

Global Coffee Platform

Baseline Coffee Code revision

Consultation document

Date: 1 March 2021

Introduction

The [Global Coffee Platform](#) (GCP) is a multi-stakeholder membership association dedicated to advance coffee sustainability. GCP Members are united under a common vision to work collectively towards a thriving, sustainable coffee sector for generations to come. Members include coffee producers, trade, roasters, retailers, sustainability standards and civil society, governments and donors.

The Baseline Coffee Code -BCC, previously the Baseline Common Code - enhances the foundations for a sustainable, profitable coffee production and farmers' prosperity, well-being and conservation of nature.

The Baseline Coffee Code is a sector wide reference on the foundations of sustainability in the economic, social and environmental dimensions for green coffee production and primary processing worldwide. It contributes to a common understanding of sustainability for public and private coffee stakeholders and NGOs, as well as to aligned measurement and monitoring towards increased sustainable production and consumption of coffee.

We can collectively undertake strong concerted action to support a more sustainable and resilient future for farmers and the sector overall. The Baseline Coffee Code revision is an invitation to align on an advanced, shared understanding of baseline sustainability and a key opportunity to reach more coffee farmers while inspiring innovations and investments at farm level and in other segments of the coffee supply chain.

The Baseline Coffee Code was last revised in 2015. Ongoing price and climate crises, exacerbated by a global pandemic, are jeopardizing the progress and sustainability outcomes achieved in the past years. As a sector we have a shared responsibility and urgent opportunity to address pressing sustainability challenges, together. This includes demonstrating progress towards individual and collective sustainability commitments and SDGs as well as getting prepared to respond to the emergence of due diligence legislations.

GCP is inviting members, non-members and any interested stakeholders in the coffee sector to provide feedback on the proposed revised DRAFT for the Baseline Coffee Code.

While the Baseline Coffee Code is a reference for baseline sustainability, not a standard, the BCC revision follows the good practices set out in the [ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards \(version 6.0\)](#).

For information about the rationale of the revision, the process, timelines and decision making please see the [Project Description](#).

The consultation period will last 60 days from 1 March until 30 April 2021. You are invited to participate via the online survey that is available [in this link](#). If you have any problems filling the online survey or have any questions, please contact info@globalcoffeeplatform.org.

The expected date for approval of the Baseline Coffee Code is July 2021, followed by a publication of the revised Code in Q4 2021.

All information received will be treated with care and strict confidentiality. Only aggregated results will be shared publicly.

The online version saves itself automatically so you do not need to answer all in one go and you can return to the questionnaire at a later point and even change responses, on the same device.

This survey includes a set of 14 questions in the following sections:

- I. Information about your organization/company (3 questions)
- II. General questions (6 questions)
- III. Specific questions (4 questions)
- IV. Additional comments (1 question providing the space to add specific comments on any points you would like to raise after doing the survey)

The survey covers questions on the changes proposed to the Baseline Coffee Code. We recommend that you read first the DRAFT proposal and the Frequently Asked Questions available [here](#) before answering the survey.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to contribute to this consultation.

I. Information about your organization/company

1. Contact information

The information requested is for analysis purposes and for follow up/clarify answers if needed, individual responses will be strictly confidential, only aggregated results will be shared publicly.

Name of the contact person
Name of your organization/company
Country
Email address

2. Stakeholder Group

- Producers
- Trade
- Roaster/Retailer
- Government
- Civil Society (Non-Governmental Organization, NGO)
- Other (please specify)

3. Are you a GCP member

- Yes
- No

II. General questions

New structure

The current [Baseline Coffee Code \(BCC\) v2.1](#) includes 27 Principles covering economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainability, based on good agricultural and management practices and international conventions/recognized guidelines and 10 Unacceptable Practices.

An effort has been made to simplify, streamline and reorganize the BCC avoiding redundancies and clarifying language that broadly reflect the levels set out in the version 2.1. The proposal also reflects the changes happening in the sustainability landscape. On one side, the urgent need to increase farmer's prosperity, address climate change and deal with the impacts of the global pandemic and on the other side legislation in producing and consuming countries, the requirements of roasters and retailers, and the expectations of consumers.

Under each dimension, the [DRAFT BCC v3.0](#) proposes Principles, Practices and Measures based on good agricultural and management practices and international conventions, as follows:

- Economic dimension: 3 Principles, 10 Practices, 15 Measures
- Social dimension: 4 Principles, 14 Practices, 33 Measures
- Economic dimension: 5 Principles, 15 Practices, 37 Measures

Each dimension is connected to the GCP Goals (farmer economic prosperity, improved livelihoods and well-being, conservation of nature) and the Sustainable Development Goals.

For each dimension an overall aim is described. Principles and Practices are outcome focused. Each Principle describes an objective or ambition and is broken down into Practices. The Practices are the actions to be implemented to meet the Principles and achieve the overall aim.

Measures are framed as expected outcomes. While the BCC is a reference for baseline sustainability, for mainstream coffee production and in particular smallholders, some of these measures might not be in place yet, therefore they provide a clear framework to identify gaps and drive continuous improvement.

At the same time, Practices on worst forms of child labour, forced labour, deforestation and use of prohibited pesticides are highlighted as critical, and the expectation is that those Practices are not present.

Most of the Measures are applicable to both individual Producers (estate, independent smallholders or multi-site under one management plan) and Groups (formal or informal, organised under cooperative, resource manager, government, input provider, trader, etc.) unless otherwise noted “only applicable to”.

4. Overall, on a scale of 1 to 5 how much do you agree with the changes in the structure?

- 5 (Strongly agree)
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 (Strongly disagree)

Please elaborate with suggestions, questions or concerns:

5. Are there any Principles or Practices that you see as missing in the proposal and that are important to reflect baseline sustainability in the coffee sector? If so, please indicate which ones and explain:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Continuous improvement and Smallholders

The current BCC v2.1 includes a traffic light approach where each principle described in terms of green, yellow and red criteria that reflect the best practices, minimum practices and practices to be eradicated in terms of baseline sustainability.

As the Baseline Coffee Code is a reference framework rather than a standard that measures field level sustainability, the proposal presents a reduced number of Critical Practices combined with Practices and Measures that set the path for continuous improvement.

While the BCC is a reference for baseline sustainability, for mainstream coffee production and in particular smallholders, some of these Measures might not be in place yet, therefore they provide a clear framework to identify gaps and drive continuous improvement.

The users of the BCC define timelines for the implementation of the different Practices based on the context of the producers they work with, especially considering smallholders' reality. Within the different Practices, some Measures include suggestions on how they can be implemented by smallholders.

6. On a scale of 1 to 5 how much do you agree with the approach on continuous improvement and and smallholders?

- 5 (Strongly agree)
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 (Strongly disagree)

Please elaborate with suggestions, questions or concerns:

7. Are there any Practices/Measures that you think should be adapted for smallholders? If so, please indicate which ones and explain your rationale.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Workers

The current BCC v2.1 references only permanent and temporarily hired workers. The proposal is to use the term "workers" generically to include workers of all types, regardless of the relationship: permanent, seasonal, part time, piece rate, migrant and 3rd party contractors.

8. On a scale of 1 to 5 how much do you agree with the overall approach to workers?

- 5 (Strongly agree)
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 (Strongly disagree)

Please elaborate with suggestions, questions or concerns:

Objective of the revision

The objective of the Baseline Coffee Code revision is to simplify the Code without weakening the commitment to sustainability and at the same time, focusing on the foundations/baseline, to move mainstream coffee production towards sustainability.

9. Do you think that the DRAFT BCC v3.0 proposal achieves this objective?

- Yes
 No
 I am unsure

Please elaborate with suggestions, questions or concerns:

III. Specific changes

The following table presents the overview of specific changes proposed in the Baseline Coffee Code:

Topic	Current BCC	Proposal revised BCC	
	Baseline Coffee Code 2016 (V2.1)	Baseline Coffee Code 2021 (DRAFT V3.0)	Rationale
Economic dimension			
1. Agricultural services (Principle 2, Practice 2.1)		New practice on producers having access to reliable information on good agricultural practices, Integrated Pest Management, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, post-harvest and quality, management and finance, coffee varieties, price mechanisms according to the quality of the coffee, etc.	Having access to information is key for producers to make informed decisions about the inputs and services they need.
2. Business integrity (Principle 3, Practice 3.1)		New practice on producers' compliance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements.	Meet the expectation of downstream actors and consumers.
Social dimension			
3. Business Integrity (Principle 3, Practice 3.2) Community (Principle 7, Practice 7.1)	Forced Eviction is an Unacceptable Practice including 3 indicators (either/or) 1. There is evidence of forced eviction having taken place since 2006 in order to acquire the land where the coffee production and processing takes place. OR 2. Land acquisition is carried out without prior and informed consent of affected people with legal land use right including those who claim traditional land use right, especially indigenous people OR 3. In case of legal forced evictions, negative effects of relocation are not	Reference on legal or customary rights to the land for farming or processing included under Business Integrity (Principle 3, Practice 3.2) Concept of free prior and inform concept applicable to land and water rights included under Community (Principle 7, Practice 7.1) Deletion of the reference to forced eviction having taken place since 2006.	Split of indicators following the new structure, intent of the Unacceptable Practice covered in the proposal. Deletion of reference to 2006 due to lack of possibility to enforce the indicator.

	Current BCC	Proposal revised BCC	
Topic	Baseline Coffee Code 2016 (V2.1)	Baseline Coffee Code 2021 (DRAFT V3.0)	Rationale
	mitigated. No agreed compensation (housing, land, money) is provided to all victims in case of eviction or relocation		
4. Working conditions (Principle 6, Practice 6.1, Measure 6.4.2)		New Measure on clean and accessible toilet facilities for workers.	Complements existing practices to ensure workers have decent working conditions.
5. Community (Principle 7, Practice 7.2, Measures 7.2.1 and 7.2.2)		New Practice on community to increase diversity, equity and inclusion on the promotion of coffee activities.	Close the gap in the current BCC in terms of addressing diversity, equity, inclusion that are not covered by the existing practices on no discrimination.
Environmental dimension			
6. Pest and weed management (Principle 9, Practice 9.3)	<p>Use of Pesticides in the Unacceptable List is an Unacceptable Practice</p> <p>Principle 3.2 highlights that pesticides in the BCC Red List are not used and that pesticides in the BCC Yellow List may be in used but are required to be minimised and, if possible, phased out their use completely by replacing them with Integrated Pest Management alternative methods.</p>	<p>The use of agrochemicals meets all relevant legal requirements including national and international treaties on highly hazardous and banned pesticides marked as a critical point.</p> <p>The DRAFT BCC v3.0 proposes to have only two lists. Pesticides in the Prohibited List are not to be used and pesticides in the Yellow List are minimised and a timebound plan for phase out is in place.</p>	Simplification and consolidation of the three existing pesticides lists into two lists. The intent does not change. The criteria and classification of the pesticides are available here .
7. Climate (Principle 12, Practice 12.1)		New Principle and Practice introduced on producers' adaptation to climate change and their contribution to climate change mitigation. Under this Principle, two Practices are included, climate change mitigation and adaptation measures and reduction in use of fossil fuels.	Support producers to adapt to climate change and encourage measures to mitigate climate change

10. Overall, in a scale of 1 to 5 how much do you agree with these changes?

- 5 (Strongly agree)
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 (Strongly disagree)

11. If you have suggestions, questions or concerns on a particular change, please elaborate:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Deforestation

The BCC v2.1 includes an unacceptable practice on cutting of primary forest or destruction of other forms of natural resources since 2006 (date of development of the first version of the BCC, Unacceptable Practice 7). However, different standards schemes include different reference dates, linked to the existence of information that makes possible to check whether deforestation has taken place or not and as of when.

The [Accountability Framework Initiative](#) does not specify specific reference dates, but stresses the importance of them, including sector wide cutoff dates. With that in mind:

12. Do you think a reference date should be included in the “no deforestation” Measure 8.1.1 in the BCC?

- Yes
- No
- I am unsure

13. If so, what year?

- 2006 (no change, this is the reference date used by some sustainability schemes)
- 2014 (this is the reference date used by some sustainability schemes)
- Other

Please explain your response (if you suggest another date or range of dates, share with us your rationale):

IV. Additional comments

Please include in this space any other general additional comments. If you are referring to a particular Principle/Practice/Measure please include the number.

14. Do you have any other general additional comments to the revised BCC or to any of the Principles, Practices or Measures?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

If you wish to provide detailed feedback, please fill the column for comments [in this file](#) and send it back to info@globalcoffeeplatform.org.

Thank you for your valuable input and taking the time to complete this survey!