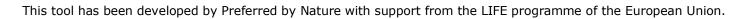


# Version 1.0 | 29 March 2022 Ghana List of Applicable Legislation Timber











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### Legal Rights to Harvest

1.1. Land tenure and management rights		Legal Authority
The Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992, Article 267 stool and skin lands and properties (vests stool lands in the appropriate stools for the subjects of the stool). Article 36 (8) (the guiding principles of state policy): ownership and possession of land carry a social obligation to serve the larger community	<u>LINK</u>	Forestry Commission Lands Commission
Forest Act 1927 section 17 (1) (CAP 157). It clarifies that ownership of land with forest reserve is unchanged by its establishment as a forest reserve. Section 17(2) A forest reserve can be managed by the owner (stools or private) under the direction of the Forestry Commission or the Government for the benefit of the owner	<u>LINK</u>	
Forest Concession Act 1962 Act 124. Section 16 Forest reserves and timber concessions (Vests 1) all stool lands with forest reserves, 2) all off-reserves and Kumasi town lands which timber concession has been granted before commencement of this Act and 3) all timber on any other land in the President in trust for the stools concerned, except forest reserve constituted at the request of the private owner).	<u>LINK</u>	
Timber Resources Management Amendment Act 2002, (Act 617) (Replaces section 2b to exclude private timber plantations from the award of timber rights.	<u>LINK</u>	
Forestry Commission Act 1999 (Act 571) (defines legal authority for forest management)	<u>LINK</u>	
Companies Code 1963 (Act 179) (contains business registration requirements)	<u>LINK</u>	



Incorporated Private Partnerships Act, 1962 (Act 152) Section 4 Registration of Partnership Firms (Provides for the registration of partnerships and set the maximum number of persons which can form a partnership)	<u>LINK</u>	
Taxpayers Identification Numbering System, 2002 (Act 632) (outlines the requirements for registration of Tax Codes and Certificates from the Ghana Revenue Authority).	<u>LINK</u>	
1.2. Concession Licenses		Legal Authority
Timber Resources Management Act 1997 (Act 547) section 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 (defines requirements and procedures for the award of timber rights in Ghana).	<u>LINK</u>	Forestry Commission Ministry of Lands and
Timber Resources Management Amendment Act 2002 (Act 617). The amendment excludes private timber plantations from the award of timber rights and the award of timber rights on alienation holdings or land with farms without the written consent of the owners. It provides for maximum area of timber rights and duration of contract. It also categorizes timber rights into small, medium, and large and specify their maximum sizes	<u>LINK</u>	Natural Resources Parliament of Ghana
Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254). Sections 12-21 provide for the regulation of the grant of small and large-scale timber rights, other sources of timber and provide a licensing scheme. Sections 27-30 defines other sources of legal timber apart from timber rights. Sections 22-26 define the terms of timber rights to include social responsibility agreement.	<u>LINK</u>	
Companies Code 1963 (Act 179). This contains business registration requirements	LINK	
Incorporated Private Partnerships Act, 1962 (Act 152) Section 4 Registration of Partnership Firms. This provides the registration of partnerships and set the maximum number of persons which can form a partnership	<u>LINK</u>	



Taxpayers Identification Numbering System, 2002 (Act 632). This outlines the requirements for registration of Tax Codes and Certificates from the Ghana Revenue Authority.	<u>LINK</u>	
National Pension Act 2008 (Act 766) Section 58-63. This defines the requirements for Social Security registration for companies and employees	<u>LINK</u>	
Trees and Timber Act 1974 (NCRD 273) sections 2 and 4. This provides for possession of a property mark and registration of property mark for felling and processing of timber for export Registration of property marks.	<u>LINK</u>	
Trees and Timber Amendment Act 1994 (Act 493) section 2. This regulates the issuance of Property Marks.	<u>LINK</u>	
1.3. Management and Harvesting Planning		Legal Authority
		Forestry Commission Forest Services
Timber Resources Management Act 1997 (Act 547) section 10 and 12 (defines main regulations covering management of harvesting operations).	<u>LINK</u>	Forest Services
	<u>LINK</u>	,
regulations covering management of harvesting operations). Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254). It regulates grant of small- and large-scale timber rights, other sources of timber and provide a		Forest Services Division Resource Management



Timber Resources Management Act 1997 (Act 547) section 10 and 12. It defines main regulations covering management of harvesting operations.	<u>LINK</u>	Timber Right Evaluation Committee
Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254) regulates grant of small- and large-scale timber rights, other sources of timber and provide a licensing scheme).	<u>LINK</u>	Forestry Commission Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
Manual of Procedures (MOPs) and Logging manual (operationalises the Timber Resources Management Act 1997 (Act 547) and the Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254) are statutory guidance documents for forest management in Ghana).	<u>LINK</u>	Parliament of Ghana



#### **Taxes and Fees**

1.5. Payment of royalties and harvesting fees		Legal Authority
Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254), regulates the granting of small- and large-scale timber rights, other sources of timber and provides a licensing scheme. [Regulation 63, 64 and 65 on payment of fees, services, and rents]. Also, the fifth schedule (regulation 60 (1) and 61 (3) formula for calculation of stumpage fee.	<u>LINK</u>	Forestry Commission Forest Services Division
1.6. Value-Added Taxes and Other Sales Taxes		Legal Authority
Value Added Tax Act 2013 (Act 870) (contains regulations on value added tax)	<u>LINK</u>	



Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2017	LINK	Ghana Revenue Authority
Value Added Tax Act (Amendment) (No.2), 2017 (Act 954)	LINK	Timber Industry Development Division
Trees and Timber Amendment Act 1994 (Act 493) Part IIA (specifies regulations related to levies imposed on wood products)	<u>LINK</u>	
Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254) (regulates grant of small- and large- scale timber rights, other sources of timber and provide a licensing scheme).	<u>LINK</u>	
Trees and Timber Act 1974 (Act 273) Section 15A imposes export levy on unprocessed and processed timber	LINK	
1.7. Income and Profit Taxes		Legal Authority
	LINK and LINK	Legal Authority Ghana Revenue Authority
1.7. Income and Profit Taxes         Income Tax Act 2015 (Act 896) and Amendment Act 902 (defines income and profit tax		Ghana Revenue





#### **Timber Harvesting Activities**

1.8. Timber harvesting regulations		Legal Authority
Timber Resources Management Act 1997 (Act 547) (section 10 and 12 defines main regulations covering management of harvesting operations).	<u>LINK</u>	Forestry Commission Forest Services
Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254) (regulates grant of small- and large-scale timber rights, other sources of timber and provide a licensing scheme)	<u>LINK</u>	Division Resource Management Support Centre
Manual of Operations (MOPs) and Logging manual (operationalises the Timber Resources Management Act 1997 (Act 547) and the Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254) and are statutory guidance documents for forest management in Ghana)	<u>LINK</u>	
1.9. Protected sites and species		Legal Authority
The Forest Protection (Amendment) Act 2002 (Act 624) [Section 1]	LINK	Forestry Commission
Forest Protection Decree, 1974 (N.R.C.D. 234) [Section 12]	<u>LINK</u>	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
Timber Resources Management Act 1997 (Act 547) [Act 547, Sections 18G]	<u>LINK</u>	Administrator of Stool Lands
Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254) (regulates grant of small- and large-scale timber rights, other sources of timber and provide a licensing scheme). Section 74 is on restricted species. Regulation 78.	<u>LINK</u>	Forest Services Division



Environmental Assessment Regulation, 1999 Schedule 1 (Regulation 1(1)) [Sections 1 and 5].	LINK	Resource Management Support Centre
Forest Plantation Development Fund Act, 2000 (Act 583).	LINK	
Forest Plantation Development Fund Act, 2000 (Act 583) – Amendment Act 2002 (Act 623)	LINK	
Ghana Forest and Wildlife Policy (2012)	LINK	
Trees and Timber Amendment Act 493 (schedule 1 and 2 defines export levies applicable to processed and unprocessed timber of certain species).	<u>LINK</u>	
Manuals of Procedure for forest Resource Management Planning in the High Forest Zone of Ghana. MoP	<u>LINK</u>	
A revised Logging Manual for Ghana: Guidance to companies operating timber utilisation contracts in the high forest of Ghana. Sections 3.1-3.2	Not available	
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Signed at Washington, D.C., on 3 March 1973 Amended at Bonn, on 22 June 1979 Amended at Gaborone, on 30 April 1983.	<u>LINK</u>	
Convention on Biological Diversity, 1975	LINK	
1.10 Environmental requirements		Legal Authority
The Environmental Assessment Regulation. 1999. (LI 1652) (Part I section 1-8 provides information environmental regulations).	<u>LINK</u>	Environmental Protection Agency



Environmental Assessment (Amendment) Regulations. 2002. (LI 1703) (Section 8A contains requirements on the publication of notice of environmental permit Logging manual (Section 3.2 Environmental Considerations)	Not available Not	Forestry Commission Forest Services Division Resource Management
Riparian Buffer zone Policy for Managing Freshwater Bodies in Ghana. 2011	available <u>LINK</u>	Support Centre
1.11. Health and safety		Legal Authority
Factory, offices, and shops Act, 1970 (Act 328) (covers general health and safety requirements applicable to timber processing activities).	<u>LINK</u>	Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations
Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651) (Part XV: 118-121 outlines regulations for occupational Health and Safety).	<u>LINK</u>	Department of Factories Inspectorate
National Health Insurance Authority Act, 2012 (Act 852) (Part II sections 12-13 defines employer responsibility for worker's registration on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)).	<u>LINK</u>	National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) Forestry Commission
Pesticides Control and Management Act, 1996 (Act 528) (Section 21 defines safeguards for use of pesticides).	<u>LINK</u>	
The workmen's compensation Law (PNDC law 187) (outlines compensation procedures for injury, accident, or death of persons under employment).	<u>LINK</u>	
Labour regulations, 2007 (LI 1833). Section 18-20 (Health and employment) specifies safeguard measures to be employed by employees to ensure the health of its workers, accident and fatality reporting requirements, medical examination of employees, and provision of essential services such as drinking water at work place among others.	<u>LINK</u>	



1.12. Legal employment		Legal Authority
Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651).	LINK	Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations
National Pension Act, 2008 (Act 766) Section, 1, 3, 58-63 (establishes the three-tier pension scheme and defines the requirements for Social Security registration for companies and employees).	<u>LINK</u>	Department of Factories Inspectorate
Factories, offices and shops act 1970 (Act 328).	<u>LINK</u>	Regulatory Authority Social Security and
Labour regulations (LI 1833). Regulates the Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651).	LINK	National Insurance Trust
National Health Insurance Authority Act, 2012 (Act 852) (Part II sections 12-13 defines employer responsibility for worker's registration on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)).	<u>LINK</u>	
Pesticides Control and Management Act, 1996 (Act 528) (Section 21 defines safeguards for use of pesticides).	<u>LINK</u>	

Third Parties' Rights

1.13. Customary rights		Legal Authority
The Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992, Article 267 stool and skin lands and properties (vests stool lands in the appropriate stools for the subjects of the stool). Article 36 (8) (the guiding principles of state policy): ownership and possession of land carry a social obligation to serve the larger community.	<u>LINK</u>	Forestry Commission Forest Services Division



Timber Resources Management Act 1997 (Act 547) (Section 4 provides general framework for third party right in forest management in Ghana (Lands Subject to Timber right)).	<u>LINK</u>	
Logging manual (section 3.3 makes customary right provision in relations to 1. SRA, 2. Use and Access Rights of forest resources by local communities, 3. dispute and conflict resolution in respect of forest or timber harvesting activities, and 4. consent of landowners regarding grant of timber harvesting rights).	Not available	
1.14. Free prior and informed consent		Legal Authority
Forest Act, 1927 (clarifies that ownership of land with forest reserve is unchanged by its establishment as a forest reserve. Section 3 requires that information on lands proposed for the creation of forest reserves be published in a gazette.).	<u>LINK</u>	Forestry Commission
Timber Resources Management Act 1997 (Act 547) (Section 4 contains requirements for seeking landowners' consent in grant of timber rights).	<u>LINK</u>	
Timber Resources Management Amendment Act 2002 (Act 617). Article 2 provides that no timber rights shall be granted for land subject to alienation holding or land with farms without the written authorization of the individual, group or owners concerned. No timber right is granted for private forest plantations or land with any timber grown or owned by any individual or group of individuals. Section 1A contains requirements for seeking landowners' consent in grant of timber rights	<u>LINK</u>	
Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254) (regulates grant of small- and large-scale timber rights, other sources of timber and provide a licensing scheme). Sections 4 and 5 on landowners' consent.	<u>LINK</u>	
1.15. Indigenous peoples' rights		Legal Authority



The Constitution of the Republic of Ghana, 1992, Article 267 Stool and skin lands and properties (provides for a formula on benefit sharing in relation to stool and skin lands).	<u>LINK</u>	Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission
The Forest Protection (Amendment) Act 2002 (Act 624) [Section 1].	<u>LINK</u>	
Logging manual (section 3.3 makes customary right provision in relations to 1. SRA, 2. Use and Access Rights of forest resources by local communities, 3. dispute and conflict resolution in respect of forest or timber harvesting activities, and 4. consent of landowners regarding grant of timber harvesting rights). Available at Forestry Commission offices.	Not available	
Timber Resources Management (TRM) Act, 1997 (Act 547) (Section 4 provides general framework for third party right in forest management in Ghana (Lands Subject to Timber right)).	<u>LINK</u>	
Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254) (regulates grant of small- and large- scale timber rights, other sources of timber and provide a licensing scheme). Regulation 26 on Social Responsibility Agreement, Regulation 60 and 65 on stumpage. Section 27 (1) A Timber Utilisation Permit (TUP) grants permission for use of specific number of trees in an area that is not subject to a TUC for social or community use purposes.	<u>LINK</u>	





### **Trade and Transport**

1.16. Classification of species, quantities, qualities		Legal Authority
Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254) (regulates grant of small- and large-scale timber rights, other sources of timber and provide a licensing scheme). Regulation 60 and 65 on stumpage. Regulation 78 and 74(1) and Schedule 8 outlines the restricted species that requires special permit for harvesting	<u>LINK</u>	Forest Services Division of Forestry Commission
Trees and Timber Amendment Act 493 (schedule 1 and 2 defines export levies applicable to processed and unprocessed timber of certain species).	<u>LINK</u>	
Manual of Procedures (MoP) (Section D, Sections 7.3 list of black star species-wholly protected, 7.4 list of scarlet star species for which the reduced yield formulae is used in allocation yield and Table D2.1 specified felling limit for FIP Class 1 species).	<u>LINK</u>	
1.17. Trade and transport		Legal Authority
Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254) (Regulation 57 set out the allowed time for timber transport and required transport documents respectively).	<u>LINK</u>	Forest Services Division Timber Industry Development Division
The Forestry Commission Act (Act 571) (section 2(I) and (II) defines the FC's responsibility in registering and regulating timber traders) and TIDD Timber Trade Procedures and Guidelines which makes specific provisions for registration of exporters of timber and timber products the conveyance and haulage of timber and timber products.	<u>LINK</u>	



Logging manual (1998) (section 3 defines the regulations for marking and transport of logs)	Not available	
1.18. Offshore trading and transfer pricing		Legal Authority
Transfer Pricing regulation 2012 (LI 2188) (it is the main regulation on off-shore trading and transfer pricing).	<u>LINK</u>	Timber Industry Development Division Ghana Revenue Authority
Internal Revenue Act 2000 (Act 592) (Section 69 contains the regulations on splitting income. Section 70 contains the regulations on transfer pricing.)	Not available	
Internal revenue (Tax Amnesty) Act, 2012 (Act 853).	LINK	
The Forestry Commission Act (Act 571) (section 2(I) and (II) defines the FC's responsibility in registering and regulating timber traders).	<u>LINK</u>	
Foreign Exchange Act, 2006 Act 723 Section 15 Foreign exchange business and international payments	<u>LINK</u>	
1.19. Custom regulations		Legal Authority
The Forestry Commission Act (Act 571) (section 2(I) and (II) defines the FC's responsibility in registering and regulating timber traders).	<u>LINK</u>	Timber Industry Development Division
Plants and Fertilizer Act 2010 (Act 803) (requirement for registration and annual renewal of exporters and issuance of Phytosanitary Certificate for wood exports).	<u>LINK</u>	Ministry of Food and Agriculture Ghana Revenue Authority
Ghana Revenue Authority Act 2009, Act 791. Establishes the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) to replace the Internal Revenue Service, the Customs, Excise and Preventive Service and the Value Added Tax Service for the administration of tax and related purposes.	Not available	



Customs, Excise and Preventive Service Management Law 1993 (P.N.D.C Law 330) (defines the authority and responsibilities of the Customs, Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS) Sections 11,17, 19, 201and 21 repealed by GRA Act 2009, Act 791	<u>LINK</u>	
1.20. CITES		Legal Authority
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora Signed at Washington, D.C., on 3 March 1973 Amended at Bonn, on 22 June 1979 Amended at Gaborone, on 30 April 1983.	<u>LINK</u>	Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission (CITES management Authority in Ghana)
Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254) (regulation 78 and 74(1) and Schedule 8 outlines the restricted species that requires special permit for harvesting).	<u>LINK</u>	Timber Industry Development Division Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources
1.21. Legislation requiring due diligence/due care procedures		Legal Authority
Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (LI 2254) (Regulations 33 identifies the functions of the Timber Validation Committee, TVC; Regulations 38-51 outlines the requirements for obtaining licenses; 40(2) and 41(4)(a) and the Third Schedule defines what constitutes legal timber in Ghana) Regulation 76.	<u>LINK</u>	Forestry Commission

#### 1.22. Legislation Registration of business

e

Legal Authority

Processing



Companies Code 1963 (Act 179) (contains business registration requirements) Taxpayers Identification Numbering System, 2002 (Act 632) (outlines the requirements for registration of Tax Codes and Certificates from the Ghana Revenue Authority)	<u>LINK</u>	Register General's Department of the Ministry of Justice Ghana Revenue Authority
The Forestry Commission Act (Act 571) (section 2(I) and (II) defines the FC's responsibility in registering and regulating timber traders) and TIDD Timber Trade Procedures and Guidelines makes provisions for registration of timber exporters, and the conveyance and haulage of timber and timber products	<u>LINK</u>	Timber Industry Development Division of the Forestry Commission
National Pension Act 2008 (Act 766) Section 58-63 (defines the requirements for Social Security registration for companies and employees).	<u>LINK</u>	Social Security and National Trust Registration
1.23. Environmental requirements for processing		Legal Authority
		TIDD of Forestry Commission of Ghana Environmental
Environmental Protection Agency ACT, 1994 ACT 490 (Establishes the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its functions to include enforcement and control of environmental impacts sections 12 to 15). Environmental impact assessment.	<u>LINK</u>	Commission of Ghana Environmental
Protection Agency (EPA) and its functions to include enforcement and control of environmental	<u>LINK</u>	Commission of Ghana
<ul> <li>Protection Agency (EPA) and its functions to include enforcement and control of environmental impacts sections 12 to 15). Environmental impact assessment.</li> <li>Environmental Assessment Regulations, 1999 PART I Environmental Permit (items 1 and 2 undertaking requiring registration and issue of an environmental permit) and schedule 1 (Regulation 1(1)) Undertakings Requiring Registration and Environment Permit Manufacturing</li> </ul>		Commission of Ghana Environmental Protection Agency



information is needed to accompany enterprises application for freezone licensing. The Ghana Free Zones Authority Procedure for Establishment of Free Zone (Development Projects and Enterprises) 5 (a) requires enterprises to comply with environmental regulations, standards, procedures and requirements of Environmental Protection Agency, among other requirements and 5 (b) II. requires enterprises to register with the Environmental Protection Agency.		
1.24. Processing requirements / Exigences relatives à la transformation		Legal Authority
The Forestry Commission Act (Act 571) (section 2(I) and (II) defines the FC's responsibility in registering and regulating timber traders) and TIDD Timber Trade Procedures and Guidelines which makes specific provisions for registration of exporters of timber and timber products the conveyance and haulage of timber and timber products.	<u>LINK</u>	TIDD of the Forestry Commission
1.25. Health and Safety in the timber processing sector		Legal Authority
The Forestry Commission Act (Act 571) (section 2(I) and (II) defines the FC's responsibility in registering and regulating timber traders) and TIDD Timber Trade Procedures and Guidelines which makes specific provisions for registration of exporters of timber and timber products the conveyance and haulage of timber and timber products.	<u>LINK</u>	TIDD of the Forestry Commission. Labour Department of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations Department of Factories Inspectorate of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations
Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651) (Part XV: Occupational Health, Safety and Environment, 118-124 outlines requirements for the duty of the employer to provide the needed safe and healthy working environment for its employees.	<u>LINK</u>	
Labour Regulation 2007: LI 1833- Section 18-20 (Health and employment) specifies safe guard measures to be employed by employees to ensure the health of its workers, accident and fatality reporting requirements, medical examination of employees, and provision of essential services such as drinking water at work place among others	<u>LINK</u>	
National Health Insurance Authority Act, 2012 (Act 852) (Part II sections 12-13 defines employer responsibility for worker's registration on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS))	<u>LINK</u>	



Pesticides Control and Management Act 1996 (Act 528) (Section 21 defines safeguards for use of pesticides).	<u>LINK</u>	
The workmen's compensation Law (PNDC law 187) (outlines compensation procedures for injury, accident, or death of persons under employment).	<u>LINK</u>	
1.26. Legal employment in the timber processing sector		Legal Authority
Labour Act 2003 (Act 651). An Act which consolidates the laws relating to labour, employers, trade unions and industrial relations; establishing a National Labour Commission and to provide for matters related to these	<u>LINK</u>	Labour Department of the Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations
Labour regulations (LI 1833). Regulates the Labour Act 2003 (Act 651)	<u>LINK</u>	National Pension Regulatory Authority
National Pension Act 2008 (Act 766) Section, 1, 3, 58-63. Establishes the three-tier pension scheme and defines the requirements for Social Security registration for companies and employees	<u>LINK</u>	Social Security and National Insurance Trust
Factories, offices and shops act (Act 328).	<u>LINK</u>	Department of Factories Inspectorate of the Ministry of
National Health Insurance Authority Act, 2012 (Act 852). Part II sections 12-13 defines employer responsibility for worker's registration on the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).	<u>LINK</u>	Employment and Labour Relations National Health Insurance Authority
Pesticides Control and Management Act, 1996 (Act 528) (Section 21 defines safeguards for use of pesticides).	<u>LINK</u>	

## About LIFE Legal Wood

LIFE Legal Wood is an initiative that aims at supporting timber-related companies in Europe with knowledge, tools and training in the requirements of the EU Timber Regulation. Knowing your timber's origin is not only good for the forests, but good for business. The initiative is funded by the LIFE Programme of the European



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Preferred by Nature (formerly NEPCon) is an international nonprofit organisation working to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and the climate.

We do this through a unique combination of sustainability certification services, projects supporting awareness raising, and capacity building.