

ProTerra Foundation

Procedure for Restoration and Compensation of Deforestation

ProTerra Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation that envisages a world where all businesses contribute to the protection of biodiversity by switching to sustainable production, conserving natural resources, and ensuring that workers and local communities are treated with dignity and respect.

From the biodiversity perspective, ProTerra has defined a cut-off date for the conversion of native vegetation into agricultural areas or used for industrial or other commercial purposes, after 31 December 2008. This is a core requirement (4.1.1).

Despite the cut-off date, ProTerra will consider deforestation that occurred between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2019, eligible for ProTerra Certification if an organisation has taken effective actions to restore the area and/or has provided suitable compensation for the lost ecosystems and its values.

The possibility of restoration or compensation is not to justify or offset new deforestation. Rather, it addresses situations where restoration or compensation is necessary to remedy past deforestation contributing, in this way, to sustainable development and to the reintegration of organisations into a sustainable food and feed supply chain. This is very much aligned with the vision and objectives of the ProTerra Foundation.

General Requirements

The implementation of actions to restore deforested areas and/or to provide suitable compensation shall be in accordance with the *Operational Guidance on Environmental Restoration and Compensation* published by the Accountability Framework **and** local laws and regulations (whatever is more stringent).

The organisation must seek the support of external technical specialists (e.g., NGOs, Universities), to plan and implement restoration and compensation actions. Engagement with affected stakeholders is necessary and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) shall be sought as required.

The entire process shall be documented.

Application Process

Prior to applying for a ProTerra certification, organisations that have cleared areas between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2019, in disagreement with ProTerra indicator 4.1.1, must submit detailed information to the ProTerra Secretariat on the actions taken and results achieved associated with its restoration and compensation initiatives.

It is, therefore, noted that compensation and restoration **are complete or in an advanced implementation stage** and the organisation must have robust evidence to demonstrate that the process is delivering positive results.

Organisations shall submit to the ProTerra Foundation Secretariat, at least the following information:

- Restoration and/or compensation plan including: a clear description of the situation and measures sought to restore and compensate; timeline; performance indicators and available results, and
- Report/statements from an external technical specialist in relation to the adequacy of the measures sought and implemented.

Information is to be sent to: info@proterrafoundation.org

Subsequently, the ProTerra Secretariat will evaluate the documents and forward these to the Standard and Certification Committee (SCC) for review.

The SCC may request additional documentation/information if needed and will provide a summary of the situation to the ProTerra Board of Directors, recommending or not the eligibility of the organisation. The Board of Directors has the final decision on the eligibility of the applying organisation. The Secretariat will communicate the Board's decision to the company within 10 working days.

The confirmation of eligibility of the organisation refers to the possibility of applying for a ProTerra Certification. The confirmation of eligibility is not a guarantee for a successful certification under the ProTerra Standard, the organisation must be approved in the ProTerra Certification audit, which consists of a separate and independent process.