

ProTerra Certification Procedure

The ProTerra Standard

The ProTerra Standard has been developed to promote social and environmental sustainability through the food and feed supply chains, to support stakeholders in their efforts to continuously improve their day-to-day practices and to help businesses in engaging and implementing the concept of sustainable development.

The ProTerra Foundation's mission is to be a global network of businesses supporting more sustainable agricultural practices, in the food and feed supply chains, where relevant the conversion to non-GMOs and full respect of workers and communities' dignity.

The ProTerra Standard focuses on all the important challenges faced by companies in the food and feeds supply chains, particularly on those related to agricultural commodities:

- Protection of the Amazon, Cerrado, Chaco biomes, and any other High Conservation Value Areas;
- Protection of the rights of communities, indigenous people, and smallholders;
- Promotion of good labour practices such as workplace safety, equal opportunities, and particular attention to preventing child and forced labour;
- Promotion of good agricultural practices, particularly regarding soil fertility, water management and continuous efforts to reduce the use of fertilisers and pesticides;
- Protection of biodiversity, particularly through rigorous Non-GMO requirements.

The ProTerra Standard is applicable globally to all crops in the entire supply chain.

To become ProTerra-certified, organisations need to demonstrate adherence to relevant principles, criteria and indicators of the Standard, according to the level on which they operate:

- Level I: Agricultural production
- Level II: Transport, Storage, Traders and Dealers
- Level III: Industrial Processing

Companies have two approaches to become certified:

- i. Each actor in the food and feed supply chain can be certified in its own right against the relevant ProTerra Standard set of indicators or
- ii. Certified organisations that use inputs from actors that are not ProTerra certified in their own right shall implement systems to control and monitor its supply chain(s) to ensure that the relevant ProTerra Standard indicators are met. In this case, the verification of this system will be considered as part of the user's own ProTerra certification responsibilities and verified by the Certification Body.

The certification procedure

All companies that enter the ProTerra certification process have to be a member of the ProTerra Network. Becoming part of the ProTerra Network benefits organizations, such as :

- Image and brand – you will be able to demonstrate proactive engagement and commitment regarding climate change, biodiversity and social issues to your stakeholders, customers and investors by commitment to the ProTerra Vision;
- Market position – secure consumer approval, by credible and supported claims about supporting sustainability initiatives, deforestation, etc.
- The ProTerra member logo can be used institutionally by your organization.
- Your logo will be shown on our members' page.
- Information and awareness – receive updates, information and news about the latest developments in the sector.
- Discounted fees to ProTerra international events and training, options to partner with ProTerra at industry conferences, fairs and events.

Here you can find the [ProTerra Network Application Form](#), the annual membership fee depends on the company's annual revenue which can be found [here](#) and Network Members are requested to sign the [ProTerra Membership Declaration](#). [The ProTerra Network](#) goes beyond certification and gives companies global recognition.

The ProTerra Foundation trains and approves certification bodies, to perform independent, third-party certification, verification and gap audits. The benefits of certifying against the ProTerra Standard are:

- ✓ Improve sustainability and traceability, and decrease risk (social, reputational, environmental, economical) within the supply chain.
- ✓ Demonstrate to the buyer market a differentiated product, opening possibilities for new markets.
- ✓ Help to preserve biodiversity and valuable habitats for future generations.
- ✓ Implement one standard for all crops and origins.

All companies certified under the ProTerra Standard have a traceability system, guaranteeing that their raw materials are non-GM and have been produced in a sustainable way, considering economic, social and environmental dimensions. Traceability Certificates of Compliance, (TCC), ensure complete traceability of a product.

Please contact us for further information at [Contact | ProTerra Foundation](#) or per email at info@proterrafoundation.org