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# INTRODUCING THE SUSTAINABLE COFFEE CHALLENGE PARTNER PRINCIPLES

How the Challenge is replacing the Commitments Hub with updated expectations for participation and an annual stock take on climate and nature ambition

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***In line with its 2030 strategy launched this year, the Sustainable Coffee Challenge is rolling out a new approach to engaging partners around transparency and accountability. This refreshed approach will replace the Commitments Hub that captured partners' contributions to shared 2025 targets.***

***Going forward, a new set of Partner Principles will define clear expectations for credible participation from industry actors in the Challenge. An annual 'Climate & Nature Stock Take' will leverage globally-recognized target-setting, strategy, and reporting frameworks that partners are already using to provide an aggregate view of the level of ambition across the Challenge community. Together, these mechanisms will help identify gaps, guide collaboration, and connect industry commitment with the action and investment needed to support the ecosystems on which coffee and people depend.***

## Context - Responding to an evolving sustainability disclosure space

Coffee sustainability has changed significantly over the past decade, so has corporate target-setting and disclosure.

When the Sustainable Coffee Challenge was launched in December 2015, much of the sector's attention centered on voluntary commitments, sustainable sourcing strategies, and understanding who was doing what across a fragmented sustainability landscape. Sustainability commitments often sat alongside business strategy rather than at the core of business continuity.

Today, the context is different. As nature loss accelerates and climate impacts intensify, companies are expected to better understand and act upon both their impacts and dependence on ecosystems—proactively addressing climate risks, protecting ecosystems, and strengthening the resilience of the landscapes coffee depends on.

As alluded to in the Challenge's [2025 Annual Report](#) as well as in the recent [Coffee Barometer](#), the target-setting and disclosure landscape has matured, and governments, investors, customers, and civil society raise the bar for credible action throughout the past decade. Companies are embedding climate and nature into sourcing strategies, responding to due diligence requirements, and aligning with frameworks for target-setting and disclosure such as SBTi, AFi, TNFD, CDP, and other recognized frameworks.

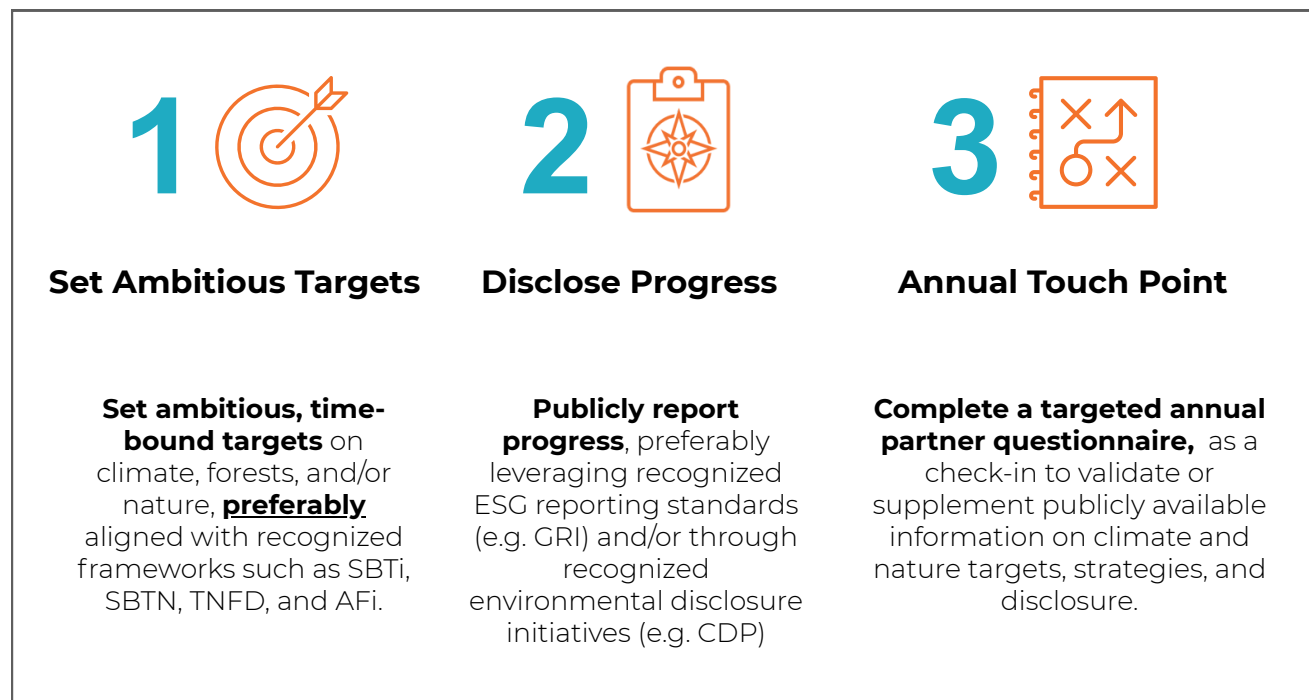
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## Partner Principles and Annual Stock Take on Climate & Nature Ambition

To reflect this shift, the Sustainable Coffee Challenge is phasing out the Commitments Hub and replacing it with two connected mechanisms: a new set of **Partner Principles** that define expectations for credible participation from industry actors in the Challenge, supported by an **annual Climate & Nature Stock Take** that assesses collective ambition across the Challenge community<sup>1</sup>.

### Partner Principles

Moving forward, to be recognized as a partner in the Sustainable Coffee Challenge, industry actors will be expected to align with a new set of Partner Principles.



Together, these principles provide a shared foundation for accountability while recognizing that companies are at different stages of their climate and nature journeys. They reinforce a simple expectation: industry partners should be taking meaningful steps toward a low-emissions, nature-positive, and resilient coffee future and communicating progress publicly.

<sup>1</sup> Affiliate partners – e.g. civil society, research organizations, service providers, associations, and other non-industry actors - are not expected to uphold the Principles as such but share our vision and commit to active engagement in the community.

## Annual Climate & Nature Stock Take

After functioning for a decade as a public clearing house for sustainability commitments, the Commitments Hub will be phased out and replaced by an annual Climate & Nature Stock Take.

Moving forward, the Challenge will assess whether and how partners have established public targets, strategies, transition plans, and disclosure practices on climate, forests, and nature. The objective is to provide a credible picture of aggregate partner ambition and maturity on these topics while reducing duplication by leveraging existing reporting and disclosures.

Importantly, the Stock Take is **not intended to rank or score individual companies**. Its purpose is to create an aggregate view of the community as a whole, with attention to alignment with recognized target-setting initiatives and disclosure frameworks such as SBTi, SBTN, TNFD, TCFD, AFi, CDP, and GRI. The assessment will draw primarily on public disclosures, complemented by a short annual questionnaire enabling partners to validate or supplement information.

The resulting report, to be released in November, will show where progress is occurring, where gaps remain, and where collaboration can accelerate action across the Challenge community. Stay tuned!

## Accelerating Action

This transition supports the Sustainable Coffee Challenge's broader strategy, which is focused on three priorities: **advancing industry ambition, aligning scalable approaches to assess and address climate and nature risks, and catalyzing investment and impact in resilient coffee landscapes.**

By understanding how climate and nature ambition is evolving, the Challenge can identify emerging trends, guide priorities for learning and collaboration, and strengthen the business case for action and investment in resilient coffee landscapes.

The Commitments Hub helped build momentum and transparency at an important stage in the sector's sustainability journey. The annual Stock Take builds on that foundation while reflecting the maturity of today's climate and nature landscape.

Phasing out the Commitments Hub is therefore a strategic shift. It allows the Challenge to focus on what is now most needed: a clearer view of collective ambition and a more direct pathway from accountability to coordinated and credible action and investment at the scale needed to protect the landscapes and communities coffee depends on.

*Questions? Don't hesitate reaching out the Challenge team via [scc@conservation.org](mailto:scc@conservation.org).*

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