

Global Coffee Platform

DRAFT Baseline Coffee Code

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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 of 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.

The ambition of the BCC is to be a tool to identify areas for improvement, guide coffee farmers worldwide in the application of basic good agricultural and management practices and reach 100% of global coffee production meeting a minimum set of good practices and drive out unsustainable practices.

Scope

The Baseline Coffee Code focuses on the foundations of sustainability for green coffee production and primary processing worldwide.

A shared understanding of baseline sustainability at production and primary processing is a pre-requisite, but is not the only tool to advance the sustainability agenda in the coffee sector. Innovations and other approaches at farm level and along the supply chain (for example, regional and landscape approaches) will have more impact if there is a common foundation on which to build.

While the Baseline Coffee Code covers the beginning of the supply chain, downstream actors are expected to support the efforts of coffee producers to introduce, maintain and go beyond these baseline principles as well as promote equitable trading and sourcing practices.

Application

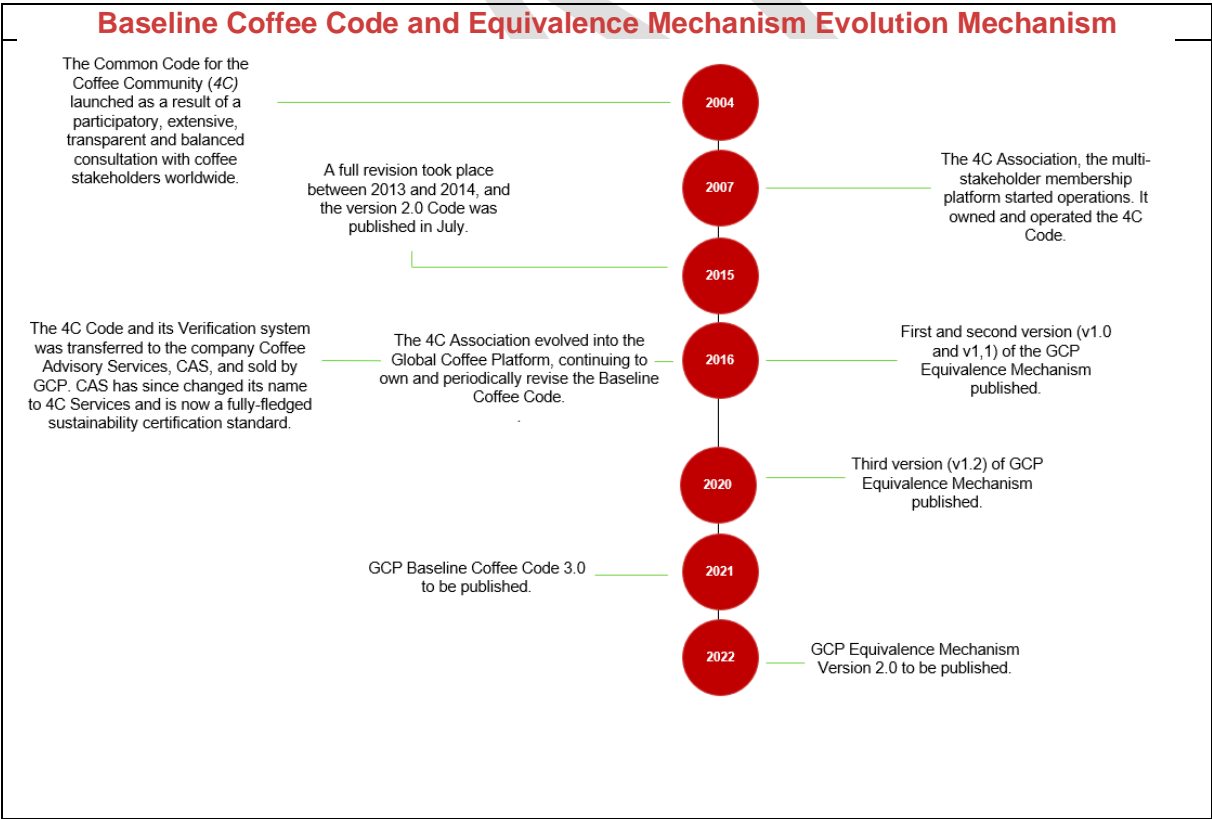
The Baseline Coffee Code is a reference framework rather than a standard that measures field level sustainability. There are many credible sustainability standards that already have robust implementation and the Baseline Coffee Code is not meant to compete or replace these but serve as the reference point for baseline sustainability.

The GCP Equivalence Mechanism assesses whether sustainability schemes/programs can be considered equivalent to the Baseline Coffee Code, evaluating not only whether the

Principles and Practices in the BCC are included in those schemes but also how those requirements are implemented (Operational Criteria). For more information on the Equivalence Mechanism [see this link](#).

Users of the BCC

- Coffee producers as a reference to assess their own practices and identify areas for improvement
- Governments in coffee producing countries and Country Platforms as a reference that underpins their national coffee sustainability strategies and plans (e.g. used for the development of National Sustainability Curriculum and extension services programs)
- Traders, roasters and retailers as a reference and foundation for corporate sustainability strategies, responsible sourcing and origin programs
- Combined with the Operational Criteria under the [Equivalence Mechanism](#), the BCC can be used by sustainability schemes (standards, codes, programs) and/or supply chain actors to assess those schemes/programs against the Principles and Practices outlined in the BCC for credibility purposes or/and to be eligible for the GCP Reporting on Sustainable Coffee Purchases
- Financial institutions and funds as a reference for baseline sustainability in the coffee sector which can inform eligibility criteria for investments
- Donor agencies and NGO’s as a reference for baseline sustainability in the coffee sector which can inform programming and investment support



Structure

- The Baseline Coffee Code is an outcomes-focused reference framework organized around the three dimensions of sustainability: economic, social and environmental, recognizing that these dimensions are interrelated and interdependent.
- Connected to the GCP Goals (farmer's economic prosperity, improved livelihoods and well-being, conservation of nature) and the Sustainable Development Goals, for each dimension an overall aim is described.
- Under each dimension there are **Principles, Practices** and **Measures**, as follows:
 - Economic dimension: 3 Principles, 10 Practices, 15 Measures
 - Social dimension: 4 Principles, 14 Practices, 33 Measures
 - Environmental dimension: 5 Principles, 15 Practices, 37 Measures
- 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.
- Smallholders mean producers who mostly rely on family labour to carry out their coffee activities.
- Unless explicitly stated, workers mean ALL workers: permanent, seasonal, part time, piece rate, migrant and 3rd party contractors.
- 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". The symbol below indicates that the Measures are only applicable to Groups.





Continuous improvement


- There are 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.
- 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.
- 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.

References

The Global Coffee Platform follows a number of internationally recognized standards and conventions, in particular those of the International Labour Organization (ILO) and international conventions on the use of highly hazardous and banned pesticides.

Topic	Principle #	Principle	Current BCC v2.1	Practice #	Critical	Practices	Measure #	Expected Measures	Only applicable to
Economic Prosperity									
Goal statement: Producers are able to achieve better productivity and quality and improve their income from coffee.									
Business Management	1	Producers have knowledge about the practices they need to implement for productivity, sustainability, resilience and profitability.	1.1	1.1		Producers have training and skills development to apply techniques and practices related to GAP, post-harvest and handling practices, good management practices, quality practices.	1.1.1	Producers are aware of good agricultural practices (GAP) as defined by applicable national programs/standards, post-harvest and handling practices, good management and quality practices that can be implemented at farm level.	
			1.6				1.1.2	Producers are aware of quality specifications and parameters (e.g. moisture content, physical defects, relevant residue limits).	
			1.2				1.1.3	Producers and workers are trained on practices related to good agricultural practices, post-harvest and handling practices and quality practices.	
			1.2				1.1.4	Groups are trained on good management practices including good corporate governance	
			1.1				1.1.5	Producers implement these practices	

Topic	Principle #	Principle	Current BCC v2.1	Practice #	Critical	Practices	Measure #	Expected Measures	Only applicable to
			1.3	1.2		Producers maintain records for planning and decision making	1.2.1	Producers have records of main coffee costs and income. Smallholders that are not able to maintain records are aware of their yields and main costs (such as labour and/or inputs) and income (for example the price at which they have been selling coffee).	
Agricultural services	2	Producers have access to inputs, services and information to enable improved productivity and quality.	NEW	2.1		Producers have access to reliable information based on their needs coming from independent sources	2.1.1	Reliable information is regularly available to producers on practices, services, inputs, market, and climate coming from independent sources.	
			1.4	2.2		Producers have access to extension services, inputs (e.g. fertilizers, pesticides, equipment, planting material/seedlings) and finance.	2.2.1	Extension services are supporting producers towards better productivity and quality, Inputs (e.g. for planting, soil improvement or pest management), equipment (e.g. PPE, farm tools) and finance are available.	
			1.2	2.3		Producers and workers have access to relevant training and can develop their technical skills	2.3.1	A training policy and schedule based on identified needs is developed	
			1.5	2.4		Producers have access to market information and prices reflecting quality from independent sources. (e.g. radio, member meetings, display of information).	2.4.1	Producers are informed about local prices and price mechanisms according to the quality of the coffee	
			1.5		2.4.2		Producers receive prices that reflect the quality of their coffee		
Business Integrity	3	Producers conduct their business	NEW	3.1		Producers comply with relevant legal and regulatory requirements	3.1.1	Producers comply with relevant legal and regulatory requirements	

Topic	Principle #	Principle	Current BCC v2.1	Practice #	Critical	Practices	Measure #	Expected Measures	Only applicable to
		ethically and with transparency							
			UAP4 (partial)	3.2		Producers have legal and legitimate right to use the land	3.2.1	Producers have legal or customary rights to the land for farming or processing	
			UAP10, 1.7	3.3		There is no fraud, corruption, bribery and/or extortion.	3.3.1	A policy for ethical conduct is in place and implemented in all business operations and transactions	
			1.8	3.4		Coffee is traceable	3.4.1	The coffee and associated product documentation can be traced back to the immediate supplier or farmer and forward to the next buyer	

Social well being


Goal statement: Producers and workers employed in coffee enjoy their rights and decent working conditions. Families engaged in coffee farming benefit, as well as their communities.

Right to childhood	4	Children have the right to childhood and education	2.2	4.1	X	Children under the age of 15, under the minimum age for work or the age of completion of compulsory education are not employed. Child labour does not include children helping their parents on their own farm, provided that working does not jeopardize their schooling or health. (ILO 182 and 138)	4.1.1	Children under the age of 15 (or legal school age) attend school	
			UAP1				4.1.2	Children below the age of 18 years are not engaged in work which could jeopardize their health, safety or morals (Worst forms of Child Labour ILO 182)	

Topic	Principle #	Principle	Current BCC v2.1	Practice #	Critical	Practices	Measure #	Expected Measures	Only applicable to
			2.2				4.1.3	Child work is only accepted as part of light family work and outside school hours for children below 15 years old and they are not performing hazardous work	
Human rights	5	Producers and workers enjoy their rights and international standards on human rights are upheld	2.1	5.1		Producers and workers are protected from discrimination and harassment (ILO 100, 111)	5.1.1	A policy to ensure no discrimination is in place and is known by producers and workers	
			2.1				5.1.2	In cases where there are incidents of discrimination, harassment or abusive treatment, these are being addressed.	
			UAP2	5.2	X	Workers voluntarily and freely choose employment (ILO 29, 105)	5.2.1	Workers can leave their work places and/or living quarters provided by the employer.	
							5.2.2	Identity or travel documents, salary / money or other asset deposits of workers are not retained by the employer.	
							5.2.3	Workers are not subject to debt bondage where they are forced to work for an employer in order to pay off their own debts or those they have inherited. This can also include purchasing schemes for food, accommodation and / or transport are managed by the employer when the costs exceed local market rates.	
UAP3, 2.3	5.3		Producers and workers have the freedom of association (ILO 87, 98)	5.3.1	Producers and workers are free to form and join independent organizations to protect and enhance their interests (e.g. federations, associations, farmer groups for farmers and trade unions and labour organizations for workers).				

Topic	Principle #	Principle	Current BCC v2.1	Practice #	Critical	Practices	Measure #	Expected Measures	Only applicable to
							5.3.2	Representatives of producers or workers have access to the information and resources necessary to carry out their functions	
							5.3.3	Representatives of producers or workers are not discriminated against nor adverse actions carried out against them	
			2.4	5.4		Workers have the right to collective bargaining	5.4.1	Regular consultations between employers and authorised workers' representatives concerning working conditions, remuneration, dispute resolution, internal relations and matters of mutual concern relating to workers are taking place	
							5.4.2	Results of collective bargaining are applied to workers	
Working conditions	6	Workers have decent and safe working and living conditions	2.6	6.1		Working hours comply with national laws / international conventions and/or collective bargaining and overtime work is remunerated.	6.1.1	Regular working hours of workers and employees are limited to 48 per week or fewer if provided by national law. For some specific jobs, e.g. security, more than 48 hours per week may be acceptable if specifically allowed by national law	
							6.1.2	Overtime is voluntary (consent) and paid according to national law. Required overtime is allowed if under extraordinary conditions, agreed to and/or negotiated in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).	
							6.1.3	Workers enjoy at least one free day following six consecutive days worked as well as public and annual holiday	
			2.7	6.2		Wages comply with existing national minimum wages or sector agreements including seasonal and piece rate workers	6.2.1	Wages comply with existing national minimum wages or sector agreements including seasonal and piece rate workers. Wages increase over time to reduce the gap with living wages.	


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			2.8				6.2.2	Seasonal and piece rate workers receive the same benefits as other workers (e.g. housing, food, transport, hygiene) as applicable.	
			2.5	6.3		Workers receive written and understandable information about their employment conditions and are aware of their rights	6.3.1	Workers understand their employment conditions and have contractual agreements (oral or written)	
							6.3.2	Contractual agreements are respected	
							6.3.3	Workers know their rights and duties	
			UAP6	6.4		Workers have access to clean toilet facilities and to potable water	6.4.1	Workers have access to potable water	
			NEW				6.4.2	Toilet facilities are clean and accessible to workers	
			UAP 5	6.5		Accommodation, where provided, are clean, safe, and meet the basic needs of the workers.	6.5.1	Where needed, housing is provided by the employer that is clean, safe, and meets the basic needs of the workers.	Farms with more than 10 workers
							6.5.2	The housing is made from appropriate construction materials, safe from hazards and pollution providing adequate shelter.	
			2.9	6.6		A safe and hygienic working environment shall be provided	6.6.1	Work environment risks and hazards are identified, monitored and minimized.	
							6.6.2	Procedures and equipment to minimize risks and ensure healthy and safe working conditions and practices (e.g. in relation to pesticides, machinery and heavy loads) are known, implemented and monitored.	
							6.6.3	Workers are trained regularly on occupational, health and safety practices.	
							6.6.4	Monitoring of healthy and safe working conditions is carried out, including for example pesticide exposure, pesticide	


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								poisoning and other work-related health and safety incidents.	
							6.6.5	Smallholders that do not have a documented health and safety program are aware of the main risks and implement measures to address them, such as personal protection, covering open wells and safety guards on machinery.	
Community	7	Community rights and benefits are supported and promoted	UAP 4 (partial)	7.1		Land and water rights acquisition is with the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of affected people.	7.1.1	Land and water rights acquisition is carried out with free, prior and informed consent of affected people with legal land use right including those who claim traditional land use right, especially indigenous people.	
			NEW	7.2		Diversity, equity, inclusion are supported and promoted in coffee activities.	7.2.1	Marginalized producers and workers are identified	
			NEW				7.2.2	Barriers and needs of marginalized producers and workers are identified and actions are taken to remove the barriers and address the needs	

Environmental Responsibility and Stewardship


Goal statement: Producers are protecting natural resources including biodiversity, soil and water, and are better able to adapt to climate change.


Biodiversity	8	Maintain a healthy and balanced ecosystem through practices that protect and promote	UAP7	8.1	X	Natural forests and ecosystems are protected from conversion or degradation whether legal or not (No deforestation or conversion).	8.1.1	There is no loss of natural forest as a result of: 1) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; 2) conversion to a tree plantation; or 3) severe and sustained degradation.	
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		native biodiversity							
			3.1	8.2		Conservation of biodiversity, including protected or endangered native flora and fauna and soil biota is supported.	8.2.1	Up to date maps of the farm or farm area are available including production areas, forests, water bodies and buildings.	
			1.1, 3.1				8.2.2	No hunting or extraction of endangered species of animals and plants is practiced. In case small holders are hunting or collecting endangered species there is evidence of activities to raise their awareness on conservation.	
			UAP9	8.3		Coffee does not use genetically modified (transgenic) organisms (GMO)	8.2.3	Producers implement conservation practices as per applicable national GAP programs/standards	
							8.3.1	No use of genetically modified (transgenic) organisms (GMO), and varieties in coffee production	
Pest and weed management	9	Sound pest and weed management practices that minimise pesticide use and prevent health and environmental harm	3.2	9.1		Integrated pest, weed and disease management strategies are adopted and use of pesticides is minimised.	9.1.1	An integrated pest management (IPM) system is developed and being implemented	
							9.1.2	Highly Hazardous Pesticides in use are identified and records of types and rates of all pesticides used are kept	

Topic	Principle #	Principle	Current BCC v2.1	Practice #	Critical	Practices	Measure #	Expected Measures	Only applicable to
							9.1.3	Training on IPM is provided to producers and workers and locally relevant guidance is available on non-pesticidal methods for coffee pests, weeds and diseases management.	
			3.3, 3.9	9.2		Pesticides and other hazardous chemicals are stored, applied and disposed of in the least hazardous manner for human health and the environment.	9.2.1	A plan for applying, storing and disposing pesticides and other hazardous materials is available and being implemented, including identification of critical points and measures to reduce risks.	
							9.2.2	Producers and workers handling pesticides and other chemicals are trained on proper handling (including application, storage and disposal)	
							9.2.3	Use, storage and waste disposal of agrochemicals is in line with the agronomic recommendations and applicable legislation.	
							9.2.4	Producers and workers handling pesticides, wear personal protection equipment. In the case of smallholders, hazard awareness is being raised and they implement measures for personal protection.	
			UAP8	9.3	X	The use of agrochemicals meets all relevant legal requirements including national and international treaties on highly hazardous and banned pesticides.	9.3.1	Pesticides in the Prohibited List are not used. These includes pesticides that are: 1) Listed under the Stockholm Convention, Rotterdam Convention or Montreal Protocol, or are agreed by the Conventions' respective Chemical Review Committee and Conference of Parties as meeting the criteria of the Convention. OR 2) In any one of the three most acutely toxic classifications via ingestion, skin	

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								contact or inhalation, or known carcinogens.	
			3.2				9.3.2	Pesticides in the Yellow List are minimised and a timebound plan for phase out is in place. This includes pesticides with: 1) Chronic hazards in the classifications of probable carcinogens, known endocrine disruptors, known reproductive toxins or known mutagens OR 2) One or more of the environmental hazards featured in the PAN HHP List (bioaccumulation, persistence, high toxicity to bees or aquatic organisms)	
Resource Conservation	10	Soil quality and water sources are maintained or improved.	3.4	10.1		Soil is protected from erosion by adequate soil conservation measures	10.1.1	Producers have knowledge of techniques* to maintain and control soil quality (physical, chemical and biological) and the relevant techniques are implemented. *for example: precision farming, residue management, contour tillage, grass waterways, nitrogen-fixing plants, green manures and agro-forestry techniques.	
							10.1.2	Producers have knowledge of techniques* to prevent soil erosion and the relevant techniques are implemented. *for example: following contours with	

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								operations for soil preparation, using cover crops and placing wind breaks.	
			3.5, 3.6	10.2		Soil fertility is maintained and improved	10.2.1	Soil and/or leaf analysis is done and documented	
							10.2.2	Practices to increase fertility are in place, e.g. soil is covered with leaf litter or organic mulch, reducing soil acidity, there are shade trees and /or boundary plants.	
							10.2.3	Producers improve their soils with the use of cover crops, reducing soil acidity and or intercropping practices	
							10.2.4	The application of synthetic fertiliser follows agronomic recommendations, is documented and if feasible reduced over time.	
			3.7	10.3		Water resources are conserved and used efficiently (quantity)	10.3.1	Water sources have been identified and are conserved by recycling, by using reduced amounts so as not to endanger their sustainability.	
							10.3.2	Producers are aware of water sources which are known or considered to be in critical stage or overused. If sources are in critical stage or overused, Producers engage with local stakeholders to coordinate conservation efforts.	
							10.3.3	Measures to reduce water use are implemented. In the case of smallholders, they are trained in efficient irrigation and processing where applicable.	

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							10.3.4	At central processing level use of water is being measured and is used efficiently	
Pollution Prevention	11	Protect the environment and local communities through reducing, eliminating or preventing pollution.	1.1, 3.8	11.1		Good agricultural practices are implemented to minimize impacts on surface and ground water quality	11.1.1	Producers implement practices to minimize water pollution from processing, chemical residues, fertilizers and erosion or other source as per applicable national GAP programs/standards.	
			3.6, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10	11.2	-	Waste should be prevented or reduced where feasible (waste water, farm and processing by-products, fossil fuels).	11.2.1	Different types of waste generated are identified for opportunities to prevent or reduce them	
			3.6, 3.7, 3.8	11.3		Where wastes cannot be prevented, reuse and recycling is maximized.	11.3.1	Organic by products from farming and processing are recycled and used on the farm to enhance soil fertility	
							11.3.2	Wastes are separated according to the different types	
			3.8, 3.9	11.4		Hazardous wastes are safely disposed of in order to prevent contamination of water and soil resources as well as harm to human beings and animals	11.4.1	Hazardous wastes are identified	
							11.4.2	Hazardous wastes/waste water are treated	
							11.4.3	Safe disposal is in place and according to the different types of waste	

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Climate	12	Producers adapt to climate change and contribute to climate change mitigation	NEW	12.1		Climate change mitigation and adaptation measures are identified and implemented	12.1.1	Producers have conducted a climate risk assessment plan. In the case of smallholders who do not have a climate risk plan, there is awareness about the impacts of climate such as loss of suitable area for coffee production and shifts to higher altitudes, increased water stress, poor flowering and cherry development, increased outbreaks of pests and diseases.			
							12.1.2	Producers identify and implement measures to adapt to climate change such as GAP, agroforestry, irrigation, new plant varieties and diversification.			
							12.1.3	Producers actively work on carbon sequestration in the soil, for instance through agroforestry, non-tillage, planting of cover crops (soil cover, shade trees) and/or applying intercropping practices.			
							12.1.4	Producers (for smallholders through their groups) document net Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions from main sources in production and processing operations			
				3.10	12.2			Efforts are made to reduce the use of fossil fuels	12.2.1	Energy use in coffee farming and processing is quantified and documented	Large farms/processors
									12.2.2	Energy use is reduced and improved energy efficiency	Large farms/processors
									12.2.3	The use of renewable energy sources is maximized	

