VOLUNTARY SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

TODAY'S LANDSCAPE OF ISSUES & INITIATIVES TO ACHIEVE PUBLIC POLICY OBJECTIVES

PART 2: INITIATIVES

UNFSS | United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards

A Platform of International Dialogue on Voluntary Sustainability Standards
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**INTRODUCTION**

Voluntary sustainability standards are standards specifying requirements that producers, traders, manufacturers, retailers or service providers may be asked to meet, relating to a wide range of sustainability metrics, including respect for basic human rights, worker health and safety, environmental impacts, community relations, land-use planning and others.

Over the last two decades, the number and variety of standards has grown, and a concept which was once thought of as ‘niche’ has become mainstream. Voluntary sustainability standards are a key tool for the efficient operation of the ‘Green Economy’.

There are many different kinds of voluntary sustainability standards. Some focus on specific sectors such as forest management, agriculture, mining or fisheries. Some are intended to support particular groups such as small-scale farmers or producers in developing countries. Some focus on specific environmental or social factors such as water use, biodiversity, greenhouse gas emissions or workers’ rights. Some cover the full range of environmental impacts throughout a product’s life cycle; others focus on specific phases of production. Some identify and promote best practice; others support continuous improvement or aim to combine both approaches.

Voluntary sustainability standards may be developed by individual businesses, business associations, environmental or social NGOs or governments, or through multi-stakeholder initiatives that attempt to balance the interests of a range of interested parties and stakeholders. Some are associated with consumer-facing product labels and claims; others are used mainly within business-to-business relationships.

Some have achieved a substantial level of consumer recognition and private sector uptake worldwide; others are mostly known in particular countries.

Voluntary sustainability standards have the potential to generate significant environmental, economic and social benefits in developing countries. However, decision makers and economic operators from developing countries frequently express concern about the lack of credible information about standards, the compliance costs, the risk of marginalization of small-scale producers and the lack of harmonization or recognition of equivalence – resulting in the need to comply with multiple standards for a single product.

Against this background, the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS) was created to help decision makers from developing countries gain access to adequate and relevant information, exchange experience and seek assistance on voluntary sustainability standards, with an initial emphasis on food and agriculture standards.

As a first step, UNFSS has commissioned this review of the current landscape of issues and initiatives. The intention is not to provide answers or to establish positions, but to provide an overview of some of the key issues that are under discussion and debate and to introduce decision makers to the range of organizations, programmes and initiatives working in the field.
The work has two parts:

**Part One** (published separately) is an overview of key issues relating to the role of government in the development, oversight and use of voluntary sustainability standards. It starts by framing the discussion in reference to sustainable development agreements of the United Nations. It then covers a range of issues and concerns about voluntary sustainability standards in the light of these agreements, including discussion of the implications of international trade rules, and the role of governments.

**Part Two**, presented in this document, is an overview of the range of governmental, intergovernmental and private sector initiatives that are shaping the landscape within which voluntary sustainability standards operate. The range of initiatives in this sector can be bewildering. The mapping is intended to be a ‘Who’s Who’ and a field guide, and to provide a ready starting point for finding further information.

Both documents should prove useful to decision makers getting started with voluntary sustainability standards. We hope these documents will help ensure that voluntary sustainability standards achieve their potential to contribute to sustainable development in the coming years.

**ABOUT THE UN FORUM ON SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS (UNFSS)**

The UNFSS is a platform created to analyse voluntary sustainability standards and provide information about them, with a particular focus on their potential value as tools to help developing countries achieve sustainable development goals.

UNFSS is rooted in existing mandates and activities of participating United Nations agencies. Its value lies in pooling resources, synchronizing efforts and assuring policy coherence, coordination and collaboration, in line with the “UN acting as one” concept.

UNFSS is coordinated by a steering committee consisting of FAO, ITC, UNCTAD, UNEP and UNIDO, and is supported by a multi-stakeholder advisory panel with representation from producer associations, processors/traders, standard-setting organizations/certifiers, trade negotiators, consumers, civil society and researchers.

UNFSS facilitates dialogue and knowledge exchange, providing a forum for intergovernmental actors to communicate with each other and their target groups, to address information needs and to discuss concerns, linked to impartial analysis and demand-driven capacity building.

**ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT**

This document was written for UNFSS by Matthew Wenban-Smith of OneWorldStandards Ltd., under the guidance of Ulrich Hoffmann and Christopher Wunderlich of the UNFSS coordinating and support team.

Editing and design: Wiebke Herding, Maartje Gorte and Michelle Doust for ON:SUBJECT Communications.
The rapid increase in the number of voluntary sustainability standards over the last two decades has been accompanied by an increase in the number and variety of programmes and initiatives that have been launched to study, support, promote or discuss those standards.

This document provides a reference and introduction to many of these programmes and initiatives. It identifies international organizations (and organizations with an international scope) with a specific role in researching, developing or otherwise contributing to the use of voluntary sustainability standards, with a particular focus on their impact on sustainable development objectives.

The list divides the initiatives into three main categories, although the categorization is not completely exclusive.

Governmental and intergovernmental initiatives: Initiatives and programmes that support, influence or make use of voluntary sustainability standards and are governmental or intergovernmental in nature. In some cases we have included specific committees with an important role in or influence on the use of voluntary sustainability standards.

Non-governmental initiatives and partnerships: Initiatives and programmes that support or promote the use of voluntary sustainability standards and are primarily non-governmental in nature, whether from the private sector or the non-profit sector. Some initiatives include government bodies within their membership or may work closely with governmental or intergovernmental bodies.

Research and resources: Initiatives and programmes whose primary purpose is to carry out research about voluntary sustainability standards, provide information about those standards, or to facilitate their use.

For each of the initiatives, a table provides a short introduction, a description of the initiative’s parent body (if applicable) and, where possible, some examples of recent or ongoing work that may be of interest to UNFSS stakeholders.

OTHER RELEVANT OVERVIEWS
The publication at hand does not include standardization bodies developing voluntary sustainability standards, whether governmental or non-governmental. Readers who are interested in listings of standardization bodies and their standards are referred to the Standards Map developed by the ITC under its T4SD programme (www.standardsmap.org) and to Big Room’s Ecolabel Index (www.ecolabelindex.com).

Finally, while this publication does cover many bodies with an interest in research into voluntary sustainability standards, the identification of researchers and research bodies is not its primary purpose. Readers with a specific interest in contacting researchers may wish to refer to the listing “Research and researchers on private standards” developed by the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (G/SPS/GEN/891, 2008).

CORRECTIONS
The information in this document is based on publicly available sources, published by the referenced initiative itself and summarized by the authors. Errors introduced as a result of this process will be corrected as soon as they are brought to the attention of UNFSS.

While the authors strove to include the main initiatives active in the field, it is inevitable that some initiatives will have been missed. As new initiatives and programmes are launched and others are closed or completed, the field of initiatives will naturally keep changing. If there is sufficient demand for information like this, UNFSS will revise the list over time and make updated versions available for download from the UNFSS website.

If stakeholders are aware of initiatives that they believe should be included in future versions, they are requested to contact the UNFSS Secretariat with details.

Contact: info@unfss.org
A. GOVERNMENTAL & INTERGOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES

FAO NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

CONTACT
Alexander Julius Müller <alexander.mueller@fao.org>

WEBSITE
www.fao.org/nr/nr-home/en

DESCRIPTION
The Natural Resources Management and Environment Department of FAO is mandated to cover issues related to natural resources and food production and to address challenges such as conflicts and competition over access and use of these resources.

It provides leadership, technical and policy advice and knowledge about the sustainable use of the earth’s natural resources (land, water, genetic resources and biodiversity), improves responses to global environmental challenges affecting food and agriculture, such as climate change and land degradation, assesses opportunities and challenges of bioenergy, and strengthens transfer and extension of knowledge.

Activities and outputs in relation to voluntary sustainability standards include:
- Organic Agriculture Portal, a website with information about how to enhance food security, rural development, sustainable livelihoods and environmental integrity by building capacities of member countries in organic production, processing, certification and marketing.
- Organic Research Centres Alliance (ORCA), a consortium of research organizations with focus on transdisciplinary organic agriculture research, hosted by FAO.
- Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture systems (SAFA), guidelines for food value chain analysis that serve as a template for food chain sustainability assessment, for the use of food producers, manufacturers and retailers (scheduled for publication in 2013).

FOCUS
Global

INFLUENCE
Through publications and resources about voluntary standards.

APPROACH
Knowledge management and research.

TARGET AUDIENCE
Governments, policymakers and civil society.

PARTNERS
International organizations, public sector, private sector and civil society.

ORGANIZATION
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all.
## FAO TRADE AND MARKETS DIVISION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATION</th>
<th>1999</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT</td>
<td>Pascal Liu <a href="mailto:pascal.liu@fao.org">pascal.liu@fao.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.fao.org/economic/est/international-trade/standards-certification/en">www.fao.org/economic/est/international-trade/standards-certification/en</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| DESCRIPTION | The Trade and Markets Division of FAO reviews global issues that affect trade in agriculture, provides analytical and policy-relevant information and offers comprehensive market intelligence on the main agricultural commodities. The Trade and Markets Division assists developing countries with implementing current trade agreements and in preparing for trade negotiations through studies, analysis and training. The division has dealt with environmental and social certification in agriculture since 1999. The division carries out a range of economic analyses and market studies of trade in certified products. It organizes conferences and workshops for information sharing and capacity-building. In addition, it has set up a Portal on Voluntary Standards for Responsible Agricultural Production and Trade. Outputs include a range of publications on voluntary standards for responsible agricultural production and trade, such as:
- Private standards in international trade: issues and opportunities (P. Liu, 2009)
- Private standards in the United States and European Union markets for fruits and vegetables (C. Dankers, 2007)
- Meeting on voluntary standards and certification in environmentally and socially responsible agriculture production and trade (P. Liu, M. Andersen and C. Pazderka, 2004)
- Environmental and social standards, certification and labelling for cash crops (C. Dankers, 2003) |
| Focus    | Global |
| Influence| Through support for negotiations on international trade in relation to agriculture, guidance to FAO member countries and publications and training material about voluntary standards. |
| Approach | Capacity-building, knowledge management and research. |
| Target Audience | Governments, policymakers and agricultural practitioners. |
| Partners | International organizations, public sector, private sector and civil society. |
| Organization | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) |

FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all.
A number of FAO Units are working on various aspects of sustainability standards, in addition to the initiatives that have been described individually. These include:

- Animal Production and Health Division
- Climate, Energy and Tenure Division
- Fisheries Products Trade and Marketing
- Food Safety and Quality Division
- Plan Production and Protection Division
- Rural Infrastructure and Agro-industries Division

Their activities are summarized briefly, below:

- Analyzing trends and impacts: FAO assesses voluntary standards and their impacts in areas of FAO’s mandate. Recent work has focused on challenges and opportunities for smallholder participation in markets, tropical timber product standards, carbon footprints and livestock production.

- Disseminating information: FAO shares information about voluntary standards through online portals and other communication tools. These include websites dedicated to:
  - Voluntary standards for responsible agricultural production and trade;
  - Organic agriculture;
  - Bioenergy sustainability initiatives;
  - Geographical indications; and
  - Food labelling.

- Building capacity: FAO trains policymakers and private stakeholders through field projects. Projects have been undertaken worldwide to provide assistance on market strategies, standards implementation and farm certification processes for organic, geographical indications, fair-trade and GlobalGAP.

- Setting-up global tools: FAO develops guidelines and benchmarking systems that can be used by the private and public sectors. Flagship tools are the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, the Sustainability Assessment of Food and Agriculture Systems and the Harmonization and Equivalence of Organic Agriculture Regulations.

- Providing policy guidance: FAO assists member countries on the identification of priorities related to voluntary standards through guidance on national policies, regulatory frameworks and strategies that can enhance food quality. This includes a broad range of specific quality schemes, from those global in scope through national agricultural practices to traditional attributes, geographical origin and local knowledge.

- Building partnerships: FAO convenes or participates in multi-stakeholder fora to discuss voluntary standards. Key partnerships include: the FAO-UNEP Sustainable Food Systems Task Force on Sustainable Consumption and Production, the International Cotton Advisory Committee, the World Banana Forum and the United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards.

**Focus**
Global

**Influence**
Through publications and resources about voluntary standards.

**Approach**
Knowledge management and research.
### FAO (OTHER FAO UNITS WORKING ON VOLUNTARY STANDARDS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TARGET AUDIENCE</th>
<th>Governments, policymakers and civil society.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERS</td>
<td>International organizations, public sector, private sector and civil society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATION</td>
<td><strong>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</strong>&lt;br&gt;FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all.</td>
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The Agri-food Task Force (ATF) on Sustainable Consumption and Production is the implementing vehicle of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFSP), a joint programme led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

ATF is a multi-stakeholder platform, comprising governments, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector from all regions, convened to foster global cooperation and facilitate the transition to more sustainable and resource-efficient production and consumption patterns in the agri-food sector.

Activities include:
- Increasing availability of information on sustainable production and innovative means of dissemination through a global comprehensive portal on food systems sustainability.
- Improving consumer-related communications for sustainable consumption and production (SCP) in agri-food by educating consumers about making informed decisions in order to change their lifestyles towards more sustainable behaviour.
- Creating enabling conditions for the uptake of SCP in food systems by encouraging national governments to actively implement policy frameworks, activities and initiatives on SCP agrifood.
- Promoting market-based approaches for supply chain actors to increase food supply chain stakeholders’ access to SCP tools and incentives that ensure the efficiency and long-term sustainability of the food system.

Publications include:
- *Sustainable consumption and production for poverty alleviation* (2012)
- *Global outlook on sustainable consumption and production policies* (2012).

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<th>FOCUS</th>
<th>Global</th>
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<tr>
<td>INFLUENCE</td>
<td>As an implementing vehicle of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFSP), a joint programme led by FAO and UNEP.</td>
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<tr>
<td>APPROACH</td>
<td>Research, capacity-building, knowledge management and publications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARGET AUDIENCE</td>
<td>Governments, policymakers and civil society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERS</td>
<td>International organizations, financial institutions, private sector, research institutions and civil society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATION</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

UNEP is an international institution that coordinates United Nations environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**

FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all.
UNCTAD, FAO, and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) have been working together closely since 2001 to facilitate trade in organic products through harmonization and equivalence, through the UNCTAD-FAO-IFOAM International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture (ITF, 2003-2009) and its successor project, Global Organic Market Access (GOMA, 2009–today).

The ITF (2002-2008) was an open-ended platform for dialogue among private and public institutions involved in trade and regulatory activities in the organic agriculture sector. The Task Force was comprised of representatives of governments, intergovernmental organizations and private sector stakeholders, with broad global representation. The ITF met eight times, completed six volumes of studies, adopted a set of recommendations, and developed two practical equivalence tools:

- The International Requirements for Organic Certification Bodies (IROCB) is an international reference norm for performance of organic certification that can be used by governments and private accreditors and certifiers as a means of accepting certification of organic products from outside their own systems.
- The EquiTool is a set of guidelines, including procedures and criteria, useful in deciding when a standard applicable in one country or region of the world is equivalent to a standard applicable in another country or region.

Under the GOMA project, the EquiTool was enhanced with the Common Objectives and Requirements of Organic Systems (COROS). It guides governments and other stakeholders in conducting objectives-based equivalence assessments of two or more organic standards for production and processing. COROS has also proven useful in developing harmonized regional standards. IFOAM has adopted COROS as the basis for inclusion of standards in the IFOAM Family of Standards. COROS has thus effectively replaced the private sector international organic standard.

GOMA also facilitated the development of regional organic standards. The Asian Regional Organic Standard (AROS) was developed by the GOMA Asia Working Group during 2010-2012 and launched at the GOMA Conference in February 2012. Since 2009, GOMA has been supporting the competent authorities of the Central American and Dominican Republic in developing a common organic regulation.

The work of the ITF and GOMA has also influenced bilateral equivalency agreements between major trading partners, including Canada, United States and European Union, together accounting for some 95% of world sales of certified organic products. A multilateral approach paving the way for inclusion of developing country partners could be a logical next step.
| **TARGET AUDIENCE** | Policymakers, governments and organic standards initiatives (public and private). |
| **PARTNERS** | International organizations, governmental organizations, associations for organic agriculture in the private sector. |
| **ORGANIZATION** | **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**  
UNCTAD is the principal organ of the United Nations General Assembly dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. The primary objective of UNCTAD is to formulate policies relating to all aspects of development, including trade, aid, transport, finance and technology.  
**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)**  
FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. It acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries and countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all.  
**International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)**  
IFOAM is the worldwide umbrella organization for the organic agriculture movement, uniting more than 750 member organizations in 108 countries. |
Commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Programme for Social and Environmental Standards of GIZ supports the development, implementation, harmonization and scaling up of sustainability standards in partner countries and across sectors. The programme advises the German government and its partners and cooperates with the private sector on sustainable supply chains.

Activities include:

- Supporting development of standards systems by fostering expansion of standards systems into new sectors, piloting their application, or designing innovative elements to enhance their effectiveness.
- Scaling sustainability in global supply chains by supporting companies and producers in implementing and using standards systems.
- Developing instruments to foster transparency and comparability of standards systems and to support their alignment and harmonization.
- Providing sector platforms for industry and civil society to jointly promote sustainability in international supply chains.

The programme has supported and collaborated with a number of sustainability initiatives such as the Round Table for Responsible Soy (RTRS), the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the 4C Association, GlobalGAP and others. GIZ and ISEAl have worked together to improve communication about standards systems by developing tools such as the ISEAl Codes of Good Practice and informational video clips.

Some of the programme’s current projects include:

- Developing an internationally consulted and agreed-upon methodology for assessing the potential performance of standards systems.
- Promoting the demand for and the production of sustainable products by establishing a pre-competitive multi-stakeholder forum and enhancing producers’ capacities to use standards systems.
- Promoting standards systems as tools to foster sustainability by integrating them into curricula of educational institutions in developing and emerging economies.
- Setting up and coordinating a textile industry alliance to improve fire safety at factory level.

**FOCUS**
Global, with focus on developing countries.

**INFLUENCE**
Through providing technical assistance to standards systems and private sector partners.

**APPROACH**
Technical assistance.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**
Sustainability standards initiatives, private sector actors along international supply chains, governments and civil society.

**PARTNERS**
Sustainability standards initiatives, private sector actors along international supply chains, governments and civil society.

**ORGANIZATION**
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is a German federal enterprise that offers effective sustainable solutions in political, economic and social change processes. Most of its work is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). However, GIZ also operates on behalf of other German ministries and public and private bodies (including the European Commission, the United Nations and the World Bank) in Germany and abroad.
The Initiatief Duurzame Handel (IDH) is a foundation established and funded by the Dutch government to accelerate and scale up sustainability within mainstream commodity markets. It acts as a convener between private sector, financial institutions, civil society organizations and governments to increase sustainable production and consumption in selected commodity sectors (cocoa, timber, tea, natural stone, soy, tourism, cotton, aquaculture, spices, electronics, coffee, cashew, fruits and flowers).

IDH provides research, advocacy, capacity-building and financial support to the sustainability standards movement and stakeholders. Its activities are focused on:

- Communication and coordination of stakeholders from the private sector, social partners, governments and other relevant audiences.
- Cooperation with other donors to ensure quality and participation of stakeholders in the design and implementation of programmes and projects.
- Implementation of monitoring and evaluation processes for supported projects.

Based on the initiatives it has supported, IDH has produced a series of booklets, research papers and case studies to share information and build capacity. Some examples are:

- Sustainable cocoa fund study (KPMG, 2011)
- The cotton sector in China (T. Zhang, 2011)
- Sustainable marketing (S. Horlings, 2009)
- Sustainable sourcing (H. van Hoeven, 2009)

Global, with focus on producer countries. Particular interest in the cocoa, timber, tea, natural stone, soy, tourism, cotton, aquaculture, spices, electronics, coffee, cashew, fruits and vegetables and flower sectors.

Through financial resources and advisory services to stakeholders in the commodity supply chain, and through support for voluntary standards systems such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), Better Cotton Initiative (BCI), Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTSR) and others.

Grant making, funding, capacity-building and advocacy.

Civil society, sustainability standards initiatives, private sector and producers.

Private sector, research organizations and civil society.
A. GOVERNMENTAL & INTERGOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES

IFC SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

CREATION 2006

CONTACT Reidar Kvam (Manager, Environment, Social and Governance Department) <rkvam@ifc.org>
Bruce Wise (Global Product Specialist, Sustainable Business Advisory Department) <bwise@ifc.org>

WEBSITE www.ifc.org/sustainabilityframework

DESCRIPTION IFC is the private sector lending arm of the World Bank. It promotes private sector development with sound environmental and social practices and contributes to positive development.

Areas of activity include:
- Risk management to help companies identify, reduce, and manage environmental, social, and corporate governance risks associated with their services, products, and business operations.
- Advisory services in sustainable business, working with companies to create a competitive edge by adopting environmental, social and governance practices, technologies, and standards.
- Global environmental and social standard setting through the IFC Sustainability Framework, which includes policy and performance standards on social and environmental sustainability.

The Sustainability Framework consists of:
- The IFC Policy on Environmental and Social Sustainability, which defines its commitment to environmental and social sustainability.
- The IFC Performance Standards, which define clients’ responsibilities for managing their environmental and social risks. The Performance Standards provide guidance on how to identify risks and impacts, and are designed to help avoid, mitigate, and manage them. The Performance Standards cover a number of areas, such as labour, pollution prevention, resource efficiency, involuntary resettlement, biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources. Among these areas, the Performance Standards include requirements on the use of credible voluntary standards, promoting their use by companies and others referring to the IFC Sustainability Framework as an international benchmark for managing sustainability in investments.
- The IFC Access to Information Policy, which articulates the IFC commitment to transparency.

Additional initiatives of IFC focus on developing and refining voluntary standards, with a view to their subsequent adoption in IFC client supply chains. This work is currently carried out in a number of different commodity value chains. IFC has recently commissioned a comprehensive analysis of voluntary standards in the agribusiness/forestry sector for the purpose of identifying strategies to improve standard impact and adoption. IFC also works with external partners to further develop the business case, good practice and guidance on the use of voluntary standards in environmental and social due diligence.

FOCUS Global, with focus on developing and less developed countries.

INFLUENCE As a framework widely adopted and referenced by other financial institutions. The Performance Standards in particular are used by the Equator Principles, a credit risk management framework for determining, assessing and managing environmental and social risk in project finance transactions, and have been adopted by Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and by the World Bank for private sector projects.
**IFC SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROACH</th>
<th>Investment and advisory services to private sector.</th>
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<tr>
<td>TARGET AUDIENCE</td>
<td>Private sector and financial institutions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARTNERS</td>
<td>Multilateral organizations and civil society.</td>
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<td>ORGANIZATION</td>
<td><strong>International Finance Corporation (IFC)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>The IFC is a member of the World Bank Group that provides development-impact solutions through business-level interventions (direct investments, advisory services, and the IFC Asset Management Company).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### ITC Trade and Environment Programme (TEP)

#### Creation
2010

#### Contact
Alexander Kasterine (Head of Unit) <kasterine@intracen.org>

#### Website
- [www.intracen.org/projects/tccep](http://www.intracen.org/projects/tccep)

#### Description
The International Trade Centre Trade and Environment Programme (TEP) is a capacity-building initiative established to support exporters from developing countries in overcoming barriers to environmental markets, strengthening their international competitiveness and improving environmental outcomes.

The TEP works in the following areas: trade in biodiversity-based products (plant and animals), sustainable agrifood markets, climate change issues, and environmental goods and services.

The programme focuses on small and medium-sized enterprises and trade-support institutions in selected sectors by:
- Capacity-building for companies and trade-support institutions to meet market requirements.
- Strengthening market linkages through trade fair preparation and participation.
- Publishing market studies and guides on sustainability-related markets.

Publications include:
- *Product carbon footprinting standards in the agri-food sector (2012)*
- *The North American market for natural products with highlights on selected Andean and African products (2012)*
- *Cotton and climate change: impacts and options to mitigate and adapt (2011)*
- *Climate change and the coffee industry (2011)*
- *Trends in the trade of certified coffees (2011)*
- *The effectiveness, efficiency and equity of market based and voluntary measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from the agri-food sector (A. Kasterine and D. Vanzetti in Trade and Environment Review, 2010)*

#### Focus
Global, with focus on developing countries.

#### Influence
Through capacity-building for producers and small and medium-sized enterprises and support with trade-related issues.

#### Approach
Capacity-building, market linkage and publications.

#### Target Audience
Private sector and governments in developing countries.

#### Partners
WTO and UNCTAD.

#### Organization
**International Trade Centre (ITC)**

ITC is a joint agency of the WTO and UNCTAD and helps developing and transition countries achieve sustainable development through exports. Formed in 1964, ITC is the focal point within the United Nations system for trade-related technical assistance. The centre provides information on export markets and marketing techniques and assists in establishing export promotion programmes and marketing services.
The OECD is an international economic organization of 34 countries, founded in 1961 to stimulate economic progress and world trade. It promotes policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems.

The organization works with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change, by measuring productivity and global flows of trade and investment, analysing data to predict future trends, and setting international standards on a wide range of topics, from agriculture and tax to the safety of chemicals.

In relation to voluntary sustainability standards, the OECD has compiled and analysed studies looking at the environmental and trade effects of selected eco-labelling schemes. Between 1997 and 2005 it published a series of studies on environmental requirements and market access, with a focus on the access exporters from developing countries have to developed-country markets under selected eco-labelling schemes:

- Effects of eco-labelling schemes: compilation of recent studies (2005)
- Developing-country access to developed-country markets under selected eco-labelling programmes (J. Earley and L. Kneale Anderson, 2003)
- Eco-labelling: actual effects of selected programmes (1997).

**Focus**: Global, with focus on the impact of private labels on producers and consumers.

**Influence**: As a dialogue platform for governments to collaborate and cooperate.

**Approach**: Policy advice and research.

**Target Audience**: Governments

**Partners**: Governments
SECO SUSTAINABLE TRADE PROMOTION

**STATUS**
Active

**CONTACT**
Hans-Peter Egler (Head Trade Promotion) <hans-peter.egler@seco.admin.ch>

**WEBSITE**

**DESCRIPTION**
In the framework of its economic development cooperation, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) supports the development of voluntary private standards, their implementation in developing countries and their use in industrialized countries to create the prerequisites for sustainable economic development and development.

The programme has a two-fold strategy:
- A non-label approach, which regulates the conditions of international trade relationships at the private level, thus responding indirectly to the growing demand of consumers for sustainable products (implemented mainly through collaboration with ILO Better Work and SCORE as well as the UNIDO Resource Efficiency and Cleaner Production Program).
- A label approach, which focuses on the visible added value and direct linkage between producers and consumers.

Activities include:
- Support for the development of voluntary standards.
- Support for the implementation of standards through training, capacity-building, public-private partnerships, etc.
- Support for scaling-up the use of sustainability standards through information dissemination, tool development, etc.
- Support for impact assessment.

The programme has provided financial support to a number of voluntary sustainability standards initiatives and related organization such as the ISEAL Alliance, T4SD/ITC, COSA, the State of Sustainability Initiative (SSI), SCAN, the Common Code for the Coffee Community (4C), the Better Cotton Initiative, Fairtrade, the Union for Ethical Biotrade, the Round Table for Responsible Soy (RTRS) and the Roundtable for Sustainable Biomaterials (RSB).

**FOCUS**
Global

**INFLUENCE**
By providing financial resources to foster the voluntary standards movement and related research institutions.

**APPROACH**
Provision of financial resources (donor).

**TARGET AUDIENCE**
Producers and sustainability standards initiatives.

**PARTNERS**
Producers, sustainability standard initiatives and research institutions.

**ORGANIZATION**
Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)
SECO is the government’s competence centre for all core issues relating to economic policy. In the framework of its economic development cooperation, its aim is to ensure sustainable economic growth by putting in place the necessary regulatory and economic policy conditions. SECO is responsible for formulating economic and trade policy and is also involved in efforts to reduce poverty by focusing on economic development cooperation.
TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (T4SD) PROGRAMME

CONTACT
Joseph Wozniak (Programme Manager)<wozniak@intracen.org>

WEBSITE
www.intracen.org/policy/voluntary-standards
www.standardsmap.org

DESCRIPTION
T4SD is a programme of the International Trade Centre (ITC). Its objectives are increased transparency and easier access to information on voluntary sustainability standards, including codes of conduct, audit protocols and their respective requirements for all actors along the supply chain and improved capacity of developing countries’ business communities, with a focus on small and medium-sized enterprises to make informed business decisions related to risks and opportunities of sustainable production and trade.

The programme has four main activities:

- Developing and maintaining the web-based Standards Map, an interactive online database that presents standardized, quality-controlled information on voluntary standards. The Standards Map currently compares more than 100 voluntary standards operating in over 200 countries, and certifying products and services in more than 80 economic sectors. The database is designed for customized analysis by producers, exporters, buyers, and policymakers. Standards Map also provides access to over 300 research papers on voluntary standards. Access is free for developing country stakeholders.

- The development of an online self-assessment tool for small and medium-sized producers and exporters interested to assess their capacity to meet standards requirements, and for traders or buyers willing to better understand sustainability risks in their supply chains and a benchmarking tool where users can customize weightings based on their preferences in order to assess the level of equivalence between standards.

- A Training and Capacity Building Programme to complement the Standards Map and online self-assessment tool, and allow small and medium-sized enterprises to compare their current situation, e.g. production, processing, monitoring, traceability and administration systems, to the requirements/provisions defined in codes of conduct, audit protocols and voluntary sustainability standards. This also allows small and medium-sized enterprises to assess the necessary adjustments and investments needed to meet sustainability requirements.

- The Research Observatory, that has published a 4-part literature review series on the impacts of voluntary sustainability standards and their interplay with technical regulations. Research activities also include several contributions to books and other ITC-external publications and, recently, a business guide on sustainable sourcing of agricultural raw material.

Publications include:

- The impacts of private standards on global value chains (O. van Hagen and G. Alvarez, 2011)
- The impacts of private standards on producers in developing countries (G. Alvarez and O. van Hagen, 2011)
- The interplay of public and private standards (O. van Hagen and G. Alvarez, 2012)
- When do private standards work? (G. Alvarez and O. van Hagen, 2012)
- Sustainable sourcing of agricultural raw materials – a practitioner’s guide (T4SD in collaboration with SAI Platform, IMD Lausanne and IDH, 2013).

FOCUS
Global, with country-specific project work based on donor/partner requests.

INFLUENCE
Through an online platform with mapping of more than 90 voluntary standards; through training, capacity-building and research papers.
### TRADE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (T4SD) PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>APPROACH</strong></th>
<th>Resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TARGET AUDIENCE</strong></td>
<td>Private sector, namely small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries, government, civil society and research organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PARTNERS</strong></td>
<td>UNCTAD, UNIDO, COSA, ISEAL Alliance, BSD Consulting, IDH, GIZ and FAO.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **ORGANIZATION** | **International Trade Centre (ITC)**  
The ITC is a joint agency of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and UNCTAD and helps developing countries and countries in transition achieve sustainable development through exports. Formed in 1964, ITC is the focal point for trade-related technical assistance within the United Nations system. The centre provides information on export markets and marketing techniques and assists in establishing export promotion programmes and marketing services. |
### UNCTAD Consultative Task Force on Environmental Requirements and Market Access for Developing Countries (CTF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Creation</strong></th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
<td>Ulrich Hoffmann (UNCTAD) <a href="mailto:ulrich.hoffmann@unctad.org">ulrich.hoffmann@unctad.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
<td>r0.unctad.org/trade_env/test1/projects/taskforce.htm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Description** | The Consultative Task Force (CTF) was an open-ended multi-stakeholder forum of government, private sector and civil society representatives that assisted developing countries in analysing trends of environmental requirements in export markets and to exchange national experience on pro-active approaches to meeting these requirements. It was the precursor project that laid the groundwork for UNFSS.  

The CTF provided a forum for structured and focused dialogue and networking on relevant issues at the interface of environmental requirements and market access for developing countries (including analysis, policy dialogue, information exchange and supporting activities).

The activities of CTF were:
- To provide links between policy and capacity constraints on environmental requirements and market access.
- To interface discussions in the WTO, notably on paragraph 32(i) of the Doha Ministerial Declaration.
- To analyse and discuss voluntary environmental requirements of the private sector and civil society and thus provides a formal exchange mechanism between these stakeholders and governments.
- To include stakeholders normally not involved in WTO debates.
- To promote regular information exchange among agencies and initiatives that provide technical assistance and capacity-building.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Focus</strong></th>
<th>Global, with focus on developing countries.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Influence</strong></td>
<td>As a forum between government, private sector and civil society and an interface with the WTO and trade negotiations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Approach</strong></td>
<td>Forum with workshops to disseminate information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Target Audience</strong></td>
<td>Government officials working in the area of trade, environment and development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Partners</strong></td>
<td>Dutch government (as funder).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Organization** | **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**  

UNCTAD is the principal organ of the United Nations General Assembly dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. The primary objective of UNCTAD is to formulate policies relating to all aspects of development, including trade, aid, transport, finance and technology. |
A. GOVERNMENTAL & INTERGOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES

**UNCTAD DIVISION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN GOODS AND SERVICES, AND COMMODITIES (DITC)**

**CREATION**
2000

**CONTACT**
Lalen Lleander <lalen.lleander@unctad.org>

**WEBSITE**
unctad.org/en/Pages/DITC/Trade-and-Environment.aspx

**DESCRIPTION**
The UNCTAD mandate on trade and the environment is to harness international trade to promote sustainable growth and inclusive development. It supports developing countries in taking advantage of emerging opportunities for trade associated with the protection, promotion and preservation of the environment, and helps minimize potential adverse impacts.

Through research and analysis, intergovernmental deliberations and consensus building, technical assistance, and forging partnerships and networks with an array of stakeholders, the Division works to:

- Strengthen the capacity of developing countries to formulate and implement mutually supportive trade, environment and sustainable development objectives.
- Integrate sustainable development and poverty reduction objectives in development strategies at all levels, including the need to address climate change implications inter alia by promoting climate-friendly trade and production strategies including in green sectors.
- Support the effective participation of developing countries in international deliberations on trade and environment.

**FOCUS**
Global, with biotrade, organic agriculture, climate change and biofuels, green economy and creative industries as main areas of intervention.

**INFLUENCE**
Through its mobilization and convening capacity with developing countries’ officials, private sector and civil society.

**APPROACH**
Policy discussion, capacity-building, information dissemination and South-South and North-South cooperation.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**
Government officials, private sector actors, both upstream and downstream, and business support services working in the area of trade, environment and development.

**PARTNERS**
Governments, civil society and research organizations and secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements.

**ORGANIZATION**
**United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**
UNCTAD is the principal organ of the United Nations General Assembly dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. The primary objective of UNCTAD is to formulate policies relating to all aspects of development, including trade, aid, transport, finance, technology and sustainable development.
The UNDP Green Commodities Facility (GCF) assists countries in transforming agricultural production and trade through collaboration and capacity-building and delivers long-term support and benefits to farmers. At the global level, the Facility works with corporate partners (manufacturers, retailers and traders) to strengthen sustainable sourcing in their supply chains and to address landscape issues such as deforestation.

The Facility has pioneered National Commodity Platforms. The platforms are a long-term neutral space where the government, private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders can align, take ownership and develop a joint concrete action plan to transform the commodity sector in a country.

Activities include:

- Analysing barriers to scaling sustainable practices; mapping the main stakeholders.
- Establishing and facilitating National Commodity Platforms.
- Giving policy advice, such as reviewing legal and regulatory frameworks (e.g. policies promoting sustainable practices, land tenure, land-use planning, fiscal policy instruments), strengthening law enforcement, providing a package of market-based tools and economic incentives to sustainable production through the payments for ecosystem services and REDD+.
- Building the institutional capacity of governments to strengthen law enforcement and to deliver more effective assistance to producers. Assistance includes extension services, land-use planning, and access to financial and social services.
- Financing sustainable practices by partnering with rural credit and saving cooperatives, national development banks and commercial banks to build local lending capacity for farmers.
- Strengthening the links between buyers and producers through global corporate partnerships and national platforms, to facilitate better conditions for farmers supplying sustainable products. This includes support for certification, sourcing relationships, outgrower schemes and traceability.

The UNDP GCF has a portfolio of projects supporting cocoa, coffee, fisheries, palm oil, pineapple and soy in Latin America, Asia and Africa and welcomes partners to join existing initiatives or propose new ones.

**Focus**
Global

**Influence**
Through working with national governments of producer countries and with major commodity buyers to support sustainable commodity production practices, policies, financing mechanisms and market development.

**Approach**
Capacity-building, knowledge management and policy dialogue.

**Target Audience**
Government policymakers, private sector, commodity producers and civil society.

**Partners**
International organizations, public sector, private sector and civil society.

**Organization**
**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**
UNDP is the global development network of the United Nations, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. UNDP concentrates on four main focus areas: democratic governance; poverty reduction and achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals; crisis prevention and recovery; and environment and energy for sustainable development.
A. GOVERNMENTAL & INTERGOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES

### UNEP ECONOMICS AND TRADE BRANCH (UNEP-ETB)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>Anja von Moltke (Head of Trade, Policy and Planning Unit)<a href="mailto:anja.moltke@unep.org">anja.moltke@unep.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td>bit.ly/unep-etb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>The Economics and Trade Branch (ETB) of the Division of Technology, Industry and Economy (DTIE), United Nations Environment Programme, seeks to conserve the environment, reduce poverty and promote sustainable development by enhancing the capacity of governments, businesses, and civil society to integrate sustainable environmental considerations into their policies and practices.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities and areas of focus include:
- Promoting the transition to a Green Economy through advice about and research into the impact of green investments on economics, sustainability and poverty reduction. ETB covers a range of sectors, from renewable energy to sustainable agriculture, and provides guidance on policies that increase investment in these sectors.
- Promoting integrated design and implementation of policies, emphasizing sound environmental management, sustainable trade and poverty reduction.
- Strengthening environmental management and multilateral environmental agreements through economic instruments and subsidy reform.
- Promoting mutually supportive trade and environment policies.
- Enhancing the role of the financial sector in sustainable development.

ETB flagship initiatives include:
- The Green Economy and Trade Opportunities Project (GE-TOP)
- The Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP)
- The Partnership of Action on Green Economy (PAGE)
- The Green Economy Initiative (GEI)
- UNEP Finance Initiative (UNEP-Fi)
- The UNEP-UNCTAD Capacity Building Task Force on Trade, Environment and Development (CBTF)
- The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOCUS</th>
<th>Global</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFLUENCE</td>
<td>As the UN focal point on environmental issues, with expertise on economics, trade and finance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROACH</td>
<td>Research, capacity-building and knowledge management, technical assistance and national guidance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARGET AUDIENCE</td>
<td>Governments, policymakers and civil society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERS</td>
<td>International organizations, financial institutions, private sector, research institutions and civil society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATION</td>
<td><strong>United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNEP is an international institution that coordinates United Nations environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices. The Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) provides solutions to decision makers and helps change the business environment by offering platforms for dialogue and cooperation, innovative policy options, pilot projects and creative market mechanisms.
**UNEP SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION BRANCH (UNEP SCP)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>Liazzat Rabbiosi (Programme Officer) <a href="mailto:liazzat.rabbiosi@unep.org">liazzat.rabbiosi@unep.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.unep.org/resourceefficiency">www.unep.org/resourceefficiency</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DESCRIPTION | The UNEP sub-programme on Resource Efficiency and Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) provides internationally recognized frameworks to promote resource-efficient and environmentally friendly products. This work is divided into four key components:

- Technical methodologies: development and consensus building on life cycle based indicators and methodologies to assess the sustainability of products.
- International cooperation: development and consensus building on product sustainability. This also includes the development of a global programme on Consumer Information under the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP.
- Sector-specific work: Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria and Council, Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (Common Carbon Metric and Sustainable Building Protocol) and Sustainable Foods Systems.
- Regional and national support: regional cooperation projects on voluntary labels and standards (African Ecolabelling Mechanism, Southern Cone of LA and ASEAN), capacity-building projects on environmental footprinting, eco-labelling, and sustainable public procurement and eco-labelling. |
| FOCUS | Global |
| INFLUENCE | Through global coordination and convening of environmental sustainability initiatives and strengthening of national capacity to achieve environmentally sustainable outcomes. |
| APPROACH | Normative work, capacity-building and knowledge management. |
| TARGET AUDIENCE | Governments, policymakers, industry and civil society. |
| PARTNERS | International organizations, financial institutions, private sector, research institutions and civil society. |
| ORGANIZATION | **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**

UNEP is an international institution that coordinates United Nations environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices.

The Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE) provides solutions to decision makers and helps change the business environment by offering platforms for dialogue and cooperation, innovative policy options, pilot projects and creative market mechanisms. |
A. GOVERNMENTAL & INTERGOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES

UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS (UNFSS)

CREATION
2013

CONTACT
Ulrich Hoffmann (UNCTAD) <ulrich.hoffmann@unctad.org>
Christopher Wunderlich (Sustainable Commodity Initiative) <cwunderlich@agrofuturo.org>

WEBSITE
www.unfss.org

DESCRIPTION
The UNFSS is a forum set up by 5 UN agencies: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Trade Centre (ITC), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Its mandate is to provide a shared platform for dialogue, coordination and collaboration among agencies, stakeholders from public and private sector, civil society and research organizations. It is supported by an advisory panel with balanced representation from its stakeholder groups.

It provides credible information and facilitates and strengthens the effective and active participation of developing countries in the international dialogue on voluntary sustainability standards.

UNFSS is demand-driven, responding to the needs of the participating stakeholders. Examples of UNFSS activities include:

- Holding annual meetings and issue-focused workshops with decision makers (in government, the public and private sector, research organizations and non-governmental organizations) to identify and discuss priority issues around voluntary sustainability standards.
- Doing research to provide reliable and independent information on voluntary sustainability standards.
- Providing information through newsletters, policy briefs, web pages and in-depth publications on voluntary sustainability standards.
- Supporting the participation of decision makers from developing countries in setting standards.
- Assisting with implementing pro-active voluntary sustainability standards at the national level.

The UNFSS launch conference identified the following thematic areas as preliminary priority subjects:

- Support of existing impact assessment programmes for voluntary sustainability standards, with the UNFSS assessing their credibility and helping to interpret and disseminate their findings;
- Provision of credible and independent information on the costs, benefits and challenges of voluntary sustainability standards, linked to the ITC database on Trade for Sustainable Development;
- Capacity-building for small and medium-sized enterprises producing goods suitable for certification towards a voluntary sustainability standard;
- Further development and adaptation of decision-making tools for national and regional needs and their validation through national and regional workshops;
- Further development of the flagship report based on the priority areas, with the nexus between public and private standards being a key priority topic (there will also be a series of UNFSS Newsletters and UNFSS Discussion Papers);
- Enhanced interoperability of voluntary sustainability standards, including their harmonization and equivalence; and
- Facilitation of cooperation among, and providing guidance to, emerging standards initiatives to enhance their credibility, with a focus on real development.

FOCUS
Global, with focus on developing countries and the agrifood, material resource and energy efficiency sector. Policy interest in the internalization of environmental and social costs and the promotion of developing countries’ competitiveness and access for sustainability markets.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS (UNFSS)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>INFLUENCE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>As a platform of coordination and collaboration among UN agencies, to synchronize effort and policy coherence with capacity to pool resources and provide independent analysis and capacity-building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPROACH</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy research and capacity-building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TARGET AUDIENCE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public and private stakeholders in developing countries, civil society and research organizations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PARTNERS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO, UNCTAD, UNEP, ITC and UNIDO.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ORGANIZATION</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNCTAD is the principal organ of the United Nations General Assembly dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. The primary objective of UNCTAD is to formulate policies relating to all aspects of development, including trade, aid, transport, finance and technology.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UNIDO TRADE CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (TCB)

**Creation**
1966

**Contact**
Bernardo Calzadilla-Sarmiento (Director TCB)<bcalzadilla@unido.org>

**Website**
www.unido.org/trade

**Description**
UNIDO Trade Capacity Building (TCB) aims to increase trade in developing countries and enable these countries to have their products and services meet market requirements for quantity, quality, safety and social and environmental. TCB works by fostering strong cooperation between partners and adapting pro-actively to international developments. Its services include:

- Enabling national standards bodies to help industry comply with WTO agreements, especially on technical barriers to trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, while taking into account private sector, exporter and consumer needs.
- Developing local capacities in metrology, calibration and product testing, in order to provide services to local testers, producers and exporters and to enhance consumer protection.
- Assisting in the development of local internationally recognized certification services for international public and private standards regarding quality, environment, social accountability, food safety and traceability.
- Enabling national and regional accreditation schemes to assess the performance of local and regional laboratories, inspection units and certification bodies.
- Building the capacities of consumer associations to promote consumer rights, based on national policies and in line with international best practice.

Related programmes include:
- Making private standards work for you: a guide to private standards in the garments, footwear and furniture sectors
- Business Partnership Programme
- The Responsible Entrepreneurs Achievement Programme (REAP)
- Resource-efficient and low-carbon industrial production.

**Focus**
Global, with focus on trade, competitiveness and industrial development.

**Influence**
Through capacity-building and advice to member countries about standards compliance.

**Approach**
Research, capacity-building, knowledge management and policy dialogue.

**Target Audience**
Governments, policymakers and civil society.

**Partners**
International organizations, public sector and private sector.

**Organization**
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
UNIDO is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

The mandate of UNIDO is to promote and accelerate sustainable industrial development in developing countries and economies in transition. The Organization carries out two core functions: as a global forum, it generates and disseminates industry-related knowledge and as a technical cooperation agency, it provides technical support and implements projects.
# WORLD BANK SAFEGUARD POLICIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATION</th>
<th>1997</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT</td>
<td>Cary Anne Cadman (Sr. Forestry Specialist &amp; Deputy Regional Safeguard Advisor) <a href="mailto:ccadman@worldbank.org">ccadman@worldbank.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td>go.worldbank.org/WTA1ODE7T0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>The World Bank environmental and social safeguard policies help identify, avoid and mitigate impacts on environment and people affected by projects supported or funded by the IBRD. These policies provide guidelines for bank and borrower staff on the identification, preparation and implementation of programmes and projects. Specific safeguard policies address natural habitats, pest management, cultural property, involuntary resettlement, indigenous peoples, safety of dams, projects on international waterways and projects in disputed areas. The policies are currently under review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOCUS</td>
<td>Global</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFLUENCE</td>
<td>Through providing requirements for borrowing governments to address social and environmental risks in order to receive finances and loans from the World Bank. The safeguard policies are also used as reference by other development banks such as BNDES (Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Economico e Social) and JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROACH</td>
<td>Risk management framework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARGET AUDIENCE</td>
<td>Developing country governments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERS</td>
<td>Intergovernmental organizations and development finance institutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATION</td>
<td><strong>International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)</strong>&lt;br&gt;The IBRD aims to reduce poverty in middle-income countries and creditworthy poorer countries by promoting sustainable development through loans, guarantees, risk management products, and analytical and advisory services. Established in 1944 as the original institution of the World Bank Group, IBRD modelled on a cooperative, owned and operated for the benefit of its 188 member countries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CREATION</strong></th>
<th>1995</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEBSITE</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm">http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/sps_e/sps_e.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DESCRIPTION</strong></td>
<td>The SPS Agreement established a Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures to provide a forum for governments to discuss food safety and animal and plant health measures which affect trade, and to ensure the implementation of the SPS Agreement. The Committee is open to all WTO Members, as well as observer governments. Representatives of several international intergovernmental organizations are also observers, including Codex Alimentarius, OIE, IPPC, WHO, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). The Committee can consider any issue raised by members. For instance, one issue that has been discussed since 2005 is private standards, SPS-related requirements established by private associations or individual companies. An ad hoc working group identified twelve “Possible Actions for the SPS Committee Regarding SPS-Related Private Standards” (G/SPS/W/256). In 2011, the Committee adopted five of those actions which relate to defining the scope of the discussions on private standards and promoting information exchange among various actors in this area, including the SPS Committee, the relevant international standard-setting organizations, WTO Members, entities involved in SPS-related private standards, and the WTO Secretariat (G/SPS/55 and G/SPS/W/265/Rev.2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOCUS</strong></td>
<td>Global, with a focus on SPS issues that may impact on trade and co-operation with the international standards-setting bodies referenced in the SPS Agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INFLUENCE</strong></td>
<td>As main multilateral forum related to trade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>APPROACH</strong></td>
<td>Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TARGET AUDIENCE</strong></td>
<td>Governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PARTNERS</strong></td>
<td>Governments, technical organizations and policymakers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ORGANIZATION</strong></td>
<td><strong>World Trade Organization (WTO)</strong> The WTO is the international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world’s trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The WTO is an organization for trade liberalization and a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**WTO TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (CTE)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATION</th>
<th>1994</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/cte_doha_e.htm">www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/envir_e/cte_doha_e.htm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>The 1994 Ministerial Decision on Trade and Environment created the WTO Trade and Environment Committee (CTE). The CTE is open to the entire WTO membership, with some international organizations as observers. The committee's mandate is to contribute to identifying and understanding the relationship between trade and the environment, in order to promote sustainable development. Negotiations on trade and the environment are part of the Doha Development Agenda launched at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar, in November 2001. The agenda commits WTO members to ensuring that the outcome of this round of negotiations is supportive of sustainable development, and the CTE has been charged by the conference to pay particular attention to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The effect of environmental measures on market access for developing countries, in particular the least-developed among them, and on those situations in which the elimination or reduction of trade restrictions and distortions would benefit trade, the environment and development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Labelling requirements for environmental purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOCUS</td>
<td>Global, with a focus on the role of environmental standards and labelling in relation to free trade rules.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFLUENCE</td>
<td>As main trade negotiation forum related to trade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROACH</td>
<td>Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARGET AUDIENCE</td>
<td>Governments and policymakers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERS</td>
<td>Governments and policymakers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORGANIZATION</td>
<td><strong>World Trade Organization (WTO)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The WTO is the international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The WTO is an organization for trade liberalization and a forum for governments to negotiate trade agreements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**B. NON-GOVERNMENTAL INITIATIVES & PARTNERSHIPS**

**ETHICAL TRADING INITIATIVE (ETI)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATION</th>
<th>1998</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT</td>
<td>Emma Clark<a href="mailto:emma.clark@eti.org.uk">emma.clark@eti.org.uk</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ethicaltrade.org">www.ethicaltrade.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DESCRIPTION | The Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) is an alliance of companies, trade unions and voluntary organizations. Companies with a commitment to ethical trade adopt a code of labour practice, the ETI Base Code, based on International Labour Organisation standards. The code addresses issues like wages, hours of work, health and safety and the right to join free trade unions. Companies that join ETI must adopt the ETI Base Code in full, and also sign up to the ETI Principles of Implementation which set out the approaches to ethical trade that member companies should follow. Member companies play an active part in ETI activities alongside their trade union and NGO colleagues, including in members’ meetings, supply chain programmes and working groups. Key documents include:  
  - The ETI Base Code (2012)  
  - ETI Principles of Implementation (available to Members only)  
  - Briefings on child labour, union rights at work, auditing working conditions, etc.  
ETI also provides training in aspects of ethical trade and lobbies governments on relevant issues. |
| FOCUS | Global |
| INFLUENCE | Through its members. In 2012, ETI had 75 company members, with a combined turnover of more than US$250 billion. The membership also includes trade unions representing nearly 160 million workers around the world, and social and fair-trade NGOs working in 40 different countries. Member companies’ ethical trade activities cover over 10 million workers around the world. In 2010 they requested that their suppliers take over 133,000 separate actions to improve workers’ conditions. |
| APPROACH | Project implementation, training, policy advocacy. |
| TARGET AUDIENCE | Retailers and manufacturers working with companies in their supply chains. |
| PARTNERS | Private sector companies, trade unions and voluntary organizations. Supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). |
# Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Creation</strong></th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
<td>Noemi Perez (Executive Director) <a href="mailto:noemi.perez@fastinternational.org">noemi.perez@fastinternational.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.fastinternational.org">www.fastinternational.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description**

A global, member driven, non-profit association, the Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST) represents lenders and producers dedicated to bringing sustainable products to market. Members include socially oriented and alternative lending institutions, small and medium-sized producers, development institutions and other stakeholders in the agricultural commodities supply chain. FAST convenes a diverse group of stakeholders, working collectively to bridge the financing gap in the sustainable small and medium-sized enterprise finance sector.

Through the development of joint projects, high-level advocacy, shared strategies and enhanced transparency, FAST aims to improve the operational effectiveness of socially oriented lending institutions. Some activities and outputs include:

- The Financial Marketplace, a tool to help bridge the financing gap by helping borrowers and financial service providers connect more efficiently. As a central access point for sustainable trade finance, it gives sustainable enterprises the tools they need to make an informed decision on the appropriate financing option for their enterprise.
- FAST SIAMT 1.0, a tool that defines a common and standard set of 112 indicators for assessing the impact of investments in sustainable small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries.
- FAST Financial Fairs (FFFs), events that consist of one-to-one meetings between sustainable small and medium-sized enterprises and social and environmentally oriented financial institutions. Through the FFF process, FAST has facilitated the disbursement of US$23 million.

**Focus**

- Global

**Influence**

Through a diverse membership with participation of financial institutions working with small and medium enterprises, including producer organizations, mainly in sustainable agriculture and forestry in finance and social impact investment.

**Approach**

- Advocacy

**Target Audience**

Financial institutions, sustainable, including producer organizations in developing countries, and sustainability standards initiatives.

**Partners**

Financial institutions, sustainable small and medium-sized enterprises, including producer organizations in developing countries, and sustainability standards initiatives.
**GLOBAL ECOLABELLING NETWORK (GEN)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CREATION</strong></th>
<th>1994</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONTACT</strong></td>
<td>Secretariat Office <a href="mailto:gensecretariat@terrachoice.com">gensecretariat@terrachoice.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEBSITE</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.globalecolabelling.net">www.globalecolabelling.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **DESCRIPTION** | The Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) is a non-profit association of third-party organizations focusing on environmental performance recognition, certification and labelling. The GEN was founded to improve, promote, and develop type-I eco-labelling of products and services. Its members include governmental and quasi-governmental bodies, private organizations, trusts, institutes and councils operating national eco-labelling programmes. Its secretariat is run by the Canadian eco-labelling programme Terrachoice.

The GEN promotes the development and use of ISO type-I eco-labels, i.e. multiple-criteria, life cycle assessment-based eco-labels supported by voluntary, third-party product-labelling programmes, based on compliance with ISO 14024.

The GEN was initially established as a forum. However, its activities have grown to include:
- International mutual recognition relating to eco-labelling.
- Development of common core environmental performance criteria.
- Engagement with ISO and adoption of ISO 14024 for good practice.
- Technical assistance programmes.

| **FOCUS** | Global, through its network of national member programmes and with a particular focus on type-I (life cycle analysis) standards and eco-labelling. |
| **INFLUENCE** | As a global network of well-known eco-labelling programmes. |
| **APPROACH** | Promotes and works to improve consistency of ISO type-I eco-labelling. |
| **TARGET AUDIENCE** | Policymakers and consumers. |
| **PARTNERS** | National eco-labelling programmes. |
### GLOBAL SOCIAL COMPLIANCE PROGRAMME (GSCP)

**Creation**: 2006

**Contact**: Claudine Musitelli (Vice-President Ethical Sourcing and Food Safety Initiatives)<c.musitelli@theconsumergoodsforum.com>

**Website**: [www.gscpnet.com](http://www.gscpnet.com)

**Description**

The GSCP is a business-driven membership programme hosted by the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) to provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation on sustainability issues among private companies and within a large circle of stakeholders. The programme was created by and for global buying companies wanting to work collaboratively on improving the sustainability of their shared supply base. Through this platform, companies are working on harmonizing efforts to deliver a common, consistent and global approach for the continuous improvement of working and environmental conditions in global supply chains.

The GSCP objectives are:
- To build consensus on best practice.
- To develop a clear and consistent message for suppliers globally.
- To drive convergence by building comparability and transparency between systems.
- To reduce audit fatigue and duplication.
- To strengthen collaborative efforts for capacity-building and training.

Activities and outputs include:
- Development of GSCP reference tools to describe best practice, to uphold relevant international standards (where these exist), and to provide a common interpretation of fair labour and environmental requirements and their implementation (codes, audit process, auditing competence, management systems).
- Development of an equivalence process to support companies and initiatives in overcoming variations in social and environmental compliance standards, audit processes and methodology and in requirements for auditing competence. It allows companies and initiatives to benchmark their standards, tools and processes against agreed best practice as described in the GSCP reference tools.
- Support of capacity-building collaboration for the remediation of root causes of non-compliance, and for the development and management of solutions proposed by suppliers. This is done through the development of references, models and common approaches for the industry.

**Focus**: Global

**Influence**: Through participation of industry players, driven by the private sector and by sharing experience and building harmonization in industry practices.

**Approach**: Development of a consensus-based reference framework and meta-standards based on best practice. All output open source.

**Target Audience**: Private sector plus all actors involved in social and environmental supply chain compliance management and capacity-building.

**Partners**: GSCP Partner Organisations Network (PON): Business Social Compliance Initiative, Fair Labor Association, Social Accountability International, ICTI Care Foundation and WRAP. Other partners: FTA, UNIDO.
GLOBAL SOCIAL COMPLIANCE PROGRAMME (GSCP)

**Organization**

Consumer Goods Forum (CGF)

CGF is a global, parity-based industry network, driven by its members. It brings together the CEOs and senior management of over 400 retailers, manufacturers, service providers and other stakeholders across 70 countries. The forum provides a platform for knowledge exchange and initiatives around five strategic priorities: emerging trends, sustainability, safety and health, operational excellence, and knowledge sharing and people development. The GSCP is hosted by CGF but operates a separate membership and governance model.

IISD SUSTAINABLE MARKETS AND RESPONSIBLE TRADE INITIATIVE (SMART)

**Contact**

Jason Potts <jpotts@iisd.ca>

**Website**

www.iisd.org/markets

**Description**

The IISD Sustainable Markets and Responsible Trade initiative (SMART) aims to improve the sustainability of international trade by promoting economy of scale, efficiency, equity and transparency in the design and implementation of voluntary supply chain initiatives. It seeks to build an enabling infrastructure for the efficient, equitable and transparent use of voluntary initiatives as instruments for sustainable development.

The initiative's five core areas are:

- Public policy to identify linkages between voluntary initiatives and public policy objectives and instruments.
- Standards and voluntary initiatives to promote transparency, inclusiveness and continual improvement in the design and implementation of standards and voluntary initiatives.
- Globalization of services to explore the movement of service jobs across industrialized and developing economies and the implications of that movement for sustainable development.
- Financing and the linking of finance to sustainable production performance.
- Technical assistance to complement sustainable farming practices with organizational development, financial literacy, risk management, quality control and marketing expertise and providing a solid foundation for participation in international markets.

**Focus**

Global, with focus on the interaction between voluntary standards and public policy.

**Influence**

As a research institution with extensive experience in area of voluntary standards and programmes and partnerships that fostered the advancement of voluntary standards.

**Approach**

Research, advocacy and technical assistance.

**Target Audience**

Policymakers, producers, sustainability standards initiatives and financial institutions.

**Partners**

International organizations, research organizations and civil society.

**Organization**

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

The IISD is a Canada-based international public policy research institute for sustainable development. The Institute contributes to sustainable development by advancing policy recommendations on international trade and investment, economic policy, climate change and energy, and management of natural and social capital, as well enabling communication technologies in these areas.
## ISEAL Alliance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Creation</strong></th>
<th>2002</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact</strong></td>
<td>Karin Kreider (Executive Director) <a href="mailto:karin@isealalliance.org">karin@isealalliance.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Website</strong></td>
<td><a href="http://www.isealalliance.org">www.isealalliance.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Description** | ISEAL is a non-governmental organization whose mission is to strengthen sustainability standards systems for the benefit of people and the environment. Its membership is open to all multi-stakeholder sustainability standards and accreditation bodies that demonstrate their ability to meet the ISEAL Codes of Good Practice and accompanying requirements, and commit to learning and improving. Through membership in ISEAL, standards systems show a commitment to supporting a unified movement of sustainability standards. ISEAL also has a non-member subscriber category to engage with governments, researchers, consultants, private sector organizations, non-profit organizations and other stakeholders with a demonstrable commitment to the ISEAL objectives. ISEAL’s four goals are to:  
- Demonstrate and improve the impact of standards  
- Improve the effectiveness of standards  
- Define credibility for sustainability standards  
- Increase the adoption of credible sustainability standards  
ISEAL leads efforts to define and communicate good practice for sustainability standards, with the aim of helping standards to deliver more positive impact. ISEAL also works to increase the use of sustainability standards as tools to achieve the social and environmental goals of governments, businesses and civil society organizations. This includes ensuring that stakeholders recognize the importance of credibility as a fundamental underpinning of effective standards. Key publications include the Credibility Principles and the Codes of Good Practice:  
- Standard-Setting Code (Code of Good Practice for the development of social and environmental standards v5.0, 2010)  
- Impacts Code (Assessing the impacts of social and environmental standards systems: Code of Good Practice v1.0, 2010)  
| **Focus** | Global, with members including standards systems in forestry, agriculture, marine fisheries, textiles and manufacturing, aquaculture, water, mining, carbon, biofuels, and tourism. ISEAL does not limit the range of sectors it works with. |
| **Influence** | As a focal point, ISEAL uses its expertise to convene discussions to strengthen sustainability standards and demonstrate and improve their impact. |
| **Approach** | Definition of good practices and credibility, impact monitoring, advocacy and policy monitoring, collaborative learning among members, awareness building in emerging economies, knowledge sharing and convening of experts. |
| **Target Audience** | Sustainability standards systems, accreditation bodies, public and private sector and civil society. |
| **Partners** | Sustainability standards systems, accreditation bodies, private sector, civil society, research organizations and intergovernmental organizations. |
**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE (SAI)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATION</th>
<th>2002</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT</td>
<td>Peter-Erik Ywema (General Manager) <a href="mailto:peywema@saiplatform.org">peywema@saiplatform.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.saiplatform.org">www.saiplatform.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DESCRIPTION | The Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) is a non-profit body set up by the food industry to facilitate sharing of knowledge and initiatives at a pre-competitive level. It supports development and implementation of sustainable agriculture practices that involve the different stakeholders of the food chain. The overall aim of the SAI Platform is to build capacity for sustainable agriculture worldwide. Its activities are based on research and development undertaken by the SAI Platform itself, its members and other relevant stakeholder groups, and include the following:

- Developing principles and practices for the sustainable production of arable and vegetable crops, coffee, dairy and fruit.
- Testing these practices through pilot projects in Africa, America, Asia and Europe.
- Benchmarking these principles and practices against the guidelines and recommendations from all major schemes and initiatives.
- Compiling practical tools to help farmers successfully implement sustainable practices.
- Developing a Sustainability Performance Assessment tool for self-assessment or external assessment of sustainable agricultural practices.

SAI also communicates about sustainable agriculture to food industries and all food chain stakeholders. |
| FOCUS | Global, with focus on the food industry. |
| INFLUENCE | As an industry-led initiative that shares experience and knowledge and through its membership of 40+ global brands such as Danone, Unilever, McDonalds, Nestle, Coca Cola. |
| APPROACH | Knowledge sharing and capacity-building. |
| TARGET AUDIENCE | Food industry targeting the farming community. |
| PARTNERS | Private sector and research organizations. |
### SUSTAINABLE COMMODITY INITIATIVE (SCI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATION</th>
<th>2003</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| CONTACT | Jason Potts (IISD) <jpotts@iisd.ca>  
Ulrich Hoffmann (UNCTAD) <ulrich.hoffmann@unctad.org>  
Chris Wunderlich <cwunderlich@agrofuturo.org> |
| WEBSITE | [www.sustainablecommodities.org](http://www.sustainablecommodities.org) |
| DESCRIPTION | The Sustainable Commodity Initiative (SCI) is a joint initiative managed by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).  

The initiative aims to discover ways to ensure that sustainable practices are adopted into commodity production and trade to enhance social, environmental and economic welfare on a global scale.  

Work of the SCI revolves around providing support for the mainstreaming of sustainable commodity production by improving the efficiency and impact of existing initiatives. The five priority areas of the SCI include:  

- Strengthening technical assistance for sustainable production.  
- Supporting access to market information on sustainable products.  
- Improving access to finance for sustainable production.  
- Strengthening the evidence base on the impact of sustainable products and supply chains.  
- Facilitating the development of supportive policy for sustainable products and markets.  

This initiative has provided support to various programmes, resources and projects that are now independent organizations or stand-alone programmes such as FAST (Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade), COSA (Committee on Sustainability Assessment), SCAN (Sustainable Commodity Assistance Network) and SSI (State of Sustainability Initiative). |
| FOCUS | Global |
| INFLUENCE | Through implementing a series of ground-breaking projects that contributed to the advancement of sustainability standards. |
| APPROACH | Research, network facilitation, project implementation and advocacy. |
| TARGET AUDIENCE | Policymakers, private sector, producers and consumers. |
| PARTNERS | International organizations, civil society and research organizations. |
| ORGANIZATION | **IISD and UNCTAD**  
The IISD is a Canadian-based international public policy research institute for sustainable development. The Institute contributes to sustainable development by advancing policy recommendations on international trade and investment, economic policy, climate change and energy, management of natural and social capital, and enabling communication technologies in these areas.  

UNCTAD is the principal organ of the United Nations General Assembly dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. The primary objective of UNCTAD is to formulate policies relating to all aspects of development, including trade, aid, transport, finance and technology. |
| **CREATION** | 2004 |
| **CONTACT** | Don Seville (Co-director) <dseville@sustainablefood.org> |
| **WEBSITE** | sustainablefood.org |
| **DESCRIPTION** | The Sustainable Food Lab is a consortium of businesses, non-profit and public organizations working together to accelerate the shift toward sustainability in the mainstream agriculture and food sector. The initiative facilitates market-based solutions to issues including climate, soil, poverty and water. The Sustainable Food Lab focuses on four priorities: leadership development, agriculture and development, climate change and sustainability metrics. The agriculture and development programme works on smallholder issues in partnership with buyers and development organizations, using an action-research approach. It aims to understand how sourcing from small-scale farmers in global food chains can be done responsibly to deliver economic and social benefits to farming communities in the developing world. The SFL Linking Worlds is a web-based learning platform that supports companies and non-profit organizations working on supply chains that include small-scale producers in developing countries. It facilitates the sharing of experiences and new business models through research papers, case studies, tools, impact studies and descriptions of active action-learning projects. The Sustainable Food Lab, the ISEAL Alliance and others have established a partnership to develop metrics that can track how formal value chains are serving pro-poor development, and subsequently help design projects that will increase benefits to small-scale producers. SFL has recently launched the Cool Farm Institute to enable farmers and buyers to measure and reduce agricultural greenhouse gas emissions. |
| **FOCUS** | Global |
| **INFLUENCE** | Through its membership consisting of multinational companies, research organizations, civil society and companies collaborating to provide market-based solutions for sustainability. |
| **APPROACH** | Pilot projects, capacity-building and research. |
| **TARGET AUDIENCE** | Producers and suppliers in developing countries and multinational companies. |
| **PARTNERS** | IIED, Rainforest Alliance, Oxfam, Unilever and others. |
**WBCSD SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND VALUE CHAIN PROGRAMME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATION</th>
<th>2011</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT</td>
<td>Olivier Vilaça (Program Manager) <a href="mailto:vilaca@wbcsd.org">vilaca@wbcsd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td>bit.ly/wbcsd-sustainable-consumption</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DESCRIPTION | The Sustainable Consumption and Value Chain Programme is a WBCSD initiative that helps companies improve the sustainability of their value chains and work towards sustainable consumption by 2050. The programme’s objectives are achieved through a Sustainable Consumption and Value Chain (SCVC) system solution that aims to identify new business models, solutions and opportunities in value chain integration with a particular focus on consumption. There are two work streams:  
- Sustainable consumption: to work towards sustainable consumption by 2050.
- Sustainable value chains: to help companies to improve the sustainability of their value chains. Activities and outputs include:  
  - Learning workshops.
  - Reports that will outline a vision and pathway to achieving sustainable consumption by 2050.
  - Tools to support companies in their efforts to improve the sustainability of their value chains. Publications include:  
  - *Collaboration, innovation, transformation ideas and inspiration to accelerate sustainable growth: a value chain approach* (2011)
| FOCUS | Global |
| INFLUENCE | As a coalition of private sector organizations aiming to contribute to sustainable development. |
| APPROACH | Advisory |
| TARGET AUDIENCE | Private sector. |
| PARTNERS | Private sector and research organizations. |
| ORGANIZATION | **World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD)**  
The WBCSD is a CEO-led organization of forward-thinking companies that galvanizes the global business community to create a sustainable future for business, society and the environment. Together with its members, the council applies its respected thought leadership and effective advocacy to generate constructive solutions and take shared action. |
**WWF MARKET TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVE (MTI)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>Andy Murphy <a href="mailto:andrew.murphy@wwfus.org">andrew.murphy@wwfus.org</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td>wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/businesses/transforming_markets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DESCRIPTION   | The Market Transformation Initiative (MTI) is an international programme of the WWF. It aims to change markets so that conservation makes business sense. By showing that commodities can be produced at affordable costs with measurably reduced environmental impact and by creating large-scale demand for such products, the initiative aims to move entire commodity markets towards greater sustainability and achieve global, sustainable environmental outcomes. The MTI focuses its activities on companies that affect commodities with the greatest environmental impacts: cotton, whitefish, palm oil, tuna, timber, sugar cane, paper, soy, biofuels, aquaculture and beef. It takes a strategic approach, considering the major producers, commodity traders, manufacturers, retailers and financing institutions that are influential in its sectors of interest. Activities of the MTI include:  
  - Supporting the development of new, multi-stakeholder, voluntary sustainability standards where standards do not exist or are considered ineffective.  
  - Promoting better management practices.  
  - Increasing the supply of certified products through multi-stakeholder engagements such as round-table dialogues that involve businesses, trade, industry, producers and other civil society organizations.  
  - Establishing company partnerships to improve the sustainability of supply chains and promote sector-wide action in this field.  
  - Promoting sustainable commodity investment with the financial sector. The initiative has also produced reports such as:  
  - Better production for a living planet (2012)  
| FOCUS         | Global, with focus on the cotton, whitefish, palm oil, tuna, timber, sugar cane, paper, soy, biofuels, aquaculture and beef sectors. |
| INFLUENCE     | Through active participation in multi-stakeholder roundtables, leverage and mobilization capacity. |
| APPROACH      | Advocacy |
| TARGET AUDIENCE | Private sector, commodity traders, manufacturers, retailers and banks. |
| PARTNERS      | Private sector, financial institutions and civil society. |
| ORGANIZATION  | WWF is a non-profit foundation with its secretariat based in Gland, Switzerland. The WWF mission is to stop the degradation of the planet’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world’s biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption. |
**CIRAD MARKETS, ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND STAKEHOLDERS STRATEGIES UNIT**

**CREATION**
1984

**CONTACT**
Etienne Montaigne <sd-moisa@supagro.inra.fr>

**WEBSITE**
bit.ly/cirad-moisa

**DESCRIPTION**
The CIRAD Markets, Organizations, Institutions and Stakeholders Strategies Unit is a multidisciplinary team of researchers that focuses on the governance of sustainable development in the agrifood systems of Mediterranean and tropical countries.

The unit analyses standards as instruments for the governance of agrifood systems, alternative food supply and demand models. Additional research interests are how rural producers may be structured on various levels and how the agricultural and rural sectors may be regulated.

The research institute also provides training, disseminates information and shares knowledge with decision makers and other interested parties.

Publications related to voluntary sustainability standards and labelling include:
- *Comparing organic urban consumers in developing and developed countries: first results in Brazil and France* (L. Sirieux, L. Santiago de Abreu, M. Aico Watanabe and P.R. Kledal, 2007).

**FOCUS**
Global, mainly tropical and Mediterranean countries.

**INFLUENCE**
As a renowned research institution with extensive experience in tropical countries.

**APPROACH**
Research

**TARGET AUDIENCE**
Research organizations, civil society and government.

**PARTNERS**
Research organizations, civil society and government.

**ORGANIZATION**
Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement (CIRAD)
The CIRAD is a French agricultural research organization working for development in the South and the French overseas regions with a focus on issues like food security, ecological intensification, emerging diseases and the future of agriculture in developing countries.
The Committee on Sustainability Assessment (COSA™) is a consortium of institutions promoting sustainability in agriculture with credible and globally comparable information based on quantifiable evidence. COSA employs measurement and management tools to analyse the social, environmental and economic impacts of agricultural practices at the field level. Initially launched by SCI (the IISD-UNCTAD Sustainable Commodity Initiative), it is now established as an independent initiative.

COSA activities include:
- Sharing an extensive, globally consistent, and scientifically rigorous set of indicators for assessing the sustainability of different crops.
- Building institutional capacity in developing countries to collect and analyse high-quality data on sustainability.
- Gathering farm and producer group data in developing countries.
- Developing a practical and low-cost decision-making tool for use by farmer groups and buyers.
- Partnering with the UN International Trade Centre to create a database for global dissemination of information.
- Facilitating policy dialogue and successful investment in sustainability.

Outputs include:
- A common framework and indicators to understand the costs and benefits of sustainability in a globally consistent and scientific manner.

Publications include:
- *Food and agriculture: the future of sustainability* (D. Giovannucci et al., 2012)

**FOCUS**  
Global

**INFLUENCE**  
As a consortium of leading research organizations, which focuses on measuring impact with evidence-based research.

**APPROACH**  
Research

**TARGET AUDIENCE**  
Policymakers, governments, private firms and sustainability standards initiatives.

**PARTNERS**  
International organizations, research institutions, producer associations and development organizations.
# ECOLABEL INDEX

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATION</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT</td>
<td>Trevor Bowden <a href="mailto:support@ecolabelindex.com">support@ecolabelindex.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ecolabelindex.com">www.ecolabelindex.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DESCRIPTION    | Ecolabel Index is a global online directory of eco-labels established by Big Room Inc., a for-profit organization with public benefit objectives.  
Ecolabel Index collects and structures data on eco-labels worldwide, with the aim of increasing transparency and helping buyers and sellers use eco-labels more effectively. In February 2013 it was tracking 435 eco-labels in 197 countries and 25 industry sectors.  
Data is made available for free or by subscription, and is used by for-profit, non-profit, academic, and government clients. Ecolabel Index also underpins Big Room’s advisory services practice, which includes:  
- Custom, client-driven research to support critical decision-making.  
- Programme design to integrate voluntary standards systems and green purchasing strategies.  
- Market entry and awareness services for corporations, government agencies and service providers that want to build greater awareness about their products, services and eco-labels within the sustainability community. |
| FOCUS          | Global                                    |
| INFLUENCE      | As a large depository of data about eco-labels. |
| APPROACH       | Resource                                  |
| TARGET AUDIENCE| Private sector                            |
| PARTNERS       | Sustainability standards initiatives and civil society. |
**ICTSD Environment and Natural Resource Programme**

**Creation** 1996

**Contact** Malena Sell (Environment and Natural Resources Senior Programme Officer) <msell@ictsd.ch>

**Website** ictsd.org/programmes/environment

**Description**

The International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) Environment and Natural Resources Programme seeks to inform trade policy and trade negotiation processes such that ecosystems and ecosystem services that are essential for production, economic growth, export revenues, food security and human well-being are properly valued and exploited in a sustainable manner.

Other ICTSD programmes cover topics such as trade law, regionalization and ‘aid for trade’ with a particular focus on trade and sustainable development.

The ICTSD empowers its stakeholders through the provision of information, networking, dialogue, research and capacity-building. ICTSD is accredited by a range of UN bodies and related bodies and has consultative or observer status to attend relevant meetings at United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), World Trade Organization (WTO) and others.

It publishes a range of periodicals on a weekly and monthly basis and generates between 70 to 90 research papers and think pieces annually, in collaboration with other organizations and research institutes in the field.

The Environment and Natural Resources Programme focuses on engaging stakeholders and providing new and innovative thinking on how to make trade policy effectively contribute to sustaining and improving livelihoods in developing countries that depend on natural resources.

In relation to voluntary standards, the ICTSD produced policy briefs that discuss the role of voluntary standards as tools to manage natural resources, published in the journal Bridges Trade BioRes Review.

**Focus** Global, with focus on trade and development, particularly the interaction of the WTO and voluntary standards.

**Influence** As an international think tank that produces widely-read research and policy briefs on trade and environment. Its 13 periodicals are produced in 5 languages, and are estimated to reach 20,000 policymakers and influencers in 180 countries.

**Approach** Research, policy discussion and policy briefs.

**Target Audience** Governments, civil society and intergovernmental organizations.

**Partners** Governments, civil society and intergovernmental organizations.

**Organization**

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD)

An independent, non-profit and non-governmental organization, ICTSD engages a broad range of actors in ongoing dialogue on trade and sustainable development policy. It aims to influence the international trade system such that it advances the goal of sustainable development.
**IDS GLOBALIZATION PROGRAMME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>John Humphrey &lt;<a href="mailto:j.humphrey@ids.ac.uk">j.humphrey@ids.ac.uk</a>&gt;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ids.ac.uk/idsresearch/agri-food-business-and-agricultural-trade">www.ids.ac.uk/idsresearch/agri-food-business-and-agricultural-trade</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>The IDS Globalization Programme carries out research and policy work aimed at promoting sustainable economic growth to reduce poverty. The work focuses on the dynamics of a global environment that includes both the private sector investment and growth necessary for poverty reduction. As part of this effort, it is exploring the impact of changes in the global agrifood business.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IDS research includes:

- Food safety and quality: do stricter food safety and quality standards, both public and private, have the potential to exclude developing countries from international trade?
- Trade structures: how do the value chains for processed agrifood products need to evolve to include more small-scale producers?
- Standards compliance: how can a global value chain framework be used to improve capacity-building efforts directed at compliance with food safety and quality standards in international trade?

The research team have published a series of research papers about private standards and agrifood chains, including:

- Private food law: governing food chains through contract law, self-regulation, private standards, audits and certification schemes (B.M.J. van der Meulen, 2011)
- Understanding the complexities of private standards in global agrifood chains as they impact developing countries (S. Henson and J. Humphrey in Journal of DevelopmentStudies, 2010)
- The impacts of private food safety standards on the food chain and on public standard-setting processes (S. Henson and J. Humphrey, 2009).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOCUS</th>
<th>Global, with policy interest in the impact of private standards on the agrifood business. Also focuses on determining how stricter standards can affect the participation of developing countries in global trade and on the analysis of trade structures and standards compliance.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFLUENCE</td>
<td>As a research institution that combines academic research with projects on the ground and produces influential policy briefs and publications.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APPROACH</td>
<td>Research and policy briefs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TARGET AUDIENCE</td>
<td>Research organizations, government and civil society.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARTNERS</td>
<td>CIRAD, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), private foundations and civil society.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| ORGANIZATION  | **Institute of Development Studies (IDS)**  
The IDS is an independent research institute based at the University of Sussex. IDS has close links with the University, but is financially and constitutionally independent. |
IIED SHAPING SUSTAINABLE MARKETS PROGRAMME (SSM)

CONTACT
Emma Blackmore (IIED) <emma.blackmore@iied.org>
Steve Bass (IIED) <steve.bass@iied.org>
Bill Vorley (IIED) <bill.vorley@iied.org>

WEBSITE
shapingsustainablemarkets.iied.org

DESCRIPTION
The Shaping Sustainable Markets (SSM) Programme is the flagship research initiative of the broader IIED Sustainable Markets Programme. It explores the impact of many kinds of market governance mechanisms (formal and informal) on people, the planet and the economy. It analyses a wide range of mechanisms – from carbon labelling to diamond certification – that either operate in developing countries or have an impact on them.

Ultimately, the project aims to inform the future use, design and implementation of market governance mechanisms (including but certainly not limited to voluntary standards) to ensure that markets contribute to positive social, environmental, and economic outcomes.

The programme carries out primary research and literature analysis. It plans to launch a community of practice in 2013 to share knowledge and experience on the use and design of market governance mechanisms. Recent SSM papers on voluntary sustainability standards include:


Shaping Sustainable Markets is also involved in the State of Sustainability Initiative (as contributors of research, resources and overall strategic guidance). SSM profiles a number of voluntary standards in its database of mechanisms.

FOCUS
Global

INFLUENCE
As a research institution with a focus on sustainable development and experience in monitoring and evaluating the evolution of sustainability standards. IIED has a particular focus on the inclusion of small-scale farmers in certification and markets.

APPROACH
Research and advocacy.

TARGET AUDIENCE
Sustainability standards initiatives, civil society, research organizations and the private sector.

PARTNERS
Sustainability standards initiatives, civil society and producers.

ORGANIZATION
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
International policy research organization. IIED carries out research and advocacy work in partnership with local organizations in the developing world.
**INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL TRADE POLICY COUNCIL (IPC)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATION</th>
<th>1987</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CONTACT</td>
<td>A. Ellen Terpstra (President and CEO) <a href="mailto:terpstra@agritrade.org">terpstra@agritrade.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.agritrade.org">www.agritrade.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DESCRIPTION | The International Food and Agricultural Trade Policy Council (IPC) is a think tank that promotes the role of trade in creating a more open, equitable, productive and sustainable global food and agricultural system. IPC pursues pragmatic trade and development policies in food and agriculture to meet the world’s growing needs. To this end, it convenes policymakers, agribusiness executives, farm leaders and academics from developed and developing countries to build consensus around agricultural and food policy issues. IPC conveys its recommendations directly to policymakers and decision makers around the world through policy papers, seminars, conferences, and personal contacts. In the process, it clarifies complex issues and fosters broader stakeholder participation in food and agricultural policy. Under its Productivity and Sustainability Policy area, IPC supports research that focuses on increasing agricultural production sustainably. To pursue productivity and sustainability, coherence between agricultural, environmental and trade policies must be fostered. Publications include:  
  - Leveraging private sector investments in developing country agrifood systems (C. Hebebrand in Global Agricultural Development Initiative Policy Paper Series, 2011)  
| FOCUS | Global, with focus on the effectiveness of voluntary standards in promoting sustainable development. |
| INFLUENCE | Through its membership composed of policymakers, academics and thought leaders. |
| APPROACH | Policy briefs and research. |
| TARGET AUDIENCE | Governments |
| PARTNERS | Research organizations and think tanks. |
STATE OF SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES (SSI)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>Jason Potts <a href="mailto:jpotts@iisd.ca">jpotts@iisd.ca</a></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEBSITE</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sustainablecommodities.org/ssi">www.sustainablecommodities.org/ssi</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| DESCRIPTION        | State of Sustainability Initiatives (SSI) is a programme of the Sustainable Commodity Initiative (SCI). It focuses on research and reports on the impact and effectiveness of market-based, voluntary approaches to sustainable commodity production and trade. It aims to improve information sharing and transparency in voluntary supply chain initiatives through an independent reporting service and learning network. SSI activities include:  
- Publishing a regular review of the voluntary initiatives sector, including statistics, market trends, performance metrics and forward-looking strategies and trends. Each issue focuses on the relationship between voluntary sustainability initiatives and a sustainable development theme.  
- Regular reporting on initiatives and giving journalistic updates on the latest developments in sustainable commodity markets and voluntary initiatives around the world.  
- Writing briefings and a monthly online publication offering in-depth analysis on the relationship between commodity markets, voluntary sustainability initiatives and themes such as poverty reduction, climate change, desertification and biodiversity preservation.  
- Hosting a forum to foster best practice by facilitating dialogue and collaboration among voluntary initiatives.  
- Doing cross-cutting research and analysis on the performance of voluntary sustainability initiatives and the policy responses needed to support the continued growth and development of sustainable commodity markets, production and trade.  
Publications include:  
- The State of Sustainability Initiatives review 2010: sustainability and transparency (J. Potts, J. van der Meer and J. Daitchman, 2010). |
| FOCUS              | Global                       |
| INFLUENCE          | Through research, market trends and statistics. |
| APPROACH           | Information and knowledge sharing. |
| TARGET AUDIENCE    | Policymakers, producers and sustainability standards initiatives. |
| PARTNERS           | International organizations, research organizations and civil society. |
| ORGANIZATION       | **Sustainable Commodity Initiative (SCI)**  
The SCI is a joint initiative managed by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Dedicated to assisting the international community, the SCI aims to discover ways to ensure that sustainable practices are adopted into commodity production and trade to enhance social, environmental and economic welfare on a global scale. |
**CONTACT**  
Chris Wunderlich <cwunderlich@agrofuturo.org>

**WEBSITE**  
scanprogram.org

**DESCRIPTION**  
The Sustainable Commodity Assistance Network (SCAN) is a capacity-building programme providing customized, needs-based technical assistance to producers wishing to adopt sustainable practices and enter sustainable markets.

Facilitated by the Sustainable Commodity Initiative (SCI), SCAN is a network of 17 global standards bodies, technical assistance institutions, UN agencies and other stakeholders.

SCAN aims to implement a global generic technical assistance network that will mobilize an increased number of organizations to support producers wishing to enter sustainable markets. SCAN has also established national platforms in Guatemala, Peru, and Tanzania and is developing the process in Vietnam.

Activities are focused on:
- Developing generic training material to improve production and business management practices and quality management systems for sustainable producers.
- Developing a global network of National Platforms for the delivery of targeted technical assistance.

**FOCUS**  
Global, with focus on the interaction between voluntary standards and public policy.

**INFLUENCE**  
Through capacity-building, working closely with voluntary standard movement and producers.

**APPROACH**  
Research, policy advocacy and technical assistance.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**  
Policymakers, producers, sustainability standards initiatives and financial institutions.

**PARTNERS**  
International organizations, research organizations and civil society.

**ORGANIZATION**  
**Sustainable Commodity Initiative (SCI)**  
The SCI is a joint initiative managed by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Dedicated to assisting the international community, the SCI aims to discover ways to ensure that sustainable practices are adopted into commodity production and trade to enhance social, environmental and economic welfare on a global scale.
The Sustainability Consortium is a non-profit organization formed by diverse participants (non-profit, private sector, standards movement and research organizations) working to make the world more sustainable through better products, services and consumption. The organization develops and promotes science and integrated tools to improve informed decision-making for product sustainability throughout the entire product lifecycle across all relevant consumer goods sectors.

Activities are divided into two streams:
- Developing standards and tools to measure and report on the sustainability of products across the life cycle, partnering with software and data sharing companies to create the tools to facilitate measurement and reporting of product sustainability, and partnering with auditing and certification firms to create assurance standards.
- Enhancing science to better inform decision makers by generating new indicators and methodologies for understanding and evaluating product sustainability, enhancing data availability and accuracy, and identifying uncertainty, conducting best practice and proxy reviews based on what is currently available, and exploring the use of product sustainability information for buyers and consumers.

The organization is developing a standardized framework for the communication of sustainability-related information throughout the product value chain. The framework, called the Sustainability Measurement & Reporting System (SMRS) is intended to serve as a common, global platform for companies to measure and report on product sustainability, using a product life cycle approach.

The Food, Beverage, and Agriculture Sustainability Measurement and Reporting Standard (FBA SMRS) applies the framework to food, beverages and agriculture.

The Sustainability Consortium also reviews biodiversity and land-use metrics and evaluates their potential for use in the SMRS and as Sustainability Performance Drivers (SPD). It also identifies gaps or research needs in the development of metrics, drivers and indicators.
TRADE STANDARDS PRACTITIONERS NETWORK (TSPN)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CREATION</th>
<th>2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| DESCRIPTION | The Trade and Standards Practitioners Network (TSPN) was a network of organizations whose work covered trade-related standards associated with agriculture and other rural industries. Its secretariat was hosted by the Trade Programme of GIZ. Its members came from various multilateral and bilateral agencies, private sector umbrella organizations, consultancy and other practitioner groups, and civil society. The network’s objective was to support developing country capacity and participation in the implementation of trade-related social, environmental, and food safety standards and related measures through information sharing, policy research and capacity-building. It sought to support pro-developmental use of voluntary trade standards by turning them into catalysts for sustainable development. The initiative is referenced regularly in the literature, but is no longer active. Activities included:
- Knowledge sharing and dissemination.
- Policy dialogue.
- Creating awareness for private standards and facilitation of informed decision-making.
- Joint research and development of assessment tools.
- Developing a standards database and learning platform.
- Writing a website and newsletter. |
<p>| FOCUS | Global |
| INFLUENCE | Through a platform of dialogue among stakeholders in the voluntary standards movement and through information and knowledge sharing. |
| APPROACH | Information dissemination, research and dialogue. |
| TARGET AUDIENCE | Policymakers, government and sustainability standards initiatives. |
| PARTNERS | GIZ, FAO, ISO, World Bank Group, UNCTAD and others. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>UNCTAD SUSTAINABLE COMMODITIES CLAIMS PORTAL</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CREATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CONTACT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEBSITE</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **DESCRIPTION** | The Sustainable Commodities Claims Portal is an online platform with the objective of generating knowledge and discussion on sustainability claims. The portal is intended to enhance the accountability of sustainability claims related to agricultural and food products and enable agricultural supply chain stakeholders to better understand and evaluate these claims. Activities are:  
  - Providing credible information on sustainability claims to agricultural commodity supply chain stakeholders (producers, exporters, distributors and consumers).  
  - Increasing access for these stakeholders to information on standards programmes and initiatives.  
  - Reviewing information resources concerning sustainability claims and related issues (such as sustainability initiatives, research or policy).  
  
The portal focuses on the tropics and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States. Some publications include:  
  - Environmental laws affecting imports of agricultural products from ACP countries into the European Union (N. De Vos, 2008)  
  - Organic fruit and vegetables from the tropics: market, certification and production information for producers and international trading companies (D. Giovannucci et al., 2003). |
| **FOCUS** | Global, with focus on African, Caribbean and Pacific producers and EU consumers. |
| **INFLUENCE** | Through an information platform. |
| **APPROACH** | Resource |
| **TARGET AUDIENCE** | Public and private stakeholders in developing countries, civil society and research organizations. |
| **PARTNERS** | European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific country governments. |
| **ORGANIZATION** | **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**  
UNCTAD is the principal organ of the United Nations General Assembly dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. The primary objective of UNCTAD is to formulate policies relating to all aspects of development, including trade, aid, transport, finance and technology. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>UN GLOBAL COMPACT SUSTAINABLE SUPPLY CHAINS WEBSITE</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CREATION</strong> 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONTACT</strong> Anita Househam (Issue Manager – Supply Chain Sustainability) <a href="mailto:househam@un.org">househam@un.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>WEBSITE</strong> supply-chain.unglobalcompact.org</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **DESCRIPTION** The UN Global Compact Sustainable Supply Chains website was launched at the 2010 UN Global Compact Leaders Summit as a resource for businesses seeking information about supply chain sustainability. Its objective is to make it easier for practitioners to find information to assist them in the process of embedding sustainability issues – human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption – into supply chains. At the same time, the website enables organizations, companies and others to share information about their supply chain initiatives and resources. The online platform presents information about sustainable supply chains and includes:  
  - Initiatives (programmes, codes, standards, networks) companies can engage in to improve their supply chain sustainability.  
  - Resources and tools to assist in the implementation of sustainable supply chain programmes, such as a guide for sustainable purchasing and supply chain management, a quick self-assessment and learning tool and a compass for sustainable procurement.  
  - Case examples of business practices demonstrating real-life examples of how companies have developed sustainable supply chain programmes. |
| **FOCUS** Global                                       |
| **INFLUENCE** Through an endorsement by UN Global Compact, which has more than 10,000 signatories in over 140 countries and describes itself as the world’s largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative. |
| **APPROACH** Resource                                  |
| **TARGET AUDIENCE** Private sector                     |
| **PARTNERS** CSR Europe                                |
| **ORGANIZATION** **UN Global Compact**  
The UN Global Compact is a strategic policy initiative for businesses that are committed to aligning their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. |
### World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Creation</th>
<th>1978</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Steven Franzel (Unit lead) <a href="mailto:s.franzel@cgiar.org">s.franzel@cgiar.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td><a href="http://www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/research/grp3_tree_product_marketing/research-themes">www.worldagroforestrycentre.org/research/grp3_tree_product_marketing/research-themes</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Description | The World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) is a research centre that focuses on rural transformation in the developing world. It provides science-based knowledge to support smallholders in increasing the use of trees in agricultural landscapes, to improve food security, nutrition, income, health, shelter, energy resources and environmental sustainability. ICRAF's science domain on Tree Products and Markets has two objectives:  
- To improve commodity chains for enhanced market access and performance.  
- To strengthen knowledge development chains for improved entrepreneurship and innovation.  
Research covers value chain analysis and development, improvements of quality assurance systems (including standards and certification schemes), enterprise development and innovative extension approaches. Publications related to voluntary sustainability standards include:  
| Focus | Global, with focus on developing countries and the question how to increase smallholder market access and improve supply chain efficiency. |
| Influence | As a research institution with extensive experience in tropical, developing countries. |
| Approach | Research |
| Target Audience | Research organizations, civil society and policymakers. |
| Partners | Research organizations, private sector, governments and civil society. |