

# Landscape Standard

## Advisory Group (AG) – Terms of Reference

Applications are invited for membership in the Landscape Standard (LS) Advisory Group (AG) until 31 May 2018. Please send applications to [LandscapeStandard@verra.org](mailto:LandscapeStandard@verra.org) providing name, organization, a C.V. and a brief statement of interest and relevance with respect to the criteria for participation outlined below.

### 1. Landscape Standard Overview

The LS is a framework that helps companies, governments, financiers, and donors credibly assess and report on progress towards environmental, social and economic sustainability in productive landscapes. LS is the only global standard that seeks to measure these sustainability outcomes, as opposed to practices, at the landscape scale, while helping users demonstrate progress. With the framework as a basis, LS will create incentives for relevant actors to work towards landscape sustainability goals, by facilitating commodity sourcing and investment linked to landscape performance. LS will fill a number of specific needs and gaps related to measuring, monitoring and reporting progress towards sustainability outcomes.

For a full description of objectives, procedures and work plan, please see the full Landscape Standard Terms of Reference, available for download at <http://verra.org/project/landscape-standard/>.

### 2. Membership Composition

The Advisory Group intends to represent a balance of experience, expertise and interests to support the development of LS. Participants in the AG may meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Possess strong understanding of commodity (e.g., coffee, cocoa, palm oil, soy, beef, timber/forest products) supply chains, sourcing decisions, and/or production
- Possess strong knowledge of the potential social, environmental, economic and/or governance risks and opportunities related to landscape-scale sustainability
- Understand financing of landscape-related investments or landscape-scale sustainability projects, including existing (e.g., ESG) standards and certifications, risk assessment approaches or other investment impact measurement frameworks
- Be a potential user or potentially affected by use of the standard

The AG should reflect a balance between various stakeholders: consumer goods companies, agribusiness/forest products/extractive companies or traders, investors, civil society, smallholder/community organizations, governments, intergovernmental organizations, standards organizations, and/or auditors. Where possible, a geographic balance will also be sought including members with involvement in Africa, Asia and Latin America. We expect the AG to comprise around 15 individuals.

### 3. Member Responsibilities and Commitments

The responsibilities of the Advisory Group are to:

- Provide strategic guidance on the content and structure of the standard to help ensure the framework can deliver value for key users and that it is workable and efficient to apply in practice,
- Monitor the development and revision process of the standard before publication (i.e., versions for public consultation and a final version) and provide feedback and recommendations to the Secretariat on both the content and quality of the process,
- Provide insights into the needs of a range of potential users (both within landscapes and from companies, governments or other potential users of landscape outcomes),
- Provide linkages and outreach to other relevant initiatives, organizations and potential users; and,
- Promote the standard, as appropriate, in relevant forums and events

Applicants must be able to commit a limited amount of time to contribute to the standard's design and to support its development. This will include participation in the AG via email, approximately four (60-90 minute) conference calls per year between January 2018 and June 2019, with the possibility to engage beyond that timeframe on later versions, and the ability to review various documents including at least two drafts (or sections of draft) versions of the standard within the same time frame. No in-person meetings are expected, though side meetings at relevant conferences where members are participating may be organized.

### 4. Operation of the Advisory Group

The AG will be convened by the LS Secretariat<sup>1</sup>, which will be responsible for producing a draft plan for standard development, sharing the draft standard and any accompanying documents, organizing input and review by the AG, and facilitating communication and consultation with other stakeholders. The Secretariat may create smaller ad hoc groups for input on different aspects of standard development drawn from the AG and other stakeholders (particularly where specific technical input is required) depending on needs and participant interest, availability and expertise. The working language of the AG will be English.

### 5. Decision-Making Process

AG decisions, when needed, will be made by consensus or, when consensus cannot be reached, will be made by majority opinion with input from the Secretariat.

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<sup>1</sup> For details on the LS Secretariat, see Appendix 1 in the Landscape Standard Terms of Reference, available for download at <http://verra.org/project/landscape-standard/>.