

Remediation of Converted Land: Conceptual guidance note in support of SBTN Land Targets Version 1.0.

Context: SBTN Land targets v1

Companies that will set a target of No Conversion of Natural Ecosystems through [SBTN Step3: Land guidance](#) will be required to address conversion that occurs between 2020 and the **target date** by which companies will have to demonstrate conversion-free operations and supply chains.

After the target date, only minimal levels of conversion can occur without the company falling out of compliance with the target requirements, which is in line with the *de minimus* requirements outlined in the SBTN Land Guidance. Any residual minimal conversion will have to be remediated as indicated in this guidance.

Remediation does not only serve environmental objectives, but it must be directed also to the improvement of the livelihoods of the people that have been adversely affected by the conversion of natural lands or that depend on those ecosystems. As such, remediation in support of conversion identified during the SBTN process will align with the [AFI operational Guidance on Remediation and Access to Remedy](#), including how remediation aligns with international human rights law.

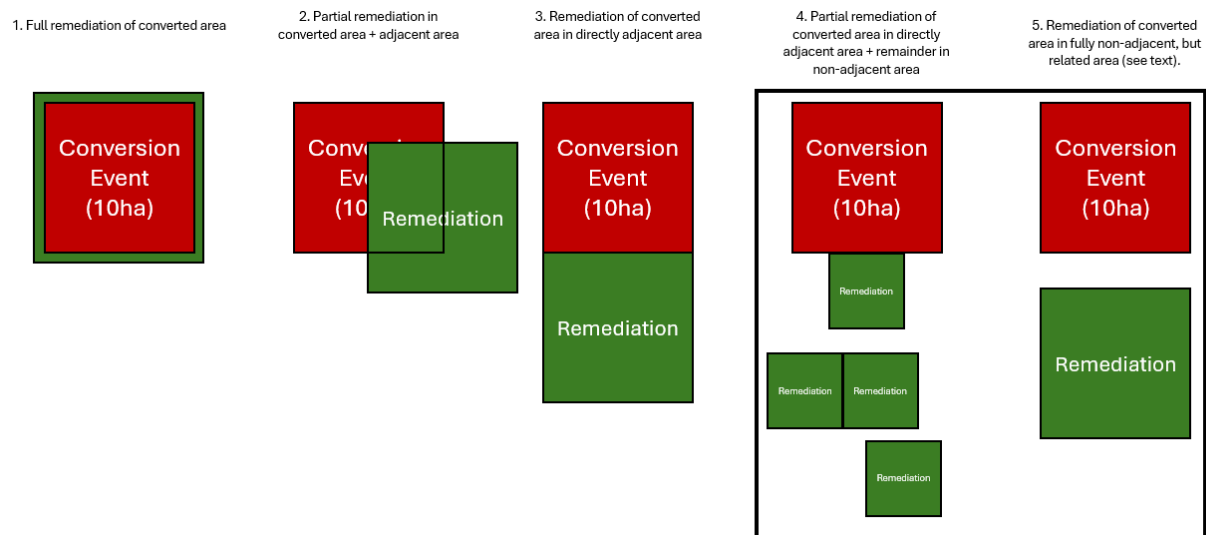
Remediation Steps:

1. Assess conversion of natural lands as part of STEP 3 or STEP 4 of the SBTN process.
2. Define area and geography of converted natural lands to be remediated (See Version 1.0)
3. Select remediation locations
4. Submit documentation on remediation of conversion to SBTN.

Remediation scenarios and requirements.

Remediation aims to restore or regenerate a comparable area of lost ecosystems as equivalently as possible. Remediation is not designed or intended to offset future conversion of natural ecosystems. With the focus on restoring or regenerating a comparable area of lost ecosystems effectively, there are options available that cover a range of different geographic and operational scenarios, with options 1-3 listed in order of priority ahead of options 4 and 5:

1. Remediation through the ecological restoration of ecosystems in the exact area that was converted after 2020.
2. Remediation through the ecological restoration of ecosystems that were converted in a portion of the exact area that was converted after 2020, with the remaining required remediation area in degraded areas directly adjacent to the area of conversion.
3. Remediation through the ecological restoration of ecosystems that were converted in an equal area to the area converted after 2020 that is directly adjacent to the area converted.
4. Remediation through the ecological restoration of ecosystems that were converted in a portion of the overall area converted that is directly adjacent to the area of conversion, with the additional portion of the area remediation requirements taking place in the same ecosystem (Keith et al.) that is not directly adjacent to the conversion site.
5. Remediation through the ecological restoration of ecosystems that were converted in an equal area to the area converted after 2020 taking place in area fully non-adjacent to the conversion area(s). Companies must remediate within the landscape, ecosystem, or sub-national jurisdiction where natural ecosystem conversion as a result of where their (or a portion of their) commodity sourcing was detected. The purchase of credits to satisfy the remediation requirement outside of their use as part of a multi-stakeholder landscape-scale solution set is not permitted.



Within the context of remediation, it is likely that companies may deploy each of these 5 scenarios. However, preference should likely be given to the first scenario and the 4th and 5th scenario used only when conditions permit their deployment and action in line with scenarios 1-3 are not possible. Additional guidance around the deployment of these scenarios for the remediation of conversion events identified in SBTN Land Targets will be developed and broadly consulted with the user and stakeholder communities.

Remediation with limited sourcing traceability

In cases where the conversion area is not known, companies must decide remediation requirements. Companies must collect information on the origin of conversion-driving commodities, ensuring traceability to at least a sub-national scale. At this scale, however, identifying the exact commodity responsible for conversion is restricted by a lack of data. To determine the area a company is responsible for remediating, follow the approaches provided in the SBTN Step 3 Guidance, which align with the GHGP and AFi guidance for statistically allocating conversion that occurred in the sub-national jurisdiction to the sourced volumes. A forthcoming document, which will be released for public consultation, will provide further details on calculating the remediation area required to address statistical conversion in a subnational jurisdiction.

With traceability to the sub-national level, linking specific sourcing volumes to exact areas of conversion is not possible. In this case, SBTN requires companies to incorporate the area they are required to remediate into their multi-stakeholder led, landscape-scale initiative (Target 3).

Since it is not possible to connect specific sourcing volumes with discrete areas of land in converted ecosystems within an upstream, jurisdictional context, SBTN requires companies to bring the area they are required to remediate into their contribution to a multi-stakeholder led, landscape-scale initiative as a commitment to ecological restoration. The form of this remediation will be guided by the scenarios described above. Alternatively, companies may bypass these scenarios and contribute to ecological restoration of areas that are determined to be important for ecological restoration within a landscape. The identification of these areas should follow the prioritization inherent in the figure above.

Importantly, while companies may not be able to connect specific sourcing volumes with discrete areas of land in converted ecosystems within an upstream, jurisdictional context, companies may not trade remediation activities to a landscape-scale initiative that is outside the material impact of the jurisdiction that demonstrates conversion. In other words, companies must still remediate at least within the jurisdictional area that experienced the conversion of a natural ecosystem associated with its conversion-driving commodity sourcing, even if they participate in a landscape scale initiative in another geography that would also benefit from restorative activities. Companies must remediate within the landscape, ecosystem, or sub-national jurisdiction where natural ecosystem conversion occurred as a result of where their commodity sourcing, or a portion of their commodity sourcing, was detected.

Additional details regarding how to treat cases where multiple instances of natural ecosystem conversion occur as a result of sourcing multiple commodities from multiple sub-national jurisdictions will be outlined in the forthcoming remediation guidance.