

The background features a close-up of several green leaves with prominent veins. Several water droplets are scattered across the leaves, reflecting light. A small, semi-transparent globe icon is positioned near the center of the main leaf. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green, with a dark teal background.

# GLOBAL BIOCREDIT STANDARD

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Section 01

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

# GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY CREDIT STANDARD

The preferred biodiversity credit standard for production landscapes

## **WHY: Sustainable production combined with nature preservation**

- Combining nature preservation with production for a growing population will be the defining challenge for humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and presents a huge business opportunity with the total estimated market potential of around USD 70 billion by 2050<sup>1</sup>

## **WHAT: The Global Biocredit Standard:**

- There is a need for a simple, easy to use standard for biodiversity credits which can be applied to the reality of existing production landscapes world-wide, allowing market-based compensation of land owners for nature conservation efforts
- The Global Biocredit Standard is the only standard in the world that specifically addresses nature conservation in production landscapes such as forestry and agriculture, where we grow our food and wood products

## **HOW: Standard setting organisation:**

- The Standard needs to be hosted by a legal entity, a Social Enterprise, which will administer and further develop the Standard. The enterprise will further invest 50%-100% of its profits to biodiversity research and initiatives that contribute to nature conservation



<sup>1</sup>) McKinsey report:

An aerial photograph of a dense forest. A dirt road winds through the trees, and a white car is parked on it. The forest is lush green, and the lighting suggests a bright day.

02

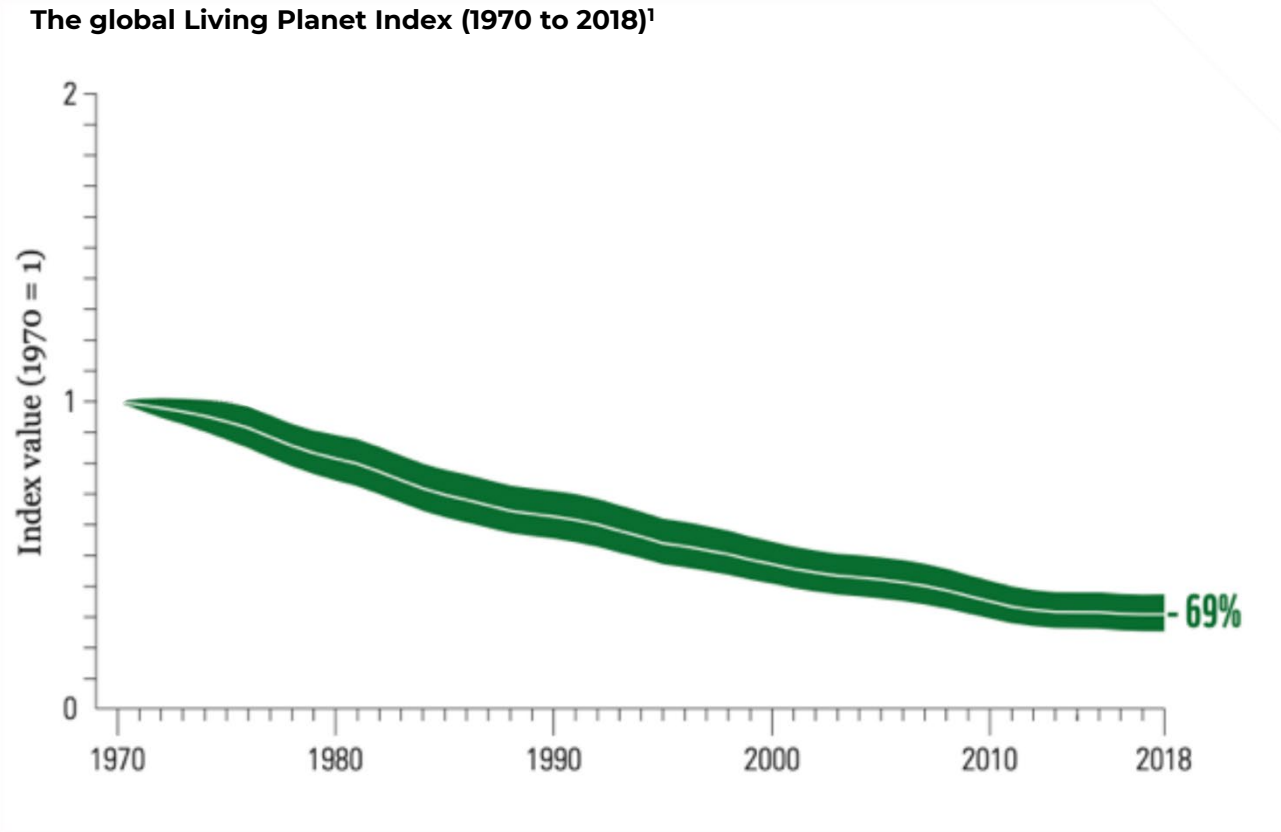
Section 02

**THE NEED FOR BIODIVERSITY  
CREDIT STANDARD FOR  
PRODUCTION LANDSCAPES**

# THE BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGE

A vital but overlooked aspect for the survival of humanity

- Biodiversity loss, together with climate change, is an urgent and existential threat to life on earth
- Nature is experiencing a rapid decline across multiple areas. Wildlife populations have decreased by 69% in since 1970 and the rate of species extinction is now 1,000 times greater than in prehistoric times
- Around 90% of biodiversity loss is attributable to agriculture and forestry practices
- Combining nature preservation with production for a growing population will be the defining challenge for humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Awareness of biodiversity loss is growing – but the necessary knowledge, tools and funding to address it is often lacking or inadequate
- Innovative new solutions will be needed to tackle this monumental challenge



## Biodiversity loss harming forest productivity

- There is strong evidence linking biodiversity to forest productivity
- On average, a 10% loss in biodiversity leads to a 3% loss in productivity<sup>2</sup>

# FINDING NEW SOLUTIONS

Combining biodiversity improvement with sustainable production will be key to success

- To halt and reverse global biodiversity loss, a multitude of solutions will be needed
- The preservation of remaining wild habitats is crucial – but not enough
- A majority of the world's habitable land is made up of production landscapes (agriculture and forestry)<sup>1</sup>: increasing biodiversity in production landscapes is therefore key for biodiversity overall
- Swedish Biocredit Alliance<sup>2</sup> has developed the world's first Global Biocredit Standard for production landscapes – and executed first transactions in forest projects
- The standard is unique globally because it specifically addresses production landscapes in a practical and pragmatic way
- Other existing standards, such as Verra or Plan Vivo, either prohibit the use of monocultures or are unnecessarily complicated and costly to use to be truly scalable



**Allowing continued sustainable production....**



**By financing nature protection and restoration in combination with production....**

Notes:

1) Out of 10.7bn ha of habitable land on Earth, c. 4.8bn ha is used for agriculture production and 1.2bn ha for forest production. Source: Our World in Data (Oxford University et al.),

2) Swedish Biocredit Alliance was previously run as a project to create a market for biodiversity credits

# WHY DO WE NEED ANOTHER STANDARD?

Other biodiversity credit standards exist, notably:

1. Verra's SD Vista
2. Plan Vivo
3. Others: Savimbo, Terrasos, and other smaller standards

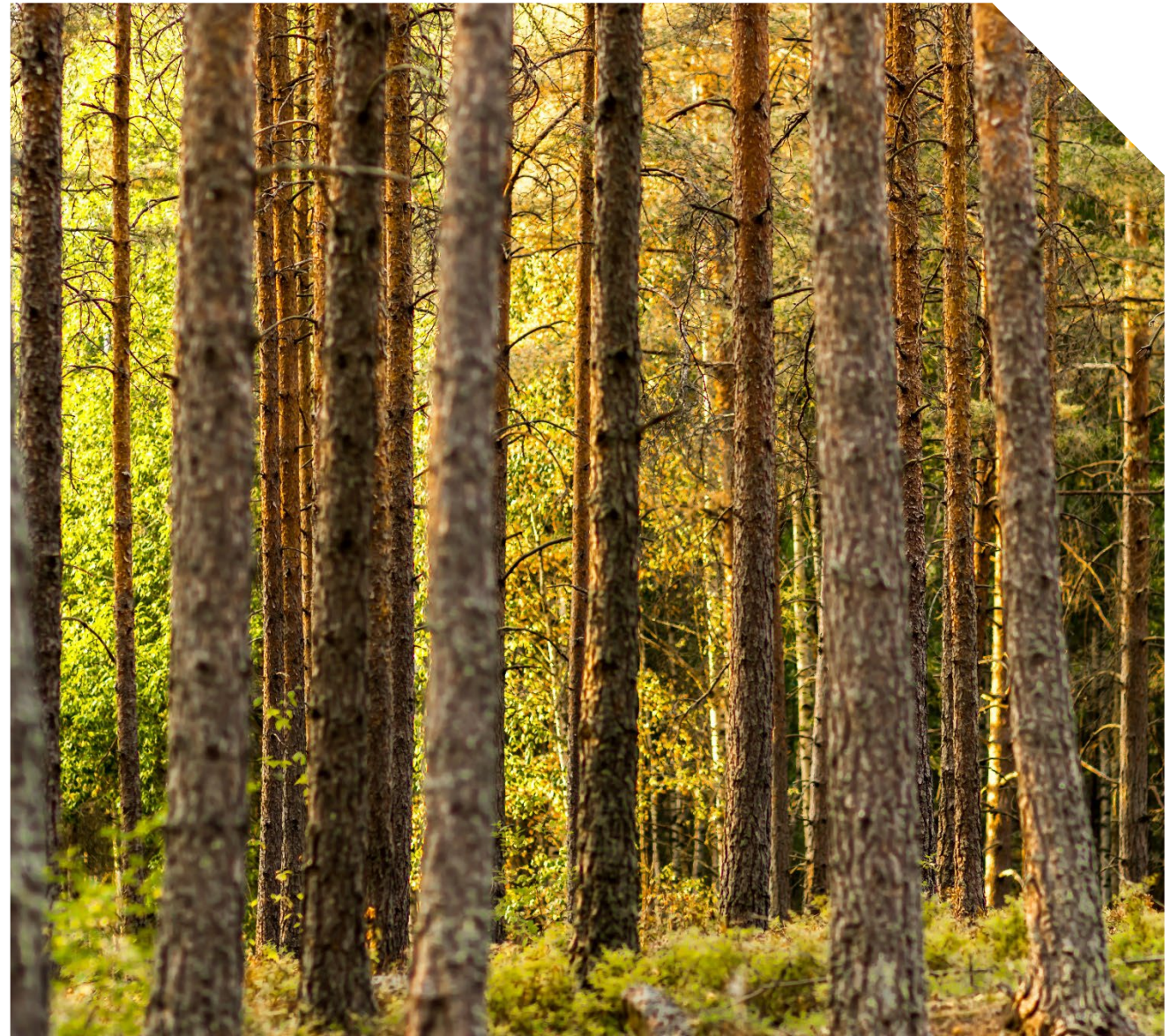
However, these standards:

- A. Sometimes prohibit monocultures and exotic species in biodiversity credit projects, which are often used in agriculture and forestry
- B. Are very complex to implement
- C. Sometimes require actual uplift in biodiversity before payments can be issued, which is hard to predict and requires projects to find large upfront financing

**There is a need for a simple, easy to use standard which can be applied to the reality of existing production landscapes world-wide.**

This is important because businesses and financial institutions have already invested a lot in production landscapes and there is a need to safeguard those investments in terms of future climate and nature resilience and risk.

**By connecting biodiversity credits to where businesses' value chains are making impact, we are creating an opportunity for market-based financing of nature conservation.**



An aerial photograph of a dense forest. A dirt road winds through the trees, and a white car is parked on it. The forest is lush green, and the lighting suggests a bright day.

03

Section 03

**THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY  
CREDIT STANDARD FOR  
PRODUCTION LANDSCAPES**



# SWEDISH BIOCREDIT ALLIANCE (SBA)

## Applying global recommendations to practical applications

- As a result of research on biodiversity credits at the Swedish University of Agriculture, a privately financed project “Swedish Biocredit Alliance” was launched in 2023
- Its purpose was to condense existing recommendations on biodiversity credits from the Biodiversity Credit Alliance (BCA) and International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity (IAPB), test practical implementations on pilot projects and recommend a standard for biodiversity credits in production landscapes which can be applied globally
- The project was financed by World Forest Forum (WFF), Qarlbo Biodiversity, Södra Skogsägarna, Norra Skog and Umeå Municipality, who all participated as working Task Force Members in the project. In summary, the project represented over 50 000 private forest owners, a non-profit organisation, an investor, a verification and validation organisation, and a municipality, showing a very broad support for the project and a bottom-up approach of including a variety of stakeholders.
- Additionally, there were further consultations with other NGOs such as WWF, different research groups and businesses as potential buyers of biodiversity credits.



# THE STANDARD

Globally applicable to  
production landscapes

- In October 2024, SBA launched The Global Biocredit Standard for Production Landscapes
- The Standard was presented at the COP16 in Cali, Colombia
- It is the only standard in the world that specifically addresses production landscapes
- The Standard is public and can be downloaded at <https://swedishbiocreditalliance.se/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/The-Global-Biocredit-Standard-final.pdf>
- A standard can hold many verified methodologies – for example Qarlbo Biocredit Methodology for Production Forests



# FROM STANDARD – TO STANDARD-SETTING ORGANISATION

## Implementing good ideas

A standard cannot live on its own. For it to be practically implemented there must be a standard-setting organisation in place.

A standard-setting organisation:

- Administers, further develops the standard and keeps it up-to-date with global developments
- Provides advice to methodology and project developers
- Organizes independent methodology and project reviews and recommends third party auditors
- Keeps registry of approved methodologies and projects
- Issues and retires credits
- Provides information on latest recommendations on biodiversity credits to market participants

Therefore, we propose that this standard is given a permanent home in The Global Biodiversity Credit Standard for Production Landscapes, in form of a **Social Enterprise**, presented in the following pages



# ORGANISATION

## Professionalism and integrity

The organisation will initially consist of a CEO, a project manager (and a marketing manager)

Around year 4, and depending on how well the business of the standard is developing, the idea is to employ about 2-4 more people, for example a technical specialist and another project manager.

