

Impacts Research Design Phase 1

Final Report

prepared for

IFFO RS

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Disclaimer

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Executive Summary

Methodology design

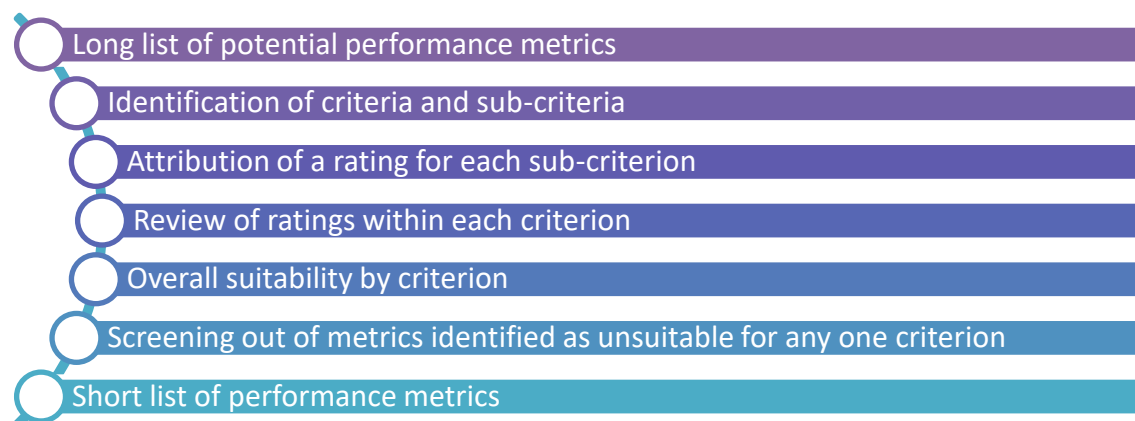
Engagement

A small number of key stakeholders were selected for interview to discuss in detail their views on additional social and environmental performance metrics and the implications this would have. An engagement plan was developed around different groups of stakeholders who might be suitable for selection for interview; the selection aimed to take into account geographical representation, as well as additional criteria such as level of perspective (i.e. local or national) and position on the Standard (certified, improver etc.). Potential interviewees were identified by IFFO RS to meet the above criteria and ensure stakeholders of different types were involved. Performance-based questions were developed to determine the types of information already being collected at certified sites. The information from the interviews was used to help develop the long list of performance metrics. It was also utilised in the appraisal and the identification of the preferred set of metrics.

Review of existing metrics

Several existing standards developed by ISEAL members and other non-member organisations were reviewed in detail to identify what type of performance metrics are being considered, and what type of information they require to be collected. A review was also undertaken of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and selected social and environmental SDG objectives were used to provide a framework for the development of a long list of potential social and environmental performance metrics. Existing metrics extracted from the review of standards were listed alongside the relevant SDG goals. They were then developed further (taking account of information from engagement and wider internet research) to identify potential social and environmental performance metrics that could potentially be used by IFFO RS. This long list of metrics was taken forwards for appraisal.

Approach to appraisal



The potential social and environmental performance metrics were assessed against five criteria (efficiency, effectiveness, coherence, relevance and added value). Each of the five criteria were divided into sub-criteria, which combined typical evaluation criteria with the ISEAL credibility principles. For each sub-criterion a rating score ranging from “very poor” to “very good” was assigned according to a set of definitions. Information from interviews, review of data and information on IFFO RS, and analysis of issues with metrics from the review of other schemes and standards were all used to help identify the most appropriate rating. The ratings were then combined at the criteria level to

determine the overall suitability of each metric for each criterion e.g. “suitable” was used where all sub-criteria were rated as good or very good. Any metrics that received a rating of unsuitable (triggered by any sub-criteria being rated as “very poor” or more than half of the sub-criteria being rated as “poor”) were screened out. The remaining metrics then formed the short list.

The extent to which the short-listed metrics meet the aims of the study was then assessed through matching the study questions to the criteria and identifying the implications under each criterion. Finally, consideration was given to the potential timing for the trial and introduction of the metrics.

Overview of metrics

The study identified a range of environmental and social performance metrics designed to enable the efficient, affordable and practical gathering of data and ultimately to progress towards the assessment of IFFO RS’s environmental and social impacts. The short list of social and environmental performance metrics listed below has been developed from metrics implemented by other organisations as well as information from engagement and wider internet research.

List of social and environmental performance metrics	
Social	Ratio of entry level wage to minimum wage
	Ratio of entry level wage to living wage benchmark
	Work-life balance (survey to employees)
	Health status (% of days lost)
	Level of education and skills (% of employees with secondary education)
	Social connections (survey – teamwork and friend at work)
	Opportunities for recognition and fulfilment (number of awards recognising good governance and sustainability, also narrative on type of award and who is the awarding body (internal, external, national, international, etc.))
Environmental	Consumption of non-renewable resource (materials) (ratio of consumption to output)
	Consumption of non-renewable resource (energy) (ratio of consumption to output)
	Amount of waste generated (ratio of waste generated to output)
	Record of trend over time of working towards complying with and then exceeding national regulation requirements for water quality and quantity (with record of what national regulation requires)
	Net water consumed per unit mass of product
	Total annual figure for all water consumed
	Total annual figure for all energies and fuels consumed, broken down by renewable and non-renewable sources
	Ratio of land for expansion that is high biodiversity land or high carbon stock
	Record of trend over time of working towards complying with and then exceeding national regulation requirements on noise (with record of what national regulation requires)
	Record of trend over time of working towards complying with and then exceeding national regulation requirements on odours (with record of what national regulation requires)
	Percentage of categories of non-production waste that are recycled

For the next step, it is recommended that these metrics are trialled with a range of organisations including both certified sites and those on the improver programme in different geographical locations. This will help identify those metrics that can be implemented straight away versus those that may need a phased approach to enable sites to obtain the necessary monitoring equipment or knowledge to collect data to record against the metric and monitor trends over time.