

Research Webinars: Key findings on standards' impacts

Autumn 2018

This series of webinars is a space dedicated to sharing emerging research findings in the field of sustainability standards' impacts. We hear from researchers on what impact sustainability standards are making and how they can improve their impact. We also hear from practitioners on the key takeaways for standards systems.

If you are interested in sharing your own research through an ISEAL research webinar, please contact ISEAL's Impacts Assistant Rita Mendez (rita@isealalliance.org).

WEBINAR 29: The Systemic Impacts of Voluntary Sustainability Standards

Researchers: David Short (Aidenvironment)

Date and Time: 19TH October 2018 at 2:00 pm BST

Discussants: TBC

VSS are known to have a positive impact in areas where certified entities operate but VSS can also influence the enabling environment. There is not yet a lot of evidence of these so-called systemic impacts of VSS on the enabling environment. This webinar will present a white paper, carried out by Aidenvironment and commissioned by WWF and ISEAL Alliance, which aims to contribute to this evidence gap as well as provide a working definition for the concept of systemic impacts.

Please register for the webinar here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4218808916974956546>

WEBINAR 30: Do private coffee standards 'walk the talk' in improving socio-economic and environmental sustainability?

Researchers: Koen Vanderhaegen (KU Leuven)

Date and Time: 25th October 2018 at 2:00 pm BST

Discussant: TBC

Private sustainability standards raise expectations among consumers about the economic, ethical and environmental implications of food production and trade; and attract donor funding to certification schemes. The sustainability impact of standards remains unclear as research focuses on either economic or environmental implications. In this webinar, Koen Vanderhaegen (KU Leuven) will present the learnings from a research on both the socio-economic and environmental impacts of coffee standards in Uganda. The analysis is based on a unique combination of economic survey data and ecological field inventory data from a sample of certified and noncertified coffee farms.

Please register for the webinar here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4903589155717538562>

WEBINAR 31: Understanding of the Conservation Impacts of Voluntary Sustainability Standards.

Researchers: Alex Pffaf and Claudia Romero.

Date and Time: 15th November 2018 at 2:00 pm GMT

Discussants: Katie Longo (MSC) and Elizabeth Kennedy (ISEAL Alliance)

In 2012, a committee of international experts from academia, business, and civil society published '*Toward Sustainability: The Roles and Limitations of Certification*'. In addition to describing the history, key features and actors in voluntary standard systems (VSS), the report summarised the

state of knowledge regarding VSS use and their potential to achieve conservation and other goals. It also enumerated existing evidence about VSS impacts, finding few studies and weak study designs. Since then, considerable effort has been made to fill research gaps. This webinar presents the paper 'Conservation Impacts of Voluntary Sustainability standards: How Has our Understanding of conservation impacts changed since the 2012 Publication of "Toward Sustainability: The Roles and Limitations of Certification"?' to reflect on new VSS studies in the agricultural, forestry, marine fisheries and aquaculture sectors and revisit the issue of the state of knowledge about VSS conversation impacts as well as to consider how best to advance VSS impacts research. This research is funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation through the Meridian Institute to support the work of the Supply Chain Sustainability Research Fund.

Please register for the webinar here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1192711024693555969>

WEBINAR 32: The Impact of International Cooperative Initiatives on Biodiversity

Researchers: van Mark Oorschot (PBL)

Date and Time: 22 November 2018 at 2:00 pm GMT

Discussants: David D'Hollander (ISEAL Alliance)

Traditionally, governments are seen as responsible for biodiversity protection. But more and more, initiatives of private, non-state actors show a large potential to contribute to biodiversity conservation and enhancement. In this webinar, the report 'The Impact of International Cooperative Initiatives on Biodiversity' will be presented. In the report, several initiatives were examined, mostly in forest-related initiatives. Results contribute to quantifying the potential global contribution of sustainable forest management (SFM) certification to forest protection and biodiversity improvement.

Please register for the webinar here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5424000103774575105>

WEBINAR 33: Social and environmental monitoring of the ASC® certification in the south of Chile.

Researchers: Irina Montenegro (WWF Chile) and Priscila Molina (WWF Chile)

Date and Time: 29th November 2018 at 2:00 pm GMT

Discussant: TBC

The growth and expansion of salmon production in Chile have been exponential in the last 30 years. In 2015, WWF Chile initiated a study aimed at designing and validating a methodological framework for monitoring expected changes in environmental and social issues. The objective was to identify strengths and gaps in ASC certification of salmon production and to propose recommendations for the effective implementation of ASC certification in Chile. This webinar will present the results of the study after three years of project implementation and will share recommendations for how ASC certification can have a more visible positive impact in the region.

Please register for the webinar here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4251358859031212802>



PRESENTERS

WEBINAR 29



David Short joined Aidenvironment on 1 October 2016 as part of the Sustainable Value Chains Cluster. His background is in international business and sustainable development. He has worked in the private sector on supply chain operations in the flower and coffee sectors for small and large companies based in Ecuador and the USA. In 2011, he joined UTZ, a program and label for sustainable farming, where he worked on standards development, assurance, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for the cocoa program, with frequent visits to West Africa, SE Asia, and South America. Prior to joining Aidenvironment, David undertook assignments in sustainable agriculture for international organizations, focusing on M&E development, value chain analyses, and multi-stakeholder facilitation. He has advised the World Cocoa Foundation on the CocoaAction M&E system.

WEBINAR 30



Koen Vanderhaegen is a bioscience engineer with specialization in tropical natural resources management. He is currently working on his PhD research at the KU Leuven (Belgium) about the role of agroforestry for ecosystem services and livelihood resilience in the landslide-prone region of Mount Elgon, Uganda. Koen studied in Belgium, Portugal and Ecuador and assessed for his MSc. thesis the ecosystem services provided by tropical landscapes in SW Ethiopia.

WEBINAR 31



Alex Pfaff is a Professor of Public Policy, Economics and Environment at Duke University. Trained in economics, his focus is how economic development interacts with the environment & natural resources and, given that, how to improve policy impacts. He studies the adoption and forest impacts of both environmental policies — protected areas, ecoservices payments, production certifications/standards — and development policies such as roads and forest concessions (in the Brazilian Amazon, Costa Rica, the U.S., Panama, Madagascar, Mexico, Peru, Cameroon and Bolivia). He also studies water management institutions (in the Brazilian Northeast, Colombia and Mexico), factors in the reduction of harmful environmental exposures (groundwater arsenic in Bangladesh, indoor air pollution in China and Pakistan) and incentives for corporations to self-audit and disclose (U.S.).



Claudia Romero has a strong foundation in tropical ecology with emphasis on applied interdisciplinary research in conservation and development tradeoffs. She has skills in the evaluation of conservation interventions informed by familiarity with regional and national policy and regulatory issues and overall interest in measures to tackle illegality in resource use. Her current research focuses on understanding the on-the-ground biophysical, socio-economic, and policy impacts of FSC certification of natural forests as well as the implementation process of the interventions aimed at forest conservation.

WEBINAR 32



van Mark Oorschot Mark van Oorschot is a senior researcher at the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL). He works on international biodiversity policies, and has performed assessments on several topics, like biodiversity effects of bio-energy use, forestry modelling and performance of sustainability standards, and integrating natural capital values in supply-chain governance. He is currently involved in evaluating Dutch policies like transparency to promote sustainable business models, and upscaling the sustainability of international supply chains. He has contributed to numerous global outlook studies using the integrated IMAGE-GLOBIO model framework.

WEBINAR 33



Irina Montenegro, the Director of the Strategy and Science Program of WWF Chile, has been working for the last seven years in this NGO. Director of the WWF Project "Monitoring environmental and social impacts of the FSC and ASC Systems in Southern Chile". Irina provides and develops planning and monitoring tools and facilitates processes to design conservation initiatives and guarantee adaptive management. She is a Biologist from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia, holding an M.Sc. in Natural Resources Management from the ITC, University of Twente, Netherlands; and she is the Lead of the South American Franchise for Open Standards for Conservation.



Priscila Molina Pérez is a Biologist from the University of Guayaquil (Guayaquil, Ecuador). She has worked on planning, monitoring and GIS in the past four years, especially concerning the impacts from ASC and FSC certification schemes in southern Chile, monitoring techniques, Open Standards, multi-criteria analysis and conservation planning tools using GIS. She received her Master degree in Environmental Management from the University "Católica del Norte" (Coquimbo, Chile). She has worked in environmental consulting projects and at the Neotropical Center for Training on Wetlands (CNEH) in the north of Chile, before joining WWF Chile since 2014.

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