



LIFE STANDARD BUSINESS & BIODIVERSITY

LIFE-BB-IN-CS-4.0-R3-EN

Version: 4.0-R3

Language: English

Applicability: International

Title: LIFE Standard Business & Biodiversity

Code: LIFE-BB-IN-CS-4.0-R3-EN

Applicability: International

Type: Standard (CS)

Version: 4.0-R3

Status: Final

Language: English

Approval: LIFE Institute Board of Directors

Date: 09/17/2024

In case of doubt and/or inconsistency between versions, the original document must be consulted (Portuguese version).

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OBJECTIVE

Based on the LIFE Premises, it defines the Principles, criteria and indicators that aim to incorporate the biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services and natural capital in good business practices in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.

APPLICATION

This document applies to organizations in the process of implementation, preparation for LIFE certification and formal audit processes, as well as other interested parties in the implementation of LIFE Methodology for Business and Biodiversity.

For organizations certified with LIFE previous versions, this document becomes effective after the end of the certification cycle, that is, at recertification. For other organizations/producers this document applies automatically from the date of publication.

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1. INTRODUCTION

LIFE Methodology for Business and Biodiversity emerged from the need to emphasize the close relationship between the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services with the maintenance of the quality of life, human well-being, and the sustainability of any organization.

Conservation practices for biodiversity and ecosystem services are actions that contribute to the maintenance of natural capital and the composition, structure, and function of ecosystems, and that must be carried out by organizations in a manner consistent with the pressure that their business exert on natural resources.

Any organization is dependent on biodiversity resources, regardless of its sector or the size of the activity. These characteristics, however, size and sector, influence the quantity and severity of negative impacts on biodiversity, which must be compensated in this proportion.

Thus, LIFE Methodology for Business and Biodiversity uses a mixed approach to assess organizations, consisting of a qualitative and a quantitative stage.

The **qualitative approach (Management Indicators)** is based on the **LIFE Standard for Business and Biodiversity**, its principles and criteria and indicators presented in this document and refers to the requirements of organizational management related to biodiversity.

The **quantitative approach (Biodiversity Pressure and Biodiversity Performance)** is applied in parallel with the assessment of this Standard and determines the pressure exerted by the business on biodiversity, the minimum performance to be achieved in conservation actions and the requirements for the organization to analyze its biodiversity positive performance. Its application is detailed in LIFE Documents Technical Guide 01 and Technical Guide 02.

The complete application of the LIFE Methodology for Business and Biodiversity, including management indicators, determination of pressure on biodiversity and biodiversity performance, can be carried out using the **LIFE Key software**, developed by LIFE Institute. For more information about the tool, the organization should contact the LIFE Institute website.

All normative documents related to the LIFE Methodology for Business and Biodiversity and

mentioned in this Standard are freely available on the LIFE Institute website.

2. INTERPRETATION AND USE OF THE DOCUMENT

This document presents management Principles, Criteria and indicators for business and biodiversity, as follows:

- **Principle:** a question that underlies the concept of the LIFE Methodology for Business and Biodiversity based on its Premises;
- **Criterion:** description of a procedure to comply with a Principle;
- **Indicator:** information related to the compliance of a Criterion.

The numbering in this document represents the following hierarchy: Principles, Criterion and indicators, in the following format: Pn.Cn.in, where “n” refers to the sequential number (P1.C1.i1: Principle 1, Criterion 1, indicator 1).

All indicators highlighted in boxes are classified as **ESSENTIAL** and their compliance is mandatory, when applicable. The other indicators are considered as **GENERAL**.

Information indicated as “NOTES” serves as a guide to understanding or clarifying the associated indicators.

Even if the term “biodiversity” appears by itself, in documents related to the LIFE Methodology for Business and Biodiversity, it should always be interpreted as “biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital”. This is because the ecosystem services depend on the maintenance of the ecosystem functions, part of LIFE Conservation Directive (maintenance of composition, structure, and functions of the ecosystems). Thus, from this version onwards, the term ecosystem services begins to be emphasized, since it is a result¹ of the maintenance of ecosystem functions.

The Premises of the LIFE Methodology for Business and Biodiversity (LIFE Document – LIFE Premises) result in **9 Principles**, namely:

- **PRINCIPLE 1 – BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AS A COMMON RESPONSIBILITY**
- **PRINCIPLE 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION, AGREEMENTS, TREATIES, AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**
- **PRINCIPLE 3 – CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**
- **PRINCIPLE 4 – NATURAL CAPITAL**
- **PRINCIPLE 5 – HIERARCHY OF COMPENSATION OF IMPACTS AND DEPENDENCIES ON BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND NATURAL CAPITAL**
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- **PRINCIPLE 8 – SHARING OF BENEFITS DERIVED FROM ACCESS TO BIODIVERSITY GENETIC RESOURCES AND/OR ASSOCIATED TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE**
- **PRINCIPLE 9 – MONITORING AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

¹ An ecosystem function that has the possibility/potential of being used for human purposes is now considered an ecosystem service (Huetting et al., 1997).

Compliance with LIFE Standards is subject to compliance with all Principles, Criteria, and Indicators **applicable** to the organization. For purposes of initial LIFE Certification, it is permitted to meet a minimum of 70% of the **GENERAL** applicable indicators, if 100% of the **ESSENTIAL applicable** indicators are met. In the 1st Follow-up Audit, compliance with all applicable indicators is mandatory.

For certification purposes, regarding compliance with indicators, partially met indicators are considered in the overall percentage of met indicators. However, certifying bodies must flag partially met indicators and monitor their compliance in accordance with the action plan presented.

A Principle is considered fulfilled when all criteria applicable to the organization are met.

A Criterion is considered fulfilled when all the applicable indicators are met.

3. APPLICABILITY OF LIFE METHODOLOGY FOR BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

This document applies to organizations/producers and/or business units/productive units of any size in the industry and service sectors, as well as the primary, secondary or tertiary sectors.

The assessment of indicators compliance must consider the status of evidences from the current year as the baseline year for evaluating the LIFE Standard.

The organization can choose to apply the LIFE Methodology for Business and Biodiversity to one or more business units. The producer can apply the LIFE Methodology in one or more productive units.

The application of the document to the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors, as well as to micro and small businesses (MSB) and non-governmental organizations (NGO), is defined according to the following rules:

Exclusive indicators for one or more sectors appear marked as follows:

- p – exclusive to the primary sector
- s – exclusive to the secondary sector
- t – exclusive to the tertiary sector
- p s – applicable to primary and secondary sectors
- s t – applicable to secondary and tertiary sectors
- p s t – applicable to primary, secondary and tertiary sectors
- MSB – applicable to micro and small businesses
- NGO – applicable to non-governmental organizations/institutions which general goal or mission is biodiversity conservation.

The exclusivity or applicability should not be interpreted as mandatory applicability. An item can be unique or applicable to a particular industry, but not applicable to the business unit being assessed.

The organization or producer must provide **justification for the indicators** in this Standard that it determines are not applicable to its business scope and/or management system. The organization can only decide that an indicator is not applicable if its decision will not result in impacts on biodiversity.

4. PRINCIPLES, CRITERIA AND INDICATORS

PRINCIPLE 1 – BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AS A COMMON RESPONSIBILITY

The organization or producer must commit to acting effectively in the conservation of biodiversity, a common asset under everyone's responsibility, regardless of whether they are individuals or legal entities, private or public, in their direct or indirect use.

P1.C1

The conservation of biodiversity is an integral part of the commitments and interests of the organization or producer.

P1.C1.i1 – Sustainability Policy, Term of Commitment² or similar, documented, implemented, and disseminated, considers essential, in its environmental dimension, the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital. p s t, MSB, NGO

P1.C1.i2 – Clear commitment with actions for the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital. p s t

P1.C1.i3 – Information or disclosure to stakeholders about the commitment to actions for the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital. p s t, NGO

P1.C1.i4 – The employees of the organization or productive unit are aware of the commitment assumed and the procedures by which they can contribute. p s t

P1.C2

The organization or producer considers the commitments to biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital in decision-making.

P1.C2.i1 – Annual environmental planning containing objectives, targets, and programs related to negative environmental impacts of its operations and conservation actions developed and/or supported. p s t

P1.C2.i2 – Action plan (which could be BAP – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Action Plan) considering the commitments to biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital. p s t, MSB, NGO

P1.C2.i3 – Financial investments and other resources to carry out the commitments to biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital. p s t, NGO

² The choice between an Environmental Policy or a Term of Commitment must be consistent with the size, intensity and scale of the operations.

P1.C3

The organization or producer must act responsibly with its suppliers of goods and services and customers³ to avoid promoting, supporting, or financing actions that contribute to the loss of biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital.

P1.C3.i1 – List of identification and evaluation of direct suppliers, according to the LIFE Methodology in the Reference Document of Supplier Evaluation. p s t

P1.C3.i2 – Assessment of the risk of its suppliers regarding biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital and defines minimum criteria for their approval. p s t

P1.C3.i3 – Evaluation, monitoring and validation of direct suppliers periodically in relation to its performance in biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital. p s t

P1.C3.i4 – Purchasing policy stating its commitments towards the supply chain. p s t

P1.C3.i5 – Financial sector organizations must present a Sustainability Policy or similar directed to its customers, which must include biodiversity, ecosystem services and capital natural. t

PRINCIPLE 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION, AGREEMENTS, TREATIES, AND INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

The organization or producer, whether of any nature, size, or sector, as well as organizations and/or outsourced professionals who provide services to it, must comply with the current legislation applicable to its activities, in addition to respecting the International Treaties and Agreements signed by the country where it operates.

³ The requirement relative to customers, both for criteria and indicators, refers only to the case of organizations in the financial sector.

P2.C1

The organization or producer must provide evidence with the legislation, International Treaties and Agreements, as well as other commitments relevant to its business/property⁴ and to the business units of all activities in which the organization has co-responsibility.

P2.C1.i1 – Licenses for functioning, implementation, operation, production, extraction or handling, collection, and treatment of water. p s t, MSB, NGO

P2.C1.i2 – Monitoring of pending legal issues. p s t, MSB, NGO

P2.C1.i3 – Proof of fiscal and tax legality. p s t, MSB, NGO

P2.C1.i4 – Proof of labor legality. p s t, MSB, NGO

P2.C1.i5 – Authorizations to collect biodiversity material for monitoring and research. p s t, MSB, NGO

P2.C1.i6 – Records of the legal formalization and legal compliance by organizations that might be contracted to perform the conservation actions. p s t, MSB, NGO

P2.C1.i7 – Knowledge, recording and assessment of International Agreements and Treaties related to biodiversity conservation, applicable to the organization. p s t, MSB, NGO

P2.C1.i8 – Legal compliance related to access to genetic resources, traditional knowledge, and benefit sharing. p s t, MSB, NGO

P2.C1.i9 – Commitment to the basic principles of animal welfare recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health ⁵. p s t, MSB, NGO

⁴ For legal pending settlement processes, the "Terms of Adjustment of Conduct" and/or similar documents, and their compliance, will be evaluated.

⁵ Ensure conditions that avoid hunger, thirst, and malnutrition; ensure conditions that avoid fear and distress; ensure conditions that avoid discomfort; guarantee conditions that avoid pain, injuries and illnesses and guarantee conditions that allow the expression of normal patterns of behavior (World Organization for Animal Health).

P2.C1.i10 – Proof of legality of the organization's operations and compliance with the health standards applicable to the activity. p s t, MSB, NGO

P2.C1.i11 – Evidence of the organization's legitimacy on its land use and ownership rights. p s t, MSB, NGO

P2.C1.i12 – Compliance to the legislation regarding the application of pesticides and other inputs (fertilizers, vaccines, etc.) used in production. p s t, MSB, NGO

PRINCIPLE 3 – CONSERVATION OF BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

The organization or producer should: identify, implement, or support, and monitor actions for the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services, and the natural capital.

P3.C1

The organization or producer must identify, recognize, and conserve priority areas for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

P3.C1.i1 – Characterization and mapping of the area of influence identifying the remaining natural areas and their conservation priorities. p s t, MSB, NGO

P3.C1.i2 – Identification of major operations identifying their influence on affected ecosystem services. p s t

P3.C1.i3 – Establishment of management processes that identify prevention, reduction, mitigation, restoration, and compensation measures. p s t

P3.C2

The organization or producer must plan according to the landscape composition and the regional context.

P3.C2.i1 – Mapping identifying the organization and priorities of biodiversity conservation in the regional context. p s t, MSB, NGO

P3.C2.i2 – Mapping of watercourses and springs. p s t, MSB, NGO

P3.C2.i3 – Maintaining the remaining natural ecosystem cover, if existing. p s t, MSB, NGO

P3.C2.i4 – Maintaining and/or increasing the connection of the vegetation blocks in the landscape, including the property and its surroundings. p s t, NGO

P3.C2.i5 – Monitoring showing that the fauna is using the corridors. p s t, NGO

P3.C2.i6 – Prioritization of conservation and connection of areas at an advanced successional stage. p s t, NGO

P3.C3

The organization or producer must develop studies and practices to raise awareness and maintain the characteristics of native fauna and flora on its property(ies), consistent with the scale, intensity, and risk of the activities.

P3.C3.i1 – Disclosed general list concerning the wild flora and fauna that is observed in its property(ies). p s t, NGO

P3.C3.i2 – Monitoring of the fauna and flora present in its property, according to a scientifically recognized methodology. p s t, NGO

P3.C4

The organization or producer identifies and demonstrates conservation strategies for protected areas and other priority areas for biodiversity, ecosystem services, within its limits and areas of influence, additional to the required by legislation.

P3.C4.i1 – Elaboration of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Action Plan (BAP), voluntary and compatible with the pressure exerted by its business, as specified by the LIFE Methodology in the Technical Guide 02. **p s t, MSB, NGO**

PRINCIPLE 4 – NATURAL CAPITAL

The organization or producer must include the value of nature in decision-making, considering the impacts and dependencies of natural capital.

P4.C1

The organization or producer must recognize and identify the natural resources and raw materials with which its business model interacts at the scale of the project, product/service and/or process.

P4.C1.i1 – Study on the impact and dependence of the business on natural resources, through the Matrix of Impacts and Dependencies on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (LIFE Matrix). **p s t**

P4.C2

The organization must quantify and monitor the natural resources related to its products/services and/or main processes.

P4.C2.i1 – Measurement and monitoring of natural resources related to the organization's products/services and processes. **p s t**

P4.C2.i2 – Evaluation criteria on the intensity of use of natural capital in relation to its capacity for renewal. [p s t](#)

P4.C3

The organization must ensure that decision-making considers the valuation of natural resources related to its products/services and/or processes.

P4.C3.i1 – Monetary valuation for the main resources and services used by the organization. [p s t](#)

P4.C3.i2 – Evidence that proves that the valuation of natural capital is considered in organizational strategic planning. [p s t](#)

P4.C4

The organization must promote and support policies that consider the valuation of natural capital.

P4.C4.i1 – Encouraging the implementation of payment for environmental and ecosystem services. [p s t](#), NGO

P4.C4.i2 – Encouraging the establishment of mechanisms for recognition and payment of environmental and ecosystem services. [p s t](#)

PRINCIPLE 5 – HIERARCHY OF COMPENSATION OF IMPACTS AND DEPENDENCIES ON BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND NATURAL CAPITAL

The organization or producer, based on its sustainability strategy, must respect the following hierarchy: identify, prevent, minimize, and recover damages caused by impacts, and then compensate those residual impacts.

P5.C1

The organization or producer must present quantitative information on environmental aspects: water consumption, energy consumption, waste generation, greenhouse gas emissions and land use.

P5.C1.i1 – Measuring of the Biodiversity Pressure Index – BPI, as specified by LIFE Methodology in the Technical Guide 01. **p s t**, MSB, NGO

P5.C2

The organization or producer must present a survey of the impacts and dependencies of its operations on biodiversity and on ecosystem services, including those carried out by partners or service providers in its operation or management area.

P5.C2.i1 – Identification of ecosystem services related to their impacts and dependencies of their main activities. **p s t**

P5.C2.i2 – Measurement of impacts to the ecosystem services related to its dependencies. **p s t**

P5.C2.i3 – Matrix of Impacts and Dependencies on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, considering their order of significance⁶ (LIFE Matrix), as specified by the LIFE Methodology in the Reference Document of Elaboration of the LIFE Matrix. **p s t**

P5.C3

The organization or producer must demonstrate practices that avoid and prevent impacts on biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital.

P5.C3.i1 – Evidence of decision-making to prevent and avoid impacts in the project initial phase or in the development of new products, processes, or technologies. **p s t**

⁶ Producers can present only the list of impacts. Larger organizations must necessarily present a LIFE Matrix.

P5.C3.i2 – Adoption of practices to prevent impacts on water resources, soil, and air. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C3.i3 – Actions to prevent deforestation and reduction of habitats and to protect remaining areas. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C3.i4 – The adoption of management techniques within production areas that guarantee the survival, displacement, and reproduction of native species. p s t, MSB

P5.C4

The organization or producer prevents, controls and fights fires by presenting an implemented control plan and provides the necessary resources.

P5.C4.i1 – Evidence of the prohibition of the use of fire as an operational practice, except when required by law or authorized by the environmental agency for phytosanitary control. p s t, MSB,NGO

P5.C4.i2 – Prevention plan, identification, and firefighting plan. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C4.i3 – Record of occurrences, statistics and identification of the cause and affected areas. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C4.i4 – Disclosure about the effects of fires, informing emergency and complaint contacts. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C4.i5 – Employees training for firefighting and fire prevention. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C4.i6 – Firefighting equipment available, in adequate conditions and compatible with the structure of the organization. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C5

The organization or producer must seek to minimize unavoidable impacts and risks to biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital.

P5.C5.i1 – Operational procedures and/or forms of guidance and control for significant environmental aspects, consistent with the scale, the intensity, and the risks of the activities. **p s t**

P5.C5.i2 – Monitoring of the impacts of practices that potentially contaminate water resources, soil, and air, through the performance of applicable analyses. **p s t, MSB**

P5.C5.i3 – Proper treatment and/or disposal of effluents and waste from the production process. **p s t**

P5.C5.i4 – Storage and proper disposal of hazardous, non-hazardous, industrial, domestic, forestry, maintenance, infrastructure (roads, buildings), agricultural and animal production waste. **p s t, MSB, NGO**

P5.C5.i5 – Evaluation, authorization, and control of companies for the transport, storage, and disposal of waste. **p s t, MSB, NGO**

P5.C5.i6 – Impact mitigation practices on biodiversity, water resources, soil, and air. **p s t, MSB, NGO**

P5.C5.i7 – Actions to reduce the main impacts and dependencies of the business identified in the LIFE Matrix. **p s t**

P5.C5.i8 – Encourage changes in practices and production processes, as well as implement new practices aiming at contributing to biodiversity conservation. **p s t, MSB**

P5.C5.i9 – Records that demonstrate the eco-efficiency of production processes and the environmental technology adopted, per unit produced. **p s t**

P5.C5.i10 – Emergency plan for handling with environmental disasters and accidents, in accordance with the recommendations of the LIFE Document of the Environmental Accident Policy. p s t

P5.C6

The organization or producer must manage the production areas to contribute with landscape structure and composition.

P5.C6.i1 – Studies for definition of the maximum limit for continuous production area considering the impacts related to the exposure of the soil during harvesting / clearcutting and diversity of genetic material. p s

P5.C6.i2 – Variation in species composition and plantations age in crop areas consistent with the scale of production. p s

P5.C6.i3 – Identification of invasive exotic species present in natural areas remnants, their associated risks, and establishment of practices to avoid biological contamination and/or minimize risks. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C6.i4 – In the case of production, breeding, or cultivation of exotic species, all precautions are taken to prevent them from escaping, crossing with native species, and other forms of biological contamination. p s t, MSB

P5.C6.i5 – Production areas interspersed with conservation areas or other techniques aiming at functional permeability. p s

P5.C6.i6 – Adoption of soil conservation practices in production areas. p s t, MSB

P5.C6.i7 – Main resources used capacity support studies. p s

P5.C6.i8 – Production methods in the productive unit that consider the ecosystem's carrying capacity. p s

P5.C7

The organization or producer must control, monitor, and optimize the use of chemicals (pesticides, antibiotics, hormones, fertilizers, and other inputs) to minimize and mitigate impacts on biodiversity and human health.

P5.C7.i1 – Plan for the proper use of chemicals used by the organization, consistent with LIFE Policy and Reference Document for the use of chemicals. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C7.i2 – Monitoring and control of the amount of pesticides and other inputs (fertilizers, vaccines, etc.) used on the production. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C7.i3 – Actions and practices for containment of runoffs and spillage of chemicals and others products. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C7.i4 – Integrated Pest Monitoring Program implemented, prioritizing physical and biological control methods. p s, MSB, NGO

P5.C7.i5 – Minimization and mitigation of damages in areas with groundwater contamination due to the use of pesticides and other inputs (fertilizers, vaccines, etc.) used in its activities. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C7.i6 – Safe application of pesticides, aiming at the preservation of human health and the environment. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C8

The organization or producer that uses genetically modified organisms (GMOs) must assess, monitor, and manage the risks to minimize their impacts.

P5.C8.i1 – The risks of using GMOs are assessed, monitored, and managed, in accordance with the Reference Document on the use of GMO. p s, MSB, NGO

P5.C8.i2 – The following minimum risk management practices are implemented: corridors with non-GMO material; refuge areas and GMO-free production areas near ecological corridors and other important or strategic conservation areas. p s

P5.C8.i3 – Identified impacts, originated from the use of GMOs, minimized, and mitigated. p s

P5.C8.i4 – All products containing GMO material must be labeled, regardless of the legislation in force. p s, MSB, NGO

P5.C9

The organization or producer must recover damages from impacts to biodiversity and ecosystem services.

P5.C9.i1 – Degraded areas recovery program implemented. p s t

P5.C9.i2 – Plan or record of soil recovery in areas with severe erosion, salinization and/or desertification in areas under the responsibility of the organization or producer. p s t, MSB

P5.C9.i3 – Forest restoration plan or record. p s t, MSB

P5.C9.i4 – Efforts for the ecological restoration of degraded or in early or middle successional stages areas. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C9.i5 – The enrichment and aggregation actions of natural areas consider criteria such as: genetic material origin, species diversity and recomposition methods. p s t, MSB, NGO

P5.C10

The organization or producer must compensate for the pressure exerted by its business through a Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Action Plan (BAP).

P5.C10.i1 – Implementation of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Action Plan – BAP, in accordance with the LIFE Methodology specified in Technical Guide 02. p s t MSB, NGO

P5.C11

The organization or producer must compensate the suppression of natural areas, after July 2009, with voluntary actions to create and/or adopt protected areas.

P5.C11.i1 – Voluntary actions to create and/or adopt protected areas of indirect use with an area equal or greater than the area suppressed, in the same ecoregion and at the same successional stage. p s t, MSB, NGO

PRINCIPLE 6 – SCIENCE AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Science⁷, considering the contribution of the applicable associated traditional knowledge, must support and guide actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

P6.C1

Actions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are planned, selected, prioritized, and developed considering scientific information and methodologies, and the associated traditional knowledge applicable.

P6.C1.i1 – Research projects carried out as actions for the conservation of biodiversity follow a recognized or scientifically justified methodology, and incorporate associated traditional knowledge, when applicable. p s , t, MSB, NGO

P6.C1.i2 – Biodiversity conservation actions that consider as selection criteria research information and/or associated traditional knowledge about the region where these actions are developed. p s t, MSB, NGO

⁷ It is considered as a result, criterion, or scientific indicator the information recognized by competent bodies nationally and/or internationally.

P6.C1.i3 – The actions carried out or supported for the enrichment and recovery of biodiversity in natural areas include criteria of genetic material source, species diversity, and scientifically recognized methods of recuperation. **p s t, MSB, NGO**

P6.C2

The organization or producer analyzes the conservation results and/or sustainable use of biodiversity, using scientifically based official data and/or applicable associated traditional knowledge.

P6.C2.i1 – The results of projects for the conservation and/or sustainable use of biodiversity are evaluated and monitored to meet their objectives. **p s t, NGO**

P6.C2.i2 – The results of projects for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are compared with similar projects of scientific research and associated traditional knowledge, when applicable. **p s t, NGO**

P6.C2.i3 – The results of the analysis of projects for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are used to review the activities carried out. **p s t, NGO**

P6.C3

The organization or producer shares information generated by research and implementation of effective practices for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

P6.C3.i1 – Lectures, reports, publications, educational material, and information available free of charge in print or digital, in accessible language. **p s t, NGO**

P6.C3.i2 – Mechanisms established for accessing or transferring knowledge resulting from actions and projects for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. **p s t, NGO**

PRINCIPLE 7 – INTERACTION BETWEEN HUMAN WELL-BEING, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES, BIODIVERSITY, ECOSYSTEM SERVICES AND NATURAL CAPITAL

The organization or producer must act considering the integration between human well-being, indigenous peoples and traditional local communities, biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital.

P7.C1

The organization or producer must consider the importance of the relationship between human well-being and the conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital.

P7.C1.i1 – Identification of the relationships between human well-being, biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital, through the LIFE Matrix. **p s t**

P7.C1.i2 – Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Action Plan - BAP considers projects related to the interaction between ecosystem services and human well-being. **p s t, MSB, NGO**

P7.C2

The organization or producer must establish and keep open a communication channel with the local community and its stakeholders.

P7.C2.i1 – Mechanisms for direct communication with local communities and stakeholders. **p s t, NGO**

P7.C2.i2 – The interests of local communities are considered in the planning process of the organization/producer, business unit and/or conservation projects. In cases where conservation projects includes territories occupied by indigenous peoples and traditional local communities,

the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)⁸ must be obtained, under the terms of the applicable international and national regulations. p s t, NGO

P7.C2.i3 – Environmental awareness programs or actions for employees, including third parties, that address the interactions between human well-being, biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital. p s t

P7.C2.i4 – Identification and handling of complaints/suggestions and requests from local communities and stakeholders, avoiding conflicts. p s t, NGO

PRINCIPLE 8 – SHARING OF BENEFITS DERIVED FROM ACCESS TO BIODIVERSITY GENETIC RESOURCES AND/OR ASSOCIATED TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

The organization or producer must share the benefits derived from access to biodiversity genetic resources and/or associated traditional knowledge fairly and equitably, in accordance with local legislation or, in the absence of specific legislation, in accordance with the Nagoya Protocol (CBD), regardless of the country commitment to the Protocol.

P8.C1

The organization or producer must provide evidence of benefit sharing, when applicable and in accordance with this principle.

P8.C1.i1 – Evidence of monetary and non-monetary benefit sharing, according to local legislation or any of the possibilities listed in the Nagoya Protocol Annex. p s t, MSB, NGO

P8.C1.i2 – Benefits are passed on through mutual agreements to be promoted between the organization or producer and local communities. p s t, MSB, NGO

⁸ Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) must be obtained by the organization/producer at the beginning of the Certification and Recertification cycle.

PRINCIPLE 9 – MONITORING AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The organization or producer must monitor its pressure index, its impacts and dependencies and its performance in biodiversity, promoting the continuous improvement of its management.

P9.C1

The organization or producer must demonstrate monitoring and management improvement actions for its operations that avoid, minimize, recover, and/or compensate for its residual impacts.

P9.C1.i1 – Monitoring the results and management indicators of this Standard, improvements in performance over time, and commitment to continuous improvement. **p s t, MSB, NGO**

P9.C1.i2 – Demonstration of improvement in the results of the Biodiversity Pressure Index (BPI), calculated in accordance with the LIFE Methodology, specified in Technical Guide 01. **p s t, MSB, NGO**

P9.C2

The organization or producer must annually verify its results and seek continuous improvement of its performance in conservation of biodiversity, ecosystem services and natural capital.

P9.C2.i1 – Demonstration of improvement in the implementation of conservation actions and/or Positive Performance in Biodiversity, calculated through the BAP and specified in Technical Guide 02. **p s t, MSB, NGO**

P9.C2.i2 – Critical review of biodiversity performance results and planning for improvement actions. **p s t**

5. GLOSSARY

Terms used in this document are available in the LIFE Glossary.

NOTES ON DEVELOPMENT OF THIS DOCUMENT

Version 1.0: approved in August/2011, by the LIFE Institute Board of Directors. Initial issue of the document.

Version 2.0: approved on 12/05/2012, by the LIFE Institute Board of Directors. Alteration of the document layout, text revision and glossary removal.

Version 3.0: approved on 11/12/2014, by the LIFE Institute Board of Directors. Alteration of the document layout and text revision.

Version 3.1: approved on 04/07/2016, by the LIFE Institute Board of Directors. Text revision and indication of applicability of indicators for primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.

Version 3.2: approved on 05/17/2018, by the LIFE Institute Board of Directors. Text revision.

Version 4.0: approved on 08/25/2022, by the LIFE Institute Board of Directors. Change of applicability of the document from national to international, change of code, text revision, removal of verifiers and inclusion of the Natural Capital Principle.

Version 4.0-R1: approved on 03/06/2023. Change of document layout and insertion of the new LIFE Institute logo.

Version 4.0-R2: approved on 03/28/2024. Inclusion of the applicability of management indicators for micro and small businesses (MSB) and non-governmental organizations (NGO).

Version 4.0-R3: approved on 09/17/2024, by the LIFE Institute Board of Directors. Text revision. Inclusion of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) on P7.C2.i2. indicator.