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International Rubber Study Group (IRSG) Voluntary Sustainable Natural Rubber (SNR) Initiative's Criteria and Performance Indicators

Sustainable Natural Rubber Criteria, Indicators and KPIs

1. References

The SNR Criteria, Indicators and KPIs are following a number of internationally recognized definitions, standards and conventions such as the FAO definitions for protected areas and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions with regards to child labour, forced labour and freedom of association.

Whenever national legal requirements may differ from or conflict with the relevant international agreement, the national requirements in the country where the organisation is legally established shall prevail.

2. <u>Definitions</u>

<u>Buffer zones:</u> A strip of land adjacent to forested areas or watercourses where disturbances are prohibited in order to preserve environmental and aesthetic characteristics and avoid any potential environmental impact.

<u>Child labour:</u> Work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. Not all work done by children should be classified as child labour that is to be targeted for elimination. Children's or adolescents' participation in work that does not affect their health and personal development or interfere with their schooling, is generally regarded as being something positive (according to International Labour Organisation: http://www.ilo.org/ipec/facts/lang--en/index.htm).

<u>Customary use rights:</u> Traditional common rule or practice that has become an intrinsic part of the accepted and expected conduct in a community, profession, or trade and is treated as a legal requirement.

<u>Forced labour:</u> All work or service which is exacted from any person under the menace of any penalty and for which the said person has not offered himself voluntarily (according to International Labour Organisation: http://ilo.org/global/standards/subjects-covered-by-international-labour-standards/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm).

<u>Freedom of association:</u> The right for workers and employers to establish and join organisations of their own choosing without previous authorization (according to International Labour Organisation: http://www2.ilo.org/global/standards/subjects-covered-by-international-labour-standards/freedom-of-association/lang--en/index.htm).

<u>High yielding clones:</u> Clones that has been selected in order to produce the highest possible yield under specific circumstances and local context. High yielding clones are generally selected, tested and approved by the relevant local authorities or by an approved research or development institute.

<u>Industrial waste water:</u> Any water carrying material/wastes that result from the processing of natural rubber.

<u>Large SNR grower:</u> Individual holder of natural rubber plantation that is above the maximum area limit defined as a smallholding and that has been verified to be in compliance with the SNR Criteria and Indicators. See definition of small SNR grower below.

<u>Protected area:</u> Area/forest especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means — Definition from UN FAO (http://www.fao.org/docrep/014/am665e/am665e00.pdf). Countries may use different legal terminologies to name and define protected areas covered under relevant national legal requirements.

<u>Representative sample:</u> A subset of a statistical population that accurately reflects the members of the entire population. A representative sample should be an unbiased indication of what the population is like.

<u>Small SNR grower:</u> Holder of natural rubber plantation that is relatively small in size and that has been verified to be in compliance with the SNR Criteria and Indicators.

Each country has different definition on small growers, the threshold area of not more than 20 ha is set to define a small SNR grower for the purpose of the SNR Criteria and Indicators.

SNR Corporate plantation: A natural rubber plantation that is owned and/or managed by a company and where the rubber plantation is being managed on a large scale and that has been verified to be in compliance with the SNR Criteria and Indicators.

<u>SNR downstream user:</u> Organisation that manufactures finished or semi-finished products made of natural rubber that has been verified to be in compliance with the SNR Criteria and Indicators.

SNR processor: Organisation that processes raw natural rubber that has been verified to be in compliance with the SNR Criteria and Indicators.

<u>SNR trader:</u> Trading organisation that is involved in the national or international trade of natural rubber that has been verified to be in compliance with the SNR Criteria and Indicators.

<u>Sustainable Natural Rubber (SNR):</u> Natural rubber that has been verified to comply with the SNR Criteria and Indicators.

3. <u>Sustainable Natural Rubber Criteria, Indicators and KPIs</u>

Voluntary SNR Criterion 1: Support Improvement of Productivity

SNR Performance Indicators		Priority level	Objective of Performance indicator and related Guidance
1.1	Optimizing the planting of recommended clones	P1	The Organisation should ensure that only clones recommended by the relevant authority, or clones recommended by a research or development institute, are being planted when establishing a new plantation or renewing an existing plantation. Proposed KPI to measure performance under SNR Indicator 1.1: - KPI 1.1.1: Planting of recommended clone(s)
			- KPI 1.1.2: For corporate plantations, planting of a diversity of recommended

	1	1	
			clones 0 1 2 3 More than 3
			Target for small and large SNR growers: N/A Target for SNR Corporate Plantations up to 5,000 ha: at least 2 recommended clones Target for SNR Corporate Plantations of more than 5,000 ha: at least 3 recommended clones
1.2	Optimizing planting density		The Organisation should ensure that the planting density recommended by the relevant authority is followed (generally between 420 to 600 plants per hectare) and that the saplings/trees/plantlets that do not survive within 12 months after planting are replaced with new plants as soon as possible in order to ensure that once mature the plantation is homogeneous and can reach optimum productivity.
			Proposed KPI to measure performance under SNR Indicator 1.2:
		P1	- KPI 1.2.1: Planting density follows the recommendation from relevant authority Planting density recommended by relevant authority is followed Planting density recommended by relevant authority is not followed
			Target for small and large SNR growers: follows planting density recommended by relevant authority
			Target for Corporate plantations: follows planting density recommended by relevant authority

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			- KPI 1.2.2: Replacement of dead saplings/trees/plantlets within 12 months after initial planting: 0% 30% 50% 90% 100%
			Target for small and large SNR growers: at least 30% of dead saplings/trees/plantlets replaced within 12 months following initial planting Target for SNR Corporate Plantations: at least 90% of dead saplings/trees/plantlets replaced within 12 months following initial planting
1.3	Optimizing fertilizers and chemical use		The Organisation should ensure that the use of natural fertilizers is optimized, that biological pest and disease control methods are used and that the use of chemicals is minimized. Proposed KPI to measure performance under SNR Indicator 1.3: - KPI 1.3.1: Optimizing the use of natural fertilizers Natural fertilizers are preferred Natural fertilizers are not used
		P1	Target for small and large SNR growers: the use of natural fertilizers is preferred and the use of other fertilizers is minimized Target for Corporate plantations: the use of natural fertilizers is preferred and the use of other fertilizers is minimized

	- KPI 1.3.2: Biological pest and disease control methods are used Biological pest and disease control methods are used pest and disease control methods are not used
	Target for small and large SNR growers: the use of biological pest and disease control methods are preferred
	Target for Corporate plantations: the use of biological pest and disease control methods are preferred
	- KPI 1.3.3: The use of chemicals is minimized The use of chemicals is minimized The use of chemicals is not controlled
	Target for small and large SNR growers: the use of chemicals is minimized
	Target for Corporate plantations: the use of chemicals is minimized

Voluntary Sustainable Natural Rubber Criterion 2 – Enhance Natural Rubber quality

SNR	SNR Criterion 2: Enhance Natural Rubber Quality			
SNR Performance Indicators		Priority level	Objective of Performance indicator and related Guidance	
2.1	Commitment to Natural Rubber Standard Quality	P1	The Organisation should ensure that a clear and transparent commitment to produce and source quality Sustainable Natural Rubber has been formalised. Proposed KPI to measure performance under SNR Indicator 2.1: - KPI 2.1.1: Formal quality commitment, quality policy or ISO 9001 certification	

	-	KPI 2.1.2: Whenever available, participation in producers' local initiative or official group committed to ensuring quality of Natural Rubber □ No participation □ local initiative □ official group
		Target for small and large SNR growers: Active participation in a local initiative or official group committed to ensuring quality of Natural Rubber
		Target for SNR Corporate Plantations: N/A
	-	KPI 2.1.3: Formal procedure to reject Natural Rubber out of quality specification □ No such commitment □ Informal commitment □ Commitment included in Quality Policy
		Target for small and large SNR growers: N/A
		Target for SNR Corporate Plantations: N/A
		Target for SNR Processors: Formal procedure to reject Natural Rubber out of quality specification included in Quality Policy
		Target for SNR Traders: Formal procedure to reject Natural Rubber out of quality specification included in Quality Policy
		Target for SNR downstream users: Formal procedure to reject Natural Rubber out of quality specification included in Quality Policy

2.2	Compliance with testing and grading		The Organisation should ensure compliance with relevant grading and testing industry standards (i.e. Greenbook and/or similar national standard) and should ensure that appropriate testing and grading is carried out before shipment. Proposed KPI to measure performance under SNR Indicator 2.2:
			- KPI 2.2.1: Visual testing is systematically performed throughout production process for RSS grades (and other relevant grades) No visual assessment Visual assessment but not systematic
			Systematic visual assessment supported by relevant procedures
		P1	Target for SNR Processors: Systematic visual quality assessment implemented supported by relevant procedures
			Target for SNR Traders: Visual assessments are performed according to Corporate Quality control procedure.
			Target for SNR downstream users: Visual assessments are performed according to Corporate Quality control procedure.
			- KPI 2.2.2: Lab testing taking place for TSR and latex
			Systematic lab testing based on relevant procedures & standards
			Target for SNR Processors: Systematic lab testing implemented supported

by relevant procedures (e.g. lab homologation, etc).
Target for SNR Traders: Lab testing implemented according to Corporate Quality Control procedure supported by relevant procedures (e.g. lab homologation, etc).
Target for SNR downstream users: Lab testing implemented according to Corporate Quality Control procedure supported by relevant procedures (e.g. lab homologation, etc).

Voluntary Sustainable Natural Rubber Criterion 3 – Support forest sustainability

SNR Performance Indicators		Priority level	Objective of Performance indicator and related Guidance
3.1	Compliance with relevant local legal requirements	P1	The Organisation should demonstrate compliance with relevant local legal requirements and ensure that rubber tree plantations are only established on land that has been officially identified as suitable for rubber plantations or agricultural purposes. The Organisation should ensure that legally protected areas and protected species habitats are respected.

	Proposed KPI to measure performance under SNR Indicator 3.1: - KPI 3.1.1: Compliance with local legal requirements - Evidence of breach of local legal requirements - No evidence of breach of local legal requirements
	Target for SNR small and large growers: N/A
	Target for SNR Corporate plantations: No evidence of breach of local legal requirements
	Target for SNR Processors: Monitor representative sample of SNR suppliers to ensure that there is no breach of local legal requirements
	Target for SNR Traders: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers to ensure that there is no breach of local legal requirements
	Target for SNR downstream users: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that there is no breach of local legal requirements.
	- KPI 3.1.2: Rubber tree plantation takes place only on land that has been officially identified as suitable for rubber plantations or agricultural purposes. □ Evidence of breach with requirement □ No evidence of breach with requirement
	Target for SNR small and large growers: SNR tree plantation should not take place on land that has been officially identified as restricted for rubber

	plantations
	Target for SNR Corporate plantations: SNR tree plantation should not take place on land that has been officially identified as restricted for rubber plantations
	Target for SNR Processors: Monitor representative sample of SNR suppliers to ensure that SNR tree plantation should not take place on land that has been officially identified as restricted for rubber plantations
	Target for SNR Traders: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that SNR tree plantation should not take place on land that has been officially identified as restricted for rubber plantations
	Target for SNR downstream users: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that SNR tree plantation should not take place on land that has been officially identified as restricted for rubber plantations
	- KPI 3.1.3: Rubber tree plantations are not established within legally protected areas or within habitats of protected species Evidence of breach with requirement No evidence of breach with requirement
	Target for SNR small and large growers: SNR tree plantation have not been established within legally protected areas or within habitats of protected species

			Target for SNR Corporate plantations: SNR tree plantation have not been established within legally protected areas or within habitats of protected species Target for SNR Processors: Monitor representative sample of SNR suppliers to ensure that SNR does not come from rubber plantations that have been established within legally protected areas or within habitats of protected species Target for SNR Traders: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that SNR does not come from rubber plantations that have been established within legally protected areas or within habitats of protected species Target for SNR downstream users: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that SNR does not come from rubber plantations that have been established within legally protected areas or within habitats of protected species.
3.2	Protection/conser vation of protected areas	P1	The Organisation should ensure that new natural rubber plantations are not established within protected areas. Proposed KPI to measure performance under SNR Indicator 3.2: - KPI 3.2.1: Rubber tree plantations are not established within protected areas □ Evidence of breach with requirement □ No evidence of breach with requirement Target for SNR small and large growers: SNR tree plantations are not

	establis	hed in protected areas
		for SNR Corporate plantations: SNR tree plantations are not hed in protected areas
		for SNR Processors: Monitor representative sample of SNR s to ensure that SNR tree plantations are not established in protected
		for SNR Traders: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that e plantations are not established in protected areas
		for SNR downstream users: Obtain the guarantee from SNR s that SNR tree plantations are not established in protected areas
	areas to and rela	2.2: Buffer zones are established and maintained around protected of ensure that these areas are not impacted by the SNR plantations sted management activities ence of breach with requirement No evidence of breach with ment
	are esta	for SNR small and large growers: Whenever relevant, buffer zones ablished around SNR tree plantations to ensure that protected areas impacted by the SNR plantations and related management activities
	are esta	for SNR Corporate plantations: Whenever relevant, buffer zones ablished around SNR tree plantations to ensure that protected areas impacted by the SNR plantations and related management activities

Target for SNR Processors: Monitor representative sample of SNR suppliers to ensure that whenever relevant, buffer zones are established around SNR tree plantations to ensure that protected areas are not impacted by the SNR plantations and related management activities
Target for SNR Traders: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that whenever relevant, buffer zones are established around SNR tree plantations so that protected areas are not impacted by the SNR plantations and related management activities
Target for SNR downstream users: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that whenever relevant, buffer zones are established around SNR tree plantations so that protected areas are not impacted by the SNR plantations and related management activities

Voluntary Sustainable Natural Rubber Criterion 4 – Water management

SNR Performance Indicators		Priority	Objective of Performance indicator and related Guidance	
4.1	Compliance with relevant local legal requirements and local customary water use rights		The Organisation should ensure compliance with all relevant legal requirements and customary rights regarding water use. The Organisation should ensure that industrial wastewater is not discharged in the environment without demonstrating that it complies with all relevant legal requirements. Proposed KPI to measure performance under SNR Indicator 4.1: - KPI 4.1.1: Compliance with local legal requirements and customary rights regarding water use	
		P1	☐ Evidence of breach of local legal requirements ☐ No evidence of breach of local legal requirements Target for SNR small and large growers: N/A	
			Target for SNR Corporate plantations: No evidence of breach of local legal requirements and customary rights regarding water use	
			Target for SNR Processors: No evidence of breach of local legal requirements for own processing activities and monitor relevant sample of SNR suppliers to ensure that there is no breach of local legal requirements	

	and customary rights regarding water use
	Target for SNR Traders: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that there is no breach of local legal requirements and customary rights regarding water use
	Target for SNR downstream users: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that there is no breach of local legal requirements and customary rights regarding water use
	 KPI 4.1.2: Industrial wastewater is not discharged in the environment without demonstrating that it complies with legal requirements Evidence of breach with requirement No evidence of breach with requirement
	Target for SNR small and large growers: N/A
	Target for SNR Corporate plantations: No evidence of breach of local legal requirements related to the discharge of wastewater from own processing activities (whenever relevant).
	Target for SNR Processors: No evidence of breach of local legal requirements related to the discharge of wastewater
	Target for SNR Traders: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that there is no breach of local legal requirements related to the discharge of wastewater

			Target for SNR downstream users: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that there is no breach of local legal requirements related to the discharge of wastewater
4.2	Treatment of industrial waste water		The Organisation should ensure that Industrial waste water is treated in full compliance with all relevant administrative and legal requirements (and whenever possible that it is recycled).
			Proposed KPI to measure performance under SNR Indicator 4.2:
			- KPI 4.2.1: Treatment of industrial wastewater in compliance with local legal requirements ☐ 0% ☐ 25% ☐ 50% ☐ 75% ☐ 100%
			Target for SNR small and large growers: N/A
		P1	Target for SNR Corporate plantations: Industrial wastewater used during processing is treated in compliance with relevant requirements before being discharged in the environment (whenever relevant)
			Target for SNR Processors: Industrial wastewater used during processing is treated in compliance with relevant requirements before being discharged in the environment
			Target for SNR Traders: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that industrial wastewater is treated in compliance with relevant requirements before being discharged in the environment
			Target for SNR downstream users: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that industrial wastewater is treated in compliance with relevant

	requirements before being discharged in the environment
	- KPI 4.2.2: Recycling of industrial wastewater whenever possible ☐ 0% ☐ 25% ☐ 50% ☐ 75% ☐ 100%
	Target for SNR small and large growers: N/A
	Target for SNR Corporate plantation: N/A
	Target for SNR Processors: Whenever possible, at least 50% of industrial wastewater used during processing is recycled
	Target for SNR Traders: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that whenever possible at least 50% of the industrial wastewater resulting from processing is recycled
	Target for SNR downstream users: Obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that whenever possible at least 50% of the industrial wastewater resulting from processing is recycled

Voluntary Sustainable Natural Rubber Criterion 5 - Respect Human & Labour Rights

Indicators (F		Level (Requirement or Recommendation)	Objective of Performance indicator and related Guidance	
5.1	Child labour and minimum age for workers (ILO Convention 138 on Minimum Age and 182 on Worst Forms of Child Labour)	Requirement	The Organisation should ensure that children below the age of 15 are not employed, whether as permanent, seasonal or casual workers. If the local legislation has established a minimum age higher than 15 years of age, the legal requirement should be complied with. The Organisation should ensure that minors of age (below 18 years old) do not conduct hazardous work or any work that may jeopardize their physical, mental or moral well-being. They should not work in dangerous locations, in unhealthy situations, at night, or with dangerous substances or equipment, nor should they carry heavy loads. They should not be exposed to any form of abuse. Proposed KPI to measure performance under SNR Indicator 5.1: - KPI 5.1.1: Child labour and minimum age for workers _ Evidence of child labour or that minimum age for workers is not respected _ No evidence of child labour or that minimum age for workers is not respected	

			Target for SNR small and large growers: No evidence of child labour or that minimum age for workers is not respected. Local legislation regarding child work must be respected. Target for SNR Corporate plantation: No evidence of child labour or that minimum age for workers is not respected by the organisation Target for SNR Processors: No evidence of child labour or that minimum age for workers is not respected by the organisation and a monitoring program is in place to ensure that suppliers are not using child labour. Target for SNR Traders: No evidence of child labour or that minimum age for workers is not respected by the organisation and obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that child labour is not being used
5.2	Forced labour (ILO Convention 29 on Forced Labour and 105 on Abolition of	Requirement	Target for SNR downstream users: No evidence of child labour or that minimum age for workers is not respected by the organisation and obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that child labour is not being used The Organisation should ensure that no forced or bonded labour is used at any stage of production, including plantation management, processing and/or manufacturing activities. Proposed KPI to measure performance under SNR Indicator 5.2: - KPI 5.2.1: Forced or bonded labour _ Evidence of forced or bonded labour _ No evidence of forced or

	Forced Labour)		bonded labour
			Target for SNR small and large growers: No evidence of forced labour
			Target for SNR Corporate plantation: No evidence of forced labour by the organisation
			Target for SNR Processors: No evidence of forced labour by the organisation and a monitoring program is in place to ensure that suppliers are not using forced labour
			Target for SNR Traders: No evidence of forced labour by the organisation and obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that forced labour is not being used
			Target for SNR downstream users: No evidence of forced labour by the organisation and obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that forced labour is not being used
5.3	Freedom of association and collective		The Organisation should ensure that all workers involved in plantation management, processing and/or manufacturing activities have the right to establish and/or join an organisation of their choice.
	(ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and 98 on Right to	Requirement	The Organisation should ensure that workers' Unions or similar organisations are not under undue pressure and that representatives of such organisation are not subject to discrimination and have access to all their members in the workplace.
	Organise and		The Organisation should ensure that all workers have the right to collective

Collective	bargaining.	
Bargaining)	Proposed KPI to measure performance under SNR Indicator 5.3: - KPI 5.3.1: Freedom of Association Evidence that Freedom of Association is not respected.	d ∏No
	evidence that Freedom of Association is not respected	
	Target for SNR small and large growers: N/A	
	Target for SNR Corporate plantation: No evidence that Fit Association is not respected by the organisation	eedom of
	Target for SNR Processors: No evidence that Freedom of Ass not respected by the organisation and a monitoring program is i ensure that suppliers are respecting Freedom of Association	
	Target for SNR Traders: No evidence that Freedom of Association and obtain the guarantee from SNF that Freedom of Association is respected	
	Target for SNR downstream users: No evidence that Fr Association is not respected by the organisation and obtain the from SNR suppliers that Freedom of Association is respected	
	- KPI 5.3.2: Collective Bargaining Evidence that right to Collective Bargaining is not respected evidence that right to Collective Bargaining is not respected	ed 🗌 No

Target for SNR small and large growers: N/A
Target for SNR Corporate plantation: No evidence that right to Collective Bargaining is not respected by the organisation
Target for SNR Processors: No evidence that right to Collective Bargaining is not respected by the organisation and a monitoring program is in place to ensure that suppliers are respecting the right to Collective Bargaining
Target for SNR Traders: No evidence that right to Collective Bargaining is not respected by the organisation obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that Collective Bargaining rights are respected.
Target for SNR downstream users: No evidence that right to Collective Bargaining is not respected by the organisation and obtain the guarantee from SNR suppliers that Collective Bargaining rights are respected.