Round Table on Responsible Soy Association

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Preamble

Development of this Document: The Roundtable on Responsible Soy Standard for Responsible Soy Production, version 1.0 (RTRS Standard) is the result of a multi-stakeholder development process, which involved representatives from the three RTRS membership constituencies, and included several public consultation periods.

A two year multi-stakeholder process lead to the publication of the RTRS Principles and Criteria for Responsible Soy Production: Field Testing Version, in May 2009. This version was used by National Technical Groups (NTGs) in five countries to initiate national interpretation processes, and by producers and auditors for field trials carried out in a variety of soy producing countries.

In March 2010 the RTRS convened an International Technical Group (ITG) to review the Field Trial principles and criteria and produce a set of auditable Principles and Criteria for use with a certification scheme. As a part of their work the multi-stakeholder group reviewed and took into account changes proposed by NTGs, public consultation comments on draft National Interpretations, guidance from the RTRS Executive Board on the issue of land clearance and feedback from field trials and diagnosis audits. This group, made up of representatives from the three RTRS member constituencies, concluded their work at a meeting in São Paulo, Brazil, 24-27 March, 2010.

Review: The standard will be reviewed not less than once every five years and not more than once every three years unless exceptions are identified or unless the RTRS Executive Board or General Assembly determines otherwise. In Version 1.0 of this standard, one criterion (criterion 4.4) needs to be reviewed within 2 years.

National Interpretation: Each soy-producing country is encouraged to make a national interpretation of the standard which, once endorsed by the RTRS, will become the basis for certification in that country. National interpretation processes are required to meet the RTRS requirements for national interpretation related to process and content. When considering how to interpret this standard for national use, the Guidance for National Interpretation (Annex 6: Applicable Laws in Argentina) must be followed. Groups carrying out national interpretation may not create requirements which are less stringent than the International RTRS Standard.

Scope of application: This standard applies to all kinds of soybeans, including conventionally grown, organic, and genetically modified (GM). It has been designed to be used for all scales of soy production and all the countries where soy is produced.

Transparency: This standard has been designed to be used within a voluntary certification system. All those seeking certification should do so with a commitment to transparency with respect to the requirements of this standard, including a spirit of constructive engagement with stakeholders and sharing of non-commercially sensitive information. A publicly-available summary of information about the performance of each certified organization with respect to each criterion will be produced. This will not contain commercially-sensitive information.

Monitoring: Where indicators require monitoring to be undertaken, a baseline should be established at the time of certification with monitoring and review of trends over time. Producers are expected to commit to a process of continual improvement. For group certification, monitoring at the group level should be used where appropriate.

Principle 1: Legal Compliance and Good Business Practice

1.1 There is awareness of, and compliance with, all applicable local and national legislation.

Note: For group certification of small farms - group managers should provide training for group members on applicable laws and legal compliance.

1.1.1 Awareness of responsibilities, according to applicable laws can be demonstrated.

1.1.2 Applicable laws are being complied with.

1.2 Legal use rights to the land are clearly defined and demonstrable.

Note: Land use rights of traditional land users are considered in Criterion 3.2 which should be cross-referenced with this criterion.

1.2.1 There is documented evidence of rights to use the land (e.g. ownership document, rental agreement, court order etc.).

1.3 There is continual improvement with respect to the requirements of this standard.

Note: For group certification - continual improvement should be recorded and monitored at the group level.

1.3.1 A review process is carried out which identifies those social, environmental and agricultural aspects of the operation (on and off farm) where improvement is desirable.

Note: The producer is expected to be aware of the social and environmental context in which he/she is operating and the existing and possible future impacts of the operation.

1.3.2 A number of indicators are selected and a baseline is established to be able to monitor continual improvement on those aspects where desired improvements have been identified.

Note: Producers are free to choose the continual improvement indicators that are relevant to them to demonstrate continual improvement with respect to the requirements of this standard; e.g. Soil carbon content, use of agrochemicals, state of riparian vegetation, etc. The baseline year is the year of first certification assessment.

1.3.3 The results of monitoring are reviewed and appropriate action is planned and taken when necessary to ensure continual improvement.

Principle 2: Responsible Labor Conditions

Note 1: The requirements of Principle 2 apply to both direct employees and to workers supplied by third parties.

Note 2: The principle applies also to migrant, seasonal and other contract labor.

2.1 Child labor, forced labor, discrimination and harassment are not engaged in or supported.

2.1 1 No forced, compulsory, bonded, trafficked or otherwise involuntary labor is used at any stage of production.

2.1.2 No workers of any type are required to lodge their identity papers with anyone and no part of their salary, benefits or property is retained, by the owner or any 3rd party, unless permitted by law.

2.1.3 Spouses and children of contracted workers are not obliged to work on the farm.

2.1.4 Children and minors (below 18) do not conduct hazardous work or any work that jeopardizes their physical, mental or moral well being.

2.1.5 Children under 15 (or higher age as established in national law) do not carry out productive work. They may accompany their family to the field as long as they are not exposed to hazardous, unsafe or unhealthy situations and it does not interfere with their schooling.

2.1.6 There is no engagement in, support for, or tolerance of any form of discrimination.

2.1.7 All workers receive equal remuneration for work of equal value, equal access to training and benefits and equal opportunities for promotion and for filling all available positions.

2.1.8 Workers are not subject to corporal punishment, mental or physical oppression or coercion, verbal or physical abuse, sexual harassment or any other kind of intimidation.

2.2 Workers, directly and indirectly employed on the farm, and sharecroppers, are adequately informed and trained for their tasks and are aware of their rights and duties.

2.2.1 Workers (including temporary workers), sharecroppers, contractors and subcontractors have a written contract, in a language that they can understand.

Note: The requirements of indicator 2.2.1 are recommended in all cases. However, for small farms where there are high illiteracy rates group managers may implement alternative mechanisms to make collectively known and verify valid working relationships.

2.2.2 Labor laws, union agreements or direct contracts of employment detailing payments and conditions of employment (e.g. working hours, deductions, overtime, sickness, holiday entitlement, maternity leave, reasons for dismissal, period of notice, etc.) are available in the languages understood by the workers or explained carefully to them by a manager or supervisor.

2.2.3 Adequate and appropriate training and comprehensible instructions on fundamental rights at work, health and safety and any necessary guidance or supervision are provided to all workers.

2.3 A safe and healthy workplace is provided for all workers.

2.3.1 Producers and their employees demonstrate an awareness and understanding of health and safety matters.

2.3.2 Relevant health and safety risks are identified, procedures are developed to address these risks by employers, and these are monitored.

2.3.3 Potentially hazardous tasks are only carried out by capable and competent people who do not face specific health risks.

2.3.4 Adequate and appropriate protective equipment and clothing is provided and used in all potentially hazardous operations such as pesticide handling and application and mechanized or manual operations.

2.3.5 There is a system of warnings followed by legally-permitted sanctions for workers that do not apply safety requirements.

2.3 6 Accident and emergency procedures exist and instructions are clearly understood by all workers.

2.3.7 In case of accidents or illness, access to first aid and medical assistance is provided without delay.

2.4 There is freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining for all workers.

2.4.1 There is the right for all workers and sharecroppers to establish and/or join an organization of their choice.

2.4.2 The effective functioning of such organizations is not impeded. Representatives are not subject to discrimination and have access to their members in the workplace on request.

2.4.3 All workers have the right to perform collective bargaining.

2.4.4 Workers are not hindered from interacting with external parties outside working hours (e.g. NGOs, trade unions, labor inspectors, agricultural extension workers, certification bodies).

2.5 Remuneration at least equal to national legislation and sector agreements is received by all workers directly or indirectly employed on the farm.

2.5.1 Gross wages that comply with national legislation and sector agreements are paid at least monthly to workers.

2.5.2 Deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes are not made, unless legally permitted. Wages and benefits are detailed and clear to workers, and workers are paid in a manner convenient to them. Wages paid are recorded by the employer.

2.5.3 Normal weekly working hours do not exceed 48 hours. Weekly overtime hours do not exceed 12 hours.

2.5.4 If additional overtime hours are necessary the following conditions are met:

a) It only occurs for limited periods of time (e.g. peak harvest, planting).

b) Where there is a trade union or representative organization the overtime conditions are negotiated and agreed with that organization.

c) Where there is no trade union or representative organization agreement the average working hours in the two-month period after the start of the exceptional period still do not exceed 60 hours per week.

2.5.5 Working hours per worker are recorded by the employer.

2.5.6 Overtime work at all times is voluntary and paid according to legal or sector standards. In case overtime work is needed, workers receive timely notification. Workers are entitled to at least one day off following every six consecutive days of work.

2.5.7 Salaried workers have all entitlements and protection in national law and practice with respect to maternity. Workers taking maternity leave are entitled to return to their employment on the same terms and conditions that applied to them prior to taking leave and they are not subject to any discrimination, loss of seniority or deductions of wages.

2.5.8 If workers are paid per result, a normal 8 hour working day allows workers, (men and women), to earn at least the national or sector established minimum wage.

2.5.9 If employees live on the farm, they have access to affordable and adequate housing, food and potable water. If charges are made for these, such charges are in accordance with market conditions. The living quarters are safe and have at least basic sanitation.

Principle 3: Responsible Community Relations

3.1 Channels are available for communication and dialogue with the local community on topics related to the activities of the soy farming operation and its impacts.

3.1.1 Documented evidence of communication channels and dialogue is available.

3.1.2 The channels adequately enable communication between the producer and the community.

3.1.3 The communication channels have been made known to the local communities.

3.2 In areas with traditional land users, conflicting land uses are avoided or resolved.

3.2.1 In the case of disputed use rights, a comprehensive, participatory and documented community rights assessment is carried out.

3.2.2 Where rights have been relinquished by traditional land users there is documented evidence that the affected communities are compensated subject to their free, prior, informed and documented consent.

3.3 A mechanism for resolving complaints and grievances is implemented and available to local communities and traditional land users.

Note: For group certification - the complaints and grievances mechanism can be managed by the group manager and records of complaints and grievances can be maintained at the group level.

3.3.1 The complaints and grievances mechanism has been made known and is accessible to the communities.

3.3.2 Documented evidence of complaints and grievances received is maintained.

3.3.3 Any complaints and grievances received are dealt with in a timely manner.

3.4 Fair opportunities for employment and provision of goods and services are given to the local population.

3.4.1 Employment opportunities are made known locally.

Note: Not applicable for small farms.

3.4.2 There is collaboration with training programs for the local population.

Note: Small farms may participate in training programs where they exist. For groups the collaboration with training programs may occur at the group level.

3.4.3 Opportunities for supply of goods and services are offered to the local population.

Note: Not applicable for small farms.

Principle 4: Environmental Responsibility

4.1 On and off site social and environmental impacts of large or high risk new infrastructure have been assessed and appropriate measures taken to minimize and mitigate any negative impacts.

Note: For group certification – this also applies to large new infrastructure projects developed by the entity holding the group certificate, where the infrastructure is used by certified group members or the certified soy they produce.

4.1.1 A social and environmental assessment is carried out prior to the establishment of large or high risk new infrastructure.

4.1.2 The assessment is carried out by someone who is adequately trained and experienced for this task.

4.1.3 The assessment is carried out in a comprehensive and transparent manner.

4.1.4 Measures to minimize or mitigate the impacts identified by the assessment are documented and are being implemented.

4.2 Pollution is minimized and production waste is managed responsibly.

Note: Chemical use and disposal is dealt with under Principle 5.

4.2.1 There is no burning on any part of the property of crop residues, waste, or as part of vegetation clearance, except under one of the following conditions:

a) Where there is a legal obligation to burn as a sanitary measure;

b) Where it is used for generation of energy including charcoal production and for drying crops;

c) Where only small-caliber residual vegetation from land clearing remains after all useable material has been removed for other uses.

4.2.2 There is adequate storage and disposal of fuel, batteries, tires, lubricants, sewage and other waste.

4.2.3 There are facilities to prevent spills of oil[1] and other pollutants.

4.2.4 Re-use and recycling are utilized wherever possible.

4.2.5 There is a residue management plan including all areas of the property.

4.3 Efforts are made to reduce emissions and increase sequestration of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) on the farm.

Note: Other issues which are relevant to GHG emissions are covered in other principles including: Use of fertilizers (Criterion 5.5), Land-use change (Criterion 4.4).

4.3.1 Total direct fossil fuel use over time is recorded, and its volume per hectare and per unit of product for all activities related to soy production is monitored.

4.3.2 If there is an increase in the intensity of fossil fuel used, there is a justification for this. If no justification is available there is an action plan to reduce use.

4.3.3 Soil organic matter is monitored to quantify change in soil carbon and steps are taken to mitigate negative trends.

Note: For group certification of small farms - the monitoring of soil carbon can be done using samples.

4.3.4 Opportunities for increasing carbon sequestration through restoration of native vegetation, forest plantations and other means are identified.

4.4 Expansion of soy cultivation is responsible.

Note: This criterion will be revised after June 2012 if RTRS-approved maps and system are not available.

4.4.1 After May 2009 expansion for soy cultivation has not taken place on land cleared of native habitat except under the following conditions:

4.4.1.1 It is in line with an RTRS-approved map and system (see Annex 4: RTRS Approach to Responsible Conversion)

[1] Oil refers to motor oil.

or

4.4.1.2 Where no RTRS-approved map and system is available:

a) Any area already cleared for agriculture or pasture before May 2009 and used for agriculture or pasture within the past 12 years can be used for soy expansion, unless regenerated vegetation has reached the definition of native forest (see Annex 3: Glossary of Terms).

b) There is no expansion in native forests (see Annex 3: Glossary of Terms)

c) In areas that are not native forest (see Annex 3: Glossary of Terms), expansion into native habitat only occurs according to one of the following two options:

Option 1. Official land-use maps such as ecological-economic zoning are used and expansion only occurs in areas designated for expansion by the zoning. If there are no official land use maps then maps produced by the government under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are used, and expansion only occurs outside priority areas for conservation shown on these maps.

Option 2. An High Conservation Value Area (HCVA) assessment is undertaken prior to clearing and there is no conversion of High Conservation Value Areas.

Note: Where neither official land use maps nor CBD maps exist, Option 2 must be followed.

4.4.2 There is no conversion of land where there is an unresolved land use claim by traditional land users under litigation, without the agreement of both parties.

4.5 On-farm biodiversity is maintained and safeguarded through the preservation of native vegetation.

4.5.1 There is a map of the farm which shows the native vegetation.

4.5.2 There is a plan, which is being implemented, to ensure that the native vegetation is being maintained (except areas covered under Criterion 4.4).

4.5.3 No hunting of rare, threatened or endangered species takes place on the property.

Principle 5: Good Agricultural Practice

5.1 The quality and supply of surface and ground water is maintained or improved.

5.1.1 Good agricultural practices are implemented to minimize diffuse and localized impacts on surface and ground water quality from chemical residues, fertilizers, erosion or other sources and to promote aquifer recharge.

5.1.2 There is monitoring, appropriate to scale, to demonstrate that the practices are effective.

5.1.3 Any direct evidence of localized contamination of ground or surface water is reported to, and monitored in collaboration with local authorities.

5.1.4 Where irrigation is used, there is a documented procedure in place for applying best practices and acting according to legislation and best practice guidance (where this exists), and for measurement of water utilization.

Note: For group certification of small farms - Where irrigation is used for crops other than soy but is not done according to best practice, a plan is in place and is being implemented to improve practices. The group manager is responsible for documentation.

5.2 Natural vegetation areas around springs and along natural watercourses are maintained or re-established.

5.2.1 The location of all watercourses has been identified and mapped, including the status of the riparian vegetation.

5.2.2 Where natural vegetation in riparian areas has been removed there is a plan with a timetable for restoration which is being implemented.

5.2.3 Natural wetlands are not drained and native vegetation is maintained.

5.3 Soil quality is maintained or improved and erosion is avoided by good management practices.

5.3.1 Knowledge of techniques to maintain soil quality (physical, chemical and biological) is demonstrated and these techniques are implemented.

5.3.2 Knowledge of techniques to control soil erosion is demonstrated and these techniques are implemented.

5.3.3 Appropriate monitoring, including soil organic matter content, is in place.

Note: For group certification - Monitoring of soil fertility and soil quality should be part of the internal control system and can be carried out on a sampling basis within the group.

5.4 Negative environmental and health impacts of phytosanitary products are reduced by implementation of systematic, recognized Integrated Crop Management (ICM) techniques.

Note: See Annex 5: Integrated Crop Management (ICM) Measures and Practices in Soy Production, for further information on ICM.

5.4.1 A plan for ICM is documented and implemented which addresses the use of prevention, and biological and other non-chemical or selective chemical controls.

Note: For group certification of small farms - (particularly those who are not literate) the development and documentation of the ICM plan should be undertaken by the group manager, together with support for implementation.

5.4.2 There is an implemented plan that contains targets for reduction of potentially harmful phytosanitary products over time.

5.4.3 Use of phytosanitary products follows legal requirements and professional recommendations (or, if professional recommendations are not available, manufacturer's recommendations) and includes rotation of active ingredients to prevent resistance.

5.4.4 Records of monitoring of pests, diseases, weeds and natural predators are maintained.

5.5 All application of agrochemicals[2] is documented and all handling, storage, collection and disposal of chemical waste and empty containers, is monitored to ensure compliance with good practice.

5.5.1 There are records of the use of agrochemicals, including:

d) products purchased and applied, quantity and dates;

e) identification of the area where the application was made;

f) names of the persons that carried out the preparation of the products and field application;

g) identification of the application equipment used;

h) weather conditions during application.

5.5.2 Containers are properly stored, washed and disposed of; waste and residual agrochemicals are disposed in an environmentally appropriate way.

5.5.3 Transportation and storage of agrochemicals is safe and all applicable health, environmental and safety precautions are implemented.

5.5.4 The necessary precautions are taken to avoid people entering into recently sprayed areas.

5.5.5 Fertilizers are used in accordance with professional recommendations (provided by manufacturers where other professional recommendations are not available).

5.6 Agrochemicals listed in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions are not used.

Note: During the next 3 years, the RTRS will review the use of other chemicals, particularly the following 3 chemicals: Endosulfan (WHO Class II), Paraquat (Class II), Carbofuran (Class Ib).

5.6 1 There is no use of agrochemicals listed in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.

5.7 The use of biological control agents is documented, monitored and controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols.

5.7.1 There is information about requirements for use of biological control agents.

5.7.2 Records are kept of all use of biological control agents that demonstrate compliance with national laws.

[2]Agrochemicals refers to all chemicals used including fertilizers and pesticides

5.8 Systematic measures are planned and implemented to monitor, control and minimize the spread of invasive introduced species and new pests.

5.8.1 Where there are institutional systems in place to identify and monitor invasive introduced species and new pests, or major outbreaks of existing pests, producers follow the requirements of these systems, to minimize their spread.

5.8.2 Where such systems do not exist, incidences of new pests or invasive species and major outbreaks of existing pests are communicated to the proper authorities and relevant producer organizations or research organizations.

Note: For group certification - the group manager is responsible for communicating to the authorities and relevant organizations.

5.9 Appropriate measures are implemented to prevent the drift of agrochemicals to neighboring areas.

5.9.1 There are documented procedures in place that specify good agricultural practices, including minimization of drift, in applying agrochemicals and these procedures are being implemented.

5.9.2 Records of weather conditions (wind speed and direction, temperature and relative humidity) during spraying operations are maintained.

5.9.3 Aerial application of pesticides is carried out in such a way that it does not have an impact on populated areas. All aerial application is preceded by advance notification to residents within 500m of the planned application.

Note: 'Populated areas' means any occupied house, office or other building.

5.9.4 There is no aerial application of pesticides in WHO Class Ia, Ib and II within 500m of populated areas or water bodies.

5.9.5 There is no application of pesticides within 30m of any populated areas or water bodies.

Note: 'Water bodies' includes, but is not limited to, water courses, rivers, streams, lagoons, springs, lakes, reservoirs and ditches.

5.10 Appropriate measures are implemented to allow for coexistence of different production systems.

5.10.1 Measures are taken to prevent interference in production systems of neighboring areas.

5.11 Origin of seeds is controlled to improve production and prevent introduction of new diseases.

5.11.1 All purchased seed must come from known legal quality sources.

5.11.2 Self-propagated seeds may be used, provided appropriate seed production norms are followed and legal requirements regarding intellectual property rights are met.

Annex 1: Guidance

The guidance contained in this annex must be followed by all users of the standard, including:

i) auditors, evaluating compliance against the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Version 1.0.

ii) soy growers using the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Version 1.0 to implement good practice, and achieve certification.

iii) Group managers using the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Version 1.0 to achieve certification of a group of soy growers.

Criterion Reference	National Interpretation in Argentina
1.1	"All applicable local and national legislation" refers to the process of production and trade of soy. The Standard in force, both on province and national level, can be downloaded from the website of the *Sistema Argentino de Informática Jurídica*, under the Ministry of Justice, Security and Human Rights of Argentina - http://www.saij.jus.gov.ar/# Should a Producer have doubts regarding the legislation related to his/her activity, he/she should resort to legal advice. The auditor should focus mainly on labor, tax, environmental and health & safety law. See Annex A, including a list of laws.
1.2	The following could be considered as evidence of the right of use in Argentina: Contracts, Deeds, Measurements of limits of reclaimed land in registries (for local communities), register of occupants or any other document legally accepted as a proof. 1.2.1. In Argentina, more than 50% of the surface destined to soy production is under lease contracts, with a high percentage of yearly renewal of contracts. Producers are suggested that lease contracts with terms of more than one year should be signed for the best compliance of the standard. In case of tenure or use disputes where there is evidence of producer's ownership or conflict land use right, the certification process is authorized until there is a final judgment defining the conflict and providing a specific resolution to it.
1.3	1.3.2 Possible Indicators: carbon content in soil, use of agrochemicals, state of riparian vegetation, employee and own training, etc.
2.1	Argentina adheres to and regulates all the ILO conventions. Only contractors who meet this criterion should be hired. 2.1.5: For Argentina, National Law establishes that children under 16 cannot carry out productive work. 16 year old children can work with the authorization of parents or guardians.
2.2	'Services directly related to the production process' are, but are not limited to, such services as land preparation, sowing, crop protection, monitoring, harvesting, storage, etc. At present, Argentine law does not make the signature of a labor agreement between employers and employees mandatory. Proof of labor relationship could be other type of evidence, such as early entry into the ANSES system (National Administration of Social Security) or there is also a register of rural workers and employers called RENATRE (www.renatre.org.ar). Reference: Law 22.248 and decree 563, Law of Agricultural Work. Afip Resolution 899/200 and 1891/05, for early entry in Social Security System Law 25.191, for register of rural workers in the RENATRE system.

Criterion Reference	National Interpretation in Argentina
	2.2.1: The scope of the services would cover up to the first level of subcontracting and the services agreement should specify that the sub-contracted party should meet the same conditions as the producer.
2.3	When a producer outsources a service, he/she should demand compliance of indicators 2.3. and 2.3.4. The auditor should verify compliance of indicators 2.3.3 and 2.3.4 by the contractor. Reference for 2.3.2 National Decree 617/97-Annexo I- Title I.
2.4	In Argentina, the rural and stevedore workers trade union is called UATRE (*Unión Argentina de Trabajadores Rurales y Estibadores*, www.uatre.org.ar) There is also a register of rural workers and employers called RENATRE (www.renatre.org.ar).
2.5	'Services directly related to the production process' are, but are not limited to, such services as land preparation, sowing, crop protection, monitoring, harvesting, storage, etc. In Argentina, there is a trade union – UATRE - that safeguards the rights of rural workers. In Argentina, National Law 22.248 sets up the national regime of agricultural labor which, among other things, determines how rural workers' salaries are to be established. According to the NTG, the minimum wages stipulated by national legislation or sector agreements are adequate to meet basic needs. Guidance for auditors: It shall be verified if there is compliance with the salaries set by the UATRE.
3.1	Clarification of guidelines for Auditors: It is important to include interviews planned by the Auditor, whenever possible, with the community or any other stakeholders as regards existing information on potential conflict.
3.3	Clarification of "timely manner". Producers should attend complaints, grievances or doubts in a reasonable term according to their degree of seriousness and/or complexity. Should claims exceed their management capacity, Producers could resort to relevant advice. It is important to include interviews planned by the Auditor, whenever possible, with the community or other stakeholders as regards existing information on complaints, grievances or doubts.
4.1	Examples of new, large, high risk infrastructure could be as follows: silos, storage area, processing plants, buildings, highways, bridges and dams. The assessment should foresee, if appropriate, cumulative environmental impact within the context of one scale at watershed or regional level 4.1.1: As a reference, setting up the requirements of the general law of the environment for environmental impact assessments, Argentine National Law 25.675 and resolutions that should emerge from their application authorities (COFEMA: Federal Board of the Environment). Laws of provinces shall be considered. 4.1.2: Environmental assessments are carried out by natural persons or by consulting companies duly registered in and accredited to national and/ or province official agencies. 4.1.4: In the environmental impact assessment process, one of the items is the application of corrective and protective measures of the identified impacts.
4.2	4.2.1: The non application of item "c" is recommended as it is not consistent with the best practices in the region, mentioned in criterion 5.3 on more appropriate techniques for minimizing soil erosion. 4.2.2: Pollutants considered as hazardous: as per Argentine National Law 24.051. 4.2.2, 4.2.3 and 4.2.4: this must be contemplated in the waste management plan in item

Criterion Reference	National Interpretation in Argentina
	4.2.5 4.2.4: For example: AGROLIMPIO (CASAFE) program
4.3	The use of agricultural techniques of conservation (zero tillage) should be recognized as a method for decreasing GHG emissions. Encourage the use of renewable energies (biofuels, biogas, solar, wind, etc.) on farm level. Producers must inform on their use of fossil fuels (including their own use and the use of their service providers) justifying differences among campaigns, if they exist. In cases where it is impossible to make use calculations directly related to soy production, a use calculation at property level can be made and then the proportion for soy cultivation must be estimated. Small producers could accomplish with this indicator but are not required to do so.
4.4	4.4.1.2: The following maps are currently available: Maps of land use planning of native forests in the provinces of Formosa, Chaco, Salta, Jujuy (other provinces are developing their own maps within the framework of Argentine National Law 26.331). Simultaneously, there are maps of high conservation value areas available, for example, the eco-regional assessment of the Gran Chaco area, of valuable grasslands (both available in www.vidasilvestre.org.ar) and of areas that are relevant for bird conservation (AICAS- available in www.avesargentinas.org.ar). These are scientific studies carried out at regional level with the participation of academic and production experts. In Argentina, the definition of native forests includes zones or areas with smaller trees or trees with smaller canopy than that proposed by the RTRS definition; therefore, it is suggested that the RTRS native forest definition be expanded and complemented with the definition under the Argentine legislation specified below. As per Art. 2 of the National Law de ordenamiento territorial de Native Forests, Law N° 26.331, native forests are natural forest ecosystems mainly made up of mature native tree species, diverse flora and fauna species associated, as a whole, with their environment – soil, subsoil, atmosphere, weather, water resources- thus making up an interdependent structure with its own features and multiple functions, which, in their natural state, provide dynamic balance to the system and offer different environmental services to society, apart from the diverse natural resources services with economic use potential. The definition includes both native forests of primary origin, untouched by man, and those of secondary origin, formed after deforestation, as well as those resulting from voluntary recovery or restoration. Main biomes in Argentina: • Selva Paranaense • Yungas • Parque Chaqueño (incluyendo a las ecorregiones de Chaco Seco y Chaco Húmedo) • Espinal • Bosque Andino Patagónico • Delta e Islas del Paraná As to the guideline on how HCVAs are to be identified, it is suggested that teledetection tools be used, which would be subsequently validated by means of topographic surveys at appropriate scale. (The Institute of Weather and Water of Inta Castelar, and LART: Laboratory of Regional Analyses and Teledetection of the University of Buenos Aires).
4.5	4.5.1: As to the guideline on how Areas of Native Vegetation are to be identified, it is suggested that teledetection tools be used, which would be subsequently validated by means of topographic surveys at appropriate scale. (The Institute of Weather and Water

Criterion Reference	National Interpretation in Argentina
	of Inta Castelar, and LART: Laboratory of Regional Analyses and Teledetection of the University of Buenos Aires). 4.5.3: It is suggested using signboards that clearly inform the forbiddance of hunting activities on the property.
5.1	5.1.1: Surface and subsurface water: (rivers, lakes, lagoons, brooks, swamps, marshlands, groundwater, aquifers, etc.) 5.1.2: For this indicator, it should be considered that, in most cases, producers are not the only parties responsible for surface and ground water quality. Water quality can also be affected by third party activities outside the farm on which producers cannot have any impact. At the moment of certification, a baseline date should be set which would, at least, coincide with the date of certification. Information supplied by government external organizations could be considered as valid. Should degradation or a deviation from the baseline be detected, an analysis shall be undertaken to determine if their cause is producers' direct activities. Should they be responsible for degradation or deviation, they shall have to carry out corrective actions. 5.1.2: The following aspects are monitored: water pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and electrical conductivity. Kits of basic analyses are available for parameters such as pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrogen and phosphorous. Recording all the related agricultural practices for minimizing the impact on surface and ground water. Recommendations to Producers in 5.1.2: Wherever any drilling activities should take place, they could be used for monitoring ground water. 5.1.3: Having written evidence of the reports of the relevant authorities.
5.2	5.2.2: Province and National law should be taken into account for defining the width of the area of native vegetation. Wherever no relevant regulations exist regarding this matter, an area that doubles the width of the watercourse is recommended as a reference. As regards plans for restoration of riparian vegetation, the following is proposed: • If the original vegetation is a grassland, the area should be closed, • If the original vegetation is woody, reforestation should be undertaken. Requirements should not determine any differentiation as regards small farms.
5.3	Techniques for keeping soil quality could include: • Conservation Agriculture • Crop Rotation • Balanced Fertilization • Techniques for controlling soil erosion could include: • Road management on the farm • Management of areas with slopes • Maintenance of permanent soil coverage. • Zero Tillage Monitoring indicators suggested: Analysis of organic matter, total nitrogen (N) (Total N can be estimated as a 5% of organic matter), phosphorous (P), pH, electrical conductivity, surface waste measure (quality and quantity, 30 days before the sowing date with a ± 10 day-tolerance).
5.4	5.4.2: The reduction will be associated with the availability of new products with lower

Criterion Reference	National Interpretation in Argentina
	environmental impact on the marketplace and on human health. The term for the adoption of these new products shall be 2 years as of the date of commercial launching. 5.4.3: In provinces where there is a relevant law, this shall apply. 5.4.4: Monitoring is periodical and varies according to species to be controlled.
5.5	5.5.1: This criterion applies to all farms, irrespective of their size. In cases where application of agrochemicals is outsourced, producers should request suppliers to submit some type of evidence proving the integrity and good functioning of equipment. Meteorological conditions to be recorded are wind speed and direction, ambient relative humidity and temperature. 5.5.2 and 5.5.3: The recommendations of the CASAFE (Chamber of Agricultural and Livestock Health and Fertilizers) could be followed. 5.5.3: One of the minimum procedures to be taken into account in this item could be transportation of agrochemicals separately from other products, persons or animals. 5.5.4: Precautions could include signboards and signals on the sides of the land plots.
5.6	Rotterdam Convention: http://www.pic.int/home.php?type=t&id=29&sid=30 Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs): http://chm.pops.int/Convention/ThePOPs/tabid/673/language/en-US/Default.aspx There are bills to regulate agrochemical use at National level, but no project had been approved before the NI was produced.
5.7	5.7.1: The biological control is not a practice currently used in Argentina. 5.7.1 and 5.7.2: Register of the use of biological control agents and tags shall be used as evidence of compliance of this criterion. In Argentina there are rules regulating the entrance to the country of any biological agents destined to agricultural pest control. The entity in charge is SENASA. 5.7.2: The indicator is applied both for large and small farms.
5.8	5.8.1: Argentine law demands that introduced invasive species and new pests are reported to the SINAVIMO (National System of Surveillance and Monitoring of Pests: http://www.sinavimo.gov.ar/). 5.8.2: In Argentina, the system used for reporting and detecting new pests is the SINAVIMO. Reference: Resolución SENASA Nº 778/04.
5.9	5.9.1: Among best practices to be taken into account, there are equipment gauging, plot identification, use of anti-drift tablets (if conditions apply) and a records of neighboring crops. 5.9.3 and 5.9.4: Air application is as per the applicable law in each province. Among reporting methods, it is suggested using broadcasting through media reaching a larger audience (sms, radio, oral, telephone calls, etc.). 5.9.4: The following source is available for downloading of lists: http://www.who.int 5.9.5: Application is as per the applicable law in each province. 5.9.1 and 5.9.2: Small producers could accomplish with this indicators but are not required to do so.
5.10	5.10.1: If there are adjacent plots sown with GMO and Non-GMO, it is recommended that the producer making the change shall leave a buffer area of at least 30 m. It has to be also noted that certification cannot require action from neighbours that do

Criterion Reference	National Interpretation in Argentina
	not seek certification.
5.11	5.11.1: “Known legal quality sources” are legally credited sources seed trading. These sources and producers must be registered in the INASE. (National Register of Trade and Surveillance of Seeds), as per art. 13 and 14 of the Law of Seeds and Phytogenetic Creations, N° 20.247. 5.11.2: Legal requirements for producers are that they should be registered in the INASE (National Register of Trade and Surveillance of Seeds) as per art. 13 and 14 of the Law of Seeds and Phytogenetic Creations, N° 20.247.

Annex 2: List of Acronyms

GM	Genetically Modified
HCV	High Conservation Value
HCVA	High Conservation Value Area
ICM	Integrated Crop Management
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITG	International Technical Group
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
NTG	National Technical Group
P&C	Principles and Criteria
PES	Payments for Environmental Services
RTRS	Round Table on Responsible Soy
SA8000	Social Accountability International (SAI) international standard on workers' rights, working conditions and management systems.
WHO	World Health Organization

Annex 3: Glossary of Terms

Biological Control	A method of controlling pests that relies on predation, parasitism, herbivory, or other natural mechanisms, rather than agrochemicals.
Criteria	The 'content' level of a standard. Conditions that need to be met in order to achieve a Principle.
Continual Improvement	The on-going process of improving performance through establishment of objectives, the use of monitoring, audit findings and management reviews; analyzing information and implementing corrective and preventive actions.
Endemic species	A species which is found exclusively in a particular region or location and not found naturally anywhere else.
The Equator Principles	A financial industry benchmark developed by private sector banks for determining, assessing and managing social and environmental risk in project financing. The Principles apply to all new project financings globally with total project capital costs of US$10 million or more, and across all industry sectors.
The Equator Principles' Social and Environmental assessment	An assessment that determines the social and environmental impacts and risks (including labour, health, and safety) of a proposed project in its area of influence. It is an adequate, accurate and objective evaluation and presentation of the issues, whether prepared by the producer, consultants or external experts. The Assessment should also propose mitigation and management measures relevant and appropriate to the nature and scale of the proposed project. See Principle 2 and Exhibit II of the Equator Principles at www.equator-principles.com for further details.
Forest	See Native forest
High Conservation Value Areas	High Conservation Value Areas are critical areas in a landscape which need to be appropriately managed in order to maintain or enhance High Conservation Values (HCVs). There are six main types of HCV Area. Based on the definition originally developed by the Forest Stewardship Council for certification of forest ecosystems, but now increasingly expanded to apply to other credible assessments of other ecosystems. HCV1. Areas containing globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g. endemism, endangered species, refugia). HCV2. Globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape-level areas where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance. HCV3. Areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems. HCV4. Areas that provide basic ecosystem services in critical situations (e.g. watershed protection, erosion control). HCV5. Areas fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities (e.g. subsistence, health). HCV6. Areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity (areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in cooperation with such local communities).
Indicators	The 'operational' level of a standard expressed in measurable statements which allow assessment of conformance.
Indirectly employed workers	Workers indirectly employed on the farm refers in this standard to employees of service providers who carry out services directly related to the production process. Further definition of those '*services directly related to the production process*' should be carried out by national interpretation processes.
Integrated Crop Management	A system of crop production which conserves and enhances natural resources while producing a crop on an economically viable and sustainable foundation. A whole-farm, long-term strategy incorporating both new technologies and traditional knowledge and practices. See Annex 5: Integrated Crop Management (ICM)

	Measures and Practices in Soy Production for further details.
Local Communities	Groups of people and families legitimately living or working on or near to the property to be certified, or between properties in case of multiple or group certification, and influenced by or influencing the activities of the property.
Native forest	Areas of native vegetation of 1ha or more with canopy cover of more than 35 % and where some trees(at least 10 trees per hectare) reach 10m in height (or are able to reach these thresholds in situ (i.e. In that soil/climate combination)).
No-tillage	A way of growing crops from year to year without disturbing the soil through ploughing. Also known as direct drilling, zero tillage and conservation tillage.
Pesticides	Pesticides include herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides and insecticides.
Phytosanitary products	Agrochemicals used for controlling pests and weeds including herbicides, fungicides and pesticides.
Principles	The 'intent' level of the standard, expressed in fundamental statements about a desired outcome.
Sharecroppers	A type of tenant farmer who is allowed by the owner to use the land in return for a share of the crop produced on the land.
Standard	Standards are documents containing technical specifications or other precise criteria which are used as rules, or guidelines and form the requirements to be met.
Traditional land users	Communities (or individuals where population is very sparse) that have been exercising use or access rights on the property being certified for an extended period of time.
Wetlands	Areas of marsh, fen, peatland, or water - whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary- with water that is static or flowing, brackish or salt (Ramsar convention)
Workers	Where used in this document 'workers' includes permanent, temporary and seasonal workers and sharecroppers
Zoning	The classification of allowable or preferred land use
Small producers	People undertaking agricultural activities, and that simultaneously meet the following: They carry out the agricultural operations with the collaboration of at most 2 permanent employees or equivalent in seasonal wages They carry out the agricultural operation in up to 500 hectares in any form of tenure They obtain the main entrance form the agricultural work

Annex 4: RTRS Approach to Responsible Conversion

There will be two phases:

- For the short term, an interim approach will be used. This is set out in criterion 4.4 of the RTRS Standard for Responsible Soy Production Version 1.0.
- For the medium term, the RTRS will develop official RTRS approved macro-scale maps which will provide biodiversity information and a system which will orient responsible expansion of RTRS soy. This work will be carried out as described below and should be completed before 31st December 2012 for Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay.

RTRS-approved maps and System

1. Summary

National level macro-scale maps will be created through a multi-stakeholder process, which will provide guidance on responsible expansion. These maps will indicate four categories of area:

- Category I Areas = areas which are critical for biodiversity (hotspots), where stakeholders agree there should not be any conversion of native vegetation to responsible soy production.
- Category II Areas = areas with high importance for biodiversity where expansion of soy is only carried out after an HCVA assessment which identifies areas for conservation and areas where expansion can occur.
- Category III Areas = areas where existing legislation is adequate to control responsible expansion (usually areas with importance for agriculture and lower conservation importance).
- Category IV Areas = areas which are already used for agriculture and where there is no remaining native vegetation except legal reserves and so no further expansion is occurring.

Guidance will also be produced on how to undertake the HCVA assessments required for expansion in Category II areas.

2. Development of generic global methodology

2.1 RTRS will convene an international multi-stakeholder group to develop the generic global methodology to be used to develop the national macro-scale maps.

- The group should include representatives of each RTRS constituency and country.

  i. Note: the group should aim to include 1 person per constituency from each of Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay plus at least 3 representatives (1 representative per constituency) from other main soy producing countries.

- The group should include technical experts.
- The group should work by consensus.

2.2 The group will review existing methodologies and produce a methodology for the RTRS which addresses:

- The minimum criteria which need to be considered in developing national maps.
- The important data layers which should be included and other optional layers.
- Possible sources of data which should be used.
- Develop criteria on how to assign different categories.
- Any other necessary issues.

2.3 The group will review existing methodologies for undertaking on-farm HCVA assessments required for farms in Category II areas and develop generic guidance for RTRS.

3. Production of national macro-scale maps

3.1 Establish a national multi-stakeholder group in each country (as a sub-group of the RTRS National Technical Group) to oversee the map development process. The group should include both representation of each RTRS constituency and technical expertise.

Note: for Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay this group will include the 3 national members of the global multi-stakeholder group.

3.2 The national multi-stakeholder group interprets the global methodology and agrees on the work to be undertaken at a national level including:

- National interpretation of criteria to be used.
- Sources of information and data to be used including all official maps, conservation maps etc which provide consistent information including sub-national maps.
- Definitions of important areas for conservation and for agricultural expansion in the country.
- Any additional information required.
- Agreement on criteria for assignment of categories.
- Any other issues.

3.3 A technical group is assigned to undertake the mapping in line with the national level guidance developed by the multi-stakeholder group.

3.4 The multi-stakeholder group reviews the maps and agrees on the mapping of the categories.

3.5 The multi-stakeholder group reviews the generic methodology for on-farm HCVA assessments for expansion in Category II areas and produces a national version.

3.6 The national map and methodology, once agreed by the national multi-stakeholder group, is submitted to the RTRS National Technical Group for approval and once approved is submitted to RTRS for endorsement.

4. Implementation

Once national maps and methodologies are endorsed they replace any interim approach to managing responsible expansion.

Annex 5: Integrated Crop Management (ICM) Measures and Practices in Soy Production

The approach of RTRS towards Integrated Crop Management (ICM) is the voluntary adoption of an increasing number of ICM measures and sub-measures over time, according to a plan that is devised with professional guidance, which in the case of group certification may be provided by the group manager to individual group members. The table below presents a non-exhaustive list of measures and practices that can be used in the development and auditing of the ICM plan developed by the producer or producer group.

Measure	Practices
1. Prevention	1a. Conservation tillage (including zero tillage, zero tillage sowing, contour ploughing, etc.) 1b. Mechanical control practices to prevent weed seeds from germinating or spreading 1c. Maintaining vegetative or residue soil cover in between crops 1d. Crop rotation (including 1c.) 1e. Choice of seed variety: choose resistant variety against the main pest 1f. Monitor and record harmful and beneficial organisms 1g. Buffer zones and refuges for biodiversity (for example hedges, riparian vegetation, etc.).
2. Technical measures for cultivation	2a. Sowing date / timing 2b. Scouting in field to assess damage-threshold for all pests (proven by daily record keeping) 2c. Use of fertilizer with evidence of need provided by professional soil/fertilization specialist 2d. Manual weed removal / intercultural operations 2e. mechanical weed removal / intercultural operations which are not detrimental to soil structure, organic matter content or other soil and water values.
3. Systems for early warning and advise	3a. Use of weather information to determine applications 3b. Use of pest traps 3c. Use of decision support systems or manuals 3d. Use of warning systems or services for pests and diseases such as soy bean rust
4. Non-chemical crop protection	4a. Use of naturally occurring beneficial insects by maintenance of buffer zones / natural vegetation 4b. Use of biological control agents 4c. Use of crop protection substances of natural origin 4d. Use of inoculants (symbiotic bacteria) to promote Nitrogen uptake
5. Chemical crop protection and application techniques	5a. Rotation of active ingredient 5b. Application of phytosanitary products only when the economical damage threshold is exceeded 5c. Use of selective and low human toxicity and low ecotoxicity phytosanitary products 5d. Use of narrow spectrum phytosanitary products 5e. Use of spot wise / precision application

Measure	Practices
6. Emission reduction	6a. Use of adequate and well calibrated equipment 6b. Spray-free zone towards principal water courses in accordance with professional agrochemical specialist's advice 6c. In the use of aerial spraying there is no application where a temperature inversion or other unfavorable meteorological condition (high wind speed, etc.) occurs.

Annex 6: Applicable Laws in Argentina

National Law of Argentina 22.248: National Regime of Agricultural Labor.

National Law of Argentina 25.675: General Law of the Environment.

National Law of Argentina 26.331: Law of Minimum Standards for Environmental Protection of Native Forests

National Law of Argentina 20.247: Law of Seeds and Phytogenetic Creations.

National Law of Argentina 24.051: Hazardous Waste.

SENASA Resolution N°778/04: Communication of detection or characterization of vegetal plagues

National Decree 617/97 AnnexI- Title I,: Health and Safety for Agriculture.

Annex 7: Progressive entry level

1. Introduction

In order to involved a broader range of producers into the P&C certification scheme, RTRS developed a progressive entry level that includes a continuous improvement approach.

All the indicators of the P&C were weighted to categorize them by their relevance, having into account: the opinion of the three constituencies of RTRS, other sustainability certification schemes approach to similar issues, analysis of evidence gathered during the field tests period, small farmers inclusion, international legislation, to determine a realistic, credible and pragmatic approach of the RTRS scheme.

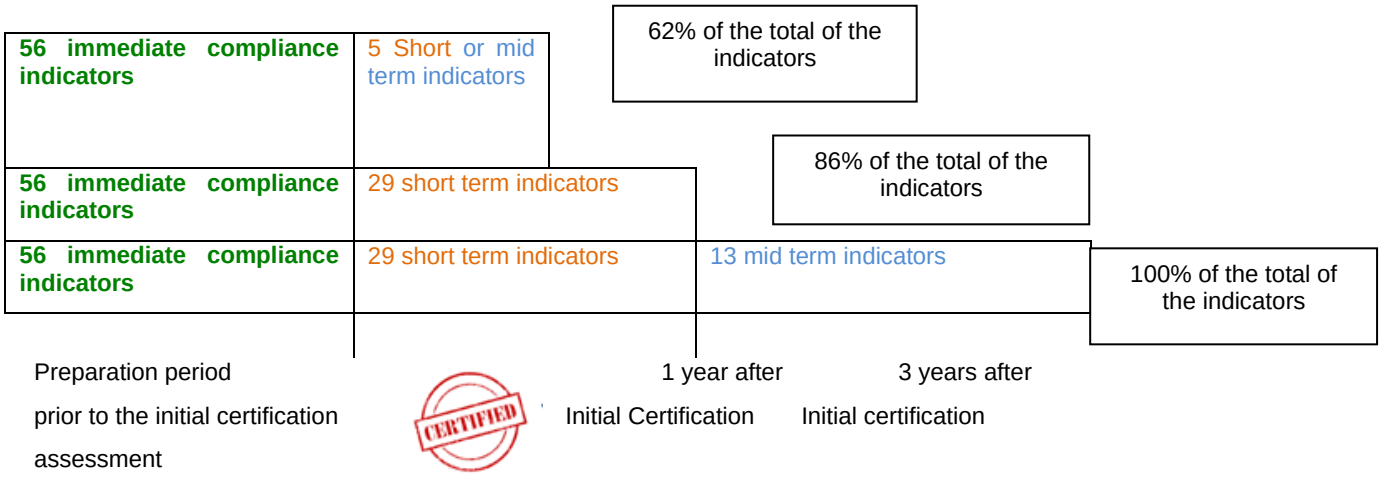
2. Classification of the indicators within each criteria

The RTRS has classified the indicators in 3 different categories: See content of table below point 6

Category
Inmediate Compliance Indicators
Short – Term Compliance Indicators
Mid- Term Compliance Indicators

3. Progressive approach

- **The first year of the initial certification assessment:** A producer will be granted with a positive certification decision when he meets all the indicators that were classified in this document as "immediate compliance indicators" and additionally 5 indicators of the total short term compliance indicators or mid-term compliance indicators. This represents approximately a compliance with the 62% of the RTRS standard.
- **After one year from the date of the initial certification assessment** (first annual surveillance assessment) the producer shall meet in addition all the short term compliance indicators. This represents approximately a compliance with the 86% of the RTRS standard.
- **After 3 years from the date of the initial certification assessment:** the producer shall comply with 100% of the indicators (immediate + mid-term + short term compliance indicators). The compliance of all the indicators will be assessed against the classification of majors and minors stated in the accreditation and verification system.



4. National Interpretation of the Classification.

The current approach was considered based on the RTRS Principles and Criteria Indicators and the Argentinean legislation. Where Argentinean legislation requires the compliance with one indicator that under the RTRS approach is considered a short or mid-term compliance indicator, this indicator is categorized as an immediate compliance indicator in Argentina.

The National Technical Group of Argentina found the following indicators as legal obligations, therefore those became in Immediate Compliance Indicators

Indicators	National Legislation Reference
2.2.1 Workers (including temporary workers), sharecroppers, contractors and subcontractors have a written contract, in a language that they can understand.	Law 22.248 of agricultural work and decree 563
2.3.2 Relevant health and safety risks are identified, procedures are developed to address these risks by employers, and these are monitored.	National Decree 617/97 Annex I- Title I,
2.5.6 Overtime work at all times is voluntary and paid according to legal or sector standards. In case overtime work is needed, workers receive timely notification. Workers are entitled to at least one day off following every six consecutive days of work.	Law 20.744, art.201, art 203, art.204 and art. 207
5.11.1 All purchased seed must come from known legal quality sources	Law 20.247

5. Global Clasification and references:

57 Indicators	Immediate Compliance Indicators
28 Indicators	Short-term Compliance indicators (1 year)
13 Indicators	Mid-term minor Compliance Indicators (3 years)
	Not applicable

Principle	Criteria	Indicator	Weight
Principle 1: Legal Compliance and Good Business Practice	1.1 There is awareness of, and compliance with, all applicable local and national legislation.	1.1.1 Awareness of responsibilities, according to applicable laws can be demonstrated.	
		1.1.2 Applicable laws are being complied with.	
	1.2 Legal use rights to the land are clearly defined and demonstrable.	1.2.1 There is documented evidence of rights to use the land (e.g. ownership document, rental agreement, court order etc.).	
	1.3 There is continual improvement with respect to the requirements of this standard.	1.3.1 A review process is carried out which identifies those social, environmental and agricultural aspects of the operation (on and off farm) where improvement is desirable.	
		1.3.2 A number of indicators are selected and a baseline is established to be able to monitor continual improvement on those aspects where desired improvements have been identified.	
		1.3.3 The results of monitoring are reviewed and appropriate action is planned and taken when necessary to ensure continual improvement.	

Principle 2: Responsible Labour Conditions	2.1 Child labour, forced labour, discrimination and harassment are not engaged in or supported.	2.1 1 No forced, compulsory, bonded, trafficked or otherwise involuntary labour is used at any stage of production.	
		2.1.2 No workers of any type are required to lodge their identity papers with anyone and no part of their salary, benefits or property is retained, by the owner or any 3rd party, unless permitted by law.	
		2.1.3 Spouses and children of contracted workers are not obliged to work on the farm.	
		2.1.4 Children and minors (below 18) do not conduct hazardous work or any work that jeopardizes their physical, mental or moral well being.	
		2.1.5 Children under 15 (or higher age as established in national law) do not carry out productive work. They may accompany their family to the field as long as they are not exposed to hazardous, unsafe or unhealthy situations and it does not interfere with their schooling	
		2.1.6 There is no engagement in, support for, or tolerance of any form of discrimination.	
		2.1.7 All workers receive equal remuneration for work of equal value, equal access to training and benefits and equal opportunities for promotion and for filling all available positions.	
		2.1.8 Workers are not subject to corporal punishment, mental or physical oppression or coercion, verbal or physical abuse, sexual harassment or any other kind of intimidation.	
	2.2 Workers, directly and indirectly employed on the farm, and sharecroppers, are adequately informed and trained for their tasks and are aware of their rights and duties.	2.2.1 Workers (including temporary workers), sharecroppers, contractors and subcontractors have a written contract, in a language that they can understand.	
		2.2.2 Labour laws, union agreements or direct contracts of employment detailing payments and conditions of employment (e.g., working hours, deductions, overtime, sickness, holiday entitlement, maternity leave, reasons for dismissal, period of notice, etc) are available in the languages understood by the workers or explained carefully to them by a manager or supervisor.	
		2.2.3 Adequate and appropriate training and comprehensible instructions on fundamental rights at work, health and safety and any necessary guidance or supervision are provided to all workers.	
	2.3 A safe and healthy workplace is provided for all workers.	2.3.1 Producers and their employees demonstrate an awareness and understanding of health and safety matters.	
		2.3.2 Relevant health and safety risks are identified, procedures are developed to address these risks by employers, and these are monitored.	

		2.3.3 Potentially hazardous tasks are only carried out by capable and competent people who do not face specific health risks.	
		2.3.4 Adequate and appropriate protective equipment and clothing is provided and used in all potentially hazardous operations such as pesticide handling and application and mechanized or manual operations.	
		2.3.5 There is a system of warnings followed by legally-permitted sanctions for workers that do not apply safety requirements.	
		2.3 6 Accident and emergency procedures exist and instructions are clearly understood by all workers.	
		2.3.7 In case of accidents or illness, access to first aid and medical assistance is provided without delay.	
	2.4 There is freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining for all workers.	2.4.1 There is the right for all workers and sharecroppers to establish and/or join an organization of their choice.	
		2.4.2 The effective functioning of such organizations is not impeded. Representatives are not subject to discrimination and have access to their members in the workplace on request.	
		2.4.3 All workers have the right to perform collective bargaining.	
		2.4.4 Workers are not hindered from interacting with external parties outside working hours (e.g. NGOs, trade unions, labour inspectors, agricultural extension workers, certification bodies).	
	2.5 Remuneration at least equal to national legislation and sector agreements is received by all workers directly or indirectly employed on the farm.	2.5.1 Gross wages that comply with national legislation and sector agreements are paid at least monthly to workers.	
		2.5.2 Deductions from wages for disciplinary purposes are not made, unless legally permitted. Wages and benefits are detailed and clear to workers and workers are paid in a manner convenient to them. Wages paid are recorded by the employer.	
		2.5.3 Normal weekly working hours do not exceed 48 hours. Weekly overtime hours do not exceed 12 hours.	
		2.5.4 If additional overtime hours are necessary the following conditions are met:	
		a) It only occurs for limited periods of time (e.g. peak harvest, planting).	
		b) Where there is a trade union or representative organization the overtime conditions are negotiated and agreed with that organization.	

		c) Where there is no trade union or representative organization agreement the average working hours in the two-month period after the start of the exceptional period still do not exceed 60 hours per week.	
		2.5.5 Working hours per worker are recorded by the employer.	
		2.5.6 Overtime work at all times is voluntary and paid according to legal or sector standards. In case overtime work is needed, workers receive timely notification. Workers are entitled to at least one day off following every six consecutive days of work.	
		2.5.7 Salaried workers have all entitlements and protection in national law and practice with respect to maternity. Workers taking maternity leave are entitled to return to their employment on the same terms and conditions that applied to them prior to taking leave and they are not subject to any discrimination, loss of seniority or deductions of wages.	
		2.5.8 If workers are paid per result, a normal 8 hour working day allows workers, (men and women), to earn at least the national or sector established minimum wage.	
		2.5.9 If employees live on the farm, they have access to affordable and adequate housing, food and potable water. If charges are made for these, such charges are in accordance with market conditions. The living quarters are safe and have at least basic sanitation.	
Principle 3: Responsible Community Relations	3.1 Channels are available for communication and dialogue with the local community on topics related to the activities of the soy farming operation and its impacts.	3.1.1 Documented evidence of communication channels and dialogue is available.	
		3.1.2 The channels adequately enable communication between the producer and the community.	
		3.1.3 The communication channels have been made known to the local communities.	
	3.2 In areas with traditional land users, conflicting land uses are avoided or resolved.	3.2.1 In the case of disputed use rights, a comprehensive, participatory and documented community rights assessment is carried out.	
		3.2.2 Where rights have been relinquished by traditional land users there is documented evidence that the affected communities are compensated subject to their free, prior, informed and documented consent.	
	3.3 A mechanism for resolving complaints and grievances is implemented and available to local communities and traditional land users.	3.3.1 The complaints and grievances mechanism has been made known and is accessible to the communities.	
		3.3.2 Documented evidence of complaints and grievances received are maintained.	

		3.3.3 Any complaints and grievances received are dealt with in a timely manner.	
	3.4 Fair opportunities for employment and provision of goods and services are given to the local population.	3.4.1 Employment opportunities are made known locally.	
		3.4.2 There is collaboration with training programs for the local population.	
		3.4.3 Opportunities for supply of goods and services are offered to the local population.	
Principle 4: Environmental Responsibility	4.1 On and off site social and environmental impacts of large or high risk new infrastructure have been assessed and appropriate measures taken to minimize and mitigate any negative impacts.	4.1.1 A social and environmental assessment is carried out prior to the establishment of large or high risk new infrastructure.	
		4.1.2 The assessment is carried out by someone who is adequately trained and experienced for this task.	
		4.1.3 The assessment is carried out in a comprehensive and transparent manner.	
		4.1.4 Measures to minimize or mitigate the impacts identified by the assessment are documented and are being implemented.	
	4.2 Pollution is minimized and production waste is managed responsibly.	4.2.1 There is no burning on any part of the property of crop residues, waste, or as part of vegetation clearance, except under one of the following conditions:	
		a) Where there is a legal obligation to burn as a sanitary measure;	
		b) Where it is used for generation of energy including charcoal production and for drying crops;	
		c) Where only small-caliber residual vegetation from land clearing remains after all useable material has been removed for other uses.	
		4.2.2 There is adequate storage and disposal of fuel, batteries, tires, lubricants, sewage and other waste.	
		4.2.3 There are facilities to prevent spills of oil and other pollutants.	
		4.2.4 Re-use and recycling are utilized wherever possible.	
		4.2.5 There is a residue management plan including all areas of the property.	
	4.3 Efforts are made to reduce emissions and increase sequestration of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) on the farm.	4.3.1 Total direct fossil fuel use over time is recorded, and its volume per hectare and per unit of product for all activities related to soy production is monitored.	

		4.3.2 If there is an increase in the intensity of fossil fuel used, there is a justification for this. If no justification is available there is an action plan to reduce use.	
		4.3.3 Soil organic matter is monitored to quantify change in soil carbon and steps are taken to mitigate negative trends.	
		4.3.4 Opportunities for increasing carbon sequestration through restoration of native vegetation, forest plantations and other means are identified.	
	4.4 Expansion of soy cultivation is responsible.	4.4.1 After May 2009 expansion for soy cultivation has not taken place on land cleared of native habitat except under the following conditions:	
		4.4.1.1 It is in line with an RTRS-approved map and system (see Annex 4: RTRS Approach to Responsible Conversion)	
		or	
		4.4.1.2 Where no RTRS-approved map and system is available:	
		a) Any area already cleared for agriculture or pasture before May 2009 and used for agriculture or pasture within the past 12 years can be used for soy expansion, unless regenerated vegetation has reached the definition of native forest (see Annex 3: Glossary of Terms).	
		b) There is no expansion in native forests (see Annex 3: Glossary of Terms)	
		c) In areas that are not native forest (see Annex 3: Glossary of Terms), expansion into native habitat only occurs according to one of the following two options:	
		Option 1. Official land-use maps such as ecological-economic zoning are used and expansion only occurs in areas designated for expansion by the zoning. If there are no official land use maps then maps produced by the government under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are used, and expansion only occurs outside priority areas for conservation shown on these maps.	
		Option 2. A High Conservation Value Area (HCVA) assessment is undertaken prior to clearing and there is no conversion of High Conservation Value Areas.	
		4.4.2 There is no conversion of land where there is an unresolved land use claim by traditional land users under litigation, without the agreement of both parties.	
	4.5 On-farm biodiversity is maintained and safeguarded	4.5.1 There is a map of the farm which shows the native vegetation	

	through the preservation of native vegetation.	4.5.2 There is a plan, which is being implemented, to ensure that the native vegetation is being maintained (except areas covered under Criterion 4.4)	
		4.5.3 No hunting of rare, threatened or endangered species takes place on the property.	
Principle 5: Good Agricultural Practice	5.1 The quality and supply of surface and ground water is maintained or improved.	5.1.1 Good agricultural practices are implemented to minimize diffuse and localized impacts on surface and ground water quality from chemical residues, fertilizers, erosion or other sources and to promote aquifer recharge.	
		5.1.2 There is monitoring, appropriate to scale, to demonstrate that the practices are effective.	
		5.1.3 Any direct evidence of localized contamination of ground or surface water is reported to, and monitored in collaboration with, local authorities.	
		5.1.4 Where irrigation is used, there is a documented procedure in place for applying best practices and acting according to legislation and best practice guidance (where this exists), and for measurement of water utilization.	
	5.2 Natural vegetation areas around springs and along natural watercourses are maintained or re-established.	5.2.1 The location of all watercourses has been identified and mapped, including the status of the riparian vegetation.	
		5.2.2 Where natural vegetation in riparian areas has been removed there is a plan with a timetable for restoration which is being implemented.	
		5.2.3 Natural wetlands are not drained and native vegetation is maintained.	
	5.3 Soil quality is maintained or improved and erosion is avoided by good management practices.	5.3.1 Knowledge of techniques to maintain soil quality (physical, chemical and biological) is demonstrated and these techniques are implemented.	
		5.3.2 Knowledge of techniques to control soil erosion is demonstrated and these techniques are implemented.	
		5.3.3 Appropriate monitoring, including soil organic matter content, is in place.	
	5.4 Negative environmental and health impacts of phytosanitary products are reduced by implementation of systematic, recognized Integrated Crop Management (ICM) techniques.	5.4.1 A plan for ICM is documented and implemented which addresses the use of prevention, and biological and other non-chemical or selective chemical controls.	
		5.4.2 There is an implemented plan that contains targets for reduction of potentially harmful phytosanitary products over time.	

		5.4.3 Use of phytosanitary products follows legal requirements and professional recommendations (or, if professional recommendations are not available, manufacturer's recommendations) and includes rotation of active ingredients to prevent resistance.	
		5.4.4 Records of monitoring of, pests, diseases, weeds and natural predators are maintained.	
	5.5 All application of agrochemicals is documented and all handling, storage, collection and disposal of chemical waste and empty containers, is monitored to ensure compliance with good practice.	5.5.1 There are records of the use of agrochemicals, including:	
		a) products purchased and applied, quantity and dates;	
		b) identification of the area where the application was made;	
		c) names of the persons that carried out the preparation of the products and field application;	
		d) identification of the application equipment used;	
		e) weather conditions during application.	
		5.5.2 Containers are properly stored, washed and disposed of; Waste and residual agrochemicals are disposed in an environmentally appropriate way.	
		5.5.3 Transportation and storage of agrochemicals is safe and all applicable health, environmental and safety precautions are implemented.	
		5.5.4 The necessary precautions are taken to avoid people entering into recently sprayed areas.	
		5.5.5 Fertilizers are used in accordance with professional recommendations (provided by manufacturers where other professional recommendations are not available).	
	5.6 Agrochemicals listed in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions are not used.	5.6 1 There is no use of agrochemicals listed in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.	
	5.7 The use of biological control agents is documented, monitored and controlled in accordance with national laws and internationally accepted scientific protocols.	5.7.1 There is information about requirements for use of biological control agents.	
		5.7.2 Records are kept of all use of biological control agents that demonstrate compliance with national laws.	
	5.8 Systematic measures are planned and implemented to monitor, control and minimize the spread of invasive introduced species and new pests.	5.8.1 Where there are institutional systems in place to identify and monitor invasive introduced species and new ones, or major outbreaks of existing pests, producers follow the requirements of these systems, to minimize their spread.	
		5.8.2 Where such systems do not exist, incidences of new pests or invasive species and major outbreaks of existing pests are communicated to the proper authorities and relevant producer organizations or research organizations.	

	5.9 Appropriate measures are implemented to prevent the drift of agrochemicals to neighboring areas.	5.9.1 There are documented procedures in place that specify good agricultural practices, including minimization of drift, in applying agrochemicals and these procedures are being implemented.	
		5.9.2 Records of weather conditions (wind speed and direction, temperature and relative humidity) during spraying operations are maintained.	
		5.9.3 Aerial application of pesticides is carried out in such a way that it does not have an impact on populated areas. All aerial application is preceded by advance notification to residents within 500m of the planned application.	
		Note: 'Populated areas' means any occupied house, office or other building	
		5.9.4 There is no aerial application of pesticides in WHO Class Ia, Ib and II within 500m of populated areas or water bodies.	
		5.9.5 There is no application of pesticides within 30m of any populated areas or water bodies.	
	5.10 Appropriate measures are implemented to allow for coexistence of different production systems.	5.10.1 Measures are taken to prevent interference in production systems of neighboring areas.	
	5.11 Origin of seeds is controlled to improve production and prevent introduction of new diseases.	5.11.1 All purchased seed must come from known legal quality sources.	
		5.11.2 Self-propagated seeds may be used, provided appropriate seed production norms are followed and legal requirements regarding intellectual property rights are met.	

Annex 8: WHO Class IA, IB and II

This annex is related to indicator 5.9.4: There is no aerial application of pesticides in this WHO class IA, IB and II, within 500 meters of populated areas or water bodies.[3].

Type	Use	Chemical name	Trade name	Who
H	DS	2,4 d	Dma, u46	Ii
I	CC	Cypermethrin	Arrivo, cymbush	Ii
I	CC	Dimethoate	Perfekthion, dimexion	Ii
H	DS	Diquat	Reglone	Ii
I	CC	Endosulfan	Thiodan	Ii
I	ST	Fipronil	Standak, regent	Ii
H	PE	Haloxyfop-methyl	Verdict	Ii
I	CC	Lambda-cyhalothrin	Karate zeon	Ii
I	CC	Methamidophos	Tamaron	Ib
I	CC	Methomyl	Lannate	Ib
H	DS	Paraquat	Gramoxone	Ii
I	CC	Parathion methyl	Folidol	Ia
I	CC	Permethrin	Pounce, talcord	Ii
F	CC	Propiconazole	Artea (+cyproconazole)	Ii
F	CC	Tetraconazole	Domark	Ii
I	CC	Thiodicarb	Larvin	Ii

[3] Consider agrochemicals class IA, IB and II applicable for soy production only.

Annex 9: Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention

1. Rotterdam Convention

Sustancia química	CAS Nª
Aldrina	309-00-2
Clordano	57-74-9
Dieldrina	60-57-1
Endrina	72-20-8
Heptacloro	76-44-8
Producción Ninguna	--
Hexaclorobenceno	118-74-1
Mirex	2385-85-5
Toxafeno	8001-35-2
Bifenilos policlorados (BPC)	--
DDT (1,1,1-tricloro-2,2-bis (4-clorofenil) etano)	50-29-3
Dibenzoparadioxinas y dibenzofuranos policlorados (PCDD/PCDF)	--
Hexaclorobenceno (HCB)	118-74-1
Bifenilos policlorados (PCB)	--

2. Stockholm Convention

Sustância química	CAS Nª
2,4,5 – T	93-76-5
Aldrina	309-00-2
Captafol	2425-06-1
Clordano	57-74-9
Clordimeformo	6164-98-3
Clorobencilato	510-15-6
DDT	50-29-3
Dieldrina	60-57-1
Dinoseb y sales de Dinoseb	88-85-7
1,2-dibromoetano (EDB)	106-93-4
Fluoroacetamida	640-19-7
HCH (mezcla de isómeros)	608-73-1
Heptacloro	76-44-8
Hexaclorobenceno	118-74-1
Lindano	58-89-9
Compuestos de mercurio, incluidos compuestos inorgánicos de mercurio, compuestos alquílicos de mercurio y compuestos	--

Sustância química	CAS Nª
alcoxialquílicos y arílicos de mercurio	
Pentaclorofenol	87-86-5
Monocrotophos (formulaciones líquidas solubles de la sustancia que sobrepasen los 600 g/l de ingrediente activo)	6923-22-4
Metamidophos (formulaciones líquidas solubles de la sustancia que sobrepasen los 600 g/l de ingrediente activo)	10265-92-6
Fosfamidón (formulaciones líquidas solubles de la sustancia que sobrepasen los 1000 g/l de ingrediente activo)	13171-21-6
(mezcla, isómeros (E) y (Z))	23783-98-4
(isómero (Z))	297-99-4
(isómero (E))	--
Metil-paratión (ciertas formulaciones de concentrados emulsificables de metil-paratión (CE) con 19,5%, 40%, 50% y 60% de ingrediente activo y polvos que contengan 1,5%, 2% y 3% de ingrediente activo)	298-00-0
Paratión (se incluyen todas las formulaciones de esta sustancia - aerosoles, polvos secos (PS), concentrado emulsificable (CE), gránulos (GR) y polvos humedecibles (PH) - excepto las suspensiones en cápsula (SC))	56-38-2
Crocidolita	12001-28-4
Bifenilos polibromados (PBB)	59080-40-9
(hexa-)	27858-07-7
(octa-)	13654-09-6
(deca-)	--
Industrial	--
Bifenilos policlorados (PCB)	1336-36-3
Terfenilos policlorados (PCT)	61788-33-8
Fosfato de tris (2,3-dibromopropil)	126-72-7

Annex 10: Argentinean National Technical Group (NTG) Members

The Argentinean National Technical Group was formed by the following representatives of the 3 RTRS constituencies:

David Bilenca (Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina), Agustín Bianchini (AApresid), Carlos Diedrich (Asaga), Julieta Migliavacca (Grupo Lucci) and Alex Ehrenhaus (Los Grobo).

Jorge Adamoli from UBA as observer and resource.

Under the general coordination of the RTRS Technical Unit, moderators: Leonardo Iannuzzi, Jaime S. Monasterio and Cecilia Gabutti, the GTN held two meetings, one in October 2009 and a second one held in June and July 2010, with a conference call in February 2011. The document draft of the NI was submitted for public consultation 2 times.

RTRS Executive Board approved the document on May 9, 2011.