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| **Limited Review of the Fairtrade Standard for Coffee** |
| Consultation Period | *23 of August to 23 of September* |
| Project Manager | Ernesto González |

**PART 1 Introduction**

**1.1 General Introduction**

Fairtrade Standards support the sustainable development of small-scale producers and workers in the Global South. Producers and traders must meet the relevant Fairtrade Standards for their products to be certified as Fairtrade. Fairtrade International’s Standards and Pricing Unit (S&P) is responsible for developing Fairtrade Standards in line with the [Standard Operating Procedure for the Development of Fairtrade Standards](https://files.fairtrade.net/SOP_Development_Fairtrade_Standards.pdf) and in compliance with all requirements of the [ISEAL Code of Good Practice for Setting Social and Environmental Standards](https://www.isealalliance.org/our-work/defining-credibility/codes-of-good-practice/standard-setting-code). A fundamental principle is wide consultation with stakeholders to ensure that new and revised Standards reflect Fairtrade International’s strategic objectives, are based on producers’ and traders’ realities and meet consumers’ expectations.

This consultation document is part of a limited review of the [Fairtrade Standard for Coffee](https://files.fairtrade.net/standards/Coffee_SPO_EN.pdf). In this document, we concentrate on addressing deforestation risk, with a global scope.

We kindly ask you to provide your input on these topics and encourage you to give explanations, analysis, and examples underlying your statements.

**The deadline for completing the survey is 23 September 2023**. If you have any further comments, please send them to Ernesto González, e.gonzalez@fairtrade.net

**1.2 Background**

In recent years, the coffee sector has seen many changes in its regulatory landscape including:

* new and/or upcoming deforestation free commodities regulations in the European Union as well as in individual consumer markets such as France, Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, the UK and the US;

Given these developments, a limited review of the Fairtrade Standard for Coffee is needed.

The goal of this review is to support Fairtrade certified SPOs to meet the market demands associated with the new/upcoming deforestation free commodities regulations. Responding to the assurance needs of the consuming markets will be essential for further Fairtrade coffee market and growth.

**1.3 Objectives of the review – relevant for this consultation paper:**

* Explore mechanisms to identify and further address deforestation risk and how these could be included in the standard;
* Enable coffee SPOs to respond to the assurance needs in different consumer markets (e.g. EU) with regards to deforestation-free supply chains
* Develop final proposals for approval by the Standards Committee (SC).

**1.4 Project and Process Information**

The complete [project assignment](https://www.fairtrade.net/standard/cocoa-standard-review-2020-) is available on the Fairtrade International website. The current Fairtrade [Standard for Coffee](https://www.fairtrade.net/standard/spo-coffee) is also available on the Fairtrade International website.

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| **Activity** | **Timeline** |
| Public Consultation | * August - September 2023
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| Drafting final proposals | * October 2023
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| SC decisions | * November 2023
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| Publication | * January 2024
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The progress to date and next steps are described below:

**1.5 Confidentiality**

All information we receive from respondents will be treated with care and kept confidential. Results of this consultation will only be communicated in aggregated form. All feedback will be analyzed and used to draw up the final proposal. However, when analyzing the data, we need to know which responses are from producers, traders, licensees, etc., so we kindly ask you to provide us with information about your organization.

**1.6 Acronyms**

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| FIFMP | Fairtrade InternationalFairtrade Minimum Price |
| GAGPM | General AssemblyGlobal Product Manager |
| HRDDHREDD | Human Rights Due DiligenceHuman Rights and Environmental Due Diligence |
| ILO | International Labour Organization |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| NFO | National Fairtrade Organization |
| PNPO | Producer NetworkProducer Organization |
| SPO | Small Producer Organization |

**1.7 Target groups and consultation structure**

The target groups of this consultation are:

* Coffee producers already certified under the Fairtrade Standard for Small Producer Organizations and the Fairtrade Standard for Coffee.
* Licensees and retailers as well as traders certified under the Fairtrade Standard for Traders and the Fairtrade Standard for Coffee.
* Producer Networks, National Fairtrade Organizations, Fairtrade International, FLOCERT, governmental bodies, industry bodies, NGOs, researchers and subject matter experts etc.

# PART 2 Standard Consultation

This consultation is divided into the following sections:

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**Structure of the questionnaire:**

For each topic a description is presented followed by the aim of the proposal. The proposed changes are presented with reference to the relevant requirements in the standard. For each proposed change, the rationale and the implications are outlined. Stakeholders are invited to provide their views on the different proposals as well as to provide additional input. In addition, some topics include proposals for reporting indicators as SPOs and traders may be asked to report to Fairtrade International in the future.

If you are an SPO, we encourage you to involve your members to provide input to this consultation. Over the period of the consultation, the producer networks (PNs) may be carrying out workshops to have collective discussions on the topics of this questionnaire.

Your input is very important; therefore, please take your time. The online version saves itself automatically, so you do not need to answer all in one go and can return to the questionnaire at a later point.

In Annex 1 you find an overview of the deforestation regulations.

Please take as much space as you need to respond to the questions.

## Information about you and your organization

Please complete the information below:

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| * 1. **Please provide us with information about you and your organization so that we can analyse the data precisely and contact you for clarifications if needed.**

The results of the survey will only be presented in an aggregated form and all respondents’ information will be kept confidential.Name of your organization      Your name      Your email      Country      FLO ID      * 1. **Are your responses based on your own personal opinion or is it a collective opinion representing your organization?**

[ ] Individual opinion[ ] Collective opinion representing my organization/company* 1. **What is your main responsibility in the supply chain?**

[ ] Producer[ ] Exporter[ ] Importer[ ] Processor[ ] Distributor[ ] Retailer[ ] Licensee[ ] Other (e.g. PN, NFO, FLOCERT, FI, NGO, Researcher, Government agency, etc)      * 1. **Is coffee your main product? Please select one product.**

**If you produce/trade multiple products,** please select the last option and provide more information in the comment box.[ ] Yes[ ] No[ ] Other or multiple products (please specify below)      |

## Addressing Deforestation Risk

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| Fairtrade defines protection of the environment as one of its main strategic objectives, together with social and economic sustainability. In light of the climate crises, the maintenance of forest areas is a key topic globally, which is also reflected in the increasing number of legislations, such as the new European regulations on deforestation. Potential new laws are also under discussion in the United Kingdom and United States.As 3 out of 5 of the main markets for Fairtrade coffee are in the European Union, these laws are very relevant to Fairtrade’s coffee producers and traders to keep their market access to the European Union.Fairtrade is fully aware of the environmental regulation buyers must comply with in their regions and that they are looking to producers and certification to support them in fulfilling their obligations. Therefore, this consultation puts forward proposals for standard requirements in coffee to respond to the needs emerging from the new EU regulation of which the coffee sector is a key focus. These proposals have been developed in such a way to encourage closer collaboration between producer organizations and supply chain operators on the topic of Deforestation. A key objective of the Coffee Standard Review is to strengthen the position of Fairtrade certified SPOs with regards to these regulations and to explore where the responsibility of the SPO ends and where traders are expected to support.In November 2021 the European Commission unveiled its new proposal for an EU regulation that aims to prevent the entering of select commodities and derived products, including coffee, if they are associated with deforestation or forest degradation. On the 28th June 2022, the European Council adopted the requirements, among other specifications, on:* Geolocation of all plots where the relevant commodities were produced
* Date or time range of production

For plots of land of more than 4 hectares, the geographical location shall be provided using sufficient latitude and longitude points to describe the perimeter of the plot of land. So polygons will be required. The European Parliament Environment Committee has also adopted amendments to the proposed regulation that would oblige importers to undertake reasonable and documented efforts to support the compliance of smallholders, meaningful engagement with stakeholders including smallholders, and take necessary measures to ensure that vulnerable groups receive adequate assistance and fair remuneration. This would also mean that their commodities and products can comply with the new EU rules, especially to the new geolocation requirement. The report of the European Parliament Environment Committee also foresees that the costs resulting from the implementation of this Regulation should be shared fairly among the different actors of the supply chain. The Committee furthermore suggests a new reference to capacity-building and financial investments for smallholders as part of the mitigation measures that importers may undertake in the context of their due diligence process. The coffee standard, at the moment helps to identify environmental risk, the development of climate adaption plans and the adoption of sustainable practices. This three requirements support the efforts to reduce deforestation on the farm. To guarantee market access for farmers to Europe, Fairtrade aims to strengthen further the coffee standard to reduce the risk of deforestation and vegetation degradation. The proposals aim to:* Make geolocation data available for 100% of farms, and gradually introduce farm polygons.
* Introduce reporting indicators which are to be shared with Fairtrade International annually, to enable aggregated and anonymized reporting to the public.

To ensure deforestation prevention is addressed, 2 options are presented below: The first option (**Option 1**) proposes to include a cut-off date of 1st January 2014, which seeks to ensure that Fairtrade will meet the equivalency mechanism developed by Global Coffee Platform (GCP) which is an important factor for traders when deciding on their sourcing. The proposed cut-off date would ensure access to international markets. Nevertheless it comes with some difficulties when it comes to evaluating the deforestation events starting from 2014, as there is no data available between 2014 to 2016.The second option (**Option 2**) proposes to include a cut-off date of 31st December 2018 in line with commitments made in both the Fairtrade SPO and Cocoa Standards. This cut-off date assures producers are not excluded from Fairtrade certification if deforestation occurred before the requirement was introduced to the SPO standard. This date also enables more accurate monitoring of deforestation based on good quality data that is available from 2016 onwards. Using good quality data reduces the amount of false alerts of deforestation identified. By providing the most reliable monitoring, Fairtrade retains its credibility and relevance when reporting on deforestation to its stakeholders and the public.3.1.1 NEW 2025 Protection of forest and ecosystems**Option 1.**

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| **Applies to:** Fairtrade producer organizations |
| Core | Since the 1st January 2014, your members did not cause deforestation or degradation in primary or secondary forests, protected areas and areas of High Conservation Value or Carbon Storage ecosystems to convert land into agricultural production area.Production does not occur in areas officially designated as buffer zones, except where it complies with applicable national law. |
| Year 0 |
| **Guidance:** Deforestation is the conversion of forest to other land use or the permanent reduction of the tree canopy cover below the minimum 10 percent threshold (The Global Forest Resources Assessment, FAO, 2015).The following activities are not considered ‘deforestation':* When a tree crop is replaced by another (for example cocoa, coffee or fruit tree);
* Tree management on agro-forestry or home-garden production systems.

Your members may identify protected areas with the help of local, regional or national authorities. Please note that this requirement complements SPO Standard requirement 3.2.31 “Protection of forests and vegetation”. |

**Implications:** SPOs will have to develop a members list of farmers that have been part of the organization since 2014. The SPOs will need to keep track of the deforestation happened since 2014. The farmers will not be allowed to increase their production area through deforestation of the land. The proposed requirement allows for the implementation of agroforestry practices and the change of crops.**Option 2.**

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| **Applies to:** Fairtrade producer organizations |
| Core | Since the 31st December 2018, your member did not cause deforestation or degradation in primary or secondary forests, protected areas and areas of High Conservation Value or Carbon Storage ecosystems to convert land into agricultural product in area.Production does not occur in areas officially designated as buffer zones, except where it complies with applicable national law. |
| Year 0 |
| **Guidance:** Deforestation is the conversion of forest to other land use or the permanent reduction of the tree canopy cover below the minimum 10 percent threshold (The Global Forest Resources Assessment, FAO, 2015).The following activities are not considered ‘deforestation':When a tree crop is replaced by another (for example cocoa, coffee or fruit tree);Tree management on agro-forestry or home-garden production systems.Your members may identify protected areas with the help of local, regional or national authorities.Please note that this requirement complements SPO Standard requirement 3.2.31 “Protection of forests and vegetation”. |

**Implications:** SPOs will have to develop a members list of farmers that have been part of the organization since 2018. The SPOs will need to keep track of the deforestation happened since 2018. The farmers will not be allowed to increase their production area through deforestation of the land. The proposed requirement allows for the implementation of agroforestry practices and the change of crops.**Q 1.1 Which option do you prefer?**[ ]  **Option 1** [ ]  **Option 2****Q 1.2 Do you agree with the proposed wording in option 1?****!** *tick* ***one*** *box only* **[ ]  Agree** **[ ]  Disagree****[ ]  Undecided** **Please explain your rationale here:**      **Q 1.3 Do you agree with the proposed wording in option 2?****!** *tick* ***one*** *box only* **[ ]  Agree** **[ ]  Disagree****[ ]  Undecided** **Please explain your rationale here:**      3.1.2 NEW 2025 Assessing and Monitoring deforestation risk

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| **Applies to:** Fairtrade producer organizations |
| Core | You assess and monitor the risk of deforestation, and degradation in primary or secondary forests, protected areas and areas of High Conservation Value or High Carbon Storage (at risk areas), when conducting your human rights and environmental risk assessment. |
| Year 1 |
| **Guidance:** Fairtrade’s Risk Assessment Tool guides you through a basic risk assessment process and offers you relevant data and research findings. For further guidance, please see Fairtrade’s “Implementing Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence, Guide for Smallholder Farmer Organizations” and Fairtrade’s Risk Maps.Your risk management procedures may include:* Mapping of relevant areas in the region and cross-checking this information with member farm locations to identify areas at risk.
* Geo location data and polygon maps (including boundaries of the farms) are used as tools to map risk areas accurately.
* Deforestation monitoring data is used to assess risk in relation to your members’ farms.
* Identifying if and how your member’s activities cause negative impacts on at-risk areas.
* Monitoring members’ production practices and other activities in at-risk areas.

Regularity of assessment and monitoring should be based on risk. For example, if your members have risk of deforestation on their farms or within 200m of their boundaries or are in close proximity to a protected area, this is considered high risk and assessment and monitoring should be annual. If your members are in areas where there is no deforestation risk, as there is no forest, then assessment and monitoring can be conducted every three years.In a year when you admit new members to your organisation they are added to your assessment. You asses the risk of deforestation which could arise due to new members joining your organisation, and you need to define the risk level. |

**Rationale:** The requirement seeks to strengthen procedures to prevent deforestation, making preventative measures mandatory for risk assessment and management such as the use of geolocation data and deforestation monitoring data.**Implications:** This requirement creates additional work for members and SPOs, potentially also additional costs. This will allow to consistently monitor and reduce the deforestation impact on the farms, improving the overall environment of the farm becoming a more responsible sourcing partner.* 1. **Do you agree with this requirement?**

**[ ] Agree****[ ] Disagree****[ ] Undecided****[ ] Not relevant to me / I don’t know****Please explain your rationale here:**     3.1.3 NEW 2025 Deforestation Prevention and Mitigation Plan

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| Applies to: Fairtrade producer organizations |
| Core | You use the results of your human rights/environmental risk assessment and your risk monitoring of deforestation, to create a plan to prevent and mitigate any deforestation and degradation of forest, in order to conserve and restore forest and vegetation. The plan entails: * Raising awareness amongst members on identified risk areas and activities or production practices that have negative impacts.
* Promoting the implementation of production practices that have a positiveimpact.
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| Year 1 |
| **Guidance:** Example of implementation practises that have a positive impact include agro-ecological practices, exchange of good practices, demonstration plots, trainings. |

**Rationale:** With the sequence of these new requirements, Fairtrade seeks to link the requirements focused on deforestation and degradation into the overall/global HREDD approach. With this specific requirement, SPOs are asked to create a plan which will enable them to use the results of their risk assessment and monitoring, to develop prevention and mitigation activities.**Implications:** This new requirement creates additional work for members and SPOs, potentially also additional costs. It allows for a systemic follow up into the actions developed to reduce, mitigate and protect the forest. This requirement complements with the requirement 3.1.3 in the Coffee Standard and 3.2.32 in the SPO Standard. The Fairtrade producer organizations become a responsible commercial partner for their buyer as they will have the information needed for commercial due diligence at hand.* 1. **Do you agree with this requirement?**

**[ ] Agree****[ ] Disagree****[ ] Undecided****[ ] Not relevant to me / I don’t know****Please explain your rationale here:**      3.1.4 NEW 2025 Supporting producers to prevent and mitigate deforestation

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| **Applies to:** Traders |
| **Core** | You support the SPOs you are sourcing from, with their deforestation and forest degradation risk assessment and mitigation plan, to conserve and restore forest and vegetation. |
| **Guidance:** Your support is either direct or through a partnership. It is in the form of funding, data sharing, training, facilitation of partnerships and/or advocacy.You may share any relevant data including deforestation monitoring data you have on the SPO membership or surrounding area to inform and support the SPO’s mitigation activities. |

**Rationale:** In order to support the SPO’s plan and the related necessary investments, traders should partner with SPOs for these activities.**Implications:** This requires additional investment by the traders. This will support the due diligence that the SPO and the trader need to carry out in order to gain access to different markets.* 1. **Do you agree with this requirement?**

**[ ] Agree****[ ] Disagree****[ ] Undecided****[ ] Not relevant to me / I don’t know****Please explain your rationale here:**     3.1.5 NEW Geolocation data

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| **Applies to:** Fairtrade producer organizations |
| **Core** | Geolocation data is available for 100% of your members cultivating coffee as GPS location points or GPS polygons.As a minimum you have GPS polygons for farms over 4 hectares. You identify and prioritize which other farm units should be polygon mapped, based upon area risk of deforestation and adopt a phased approach.You use the data to further inform your procedures to prevent deforestation. |
| Year 0 |

**Rationale:** Geolocation data has to be provided for all farm units, so that forest cover loss monitoring can be carried out, and also to enable traceability. Overall this will mean better deforestation risk management.**Implications:** If SPOs do not already have this data it will need to be collected. However, many trading partners already possess this data about SPO members which should be shared with partner SPOs (see proposal 3.1.6 below). Having and analysing this data provides SPOs with demonstrable proof of who their members are and where they are in relation to protected areas (through digitalised membership lists and linked mapping of farms).* 1. **Do you agree with this requirement?**

**[ ] Agree****[ ] Disagree****[ ] Undecided****[ ] Not relevant to me / I don’t know****Please explain your rationale here:**     3.1.6 NEW Sharing geolocation data

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| **Applies to:** Payers and conveyors |
| Core | Geolocation data is available for 100% of the coffee farms you are sourcing coffee from as GPS location points or GPS polygons. As a minimum you have GPS polygons for coffee farms over 4 hectares.You share this data with SPOs so that they can use it to inform their procedures to further prevent deforestation. |

**Rationale:** With this requirement, Fairtrade seeks to ensure that traders share the data which they have available, to support SPOs.**Implications:** This reduces duplication of effort and resources.* 1. **Do you agree with this requirement?**

**[ ] Agree****[ ] Disagree****[ ] Undecided****[ ] Not relevant to me / I don’t know****Please explain your rationale here:**     3.1.7 NEW SPO reporting

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| **Applies to:** Fairtrade producer organizations |
| Core | You report data to Fairtrade International every year. You present the data in the templates and formats provided. |
| Year 1 |

**Reporting indicators:**

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| **A. Geolocation and Forest Cover Loss Monitoring Data** | - available geolocation data of member coffee farms. |
| **B. Deforestation Prevention and Mitigation Support** | - type of support received during the past year, including its estimated monetary value, to prevent and mitigate any deforestation and degradation of forest |

**Rationale:** The reporting indicators are planned to be shared with Fairtrade International annually, in order to inform Fairtrade interventions and enable aggregated and anonymized reporting to the public or to stakeholders upon request. This will help to fulfil regulatory demands as well as demands by customers; this will also help to show the impact of the requirement at farmer level.**Implications:** Implementing reporting indicators will require SPOs to collect and analyse the data and to utilize the analysis to improve their activities. SPOs will need to communicate their results to Fairtrade International and may choose to also share this information with members, buyers and other relevant stakeholders. Introducing and communicating reporting indicators will support producer organizations in improving their deforestation risk management, while also demonstrating to stakeholders that their organization works hard to address deforestation and needs support from business partners and governments. * 1. **Do you agree with this requirement?**

**[ ] Agree****[ ] Disagree****[ ] Undecided****[ ] Not relevant to me / I don’t know****Please explain your rationale here:**     3.1.8 NEW Trader reporting

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| **Applies to:** Traders |
| Core | You report data to Fairtrade International every year. You present the data in the templates and formats provided. |

**Reporting indicators:**

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| **A. Geolocation and Forest Cover Loss Monitoring Data (applies to payers and conveyors only)** | - available geolocation data of the farm units you are sourcing from (with the appropriate approval from SPOs) |
| **B. Deforestation Prevention and Mitigation Support (applies to all traders)** | - type of support provided to SPOs during the past year, including its estimated monetary value, to prevent and mitigate any deforestation and degradation of forest |

**Rationale:** The reporting indicators will be shared with Fairtrade International annually, in order to track Fairtrade’s objective of promoting cost sharing of deforestation prevention interventions across the supply chain. **Implications:** This presents minimal administrative burden for traders and allows them to evaluate the level of support they are providing SPOs with deforestation prevention. * 1. **Do you agree with this requirement?**

**[ ] Agree****[ ] Disagree****[ ] Undecided****[ ] Not relevant to me / I don’t know****Please explain your rationale here:**     3.1.9 NEW Biodiversity Management

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| **Applies to:** Fairtrade producer organizations |
| Dev | You developed and implement biodiversity monitoring and management plans in your production units. This plan should help implement measures to protect and improve the biodiversity in your farm. |
| Year 3 |
| **Guidance:** The following tools can be used.* [Biodiversity Performance Tool (biodiversity-performance.eu)](https://bpt.biodiversity-performance.eu/)
* [WP21038.pdf (worldagroforestry.org)](https://apps.worldagroforestry.org/downloads/Publications/PDFS/WP21038.pdf)
* [The Tool – Cool Farm Tool | An online greenhouse gas, water, and biodiversity calculator](https://coolfarm.org/the-tool/)

This requirement complement the requirement 3.2.33 from the SPO standard. |

**Rationale:** This requirement complements the alignment with the European Union Deforestation Free Commodities regulation, and allows to track impact of the environmental plans in the SPOs. As many of the due diligence regulations on environmental management now have a strong biodiversity component, it is important for producer organizations to be aware of them and be as responsible as possible.**Implications:** This imply the development of two new plans. It could represent new expenses to hire an expert to implement the biodiversity monitoring. At the same time, it will allow to present the impacts that the SPO have in the biodiversity of their production units.**Q.1.11. Do you agree with this requirement?****[ ] Agree****[ ] Disagree****[ ] Undecided****[ ] Not relevant to me / I don’t know****Please explain your rationale here:**     **Q.1.12.Do you have other general feedback on deforestation risk that you would like to share?**      |

## Topic 2. General comments/ feedback

In this section you are invited to provide additional feedback on any of the requirements in the [Fairtrade Standard for Coffee](https://files.fairtrade.net/Coffee_SPO_EN.pdf) or provide general comments. If you are referring to a particular requirement, please include the requirement number where possible and your comments.

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| Topic/ requirement number | Comments/ feedback |
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If you need some more information before commenting on this document do not hesitate to contact Ernesto Gonzalez at e.gonzalez@fairtrade.net

1. : Overview of deforestation free commodities legislation August 2023

[Regulation on Deforestation Free Commodities](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R1115&qid=1687867231461) in the European Union

[FOREST Act](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2950/text) in the US

[Environmental Act](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents/enacted) in the UK