

Guidance: Burning for generation of biofuels, for energy production must comply with local and/or national regulations. In countries where there are no local laws and/or regulations, organisations should apply the World Bank and IFC guidelines.

In the case of smallholders that are part of the supply chain of industrial processors, the implementation of this indicator shall be supported by the processor.

6.3 Control of atmospheric pollution

6.3.1 Level III

CORE - Certified organisations shall implement systems and procedures to ensure that concentrations of contaminants emitted through pipes, chimneys, boilers, ovens, incinerators, and electricity generators do not exceed established limits set by local, regional and national laws, or by individual authorisations delivered by competent national, regional or local authorities. In countries where there are no local laws and/or regulations, organisations should consider applying World Bank and IFC guidelines.

Guidance: Certified organisations shall document the performance of these control systems.

PRINCIPLE 7: Water management

Water is a scarce resource in many parts of the world. It is also a resource under constant threat of contamination and misuse. This Principle aims to ensure the responsible use of water by preserving the quality and quantity of local water resources and protecting them from contamination.

7.1 Conservation of natural water resources

7.1.1
Levels I
and III

CORE - Certified organisations shall conserve the quantity and quality of existing natural water resources, such as lakes, rivers, artificial lakes, dams, water tables and aquifers around their facilities, including creating or aggravating water scarcity situations.

Guidance: This indicator includes identifying water resources potentially affected by its operations, including outside the management unit, in order to contribute as much as possible to its conservation.

In the case of smallholders that are part of the supply chain of industrial processors, the implementation of this indicator shall be supported by the processor.

7.1.2
Levels I
and III

CORE - Certified organisations shall not undertake new initiatives that reduce the availability of water for drinking, irrigation, or for traditional uses for neighbouring communities and businesses.

Guidance: Traditional uses of water by certified organisations shall also be demonstrated to remain viable and sustainable. Practices that were once considered sustainable may no longer be so due to increased population pressure or other recent ecosystem or climate changes. Certified organisations should engage with stakeholders and document measures taken to resolve eventual disputes related to water usage.

In the case of smallholders that are part of the supply chain of industrial processors, the implementation of this indicator shall be supported by the processor.

7.1.3
Levels I
and III

In cases where activities carried out prior to the certification application have caused damage to water resources, certified organisations shall undertake mitigation actions based on a plan agreed with the local environmental authority.

Guidance: This indicator is not applicable to smallholders.

7.1.4

Levels I
and III

Certified organisations are required to ensure that management plans account for future water resource conditions (i.e., climate change, demographic shifts, projected use increases, etc.).

Guidance: This is not applicable to smallholders or small/family-owned food processing industries.

7.1.5

Levels I
and III

Certified organisations are required to participate in catchment governance mechanisms such as integrated river basin management plans where these exist.

Guidance: This is not applicable to smallholders or small/family-owned food processing industries.

7.2

Good practices in water management

7.2.1

Level I

CORE - Certified organisations shall implement best practices for water conservation and avoidance of contamination of surface and groundwater. When irrigation is used, effective measures shall be implemented to ensure efficient irrigation and compliance with relevant regulations. The use of irrigation water shall be controlled in order to avoid soil salinisation.

Guidance: In the case of smallholders that are part of the supply chain of industrial processors, the implementation of this indicator shall be supported by the processor.

7.2.2

Levels I
and III

CORE - Any evidence of contamination of ground or surface water shall be reported to the local environmental authority and mitigated based on a plan agreed with such authority if necessary.

Guidance: In the case of smallholders that are part of the supply chain of industrial processors, the implementation of this indicator shall be supported by the processor.

PRINCIPLE 8: Greenhouse gases and energy management

Global warming poses a major threat to the environment and to people's lives and also threatens the way the world conducts business. The management of greenhouse gas emissions and its reduction are key to reducing global warming. This Principle encourages organisations to incrementally minimise the use of non-renewable energy in favour of renewable sources.

8.1

Management of greenhouse gas emissions

8.1.1

Levels I, II
and III

Certified organisations shall develop an inventory of its greenhouse gas emissions and develop a programme to reduce or compensate emissions. Land use change, as applicable, shall be accounted for in the inventory.

Guidance: For Level I, this indicator is only applicable to industrial large-scale agriculture. Certified organisations are encouraged to make their GHG information publicly available on a voluntary basis.