



Swiss Sustainable  
Coffee Platform

# SSCP Roadmap 2030

Joining Forces for Sustainable Coffee





**Swiss Sustainable  
Coffee Platform**

# Impressum

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This Roadmap is a consensus-based document developed collaboratively by SSCP members and serves as a shared framework for action. While it outlines a common direction, it may not fully represent every individual member's position.



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# Switzerland's Role in the Coffee Value Chain

## Coffee Production: Opportunities and Challenges

Coffee is one of the most significant agricultural commodities worldwide, supporting the livelihoods of around 100 million people across Latin America, Africa, Southeast Asia, and beyond.

While the sector offers economic opportunities, particularly through specialty and certified coffee, it also faces challenges such as climate change, crop diseases, and market volatility.

Economic instability and supply chain disruptions further impact coffee growers, particularly smallholders with limited resources. Innovation, including digital tools for monitoring crop conditions and market trends, plays a key role in improving resilience and productivity.

New environmental and due diligence regulations in Europe present both challenges and opportunities. While compliance can be costly and complex, these policies also drive sustainability, enhance transparency, and help businesses

future-proof their operations. Companies that invest in responsible sourcing and traceability can therefore strengthen their market position.

## Switzerland's Role in the Coffee Economy

Switzerland is a key player in the global coffee industry, with a strong emphasis on quality and sustainability. The country is currently home to over 180 coffee roasters - mostly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) - with exports over CHF 3 billion in roasted coffee, accounting for 31% of Europe's total exports.

In 2024, Switzerland imported approximately 199,000t of green coffee beans, of which nearly 85,000t were consumed domestically. South America remained the leading source region, supplying about 49% of total imports (~ 97,000t), with Brazil at ~56,000t (28%) and Colombia at ~35,200t (18%).

Coffee from North and Central America made up around 24% (~46,900t), while Asia and Oceania contributed ~18% (~36,700t). Within that region, Vietnam supplied around 8%, India 7% and Indonesia about 2%. African origins were more modest, with Ethiopia contributing around 5% (~10,000t) and Kenya and others making up the balance (~2%). (Source: Procafé Sourcing Statistics 2024).

Switzerland's favourable business environment and infrastructure have helped the country establish a strong leadership position in the global

coffee trade, with Swiss-based companies handling over 50% of all green coffee traded worldwide.

This strong economic positioning places Switzerland at the centre of the international coffee market, where it can influence standards and practices across the global supply chain.

Despite the industry's persistent challenges - including poverty, inequality, and environmental concerns - Switzerland's position as a major trading hub enables it to play a pivotal role to promote more inclusive and sustainable practices throughout the supply chain.

## Collaboration for a more sustainable coffee value chain in Switzerland and beyond

Established in 2024, the Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform (SSCP) is rooted in Switzerland's strong tradition of democratic multistakeholder dialogue. SSCP brings together not only committed members from the private sector, NGOs, and research, but will also engage with a growing network of partners across the coffee value chain.

SSCP aims to engage with key stakeholders and organisations in the global coffee industry to ensure sector-wide alignment, create synergies to increase action on the ambition areas, and avoid duplication of efforts. As part of the Roadmap development, SSCP has identified several key partnerships for collaboration.





The following, non-exhaustive list distinguishes between private sector associations (e.g., SCTA, ECF) and multi-stakeholder sustainability platforms (e.g., GCP, SCC), as the nature of SSCP's engagement differs with each.

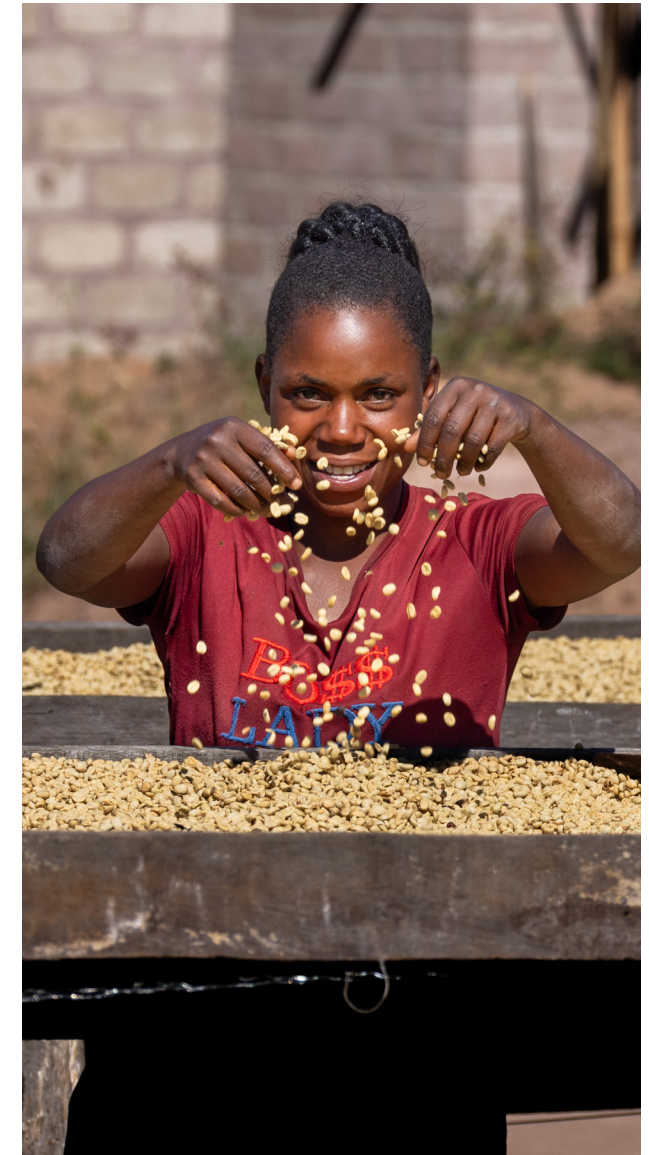
- **Existing engagement with Swiss member associations:** Maintain and deepen collaboration with the Swiss-based coffee sector associations: Community of Interest Coffee CIC, Swiss Coffee Trade Association SCTA, Procafé, and Swiss Roaster Guild SRG, who have played a pivotal role in the establishment of the SSCP, and have actively supported the development of the SSCP Roadmap.
- **International Coffee Organization (ICO):** Actively engage with the ICO Coffee Public-Private Task Force (CPPTF) to ensure alignment and represent the Swiss perspective in the international context, for example by focusing on strategies to achieve living incomes and living wages in key sourcing countries.
- **European Coffee Federation (ECF) Sustainability Committee:** Work through SCTA to ensure Swiss perspectives are represented in European sustainability policy discussions and coordinate with SCTA on regulatory matters and due diligence requirements for SSCP members, with a focus on the smallholder perspective.
- **Global Coffee Platform (GCP):** Coordinate with GCP on strengthening national multi-stakeholder platforms in producer countries and to establish an efficient pathway to recognise and foster the GCP Equivalence Mechanism (EM) under Ambition 6, and potential future benchmarking enhancements, as well as working on aligned KPIs.

- **Sustainable Coffee Challenge (SCC):** Collaborate with SCC on Ambition 5 on climate mitigation efforts, including the establishment of common emission factors for the coffee sector, to ensure synergies between the SSCP Roadmap and the SCC climate commitments.
- **Strengthen bilateral partnerships:** Engagement in strategic partnerships, especially with partner organisations from key coffee origin countries, e.g. through MoUs or implementation projects. Active fostering of collaborations with strategic partners to implement the SSCP Roadmap.

Collaboration can cover various aspects, from structured knowledge exchange and joint advocacy, to alignment on sustainability metrics and formal, ongoing partnerships (e.g. Memoranda of Understanding). The specific form of collaboration will be further developed as engagement with partners progresses.

Through these various partnerships, SSCP serves as a bridge between national-level implementation and international initiatives, ensuring that Swiss-based contributions are globally aligned, credible, and collectively amplified.

To foster the perspective of the Global South in the shaping and implementation of SSCP's action, the SSCP will also establish a dedicated Sounding Board comprising practitioners from Latin America, Africa and Asia to strengthen engagement and representation from origin countries in a formalised and systemic manner.





# SSCP's Vision, Ambitions and Theory of Change

## Vision statement

The Swiss Sustainable Coffee Platform envisions a coffee sector where farmers and workers earn a living income and wage, human rights are protected, and coffee cultivation respects and preserves the natural environment.

By embracing regenerative agriculture and climate action, coffee production protects forests, restores biodiversity, and moves toward net zero emissions in alignment with global climate goals.

Transparent and traceable value chains ensure that every cup of coffee contributes to a more equitable and sustainable future.

This vision takes concrete shape through the six shared Ambitions for 2030, detailed below.





## SSCP Roadmap Ambitions 2030

The following six Ambitions represent shared goals of SSCP members that will guide both collective and individual actions. While some Ambitions look beyond 2030 (e.g. achieving net zero emissions), it is critical that members accelerate actions, enhance common learning processes and more closely align strategies and resources as essential stepping stones.



Coffee farming households reduce, or even close, their living income gap. Coffee farm workers earn at least a minimum wage, and their wages increase towards a living wage.



Human rights risks like child labour and forced labour are addressed through effective due diligence processes.



Coffee production supports deforestation- and conversion-free coffee supply chains and actively supports the restoration of degraded forest ecosystems and other relevant ecosystems.



Regenerative Agriculture practices are widely adopted on coffee plantations.



Coffee production works toward net zero emissions in alignment with global climate goals.



Coffee is sourced using schemes that transparently ensure sustainable agriculture practices.



To support progress toward these Ambitions, the Roadmap defines specific contributions and targets for SSCP members to pursue through 2030. A Midterm Review of the Roadmap is foreseen by 2028 as a collaborative process, involving SSCP members and relevant stakeholders, to assess overall progress, identify gaps, and consider adjustments or new priorities for the post-2030 period.

An early review of the Roadmap's objectives and the contributions required from members is important to ensure that insights gained are incorporated as soon as possible, thereby enhancing the Roadmap's effectiveness and relevance. This review will be informed by the results of a 2026 baseline assessment.

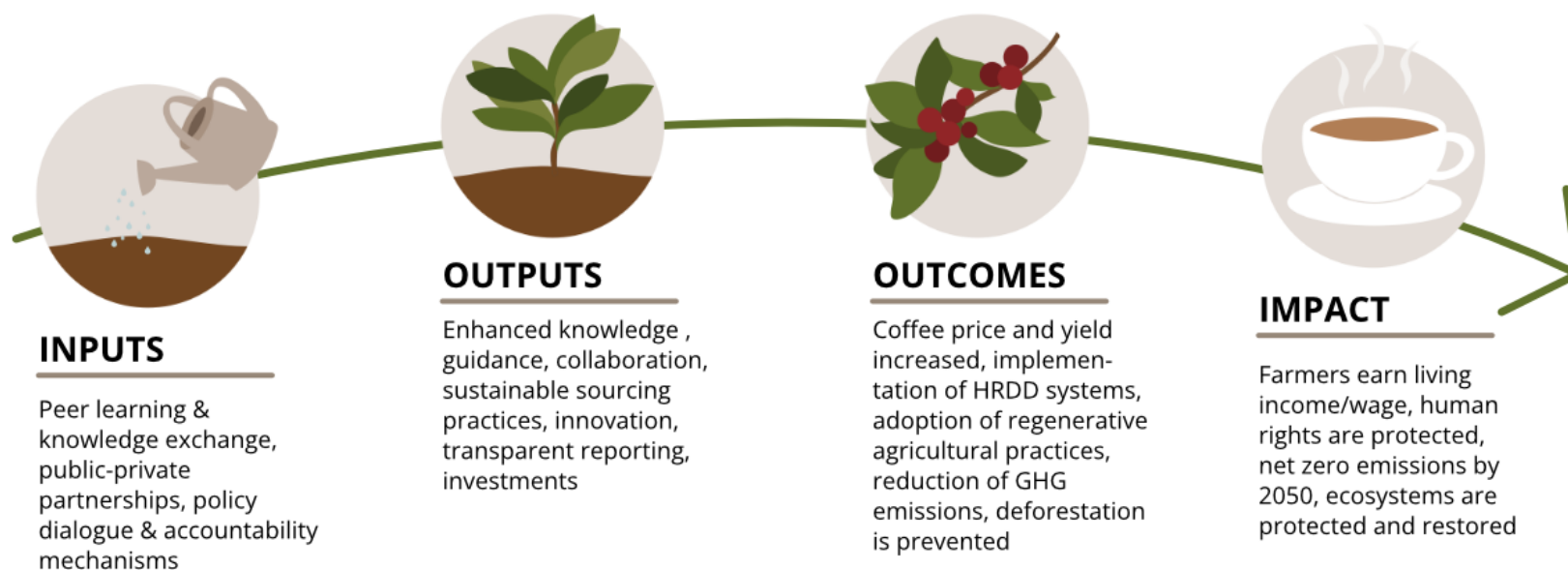
SSCP aspires to be a transformative force in the global coffee sector by enabling collective action that addresses the root causes of inequality, environmental degradation, and unsustainable value creation.

As a collaborative network uniting industry actors, governmental bodies, NGOs, and research institutions, SSCP aims to drive systemic change – not only by improving conditions for farmers, but also by fostering more equitable and accountable business models throughout the coffee supply chain.

SSCP's Theory of Change recognises that lasting sustainability requires both inclusive participation and shared responsibility. Structural challenges such as unequal value distribution, weak governance, unsustainable sourcing practices, and limited access to decision-making must be addressed alongside farm-level interventions.

SSCP seeks to create the enabling environment for this shift by supporting transparency, co-creation, and coordinated efforts that unlock the potential of all actors—especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and local stakeholders.

Figure 1: SSCP's Theory of Change







To guide its contribution, SSCP focuses on four interlinked strategic pillars:



**Peer Learning and Knowledge Exchange:** SSCP fosters not just peer learning, but proactive collaboration through facilitated co-creation spaces. These bring together diverse actors to jointly design tools, strategies, and frameworks that help all members, especially SMEs, take meaningful action toward the Roadmap's ambitions.



**Public-private Partnerships (PPPs):** SSCP supports members in moving from commitment to implementation. Through joint projects and collective initiatives, SSCP strengthens capabilities to experiment, adapt, and scale solutions across contexts. This includes not only public-private partnerships but also multi-stakeholder initiatives to align purchasing practices, reform business models, and improve power dynamics along the supply chain. SSCP ensures that learning through project implementation is shared with all members by project owners.



**Policy Dialogue and International Collaboration:** SSCP serves as a collective voice in regulatory and policy arenas, advocating for frameworks that support responsible sourcing, decent livelihoods, and climate-smart practices. By engaging directly with public actors in both producing and consuming countries, SSCP contributes to shaping an enabling policy environment that rewards sustainability and accountability.



**Accountability and Transparency:** SSCP supports the development of consistent metrics, reporting formats, and progress-tracking systems to improve sector-wide accountability. Where available, it works with KPIs established by other multistakeholder initiatives in consultative processes. These tools also create incentives for upstream and downstream actors alike to reflect on and improve the sustainability of their business practices—beyond compliance alone. As part of its contribution, SSCP encourages continuous improvement by providing incentive mechanisms that recognise and showcase companies that demonstrate outstanding leadership in sustainability.

Through these action areas, SSCP will generate practical outputs such as joint guidance documents, collaborative learning hubs, and impact-focused projects. These outputs, in turn, enable members to implement strategies that not only improve farm-level outcomes (e.g. productivity, income diversification), but also challenge unsustainable sourcing norms, shift value flows, and increase corporate responsibility in the global coffee economy.

Ultimately, SSCP's Theory of Change is grounded in the conviction that real transformation requires systemic shifts—not only at the origin but throughout the entire supply chain. By convening powerful actors alongside grassroots stakeholders, and by balancing practical tools with structural advocacy, SSCP contributes to building a more just, resilient, and regenerative coffee sector.



## Roadmap 2030 Ambitions

The SSCP Roadmap provides a strategic framework to guide both collective and individual member actions in advancing sustainability in coffee production. SSCP creates a precompetitive space for stakeholders of the Swiss coffee value chain by fostering collaboration, facilitating alignment, and providing practical support to help members advance shared sustainability goals.

Building on this foundation, the platform has defined a set of six ambitions and, through an inclusive process that prioritised transparency and collective decision-making, established differentiated expectations for supply chain actors—tailored to their diverse capacities and complemented by the contributions of other member groups.

By engaging with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, the SSCP fosters shared responsibility and accountability — an approach that enhances its capacity to drive meaningful, long-term improvements in the coffee sector.

The contributions expected from SSCP members by 2030 are defined according to differentiated expectations for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), large companies, as well as key players, following the definitions based on the SSCP Membership sub-categories.

This structure reflects the diverse capacities, resources, and operational realities of SSCP's member companies and aims to create a fair yet ambitious path toward collective progress.

Members are free to choose their initial level of engagement in the Roadmap. It is not required that all measures within a level be implemented from the outset, but they should start to be addressed over the period of the Roadmap. Hybrid formats are also possible, whereby a member company implements measures at different levels.

All members must be committed to a journey of continuous improvement, both within levels and by moving towards upper levels, advancing at a pace aligned with their resources and capabilities.

Therefore, all companies must have a starting point, progressively enhancing and scaling their efforts over time to ultimately reach all farmers through both individual and collective actions. Moreover, the different levels should not be regarded as a limit, as companies are encouraged to exceed them even at advanced stages.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are likewise encouraged to be increasingly ambitious over time, working towards higher levels of engagement and commitment as their capacity grows.

Throughout this process, SSCP emphasises action-oriented learning, recognising that experimentation and adaptation are more valuable than public individual disclosure. Accordingly, the SSCP Coordination Office ensures the confidentiality of its members and will report on progress only in aggregated form.

Achieving meaningful progress in the coffee supply chain requires active commitment and collaboration of NGOs, research institutions, and the public sector. These actors bring critical expertise, long-term engagement, and on-the-ground insights that are essential for shaping effective and inclusive approaches.

By mobilising both strategic and operational resources, they play a key role in complementing business efforts and deepening the collective understanding of the realities faced across the supply chain. Constructive, solution-oriented input – especially through direct, farmer-centred engagement in producing countries – helps drive continuous improvement and supports the development of practical, evidence-based strategies.

In the following, each of the six ambition areas is presented in further detail.



## Ambition 1: Coffee farming households reduce, or even close, their living income gap. Coffee farm workers earn at least a minimum wage, and their wages increase towards a living wage.

### Why does this matter?

Earning a living income (LI) or a living wage (LW) enables smallholder families and workers to attain a decent standard of living—one that meets essential needs such as adequate nutrition, safe housing, healthcare, education, and the ability to save for the future. Without sufficient income, many coffee producers remain trapped in cycles of poverty, making it difficult to invest in sustainable farming practices or cope with challenges like climate change and market fluctuations, putting the whole value chain at risk. Moreover, not earning enough is closely interrelated with many human rights issues, such as forced and child labour.

SSCP seeks coordinated interventions across several key areas to reduce the living income and wage gap for all farming households and workers. These areas include productivity to achieve sustainable yields, price and other procurement practices, production and other household costs, income diversification, risk assessment and mitigation, local governance and improvement of enabling conditions, all sustained by a strong gender lens. While the primary objective is to close the living income and wage gap for farming households, targeted efforts will also be directed toward the most vulnerable households, supporting complementary strategies such as income diversification.

Credibly measuring the effects of these interventions requires a joint, data-driven approach. SSCP proposes using harmonised methodologies and aligning with existing efforts in coordinated studies — such as ICO's Taskforce on Prosperous Income, GCP-affiliated Country Platforms, and Anker's Living Income Benchmarks (LIB), among others — to track households' income development.

### How SSCP Supports Implementation Through 2030



**Accountability & Transparency:** Measures income gaps through joint studies using harmonised methodologies and project monitoring. Carrying out LI-related studies (possibly including studies on farmers' and workers' well-being), in support of SSCP members.



**PPPs:** Implements joint projects in focus countries that address key income levers collectively, enabling action beyond the scope of individual members.



**Peer Learning & Knowledge Exchange:** Facilitates continuous exchange on the effects of interventions on farming households' incomes through peer learning formats and shared insights.



**Policy Dialogue and International Collaboration:** Engages in policy dialogue with producing countries to support living income-enabling environments (e.g. farm gate price) and to address structural barriers to living income that lie beyond members' direct control (e.g. land tenure, etc.)



## Member Contributions by 2030



### Micro-, Small-, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs):

- Actively participate in capacity building efforts for living income and wage (e.g. joint studies on living income and wage, peer learning events or other collaborative efforts, where applicable, see Technical Notes).
- Explore ways to make sourcing more sustainable, taking into account financial premiums, income diversification, and prices, with the overarching objective of developing a holistic sustainable sourcing strategy.
- Closely engage with the SSCP Coordination office to receive support to enhance living income in their own supply chains.

### Large companies and key players:

Companies are expected to take action across a substantial part of their coffee sourcing, potentially through a stepwise approach, at either an intermediate (min. 3 actions) or advanced level (min. 4 actions, including incentives linked to LIB), to underpin the collective efforts outlined.

#### Company actions

- Financial incentives for sustainable production such as premiums (Intermediate)
- Measures such as price mechanisms or incentives directly linked to LIB (Advanced Level)
- Measures to improve yield and/or reduce production costs
- Measures to support the reduction of household costs (e.g. health, education, etc.)
- Measures to support coffee farmers' income diversification

- Participation in relevant joint living income-relevant studies through a sample of beneficiary farmers/workers, funding, and sharing data at an aggregated level (where applicable, see Technical Notes). The studies seek to involve risk assessments in key origin countries aimed at defining strategies to mitigate risks and progress towards Living Income and Living Wage.

### External Factors:

Systemic factors beyond the direct influence of SSCP members can affect outcomes, underscoring the importance of coordinated responses and policy engagement:

- Farm size, land ownership, scarcity and inequality,
- global coffee market price volatility,
- climate change and its impact on productivity,
- migration and demographic changes affecting labour availability,
- macroeconomic and political conditions (e.g., inflation, currency fluctuations), and
- certain national policies (e.g. national wage laws, subsidies or trade policies, etc.).





## Ambition 2: Human rights risks, like child labour and forced labour, are addressed through effective due diligence processes.

### Why does this matter?

Addressing human rights issues in the coffee supply chain is crucial for sustainability, as violations such as child and forced labour, along with inadequate working conditions, not only violate fundamental rights but also jeopardise the long-term resilience and stability of coffee-producing communities—particularly in the context of persistent labour shortages. When coffee-growing households struggle to meet basic needs, they may resort to harmful coping mechanisms such as child labour.

Forced labour in the coffee industry arises from a combination of socio-economic factors, including poverty, lack of education, and inadequate labour regulations. Labour informality is a major underlying issue: many workers operate outside of formal contracts, leaving them without social protection, legal recourse, or access to decent working conditions. These informal employment relationships increase vulnerability to exploitation, such as debt bondage, withheld wages, excessive working hours, and physical or verbal abuse. Migrant and seasonal workers are particularly at risk due to the absence of legal protections, oversight mechanisms, and inclusive labour governance.

These risks are frequently compounded by gender inequality. Women in the coffee sector—whether as workers, farmers, or unpaid family labour—often face limited access to decent work, land rights, grievance mechanisms, and decision-making power. At the same time, gender-responsive approaches represent a critical and often underutilised lever for addressing human rights challenges. Empowering women, promoting gender equity in labour practices, and ensuring inclusive stakeholder engagement can contribute to more effective and sustainable due diligence systems.

Companies can contribute to a fair and ethical coffee supply chain by progressing from foundational Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) practices by 2030, to more advanced, context-sensitive risk mitigation systems that enable continuous improvement and long-term change, supported by strong local engagement and alignment with national strategies.

### How SSCP Supports Implementation Through 2030



**Accountability & Transparency:** Support members in reporting on the coverage and effectiveness of their Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) systems, including identified cases of child and forced labour, remediation efforts, and lessons learned. Strengthen data quality and credibility through the integration of context-specific analysis and evidence-based methods.



**PPPs:** Facilitate joint projects between members, NGOs, and governments that combine field-level implementation with policy alignment to address systemic drivers of human rights risks. These may include ethical recruitment initiatives, livelihood support, awareness-raising, and poverty alleviation programmes. Ensure projects reflect local realities and scale through joint design and shared ownership.



**Peer Learning & Knowledge Exchange:** Develop and maintain a knowledge hub featuring tools, case studies, and research on effective due diligence practices. Guide members through curated resources, joint learning formats and feedback mechanisms. Co-develop and disseminate practical solutions that address root causes and strengthen risk identification and remediation.



**Policy Dialogue and International Collaboration:** Represent members in national and international policy discussions to promote labour protections and alignment with due diligence regulations. Enable dialogue across public, private, and civil society actors to align action with national priorities, embed due diligence in governance systems, and scale solutions through policy reform.



## Member Contributions by 2030

### Micro-, Small-, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs):

- Sourcing a meaningful percentage from sustainability schemes that pay a minimum price or pay a clearly defined premium;
- Contributing to prevention and mitigation measures of their supply chain partners;
- Building internal knowledge and capacity on HRDD;
- Participating in collective learning and collaboration opportunities promoted by SSCP;
- Supporting SSCP human rights-related projects.

These efforts should be tailored to the company's sourcing model, leverage, and geographic risk exposure, with practical support and templates provided by SSCP to reduce duplication and administrative burden.

### Large companies and key players:

**Intermediate Level:** Companies implement a Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD) management system in line with Swiss regulatory frameworks (including the Swiss Ordinance on Transparency and Due Diligence VSoTr) and internationally recognised standards (see Technical Notes). This includes:

- In-depth human rights and impact assessments in high-risk and high-volume sourcing countries;
- Implement risk-based prevention and mitigation measures that reflect local context and systemic drivers (e.g. labour informality, wage gaps, recruitment practices);
- Establish grievance and remediation mechanisms; Transparent reporting on HRDD processes, outcomes, and learnings aligned with Swiss and International guidelines;
- Active participation in sector-wide joint initiatives (e.g. ethical recruitment pilots, worker voice platforms, grievance system integration);
- Direct ongoing engagement with rights-holders and engagement in policy discussions.

**Advanced Level:** At the most advanced level, companies are expected to position HRDD as a systemic, integrated function of their sustainability and sourcing operations. This includes:

- Alignment of HRDD practices with national human rights institutions, systems and processes, collaborating with governments and civil society in producing countries;
- Investment in landscape-level programmes that address structural causes of rights violations (e.g. poverty, informal labour markets, recruitment-related exploitation);
- Collaboration with governments and civil society to co-develop long-term strategies that go beyond compliance.

### External Factors:

Human rights risks in the coffee supply chain stem from structural factors beyond the control of individual companies, including:

- Poverty and income insecurity, which drive exploitative labour practices like child and forced labour;
- Weak labour enforcement and informal hiring, leaving workers exposed to abuse;
- Climate change and environmental degradation, increasing economic strain and vulnerability;
- Political instability and conflict, which heighten forced labour risks;
- Migration and statelessness, making undocumented workers more susceptible to exploitation;
- Trade policies and price volatility, creating financial uncertainty that challenges ethical labour standards.





## Ambition 3: Coffee production supports deforestation- and conversion-free coffee supply chains and actively supports the restoration of degraded forest ecosystems and other relevant ecosystems.

### Why does this matter?

Deforestation and ecosystem degradation<sup>1</sup> remain major challenges in global coffee production. These processes contribute to declining soil fertility, increased greenhouse gas emissions, reduced water availability, and significant biodiversity loss. A primary driver behind deforestation and forest degradation is poverty – many smallholder and aging coffee farms face low productivity and insecure land tenure. These constraints often force farmers to expand into forested areas in search of new cultivation opportunities.

Additionally, climate change is making traditional coffee-growing regions less viable due to rising temperatures and increasingly erratic rainfall. As a result, production is shifting to higher altitudes and new geographic areas, increasing the risk of deforestation and ecosystem conversion.

While forests are under immense pressure, other ecosystems are also threatened by coffee cultivation. These areas must be equally prioritised for protection and restoration. Emerging regulations, such as the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), aim to curb deforestation by promoting deforestation-free supply chains. However, it's important to note that the EUDR covers only forest-to-agriculture conversion and not the conversion of other vital ecosystems. This gap underscores the need for special attention to non-forest ecosystems as well.

Meeting deforestation-free sourcing requirements also demands robust traceability systems. While these enhance supply chain transparency, they may inadvertently exclude smallholder farmers who are unable to comply. Ensuring that these farmers receive adequate support and compensation is essential for equitable and inclusive supply chains.

### How SSCP Supports Implementation Through 2030



**Accountability & Transparency:** Report efforts on sourcing deforestation- and conversion-free coffee. Highlight conservation and restoration achievements by collecting data on forest and ecosystem areas protected or restored through member-led or PPP initiatives.



**PPPs:** Participate in or lead mature Collaborative Impact Projects focused on protecting and restoring forests and other critical ecosystems. Engage in Seed Projects aimed at developing or improving tools for traceability and ecosystem conservation.



**Peer Learning & Knowledge Exchange:** Promote industry-wide alignment through shared maps, metrics, and deforestation risk thresholds in collaboration with existing platforms such as the Accountability Framework, the Global Coffee Platform, the Sustainable Coffee Challenge and other relevant initiatives. Facilitate the exchange of best practices on conservation, restoration, policy advocacy, and traceability.



**Policy Dialogue and International Collaboration:** Collaborate with national governments to establish a common understanding of “deforestation-free” standards. Advocate for the protection of all relevant ecosystems – not just forests – from conversion. Support local governments through tools such as satellite-based risk forecasting models, patrol units, and restoration initiatives.

<sup>1</sup> See Technical Notes for the definitions on deforestation and conversion according to the EUDR and the Accountability Framework Initiative.



## Member Contributions by 2030



### Micro-, Small-, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs):

- Operate in full compliance with Swiss and/or EU regulations related to deforestation for imports into Switzerland and for exports to the EU or global markets, while striving to go beyond legal requirements where possible.
- Assess their supply chains to identify opportunities for sourcing deforestation- and conversion-free coffee.
- Explore participation in SSCP Seed or Collaborative Impact Projects to restore forests and protect vulnerable ecosystems.
- Engage in SSCP knowledge-sharing activities focused on ecosystem conservation and restoration.

### Large companies and key players:

**Intermediate Level:** Companies take action at either an intermediate or advanced level:

- Demonstrate a deforestation-free sourcing commitment and compliance with any Swiss and/or EU deforestation regulations – for imports into Switzerland as well as for exports from Switzerland to the EU and global markets.
- Prioritise avoidance of sourcing from areas where ecosystems (beyond forests) have been converted.
- Actively participate in SSCP/SECO-supported Collaborative Impact Projects or equivalent area-based initiatives to protect and actively support the restoration of degraded forests as well as other relevant ecosystems.
- Ensure that traceability system implementation costs do not fall on farmers.

### Advanced Level:

In addition to meeting intermediate-level requirements, make substantial investments in ecosystem protection and restoration through Collaborative Impact projects or similar area-based initiatives.

### External Factors:

Systemic factors beyond the direct influence of SSCP members can affect outcomes, underscoring the importance of coordinated responses and policy engagement, such as:

- National and local policies related to deforestation, forest degradation, and ecosystem conversion
- Weak enforcement of environmental regulations at both national and local levels





## Ambition 4: Regenerative Agriculture practices are widely adopted on coffee plantations.

### Why does this matter?

Regenerative Agriculture offers a transformative opportunity for the coffee sector. These practices not only play a critical role in mitigating and adapting to climate change but also enhance biodiversity, improve ecosystem services, and strengthen the resilience of coffee farming systems. By promoting healthier soils, better nutrient cycling, and increased plant diversity, regenerative methods can increase carbon sequestration both above and below ground, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Despite the lack of a universally accepted definition, in 2023, the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) Platform proposed an industry-aligned definition: *Regenerative Agriculture is an outcome-based farming approach that protects and enhances soil health, biodiversity, climate, and water resources—while improving farmer livelihoods. Enhanced livelihoods result from more stable and higher yields, which may also contribute to greater food security.*

A core set of practices particularly relevant for the coffee sector includes:

- Minimising soil disturbance
- Permanent soil cover (e.g., cover crops, mulching, or residue cover)
- Agroforestry
- Hedgerows and green buffers
- Riparian buffers
- Manure and nutrient management (including compost, organic fertilizers, and biochar)
- Integrated Pest Management (e.g., biocontrol)
- Efficient irrigation
- Good Agricultural Practices (e.g., pruning, renovation, resistant varieties)

It is important to recognise that the implementation of certain practices—such as large-scale renovation or compost distribution—requires coordination and resources that may exceed the capacity of individual farmers. As such, flexibility, collaboration, and context-specific strategies are critical for realistic and effective adoption.

### How SSCP Supports Implementation Through 2030



**Accountability & Transparency:** Collects data on the adoption of regenerative practices and the scale of implementation across coffee cultivation areas in alignment with existing initiatives.



**PPPs:** Supports Seed Projects that pilot innovative regenerative techniques. Integrates regenerative approaches in Collaborative Impact Projects to holistically address sustainability challenges.



**Peer Learning & Knowledge Exchange:** Facilitates sharing of best practices and approaches on how to foster the broad adoption of regenerative practices according to local contexts. Co-funds impact studies on the effects of Regenerative Agriculture on ecosystem services (e.g. with label organisations, research institutions). Supports the development of thematic publications and guides for translating research into practice.



**Policy Dialogue and International Collaboration:** Advocates for the integration of regenerative agriculture into national and local policy agendas.



## Member Contributions by 2030



### Micro-, Small-, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs):

- Explore partnerships and sourcing from sustainability schemes to promote Regenerative Agriculture within the company's supply chain.
- Engage in SSCP-led Seed or Collaborative Impact Projects or similar that promote Regenerative Agriculture.
- Actively participate in peer-learning and training activities on Regenerative Agriculture provided by the SSCP or other actors.

### Large companies and key players:

Companies are expected to take action across a substantial share of their coffee sourcing, potentially through a stepwise approach at either the intermediate or advanced level:

#### Intermediate Level:

Companies proactively seek to source coffee produced through Regenerative Agriculture and demonstrate the ambition to continually increase their sourcing volumes, with the ultimate goal of fully sourcing coffee from Regenerative Agriculture.

#### Advanced Level:

In addition to the intermediate level, companies implement clear strategies to ultimately fully source coffee from Regenerative Agriculture.

### External Factors:

Systemic factors beyond the direct influence of SSCP members can affect outcomes, underscoring the importance of coordinated responses and policy engagement, such as:

- Lack of land tenure rights of farmers, impeding the long-term commitment needed for Regenerative Agriculture;
- Limited influence on the cultivation practices of non-direct suppliers;
- Lack of market access and/or demand for non-coffee products from agroforestry;
- Climate change;
- Lack of buy-in from farmers for the adoption of new practices.

The definition of what counts as Regenerative Agriculture in the coffee sector is not yet finalised. However, the above-mentioned examples of good practices serve as current guidance.



## Ambition 5: Coffee production works toward net zero emissions in alignment with global climate goals.

### Why does this matter?

The coffee sector faces a broad spectrum of climate-related challenges—ranging from emissions generated during production, processing, and transport, to the growing impacts of climate change on yields and farm viability. To safeguard the sector's long-term viability, urgent action is needed to decarbonise the coffee value chain in alignment with the Paris Agreement and its 1.5°C target by 2050 as a long-term goal.

Achieving net-zero emissions requires a dual approach: implementing quick wins (e.g., optimising logistics, improving energy use) as near-term actions for 2030, while investing in systemic, long-term solutions that avoid unintended negative consequences, especially at the farm level.

Many companies are at varying stages of the transition. Some are already adopting science-based targets or pioneering sector-specific initiatives, while others are beginning to map their emissions. Innovations like biochar made from coffee husks show promise for reducing in-supply chain emissions ("in-setting").

### How SSCP Supports Implementation Through 2030



**Accountability & Transparency:** Curates and shares good practices in climate action, with an emphasis on Scope 3 emissions.



**PPPs:** Co-funds Seed and Collaborative Impact Projects aimed at decarbonisation and climate resilience. Supports partnerships with local partners in producing countries to implement climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.



**Peer Learning & Knowledge Exchange:** Hosts learning events focused on climate mitigation and decarbonisation. Facilitates development of shared emission factors and potentially farm-level GHG accounting tools, drawing on best practices from other sectors like cocoa (see "GHG accounting manual for cocoa", by Quantis, WCF, and WCF's SBTi Task Force members).



**Policy Dialogue and International Collaboration:** Participates in regional and global policy dialogues to advocate for the sector's climate leadership and explore synergies with other commodity sectors.



## Member Contributions by 2030



### Micro-, Small-, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs):

- Conduct internal screenings to identify opportunities to reduce [Scope 3 emissions](#);
- Invest in internal capacity development regarding Scope 3 emission reductions (e.g. participation in peer-learning events, working group, organised by SSCP or similar);
- Identify and, where possible, implement short-term and long-term mitigation measures;
- Explore collaborative decarbonisation projects.

### Large companies and key players:

Companies are expected to take action at either the intermediate or advanced level:

#### Intermediate Level:

- Assess and quantify emissions for the main coffee sources within the value chain.
- Identify both tangible quick wins and long-term emission reduction strategies, with a focus on reducing Scope 3 emissions.
- Invest in internal capacity on emission reduction, as well as engage with their supply chain partners through partnerships, collaboration and potential investments.

#### Advanced Level:

- Commit to near- and long-term Science-Based Targets (SBTi), with reporting as proof of alignment.
- Invest in internal capacity on emission reduction, as well as engage with their supply chain partners, especially SSCP MSME members, through partnerships, collaboration and potential investments.

### External Factors:

Systemic factors beyond the direct influence of SSCP members can affect outcomes, underscoring the importance of coordinated responses and policy engagement, such as:

- Limited sector-wide efforts or partnership to coordinate on comprehensively assessing Scope 3 emissions in the coffee value chain;
- Lack of standardised tools, metrics, and frameworks specific to track carbon emissions in the coffee value chain can delay the sector's overall progress towards carbon reduction;
- Risk of unintended negative consequences at the farm level (e.g., exclusion of farmers due to emissions standards).





## Ambition 6: Coffee is sourced using schemes that transparently ensure sustainable agriculture practices.

### Why does this matter?

Sustainable sourcing schemes are key instruments to achieve a sustainable coffee sector. They enable better risk management, enhance supply chain traceability, ensure compliance with established codes, standards and regulations, and support farmers through improved visibility and accountability.

To track progress toward this goal, SSCP will monitor coffee flows and seek to increase the transparency levels across sourcing schemes used.

For further details on the accepted schemes, refer to the Technical Notes.

### How SSCP Supports Implementation Through 2030



**Accountability & Transparency:** Develops resources and tools aimed at fostering sector-wide benchmarking, regulatory alignment and overall efficiency of sourcing schemes (e.g. Risk Assessment tools) building on international partnerships (GCP, ISEAL, ITC, etc.).



**PPPs:** Co-funds the enhancement, development and roll-out of innovative sourcing projects for micro, small and medium-sized companies (e.g. linking standards and traceability tools with/to impact and farm benefits).



**Peer Learning & Knowledge Exchange:** Facilitates accelerated learning among members through exchanges on sourcing schemes and tools.



**Policy Dialogue and International Collaboration:** Aligns sourcing schemes and practices with local policy and governance framework (e.g. local laws and ordinances for organic/sustainable coffee production, including pest management).



## Member Contributions by 2030



### Micro-, Small-, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs):

- Share data on coffee sourcing volumes and tools used (e.g., labels, codes, standards or equivalent systemic approaches) with the Coordination Office.
- Actively participate in SSCP activities to strengthen internal capacities on sustainable sourcing practices.
- Explore and pilot sourcing schemes that effectively address the key challenges outlined in the SSCP Roadmap

### Large companies and key players:

Companies are expected to take action across a substantial part of their coffee sourcing, potentially through a stepwise approach, at either the intermediate or advanced level:

#### Intermediate Level:

A substantial part of coffee sourcing must be based on sustainable agricultural practices that are aligned with a scheme recognised by the GCP Equivalence Mechanism, and the corresponding annual volumes shall be reported to GCP and SSCP disclosed in an aggregated format for presentation in SSCP's annual report.

#### Advanced Level:

A substantial part of coffee sourcing must be based on sustainable agricultural practices that rely on a sustainability scheme that is compliant with ISEAL's Code of Good Practice or demonstrate equivalent assurance and impact through independent verification. ISEAL alignment is considered a leading benchmark and aspiration for the sector (see: [ISEAL Codes of Good Practice](#)). Corresponding annual volumes shall be disclosed in a disaggregated format in SSCP's annual report

#### External Factors:

In pursuing this ambition and adhering to the stated levels above, members may encounter external or hindering factors such as the following:

- Supply Scarcity of sustainable, verified & certified coffee
- Regulatory uncertainty may delay alignment among sourcing schemes.
- MSMEs may face cost and time barriers in piloting and developing new sourcing approaches.



# Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

To track progress toward 2030 commitments, a solid Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework is essential. Particularly at the beginning of the SSCP partnership, it is of utmost importance to gauge the engagement of members within the various categories and across the sustainability themes defined through the Roadmap Ambitions.

The Baseline Assessment planned for 2026 will make it possible to identify gaps and, where necessary, adapt the strategies of both the SSCP and individual members to emerging challenges. Without a solid and strong MEL, sustainability efforts risk being fragmented or unresponsive to changing conditions in coffee-producing countries.

To ensure credibility and collective impact, SSCP puts forward an accountability approach based on regular progress reporting and transparent data sharing with the SSCP Coordination Office. The Office monitors this process and engages members to address gaps and to identify opportunities for accelerated learning and continuous improvement.

Besides, the Coordination Office is tasked to inform the Board on the overall engagement of members and highlight potential risks of free-riding behaviours in case of a lack of commitment to the SSCP's culture of continuous improvement and trust-based sharing of experiences.

Thus, the SSCP MEL framework is designed to balance rigour with practicality, minimise reporting burden, and enable value-added learning for all member types, with a particular focus on cost-effectiveness, sharing and collaboration.

## The MEL Pillars

The following key MEL (Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning) pillars are designed to mutually reinforce and complement each other.

### Member Surveys: Baseline and Mid-Term Assessment

To credibly measure progress in implementing the Roadmap 2030, SSCP will conduct two main member surveys:

#### a. Baseline Assessment (2026):

Through a member survey in 2026, the Coordination Office will collect data from all members on their current and planned engagement across the six ambitions, as well as their interest in collaborative, pre-competitive efforts. All members agree to share this data in full with the Coordination Office on a confidential basis. Where possible, members may rely on existing reporting frameworks, provided that the information is fully ac-

cessible to the Coordination Office (e.g., SBTi).

#### b. Mid-Term Review (2028):

A second member survey in 2028 will provide key insights into progress achieved, while identifying potential gaps, shortcomings, and opportunities to further strengthen the Roadmap Ambitions. Combined with further assessments by the Coordination Office, under the strategic guidance of the SSCP Board, the results will inform member discussions in 2029 on shaping a post-2030 Roadmap.

## Project Monitoring

Monitoring of projects co-financed with SECO will serve as another important source of information for tracking progress on the Roadmap and member engagement across the six Ambitions. Projects will be explicitly aligned with the Roadmap's Ambitions, and their financing and subsequent reporting will support members in continuously improving their commitment to the six Ambitions and corresponding levels.

## Collaborative Impact Assessments

Beyond monitoring and evaluation, SSCP aims to foster a learning-oriented system that encourages continuous innovation and adaptation. By institutionalising a culture of learning and adaptive management, SSCP members can regularly refine their strategies, ensuring that interventions remain effective and responsive to evolving socio-economic and environmental realities.



## MEL Pillars Summary

MEL Pillar	Purpose	Key Outputs
Member Surveys: Base-line Assessment (2026)	Collect data on current and planned engagement across six ambitions; gauge interest in collaborative efforts; use existing reporting frameworks where possible, and inform a potential precision of member contributions.	Baseline data on engagement and collaboration potential.
Member Surveys: Mid-Term Review (2028)	Assess progress, identify gaps and opportunities; inform post-2030 Roadmap discussions.	Progress report with identified gaps and recommendations.
Project Monitoring	Track progress of SECO co-financed projects; ensure projects are aligned with Roadmap ambitions; support members in improving commitment.	Project monitoring reports; updated member commitment levels.
Collaborative Impact Assessments	Encourage continuous innovation and adaptation; refine strategies to remain effective and responsive to changing socio-economic and environmental conditions.	Refined strategies and adaptive management practices.

## Guiding Principles for MEL

**Strategic coordination with existing platforms and initiatives:** SSCP recognises the existing tools and accountability structures already in place and commits to coordinating MEL design with those of other sector actors, leveraging overlap in membership.

**No duplication of reporting:** SSCP will exempt members from redundant reporting if they are already submitting data through recognised mechanisms (e.g. GCP annual reporting, SBTi tracking, CSRD-aligned due diligence).

**Confidentiality:** All member data will be treated with the highest confidentiality standards. SSCP will only publish aggregated and anonymised insights, unless individual consent is explicitly granted.

**Focus on learning:** The purpose of MEL is not to evaluate individual members but to generate shared insights, identify barriers to impact, and support adaptive planning. The framework is designed to help members improve over time – not to “rank” performance.

**Support for diverse capacities:** The MEL system will offer tiered reporting options, practical guidance, and templates, with special attention to SMEs.





## MEL Community of Practice (CoP)

A solid MEL system requires a lively exchange between practitioners from all member categories and the opportunity to flexibly integrate and adapt learnings. For this reason, a MEL Community Practice is being set up, which will also serve as a Living Lab. This CoP will be developed and implemented in close collaboration with the Research Sector to strategically use scientific resources for the effective implementation of the Roadmap.

### Key features:

- Four annual touchpoints, including one-day deep dives on priority topics;
- Rotational facilitation by research members, with SSCP serving as secretariat;
- Hybrid and flexible participation formats, ensuring inclusion of global voices;
- Close collaboration with research partners to connect with scientific evidence and innovation.

The MEL CoP will also help identify emerging challenges, monitor indicator relevance, and ensure that the MEL framework stays responsive to the evolving context of the coffee sector.



## ANNEX: Technical Notes

This annex is a complementary, explanatory annex designed to illustrate and clarify the ambitions set out in the SSCP Roadmap. It provides detailed context, definitions, and descriptions for each ambition, including relevant references, explanations of applied methods (where applicable), and the measurement approaches and proposed timelines for each target.

As a living document, the Technical Notes will be continuously updated and refined to reflect lessons learned in practice and feedback from SSCP members and other stakeholders. Its primary purpose is to complement the Roadmap by making its ambitions more tangible and actionable, without altering the agreed Roadmap content itself.

**Ambition 1: Coffee farming households reduce, or even close, their living income gap. Coffee farm workers earn at least a minimum wage, and their wages increase towards a living wage.**

Achieving a decent standard of living for coffee farmers and workers requires clear definitions:

- **Living wage** is the monthly wage an individual must earn to contribute to a decent standard of living.
- **Living income** is the total annual net income of a household, including both farm and off-farm earnings needed to achieve a decent standard of living.
- The **living income gap**, which we aim to reduce, is the difference between the actual income earned by farming households and the living income benchmark (i.e. the income required to reach a decent standard of living).

The ambition is to reduce, or even close, the living income gap for all farming households. The distinction between closing and reducing the living income and living wage gap tackles [LiCOP's Aligned Inclusive Living Income Narrative and Indicators](#), understanding that "targets that promise that 100% of farmers will reach a living income incentivise a move away from the most vulnerable, as they are not likely to reach the living income benchmark due to factors beyond the program's control".

As for farm workers, permanent workers of big farms are in a better position to achieve higher wages than temporary workers of smaller farms. This ambition aims for both permanent and tem-

porary workers to earn at least the minimum wage. Yet, to go beyond achieving this minimum wage, SSCP members seek to reduce the living wage gap for all workers, to ultimately achieve a living wage.

### Activities

Reducing the living income and wage gap requires a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach, involving both public and private sector actors. SSCP promotes a smart mix of interventions, expecting supply chain members to engage collaboratively and strategically along several impact levers:

- Securing better prices and financial incentives: Promoting fair, transparent pricing mechanisms such as offering premiums or bonuses that contribute to improved incomes, fostering responsible procurement practices, and stabilisation practices in case of low coffee prices, directly linking prices to living income benchmarks, etc.
- Diversifying income: Encouraging and enabling off-farm income activities to stabilise household incomes and reduce dependency on coffee alone.
- Improving yields: Providing technical assistance, training, and input access to boost on-farm productivity within sustainable boundaries, etc.
- Reducing production and household costs: Supporting more efficient farming practices, reducing input costs, offering access to affordable services, etc.



- Assess living income and wage related risk in key origin countries, mitigate it and monitor progress
- Acting upon enabling conditions: Including infrastructure development, market access, climate adaptation strategies, and capacity-building efforts.

To assess the member's contribution, SSCP will consider both projects that are implemented directly by companies and those through SSCP's established funding schemes.

SSCP also relies on partnerships with NGOs, research institutions, and the public sector to leverage networks, expertise, and resources.

### Living Income Measurement

To evaluate the impact of living income efforts—including understanding household income, its contributing factors, and their consequences—a range of methodologies is often used. While this methodological diversity reflects strong sectoral interest, it also results in fragmented efforts and inefficiencies. Conducting different living-income and living wage relevant studies in the same countries, without coordination, using divergent methodologies and without data sharing, leads to siloed data collection, missed opportunities for collaboration, and higher overall costs for the sector. These sector-wide inefficiencies are worsened by the free-rider problem, where organizations may rely on publicly available data without contributing to their generation. This discourages collaboration and leads to duplication of efforts, often with limited comparability of the studies' results.

Thus, SSCP seeks to unite forces and proposes a joint, data-driven approach in selected countries:

- Use harmonised and compatible methodologies
- Ensure findings are broadly accessible and actionable
- Use resources efficiently through pooled funding of SSCP members and other actors in the sector
- Wherever feasible, package studies to cover actual household income studies with living income benchmarks, and potentially Living Income Reference Price or others, in a single effort

Given the data similarity across various study types, combining efforts is both efficient and cost-effective. In this spirit, SSCP engages with key stakeholders to conduct these studies jointly, including its members, partners and other actors in the sector. SSCP's research sector will generate evidence and foster collaboration by conducting studies and engaging colleagues from the Global South.

To participate in studies, supply chain members shall contribute with funding, ensuring that a sample of farmers in their supply chain can be interviewed, and being open to sharing results. The data will only be published at aggregated level. Each participating supply chain member will receive a dossier with figures corresponding to their supply chains. NGOs will provide on-site support and access to their interventions.

### Methods and References

Living income and living wage derive from the cost of a decent standard of living, as determined by recognised methodologies. Several such methodologies exist, and SSCP will support existing efforts of using harmonised methodologies to understand and improve living income and wage across the sector. Examples of such collaborative efforts are done by the [ICO Public-Private Taskforce on Living and Prosperous income](#) and the GCP-affiliated Country Platforms.

For studies related to living income and wage, harmonised methodologies, validated by multiple actors, allow for the comparison of results:

- The [Household Income methodology](#) helps identify the actual incomes of farming households and,
- [Living Income Benchmarks \(LIBs\)](#) developed by the Anker Research Institute determine how much households need to earn to achieve a living income.

By comparing the LIB ("should be") with actual income data ("is"), we can identify the income and living wage gap.

Using the resulting dataset and including additional datapoints, it is possible to calculate a Living Income Reference Price (LIRP) based on Fairtrade's methodology. The Living Income Community of Practice further gathers methodological knowledge to draw upon. For implementing any of these studies, we will seek guidance, support and collaboration with partner entities such as Sustainable Food Labs and the ICO Living and Prosperous Income Taskforce.





## Measurement

Implementation of projects on different key levers will be measured primarily through the SSCP Project Monitoring.

Participation in studies will be monitored through SSCP's coordination and guidance of the research process. For studies conducted independently of SSCP, members will be expected to self-report on the studies they have undertaken or supported.

## Timeline

As of August 2025, the following studies are already planned (see table below). Moving forward, SSCP proposes to implement one integrated study per selected country/region and period, encompassing the data collection needed to determine the actual household incomes, the Living Income Benchmark (LIB), and potentially, the Living Income Reference Price (LIRP). Further efforts can be integrated into the following preliminary planning.

Year	Study	Lead
2026	CHIS (Baseline)	SSCP
2028	CHIS	SSCP

Further countries (to be confirmed): Vietnam, Indonesia. In coordination with Sustainable Food Labs and ICO Living and Prosperous Income Taskforce.

## Ambition 2: Human rights risks like child labour and forced labour are addressed through effective due diligence processes.

Human rights challenges in the coffee sector are deeply rooted in structural vulnerabilities such as poverty, informal employment, limited access to education, and weak law enforcement. These systemic drivers require coordinated, long-term solutions that go beyond individual company action.

While a requirement only at an advanced stage, alignment with national frameworks and systems is encouraged for all members to ensure efficiency and efficacy of due diligence efforts.

Alignment with national frameworks can be achieved by implementing the following measures:

- Align indicators and tools used in private monitoring systems with those of national frameworks to increase consistency;
- Support the development and implementation of data-sharing protocols that facilitate interoperability between private and public systems;
- Collaborate on the use of unique household identifiers where applicable to avoid overlaps and gaps in monitoring data;
- Provide feedback on national monitoring indicators to improve alignment with field realities and company practices;
- Share risk assessment results with relevant public bodies to enable targeted, coordinated interventions;

- Facilitate referrals of identified cases of child or forced labour from private systems to public social protection and remediation services.

Strategic Implications for SSCP Members:

- Public-Private Collaboration is Essential: No company can solve structural labour rights issues alone. A credible HRDD system must contribute to government-led and collective action initiatives.
- Go Beyond Compliance: Members are expected not just to meet legal requirements, but to align their due diligence systems with national priorities and long-term development goals.
- Transparency and Accountability: Sharing data and aligning with public systems and frameworks enhances government oversight and improves the credibility of private efforts.
- On-going Engagement: Alignment is not a one-time task. It requires continuous feedback, adaptation, and sustained cooperation with public institutions and affected communities.

## Methods and References

SSCP encourages its members to base their HRDD efforts on internationally recognised frameworks and standards, including:

- The [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights \(UNGPs\)](#), which set out the corporate responsibility to respect human rights
- The [OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct](#), which provides actionable steps for integrating HRDD into business operations.



- [International Labour Organization's General Principles and operational guidelines for fair recruitment](#)
- [U.S. Department of Labor's Comply Chain](#)

By aligning with these frameworks and engaging at the appropriate ambition level, SSCP members can meaningfully contribute to the eradication of child and forced labour in coffee supply chains – while building more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable value chains.

## Measurement

Data will be collected every other year through member self-reporting and will be consolidated to ensure confidentiality and comparability. Improvements in data quality, system coverage, detection rates, and remediation efforts will be key indicators of progress over time.

## Timeline

A baseline survey will be conducted at the beginning of 2026, gathering data on key metrics. Members reporting on key indicators every second year will allow for measurement and assessment of progress by members across all levels.

## Ambition 3: Coffee production supports deforestation- and conversion-free coffee supply chains and actively supports the restoration of degraded forest ecosystems and other relevant ecosystems.

### Definitions:

Definition of Forest: FAO, as well as the Accountability Framework Initiative, define forests as “land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10%, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or other land use. Forest includes natural forests and tree plantations.” Where the definitions differ is that FAO includes tree plantations while AFI focuses on natural forests. (see FAO definition of forest under [FRA 2000 on definitions of forest and forest change](#) or [Accountability Framework](#)). The definition used in the SSCP Roadmap includes tree plantations within the definition of forests to ensure alignment with the EUDR.

Definition of Conversion: Loss of a natural ecosystem as a result of its replacement with agriculture or another land use, or due to a profound and sustained change in a natural ecosystem's species composition, structure, or function.

- Deforestation is one form of conversion (conversion of natural forests).
- Conversion includes severe and sustained degradation or the introduction of management practices that result in a profound and sustained change in the ecosystem's species

composition, structure, or function.

- A change to natural ecosystems that meets this definition is considered to be conversion regardless of whether or not it is legal

Definition of Deforestation:

- For compliance with EUDR: The conversion of forest to agricultural use, whether human-induced or not ([FAQ-Deforestation\\_Regulation\\_EN.pdf](#)).
- For reporting according to AFI: Loss of natural forest as a result of: (i) conversion to agriculture or other non-forest land use; (ii) conversion to a tree plantation; or (iii) severe and sustained degradation ([Accountability Framework](#)).

Definition of Degradation: Changes within a natural ecosystem that significantly and negatively affect its species composition, structure, and/or function and reduce the ecosystem's capacity to supply products, support biodiversity, and/or deliver ecosystem services ([Accountability Framework](#)).

Definition of Forest Degradation: Takes different forms, particularly in open forest formations, deriving mainly from human activities such as over-grazing, over-exploitation (for firewood or timber), repeated fires, or due to attacks by insects, diseases, plant parasites or other natural sources such as cyclones (see [FRA 2000 on definitions of forest and forest change](#) for more detailed information).

Definition of Restoration: The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem, and its associated conservation values, that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed ([Accountability Framework](#)).





work).

Definition of Forest Restoration: Artificial establishment of forest on lands which carried forest before (see [FRA 2000 on definitions of forest and forest change and Landscape](#) for more detailed information).

## Methods and References

SSCP Collaborative Impact Projects consist of building partnerships across regions, but also result in sustainable landscape projects focusing on one region or jurisdiction. Sustainable landscapes rely on multistakeholder collaboration between private, public, and civil sector actors, ensuring that sustainability solutions are both scalable and locally embedded. These efforts set, monitor and evaluate sustainability, climate, and forest conservation targets at a jurisdictional level. By fostering multi-stakeholder governance and aligning public and private sector efforts, landscape approaches ensure diverse input and ownership of sustainability initiatives and support compliance with international and national regulations. More information can be found in the SSCP Collaborative Impact Call.

Traceability: The requirement in the intermediate and advanced levels of “Ensuring that traceability system implementation costs do not fall on farmers” means that the companies are responsible to realise traceability by providing either mapping services to farmers or the tools for farmers/ co-operatives/extensionists to map the farms so that costs don’t have to be borne by the farmers. The aforementioned services can also be provided by suppliers of coffee.

## Ambition 4: Regenerative Agriculture practices on coffee plantations are widely adopted.

### Methods and References

[SAI Platform](#) for high-level definition of regenerative agriculture and regenerative practices.

[Regenerative Coffee Scorecard | Rainforest Alliance](#), [GCP – RegenCoffee Framework](#), once published and other company programmes for a set or regenerative practices adapted to coffee.

## Ambition 5: Coffee production works toward net zero emissions in alignment with global climate goals.

Definitions:

Paris Agreement: Full legal document established in 2015 and ratified in 2016, currently 195 of 198 nations have committed to it (April 2025).

Definition of Net Zero by 2050: Limit the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and pursue efforts “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.”

IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories – for methodological clarity on land use and agriculture-related emissions.

Definition GHG Emissions: Seven greenhouse gases (GHGs) are acknowledged under the UN Framework convention on Climate Change: CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, HFCs, PFCs, SF<sub>6</sub>, and NF<sub>3</sub>.

GHG emission accounting under the Paris Agreement: There are multiple processes under the UN Framework convention on climate change to measure progress on GHG emission reduction, including the Global Stocktake, under the Nationally Determined Contribution Tracking, and through the IPCC Assessment Report.

Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol) – particularly the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Accounting and Reporting Standard and the Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard. These form the foundational guidelines for value chain emission assessments.

Definition of Scope 1, 2 and 3, based on the GHG Protocol: The GHG Protocol Corporate Standard classifies a company’s GHG emissions into three ‘scopes’. Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy. Scope 3 emissions are all indirect emissions (not included in scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions.

Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi): SBTi can so far be seen as the globally most recognised and comprehensive effort for companies to establish meaningful and credible carbon reduction targets.

Examples of Reporting Schemes: GRI (Global Reporting Initiative), SASB (Sustainability Accounting Standards Board), TCFD (Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures), and ESRS (European Sustainability Reporting Standards).



## Methods and References

Corporate capacity on the topic of decarbonisation and emission reduction might significantly vary in the coffee value chain, and across SSCP member companies. While some have been working on the topic of emission reduction already, with standardized approaches, including a corporate sustainability strategy, internal assessment of Scope 1,2, and 3, others might be at the beginning of their corporate decarbonisation process. Thus, instead of proposing one formalised approach for all SSCP members, the methods and references below outline specific examples to increase capacity and incentivise the decarbonisation of the sector as a whole:

### Scope 3 Emissions Focus

Given that the majority of emissions in the coffee value chain fall under Scope 3 — particularly at the farm level and in upstream logistics, activities can include the following (not exclusive):

- Activity-based data collection where feasible (e.g., fertiliser use, processing methods, transport distances).
- Use of regionally relevant emission factors, or, where unavailable, proxy values from comparable crops (e.g., cocoa or tea), until sector-specific values are available.
- Engagement with farm-level or jurisdictional data, where practical, to refine estimates and support targeted action

### Further Guidance on SBTi:

MSMEs and Intermediate Best practices for climate action can be found under various resources, including SBTi Services, SBTi Case studies for

emission data, and other sector-relevant publications.

Advanced Compliance with SBTi guidelines (currently under revision, see draft [Corporate Net-Zero Standard V2](#)). Dedicated [SBTi Sector Guide for Forest, Land and Agriculture \(FLAG\)](#).

### Examples of Applicable Tools and Initiatives:

- Sustainable Coffee Challenge: Guidance Document on “Coffee & Forest Mapping & Monitoring”
- GHG Accounting Manual for Cocoa (Quantis, World Cocoa Foundation) – as a methodological template for coffee.
- Cool Farm Tool – a commonly used emissions calculator in agricultural contexts, adaptable for coffee.
- EX-ACT (FAO) – for broader project-level assessment of agricultural interventions.

## Measurement

Data will be collected every second year through member self-reporting and will be consolidated to ensure confidentiality and comparability. Improvements in data quality, system coverage, detection rates, and remediation efforts will be key indicators of progress over time.

To avoid double-reporting, SSCP members who report to SBTi can confirm so by sharing a simple statement.

## Ambition 6: Coffee is sourced by SSCP members using practices that transparently ensure sustainable agriculture practices

### Intermediate Level

For the intermediate level, we will rely on the Equivalence Mechanism (EM) established by the Global Coffee Platform (GCP). The EM is a system designed to assess and recognise sustainability schemes in the coffee sector against a common baseline: the Coffee Sustainability Reference Code (CSRC).

It seeks to ensure that different sustainability standards or schemes—whether private, national, or voluntary—are aligned with a shared set of principles and practices for sustainable coffee production and trade. It aims to allow for greater transparency, comparability, and credibility in sustainability efforts across the sector.

The process looks as follows:

1. Voluntary Schemes Apply: Sustainability schemes (like certifications or codes of conduct) can apply to be benchmarked.
2. Benchmarking Against CSRC: GCP evaluates the scheme's requirements and assurance systems against the CSRC and GCP's Operational Criteria for Equivalence.
3. Recognition: If the scheme meets the criteria, it is recognised as equivalent and listed on GCP's List of GCP-Recognised Sustainability Schemes.
4. Ongoing Monitoring: Recognised schemes may be subject to periodic reviews or updates to



maintain alignment.

Currently, approximately 30 3rd and 2nd Party assurance schemes are accepted by GCP under the EM. For further information, please visit: For further reference: GCP Equivalence Mechanism – Global Coffee Platform

### Advanced Level

Advanced Level sourcing should be based on sustainability schemes that are compliant with ISEAL's Code of Good Practice or demonstrate equivalent assurance and impact through independent verification. ISEAL alignment is considered a leading benchmark and aspiration for the sector.

The ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems is a globally recognised framework that outlines the core principles and requirements for the credible design, implementation, and improvement of sustainability systems—such as standards, certification schemes, and company-led programs.

It helps ensure these systems are transparent, inclusive, effective, and impact-oriented.

Key components are:

#### 1. Standard-Setting

- Ensures the development of sustainability standards is inclusive, transparent, and evidence-based.
- Requires engagement with diverse stakeholders and public consultation processes.

#### 2. Assurance

- Guides how systems assess compliance, including certification, verification, and audit-

ing.

- Promotes credibility, consistency, and risk-based approaches.
3. Claims and Labelling
    - Establishes criteria for making truthful, verifiable sustainability claims to consumers and partners.
  4. Monitoring & Evaluation
    - Requires systems to measure and report impacts, and to use data for continuous improvement.
  5. Governance & Improvement
    - Encourages good governance, accountability, and adaptive management over time.

The ISEAL Code supports:

- Credibility and trust in sustainability claims.
- Alignment among systems, improving comparability and reducing duplication.
- Stronger environmental, social, and economic outcomes through responsible practices.
- ISEAL regularly revises the Code to reflect emerging best practices. The current version, the ISEAL Code of Good Practice, was released in December 2023.

Currently, ISEAL Code Compliant are the following schemes:

- Rainforest Alliance Sustainable Agriculture Standard

- Fairtrade International, Small Producer Organization & Coffee Standard
- Fair Trade USA Agriculture Production Standard

## Methods and References

For further reference: [GCP Equivalence Mechanism – Global Coffee Platform](#)

ISEAL's Code of Good Practice for Sustainability Systems: [ISEAL Codes of Good Practice](#)

## Measurement

The annual sourcing statistics are based on an annual collection in Q1 of each calendar year among private sector members (i.e. traders, roasters, processors and retailers). The annual collection will start in 2026.-

For companies that are members of GCP, we seek to implement a collaborative approach with GCP to reduce the reporting burden of members.