



ISEAL Code of Good Practice: revision and integration plan

2022 - 2023

Introduction

ISEAL's Codes of Good Practice provide a globally recognised framework, defining practices for effective and credible sustainability systems. The Codes currently address three core elements of a sustainability system: standard-setting, assurance, and impacts (monitoring, evaluation, and learning). In 2022 and 2023, ISEAL is revising and integrating the Codes into a single ISEAL Code of Good Practice.

The decision to integrate and revise was approved by the ISEAL Board in 2020 based on a recommendation from the ISEAL Technical Committee and supported by findings from the [2019 review of the Standard-Setting and Impacts Codes](#) as well as further analysis conducted by ISEAL for the Committee. The timing of this process was set so that the revision and integration can be informed by the recently revised [ISEAL Credibility Principles](#).

The revision and integration of the Codes provides opportunities to improve the value of the Codes and Code compliance by looking at system credibility in a holistic way. The revision and integration process aims to:

- update Code content to reflect changes in the sustainability landscape
- address findings from the review of the Standard-Setting and Impacts Codes
- strengthen the connection between the Credibility Principles and the Codes
- expand the scope of an integrated Code to include essential good practices in claims management
- address key aspects of governance, retaining the good practices that are currently included in the Codes and integrating the good practices that are requirements for ISEAL Community Members
- more effectively support adoption and implementation of the Codes
- rationalise Code requirements (by reducing redundancy, better calibrating the expected performance levels, and creating clearer and stronger linkages in interconnected areas of performance)

Terms of reference

As recommended by the Technical Committee and approved by the ISEAL Board:

The ISEAL Code of Good Practice is a normative reference that operationalises the ISEAL Credibility Principles. The Code defines credible management of the components of a sustainability system* where these components include standard-setting, assurance, claims, and impacts (monitoring, evaluation, and learning).

**Standards systems and similar initiatives that define sustainability performance levels or improvement pathways; that measure, monitor or verify performance or progress; and that allow for claims.*

Drafting plan

The drafting of the revised ISEAL Code of Good Practice aims to align to the following timeline, which may be subject to change throughout the process.

ISEAL Code of Good Practice Steering Group is formed	November 2021
Secretariat develops first consultation draft with input from Steering Group and other technical experts	January-May 2022
Steering Group reviews first draft of the revised Code prior to consultation	May-June 2022
ISEAL Technical Committee approves first draft for consultation	July 2022
Public consultation is held to gather feedback on the first draft; the consultation will include online surveys and workshops	September-November 2022
Secretariat develops second consultation draft with input from Steering Group	January-February 2023
Steering Group reviews second consultation draft	March 2023
Public consultation is held on second consultation draft	April-May 2023
Secretariat develops final draft with input from Steering Group	July-September 2023
Steering Group reviews the final draft for recommendation to the Technical Committee	September/October 2023
Technical Committee makes recommendation of final draft to the ISEAL Board based on quality of process followed and whether content satisfies the Terms of Reference for the integrated Code	November 2023
Board approves final version based on consistency with the Terms of Reference for the Code and quality of the process followed	December 2023

Opportunities for stakeholder involvement

There are multiple ways for stakeholders to take part in the revision process:

- Participate in the ISEAL Code of Good Practice Steering Group (formed in November 2021)
- Participate in our consultations, including online surveys, webinars and workshops
- Sign up to our [mailing list](#) to be kept informed about the revision process
- Share information about the revision on social media

Contact

If you are interested in getting involved in the revision process or have any questions, contact: info@isealalliance.org