation.</i></p> <p><i>To score for this indicator, the company must have disclosed their sourcing regions within the last two years (2018/2019/2020).</i></p>	
Answer options	Reports location of certified land holdings only	1
	Reports location of land holdings under conservation	1
	Reports location of un-certified land holdings	1
	Reports location of company-owned processing facilities	1
	No disclosure	0
Extra details	For what percent are point locations (of land holdings and processing facilities) disclosed?	NA
	For what percent are boundaries disclosed?	NA
	For what percent are point locations (of certified land holdings) disclosed?	NA
	For what percent are boundaries (of certified land holdings) disclosed?	NA

	For what percent are point locations (of holdings under conservation) disclosed?	NA
	For what percent are boundaries (of holdings under conservation) disclosed?	NA
	In what country(ies) does the company operate and/or source material?	NA
	What is the total land area owned, managed, or controlled by the company for the forest risk commodity?	NA
	In what jurisdiction(s)/subnational region does the company operate and/or source material?	NA
	What is the total area in production (in ha)?	NA
	What is the total area (in ha) of natural ecosystem on land owned, managed, or controlled by the company?	NA
	What types of ecosystems are these?	NA
	What type of conservation designation and/or conservation status is used?	NA
	What is the total area of land (in ha) that is available for future production, e.g. concessions?	NA
	From what sub-national jurisdiction(s) does the company source material?	NA
Downstream companies only		
4.11	Does the company publicly report their suppliers?	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>This indicator applies to downstream companies only.</i></p> <p><i>The company must publicly disclose a list of their suppliers. If it is not clear whether the company is disclosing direct or indirect suppliers, it will be taken as only including direct suppliers. Direct suppliers as Tier 1 suppliers, and indirect suppliers as producers or processors (upstream companies).</i></p> <p><i>Full points will be awarded to a company which disclosed both direct and indirect suppliers. To score for this indicator, the company must have disclosed their suppliers within the last two years (2018/2019/2020).</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes, report direct suppliers	2
	Yes, report indirect suppliers	2
	No	0

Extra details	Does the company disclose location of suppliers' production areas or primary processing sites?	NA
	For what percent of suppliers' production areas are point locations disclosed?	NA
	For what percent are boundaries disclosed?	NA
	For what percent is no location data disclosed?	NA
	From what country(ies) does the company source material?	NA
	From what sub-national jurisdiction(s) does the company source material?	NA
	What is the volume of each forest risk commodity that the company sourced in the previous year from each national or sub-national location?	NA
	For what percent of smallholder suppliers is location disclosed?	NA
	What type of location data (boundary, point, etc.) is provided for smallholder farms?	NA
Upstream companies only		
4.12	Does the company monitor compliance of production or primary processing operations that it owns, manages, or otherwise controls?	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>This indicator applies to upstream companies only.</i></p> <p><i>This indicator is only scored if there is an existing commitment in Section 2. This indicator focuses on whether a company has a process to monitor and verify suppliers for compliance with their commitment in section 2 and therefore companies cannot score for monitoring suppliers against any other standard e.g. another code of conduct that cannot be related to their forest commitment. Monitoring can include satellite monitoring, on-the-ground patrols, and supplier audits, among others.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes, using a third-party verification system	4
	Yes, using an internal verification system	4
	No	0
	Does the company use a jurisdictional monitoring mechanism?	NA

Extra details	If so, what jurisdictions and mechanisms does the company use?	NA
	Does the company use a certification system?	NA
	For what percentage of production or primary processing operations that it owns, manages, or otherwise controls does the company use external processes or actors, such as certification, to monitor compliance?	NA
	What tools, processes, bodies carry out monitoring of the company's production or processing operations?	NA
	How frequently is compliance assessed?	NA
	For what percentage of suppliers does the company use/rely on external mechanisms to monitor compliance?	NA
Downstream companies only		
4.13	Does the company monitor and verify compliance in their supply chain?	Total points available: 4
Guidance	<p><i>This indicator applies to downstream companies only.</i></p> <p><i>This indicator is only scored if there is an existing commitment in Section 2. This indicator focuses on whether a company has a process to monitor and verify suppliers for compliance with their commitment in section 2 and therefore companies cannot score for monitoring suppliers against any other standard e.g. another code of conduct that cannot be related to their forest commitment. Monitoring can include satellite monitoring, on-the-ground patrols, and supplier audits, among others.</i></p> <p><i>Full points are awarded for monitoring compliance of their supplier's production or primary processing operations in its supply chains, with commitments to monitor compliance in suppliers scoring half points.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes, for its supplier's production or primary processing operations in its supply chains	4
	Yes, for its suppliers	3
	No	0
Extra details	For what percent of suppliers does the company directly monitor compliance of production or processing operations?	NA
	What percentage of the company's supply chain volume does that represent?	NA
	For what percentage of suppliers does the company use/rely on external mechanisms to monitor compliance?	NA

	How frequently is compliance assessed?	NA
	Yes, using a jurisdictional monitoring mechanism	NA
	Yes, using certification	NA
	Yes, using internal monitoring and verification systems	NA
Downstream companies only		
4.14	Does the company engage non-compliant supplier operations and suppliers in order to address and remedy non-compliance?	Total points available: 2
Guidance	<p><i>This indicator applies to downstream companies only.</i></p> <p><i>This indicator is only scored if there is an existing commitment in Section 2. Engagement can include discussions with/exclusion of non-compliant suppliers or the implementation of support programmes to reduce the risk of non-compliance, with blacklisting seen as a last step following unsuccessful engagement efforts. Compliance here is compliance with the commitment in section 2 and companies cannot score for engaging suppliers on any other standard e.g. another code of conduct that cannot be related to their forest commitment.</i></p> <p><i>Companies must specify time-bound plans to exclude non-compliant suppliers when engagement is unsuccessful, otherwise they are awarded half points. Companies that blacklist non-compliant suppliers prior to engaging with them are also awarded half points as blacklisting is seen as a last step following unsuccessful engagement.</i></p>	
Answer options	Engage with suppliers with a time-bound threat of exclusion	2
	Engage with suppliers but with no time-bound threat of exclusion	1
	Blacklist non-compliant suppliers without engagement	1
	No engagement or exclusion	0
Extra details	Does the company engage non-compliant indirect suppliers in order to address and remedy non-compliance?	NA
	What type of support does the company offer to its suppliers to help them achieve compliance with commitments?	NA
	What criteria does the policy specify for blacklisting or exclusion?	NA

Downstream companies only		
4.15	Does the company disclose how many suppliers or producers are engaged, or excluded from their supply chains?	Total points available: 2
Guidance	<p><i>This indicator applies to downstream companies only.</i></p> <p><i>The company must report on how many companies or smallholders have been engaged and excluded to score full points for this indicator. Reporting either the number of those engaged <b>or</b> the number of those excluded scores half points.</i></p> <p><i>The company does not have to disclose the names of any engaged or excluded suppliers or producers to score for this indicator. If no numerical reporting has been disclosed, companies will still score for any named engaged or excluded suppliers.</i></p>	
Answer options	Yes, engaged	1
	Yes, excluded	1
	No disclosure	0
Extra details	How many noncompliant producers or suppliers are engaged through improvement plans or other processes, and what percentage of the company's supply chain volume does that represent?	NA
	Does the company have a list of blacklisted or otherwise excluded suppliers or producers?	NA



For more information visit: [www.forest500.org](http://www.forest500.org)

Contact us at: [forest500@globalcanopy.org](mailto:forest500@globalcanopy.org)

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