

UK RT on Sustainable soya: Certification standards briefing

Report on outputs

Background

The UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya (UK RT) was convened by the UK government through the Partnerships for Forests Programme. Efeca acts as facilitator of the Roundtable on behalf of government as a tier 2 partner of the programme.

Following a request from retailer members of the UK RT in 2018, Efeca developed a briefing to “provide comparative information on how each of the most prevalent sustainable soya certification schemes addresses the issue of forests and native vegetation conversion, which is the agreed core initial focus of interest for the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya”.

The work was not intended to provide a ‘ranked’ listing of schemes or a selection of ‘approved’ schemes for the UK RT but to help those members wishing to adopt standard(s) to make an informed choice as part of their overall soya sourcing plans and in line with the Goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya.

In 2020, it was agreed to review the briefing, to update information on the certification schemes as appropriate, and include additional schemes as identified by members.

Methodology

In Phase 1, Efeca conducted a short desk-based comparison of 6 soya certification standards against 8 questions using the ITC Standards Map (<http://www.standardmap.org/identify>) and other publicly available sources. Efeca looked for evidence in each of the standards to support the 8 questions and indicated a Yes/No/Partial dependent on the evidence found.

- The 6 standards first chosen were RTRS, Proterra, ISCC+, Cefetra (Cefetra Responsible Soy (CRS), Cargill Triple ‘S’ and ADM Responsible Soybean Standard. In this updated briefing, the Responsible Commodities Facility (RCF), Donau Soja/Europe Soya, 2BS and the US Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol (USSAP) have also been included.
- The 8 questions were as follows:
 1. Does the standard require legal compliance?
 2. Does the standard prohibit legal deforestation?
 3. Does the standard prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation? **
 4. Does the standard have a cut-off date after which conversion of forest and natural habitat will not be allowed?
 5. Is compliance to the standard independently verified?
 6. When was the Standard last updated?
 7. Is the full up to date standard available in the public domain?
 8. Does the Standard meet the Guideline criteria of FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines?

**‘other valuable native vegetation’: for the purposes of this piece of work we have looked for evidence that the standard extends landscape protection beyond forests to other native vegetation such as grasslands that may be

found in the Cerrado. This is in line with the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya; it remains our intention to work with RT partners globally towards an aligned definition of protected 'native vegetation'.

In Phase 2, Efeca shared the summaries developed for each standard with the scheme owners directly to enable them to review the accuracy of the information and highlight any anticipated future changes. This secondary process proved to be very useful as several of the website links had been updated since the 2018 briefing, or contact details due to staff changes.

The summaries were amended following this review and comments added where appropriate.

Outputs

The Annex to this report contains the output of the comparison study.

A summary table has been prepared for each standard, enabling the different approaches taken by each of the standards owners to be compared to the 8 questions. Where there were specific criteria in the standard to address the question, this has been clearly indicated.

It should be noted that this work has been to focus on the requirements of the standards not on the efficacy with which these standards are implemented "on the ground".

The question as to whether each standard fully or partially met question 3 ('Does the standard prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation') was problematic given the variation in terminology and definitions used by standards owners – this has been at the heart of some of the discussions within the UK RT.

The approach Efeca took for this exercise was to look for evidence that each standard extended landscape protection *beyond* forests to other native vegetation such as the grasslands of the Cerrado. Efeca found evidence that all standards do extend protection beyond forests (hence the answer 'Yes' to this question in all cases) but the degree and extent to which each standard achieves this is captured within the Details section of the tables.

Next Steps

Contact details for each of the scheme owners has been provided to enable members to follow up directly with any specific questions but Efeca would be very happy to discuss the outputs from this work with individual members as part of our ongoing technical assistance to the UK RT.

To discuss this briefing or its outputs with Efeca, please contact Jonathan.Gorman@efeca.com, or Rose.McCulloch@efeca.com.

2BS	Follow up contact: luisdasilvaeserra@2bsvs.com <p style="text-align: right;">**'other valuable native vegetation': for the purposes of this piece of work we have looked for evidence that the standard extends landscape protection beyond forests to other native vegetation such as grasslands that may be found in the Cerrado. This is in line with the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya; it remains our intention to work with RT partners globally towards an aligned definition of protected 'native vegetation'.</p>	
Questions	Yes No Partial	Detail
Does the standard require legal compliance ?	?	<p>Principles of the scheme, including those in the 'Requirements for the Verification of Biomass Products' document, are based on European law. "This update [August 2016] aims to comply with the current version of the EU Directive 2009/28/EC modified by the Directive 2015/1513 of the European Parliament and the Council of 9 September 2015." <i>Reference: Requirements for the Verification of Biomass Products, August 2016, Version 2.0.</i></p> <p>Source: https://www.2bsvs.org/documents/public_restraint/2BS-STD-01%20[Biomass%20Production]%20v2.0%20(en).pdf</p>
Does the standard prohibit legal deforestation?	Yes	<p>"The 1st gathering entity shall ensure that biomass does not come from land that was primary forest or other wooded land (i.e. forest and other wooded land of native species where there is no clearly visible indication of human activity and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed) in or after January 2008." <i>Reference: Requirements for the Verification of Biomass Products, August 2016, Version 2.0, Indicator 3.2.3.</i></p> <p>"Sustainable biofuels shall not be made from raw material produced on land with High Carbon Stock (EU Directive 2009/28/EC modified by the Directive 2015/1513, Article 17, section 4)." <i>Reference: Principle 4 of above reference: High Carbon Stock Land.</i></p> <p>Source: https://www.2bsvs.org/documents/public_restraint/2BS-STD-01%20[Biomass%20Production]%20v2.0%20(en).pdf</p>
Does the standard prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation? **	Yes	<p>"Sustainable biofuels shall not be made from raw material produced on land with High Biodiversity Value (EU Directive 2009/28/EC modified by the Directive 2015/1513, Article 17, section 3)." <i>Reference: Requirements for the Verification of Biomass Products, August 2016, Version 2.0, Principle 3: High Biodiversity Land.</i></p> <p>Specific reference given to grassland: "The 1st gathering entity shall demonstrate that the collected biomass is not coming from "grassland", that was qualified as highly biodiverse in January 2008 or afterwards." <i>Indicator 3.2.5 of above reference.</i></p> <p>Specific reference given to peat land: "Sustainable biofuels shall not be made from raw material produced on land that was Peat land [in January 2008] (EU Directive 2009/28/EC modified by the Directive 2015/1513, Article 17, section 5)." <i>Reference: Requirements for the Verification of Biomass Products, August 2016, Version 2.0, Principle 5: Peat Land.</i></p> <p>Source: https://www.2bsvs.org/documents/public_restraint/2BS-STD-01%20[Biomass%20Production]%20v2.0%20(en).pdf</p>
Does the standard have a cut-	Yes	<p>"To use a default value, the 1st gathering entity shall ensure that the biomass has not been produced on land whose use has changed since January 2008, such as the conversion of permanent grassland." <i>Reference: Requirements for the Verification of Biomass Products, August 2016, Version 2.0, Criterion 2.2.</i></p>

off date after which conversion of forest and natural habitat will not be allowed?		The January 2008 cut-off date applies across the document's principles, including Greenhouse Gas Savings, High Biodiversity Land, High Carbon Stock Land and Peat Land. Source: https://www.2bsvs.org/documents/public_restreint/2BS-STD-01%20[Biomass%20Production]%20v2.0%20(en).pdf
Is compliance to the standard independently verified?	Yes	"Accredited Certification Bodies shall be independent and reliable audit service providers. They are approved by the Secretary-General according to the requirements of 2BS-PRO02, the latest procedure which covers the scheme certification process." <i>Reference: 2BS Requirements for the Certification Process, February 2019, Version 3.0, Section 1: Procedure for the performance of certification services, 1.1.</i> Source: https://www.2bsvs.org/documents/public_restreint/2BS-PRO-02%20Procedure%20for%20the%20Verification%20Process%20v3.13%20(en).pdf
When was the Standard last updated?	Unclear	Standard documents vary in their most recent approval dates, so the precise date of the last standard update is unclear: 'Scheme Description' (version 2.0) and 'Government and Management of 2BS Voluntary Scheme' (version 1.9) were approved in August 2016; and 'Requirements for the Certification Process' (version 3.0) was approved in February 2019. Source: https://www.2bsvs.org/scheme-requirements-and-documents.html
Is the full up to date standard available in the public domain?	Yes	Documents describing the standard and its implementation practices are freely available for the public to download. Some documents are private with restricted access. Source: https://www.2bsvs.org/scheme-requirements-and-documents.html
Does the Standard meet the Guideline criteria of the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines?	No	http://www.standardmap.org/fefac/

ADM RESPONSIBLE SOYBEAN STANDARD	Follow up contact: Ana.Yaluff@adm.com <p>**other valuable native vegetation': for the purposes of this piece of work we have looked for evidence that the standard extends landscape protection beyond forests to other native vegetation such as grasslands that may be found in the Cerrado. This is in line with the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya; it remains our intention to work with RT partners globally towards an aligned definition of protected 'native vegetation'.</p>	
Questions	Yes No Partial	Detail
Does the standard require legal compliance?	Yes	ADM RESPONSIBLE SOY STANDARD, June 27, 2018 Version 2, Annex II, Checklist for producers, 3. Environmental and Social requirements "No soy is produced on land that is illegally deforested after a certain cut-off date mentioned in national legislation (e.g. 2008 in Brazil)" <p>Clarification from ADM: In addition, following indicators are related to compliance with legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> #1 - The farmer is aware of local laws and has the necessary permits demonstrating that he complies with national and local laws. #2 - The farm is in the process of obtaining or already has a "Cadastro Ambiental Rural (CAR)", environmental record or equivalent outside Brazil. #3 - The farm is not on the black list of IBAMA or Forced labor of "Ministério do Trabalho" or Soy Moratorium or equivalent outside Brazil. #4 - The right to use the land can be demonstrated and is not legitimately contested by local communities with demonstrable rights.
Does the standard prohibit legal deforestation?	Yes	ADM RESPONSIBLE SOY STANDARD, June 27, 2018 Version 2, 4: Inspection principles; and 11: Checklist for growers, 3. Environmental and Social requirements, High Conservation Areas, Clauses 30-33 <p>"Conservation areas/protected areas: No crops allowed in areas with legal deforestation or legal conversion of HCV native vegetation after March 1, 2015 in accordance with ADM's Commitment to No-Deforestation. Between the cut-off date mentioned in legislation and March 1, 2015 only legal conversion is permitted. Areas that are assigned as legal reserve, conservation areas or otherwise secured by law have to be protected. Legally approved compensating actions should be taken if any alteration has taken place.</p>
Does the standard prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation? **	Yes	ADM RESPONSIBLE SOY STANDARD, June 27, 2018 Version 2, 4: Inspection principles; and 11: Checklist for growers, 3. Environmental and Social requirements, High Conservation Areas, Clauses 30-33 <p>"Conservation areas/protected areas: No crops allowed in areas with legal deforestation or legal conversion of HCV native vegetation after March 1, 2015 in accordance with ADM's Commitment to No-Deforestation.</p> <p>Between the cut-off date mentioned in legislation and March 1, 2015 only legal conversion is permitted. Areas that are assigned as legal reserve, conservation areas or otherwise secured by law have to be protected. Legally approved compensating actions should be taken if any alteration has taken place.</p>

		<i>Clarification from ADM: Protection of 'native vegetation' extends to the prevention of 'legal conversion of HCV vegetation. The definition of 'HCV native vegetation' is until under discussion inside the Soft commodity Forum where ADM participates. By now, where there are updated HCV maps, we recognise and we will use them. Where there are not maps, we work with our partners to understand local definitions.</i>
Does the standard have a cut-off date after which conversion of forest and natural habitat will not be allowed?	Yes - 2008	ADM RESPONSIBLE SOY STANDARD, June 27, 2018 Version 2, 4: Inspection principles; and 11: Checklist for growers, 3. Environmental and Social requirements, High Conservation Areas, Clauses 30-33 2008 (Brazilian legal requirement) for soy cultivated on land that has been illegally deforested March 1, 2015 for soy cultivated on land that has been legally deforested or HCV native vegetation that has been legally converted Note: Between 2008 and March 1st, 2015 only legal conversion is permitted Clarification from ADM: The date takes into account ADM Commitment with No Deforestation. Please consider the following as well the following document: https://assets.adm.com/Sustainability/ADM-No-Deforestation-Policy.pdf
Is compliance to the standard independently verified?	Yes	Control Union Certifications.
When was the Standard last updated?	2018	ADM RESPONSIBLE SOY STANDARD, June 27, 2018 Version 2
Is the full up to date standard available in the public domain?	Yes	https://assets.adm.com/Sustainability/ADM-Sustainable-Soy-Standard_180911_120112.pdf
Does the Standard meet the Guideline criteria of FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines?	Yes	http://www.standardsmap.org/fefac/

CARGILL TRIPLE S STANDARD	Follow up contact: Dawn Emerson@cargill.com ** 'other valuable native vegetation': for the purposes of this piece of work we have looked for evidence that the standard extends landscape protection beyond forests to other native vegetation such as grasslands that may be found in the Cerrado. This is in line with the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya; it remains our intention to work with RT partners globally towards an aligned definition of protected 'native vegetation'.	
Questions	Yes No Partial	Detail
Does the standard require legal compliance?	Yes	Triple S Principles and Criteria, October 2015, Version 6.1 – Soya, South America to EU Clause 1.1.2 b) i)
Does the standard prohibit legal deforestation?	Yes	Soya beans entering the Triple S programme shall not be obtained from land with high biodiversity value, namely land that had one of the following statuses in or after January 2008, whether or not the land continues to have that status: (a) Primary forest and other wooded land - namely forest and other wooded land of native species, where there is no clearly visible indication of human activity and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed. <i>Reference: Triple S Principles and Criteria, October 2015, Version 6.1 – Soya, South America to EU, Cargill Triple S Products. Section 1 Farm Level 1.1.2, 3.2.1</i>
Does the standard prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation? **	Yes	Soya beans entering the Triple S programme shall not be obtained from <u>land with high biodiversity value</u> , namely land that had one of the following statuses in or after January 2008, whether or not the land continues to have that status: (a) Primary forest and other wooded land - namely forest and other wooded land of native species, where there is no clearly visible indication of human activity and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed. (b) Areas (i) By law or by the relevant competent authority for nature protection purposes; (ii) For the protection of rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems or species recognised by international agreements or included in lists drawn up by intergovernmental organisations or the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, unless evidence is provided that the production of that raw material did not interfere with those nature protection purposes; Biodiversity should be maintained and safeguarded through the preservation of native vegetation. There is a map of the farm which shows the native vegetation and there is a plan to protect and recover native vegetation. Areas of natural vegetation around bodies of water and on steep slopes and hills and other sensitive parts of the ecosystem must be maintained or restored. <i>Reference: Triple S Principles and Criteria, October 2015, Version 6.1 – Soya, South America to EU, Cargill Triple S Products. Section 1 Farm Level 1.1.2, 3.2.1</i> <i>Clarification from Cargill: 'land with high biodiversity value' includes forests and highly biodiverse grasslands as defined (and in alignment with) the Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2015/1513. Cargill will review definitions as they develop.</i>
Does the standard have a cut-off date after which conversion of	Yes	Land with statutes covered in standard 'in or after January 2008' <i>Reference: Triple S Principles and Criteria, October 2015, Version 6.1 – Soya, South America to EU, Cargill Triple S Products. Section 1 Farm Level 1.1.2,</i>

forest and natural habitat will not be allowed?		
Is compliance to the standard independently verified?	Yes	At origin it is Kiwa Pai for farm and office level and Peterson and Control Union for chain of custody. Control Union Brazil are taking over the renewal audits as of June 2020.
When was the Standard last updated?	2018	Note: Updated version to be published in June 2020. Will include updates to the on-farm social and wider env. requirements but not on land use qualifications.
Is the full up to date standard available in the public domain?	No	The full standard will be available in June 2020, but excerpts of the Standard can be accessed through the ITC Standards Map and there is additional information available at https://www.soja3s.com/cargill/
Does the Standard meet the Guideline criteria of the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines?	Yes	http://www.standardsmap.org/fefac/

CEFETRA CERTIFIED RESPONSIBLE SOY		Follow up contact: Sandra Kraaij: Kraaij@cefetra.nl **‘other valuable native vegetation’ : for the purposes of this piece of work we have looked for evidence that the standard extends landscape protection beyond forests to other native vegetation such as grasslands that may be found in the Cerrado. This is in line with the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya; it remains our intention to work with RT partners globally towards an aligned definition of protected ‘native vegetation’.
Questions	Yes No Partial	Detail
Does the standard require legal compliance?	Yes	Certified Responsible Soy (CRS) Normative Document Principle 1: compliance with the law (Version July 2018): Producers shall understand and comply with all laws, regulations, and conventions that apply to the CRS Standard Inspector Checklist 2016 Criterion 1: Compliance with the law: The farmer is aware of local laws and has the necessary permits proving that he fulfils the National and Local laws, in addition Criterion 30 “Areas that are assigned as legal reserve, conservation area or otherwise protected by law have to be protected and recovered if any alteration has taken place”
Does the standard prohibit legal deforestation?	Yes	Inspector Checklist Criterion 24: “For land within the Amazon Biome: The farmer must respect the Soy Moratorium which states that no land can be converted into farm land after July 24th, 2006. For land outside the Amazon Biome: All land used by the farmer must be converted into farm land prior to May 2009.” Inspector Checklist Criterion 26: “For land within the Amazon Biome: After July 24th 2006 no wetlands are drained and native vegetation is maintained. For land outside the Amazon Biome: After May 2009 no wetlands are drained and native vegetation is maintained.” Certified Responsible Soy (CRS) Normative Document (Version July 2018) Principle 4.3 Environment: Producers shall comply to the zero-conversion and zero-deforestation requirements, meaning that they shall not use land that is converted into farm land after July 24th 2006 within the Amazon Biome and after May 2009 for land outside the Amazon Biome. Producers shall have procedures in place to safeguard the native vegetation of the land used for soy production
Does the standard prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation? **	Yes	<i>Inspector Checklist Criterion 24</i> : “For land within the Amazon Biome: The farmer must respect the Soy Moratorium which states that no land can be converted into farm land after July 24th, 2006. For land outside the Amazon Biome: All land used by the farmer must be converted into farm land prior to May 2009. <i>Inspector checklist Criterion 26</i> : “For land outside the Amazon Biome: After May 2009 no wetlands are drained, and native vegetation is maintained. Certified Responsible Soy (CRS) Normative Document (Version July 2018) Principle 4.3 Environment: Producers shall comply to the zero-conversion and zero-deforestation requirements, meaning that they shall not use land that is converted into farm land after July 24th 2006 within the Amazon Biome and after May 2009 for land outside the Amazon Biome. Producers shall have procedures in place to safeguard the native vegetation of the land used for soy production

Does the standard have a cut-off date after which conversion of forest and natural habitat will not be allowed?	Yes	For land within the Amazon Biome July 24th, 2006 (Reference: Inspector checklist Criterion 24, Certified Responsible Soy (CRS) Normative Document (Version July 2018) Principle 4.3 Environment) For land outside the Amazon Biome: After May 2009 (Reference: Inspector checklist Criterion 26, Certified Responsible Soy (CRS) Normative Document (Version July 2018) Principle 4.3 Environment)
Is compliance to the standard independently verified?	Yes	Third party verification through audits: Control Union Certifications is the single certification body recognised by Cefetra to independently verify compliance to the CRS Standard
When was the Standard last updated?	2018	Certified Responsible Soy (CRS) Normative Document (Version July 2018) Inspector Checklist 2016
Is the full up to date standard available in the public domain?	Yes	Certified Responsible Soy (CRS) Normative Document (Version July 2018) https://certifiedsoya.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/20180712-CRS-Normative-document.pdf Inspectors checklist https://certifiedsoya.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/20181017-CRS-checklist-2016.pdf
Does the Standard meet the Guideline criteria of the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines?	Yes	http://www.standardsmap.org/fefac/

Donau Soja/Europe Soya Standard	Follow up contacts: Julia Weihs weihs@donausoja.org Susanne Fromwald fromwald@donausoja.org	
	***'other valuable native vegetation': for the purposes of this piece of work we have looked for evidence that the standard extends landscape protection beyond forests to other native vegetation such as grasslands that may be found in the Cerrado. This is in line with the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya; it remains our intention to work with RT partners globally towards an aligned definition of protected 'native vegetation'.	
Questions	Yes No Partial	Detail
Does the standard require legal compliance?	Yes	<p>"As a rule, the relevant legal provisions of EU law shall apply for the production, treatment and processing of Donau Soja/Europe Soya". <i>Reference: Donau Soja Standard/Europe Soya Standard, Version March 2020, Page 5</i></p> <p>The purpose of an annex featured in the standard guidelines is to "clarify and specify the obligation for legal compliance and compliance with ILO Conventions". <i>Reference: Annex 01 of above reference</i></p> <p>Sources: https://www.donausoja.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/Donau_Soja_Guidelines/English/Donau_Soja_Guidelines.pdf; https://www.donausoja.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/Europe_Soja_Guidelines/English/Europe_Soja_Guidelines.pdf</p>
Does the standard prohibit legal deforestation ?	Yes	<p>"No new agricultural land shall be developed for Donau Soja soya production if this would result in loss of natural forests". <i>Reference: Donau Soja Standard/Europe Soya Standard, Version March 2020, Page 2</i></p> <p>Source: same as above</p>
Does the standard prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation? **	Yes	<p>"No new agricultural land shall be developed for Donau Soja soya production if this would result in loss of nature reserves, natural forests, riparian vegetation, wetlands, moors, floodplains or steep slopes". <i>Reference: Donau Soja Standard/Europe Soya Standard, Version March 2020, Page 2</i></p> <p>Source: same as above</p>
Does the standard have a cut-off date after which conversion of forest and natural habitat will	Yes	<p>"Donau Soja soya bean farmers shall only use land that was dedicated to agricultural use not later than 1st January 2008". <i>Reference: Donau Soja Standard/Europe Soya Standard, Version March 2020, Page 3</i></p> <p>Source: same as above</p>

not be allowed?		
Is compliance to the standard independently verified?	Yes	<p>“Compliance with the Donau Soja Standard/Europe Soya Standard shall be verified against the detailed requirements specified in the Donau Soja/Europe Soya Guidelines by an independent external certification body accredited in accordance with the ISO/IEC 17065:2012 standard”. <i>Reference: Donau Soja Standard/Europe Soya Standard, Version March 2020, Page 3</i></p> <p>Source: same as above</p>
When was the Standard last updated?	March 2020	
Is the full up to date standard available in the public domain?	Yes	<p>It is freely available to the public on the Donau Soja website https://www.donausoja.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/Donau Soja Guidelines/English/Donau Soja Guidelines.pdf; https://www.donausoja.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Downloads/Europe Soya Guidelines/English/Europe Soya Guidelines.pdf)</p>
Does the Standard meet the Guideline criteria of the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines?	Yes	<p>http://www.standardsmap.org/fefac/</p>

ISCC PLUS STANDARD	Follow up contact: Mr Sascha Wüstenhöfer wuestenhoefer@iscc-system.org		***'other valuable native vegetation': for the purposes of this piece of work we have looked for evidence that the standard extends landscape protection beyond forests to other native vegetation such as grasslands that may be found in the Cerrado. This is in line with the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya; it remains our intention to work with RT partners globally towards an aligned definition of protected 'native vegetation'
Questions	Yes No Partial	Detail	
Does the standard require legal compliance?	Yes	ISCC 202 Sustainability Requirements for the Production of Biomass (version 3.0 09 August 2016), Principle 5 "Biomass production shall take place in compliance with all applicable regional and national laws and shall follow relevant international treaties" and chapter 3: "All farms and plantations that go through an ISCC audit shall comply with relevant national and regional laws and regulations as long as those laws and regulations do not violate any requirements of ISCC, the RED or the FQD. The stricter rule shall always be followed." https://www.iscc-system.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ISCC_202_Sustainability_Requirements_3.0.pdf	
Does the standard prohibit legal deforestation?	Yes	ISCC 202 Sustainability Requirements for the Production of Biomass (version 3.0 09 August 2016), Principle 1: "Biomass shall not be produced on land with high biodiversity value: The production on land that had one of the following statuses in or after January 2008, no matter whether or not the land still has this status is not allowed: (1) Forest land. Forest land comprises primary forests and other natural areas that are covered with native tree species and do not show clearly visible indications of human activity and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed"	
Does the standard prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation? **	Yes	ISCC 202 Sustainability Requirements for the Production of Biomass (version 3.0 09 August 2016), Principle 1: "Biomass shall not be produced on land with high biodiversity value or high carbon stock". ISCC Requirements state this includes: "Areas for the protection of rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems or species (Principle 1, 1.1(3)); "Highly biodiverse grassland (Principle 1,1.1(4); "Wetlands" (Principle 1, 1.2(3)	
Does the standard have a cut-off date after which conversion of forest and natural habitat will not be allowed?	Yes - 2008	ISCC 202 Sustainability Requirements for the Production of Biomass (version 3.0 09 August 2016), Principle 1, 1.1: 'In or after January 2008'	
Is compliance to the standard independently verified?	Yes	'The fulfilment of the ISCC Standard is checked by an independent third-party verification audit.' (see ISCC 201 System Basic, version 3.0 09 August 2016; chapter 1 Introduction) Full list of recognized certification bodies: https://www.iscc-system.org/process/certification-bodies-cbs/recognized-cbs/	

When was the Standard last updated?	2016	https://www.iscc-system.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ISCC_202_Sustainability_Requirements_3.0.pdf <p>Note: ISCC EU and ISCC PLUS requirements are harmonised. Last major update of ISCC requirements in August 2016 with re-recognition of ISCC EU by EC. In case of specifications or updates of ISCC requirements they are communicated via ISCC System Updates. An archive of System Updates is available at https://www.iscc-system.org/process/iscc-documents-at-a-glance/iscc-system-updates/</p>
Is the full up to date standard available in the public domain?	Yes	https://www.iscc-system.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/ISCC_202_Sustainability_Requirements_3.0.pdf <p>See ISCC website where all current ISCC PLUS System Documents are available as download: https://www.iscc-system.org/process/iscc-documents-at-a-glance/</p>
Does the Standard meet the Guideline criteria of the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines?	Yes	http://www.standardsmap.org/fefac/ <p>The European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC) has benchmarked ISCC. ISCC products can be sold as "in line with FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines"</p>

PROTERRA STANDARD: SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY	Follow up contact: emese.brosz@proterrafoundation.org **‘other valuable native vegetation’ : for the purposes of this piece of work we have looked for evidence that the standard extends landscape protection beyond forests to other native vegetation such as grasslands that may be found in the Cerrado. This is in line with the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya; it remains our intention to work with RT partners globally towards an aligned definition of protected ‘native vegetation’.	
Questions	Yes No Partial	Detail
Does the standard require legal compliance?	Yes	ProTerra Standard Social Responsibility and Environmental Sustainability Version 4.1, September 25, 2019 Principle 1: 1.1 “Comply with all applicable national and local laws, regulations, and applicable international conventions”
Does the standard prohibit legal deforestation?	Yes	ProTerra Standard Social Responsibility and Environmental Sustainability Version 4.1, September 25, 2019 Principle 4 – Biodiversity conservation, effective environmental management and environmental services 4.1.1. CORE - For certification under this Standard, areas of native vegetation cannot have been cleared or converted into agricultural areas, or used for industrial or other commercial purposes, after 2008, in particular the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Forests (for instance, rainforests); • Riparian Vegetation; • Wetlands; • Swamps; • Floodplains; • Steep slopes; • High above-ground carbon stocks, and • Other as defined by the High Conservation Values Resource Network (HCV 1 to 6)
Does the standard prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation? **	Yes	ProTerra Standard Social Responsibility and Environmental Sustainability Version 4.1, September 25, 2019 Principle 4 – Biodiversity conservation, effective environmental management and environmental services 4.1.1. CORE - For certification under this Standard, areas of native vegetation cannot have been cleared or converted into agricultural areas, or used for industrial or other commercial purposes, after 2008, in particular the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Forests (for instance, rainforests); • Riparian Vegetation; • Wetlands; • Swamps; • Floodplains; • Steep slopes; • High above-ground carbon stocks, and • Other as defined by the High Conservation Values Resource Network (HCV 1 to 6)

		CORE - Certified organisations shall adhere to governmental regulations and international conventions that pose additional limits on conversion of native vegetation to agricultural or other commercial purposes.
Does the standard have a cut-off date after which conversion of forest and natural habitat will not be allowed?	2008	4.1.1. CORE - For certification under this Standard, areas of native vegetation cannot have been cleared or converted into agricultural areas, or used for industrial or other commercial purposes, after 2008, in particular the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Forests (for instance, rainforests); • Riparian Vegetation; • Wetlands; • Swamps; • Floodplains; • Steep slopes; • High above-ground carbon stocks, and • Other as defined by the High Conservation Values Resource Network (HCV 1 to 6)
Is compliance to the standard independently verified?	Yes	FoodChain ID Certification (Cert ID) serve as the exclusive certification body for the ProTerra Standard.
When was the Standard last updated?	2019	https://www.proterrafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ProTerra-Standard-V4.1_EN.pdf
Is the full up to date standard available in the public domain?	Yes	https://www.proterrafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/ProTerra-Standard-V4.1_EN.pdf
Does the Standard meet the Guideline criteria of the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines?	Yes	http://www.standardsmap.org/fefac/

Responsible Commodity Facility (RCF)	Follow up contact: pedro.mouracosta@sim.finance line ***'other valuable native vegetation': for the purposes of this piece of work we have looked for evidence that the standard extends landscape protection beyond forests to other native vegetation such as grasslands that may be found in the Cerrado. This is in line with the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya; it remains our intention to work with RT partners globally towards an aligned definition of protected 'native vegetation'.	
Questions	Yes No Partial	Detail
Does the standard require legal compliance?	Yes	1.2 Compliance with the Forest Code: i) Farm land must be registered with the Cadastro Ambiental Rural (CAR); ii) In case of deficit of native vegetation for Legal Reserve (RL) or Permanent Preservation Areas (APPs), the farmer must commit to prepare an ecosystem restoration plan ('PRADA') or to offset the deficit of Legal Reserve (if applicable), according to the legal requirements of the state where the farm is located, during the course of the loan. Once a 'PRADA' (or a commitment to offset) is in existence, farmer must commit to put in place measures to implement it. 2.2 Legal compliance: the Farmer must demonstrate that he/she and the farm does not contravene any environmental or legal requirements, such as: i) environmental embargoes, ii) labour legislation (including slave and child labour), and iii) Soy Moratorium (if applicable).
Does the standard prohibit legal deforestation ?	Yes	1.1 Land use: The area of cultivation must comply with the following conditions: i) Cut-off date: the cultivation area to be financed must have been cleared of native vegetation before [2019]. ii) Preference will be given to areas restored from abandoned pasture land to soy cultivation; and iii) No conversion of additional areas of native vegetation is allowed in the farm in which the cultivation area is located during the term of the Facility, considering the area registered in SiCAR (the Brazilian Rural Environmental Registry). Note: 'native vegetation' includes forests as confirmed by scheme owner
Does the standard prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation? **	Yes	1.1 Land use: The area of cultivation must comply with the following conditions: i) Cut-off date: the cultivation area to be financed must have been cleared of native vegetation before [2019]. ii) Preference will be given to areas restored from abandoned pasture land to soy cultivation; and iii) No conversion of additional areas of native vegetation is allowed in the farm in which the cultivation area is located during the term of the Facility, considering the area registered in SiCAR (the Brazilian Rural Environmental Registry).
Does the standard have a cut-off	Yes	1.1 Land use: The area of cultivation must comply with the following conditions: i) Cut-off date: the cultivation area to be financed must have been cleared of native vegetation before [2019].

date after which conversion of forest and natural habitat will not be allowed?		Note: This cut-off date of 2019 refers to legal clearance of native vegetation (including forests). Farmers must also be in compliance with the Forest Code, which has a cut-off date for illegal clearance of native vegetation (including forests) of 22/07/2008.
Is compliance to the standard independently verified?	Not yet	
When was the Standard last updated?	2019	A complete Environmental & Social framework was developed in partnership with UN Environment Finance Division, adopted by the Facility on completion.
Is the full up to date standard available in the public domain?	Not yet	
Does the Standard meet the Guideline criteria of the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines?	Not yet	http://www.standardsmap.org/fefac/

RTRS STANDARD FOR RESPONSIBLE SOY PRODUCTION	Follow up contact: marcelo.visconti@responsiblesoy.org ** ‘other valuable native vegetation’: for the purposes of this piece of work we have looked for evidence that the standard extends landscape protection beyond forests to other native vegetation such as grasslands that may be found in the Cerrado. This is in line with the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya; it remains our intention to work with RT partners globally towards an aligned definition of protected ‘native vegetation’.	
Questions	Yes No Partial	Detail
Does the standard require legal compliance?	Yes	RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Version 3.1 02 of June 2017 Principle 1 Legal Compliance and Good Business Practices, 1.1: “There is awareness of, and compliance with, all applicable local and national legislation”
Does the standard prohibit legal deforestation?	Yes	RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Version 3.1 01 of June 2017 Principle 4 Environmental Responsibility, section 4.4. includes a prohibition on the clearing or converting from May 2009 onwards of areas including ‘native forests’ (4.4.1b) and after 3rd June 2016 any ‘natural land’ which is defined as “All land with natural, native vegetation, including, but not limited to, native forests (according to RTRS definition), riparian vegetation, natural wetlands, grasslands, savannahs, prairies, Cerrado and woodlands” (Annex 3 Glossary of Terms).
Does the standard prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation? **	Yes	RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Version 3.1 01 of June 2017 Principle 4 Environmental Responsibility, section 4.4 includes a prohibition on the clearing or converting from May 2009 onwards of the following areas: a) native forests, b) riparian vegetation, c) natural wetlands, d) steep slopes, e) areas designated by law to serve the purpose of native conservation and/or cultural and social protection (4.4.1b) and after 3rd June 2016, any “natural land*, steep slopes and in areas designated by law to serve the purpose of native conservation and/or cultural and social protection (4.4.3) *Natural Land is defined as “All land with natural, native vegetation, including, but not limited to, native forests (according to RTRS definition), riparian vegetation, natural wetlands, grasslands, savannahs, prairies, Cerrado and woodlands” (Annex 3 Glossary of Terms).
Does the standard have a cut-off date after which conversion of forest and natural habitat will not be allowed?	May 2009	May 2009 and 3rd June 2016 as above (Reference: RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Version 3.1 01 of June 2017 Principle 4 Environmental Responsibility)
Is compliance to the standard independently verified?	Yes	Recognised certification bodies: http://www.responsiblesoy.org/certification/con-quien-certificarse/?lang=en
When was the Standard last updated?	2017	RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Version 3.1 01 of June 2017

Is the full up to date standard available in the public domain?	Yes	www.responsiblesoy.org Latest standard available here
Does the Standard meet the Guideline criteria of FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines?	Yes	http://www.standardsmap.org/fefac/

U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol	Follow up contact: **‘other valuable native vegetation’ : for the purposes of this piece of work we have looked for evidence that the standard extends landscape protection beyond forests to other native vegetation such as grasslands that may be found in the Cerrado. This is in line with the goal of the UK Roundtable on Sustainable Soya; it remains our intention to work with RT partners globally towards an aligned definition of protected ‘native vegetation’.	
Questions	Yes No Partial	Detail
Does the standard require legal compliance?	Yes	Many directives require producers to be in compliance with US laws, for example 1.1.2 requires that “producers are in compliance with U.S. Endangered Species Act” and 1.3.1/1.5.1 that “producers are in compliance with U.S. laws regarding conversion of primary forests to other uses”. <i>Reference: U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol</i> Source: https://28vp741fflb42av02837961y-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/20180416-U.S.-Soy-Sustainability-Assurance-Protocol-low-res.pdf?segid=84b8eae8-a0d6-44e7-8ab2-d1e1edc606fe
Does the standard prohibit legal deforestation?	Yes	“Soybeans are not produced on land that was primary forest” or “on continuously forested land”. <i>Reference: U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol, Directives 1.3 & 1.5</i> Source: same as above
Does the standard prohibit legal conversion of other valuable native vegetation? **	Yes	“Soybeans are not produced on highly biodiverse grassland, wetlands, peatland, or designated protected areas”. <i>Reference: U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol, Directives 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 & 1.6</i> Source: same as above
Does the standard have a cut-off date after which conversion of forest and natural habitat will not be allowed?	Yes	A cut-off date of 1 st January 2008 applies. <i>Reference: Reference: U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol, Directive 1</i> Source: same as above
Is compliance to the standard	Yes	“Third-party audits are conducted by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service. Each year, USDA selects at random a specified percentage of group producers for an audit”. <i>Reference: U.S. Soy Sustainability Assurance Protocol Audit Procedures</i>

independently verified?		Source: same as above
When was the Standard last updated?	April 2018	
Is the full up to date standard available in the public domain?	Yes	It can be freely downloaded from the US Soybean Export Council website. Source: https://ussec.org/resources/ssap-2/
Does the Standard meet the Guideline criteria of the FEFAC Soy Sourcing Guidelines?	Yes	http://www.standardsmap.org/fefac/