Sustainable Landscapes Rating Tool
– assessing jurisdictional policy and governance enabling conditions

Private sector investors seeking land use opportunities for growth and returns, companies seeking high quality commodities from sustainable sources and public sector investors seeking to support green growth can all contribute to sustainable landscapes that enhance the productivity of crops and resources, while at the same time maintaining forests and other natural habitats and improving rural livelihoods. To scale up investment in sustainable landscapes, good information is needed about sustainability and risks not just of a specific investment, but of the broader landscape context.

A tool for rapid and objective assessment of jurisdictional policy and governance enabling conditions
While other tools focus on monitoring past performance, the Sustainable Landscapes Rating Tool focuses on assessing enabling conditions for future sustainability and seeks to answer the following questions:

- What enabling conditions are likely to result in a sustainable landscape?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses of individual jurisdictions with respect to these enabling conditions?

The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) including Conservation International, Rainforest Alliance and Wildlife Conservation Society and partners including EcoAgriculture Partners and Global Canopy Programme developed the Sustainable Landscapes Rating Tool to assess government policies, governance and other enabling conditions to indicate a jurisdiction's potential to meet sustainable landscape goals, as a means to facilitate private and public sector investment and other support.

The Tool applies an objective, evidence-based rating system to assess each of the identified key conditions, including on land use planning and management, land and resource tenure, biodiversity and other ecosystem services, stakeholder coordination and participation and commodity production systems. It collects and organizes complex information about policies and governance into a structured and easy-to-understand format. The Tool can be used as an overview checklist or scorecard to show status of all conditions at a glance, or can be used as headings for more detailed responses, as part of a sustainable investment and action plan or for due diligence

This tool provides vital information on policy and governance conditions to complement information on sustainability performance, such as the track record on deforestation, productivity and human development, provided by other tools and platforms (see table overleaf).

Users of the Sustainable Landscape Rating Tool
- **Landscape actors**
  - *Sub-national governments, producers, NGOs, civil society organisations*
    - to communicate externally about the status of key enabling conditions to attract investment and other support
    - to benchmark progress on establishing enabling conditions against internationally recognized criteria
    - to build support among diverse stakeholders and facilitate planning to address gaps
- **Investors**
  - *Investment funds, banks, commodity sourcing/producing companies, development institutions, NGOs*
    - to identify jurisdictions likely to help them meet sustainability goals
    - to de-risk investments by providing a due diligence framework to unpack and understand key policy, legal, governance and other enabling conditions
    - to identify priorities for public investment that will help to facilitate transition to green growth

What information is available and what gaps does the Sustainable Landscapes Rating Tool fill?

Some existing tools, platforms and information sources		Sustainable Landscapes Rating Tool
Landscape tools and platforms		
Landscape Assessment Framework (Conservation International)	Supports measurement, monitoring and communication of progress towards tailored landscape sustainability goals	- provides detailed assessment of enabling conditions rather than assessment of outcomes/results - assesses government policy and governance conditions in sub-national jurisdictions - provides a detailed snapshot assessment to understand current conditions - can be used iteratively for a subset of indicators or gaps to monitor progress establishing favorable policy and governance conditions
The Landscape Standard (Verified Carbon Standard)	Assesses a standard set of social and environmental outcomes at a landscape scale	
Produce Protect Platform (Earth Innovation Institute)	Identifies jurisdictions where commodities are produced sustainably	
Commodities-Jurisdictions Approach and Database	Identifies jurisdictions making progress reducing deforestation and the commodities they produce	
Forest 500 (Global Canopy Programme-GCP)	Ranking of governments on policy commitments to reduce deforestation and on monitoring implementation, mostly at national level	
Global Forest Watch (WRI)	Online forest monitoring and alert system	
The Restoration Diagnostic (World Resources Institute-WRI)	Assesses incentives, resources and enabling conditions for large-scale forest restoration	
Supply chain transparency initiatives		
GMAP (International Finance Corporation)	Identifies and scores risks for commodity-related investments in producer countries focusing on child/forced labor and biodiversity at national level	- assesses conditions in sub-national jurisdictions - relevant to all commodities and not specific commodity-country combinations - a tool to enable the user to conduct an objective rating and not a data platform
trase (GCP–Stockholm Environment Institute) Global Forest Watch Commodities (WRI) Sustainable Palm Oil Transparency Toolkit (Zoological Society of London) Supply-change.org (Forest Trends,WWF,CDP)	Data platforms providing information linking company supply chains with source areas	
Commodity standards		
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil Roundtable on Responsible Soy	Certification of good practices and impacts through third party independent audit at the level of farms, plantations, mills or other in-country processing	- assesses whether jurisdictions possess enabling conditions likely to support adoption of good practices - does not evaluate level of adoption of good practices
Country ratings and indices		
Ease of doing business (World Bank) Corruption Perception Index (Transparency International) Rule of Law Index (World Justice Project) Country Risk Assessments (Economist Intelligence Unit)	- enable comparison across different countries - cover general issues related to business risk, or specific aspects like corruption, rule of law, governance and gender	- focuses on information relevant to land use - provides information on jurisdictions at sub-national level
Governance tools		
Governance of Forests Indicators (WRI) Assessing and Monitoring Forest Governance (PROFOR) The Access Initiative (WRI)	- help stakeholders to identify and assess key governance issues, including forest governance - provide detailed diagnostic frameworks used through participatory processes	- provides a simplified methodology for objective rating; requires fewer resources -focuses on policies and governance affecting all land use beyond forests

For further information and to download the Tool visit www.climate-standards.org/sustainable-landscapes-rating-tool or contact Joanna Durbin, CCBA Director jdurbin@climate-standards.org

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