



Additional Criteria and Indicators for Cocoa Production

Sustainable Agriculture Network

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Introduction

This document contains the criteria and indicators that complement *Sustainable Agriculture Standard with Indicators – Sustainable Agriculture Network* for the certification of the production of cocoa. Cocoa farms need to comply with the indicated standards as well as the additional criteria and indicators in this module.

The criteria in this module substitute the corresponding criteria in *Sustainable Agriculture Standard with Indicators – Sustainable Agriculture Network*. For example, criterion 2.5 in this module substitutes criterion 2.5 in *Sustainable Agriculture Standard with Indicators – Sustainable Agriculture Network*.

The differences or changes in criteria with respect to *Sustainable Agriculture Standard with Indicators – Sustainable Agriculture Network* are underlined. In some instances the differences are minimal, such as a modified sentence or the addition of a few words. Nevertheless, the changes are important for guaranteeing the correct implementation of best social and environmental management practices on farms that cultivate cocoa.

In other cases, there are criteria in this module whose numbering does not correspond to any criteria in *Sustainable Agriculture Standard with Indicators – Sustainable Agriculture Network*. These are additional criteria for cocoa production and are not underlined. An example is criterion 2.8.

All indicators included in this module are additional indicators. These illustrate examples of how compliance with the standards is measured or evaluated on farms that cultivate cocoa. In other words, the indicators are examples of best management practices.

Criteria and indicators for cocoa

2 ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION

- 2.5 There must be a minimum separation of production areas from natural ecosystems where chemical products are not used. A vegetated protection zone must be established by planting or by natural regeneration between different permanent or semi-permanent crop production areas or systems. The separation between production areas and ecosystems is indicated in Annex 1 of this document.**
- 2.6 Natural water channels must be protected by establishing protected zones on the banks of rivers, streams, creeks, lakes, wetlands and around the edges of other natural water bodies, as indicated in the matrix in Annex 1 of this document. Farms must not alter natural water channels to create new drainage or irrigation canals. Previously converted water channels must maintain their natural vegetative cover or, in its absence, this cover must be restored.**
- 2.7 As part of the conservation program, the farm must establish and maintain vegetation zones between the crop and areas of human activity, as well as between production areas**

and on the edges of public or frequently traveled roads passing through or around the farm. These zones must consist of permanent native vegetation with trees, bushes or other types of plants, in order to promote biodiversity, minimize any negative visual impacts and reduce the drift of agrochemicals, dust and other substances coming from agricultural or processing activities. The width of the vegetated protection zone is stipulated in Annex 1 of this document.

2.8 Farms located in areas where the original natural vegetative cover is forest must establish and maintain, as part of the conservation program, permanent shade distributed homogenously throughout the plantations; the shade must meet the following requirements:

- a. A minimum of 70 individual trees per hectare that must include at least 12 native species per hectare.
- b. A shade density of at least 40% at all times.
- c. The tree crowns must comprise at least two strata or stories.

A farm without shade can be certified once it has a shade establishment or expansion plan and shade established in at least 25% of the production area. Shade must be established in the remaining 75% of the production area within five years. Farms in areas where the original natural vegetation is not forest must dedicate at least 30% of the farm area for conservation or recovery of the area's typical ecosystems. These farms can be certified once they have a plan to establishment or recover natural vegetation within ten years. Vegetation must be re-established or recovered in an equivalent of 10% of the total farm area (one-third of the 30%) during the first three years of the plan.

Indicators

- The farm has shade that complies with the requirements indicated in the criterion. The shade is evenly distributed throughout the farm, although variations are permitted owing to ecological or agronomic factors. Seventy trees per hectare are equivalent to about 12 meters between each tree (12 by 12 meters).
- The two strata or stories generally consist of a superior stratum of "emergent" trees and a lower stratum of shade "managed" to change the intensity of light in the plantation. Sometimes the two strata cannot be clearly distinguished; in this case, smaller trees (secondary) can be identified whose crowns are situated below taller trees (primary).
- The farm can demonstrate that it executes activities to establish shade according to a plan. Shade trees have been planted over at least 25% of the plantations area, and these are well maintained.
- The establishment of shade in new areas continues in accordance to a plan at a pace that guarantees that there will be shade in all production areas within five years.
- After pruning, shade density is at least 40% throughout the production area.
- There is no evidence of indiscriminant removal of shade trees that does not correspond to a management or renewal plan.

- Variations in shade density are permitted in order to control outbreaks of pests or diseases, but must be recorded as part of the integrated pest management program (Criterion 8.1). Reductions in shade density can be done through pruning but not by the permanent removal of trees.
- Farms in areas where the original ecosystems did not include forest, such as savannahs, grasslands, and shrub or brush lands, have at least 30% of the total farm area dedicated to the conservation or recovery of these ecosystems. For example, a 100-hectare farm must dedicate at least 30 hectares to natural vegetation.
- When a farm in these areas does not have 30% of its total area in natural vegetation, it can demonstrate that it is carrying out a plan to recover or establish this area within 10 years with 10% of the total area being established within the first three years.
- There is a person responsible for executing the activities in the natural vegetation recovery or establishment plan. This person can confirm that the farm has committed sufficient resources to meet the plan's goals within the specified time period.
- The farm has identified the natural vegetation types in the area and the species that comprise them. The vegetation being recovered or already established has species compositions and diversity, structure, and plant densities similar to the identified original ecosystems.
- There is no evidence that the farm removes natural vegetation from one sector of the farm and establishes it in another in order to expand or renew production areas.

5. FAIR TREATMENT AND GOOD CONDITIONS FOR WORKERS

5.19 In regions or countries where families traditionally harvest cocoa, minors can participate in harvesting under the following conditions and where national laws do not prohibit it:

- a. The farm has identified and monitors those harvest working conditions that have impacts on the health and physical and mental well-being of minors, and takes special measures to eliminate or mitigate those impacts.**
- b. Harvest activities do not interfere with the minors' education obligations.**
- c. Minors must not carry large or heavy (no more than 20% of a minor's body weight) loads.**
- d. Minors must not work on pronounced slopes (no more than 50%), near steep cliffs or drop-offs, or on high surfaces.**
- e. Minors must always be accompanied by one of their parents, a legal guardian, or an adult authorized by a parent or guardian; in the latter case, the farm must have written authorization from the minor's parents or legal guardian. Minors must not walk alone through the plantation.**
- f. Minors must be remunerated in cash for their labors.**
- g. The farm must take measures to reduce the participation of minors in agricultural activities. These measures can include the installation and maintenance of schools, nurseries or day care, or paying parents or other adults to care for children instead of harvesting cocoa.**

- h. The farmer must ensure that everyone who participates in the harvest knows the conditions set forth in this criterion and must take the necessary measures to guarantee compliance.**

Indicators

- Harvest labor impacts that affect minors have been identified. The farm takes the necessary measures to change or modify working conditions according to the minors' physiological and psychological needs. Some examples include the use of equipment adapted to the height and weight of minors, providing meals according to minors' nutritional needs, and guaranteeing that minors are protected against adverse climatic conditions.
- The minors confirm that they were not made to leave school to participate in the harvest. Working hours do not interfere with classes or educational activities.
- Minors are not found carrying hauling or carrying baskets, sacks or other containers of cocoa beans that weigh more than 20% of their body weight. For example, a child that weights 30 kilograms does not carry more than six kilograms at any time.
- Minors are working on low slopes or flat land and away from cliffs and other steep drop-offs. They are not working on slopes greater than 50% (five meters of elevation gain or loss for every ten meters of level distance) on the average.
- Minors are always accompanied by an adult in the field. They are not found working by themselves (more than 30 meters from an adult and out of their line of sight). Minors are left with unknown adults.
- Minors are not found walking alone on trails in production areas or between the production area and housing, dining facilities, or bathrooms. They are always accompanied by an adult.
- Minors confirm that they receive money for their work. Since many families work together on the harvest to better their economic situation, parents could retain part of their children's income to cover family expenses such as transportation, food, and school supplies.
- Over time, the farm employs measures and carries out activities that effectively reduce the presence of minors in the harvest. Workers report that their children have access to daycare, schools, or other alternatives that keep them busy in a secure fashion while their parents work on the harvest.
- The farm administration and workers know and understand the requirements of this criterion with respect to the participation of minors in the harvest.

8. INTEGRATED CROP MANAGEMENT

8.7 Records must be maintained of any post-harvest treatment of fruit or beans. These records must at least include the following information: treatment application date, fruit or beans lot or batch number, the name of the applied product(s), dose, and the names of the persons who applied and mixed the product(s).

Indicators

- The farm can demonstrate that the following post-harvest treatment information is recorded for any fruit processed or packed: treatment substance name, doses used, the names of the persons who applied and mixed the treatment, and the treatment dates.

Annex 1 Separation between production areas and water bodies, roads and buildings.

Separations in meters between cocoa production areas and water bodies, roads and buildings, based on crop-management intensity, are shown in the following table. The farm must comply with the distances indicated in the table or by applicable laws, whatever is stricter.

The separation from water bodies is also indicated according to the average percentage of slope of the surrounding terrain. For example, farms that apply agrochemicals less than once per month, and do not use WHO category I or II products, must maintain a separation of five meters between streams (less than three meters wide) and crop production areas on flat land.

For roads, the separation indicates the width of the buffer strip between the crop and the edge of the road in which the use of agrochemicals or the production of crops is prohibited. These areas must have vegetative barriers.

This table applies to cocoa not cultivated in association with other crops. In the case of mixed crops in the same production area, the greatest distance must apply.

The following definitions apply:

High input use – WHO category Ia, Ib and II agrochemicals are applied, or the frequency of agrochemical application is two or more times per month. Aerial fumigation is not used; otherwise, the distances indicated in *Additional Criteria and Indicators for Banana Production – Sustainable Agriculture Network* are applied.

Housing or similar areas – Houses, schools, dining areas, health clinics, recreation areas or similar infrastructure where human activity takes place on a daily basis in general.

Infrequent use – Storage areas, packing sheds, warehouses, workshops, processing plants and other similar infrastructure where workers carry out activities for short periods of time (less than 30 minutes per day) no more than twice per week.

Internal roads – Roads within the farm boundaries that are used on a daily basis on average only for farm activities.

Low input use – Only WHO category III and IV chemicals are used and the frequency of application is less than two times per month. Aerial fumigation or applications using “spray booms” are not employed.

Organic – Farms in which the audit team proves that chemical pesticides or fertilizers are not used; farms that are certified organic by accredited certification bodies.

Permanent use – Storage areas, packing sheds, warehouses, workshops, processing plants and other similar infrastructure where workers carry out activities on a daily basis.

Public roads – Roads, streets or highways that connect or lead to population centers (towns, settlements, cities) and are used for transportation or by pedestrians on a daily basis on average.

Table of separations

	Type of crop management for cocoa					
	High input use		Low input use		Organic	
	Less than or equal to 8%	Greater than 8%	Less than or equal to 8%	Greater than 8%	Less than or equal to 8%	Greater than 8%
Slope:						
1. From water bodies (in meters):						
a. Perennial and seasonal streams and creeks (width less than or equal to three meters); primary drainage canals	10	20	5	10	3	5
b. Rivers (width greater than three meters), lakes, ponds, swamps and marshes, reservoirs, estuaries.	10	20	10	10	5	10
c. Springs	15	30	10	20	10	10
2. From roads (in meters):	High input use		Low input use		Organic	
a. Public	10		5		5	
b. Internal	2		0		0	
3. From buildings (in meters):	High input use		Low input use		Organic	
a. Housing or similar use	10		10		5	
b. Permanent use	10		10		5	
c. Infrequent use	5		2		0	