



Placing VRIKSH on the Sustainable Development Goals MAP

Std. Version No. VRIKSH-STD-01-01 V1.5 EN

Std. Version Date 21 September 2018

Report Ver. No.: VRIKSH-SDG-MAP-V.01

Report Ver. Date 7 March, 2019

PLACING VRIKSH ON THE SDG MAP

A Mapping and Analysis Report for the
VRIKSH-Timber Legality Assessment and
Verification Standard-India



About Quality Council of India

Quality Council of India is an autonomous body set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India jointly with the Indian Industry represented by the three premier industry associations i.e. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), to establish and operate national accreditation structure and promote quality through National Quality Campaign.

Quality Council of India (QCI) is registered as a non-profit society with its own Memorandum of Association and is governed by a Council with equal representations of government, industry and consumers. The Council plays a pivotal role at the national level in propagating, adoption and adherence to quality standards in all important spheres of activities including education, healthcare, environment protection, governance, social sectors, infrastructure sector and such other areas of organized activities that have significant bearing in improving the quality of life and well-being of the citizens of India.

The Project Analysis and Documentation (PAD) Division of QCI handles projects which aim towards the design, development, and implementation of voluntary conformity assessment frameworks for governmental, inter-governmental, regional, and global organizations. PAD Division, QCI is also the Secretariat of the India National Platform on Private Sustainability Standards. The Division prides itself in driving noble initiatives that have national, regional, and global relevance.



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FOREWORD



Quality Council of India initiated the 'Sustainable Development Goals Mapping and Analysis Programme' (SDG MAP). The programme is aimed at organisations - public and private, and standards (with special focus on voluntary/private sustainability standards).

Objective

The objective of the service is to allow for a reflective alignment of standards and organisational policies to the SDGs which may be potentially impacted by the nature of their policy action or omission. This creates a three-pronged effect: (1) Generates awareness about the Global Goals and their practical relevance in existing processes and systems; (2) Encourages an atmosphere for innovation and policy restructuring

to further align with the SDGs with greater possibility of localization; and, (3) Enhances positive and healthy market competitiveness among organisations and their stakeholders (especially producers and manufacturers) by way of communicating their alignment with the SDGs to their consumers.

Method and Output

1. QCI SDG MAP impartially analyzes the standard's parameters and map the requirements in the standard with the relevant SDGs and their targets by assessing relevance of the criteria in their standard with possible impact on indicators that are relevant to the business. 2. These indicators are in line with the open access indicators developed by the UN Global Compact (UNGC), Team Sweden, Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), and PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC). (Any possible

alignment with the Global Indicator Framework and the National Indicator Framework for SDGs will also be communicated.) 3. Tangible output will be in the form of a visualized report, statement of alignment, a QR Code and a label which the organisation/standard can extend to its producers and consumers who can display the mapped SDGs along with their label to show their positive impact on them.

Benefits

QCI's third-party mapping service for SDGs ensures the following outcomes: **Credibility:** Independently verified data from a trusted third-party assessor provides assurance that the results presented are objective and unbiased. This gives credibility to claims made in reporting and communication. **Accuracy and comparability:** QCI's methodologies and processes are benchmarked with international standards and practices. The India PSS Platform is particularly supported by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and UNFSS along with its five constituent agencies. Exchanges through networks such as these allow methods of capturing accurate, quantified

results which are comparable over time, enabling the user to monitor progress. **Avoidance of 'green-' or 'SDG-washing':** Certification of impacts by the extant credible third-party system provides assurance that SDG initiatives have met rigorous criteria and deliver sustainable positive outcomes. **Civil society recognition:** Reporting credible, quantified impacts toward the Agenda 2030 will enable the standard development organisations to report on the actual SDG impacts of their strategies and their contributions to local development priorities, therefore earning possible recognition from civil society organisations and local authorities.

About EPCH and VRIKSH

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) is a non-profit organization, with objectives to promote, support, protect, maintain and increase the export of handicrafts. It is an apex body of handicrafts exporters for promotion of exports of Handicrafts from India and projecting India's image abroad as a reliable supplier of high quality of handicrafts goods & services. EPCH has also endeavoured to work towards improving the livelihood of artisans.

With this context in their vision, EPCH has been a strong supporter of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations and makes constant effort to align its activities with them. The Council has created necessary infrastructure as well as marketing and information facilities, which are availed both by the exporters and importers.

EPCH aims at developing business strategies that embrace the growth potential of responsible environmental and societal policies, and drive sustainable business practices. In order to prevent organizations from procuring and trading illegally harvested wood and to foster sustainable forestry, EPCH developed the VRIKSH timber legality assessment and verification standard for verification of legality and legal origin of wood and wooden products is intended for entities that want to accurately track and make claims about the legal origin and transport of their products. Through VRIKSH, EPCH not only prevents illegal logging and deforestation but also ensures working rights of the artisans. EPCH aligns itself to SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 15 and SDG 16.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY




The 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while ambitious and universal in nature, have, in principle, charted out a path to achieve development that is fair, equitable, inclusive and environment-friendly. Human and environmental rights underpin the foundation of the SDGs that demand robust and integrated actions, recognizing the role of different actors in the process.








The SDG MAP not only gives the organisations, especially the standard developing bodies, a clear picture of their contribution to the Global Goals but also helps in increasing trust among the consumers internationally.

The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) “VRIKSH” Timber Legality Assessment and

Verification Standard for verification of legality and legal origin of wood and wood products is intended for organizations who want to accurately track and make claims about the legal origin and transport of their products. Each legal owner who makes a “VRIKSH” legality claim about their product shall be assessed by EPCH and/or its authorized certification body on their conformance to the principles of this Standard.

This report is prepared upon submission of the VRIKSH standard to QCI by EPCH for the mapping under the SDG MAP. A comprehensive analysis of the SDG mapping of each clause of the five parts of the VRIKSH standard is provided for in the report. A brief outcome of the mapping and the reasons are mentioned below:




Mapped SDGs	What VRIKSH does
PART I	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formalizes sustainable consumption in supply chains at staff and supplier level Mandates development of staff capacity for standard implementation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandates purchase and sale of legal timber products Ensures evidence-based sustainable procurement Ensures only legally verified products reach consumers Ensures information and awareness on sustainable practices
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes engagement with climate policy by tackling illegal logging Encourages protection and conservation of forests

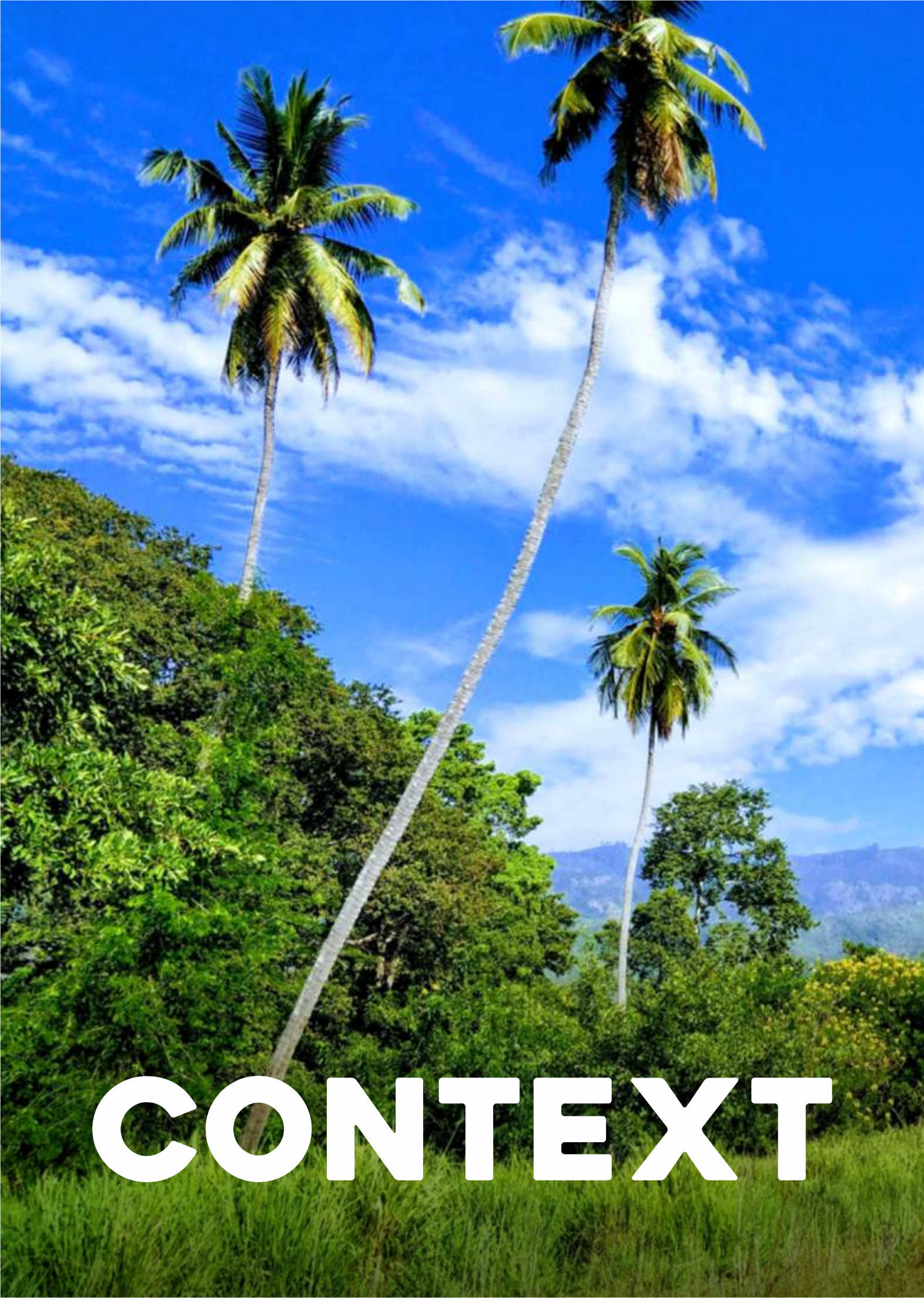
Mapped SDGs	What VRIKSH does
PART I	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandates practices promoting sustainable forest management Prevents sourcing of illegal wood, reducing rampant deforestation Reduces soil erosion and degradation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places systems and standards of accountability and transparency Ensures organizational procedure and documentation Creates agency for standard implementation and compliance Ensures maintenance of staff training records Mandates establishment of robust complaint redress, resolution and product recall procedures and mechanism
PART 2	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides for the rights of workers w.r.t. conditions of employment, minimum wages, working conditions, other benefits as applicable legally to the industry
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandates a working environment that ensures good health and healthcare of employees Safeguards occupational health and safety of employees
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandates fair treatment to all employees
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures the availability of safe drinking water and sanitation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensures workers' access to all legally available workers' rights Safeguards occupational health and safety of employees in line with national regulations Mandates provision of basic working conditions for employees ensuring wages, equity, and rights-based employment



Mapped SDGs		What VRIKSH does
PART 2		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensures income protection and legally-applicable benefits for workers
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Calls for minimizing negative impact of organizational operations on climateCalls for compliance with environmental/pollution control laws
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mandates the organization to have necessary approval for its forests and any related actions to the forestsMandates compliance with CITES procedures when trading in CITES-listed species, promoting sustainable forest managementMandates the organization to have identification of trees, stumps or wooden parts which leads to elimination of illegally procured wood which may be via deforestation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Requires dispute resolution through publicly available legal processesMandates organizations to have all subsidiary entities, contractors and sub-contractors registered according to national/local legislation and regulationsRequires organizations to demonstrate that its approvals, contain updated information and are accurateMandates organizations to submit timely official declarationsRequires the organization's data registers, accounts and official declarations to be accurately reflected in its operationsMandates maintenance of detailed record of input materials and output materials
PART 3		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mandates written commitment towards purchase of traceable legally harvested woodMandates that suppliers of organization apply the same sustainable principles with evidence-based traceability
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mandates all suppliers use the VRIKSH MarkMandates the organizations to keep a record of supplier contact details, species & quantity of wood and origin of woodRequires establishment of accounting record that can be accessed at any timeMandates that the material used for production of VRIKSH certified products is traceable and that records of all inputs, outputs and delivery are maintained



Mapped SDGs		What VRIKSH does
PART 4		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mandates proper records are maintained of the suppliers to whom VRIKSH certified products are being sold
PART 5		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Requires avoidance of usage of wood procured from areas where forests are difficult to manage
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mandates the results of risk assessment to be made publicly available
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TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD: THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The SDGs were born out of what is arguably the most inclusive process in the history of the United Nations, reflecting substantive input from all sectors of society and all parts of the world. In July 2015, Member States of the United Nations reached a final agreement on the Global Goals. The aim of this agreement is to commit efforts towards ensuring that people around the world live better, without damaging the planet. States will work toward achieving them within the next 15 years, from 2015 to 2030. These Goals, which come after the Millennium Development Goals end, are known as the Global Goals for Sustainable Development.

In 2015, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the world's leaders set out on an ambitious path to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect the planet. The Member States of the United Nations unanimously agreed upon the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), making them the world's agenda for sustainable development. The goals are universally applicable in developing and developed countries alike.

Governments are expected to translate them into national action plans, policies and initiatives, reflecting the different realities and capacities their countries possess. The SDGs provide a coherent, holistic, integrated framework for addressing the world's most urgent sustainability challenges and creating a better future for all. The success of the agenda will be based on collaborative efforts by all parties in society, including businesses.

While they primarily target governments, the SDGs are designed to rally a wide range of organizations, and shape priorities and aspirations for sustainable development efforts around a common framework. The SDGs touch upon a variety of environmental, social, and economic issues, and include a range of possible actions that require to be undertaken by the governments in cooperation with civil society, major groups and private sector stakeholders. Most importantly, the SDGs recognize the key role that business can and must play in achieving them.

¹The MDGs are eight goals that States created to guide joint efforts between international organisations and States to fight poverty and hunger in the world, stop diseases like HIV/AIDS, promote gender equality, and to ensure that more children are able to attend school, among other efforts.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS A BUSINESS PRIORITY

Enhancing awareness and understanding of sustainability is vital to promoting priority setting in policy making, as well as to helping enable sustainable development and growth. It is essential that all actors in the economy, including governments, intergovernmental bodies, business, civil society and consumers, see sustainable development and growth as a shared responsibility and that they all take action as appropriate, locally and globally, for the challenges and benefits associated therewith to be, respectively, met and fully harnessed.

Organisations, especially companies, have long been involved in exercising their legal character and personality in society, including sustainability, corporate philanthropy, corporate governance and

corporate social responsibility. These approaches, although significant, have difficulties in reaching a global scale and impact. As our planet continues to face massive economic, social and environmental challenges, there is a clear need for a universal language to proactively act, inspire and solve tomorrow's global challenges. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), developed by the United Nations, could create this common language by setting the global development agenda and redirect investment flows (both public and private) towards the global developmental challenges. This will allow and trigger organisations to advance sustainable development, both by minimizing possible negative impacts and maximizing positive impacts on society and planet.

Why should organisations align with SDGs?

Organisations that turn societal challenges into opportunities that enhance business growth and long-term competitiveness, will be positioned for success. Organisations are already addressing relevant strategic economic, social and environmental topics through sustainability or corporate (social) responsibility.

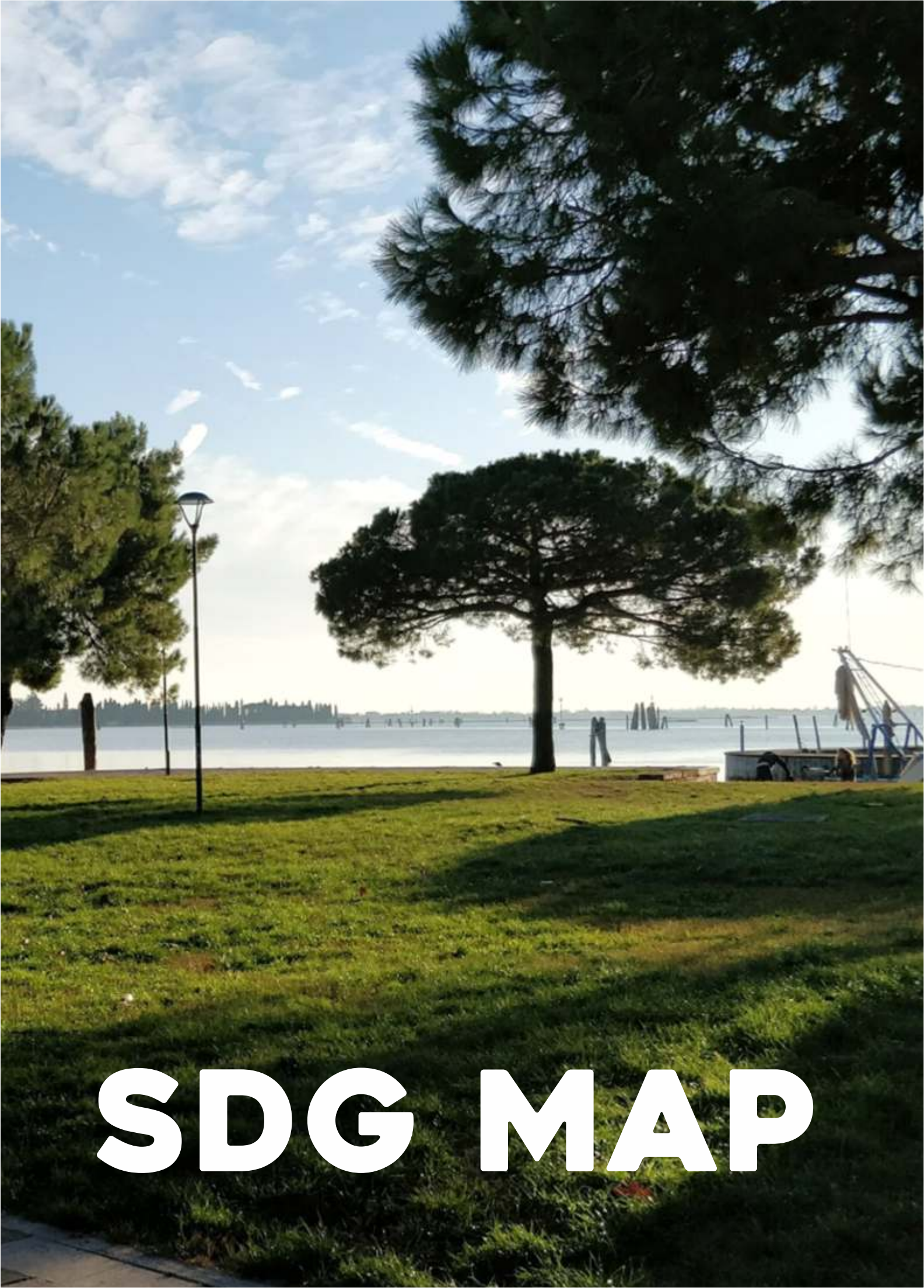
Over the years, organisations have adopted materiality assessments to determine the most important topics for relevant stakeholders. Materiality can be referred to as the threshold at which topics become sufficiently important and thus should be addressed within the overall strategic planning of a company. Organisations view a materiality assessment as a fundamental component of the strategic sustainability journey - it enables them to focus on those topics that have the largest positive or negative impact. Addressing the SDGs through identified material topics helps a company to integrate sustainability in their business strategy and as a result strengthen the economic incentives for companies to use resources more efficiently. By doing so organisations can pursue a

win-win situation thereby creating shared value for society at large.

By aligning themselves and their strategy with the SDGs, organisations are able to use the SDGs as a framework to steer, communicate and report their vision, strategy, goals and activities and as a result yield the benefit of a range of advantages related to:

- Identification future business opportunities related to specific SDGs (the SDGs aim to redirect global investment flows towards the challenges);
- Anticipate stakeholder expectations and future policy direction at the international, national and regional level.

In the same context, clauses of a standard developed by a standard making body, aim to achieve specific targets. Linking each clause with a possible SDG according to the indicators that are reflected through it, will not only lead to a higher standing in society and better reputational value but also in enhancement of awareness and knowledge thereby leading to generation of new business opportunities.



SDG MAP

SDG MAP: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS MAPPING AND ANALYSIS PROGRAMME

The uptake of the SDGs at the global level has been a momentous process, with frenetic activity at the UN level matched by many countries that are serious about SDG monitoring. However, there is a glaring issue that seems to be bypassing most concerned, which relates to the different requirements of global and national monitoring versus the business monitoring and to the need, at the business level, to balance the use and protection of natural resources, so that the global aspiration for sustainability can be achieved.

It is at the local scale where managers will strategize how to balance the need to use natural resources against the need to protect them. For example, they will need to decide how to manage wastewater discharges to a river downstream from a city, or loss of soil from farmlands. It is at this scale where the difference will be made. It will take countless interventions by businesses all around the world, the sum of which will hopefully lead to a more sustainable future for all of us.

Currently, almost 600 sustainability standards operate in 199 countries and 28 industrial sectors. These standards, promoting environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable value chains, have the potential to harmonize individual efforts, create easily adaptable frameworks for meeting global standards of consumption and production, and transform the way we produce and consume goods and resources as a country. Owing to their novel and unconventional nature, voluntary sustainability standards are often viewed with a sense of hesitation and labeled as barriers to trade. While many standards claim that their parameters are designed to address certain SDGs, these claims, being independent, are not readily accepted and are seen as being biased. These perceptions, coupled with a lack of credible evidence for the standards' impact, hinder the acceptance of VSS in the international market and don't allow them to reach their full potential.

Over the past decades, there has been a strong increase in the number of sustainability disclosures, in line with the increased stakeholder demand for non-financial information. More and more companies adopted external reporting standards such as the Global Reporting Initiative and Integrated Reporting, while at the same time improving their internal management accounting systems for non-

financial information (NFI). This trend went alongside with the improvements that were made concerning the reliability of these disclosures. It has been 25—30 years since the first external social and environmental reports were released by pioneers and followed by the development of several standards such as the Global Reporting Initiative in 2000, the Green House Gas protocol in 2001, and the Integrated Reporting framework in 2013. After linking business impact with the SDGs, the question arises how organizations can use reporting to communicate their progress on the SDGs, to inform their stakeholders and initiate a dialogue. Developing systems to integrate the management of sustainable development issues into everyday business decision-making is a must in the transition towards more meaningful and effective reporting. Significantly more than simply a piece of communication to key stakeholders, effective reporting creates trust and supports value creation – and can be a powerful tool to stimulate internal changes and decision-making through integrated performance management.

For a more sustainable economy to become operational, indicators, metrics, accounting measures and better disclosures are critical. The SDG MAP service impartially analyzes the standard's parameters and map the standard with the relevant SDGs, and their targets and indicators by using the inventory of possible disclosures per SDG, at the level of the 169 targets, devised jointly by the United Nations Global Compact and GRI. The indicators are a subset of these disclosures and are accompanied by a set of potential actions of businesses that can contribute the SDGs. In cases where there are no relevant disclosures for particular targets, the Analysis highlights these gaps, signaling areas where new disclosures need to be developed in the future. As such, this Analysis is the first step towards the greater ambition to develop a harmonized set of disclosures for businesses to report on the SDGs.

Through this assessment, for each SDG identified as relevant, this report shall provide the following information:

- What is the relation, positive and negative, of each clause, with the relevant SDG;
- The targets for the relevant SDG identified;
- Why the SDG has been identified as relevant.



About VRIKSH

The EPCH “VRIKSH” Timber Legality Assessment and Verification Standard for verification of legality and legal origin of wood and wood products is intended for organizations who want to accurately track and make claims about the legal origin and transport of their products. It is intended to track “VRIKSH” timber products but can also be used to track timber products verified to other legal origin standards, under mutual recognition.

The transformation of timber from a standing tree to a final product will often involve several types of organizations who take legal ownership of a product through a supply chain. Each legal owner who makes a “Vriksh” legality claim about their product shall be assessed by EPCH and/or its authorized certification body on their conformance to the principles of this Standard. Types of organizations that would be interested in utilizing this Standard include:

- Forest/Harvest site manager
- Harvester/Logger
- Consolidator/Concentration Yard
- Primary manufacturer Timber Supply Chain
- Secondary manufacturer
- Broker/Importer/Exporter
- Retailer

Fulfilment of the Chain of Custody requirements included in the standard demonstrates the ability of organizations to accurately track “VRIKSH” verified timber products received from recognized supply chain participants through their internal processes in order to make accurate claims to their customers about the products' legal origins.

Methodology

Through the QCI SDG MAP we impartially analyzed VRIKSH's parameters and mapped them with relevant SDGs and their targets by assessing relevance of the criteria in Vriksh with possible impact on indicators that hold relevance to the standard.

The standard was procured in an Excel format from EPCH and mapped with indicators which are in line with the open access indicators developed by the UN Global Compact and Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) and reported in their publication 'An Analysis of the Goals and Targets'.

The publication aims to aid progress towards these global top priorities by helping businesses, all over the world, improve their reporting and performance on the SDGs by serving as an inventory of possible disclosures per SDG, at the level of the 169 targets. Disclosures here is a broad term for qualitative and/or quantitative information, developed based on globally accepted disclosure frameworks for business, by the virtue of which, the indicators can be said to be a subset of the disclosures. These can be



used by any business to report on their efforts towards achieving the SDGs. To aid understanding, these disclosures are linked to an illustrative menu of potential actions business can take to contribute to the SDGs. In cases where there are no relevant disclosures for particular targets, the Analysis highlights these gaps, signalling areas where new disclosures need to be developed in the future. As such, this Analysis is the first step towards the greater ambition to develop a harmonized set of disclosures for businesses to report on the SDGs.

Simultaneously, alignment with the indicators developed by the UN-backed Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG) was also examined.

Thereafter, tangible output in the form of a visualized report, statement of alignment, and QR Code, which Vriksh can extend to its producers, and consumers who can display the mapped SDGs along with their label to show their positive impact on them, was also developed.



PART 1: QUALITY SYSTEMS REQUIREMENT

1. ORGANIZATION POLICY

- 1.1.** The organization shall have a publicly available written policy commitment, endorsed by the most senior management of the organization, which states that all purchases and sales of timber products to be of known origin (district of harvest) and legally harvested and to implement all efforts to prevent trading and sourcing wood or wood fibre (herein referred to as wood) from the following categories:
- a. Illegally harvested wood;
 - b. Illegally sourced wood
 - c. Illegally Transported wood
 - d. Wood without proper documentation and/or vague origin
 - e. Wood whose origins are in doubt
 - f. Wood and wood products having import/export restriction- in India or from country of harvest.

Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 12



Target 12.1

Relevant Business Action: Incorporating sustainable development into business vision, policies and strategies and developing sustainability targets and indicators across products and services.

MAPPING VRIKSH TO THE GLOBAL GOALS

In this part, we connect the EPCH VRIKSH-Timber Legality Assessment and Verification Standard-India, version no.: VRIKSH-STD-01-01 V1.5 EN, dated: 21st December 2018, to the Sustainable Development Goals to see how the parameters and requirements of the standard connect with the Goals and Targets.



Why Target 12.1: This clause requires the execution and implementation of a written policy commitment, which mandates purchase, and sale of legal timber products of known origin. This, read with the introductory scope of the standard, goes on to demonstrate incorporation of sustainable development into business policy in the relevant product category.

Target 12.7

Relevant Business Action: Ensuring suppliers apply the same sustainable principles required in the procurement contracts through evidence-based approaches such as supplier sustainability audits

Why Target 12.7: This clause ensures a policy commitment towards purchase of traceable legally harvested wood, which also ensures that the suppliers from whom the organization procures applies the same sustainable principles with evidence-based approach.



Target 13.2

Relevant Business Action: Responsibly engaging in climate policy: Identifying implications, influences, and opportunities to engage; aligning words with actions, ambitions and influences (both direct and indirect); and reporting on policy positions, influences and outcomes

Why Target 13.2: The clause promotes engagement with climate policy in so far as it impacts protection and

conservation of forests, which read along with the introductory scope of the standard indicates that the standard also aims at reducing CO2 emissions. These objectives are aligned with the state party obligations under the Paris Agreement, which now hold the status of customary law and obligations erga omnes applicable to even extended subjects of international law. Relevant Articles of the Paris Agreement are supplied for reference:

Article 5(1) of the Paris Agreement reads: Parties should **take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases** as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1 (d), of the Convention, **including forests**.

Article 5(2) of the Paris Agreement reads: Parties are encouraged to take action to implement and support, including through results-based payments, the existing framework as set out in related guidance and decisions already agreed under the Convention for: **policy approaches and**

positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries; and alternative policy approaches, such as joint mitigation and adaptation approaches for the integral and sustainable management of forests, while reaffirming the importance of incentivizing, as appropriate, non-carbon benefits associated with such approaches.



Target 15.2

Relevant Business Action: Contributing to sustainable management of forests through rehabilitating lands destructed by business operations, and committing to reduce or remove deforestation and forest degradation from direct operations and the supply chain.

Why Target 15.2: The extant clause promotes an aspect of sustainable forest management, viz., origin and legality of timber, expected to reduce rampant deforestation.

Target 15.3

Relevant Business Action: Protecting soil from degradation, limiting erosion and avoiding deforestation and soil compaction through investing in and implementing sustainable use of natural resources, for example conservation agriculture, sustainable grazing patterns, reforestation and appropriate mechanization.

Why Target 15.3: Existence of a policy preventing sourcing of illegal wood impacts reduction of deforestation thereby contributing to limiting soil erosion and degradation.



Target 16.6

Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: The clause provides for a publicly available written policy instrument which ensures that the organizations are held to a standard of accountability and transparency with their policy formulation, which has a cross-cutting impact on building strong institutions.

2. PROCEDURES

2.1. The organization shall have procedures and/or work instructions covering all the applicable elements specified in this standard. It shall also ensure all applicable requirements of this Standard are addressed in documented (written) procedures and/or work instructions

- A)** Including examples of forms, records and documents along with instructions for completing and filing them;
- B)** Including a process for annually reviewing and updating procedures to current practices.



Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 16

Target 16.6

Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: The clause provides for organizational procedure and documentation, which has a crosscutting impact on building strong institutions

2.2. The organization shall identify the person (or position) responsible for implementing each procedure and/or work instruction and shall assign one person in the organization as having overall responsibility for compliance to this Standard;

Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 16

Target 16.6

Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: The clause provides for a position of responsibility for implementation of different components of the standard and for overall accountability for compliance, which has a cross-cutting impact on building strong institutions



3. TRAINING

The organization shall ensure that the relevant staffs are trained on how to maintain the integrity of the legally verified material throughout the production and/or distribution process.

Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 8

Target 8.4

Relevant Business Action: (A) Assessing and mitigating environmental impacts of products and services through tracking, reporting and reducing resource consumption, and responsibly influencing consumer and consumption patterns and promoting sustainable consumption and lifestyles through, for instance, product development and marketing.
(B) Formalizing these aspects in sustainable procurement policies and supplier codes of conduct

Why Target 8.4: (A) The process of maintaining integrity of legally verified material throughout the production and distribution process counts for a step towards assessing and mitigating environmental impacts of the product through tracking and reporting, influencing lifestyles through product development and marketing.
(B) Application of the above process by the staff, as provided by the clause, also impacts footprint of the supply chain and amounts to formalizing sustainability aspects of value chain codes of conduct.

SDG 12

Target 12.8

Relevant Business Action: Contributing to sustainable development and lifestyles through producing certified and traceable products, providing detailed information on the environmental and social impacts

of these products and educating consumers and companies in the supply chain.
Why Target 12.8: The clause ensures that only the legally verified products reach the consumer and are traceable by the virtue of a mark, hence contributing to sustainable lifestyle.



3.1. The organization shall specify the training requirements for all relevant staff as required to implement this standard. The training shall be provided to all staff as specified and appropriate.



Mapped to

Explanation

SDG 8

Target 8.2

Relevant Business Action: Fostering full and productive local employment through supporting vocational education, job-oriented training programs, and building alliances with educational institutions to create a pipeline for skilled workers.

Why Target 8.2: The clause ensures that the staff designated to ensure proper implementation of the standard are trained well and for the implementation process, thereby ensuring skilled workers and fostering employment.

3.2. The organization shall keep records of the training provided to staff in relation to implementation of this standard. The records may be in print or in electronic form, but they should be made accessible to the “Vriksh” assessor on request.



Mapped to

Explanation

SDG 16

Target 16.6

Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: The clause ensures that records of training are maintained and are available in print or electronic form that leads to accountability and transparency in the institutions.



4. RECORDS

4.1. The organization shall maintain records that demonstrate compliance with the applicable requirements of this standard. Retention time for all records and reports, including purchase and sales documents, training records, production records, volume summaries, and trademark approvals, shall be specified by the organization and shall be at least Five (5) years.



Mapped to

Explanation

SDG 16

Target 16.6

Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: The process of maintaining records to demonstrate compliance with requirements of the standard and storing it for at least a period of five years ensures transparency and accountability of the institutions.

5. COMPLAINTS MECHANISM

5.1. The organization shall have a documented mechanism for processing internal and external complaints regarding its wood purchasing program and policies. Minimum elements shall include

- A) Procedures for:
- Acknowledging receipt of complaint
 - Taking cognizant of complaint

- Fair and judicious evaluation of the complaint within specific time frame
 - Correction and preventive measures
- B) A policy by which orders may be cancelled, or products already received may be returned, when there is evidence that the product or wood components were procured in violation of applicable provisions of this standard.



Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 16

Target 16.6

Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions

Why Target 16.6: The organization ensures accountability and transparency by ensuring a procedure for compliant redressal and taking back the products wherein any violation of the provisions of the standard are observed.

Target 16.10:

Relevant Business Action: Within business activities, upholding the human right to freedom of expression and information, also by having a robust complaint system or grievance mechanism to record, log and

resolve issues. Recording expressions of dissent by type, issue, scale and response, and referring to methods based on dialogue and engagement with a view to seek agreed solutions. Communicating this information externally (without compromising privacy of complainers nor commercial confidentiality), to transfer knowledge of best practices, remediation of complaints and lessons learned.

Why Target 16.10: The clause ensures that there is a fixed and robust mechanism for addressing the complaints regarding the products wherein the standards regulations are not met. In this process it ensures that the consumers are aware of the legality standard and can report and resolve the problems.

5.2. The details of any complaints received and action taken there of shall be documented and made available to the Vriksh certification /assessment body on request.



Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 16

Target 16.6

Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: The clause mandates that any complaints received and action taken on them, to be documented and made available to Vriksh on request. Hence maintaining accountability and transparency.

Target 16.10

Relevant Business Action: Within business activities, upholding the human right to freedom of expression and information, also by having a robust complaint system or grievance mechanism to record, log and resolve issues. Recording expressions of dissent by type, issue, scale and response, and referring to

methods based on dialogue and engagement with a view to seek agreed solutions. Communicating this information externally (without compromising the privacy of complainers nor commercial confidentiality), to transfer knowledge of best practices, remediation of complaints and lessons learned. Understanding the number of substantiated complaints regarding breaches of customer privacy and losses of customer data.

Why Target 16.10: Ensuring that there is a fixed and robust mechanism for addressing the complaints regarding the products wherein the standards regulations are not met and further recording the complaints along with the action taken, the clause contributes positively to the target above.



PART 2: LEGALITY COMPLIANCE



1. PRINCIPLE

The organization shall be a legitimate body and is authorized to conduct business in accordance with the legal requirements of the country and the legally gazetted locality boundaries in which it operates.

Criterion 1.1: The organization shall be registered as a business and shall have all authorized documentation showing that the organization legally exists and meets national/state legal requirements.

Mapped to None

Criterion 1.2: The organization shall have tax registration number (PAN, TAN and TIN)

Mapped to None

Criterion 1.3: In case of any dispute regarding the legal status and rights of the organization, the organization shall have resorted to legal processes to solve the dispute.



Mapped to



Explanation



Target 16.6
Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: The process of solving the disputes regarding the legal rights and status of the organization by resorting to legal processes, which are available publicly, leads to the accountability and transparency of the organization.

Criterion 1.4: Subsidiary entities, contractors and sub- contractors involved on behalf of the organization shall be registered according to the national/local legislation and regulations.

Mapped to

Explanation



Target 16.6
Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: The criterion contributes to the organization being transparent and accountable by ensuring that the organizations have all its subsidiary entities, contractors and sub- contractors registered according to national/local legislation and regulations.

Criterion 1.5: The unregistered subsidiary entities, contractors and sub- contractors involved on behalf of the organization shall have the legal identification document such as Aadhar Card, Artisan Card, etc.



Mapped to

Explanation



Target 16.9
Relevant Business Action: Ensuring a legal identification for everyone
Why Target 16.9: Although very little information available on how business could support the

achievement of this target through core business strategies and operations, however, ensuring a legal identification for all the unregistered subsidiary entities, contractors and sub- contractors involved on behalf of the organization, definitely contributes to this target.

2. PRINCIPLE

The necessary authorization to conduct all forest and forest product related activities, including felling, sawing, conversion and/or transport at all locations

under its operation shall be available with the organization

Criterion 2.1: The organization shall have obtained the necessary approvals for its forest and related operations.

Mapped to



Explanation



Target 15.2
Relevant Business Action: Improving efficiency in the use of forest-related resources, using reduced-impact harvesting techniques, and supporting restoration and rehabilitation of degraded landscapes.

Why Target 15.2: The criterion mandates the organization to have necessary approval for its forests and any related actions to the forests thereby taking into account the efficient use of forests and appropriate restoration and rehabilitation of degraded landscapes.



Target 16.7
Relevant Business Action: Engaging responsibly in policy-making processes and, by doing so, increasing societal trust in public institutions.

Why Target 16.7: The criterion contributes to increasing societal trust by ensuring that the organizations have a policy by the virtue of which they have necessary approvals for its forests and related actions which re-instantiates the faith of the consumer that the product is from legally produced wood.

Criterion 2.2: The organization should be able to demonstrate that its approvals (permits/licenses and transportation/export documents) were properly obtained, contain up to date information and are accurate. All approvals/licenses and permits shall be valid at the date of assessment.

Mapped to

Explanation



Target 16.6
Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions



Why Target 16.6: The criterion states that the organization should be able to demonstrate that its approvals (permits/licenses and transportation/export documents) were properly obtained, contain up to date information and are accurate and all approvals/licenses and permits shall be valid at the date of assessment. This contributes to the organization being accountable and transparent.

3. PRINCIPLE

The organization shall be paying all associated taxes, royalties or fees relevant to the industry and shall be maintaining all applicable and necessary registers as required by the industry.

Criterion 3.1: The organization maintains a current summary of relevant acts, regulations and codes of practice and communicates such summary of regulations within the organization.

Mapped to

None

Criterion 3.2: The organization consistently submits its official declarations to the appropriate

Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 16

Target 16.6
Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions



Why Target 16.6: The criterion mandates the organizations to submit official declarations at a timely manner thereby ensuring accountability and transparency

Criterion 3.3: All applicable and required taxes, fees, royalties and other charges shall be paid within the prescribed time period.

Mapped to

None

Criterion 3.4: Documents related to payments of taxes and fees shall be maintained and made available to the auditors.

Mapped to

None

Criterion 3.5: The organization's data, registers, accounts and official declarations accurately reflect its operations.



Mapped to

Explanation

SDG 16

16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Target 16.6

Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions

Why Target 16.6: By ensuring the organization's data registers, accounts and official declarations to be accurately reflected in its operations, the criterion contributes to transparency and accountability of the organization.

4. PRINCIPLE

The organization complies with all local and national laws and regulations governing the harvesting, processing and transport of timber.

Criterion 4.1: Harvesting of specific trees and species shall be conducted in compliance with national or local regulations, as well as international conventions to which India is a signatory.

Mapped to

13

CLIMATE ACTION

15

LIFE ON LAND



Explanation

SDG 13

13

CLIMATE ACTION

Target 13.2

Relevant Business Action: Responsibly engaging in climate policy: Identifying implications, influences, and opportunities to engage; aligning words with actions, ambitions and influences (both direct and indirect); and reporting on policy positions, influences and outcomes.

Why Target 13.2: The criterion promotes engagement with climate policy in so far as it encourages forestation, which read along with the introductory scope of the standard indicates that the standard also aims at reducing CO2 emissions. These objectives are aligned with the state party obligations under the Paris Agreement, which now hold the status of customary law and extend for all. Relevant Articles of the Paris Agreement are:

Article 5(1) of the Paris Agreement reads: Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1 (d), of the Convention, including forests.

SDG 15

15

LIFE ON LAND

Target 15.2

Relevant Business Action: Contributing to sustainable management of forests through rehabilitating lands destructured by business operations, and committing to reduce or remove deforestation and forest degradation from direct operations and the supply chain.

Why Target 15.2: The extant criterion promotes an aspect of sustainable forest management, viz., harvesting tress of specific variety.

Criterion 4.2: The organization ensures that the processing, transport, and delivery of products to customers comply with relevant legal requirements.

Mapped to

None



5. PRINCIPLE

The organization complies with all environmental and social laws, regulations and other relevant national and international requirements as are applicable to it

Criterion 5.1: The Organization minimizes negative environmental impacts and complies with relevant Environmental laws/Pollution Control laws.

Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 13

Target 13.1
Relevant Business Action: Improving the efficiency and climate resiliency of operations.

Why Target 13.1: The criterion engages to minimize the effect of its operations on climate by ensuring compliance with the Environmental laws/Pollution Control laws.

Target 13.2
Relevant Business Action: Responsibly engaging in climate policy: Identifying implications, influences, and opportunities to engage; aligning words with actions, ambitions and influences (both direct and indirect);

Article 5(1) of the Paris Agreement reads: Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1 (d), of the Convention, including forests.

Criterion 5.2: The Organization respects the rights of workers as derived from relevant national or international regulations. Workers have access to all legally available workers' rights w.r.t. conditions of employment, minimum wages, working conditions, other benefits as applicable legally to the industry.

and reporting on policy positions, influences and outcomes

Why Target 13.2: The criterion promotes engagement with climate policy in so far as it encourages abiding by the environmental laws/ Pollution control laws, which read along with the introductory scope of the standard indicates that the standard also aims at reducing CO2 emissions. These objectives are aligned with the state party obligations under the Paris Agreement, which now hold the status of customary law and obligations erga omnes applicable to even extended subjects of international law. Relevant Articles of the Paris Agreement are supplied for reference:



Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 1

Target 1.1
Relevant Business Action: Understanding that poverty in all its forms is a multi-dimensional and complex issue with at its core a violation of fundamental human rights. As such, respecting human rights, respecting the rule of law and “doing no harm” as the starting point for engagement on the SDGs. Having in place a policy commitment to meet the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, implementing internationally agreed principles on human rights and regularly reporting against them.

Why Target 1.1: The extant criterion encompasses the rights of workers w.r.t. conditions of employment, minimum wages, working conditions, other benefits as

applicable legally to the industry, hence, contributing to Target 1.1.

Target 1.2
Relevant Business Action: Creating employment opportunities and promoting job security, including the provision of decent work, respecting labor rights, improving skills and paying a living wage that allow employees a path out of poverty, in business' own operations and in the supply chain

Why Target 1.2: By the virtue of respecting the rights of workers w.r.t. the conditions of employment, minimum wages, working conditions, other benefits as applicable legally to the industry, the criterion helps to achieve the Target 1.2.

SDG 3

Target 3.2
Relevant Business Action: Providing access to health-care for employees and their families and encouraging access to health-care for those in the supply chain. Encouraging healthy lifestyles and providing decent working conditions which enable parents to complete their roles as caregivers, such as providing health-care, on-site vaccinations and health screening programs, paying at the minimum the living wage, providing maternity and paternity leave, developing appropriate family-friendly accommodations for workers, and providing facilities necessary for early years care (such

as breast feeding rooms, child care facilities and flexible working hours) and access to affordable nutritious food for mothers in the workplace. Implementing suitable risk procedures for expectant mothers to protect them from potential harm to themselves or the fetus in the workplace.

Why Target 3.2: The criterion ensures that the right of employees is respected by the organization, which also includes the right to healthcare and encourages a healthy working environment. It also encompasses the policy of paying a minimum wage and improving the skills of the employees.



Target 5.2
Relevant Business Action: Respecting human rights and supporting the rights of vulnerable groups, including women and girls. Ensuring that no form of exploitation, harassment or violence against any person, particularly women and girls, throughout business activities, preventing or mitigating adverse human right impacts

across the supply chain and having procedures in place for remediation and compensation of victims.
Why Target 5.2: Existence of a policy that encourages fair treatment to all employees and ensures that the right of the laborers is respected impacts the working conditions of the employees positively thereby contributing to respecting the human rights.



Target 8.5
Relevant Business Action: Paying at a minimum the living wage. Paying wages adequate to satisfy the basic needs of workers and their families, and maintaining regular payment of wages. Providing the best possible wages, benefits and working conditions within the framework of government policies and through the process of collective bargaining.
Why Target 8.5: By ensuring that workers have access to all legally available workers' rights w.r.t. conditions of employment, minimum wages, working conditions, other benefits as applicable legally to the industry, the criterion contributes to Target 8.5.

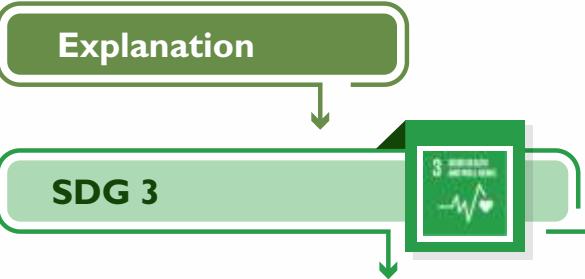
Target 8.7
Relevant Business Action: Helping to eradicate bonded labor by ensuring that none of their workers or suppliers' workers have to make recruitment payments to secure jobs, and that no suspicious payment structure from the employee to the employer is in place
Why Target 8.7: The criterion establishes the mandate for the organization to provide for the basic working conditions for its employees that helps to ensure wages and eradicate bonded labour.



Target 10.4
Relevant Business Action: Paying at a minimum the living wage and providing insurance for employees, such as income protection, life or accident insurance and social security.

Why Target 10.4: The criterion takes into account paying a minimum wage to all its employees hence ensuring income protection and social security.

Criterion 5.3: The Organization shall adhere to all applicable requirements related to Occupational



Target 3.9
Relevant Business Action: Implementing adequate occupational health and safety procedures to ensure that employees and anyone at or in the vicinity of business operations and in the supply-chain are not harmed or affected by hazardous, non-hazardous and transported, imported, exported, or treated waste.

Why Target 3.9: The criterion explicitly states that the organization shall adhere to all applicable requirements related to Occupational Health and Safety of its employees thereby ensuring and adequate occupational health and safety procedures.



Target 6.1
Relevant Business Action: Respecting the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation through the aspects of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality (AAAQ) of water.

Why Target 6.1: By ensuring all necessary requirements for occupational health and safety, the criterion inadvertently ensures the availability of safe drinking water and sanitation.



Target 8.5
Relevant Business Action: Protecting basic labor rights including freedom of association, collective bargaining and industrial relations, limiting hours of work and providing adequate rest periods, ensuring job security and a safe and healthy working environment and supporting employment promotion and employment stability through developing and implementing

policies and procedures complementing public policies and in line with local economic development priorities and, consequently, being developed through meaningful dialogue with stakeholders including national workers' and employers' organizations in the developing countries in which the business operates. Paying equal remuneration, including benefits, for work of equal value.

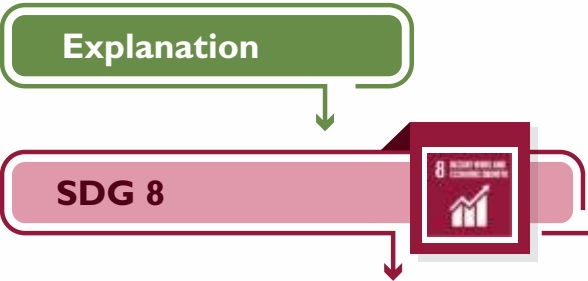


Why Target 8.5: The criterion takes into account the necessary requirements for occupational health and safety and thus helps protect basic labor rights including work hours, basic salary, working conditions, equal pay for equal work, etc.

Target 8.8
Relevant Business Action: Respecting and protecting labor rights and providing safe, secure and healthy working environments for all employees.
Why Target 8.8: The extant criterion promotes the existence of Occupational Health and Safety of its workers thereby ensuring healthy working environment for all employees.

Criteria 5.4: The organization shall maintain all applicable health and safety equipment for its workers as per national and local regulations in this regard. All health and safety equipment should be inspected periodically for functionality and should be easily accessible in times of emergency.

Mapped to



Target 8.8
Relevant Business Action: Respecting and protecting labor rights and providing safe, secure and healthy working environments for all employees.
Why Target 8.8: By ensuring availability of all applicable health and safety equipment for its employees, the criterion aims to protect provide safe, secure and healthy working environments.

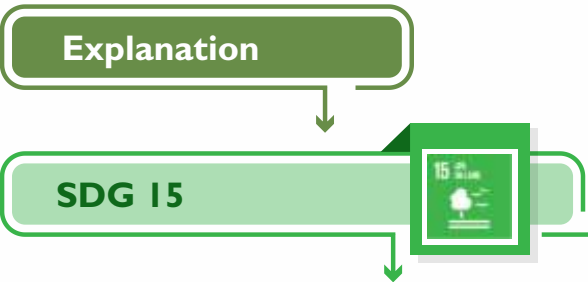


6. PRINCIPLE

The organization shall employ a viable identification and classification system for trees, stumps and logs and shall comply with all applicable timber transport and export regulations.

Criterion 6.1: The organization shall have a documented system of identification of trees, stumps or wooden parts. The identification system is for the purpose of classification of material and identification to match with transport documents. The system should be in congruence with the incoming invoice references and the material accounting system

Mapped to



Target 15.2
Relevant Business Action: Contributing to sustainable management of forests through rehabilitating lands destroyed by business operations, and committing to reduce or remove deforestation and forest degradation from direct operations and the supply chain.
Why Target 15.2: The criterion mandates the organization to have identification of trees, stumps or wooden parts which leads to elimination of illegally procured wood which may be via deforestation.

Criterion 6.2: Each item of produce within the organization, either input or output, should be identified and marked as per the system and any material not included in the system should be removed and kept isolated.

Mapped to

None



Criterion 6.3: In case the organization is procuring CITES listed species, it shall specify the procedures for taking permission/exemptions when dealing with material that originates from CITES listed species.



Mapped to

Explanation

SDG 15

Target 15.2

Relevant Business Action: Contributing to sustainable management of forests through rehabilitating lands destroyed by business operations, and committing to reduce or remove deforestation and forest degradation from direct operations and the supply chain.

Why Target 15.2: The extant criterion promotes an aspect of sustainable forest management, viz., following the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Criterion 6.4: At mill gate entry as well as exit, concerned personnel shall be verifying the material for all applicable and available documents and material not accompanied by proper documentation shall be kept in quarantine till proper documents are either procured or made available.

Mapped to

None



7. PRINCIPLE

Traceability of legally verified wood is maintained either by means of physical separation or by proper accounting methods.

Criterion 7.1: Differently classified wood, based on legal origin shall be traceable through the manufacturing process and identifiable separately.



Mapped to

Explanation

SDG 15

Target 15.2

Relevant Business Action: Contributing to sustainable management of forests through rehabilitating lands destroyed by business operations, and committing to reduce or remove deforestation and forest degradation from direct operations and the supply chain.

Why Target 15.2: By ensuring that the traceability of wood, the criterion helps eliminate the wood procured illegally, majorly via illegal deforestation, thereby contributing to sustainable management of forests.

Criterion 7.2: In holding areas for either raw materials or for finished goods, separate physical segregation areas shall be identified and clearly demarcated to prevent mixing between materials of varied legal origin.

Mapped to

None



Criterion 7.3: In cases where physical segregation is not possible or viable, the organization shall have proper accounts for species with raw material in stock as well as quantities under WIP (Work in Progress), finished goods and ready for dispatch. The organization should also have a provision for verification of physical stock with book stock value at predetermined intervals

Mapped to

None

Criterion 7.4: Material of ambiguous legality shall be kept in a separate holding area till clarity on legal origin is obtained

Mapped to

None

8. PRINCIPLE

The organization maintains up to date records of all input and output quantities of wood or wood-based products as well as records of all material that is sold/distributed/transferred

Criterion 8.1: The organization maintains detailed records of input materials, including supplier name, contact details, type and nature of material and quantity supplied. Details shall be collected and maintained for a period of 5 years.



Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 16



Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions

Why Target 16.6: The criterion ensures a record of input materials to be maintained hence ensuing accountability and transparency.

Criterion 8.2: The organization maintains detailed records of all output material including invoices and transport documents clearly stating material type, quantity and quality of goods. Origin of material shall be clearly stated and copy of certificate issued by competent authority for export permission for the material shall accompany the material during transit.

Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 16



Target 16.6
Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions

Why Target 16.6: The extant criterion mandates the maintenance of detailed record of the entire output materials thereby holding the institution's accountability and increasing the transparency.



PART 3: RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY AND PRODUCTION



1. SUPPLIER IDENTIFICATION

1.1. The organization shall categorize its supplies as follows:

- a) FSC Certified Wood
- b) FSC Controlled Wood
- c) PEFC Certified Wood
- d) PEFC Controlled Sources
- e) “Vriksh” Certified Wood
- f) Wood included in the organization's own “Vriksh” Timber Legality Verification program (See Part 4);
- g) Wood with approved CITES License
- h) Wood with FLEGT License from VPA countries
- i) Unspecified Wood

Mapped to

None

1.2. The Organization shall maintain an up to date list of all its suppliers of wood or wood Products. For each supplier the Organization shall record:

- a) The name and address of the supplier;
- b) Description of the wood supplied;
- c) The species and volume of wood supplied;
- d) The relevant purchasing documentation;
- e) The area of origin - specified to district/division of origin for material from India and certificate or origin for imported materials.
- f) Mode of transportation



Mapped to

None

1.3. The Organization shall maintain an up to date Product list of all the items being manufactured by the company. The organization shall record the following information in its Product Group List (PGL):

- a) Product Type
- b) Trade name of the product
- c) Common name of the input species
- d) Scientific name of the input species
- e) Area of procurement
- f) Type of raw material procured such as planks, round logs, wooden blocks, etc.
- g) Conversion factor for each product

Mapped to

None

2. SUPPLIER DOCUMENTATION

2.1. For FSC certified wood/FSC Controlled Wood supplies the organization shall ensure that:

- a) All wood supplied as FSC certified/FSC Controlled Wood is clearly identifiable and is accompanied by documentation which includes reference to each product's batch and/or to related shipping documentation, sufficient to link the invoice to the products supplied;
- b) The transport documentation and invoices issued for the material shall quote the supplying organization's FSC certificate number/FSC Controlled Wood code.
- c) The organization shall verify that the supplier holds a valid FSC certificate and check the same on the FSC database (<http://info.fsc.org/certificate.php>).
- d) For FSC Controlled Wood supplies, the organization shall verify that the supplier holds a valid FSC Controlled Wood certificate (<https://ic.fsc.org/en/certification/types-of-certification/controlled-wood-02>).



Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 12

Relevant Business Action: Ensuring suppliers apply the same sustainable principles required in the procurement contracts through evidence-based approaches such as supplier sustainability audits

Why Target 12.7: This clause ensures a commitment towards purchase of traceable legally harvested wood, which also ensures that the suppliers from whom the organization procures applies the same sustainable principles with evidence-based approach

- 2.2. For PEFC certified or controlled wood supplies the organization shall ensure that:

 - a) All wood supplied as PEFC certified by PEFC certified suppliers is clearly identifiable;
 - b) All wood supplied as PEFC certified/controlled is accompanied by documentation which includes reference to each product's batch and/or to related shipping documentation, sufficient to link the invoice to the products supplied
- c) The transport documentation and invoices issued for the material shall quote the supplying organization's PEFC certificate number.
 - d) The organization shall verify that the supplier holds a valid PEFC certificate which is verified on the PEFC database (<http://www.pefc.org/find-certified/certifiedcertificates>)

Mapped to



Explanation

SDG 12

Relevant Business Action: Ensuring suppliers apply the same sustainable principles required in the procurement contracts through evidence-based approaches such as supplier sustainability audits

Why Target 12.7: This clause ensures purchase of

traceable legally harvested (PEFC Certified) wood, which also ensures that the suppliers from whom the organization procures applies the same sustainable principles with evidence-based approach



- 2.3. For "Vriksh" certified wood supplies, the organization shall ensure that

 - a) All wood supplied as "Vriksh" by EPCH certified suppliers is clearly identified as such.
 - b) The invoices and transport documents accompanying the "Vriksh" certified material clearly identifies the material as "Vriksh" certified and carries a valid "Vriksh" Code as issued by EPCH
- c) The invoices for "Vriksh" material contain references to the Batch Numbers of the originating material to the supplier.
 - d) The organization shall verify the "Vriksh" code of the supplier on the Vriksh website (http://vrikshindia.in/index.php/user/certifi_user).

Mapped to



Explanation

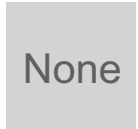
SDG 16

Target 16.6
Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: By ensuring all suppliers use the Vriksh Mark, the clause helps create accountability and transparency of the organizations.

- 2.4. For CITES Licensed material, the organization shall keep records of the material quantity, species and the CITES License number. All supplies of wood for export from any species listed in Annex 1, 2 or 3 of the Convention on International shall be accompanied by the applicable licenses and/or export permits.
- 2.4.1. For material being exported from India on Vriksh Shipment Certificate or CITES Comparable Document, issued by the other competent authorities, the organization shall keep record of the quantity, species and the Unique Number of their Vriksh shipment Certificate/CITES comparable Document.

Mapped to





2.5. For FLEGT Licensed materials, the organization shall keep records of the material quantity, species and FLEGT License number.

Mapped to

None

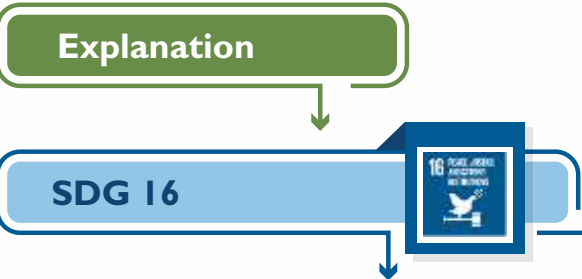
- 2.6. For wood supplies included in the organization's own "Vriksh" legality verification program, the organization shall record and keep:
- a) The supplier contacts details including name and address

b) Species, quantity and type of wood supplied

c) Origin of wood specified to at least the revenue district/forest division level
- d) All accompanying harvest and transit documents

e) If wood supplies are imported, then the organization needs to keep details of all import declarations, including, at the minimum – the common and scientific names of the species, country of origin, valuation of the imported quantity and quantity of plant along with unit of measurement.

Mapped to



Target 16.6
Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: Accountability and Transparency is reflected by this clause as it mandated the organizations to keep a record of supplier contact details, species & quantity of wood and origin of wood.

2.7. For supplies of unspecified wood that do not fall under any of the above categories, the organization shall establish a system to ensure that this wood is not mixed with wood which is verified in accordance with the requirements outlined in this standard or wood that is FSC/PEFC/Controlled



Wood/Vriksh certified. The unspecified wood needs to be physically segregated and kept distinct from legally verified wood and the organization needs to ensure that at no point in the manufacturing process would there be a possibility of mixing of these two categories of wood.

Mapped to

None

3. VOLUME CONTROL

- 3.1. Conversion factors**
3.1.1. For each product group the organization shall identify the main processing steps involving a change of material volume or weight and specify the conversion factor(s) for each processing step or, if not feasible, for the total processing steps.
- 3.1.2. The organization shall specify the methodology for calculating the conversion factor(s) and ensure that conversion factors are kept up to date.

Mapped to

None

- 3.2. Material accounting record
3.2.1. For each product the organization shall establish a material accounting record to ensure that at all times the quantities produced and/or sold are compatible with the quantities of inputs. The accounting record shall include at least the following information:
- a) Invoice references - inputs as well as outputs

b) Quantities (by volume or weight) of inputs received, inputs used for production, inputs still in stock, outputs still in stock and outputs sold.

c) The applicable conversion factors

d) Wastage/damage details



Mapped to



Explanation



Target 16.6
Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: By establishing an accounting record that can be accessed at any time during a period of five years, the clause ensures accountability and transparency.

3.3. Batch Accounting:

3.3.1. For each supplier, the organization shall undertake raw material accounting in batches, with a unique batch number/code for each batch.

3.3.2. The organization shall assign separate batch numbers/codes for each distinct supply line viz., separate batch numbers for supplier wise/ species wise from various states. Each batch number shall be specific for a particular supplier/a particular species / place of origin i.e. the organization can maintain batch number for either an individual supplier or for an individual species. Further, these should be distinct for each area of procurement, at least to the State level.

3.3.3. The organization shall ensure that the batch numbers are referenced to the incoming supplier invoices as well as to the outgoing product invoices. It should be possible to trace the record of all the supplier invoices that have contributed raw material to the particular batch as well as each

outbound product invoice that has finished goods constituted from material from that batch.

3.3.4. The organization shall be maintaining separate account summaries for each batch. The account summaries should detail the receipts, material consumed, balance material in stock, Work in Progress, finished goods (unsold), finished goods (sold) etc. along with the conversion factors.

3.3.5. The batch summaries need to be updated monthly and material quantities should tally with inputs, outputs and conversion factors.

3.3.6. Batch summaries shall reference the incoming supplier invoices as well as the accompanying documentation. For each particular batch, the supplier invoices as well as accompanying documentation should be similar.

3.3.7. Batch summaries shall reference the outgoing invoices as well as the accompanying documentation for that particular month.

Mapped to

None



4. OUTSOURCING

- 4.1. Pre-conditions for outsourcing
 - 4.1.1. Organizations which wish to include outsourcing within the scope of their chain of custody certificate shall ensure the following:
 - a) The organization has legal ownership of all input material to be included in outsourced processes; Legal ownership must be established prior to physical transfer of material to the outsourcing contractor;
 - b) The organization does not relinquish legal ownership of the materials during outsourced processing;
 - c) The organization has an agreement or contract covering the outsourced process with each contractor. This agreement or contract shall include a clause reserving the right of the EPCH accredited certification body to assess the outsourcing contractor or operation;
 - d) The organization has a documented control system with explicit procedures for the outsourced process which are shared with the relevant contractor.

Mapped to

None

- 4.2. Maintaining traceability and paper trails
 - 4.2.1. The organization's control system for the outsourced process shall ensure that:
 - a) The material used for the production of “Vriksh” verified material can be tracked and controlled and cannot be mixed or contaminated with any other material during outsourced processing;
 - b) The contractor keeps records of inputs, outputs and delivery documentation associated with all “Vriksh” verified material which is processed or produced under the outsourcing contract or agreement.



Mapped to

Explanation

SDG 16

Target 16.6
Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: The clause mandates that the material used for production of Vriksh certified products is traceable and that records of all inputs, outputs and delivery are maintained thereby ensuring accountability and transparency.

Mapped to

None

- 4.3. Records
- 4.3.1. The organization shall record the names and contact details of all contractors used for the processing or production of “Vriksh” verified materials.
- 4.3.2. The organization shall inform its certification body about the names and contact details of any new contractor used for the processing or production of “Vriksh” verified materials prior to outsourcing. Prior approval from the EPCH authorized Certification body is necessary before the new contractor can start processing “Vriksh” material.

Mapped to

None

- 4.4. Invoicing
- 4.4.1. The organization shall issue the final invoice for the processed or produced “Vriksh” verified material following outsourcing. The invoice shall state the certificate holder's “Vriksh” certificate number and batch references. Under no condition can the outsourcing contractor issue invoices on behalf of the organization under assessment.



Mapped to

None

- 4.5. Preclusion of subcontracting
- 4.5.1. The organization shall ensure that contractors do not themselves outsource processing, i.e. the material may not pass from one outsourcing contractor to another under the outsourcing agreement.

Mapped to

None



PART 4: SALE OF “VRIKSH” LEGALLY VERIFIED WOOD



1. SUPPLYING “VRIKSH” LEGALLY VERIFIED WOOD AND/OR WOOD PRODUCTS

- 1.1 The Organization shall include the following information on all invoices issued for sales of its “VRIKSH” legally verified products:
- a) The name and address of the buyer;
 - b) The date on which the invoice was issued;
 - c) Description of the product(s);
 - d) Species of wood utilized; if more than one species is used, then names of all species used in the product
 - e) Country of origin of the material; if material origin from within India, then state of origin also should be mentioned
 - f) The quantity of the products sold;
 - g) The “VRIKSH” Certification code issued by an EPCH authorized Certification Body.
 - h) Statement “VRIKSH certified material”.



Mapped to

Explanation

SDG 16

Target 16.6
Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: By ensuring that the proper records are maintained of the suppliers to whom VRIKSH certified products are being sold, accountability and transparency is maintained.



PART 5: RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION PROGRAM



1. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 1.1. For suppliers included in the organization's own “Vriksh” legality verification program the organization shall determine if the supply chain for the species from each particular state is a confirmed low risk w.r.t. the legality of the material.
- NOTE:** The risk assessment performed by the organization shall be reviewed by an EPCH authorized certification body as to its technical sufficiency and/or adequacy.

Mapped to

None

- 1.2. The results of the organization's risk assessment shall be made publicly available



Mapped to

Explanation

SDG 16

Target 16.6
Relevant Business Action: Providing capacity to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Why Target 16.6: The results of risk assessment are made publicly available thereby leading to greater accountability and transparency.



1.3. In case of doubt as to whether a risk assessment results for the particular supply chain is 'low risk', the same shall be classified as unspecified risk.

Mapped to

None

2. DETERMINATION OF RISK

2.1. All wood and wood product supplies that are being directly purchased from Government auctions/tenders by the organization may be classified as “low risk”.

Mapped to

None

2.2. Indirect purchase from government auctions does not automatically constitute “low risk”.

Mapped to

None



2.3. All purchases of wood which can show traceability back to origin of the wood through government records may be classified as 'low risk'. Any wood purchase accompanied by the TP (Transfer Permit) along with a cutting permit issued by the competent authority in the State Forest Department may be considered as 'Low risk'.

Mapped to

None

2.4. All FSC/PEFC certified wood/FSC Controlled Wood/CITES licensed wood/FLEGT licensed wood would be considered as “low risk” provided the supplier is able to provide details of administrative district/forest division of origin as well as records of harvesting permits/transit permits.

Mapped to

None

2.5. All FSC/PEFC certified wood/FSC Controlled Wood/CITES licensed wood/FLEGT licensed wood would be considered as “low risk” provided the supplier is able to provide details of administrative district/forest division of origin as well as records of harvesting permits/transit permits.

Mapped to

None

2.5. All other wood sources and supplies (such as from armed conflict areas) would be considered as “unspecified risk”/ “high risk” unless otherwise specified. The organization shall utilize a precautionary approach while classifying it as “low risk”.



Mapped to

None

2.6. For any wood source or supply line that cannot be supported by documentation w.r.t. harvesting permits/transit permits and/or sales records, or any documentation that can conclusively prove the administrative district/forest division of origin of the particular wood consignment, the wood source would need to be considered as “high risk” and excluded from the legality verification program. Till such time that the risk assessment of the area can be, without reasonable doubt, reassigned a 'unspecified risk” categorization, the material would need to be segregated from material obtained from other wood sources and identified separately.

Mapped to

None

2.7. For any wood being harvested from the areas of armed conflict, will be considered as, “high risk”, as it is very difficult for the relevant authorities to control forest resources and to ensure legal management of timber extraction from such areas.

Mapped to

Explanation

SDG 15

Target 15.2
Relevant Business Action: Contributing to sustainable management of forests through rehabilitating lands destroyed by business operations, and committing to reduce or remove deforestation and forest

degradation from direct operations and the supply chain.
Why Target 15.2: By avoiding the usage of wood procured from the areas where forests are difficult to manage, the clause ensures sustainable management of forests.



3. VERIFICATION PROGRAM FOR WOOD SUPPLIES FROM SOURCES WITH 'UNSPECIFIED RISK'

3.1. For all wood from sources that cannot be confirmed as being 'low risk', the organization shall include the forest management unit of origin in the verification program and confirm that it complies with the requirements as specified.

NOTE: The organization verification program shall be assessed by an EPCH authorized certification body at least annually.

Mapped to

None

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ORGANIZATION VERIFICATION PROGRAM

Organizations implementing an EPCH “VRIKSH” Legality verification program sourcing from areas that have been classified as “unspecified risk” shall ensure that it is in compliance with the requirements specified below.

Mapped to

None

4.1. The organization shall specify the minimum documents that shall accompany the supply of the wood and shall identify and provide the rationale for documents and other evidence needed to demonstrate that wood complies with the requirements for EPCH “VRIKSH” Legality verification program.



Mapped to

None

4.2. The documents shall be in line with the regulatory requirements of the state of operation. The organization needs to maintain a species wise list of documents that are required for legality verification from each state. The list shall include all documentation that is required for harvesting/transport and needs to accompany the material.

Mapped to

None

4.3. The organization shall ensure that each shipment of material is accompanied by the documents as stated above.

Mapped to

None

4.4. The organization shall undertake verification of at least 10% of the material supplied to verify the authenticity of the supplied documentation. The document verification is w.r.t 10% of total individual supplier invoices selected through random sampling. Verification of the accompanying documents would include field level verification. The field level verification shall be at the Farm/Forest Management Unit level. Results of this verification process shall be made available to the EPCH authorized certification body as and when required. The certification body should be permitted by the organization to verify the genuineness of the verification process by means of cross verification in the field if it deems fit.

Mapped to

None

4.5. Verification shall be conducted by personnel who have sufficient expertise and knowledge to be able to fulfil inspection in accordance with the outline given below. The qualifications of the personnel engaged for verification shall be specified by the organization and documented.



Mapped to

None

4.6. The number of verification audits that take place shall be determined by sampling in accordance with 4.7 below.

Mapped to

None

- 4.7. The organization shall classify the Farm/Forest Management Units as sets of 'similar' units for the purpose of sampling. The sets shall be selected to minimize variability within each set.
- “Similarity” in the contents of this standard is meant in terms of:
- a) Forest type (e.g. natural forest, plantation),
 - b) Geographical location (district/division)
 - c) Size of operation
 - d) Supplier

Mapped to

None

4.8. Samples for field verification shall be defined randomly.

Mapped to

None

4.9. All reports or records of verification audits shall be maintained for at least 5 years and shall include the findings of the verification, the extent to which it was possible to conduct the verifications in the manner described above, and the experience and qualifications of the personnel conducting the verification.



Mapped to

None

4.10. Reports or records of verification audits shall be accessible to the EPCH authorized Certification body and personnel on request.

Mapped to

None

4.11. The Certification body shall reserve the right to cross verify the field level verification records.

Mapped to

None

4.12. The organization shall conduct field level verifications for selected samples at a quarterly interval and only those samples of a 'similar' set that have passed the field verification may be considered as 'eligible material' for that particular quarter. The organization should ensure that the suppliers selected randomly for field verification are not repeated for sampling before all other suppliers have been verified at least once, unless there are mitigating factors which require further verification.



THE COMPLETE PICTURE: CONNECTING THE SDGS TO VRIKSH

	Part 2: Legality Compliance
	Part 2: Legality Compliance
	Part 2: Legality Compliance
	Part 2: Legality Compliance
	Part 2: Legality Compliance
	Part 2: Legality Compliance
	Part 1: Quality Systems Requirement Part 3: Raw Material Supply And Production
	Part 1: Quality Systems Requirement Part 2: Legality Compliance Part 3: Raw Material Supply And Production Part 5: Risk Assessment And Mitigation Program
	Part 1: Quality Systems Requirement Part 2: Legality Compliance Part 3: Raw Material Supply And Production Part 5: Risk Assessment And Mitigation Program
	Part 1: Quality Systems Requirement Part 2: Legality Compliance Part 3: Raw Material Supply And Production Part 4: Sale Of “vriksh” Legally Verified Wood Part 5: Risk Assessment And Mitigation Program



APPENDIX 1: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Placing VRIKSH on the Sustainable Development Goals MAP



Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries



Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



GOAL 1.

END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

- 1.1** By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
- 1.2** By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions
- 1.3** Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- 1.4** By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance
- 1.5** By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
 - 1.a** Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions
 - 1.b** Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions



GOAL 2.

END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

- 2.1** By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round
- 2.2** By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons
- 2.3** By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment
- 2.4** By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality
- 2.5** By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed
- 2.a** Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries
- 2.b** Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round
- 2.c** Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



GOAL 3.

**ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE
WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES**

- 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under 5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases
- 3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- 3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- 3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- 3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- 3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- 3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination
- 3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate
- 3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
- 3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States
- 3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks



GOAL 4.

ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

Placing VRIKSH on the Sustainable Development Goals MAP



- 4.1** By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes
- 4.2** By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education
- 4.3** By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university
- 4.4** By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- 4.5** By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
- 4.6** By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
- 4.7** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development
- 4.a** Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all
- 4.b** By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries
- 4.c** By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States



GOAL 5.

ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

Placing VRIKSH on the Sustainable Development Goals MAP



- 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- 5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- 5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- 5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- 5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences
- 5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- 5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- 5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels



GOAL 6.

ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Placing VRIKSH on the Sustainable Development Goals MAP



- 6.1** By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all
- 6.2** By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations
- 6.3** By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally
- 6.4** By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity
- 6.5** By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
- 6.6** By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes
- 6.a** By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies
- 6.b** Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management



GOAL 7.

**ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE,
SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL**

- 7.1** By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services
- 7.2** By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix
- 7.3** By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency
- 7.a** By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology
- 7.b** By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support



GOAL 8.

PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL

- 8.1** Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 per cent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries
- 8.2** Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors
- 8.3** Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services
- 8.4** Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead
- 8.5** By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
- 8.6** By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training
- 8.7** Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms
- 8.8** Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
- 8.9** By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 8.10** Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all
- 8.a** Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries
- 8.b** By 2020, develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the Global Jobs Pact of the International Labour Organization



GOAL 9.

**BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE,
PROMOTE INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE
INDUSTRIALIZATION AND FOSTER INNOVATION**

- 9.1** Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all
- 9.2** Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries
- 9.3** Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets
- 9.4** By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities
- 9.5** Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending
- 9.a** Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States
- 9.b** Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries, including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for, inter alia, industrial diversification and value addition to commodities
- 9.c** Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020



GOAL 10.

REDUCE INEQUALITY WITHIN
AND AMONG COUNTRIES

- 10.1** By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- 10.2** By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status
- 10.3** Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard
- 10.4** Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality
- 10.5** Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations
- 10.6** Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions
- 10.7** Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies
- 10.a** Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements
- 10.b** Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes
- 10.c** By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



GOAL 11.

**MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE**

- 11.1** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums
- 11.2** By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons
- 11.3** By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries
- 11.4** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage
- 11.5** By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations
- 11.6** By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
- 11.7** By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities
- 11.a** Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning
- 11.b** By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels
- 11.c** Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials



GOAL 12.

ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

- 12.1** Implement the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries
- 12.2** By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources
- 12.3** By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses
- 12.4** By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment
- 12.5** By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse
- 12.6** Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle
- 12.7** Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities
- 12.8** By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature
- 12.a** Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production
- 12.b** Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products
- 12.c** Rationalize inefficient fossil-fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities



GOAL 13.

TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACTS*

Placing VRIKSH on the Sustainable Development Goals MAP



- 13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
- 13.2** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning
- 13.3** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
- 13.a** Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible
- 13.b** Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities



GOAL 14.

**CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE
THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

- 14.1** By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution
- 14.2** By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans
- 14.3** Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- 14.4** By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics
- 14.5** By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information
- 14.6** By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation#
- 14.7** By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism
- 14.a** Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries
- 14.b** Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets
- 14.c** Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of “The future we want”



GOAL 15.

**PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE
USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY
MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION,
AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND
HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS**

- 15.1** By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements
- 15.2** By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally
- 15.3** By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world
- 15.4** By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development
- 15.5** Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species
- 15.6** Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed
- 15.7** Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products
- 15.8** By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species
- 15.9** By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts
- 15.a** Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems
- 15.b** Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation
- 15.c** Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities



GOAL 16.

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

- 16.1** Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- 16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3** Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.4** By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- 16.5** Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- 16.6** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.8** Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.9** By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- 16.10** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- 16.a** Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.b** Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



GOAL 17.

**STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF
IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE
THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

FINANCE

- 17.1 Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
- 17.2 Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
- 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
- 17.4 Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress

TECHNOLOGY

- 17.5 Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries Technology
- 17.6 Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
- 17.7 Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

CAPACITY-BUILDING

- 17.8 Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology Capacity-building
- 17.9 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation Trade

TRADE

- 17.10 Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
- 17.11 Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020



- 17.12** Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

SYSTEMIC ISSUES

POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL COHERENCE

- 17.13** Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
- 17.14** Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- 17.15** Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

- 17.16** Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- 17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

DATA, MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- 17.18** By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
- 17.19** By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries



Sustainable Development Goals were unanimously adopted by member states of the United Nations in 2015 as the development agenda to be followed and achieved by 2030. Discourse around the implementation of the Agenda 2030 demands localization of efforts and makes a strong case for data-driven impact monitoring. The SDG MAP service of the Quality Council of India is a step in that direction for third-party credible mapping of the SDGs to policies, actions, and standards of organizations to help them understand their footprint in positively impacting the SDGs.



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