

Future Fit Framework 1.0 Explained





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Glossary





0. Summary



We have developed Future Fit Framework to assess the sustainability of our raw materials and our products. Global demand for growing media is multiplying and the overall sustainability of materials needs to be understood. Each material has its own pros and cons and understanding them as well as the sustainability considerations linked to each material is necessary to select the most suitable and most sustainable raw materials.



With the support of Future Fit Framework we can:



Provide the most sustainable products possible to our customers.



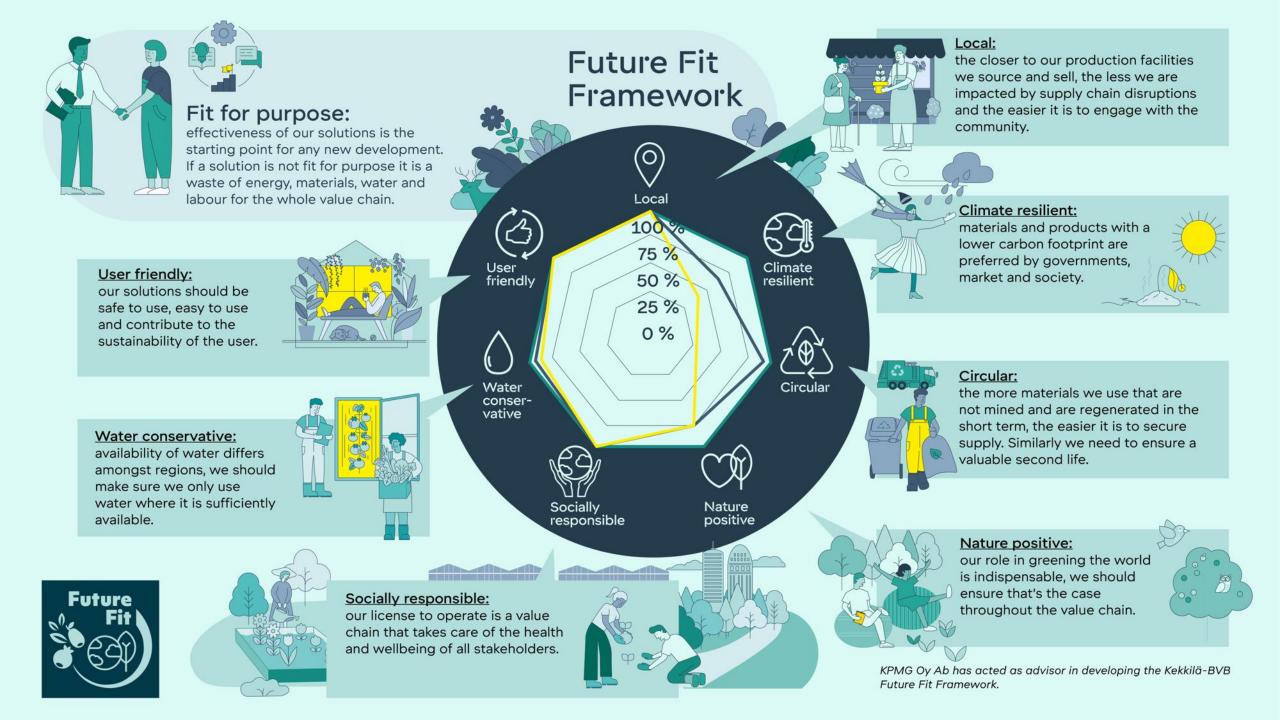
Understand the sustainability risks and opportunities of the raw materials we use and the products we sell.



Be transparent about the sustainability performance of our raw materials and products towards the society.

Through an iterative process, involving own employees and external stakeholders we have made sure the framework includes a wide range of relevant environmental, social and business aspects within the value chain.

KPMG Oy Ab has acted as advisor in developing the Kekkilä-BVB Future Fit Framework.





1. Background



1. Background

More and more customers ask us whether or not certain products are sustainable. Most of the time the focus is on certain raw materials (e.g. peat) or certain topics (e.g. carbon footprint) that have gotten attention in the media. To be able to answer those questions in a more consistent way and compare different products and raw materials we have developed the Future Fit Framework. Through an iterative process, involving internal stakeholders and external consultants and stakeholders we have made sure the framework includes a wide range of relevant environmental, social and business aspects within the value chain. We are proud to present version 1.0 and explain what it's all about

The importance of sustainable growing media

In the current world we have to deal with many challenges such as climate destabilization, resource scarcity, urbanization, ecosystem decline, inequality and a food crisis. The impact of these challenges differs per country and our sector has a key role to play in dealing with them:

- Growing media are needed to safely and efficiently feed the world by increasing the yield per area, reducing water and fertilizer use, enabling production close to urban areas, ensuring food safety and hygiene and enabling better working conditions.
- Nature based solutions create healthy, biodiverse and climate proof urban areas by functioning as water buffers, cooling the city, purifying the air, facilitating social cohesion, and allowing local flora and fauna to thrive.
- Gardening reduces stress and increases wellbeing by inviting mindful activities with healthy and beautiful flowers, shrubs and trees.

Developing the Future Fit Framework

Unsurprisingly, global demand for growing media is multiplying and the overall sustainability of materials needs to be understood. Each material has its own pros and cons and understanding them as well as the sustainability considerations linked to each material is necessary to select the most suitable, most sustainable raw materials. If we want to be fit for the future, we need to know what raw materials to focus on and the type of products to develop.

Therefore, we have developed the Future Fit Framework, a framework to assess the sustainability of our raw materials and products. Starting from being fit for purpose we need to consider many different aspects on whether or not a (new) raw material or product is sustainable. In an ideal case, the final solution is a local, climate resilient, circular, nature positive and water conservative substrate that adds to the health and wellbeing of a fair society.

Using internal and external knowledge we've been able to compile a comprehensive framework that supports decision making at many levels. The following work by our colleagues and experts has especially been of significant help: (1) Martijn van Vliet's thesis on "Multi-value comparison for (raw) materials and innovations in the growing media sector"; (2) the SLCA tool that was developed by The Natural Step; (3) GMA's Growing Media Responsible Sourcing Scheme; (4) the LCA approach of Ecochain and (5) Gaia's support in setting up the outlines of the framework. Thanks to many colleagues and a final review by external experts, we've been able to develop the Future Fit Framework.



1. Background

How we will use the Future Fit Framework

The Future Fit Framework plays a significant role in decision making for multiple departments. For our procurement department the Future Fit Framework shows the risks and opportunities of each raw material that we procure. Following the score of the raw material, mitigation actions can be started or opportunities pursued. Our procurement department is already testing the Future Fit Framework and for each raw material a score is determined including a brief description of the different aspects.

When we are developing new products, the framework can be used to find optimal performance (fit for purpose) of our substrates with the best possible sustainability score. It can be used to compare different recipes with the same performance for the grower. The framework can also be used by the R&D department to quickly assess new raw materials to understand to what extend they are future fit. When the initial evaluation gives a positive result, a more thorough check will be done (where evidence is gathered) together with sourcing when also the physical, biological and chemical properties are satisfactorily.

Finally, the framework provides all the relevant product and raw material information needed to engage in sustainability discussions. There are already many questions in the market about the sustainability of growing media in general and regarding specific raw materials. The Future Fit Framework and the related documentation can show for each product and each raw material what the sustainability pains and gains are and how we can grow together for a better future.

Future Fit Framework governance

The Future Fit Framework is meant to be an instrument that is continuously improved. Therefore, a regular review of whether it is up-to-date and reflects factual conditions is required. In addition, the review shall include an assessment of whether any indicators can be improved without compromising the usability of the framework. Stakeholder feedback will be part of these reviews, by allowing them to give feedback during offline or online discussions.

As a minimum, the annual review shall include the following:

- Amending all background information (such as country scorings, LCA information etc) to be most recent available
- Assessing, whether there are any questions that have become redundant since the last review and if yes, removing such (a question can be deemed redundant, if all the materials continuously receive the same scoring)
- Analysing, whether more accurate data would be available to be linked to the Future Fit Framework (e.g. supplier database)
- Tracking and saving the paper trail of the reasoning behind each time when using the Future Fit Framework. E.g. on what grounds did we give 5 points on these questions last year, and does it differ from how we think this year.



2. Methodology and scoring



We have developed Future Fit Framework to assess the sustainability of our raw materials and our products. Global demand for growing media is multiplying and the overall sustainability of materials needs to be understood. Each material has its own pros and cons and understanding them as well as the sustainability considerations linked to each material is necessary to select the most suitable and most sustainable raw materials.



With the support of Future Fit Framework we can:



Provide the most sustainable products possible to our customers.



Understand the sustainability risks and opportunities of the raw materials we use and the products we sell.



Be transparent about the sustainability performance of our raw materials and products towards the society.

Through an iterative process, involving own employees and external stakeholders we have made sure the framework includes a wide range of relevant environmental, social and business aspects within the value chain.

KPMG Oy Ab has acted as advisor in developing the Kekkilä-BVB Future Fit Framework.



2. Methodology and scoring

The Future Fit Framework was built in such a way that it addresses the most important aspects throughout the value chain. The framework scores each aspect per individual raw material, making it possible to both use the framework for raw materials as well as products. It is easy to understand, even when completely new to the framework and by providing default values where possible (such as the carbon footprint of extraction) initial assessments of (new) raw materials can be made quickly.

What sustainability aspects does the Future Fit Framework address?

- Fit for purpose: effectiveness of our solutions is the starting point for any new development. If a solution is not fit for purpose it is a waste of energy, materials, water and labour.
- Local: the closer to our production facilities we source and sell, the less we are impacted by supply chain disruptions.
- **Climate resilient**: materials and products with a lower carbon footprint are preferred by governments, market and society
- **Circular**: the more materials we use that are not mined and are regenerated in the short term, the easier it is to secure supply.
- **Nature positive**: our role in greening the world is indispensable, we should ensure that's the case throughout the value chain
- Socially responsible: our license to operate is a value chain that takes care of the health and wellbeing of all stakeholders
- Water conservative: availability of water differs amongst regions, we should make sure we only use water where it is sufficiently available.
- User friendly: our solutions should be safe to use, easy to use and contribute to the sustainability of the user

How to determine the Future Fit Score?

For each aspect multiple questions (shown in detail in the next section) are asked that will determine the overall score per aspect. The lowest possible score per question is 0, while the highest score is 10. Per aspect the final score is a percentage calculated by dividing the actual score by the maximum score. The overall Future Fit Score is an average of all scores per aspect.

For the aspect 'Fit for Purpose' qualitative questions are asked and when a raw material or product are not seen as 'Fit for Purpose' the overall Future Fit Score will be zero. When products don't fit the needs of our customers, they can not be seen as sustainable products.

When databases or certifications are needed to determine the score these are mentioned per aspect and explained in the Glossary. When values of a specific database are used, they can be found in the appendix. Specific references, used to determine thresholds are also mentioned and explained in the Glossary.

For raw materials the aspects 'User friendliness' and 'Packaging' are not included. The 'User friendliness' questions focus on the product level and here the qualitative questions of the aspect 'Fit for purpose' are sufficient. And since our raw materials arrive in bulk at our production locations, there's no need to evaluate packaging.

On the next page a full schematic overview of the questions and maximum scores per aspect is given.

• Sustainable packaging: all of the above applies to our packaging as well.

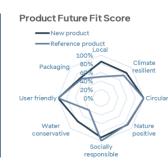


					Sustainab	ility score				
Key aspects	Fit for purpose	Value chain stage	Local	Climate resilient	Circular	Nature positive	Socially responsible	Water conservative	User friendly	Sustainable packaging
Questions All questions are multiple choice questions with potential scores of low (0pt), medium (5pt) and high (10pt), except for the open questions related to 'Fit for purpose'.	 How would you describe a typical user of this product? What is the function of this product? Why is this product better than what's already on the market? How does this product add business value? Is the product aligned with the overall portfolio strategy? 	A. RESPONSIBLE SOURCING B. EFFICIENT PRODUCTION C. LEAN LOGISTICS D EFFECTIVE USE & VALUABLE 2 ND LIFE	C. Lean logistics • Distance to production facility • Distance to customer	 A. Responsible sourcing Renewable, metal, mineral or fossil Raw material extraction CO₂ footprint Raw material fossil carbon content B. Efficient production Raw material processing CO₂ footprint C. Lean logistics Distance to production facility Distance to customer Bonus: CO2 compensation 	 A. Responsible sourcing Renewable, metal, mineral or fossil % recycled? D. Effective use & valuable 2nd life Does the product have a valuable second life 	 A. Responsible sourcing Renewable, metal, mineral or fossil Country of origin - Level of environm. Protection / CoC Potential for pollution during extraction B. Efficient production Country of Processing - Level of environm. Protection / CoC Potential for pollution during processing D. Effective use & valuable 2nd life Does the product have any emissions that could harm nature Bonus: environmental third party certification 	 A. Responsible sourcing Country of origin - Protection of human rights / CoC B. Efficient production Country of Processing - Protection of human rights / CoC D. Effective use & valuable 2nd life Is the product safe to use Bonus: social third party certification 	 A. Responsible sourcing Country of origin - Water stress / CoC Water consumption during extraction B. Efficient production Water consumption during processing Country of Processing -Water stress / CoC 	 D. Effective use & valuable 2nd life Does the available product information provide guidance for optimum use Is the product safe to use Does the product support the customer in becoming more sustainable 	Same questions for: • Local • Climate resilient • Circular • Nature positive • Socially responsible • Water extensive
Raw material max	Yes / No		10	35	30	60	30	30	N.A.	N.A.
Product score max	Yes / No		20	40	30	60	30	30	30	240

Overal syndyret econe

Calculation of score per aspect: Total product score / maximum score x 100%

Calculation of overall sustainability score: Fit for purpose score x average of aspect scores

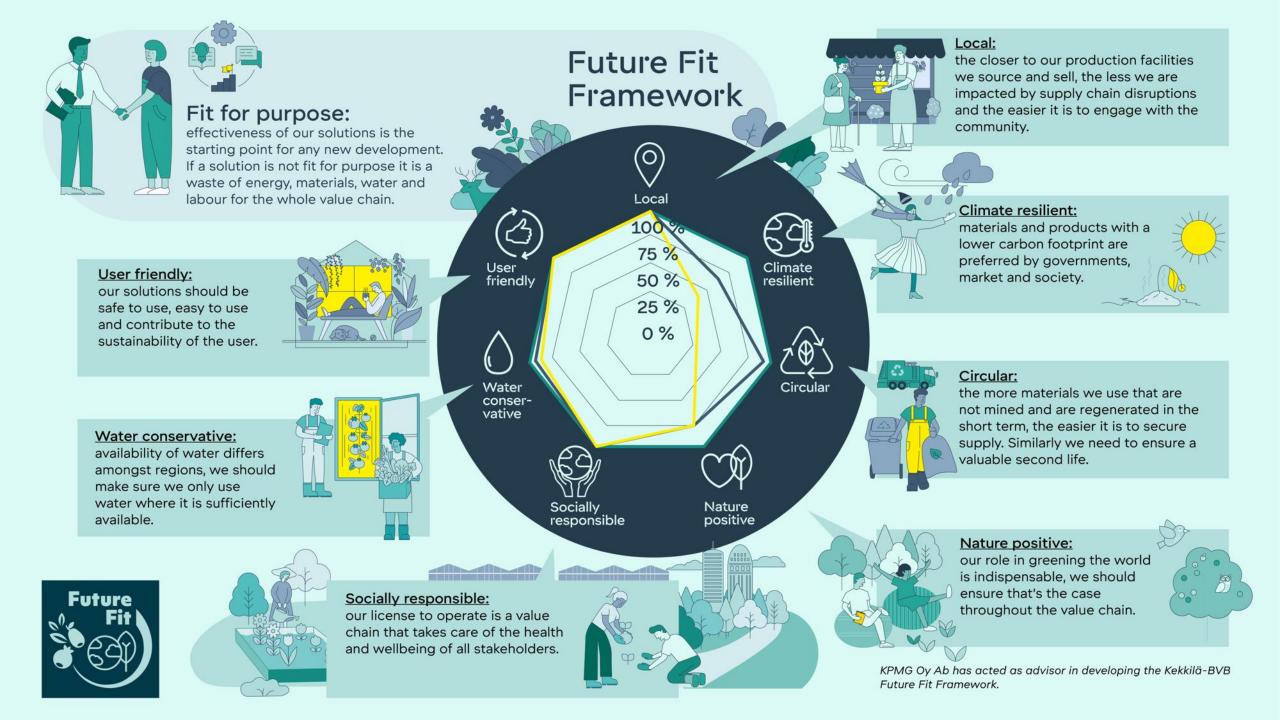


Overal product score	New product	Reference product	Iviaximum
Local	85%	50%	100%
Climate resilient	84%	75%	100%
Circular	100%	100%	100%
Nature positive	87%	87%	100%
Socially responsible	92%	100%	100%
Water conservative	77%	40%	100%
User friendly	100%	100%	100%
Packaging	67%	64%	100%
Total score	86%	77%	100%

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3. Key aspects, questions and evaluation





3.1 Fit for Purpose



Effectiveness of our solutions is the starting point for any new development. If a solution is not fit for purpose it is a waste of energy, materials, water and labour for the whole value chain.



Maximum score

For fit for purpose the maximum score is 1. When the raw material* or product is aligned with the overall portfolio strategy, it adds both business and customer value. When this is not the case, a zero score will be given and the overall sustainability score will always be zero.

Торіс	Question	Answers & values	Explanation
Product name	What is the name of the new product? Add article number if existing product.	Qualitative answer	This question is relevant for tracking the item that is being evaluated.
Customer segment	How would you describe a typical user of this product?	Qualitative answer	The user is central in this part of the evaluation and is, therefore, important to understand the needs and wishes.
Product purpose	What is the function of this product?	Qualitative answer	Our substrates are used in many different ways, ranging from vertical forests to the growing of soft fruits. And all of these require different characteristics.
Customer added value	Why is this product equal or better than what's already on the market? - What customer problems does it solve? - How does it exceed customer expectations?	Qualitative answer	Based on the users' needs and wishes we continuously improve our products and the raw materials we use. The better the fit, the happier the customer.
Business value	How does this product add business value? - Business model? - More sustainable?	Qualitative answer	The products we create and raw materials we use should be part of a financially sound value chain and improving overall sustainability.
Portfolio strategy	Is the product aligned with the overall portfolio	Yes 1	If all answers above are answere satisfactorily, the product or raw material
	strategy?	No 0	aligns with the portfolio strategy. If it doesn't align, there is no use in further developing the product or raw material.



3.2 Local

Local

The closer to our production facilities we source and sell, the less we are impacted by supply chain disruptions and the easier it is to engage with the community.

Maximum score

For determination of locality, a maximum of 20 points can be reached for the product and 10 points for a raw material. For a product it means that both raw materials and the customer are close to the production facility. This makes the raw material or product more environmentally friendly, and it supports the local economy and community. Inbound and outbound logistics both contribute 50% to the final score, since they are equally important.

Question	Answer & values		Explanation
Distance of origin to	Distance >400km	0	Our production facilities are based in smaller countries like the Netherlands and Estonia, but also big
production facility	Distance ≤400km	10	 countries like Finland, Germany and Sweden. Stakeholders have explained that they found 750km either short a distance or too long to be local. Therefore, we have taken the example of the <u>Real Food Standar</u> <u>2.1</u> that describe 400km as a reasonable distance. That's the distance you can travel back and forth in day and still have time to conduct business in between. We have chosen to not have an inbetween score for 'local'. A raw material or product is either local or reasonable.
			That's why distances below 400km get 10 points and longer distances 0 points.
Distance of production facility to customer	Distance >400km	0	See explanation above.
	Distance ≤400km	10	





3.3 Climate resilient (1/2)

Climate resilience

Materials and products with a lower carbon footprint are preferred by governments, market and society

Maximum score

For determination of climate resilience, many factors are considered. First the type of material and fossil carbon content, then raw material extraction and processing carbon footprint and finally transport from and to our production facilities. All questions weigh equally in the final climate resilience score, except for transport distances which is known to have a significant yet relatively lower impact than other factors.

Question	Answer & values		Explanation
Extraction and	Footprint (in kg $CO_{2 eq}/m^3$) > 20	0	In order to reduce climate change impact we need to be as energy efficient as possible and minimize CO ²
processing CO ₂ footprint	$0 < \text{Footprint}$ (in kg $CO_{2 \text{ eq}} / \text{m}^3$) ≤ 20	5	emission for the extraction and processing of the raw materials before using them in our growing media. Up to 20kg CO ² / m ³ most common raw materials can be extracted and processed, including wood fiber.
	Footprint (in kg $CO_{2 eq}./m^3) \le 0$	10	Anything between 0 and 20kg CO_2 / m^3 therefore gets an average score. Industry experience has shown that only marginal efficiency gains can still be established for these materials in processing and extraction.
			Anything above this value should be prevented and therefore gets a zero score. The ultimate situation would occur when only renewable energy is used during extraction and processing of the raw materials (and carbon is stored in the soil when the raw material is grown), that's when the maximum score of 10 points is rewarded.
			To emphasize it's importance the extraction and processing carbon footprint will be shown in the sustainability score card as well.
Distance of origin to	Distance >400km	0	As explained for the local scoring the threshold of 400km determines whether or not a material or product is
production facility	Distance ≤400km	5	Iocal. For climate resilience we have adapted the maximum scoring to reflect the wish of the stakeholders to emphasize the extraction and processing CO ² footprint, compared to transport distances.
Distance of production	Distance >400km	0	
facility to customer	Distance ≤400km	5	





3.3 Climate resilient (2/2)

Question	Answer & values		Explanation
Renewable, metal, mineral	Fossil	0	In order to reduce climate change we need to use as little fossil materials as possible to reduce the risk of
or fossil?	Peat	0	non-biogene CO ² emissions. Metals and minerals don't have a fossil carbon content, but do have a high extraction impact through mining, reducing the area available for soil carbon storage. Renewable materials
	Metal	5	get the highest score, although short term renewables (like grasses) score better than longer term
	Mineral	5	 renewables (like trees), because they have a shorter natural carbon cycle. With a shorter natural cycle, replanting of the biomass compensates CO² emissions due to harvesting and use sooner and it therefore
	Renewable (within 100 years)	8	gets a higher score.
	Renewable (within 5 years)	enewable (within 5 years) 10	
Raw material fossil carbon	Footprint (in kg $CO_{2 eq} / m^3$) > 0	0	The higher the fossil carbon content of a material, the worse the impact is for the climate when the material
content	Footprint (in kg $CO_{2 eq}./m^3$) ≤ 0	10	degrades or gets incinerated. The best materials are those that actually prevent carbon from being emitted (like biochar). While the worst materials from a climate perspective have a lot of fossil carbon content (like peat).
			To emphasize it's importance, the carbon footprint will be shown in the future fit scorecard or as part of a separate LCA calculation.
CO ₂ compensation	0% of the carbon footprint compensated	0	Based on how much of the full lifecycle of a raw material or product is compensated, a maximum of 2 bonus points can be achieved. The maximum bonus points are lower to reflect the fact that compensation is good,
	100% of the carbon footprint compensated	2	but it is better to prevent emissions in the first place.



3.4 Circular (1/2)



Circularity

The more materials we use that are not mined and are regenerated in the short term, the easier it is to secure supply. Similarly, we need to ensure a valuable second life.

Maximum score

For determination of circularity of a raw material* or product, a maximum of 30 points can be reached. The type of material, recycled content and possibility to provide a second life after use are all equally important for the final score.

Question	Answer & values		Explanation
Renewable, metal, mineral	Fossil	0	The type of material determines whether or not a material can be seen as circular in itself. Only renewable
or fossil?	Peat	0	materials can be seen as circular and the quicker a material is renewed, the higher the score. Metals and minerals are types of materials for which recycling is common and relatively easy, while fossil materials get
	Metal	5	the lowest scores, because they usually are incinerated or end up as pollution in the environment.
	Mineral	5	
	Renewable (within 100 years)	8	
	Renewable (within 5 years)	10	
Circular content	0%	0	Based on how much circular content the raw material or product contains a maximum score of 10 points can
	100%	10	be achieved. For example, a product that consists of 90% recycled materials will get 9 points. A good example of a material that obtains the maximum score is compost from green waste, but also woodfiber would obtain the maximum score, following the <u>WBCSD approach</u> .
			To emphasize the importance of giving waste a valuable second life, the recycled content will be shown in the sustainability score card as well.





3.4 Circular (2/2)

Question	Answer & values		Explanation
Valuable second life	No, (part of) the product ends up in landfill or are incinerated after use	0	The minimum effort that we can do is to make sure that our products can be given a second life, through composting, recycling or reuse. However, for the maximum score that actually has to happen. So a maximum
	Yes, the product can be composted, recycled or reused after their first use and instructions are given to the user	5	score is only possible if the local infrastructure facilitates a valuable second life. No second life automatical means a zero score.
	As above, and the second life is compatible with local waste processing infrastructure	10	





3.5 Nature positive (1/3)

Nature postive

Our role in greening the world is indispensable, we should ensure that's the case throughout the value chain.

Maximum score

For determination of the nature positivity of a raw materials or product, a maximum of 60 points can be reached. Questions cover the whole lifecycle, and no distinction is made in the weighing of the questions.

Question	Answer & values		Explanation
Renewable, metal, mineral	Fossil	0	In terms of impact on the environment during extraction and after use, renewable materials have the least
or fossil?	Peat	0	 environmental impact since the environment needs to be taken care of to ensure proper growing of the renewable biomass. For metals and minerals the natural environment is harmed through the mining. For
	Metal	5	fossil fuels environmental impact is the highest both during extraction (e.g. oil spills) as after use (e.g. plastic
	Mineral	5	- soup).
	Renewable (within 100 years)	8	
	Renewable (within 5 years)	10	
Country of Origin - Level of environmental protection	Yes, the raw materials are sourced from an area with an Environmental performance score <50	impact depends on the supplier. The score is based on the Environmental Protection Index.	The country of origin of raw materials determines the risk of negative environmental impact, but actual impact depends on the supplier. The score is based on the <u>Environmental Protection Index</u> . For the scoring of the environmental impact only the top 10% of countries get a maximum score, while the top 30% get half
	Yes, the raw materials are sourced from an area with an Environmental performance score between 50 and 70	5	 the score. A low score can be compensated when the supplier has signed our supplier code of conduct and the most recent environmental audit (by us or another third party) has not shown any material environmental
	No, the materials is sourced from areas with an Environmental performance score >70	10	findings.





3.5 Nature positive (2/3)

Question	Answer & values		Explanation
Is there a potential for pollution of air, water or	Yes, and mitigation actions are not sufficient	0	Pollution can both come from natural origin (e.g. terpenes in wood fiber) as synthetic origin (e.g. chemicals used for buffering coir). Only when extraction of raw materials has no emissions (excluding emissions from
soil during extraction?	Yes, and mitigation actions prevent pollution	5	 fuel use) to air, water or soil the maximum score can be reached. The potential impact of extraction of materials excludes accidents. The occurrence of harmful emissions
	No, extraction causes no significant pollution	10	should be part of the common processes, since there's always a chance for accidents, however small.
Country of Processing - Level of environmental protection	Yes, the raw materials are sourced from an area with an Environmental performance score <50	0	The country of origin of raw materials determines the risk of negative environmental impact, but actual impact depends on the supplier. The score is based on the <u>Environmental Protection Index</u> . For the scoring of the environmental impact only the top 10% of countries get a maximum score, while the top 30% get half
	Yes, the raw materials are sourced from an area with an Environmental performance score between 50 and 70	5	 the score. A low score can be compensated when the supplier has signed our supplier code of conduct and the most recent environmental audit (by us or another third party) has not shown any material environmental
	No, the materials is sourced from areas with an Environmental performance score >70	10	findings.
Is there a potential for pollution of air, water or soil during processing?	Yes, and mitigation actions are not sufficient	0	See extraction.
	Yes, and mitigation actions prevent pollution	5	_
	No, extraction causes no significant pollution	10	





3.5 Nature positive (3/3)

Question	Answer & values		Explanation
Does the product have any emissions to air,	reduce emissions in application		The minimum effort that we can do is to make sure that users of our products are given guidance to prevent any harmful levels of emissions from occuring, although most of our products don't have any harmful
water or soil that could harm biodiversity?			emissions, which in terms of product design is the ultimate goal.
Environmental third party certification	0% of the raw material supplier(s) are third party certified according to a reliable certification scheme	0	Based on how much of the raw material suppliers are certified, a maximum of 2 bonus points can be achieved. The maximum bonus points are lower to reflect the fact that certification is good, but it is better when nature protection is an integral part of local regulations and practices already.
	100% of the raw material supplier(s) are third party certified according to a reliable certification scheme	2	- Certifications that currently qualify for bonus points are: ISO14001, RPP, FSC, PEFC, Global G.A.P and MPS G.A.P.





3.6 Socially responsible (1/2)

Socially responsible

Our license to operate is a value chain that takes care of the health and wellbeing of all stakeholders

Maximum score

For determination of the social responsibility of a raw material* or product, a maximum of 30 points can be reached. Where both the country of origin of a raw material is taking into account as well as the product safety

Question	Answer & values		Explanation	
amfori BSCI country risk indexan area with a BSCI risk score <70Yes, the raw materials are sourced from an area with a HDI score between 70 and 90	-	0	The country of origin of raw materials determines the risk of negative social impact, but actual impact depends on the supplier. The score is based on the <u>amfori BSCI risk index</u>	
	an area with a HDI score between 70	5	 For the scoring of social impact only the top 10% of countries get a maximum score, while the top 30% get half the score. A low score can be compensated when the supplier has signed our supplier code of conduct and the most 	
	10	recent social audit (by us or another third party) has not shown any material social findings.		
use? legislation) are f metals and path Previous level re documentation	Legally binding limits (existing national 0 legislation) are followed for heavy metals and pathogens		We need to comply with many product safety rules and regulations that differ per country. We can not sel our product if we don't comply. Maximum score is given when the user is fully informed about harmful contents (if any) and how to deal with them.	
	Previous level requirements AND documentation from subcontractors and suppliers is available	5	Product quality can be confirmed by ISO9001, RHP and QMGS certification of production location or product.	
	Previous level requirements AND information on the packaging explains about possible harmful contents and how the user can protect oneself against harmful substances	10		





3.6 Socially responsible (2/2)

Question	Answer & values		Explanation
Country of Processing – amfori BSCI country risk index	Yes, the raw materials is sourced from an area with a BSCI risk score <70	0	The country of processing of raw materials determines the risk of negative social impact, but actual impact depends on the supplier. The score is based on the <u>amfori BSCI risk index</u> . For the scoring of social impact
	Yes, the raw materials are sourced from an area with a BSCI risk score between 70 and 90		only the top 10% of countries get a maximum score, while the top 30% get half the score. <i>A low score can be compensated when the supplier has signed our supplier code of conduct and the most</i> <i>recent social audit (by us or another third party) has not shown any material social findings.</i>
	No, the material is sourced from areas with a BSCI risk score >90	10	
Social third party certification	0% of the raw material supplier(s) are 0 third party certified according to a reliable certification scheme		Based on how much of the raw material suppliers are certified, a maximum of 2 bonus points can be achieved. The maximum bonus points are lower to reflect the fact that certification is good, but it is better when social responsibility is an integral part of local regulations and practices already.
	100% of the raw material supplier(s) are third party certified according to a reliable certification scheme	2	- Certifications that currently qualify for bonus points are: ISO45001, SA8000, Fair Trade Hired Labour Standard, MPS SQ, Rainforest Alliance Certificate, Amfori Code of Conduct



3.7 Water conservative

Water conservative

Availability of water differs amongst regions, we should make sure we only use water where it is sufficiently available.



For determination of the water conservativeness of a raw material or product, a maximum of 30 points can be reached. The most important is whether or not the raw material is sourced from a water scarce country and how much water is needed during extraction and processing.

Question	Answer & values		Explanation				
Country of Origin – Water stress	Yes, the raw materials is sourced from 0 an area with >3 water stress score		The country of origin of raw materials determines the risk of water stress impact, but actual impact depends on the local situation at the supplier. The score is based on the <u>Water Stress Index</u> . For the scoring of the				
	Yes, the raw materials is sourced from an area with 1.5-3 water stress score	5	 water stress impact only the top 35% of countries get a maximum score, while the top 55% get half the score. 				
	No, the material is sourced from areas with <1.5 water stress score	10	A low score can be compensated when the supplier has signed our supplier code of conduct and the most recent environmental audit (by us or another third party) has not shown any material environmental findings.				
Country of Processing – Water stress	Yes, the raw materials is sourced from 0 an area with >3 water stress score		See explanation above.				
	Yes, the raw materials is sourced from an area with 1.5-3 water stress score	5					
	No, the material is sourced from areas with <1.5 water stress score	10					
How much water is	>100 l /m ³ 0		Up to 50 liters of water per m ³ most common raw materials can be extracted and processed, including				
consumed during extraction and	50-100 l /m ³	5	 wood fiber. Above 100 liters we find raw materials such as coir that requires intense cleaning and buffering before use. 				
processing?	<50 l /m ³	10	-				



3.8 User friendly

User friendly

Our solutions should be safe to use, easy to use and contribute to the sustainability of the user



Maximum score

For determination of the user friendliness of a product, a maximum of 30 points can be reached. Optimum use (effectiveness), safety and user sustainability support are all weighed equally.

Question	Answer & values	Explanation	
Does the available product information	Fulfilling legal requirements: packaging label covers the minimum information required regarding the contents, shelflife, use and storage	0	Basic information is a must on our packaging, but if we can create a support system that ensures optimum use and after use we can be
provide guidance for optimum use?	Previous level requirements AND some sustainability related information provided on the packaging	5	sure of customer satisfaction.
	Previous level requirements AND information provided on product after-life on the packaging AND customer service available for further questions		-
Is the product safe to use?	Legally binding limits (existing national legislation) are followed for heavy metals and pathogens	0	We need to comply with many product safety rules and regulations that differ per country. We can not sell our product if we don't
	Previous level requirements AND documentation from subcontractors and suppliers is available	5	comply. Maximum score is given when the user is fully informed about harmful contents (if any) and how to deal with them.
	Previous level requirements AND information on the packaging explains about possible harmful contents and how the user can protect oneself against harmful substances		-
Does the product	No, it has no specific sustainability benefits		The more we are able to help the user with profiting from the
support the customer	Yes it has clear sustainability benefits.		 positive sustainability benefits of our products, the better. The following product attributes are seen as clear sustainability benefits:
in becoming more sustainable?	Yes, it has clear sustainability benefits and clear instructions on how to optimize them.		increase of local biodiversity, creation of a water buffers, and/or provision of a valuable second life to green waste.



4. External data tables



Countries' Risk Classification – amfori BSCI

https://www.amfori.org/sites/default/files/amfori-2020-11-12-Country-Risk-Classification-2021_0.pdf

Country		Risk score	Country		Risk score	Country		Risk score	Country		Risk score
Afghanistan		8,50	Egypt		23,70	Lithuania		79,50	Saudi Arabia		45,60
Albania		48,60	El Salvador		40,40	Luxembourg		96,10	Senegal		52,10
Algeria		20,90	Equatorial Guinea		10,60	Macao		77,20	Serbia		48,60
Andorra		91,40	Eritrea		6,20	Macedonia		49,80	Seychelles*		64,60
Angola		19,60	Estonia		85,40	Madagascar		23,60	Sierra Leone		29,40
Anguilla	N/A		Ethiopia		25,10	Malawi		32,20	Singapore		88,90
Antigua and Barbuda		67,20	Fiji		59,70	Malaysia		63,80	Slovakia		72,90
Argentina		47,20	Finland		95.50	Maldives*		40,80	Slovenia		80,30
Armenia		48.00	France		84,20	Mali		21,60	Solomon Islands		44,60
Aruba		86,00	French Guiana		82,20	Malta		78,20	Somalia		1,60
Australia		93,40	Gabon		22,50	Marshall Islands		48,10	South Africa		58,00
Austria		91,30	Gambia		38,80	Martinique	N/A	46,10	South Korea		78,00
			Georgia		63,00		N/A	24.20	South Sudan		1,40
Azerbaijan		28,20	Germany		89,80	Mauritania Mauritius		26,20			
Bahrain		48,20 20,90	Ghana		52,70	Mauritius Mexico		74,30 36,90	Spain		76,20
Bangladesh			Greece*		64,80				Sri Lanka St. Kitts		46,20
Barbados		76,50	Greenland		89,00	Micronesia		59,20			70,10
Belarus		36,70	Grenada*		60,80	Moldova		39,80	St. Lucia		70,30
Belgium		84,30	Guam	N/A	00,00	Monaco	N/A		St. Vincent and the		
Belize		40,50	Guatemala		27,30	Mongolia		51,20	Grenadines		71,00
Benin		38,00	Guinea		18,90	Montenegro		55,10	Sudan		6,60
Bermuda	N/A		Guinea Bissau		14,30	Morocco		41,70	Suriname		43,50
Bhutan		68,30	Guyana		41.60	Mozambique		22,00	Swaziland		28,00
Bolivia*		23,30	Haiti		13,50	Myanmar		18,30	Sweden		96,20
Bosnia and Herzegovina		37,00	Honduras		26,80	Namibia		61,00	Switzerland		96,90
Botswana		71,00	Hong Kong		78,40	Nauru		50,80	Syria		1,80
Brazil		44,20	Hungary		65,80	Nepal		27,80	Taiwan		83,30
Brunei		71,10	Iceland		94,00	Netherlands		93,50	Tajikistan		11,90
Bulgaria*		61,40	India		47,90	New Zealand		97,70	Tanzania		30,00
Burkina Faso		33,00	Indonesia		45,40	Nicaragua		16,90	Thailand		45,70
Burundi		7,90	Iran		16,10	Niger		25,20	The Bahamas		69,20
Cambodia		25,10	Iraq		9,40	Nigeria		17,20	Timor Leste		34,30
Cameroon		14,20	Ireland		89,20	North Korea		8,50	Togo		23,60
Canada		93,40	Israel		70,80	Norway		97,30	Tonga*		60,50
Cape Verde		69,20	Italy		68,40	Oman		58,20	Trinidad and Tobago		53,60
Cayman Islands		78,10	Ivory Coast		32,40	Pakistan		21,20	Tunisia		44,40
Central African Republic		7,30	Jamaica*		59,90	Palau		60,90	Turkey		38,90
Chad		8,30	Japan		87,80	Panama		54,40	Turkmenistan		11,70
Chile		78,00	Jersey, Channel Islands		87,60	Papua New Guinea		26,30	Tuvalu*		62,00
China		41,20	Jordan		49.10	Paraguay		38,30	Uganda		29,60
Colombia		46,60	Kazakhstan		43,20	Peru		48,40	Ukraine		31,80
Comoros		18,70	Kenya		31,50	Philippines		39,90	United Arab Emirates		69,40
Costa Rica		71,50	Kiribati		64,90	Poland		71,20	United Kingdom		87,30
Croatia		66,70	Kosovo		37.00	Portugal		84,00	United States		81,90
Cuba		38,10	Kuwait		51,00	Puerto Rico		61,00	Uruguay		80,50
Cyprus		75,50	Kyrgystan		27,20	Qatar		64,60	Uzbekistan		19,80
Czech Republic		78,90	Lao People's Democratio		21,20	Republic of Congo		10,50	Vanuatu		54,80
Democratic Republic of			Republic	-	24,00	Réunion		88,18	Venezuela		4,80
the Congo		5,70	Latvia		75,10	Romania		58,40	Vietnam		41,50
Denmark		94,90	Lebanon		21,00	Russia		30,80	Virgin Islands	N/A	-
Djibouti		21,50	Lesotho		38,00	Rwanda		52,80	West Bank		31,00
Dominica		67,80	Liberia		23,50	Samoa		72,10	Yemen		2,30
Dominican Republic		43,40	Libya		2,80	San Marino	N/A		Zambia		33,80
Ecuador		35,10	Liechtenstein		94,00	Sao Tome and Principe		42,50	Zimbabwe		11,10
								,			



Environmental Performance Index – Yale and CIESIN

https://epi.yale.edu/epi-results/2022/component/epi

Country		EPI score	Country	1	PI score	Country		EPI score	Country		EPI score
Afghanistan		25,5	Ecuador		51,0	Luxembourg		82,3	Saudi Arabia		44,0
Albania		49,0	Egypt		43,3	Madagascar		26,5	Senegal		30,7
Algeria		44,8	El Salvador		43,1	Malawi		38,3	Seychelles Sierra Leone		58,2 25,7
Andorra	N.A.		Equatorial Guinea		38,1	Malaysia		47,9	Singapore		58,1
Angola		29,7	Eritrea		30,4	Maldives		35,6	Slovakia		68,3
Antigua and Barbuda		48,5	Estonia		65,3	Mali		29.4	Slovenia		72,0
Argentina		52,2	Eswatini		33,8	Malta		70.7	Solomon Islands		26,7
Armenia		52,3	Ethiopia		34,4	Marshall Islands		30,8	Somalia	N.A.	
Australia		74,9	Fiji		34,4	Mauritania		27,7	South Africa		43,1
Austria		79,6	Finland		78,9	Mauritius		45,1	South Korea South Sudan	N.A.	66,5
Azerbaijan		46,5	France		80,0	Mexico		52,6	Spain	IN.A.	74,3
Bahamas		43,5	Gabon		45,8	Micronesia (country)	N.A.	02,0	Sri Lanka		39,0
Bahrain		51,0	Gambia		27,9	Moldova	140 0	44,4	Sudan		34,8
Bangladesh		29,0	Georgia		41,3	Monaco	N.A.	,	Suriname		45,2
Barbados		45,6	Germany		77,2	Mongolia	140 0	32,2	Sweden		78,7
Belarus		53,0	Ghana		27,6	Montenegro		46,3	Switzerland		81,5
Belgium		73,3				Morocco		40,3	Syria	N.A.	
Belize		41,9	Greece		69,1	Mozambique		33,9	Taiwan Tajikistan		57,2 38,2
Benin		30,0	Grenada		43,1	Myanmar		25,1	Tanzania		30,2
Bhutan		39,3	Guatemala		31,8	Namibia			Thailand		45,4
Bolivia		44,3	Guinea		26,4			40,2	Timor	N.A.	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		44,3	Guinea-Bissau		29,1	Nauru	N.A.		Тодо		29,5
Botswana		40,4	Guyana		35,9	Nepal		32,7	Tonga		45,1
			Haiti		27,0	Netherlands		75,3	Trinidad and Tobago		47,5
Brazil Brunei	N.A.	51,2	Honduras		37,8	New Zealand		71,3	Tunisia		46,7
	N.A.		Hungary		63,7	Nicaragua		39,2	Turkey Turkmenistan		42,6 43,9
Bulgaria		57,0	Iceland		72,3	Niger		30,8	Tuvalu	N.A.	43,9
Burkina Faso		38,3	India		27,6	Nigeria		31,0	Uganda	19.4.	35,6
Burundi		27,0	Indonesia		37,8	North Korea	N.A.		Ukraine		49,5
Cambodia		33,6	Iran		48,0	North Macedonia		55,4	United Arab Emirates		55,6
Cameroon		33,6	Iraq		39,5	Norway		77,7	United Kingdom		81,3
Canada		71,0	Ireland		72,8	Oman		38,5	United States	N.A.	
Cape Verde	N.A.		Israel		65,8	Pakistan		33,1	Uruguay		49,1 44,3
Central African Republic		36,9	Italy		71,0	Palau	N.A.		Uzbekistan Vanuatu		28,9
Chad		26,7	Jamaica		48,2	Panama		47,3	Venezuela		50,3
Chile		55,3	Japan		75,1	Papua New Guinea		32,4	Vietnam	N.A.	00,0
China		37,3	Jordan		53,4	Paraguay		46,4	Yemen	N.A.	
Colombia		52,9	Kazakhstan		44,7	Peru		44,0	Yugoslavia	N.A.	
Comoros		32,1	Kenya		34,7	Philippines		38,4	Zambia		34,7
Congo	N.A.		Kiribati		37,7	Poland		60,9	Zimbabwe		37,0
Costa Rica		52,5	Kosovo	N.A.	0.11	Portugal		67,0			
Cote d'Ivoire		25,8	Kuwait		53,6	Qatar		37,1			
Croatia		63,1	Kyrgyzstan		39,8	Romania		64,7			
Cuba		48,4	Laos		34,8	Russia		50,5			
Cyprus		64,8	Latvia		54,6 61,6	Rwanda		33,8			
Czechia	N.A.		Lebanon			Saint Kitts and Nevis	N.A.				
Democratic Republic of					45,4	Saint Lucia		43,1			
Congo	N.A.		Lesotho		28,0	Saint Vincent and the					
Denmark		82,5	Liberia		22,6	Grenadines		48,4			
Djibouti		28,1	Libya	N.A.		Samoa		37,3			
Dominica		44,6	Liechtenstein	N.A.		San Marino	N.A.				
Dominican Republic		46,3	Lithuania		62,9	Sao Tome and Principe		37,6			



Aquaduct 3.0 Country Rankings – WRI

https://www.wri.org/data/aqueduct-30-country-rankings

Country	Risk	Country	Risk	Country	Risk	Country	Risk
Afghanistan	3.1	Ecuador	0,8	Luxembourg	2,9		
Albania	3,1	Egypt	3,1	Madagascar	0,5	Saudi Arabia	4,4
Algeria	3,7	El Salvador	1,7	Malawi	0,1	Senegal	1,4
Andorra	3,9	Equatorial Guinea	0,0	Malaysia	0,0	Seychelles	No data
Angola	1,6	Eritrea	4,3	Maldives	N.A.	Sierra Leone	0,0
Antigua and Barbuda	No data	Estonia	4,5	Mali	3.4	Singapore	No data
Argentina	1,6	Eswatini	N.A.	Malta	No data	Slovakia	0,5
Armenia	3,1	Ethiopia	1,5	Marshall Islands	N.A.	Slovenia	0,7
Australia	3,1	Fiji	No data	Mauritania	2.1	Solomon Islands	No data
Austria	0,2	Finland	0.3	Mauritius	No data	Somalia	1,0
Azerbaijan	2.8	France	2,2	Mexico	3,9		
Bahamas	No data	Gabon	0,0	Micronesia (country)	N.A.	South Africa	2,9
Bahrain	4.1	Gambia	0,1	Moldova	1,1	South Korea	2,5
Bangladesh	0.4	Georgia	1,2	Monaco	N.A.	South Sudan	1,5
Barbados	No data	Germany	2,1	Mongolia	2,5	Spain	3,7
Belarus	0,6	Ghana	0,7	Montenegro	0.4	Sri Lanka	1,7
Belgium	3,8	Greece	3,8	Morocco	3,9	Sudan	2,9
Belize	0,2	Grenada	No data	Mozambique	1,0	Suriname	0,0
Benin	0.6	Guatemala	2,4	Myanmar	0,2	Sweden	0,4
Bhutan	0,0	Guinea	0,3	Namibia	3,3	Switzerland	0,8
Bolivia	0,8	Guinea-Bissau	0,6	Nauru	No data	Syria	3,6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0,7	Guyana	0,0	Nepal	3,2		
Botswana	4,0	Haiti	1,7	Netherlands	1,6	Taiwan	N.A.
Brazil	4,0	Honduras	0,2	New Zealand	0.0	Tajikistan	2,6
Brunei	0,2	Hungary	0,9	Nicaragua	0,1	Tanzania	1,6
Bulgaria	2,3	Iceland	0,0	Niger	3,3	Thailand	3,0
Burkina Faso	3,3	India	4,1	Nigeria	1,4	Timor	N.A.
Burundi	1.0	Indonesia	2,1	North Korea	2.0	Тодо	0,0
Cambodia	0,2	Iran	4,6	North Macedonia	N.A.	Tonga	No data
Cameroon	0,0	Iraq	3,1	Norway	0,0	Trinidad and Tobago	No data
Canada	0,6	Ireland	0,3	Oman	4,0	Tunisia	3,7
Cape Verde	No data	Israel	4,8	Pakistan	4,1	Turkey	
Central African Republic	0.1	Italy	3,0	Palau	No data	,	3,6
Chad	1.4	Jamaica	0,0	Panama	0,0	Turkmenistan	4,0
Chile	4,0	Japan	1,7	Papua New Guinea	0,0	Tuvalu	No data
China	2,2	Jordan	4,6	Paraguay	0,5	Uganda	0,3
Colombia	0.1	Kazakhstan	2,2	Peru	2,1	Ukraine	1,5
Comoros	No data	Kenya	0,9	Philippines	1,6	United Arab Emirates	4,3
Congo	N.A.	Kiribati	N.A.	Poland	1,5	United Kingdom	0,8
Costa Rica	0,4	Kosovo	N.A.	Portugal	3,1	United States	1,8
Cote d'Ivoire	N.A.	Kuwait	4,4	Qatar	5,0	Uruguay	0,0
Croatia	0.1	Kyrgyzstan	3,3	Romania	1,9	Uzbekistan	3,8
Cuba	1,6	Laos	0,1	Russia	1,2	Vanuatu	No data
Cyprus	4,0	Latvia	0,3	Rwanda	1,0		
Czechia	N.A.	Lebanon	4,8	Saint Kitts and Nevis	No data	Venezuela	2,0
Democratic Republic of Congo	N.A.	Lesotho	2,1	Saint Lucia	No data	Vietnam	0,9
Denmark	2,0	Liberia	0,0	Saint Vincent and the		Yemen	4,0
Djibouti	3,4	Libya	4,5	Grenadines	No data	Yugoslavia	N.A.
Dominica	No data	Liechtenstein	1,0	Samoa	No data	Zambia	0,8
Dominican Republic	1,7	Lithuania	1,6	San Marino	4,1	Zimbabwe	1,8
	•			Sao Tome and Principe	N.A.		



Glossary



Glossary

Amfori BSCI risk index

The risk classification of countries relies on the Worldwide Governance Indicators from the World Bank.These determine the level of risks related to governance in sourcing countries. The index evaluates countries on risks related to topics such as human rights, labor conditions and corruption. https://www.amfori.org/content/amfori-bsci

Amfori Code of Conduct

The amfori BSCI Code of Conduct refers to international conventions such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Children's Rights and Business Principles, UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights, OECD Guidelines, UN Global Compact and International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions and Recommendations relevant to improve working conditions in the supply chain. https://www.amfori.org/content/amfori-bsci

Environmental Performance Index:

The 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world. Using 40 performance indicators across 11 issue categories, the EPI ranks 180 countries on climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality. It was developed by the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy.

https://epi.yale.edu/

Fair Trade Hired Labour Standard

The purpose of the Fairtrade Standard for Hired Labour is to set the requirements that determine participation in the Fairtrade system that applies to workers, empowering them to combat poverty, strengthen their position and to take more control of their lives. The requirements ensure that employers pay decent wages, guarantee the right to join trade unions, and make certain that health, safety and environmental principles are adhered to. https://www.fairtrade.net/standard/hl

FSC

FSC forest management certification confirms that the forest is being managed in a way that preserves biological diversity and benefits the lives of local people and workers, while ensuring it sustains economic viability. <u>https://fsc.org/en</u>

Global G.A.P

GLOBALG.A.P. is a brand of smart farm assurance solutions developed by FoodPLUS GmbH in Cologne, Germany, with cooperation from producers, retailers, and other stakeholders from across the food industry. These solutions include a range of standards for safe, socially and environmentally responsible farming practices

https://www.globalgap.org/uk_en/

ISO9001

ISO 9001 sets out the criteria for a quality management system and is the only standard in the family that can be certified to (although this is not a requirement). <u>https://www.iso.org/home.html</u>

ISO14001

ISO 14001 sets out the criteria for an environmental management system and can be certified to. It maps out a framework that a company or organization can follow to set up an effective environmental management system <u>https://www.iso.org/home.html</u>

ISO45001

For organizations that are serious about improving employee safety, reducing workplace risks and creating better, safer working conditions, there's ISO 45001. ISO 45001 builds on the success of earlier international standards in this area such as <u>OHSAS 18001</u>, the International Labour Organization's <u>ILO-OSH Guidelines</u>, various national standards and the ILO's international labour standards and conventions.

https://www.iso.org/home.html



Glossary

MPS GAP

MPS-GAP is an entry certificate that allows deliveries to be made to international retailers. With this certificate, you comply with requirements in areas such as traceability, environment, crop protection products and recall procedures. MPS-GAP is benchmarked against GLOBALG.A.P. and meets the <u>FSI</u> requirements. <u>https://www.my-mps.com</u>

MPS SQ

Good working conditions play an important role for many traders and consumers. With the MPS-Socially Qualified (SQ) certificate, you demonstrate that your company meets the national and international requirements in the field of health and safety.

https://www.my-mps.com

PEFC

PEFC, the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, is a leading global alliance of national forest certification systems. As an international non-profit, nongovernmental organization, we are dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management through independent thirdparty certification. https://www.pefc.org/

QMGS certification

Quality Mark Good Soil (QMGS) is intended for companies that supply and / or sell potting soils, ground covers and soil improvers within the hobby sector. QMGS provides a good answer to the requirements and wishes of consumers and customers.

https://www.qualitymarkgoodsoil.com/nl/

Rainforest Alliance Certificate

The Rainforest Alliance seal promotes collective action for people and nature. It amplifies and reinforces the beneficial impacts of responsible choices, from farms and forests all the way to the supermarket check-out. The seal allows you to recognize and choose products that contribute toward a better future for people and planet. <u>https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/</u>

Real food standards 2.1

The Real Food Standards are a guide to socially and environmentally responsible food purchasing for colleges and universities, developed in deep collaboration with advisors and stakeholders including 100+ farmers, ranchers, fishermen, industry experts, campus dining staff, and students in the United States.

https://www.realfoodchallenge.org/signatory-schools/

RHP

The RHP quality mark gives a thorough quality judgement on the certified substrates. Substrates, soil supply and soil improving materials with the RHP quality mark are stable and guarantee an optimal nutrient medium. <u>https://www.rhp.nl/en/why-rhp-certification</u>

RPP

Responsibly Produced Peat certification ensures that peatland will be used, managed and restored responsibly. <u>https://www.responsiblyproducedpeat.org/</u>

SA8000

The SA8000 Standard is the world's leading social certification program. The SA8000 Standard provides a framework for organizations to conduct business in a way that is fair and decent for workers and to demonstrate their adherence to the highest social standards. https://sa-intl.org/resources/sa8000-standard/

Water stress index

In response to growing concerns from the private sector and other actors about water availability, water quality, climate change, and increasing demand, WRI applied the composite index approach as a robust communication tool to translate hydrological data into intuitive indicators of water-related risks.

https://www.wri.org/data/water-stress-country



Care for life.

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