



Nature Positive Farming – package to support smallholder producers achieve Deforestation and Conversion Free sourcing requirements.

Companies across the supply chain in the agricultural and forest sectors are setting and implementing commitments to eliminate deforestation and ecosystem conversion, and support biodiversity conservation. This contributes to meeting international targets and agreements for nature and climate and is included in emerging frameworks such as science - based targets for nature.

Implementation involves a mix of certification, supplier engagement and landscape or jurisdictional approaches.

Smallholders play a critical role as producers of agricultural and forestry commodities. However, for many, certification requires an investment of time and resources that is not feasible in the short to medium term. There is no incentive for smallholder producers to go beyond legal requirements. As a result, conversion of forests and other natural ecosystems continues for new cultivation, and the supply of smallholder produce that is **Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF)** remains limited.

To meet DCF commitments, companies must rapidly scale up **engagement with smallholder producers** in their supply chain and priority sourcing areas. This involves supporting smallholder transition to adopting practices in line with DCF sourcing.

Nature Positive Farming (NPF), developed by the HCV Network, provides a unique stepwise approach to build smallholder capacity and ownership to move towards DCF production. This is coupled with a package of self-reporting and remote verification tools to provide transparency and assurance to companies.

Key points

1) Engagement with smallholders.

Engagement with smallholder producers in high-risk sourcing landscapes is part of meeting Deforestation and Conversion Free (DCF) commitments.

2) Stepwise Approach to Build Capacity

Nature Positive Farming developed by the HCV Network provides a unique stepwise approach to build smallholder capacity and ownership to move towards DCF production.

3) Milestones The Nature Positive Farming milestones allow companies to monitor and report on progress.

What Nature Positive Farming delivers



1) Farmers protect nature and can access responsible supply chains.

2) Companies across the supply chain implement their DCF sourcing and smallholder inclusion commitments to deliver on Nature, People and Climate targets.

Nature Positive Farming is built around facilitated, structured dialogue with smallholder farming communities to access benefits and support when adopting NPF practices (see graphic) relevant to their context.

NPF practices adopted by producers and could include maintaining and restoring natural forests and other natural ecosystems, protecting species of conservation importance, and securing local ecosystems services such as water needs and availability of non-timber forest products.



Natural forests and other natural ecosystems



Conservation Species



Local Ecosystem Services

Who can implement Nature Positive Farming?

It is implemented by local stakeholders; by companies (e.g., mill, processor or first aggregator) sourcing from smallholder producers, and/or local partners or technical organizations, and with engagement with relevant local

authorities. It can be used both 'beyond' supply chains within the context of landscape or jurisdictional initiatives, but also 'within' supply chains.

Beyond supply chains

Where there is limited traceability, dynamic supply chains or where companies within a landscape are buying from smallholders through intermediaries, Nature Positive Farming can form part of collaborative actions to support sustainable management practices, rather than exclude smallholder producers from supply chains.

Within supply chains

Where sourcing companies can trace supply to aggregator, village or cooperatives, Nature Positive Farming can be used by working with suppliers to help farmers meet DCF requirements, to reach prospective new suppliers, and to manage and restore High Conservation Values. Especially useful in complex supply chains (e.g. sourcing from smallholders via intermediaries)

Downstream companies can collaborate by supporting mills or first-aggregator suppliers in high-risk sourcing regions to use NPF.

Where is Nature Positive Farming implemented and how?

To prevent the ongoing loss of forests and other natural ecosystems, companies use NPF with smallholder producers in landscapes where there is a high-risk of ongoing land use change for production. NPF can be adapted and applied to any commodity in any region, so it is applicable globally.

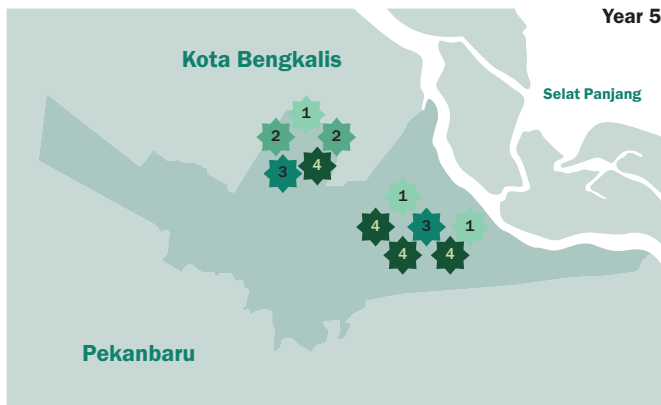
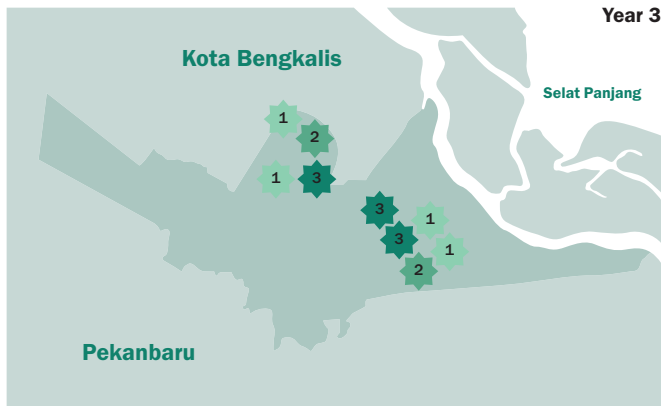
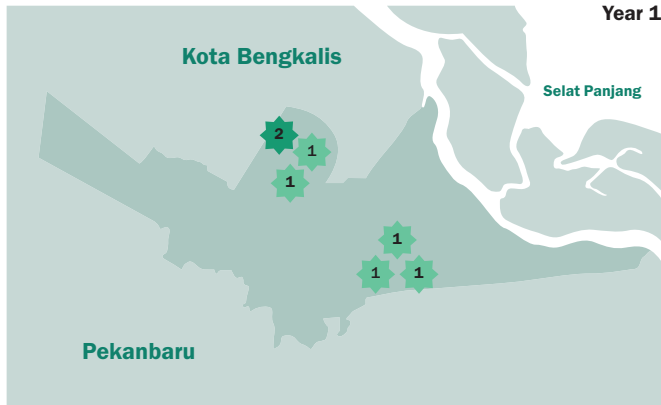
How does Nature Positive Farming work?

The NPF package follows four milestones of engagement with Producer Groups or Villages, each with a set of tools, activities, and outputs. These four milestones are similar to the progress categories of the NDPE Implementation Reporting Framework. <https://www.ndpe-irf.net/>

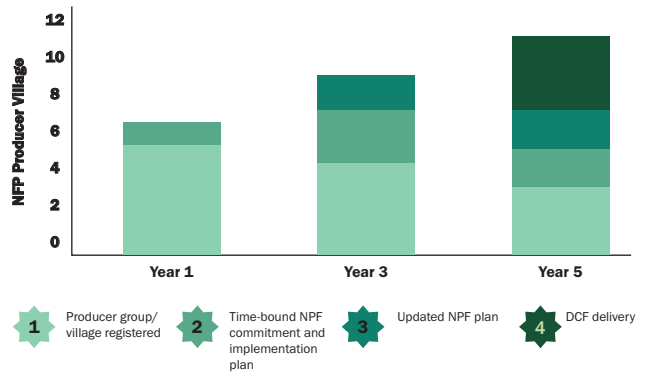
	Activities	Outputs and approximate timelines
<p>1. Prioritisation</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>The company define their scope, specific objectives, and local stakeholders to engage with on delivering NPF. This will be followed by preparation to implement Nature Positive Farming; first through scoping consultations with potential farmer groups/villages to seek interest to participate, and if consent is granted, the Nature Positive Farming package is adapted to the local context, with local facilitators trained on the NPF tools to be used with the producer groups/villages.</p> <p>Facilitators then conduct further outreach with the village on the NPF program, and landscape HCV priority maps are combined with completing the NPF questionnaire with producers to assess the specific risks and group/village baseline.</p>	<p>Producer group/village registered on NPF with accompanying baseline. Approximate timescales to achieve milestone with group/village from project initiation: 3-6 months.</p>
<p>2. Participatory Commitment & Planning</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>Through dialogue, the producer group/village define their representatives, decision-making, and consultation process, and their NPF actions, targets and support needs. The company determines the level of support or investment needed. This is formalized in the NPF commitment and implementation plan agreed and approved by the producer group/village. Training is provided to villages on how to implement agreed NPF practices and on approaches to participatory monitoring.</p> <p>The producer group/village can make their plan publicly available.</p>	<p>Time-bound NPF commitment and implementation plan. Timescales from project initiation: by end of year 2 or 3.</p>
<p>3. Implementation</p> <p>↓</p>	<p>The NPF Facilitators or local stakeholders support the producers or village representatives to evaluate implementation of the plan e.g., are agreed NPF practices being implemented, (is participatory monitoring being completed?), and identify additional needs. This will determine if the NPF plan is on-track, inform updates to the plan, and informs the company whether additional support or resources are necessary.</p> <p>As with Milestone 2 the producer group/village can make the updated plan publicly accessible.</p>	<p>Updated NPF plan. Timescales from project initiation: by end of year 2 or 3.</p>
<p>4. Report Progress</p>	<p>Evaluation of the participatory community-based monitoring is carried out with the producer group/village to determine if the plan has been successful and achieved the village targets and program's improvement targets, e.g., # hectares avoided deforestation, # conservation species protected, # hectares of forests restored.</p> <p>If a company is seeking to make impact claims, simplified independent third-party verification will be required using remote verification - and less frequently ground verification - of achieving the performance indicators.</p>	<p>Performance targets achieved and verified. Producers enter DCF supply chains. Timescales from project initiation: by end of year 4 or 5.</p>

How Nature Positive Farming is used to report on progress

In deploying NPF, a company can report on progress, both as a producer group advances/village advance through the NPF milestones, and as more villages are engaged in the program. Progress reporting can be visualized like this, with 3rd party verification at Milestone 4 to report on impact targets.



NPF Producer Village Progress Milestones



Where NPF has been piloted

The first NPF pilot was conducted with an oil palm smallholder producer village within the **Siak Pelalawan Landscape Programme**. Through outreach and capacity building with local stakeholders and smallholder producers, several practices to safeguard remaining forests and HCVs were identified, without the need for detailed and expert-led HCV assessments. This pilot has been extended to include natural rubber production by the smallholder producer communities in the same landscape.

How we can help

The HCV Network (HCVN) has been developing the NPF package in collaboration with Proforest. We collaborate with organizations to pilot the NPF tools in smallholder engagement programs and are looking to partner with more companies and other stakeholders to pilot implementation of NPF across a range of contexts and geographies. HCVN is exploring how it could support NPF roll-out via a capacity building program or support-hotline for implementers, as well as to develop simplified verification processes.

Contact us

To learn more and to get involved in supporting its further development and field pilots contact olivia@hcvnetwork.org

<https://www.hcvnetwork.org/>

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