



**GLOBAL COFFEE
PLATFORM**

for a sustainable coffee world

COFFEE SUSTAINABILITY REFERENCE CODE REVISION

MAIN CHANGES | October 2021

INTRODUCTION

The Global Coffee Platform (GCP) carried out a revision of the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code (previously known as the Baseline Coffee Code) between October 2020 and October 2021 through a highly consultative process guided by a broadly representative Advisory Task Force supported by the Technical Committee that included actors of all segments in the coffee value chain. The table below outlines the main changes made to the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code and their rationale. For any questions about the revision please contact info@globalcoffeeplatform.org.

Topic

Rationale

Overall changes

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conversion of the Baseline Coffee Code from a traffic light system of Principles, Criteria and Indicators to a reference framework of Principles, broken down into Practices, further broken down into Expected Results, renamed as the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code.• From 27 Principles and 10 Unacceptable practices across economic, social and environmental dimensions to 12 Principles, 39 Practices and 93 Expected Results across economic, social and environmental dimensions. Practices on elimination of forced labour, elimination of worst forms of child labour, no deforestation, no use of highly hazardous pesticides and continuous improvement are considered Critical.• No change on scope: green coffee production and primary processing worldwide. | <p>Different purpose, from implementation to reference framework.</p> <p>Re-organization of the Code for increased clarity, while aligning with recent developments in the sustainability agenda.</p> <p>Principles are outcome focused on the desired goals and have been streamlined, reorganized and connected with Sustainable Development Goals and the indicators in the Coffee Data Standard.</p> |
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Continuous Improvement model

- Continuous Improvement is being introduced as the fifth Critical Practice. Where the Expected Results are not met, a time-bound action plan to meet the baseline level of sustainability is put in place and monitored.

All Practices reflect a baseline threshold of sustainability and are a minimum. However, recognizing that for mainstream coffee production and in particular smallholders, some of these Expected Results might not yet be in place, continuous improvement is essential.

Economic dimension

- NEW Practice on support of diversity, equality and inclusion (e.g. women and youth).
- NEW Practice on existence of procedures/processes and policies by producers to ensure a baseline level of sustainability is achieved.
- NEW Critical Practice on Continuous Improvement.
- NEW Practice on compliance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements.
- Added reference to living income.

New Practices introduced to fill existing gaps in the Code (e.g. increase participation and benefits of women and youth in coffee production) or to introduce topics that are becoming increasingly relevant in the sustainability landscape (e.g. living income, human rights and environmental due diligence).

Social dimension

- Modified practice to include toilet and handwashing facilities accessible to workers.
- Modified practice to add “water rights” to practice requiring that land acquisition is carried out with prior and informed consent of affected people.

Practices modified to fill existing gaps in the Code.

Environmental dimension

- NEW cut-off date for no deforestation – 2014.
- NEW Practice on climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Change in pesticides lists:

Baseline Coffee Code: Three pesticide lists

New Practices introduced to align with international reference frameworks and to introduce topics that are becoming increasingly relevant in the sustainability landscape (e.g. environmental due diligence, reduction of greenhouse emissions).

Simplification of pesticides lists and addition of pathway to drive continuous improvement.

- (i) Unacceptable List of pesticides,
- (ii) Red List pesticides -to be phased out after 3 years- and,
- (iii) Yellow List pesticides – use to be minimized and phased out if feasible.

Coffee Sustainability Reference Code: Two lists of pesticides:

- (i) List of Prohibited Pesticides and,
- (ii) List of Phase-out Pesticides to be minimized and phased-out by 2030, (provided alternatives are available).

Other changes

- Change of copyrights to Creative Commons Broadly promote the uptake of the Principles in the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code by the public, private and third sectors.