



**Standards Development Process**

# **Draft Theory of Change:**

Delivering on SBP's promise of good biomass

**Sustainable Biomass Program**  
sbp-cert.org

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# 1 Purpose

As part of the Standards Development Process, the Secretariat has worked with ISEAL to review how SBP delivers on its purpose “*to facilitate the economically, environmentally and socially responsible use of biomass enabling climate goals to be met*” and explore the intended outcomes and impacts of its certification system and the related causal pathways.

A Theory of Change will help to inform the scope and content of the standards and also the monitoring and evaluation of SBP’s impacts. It is an important step in ensuring that the next version of the standards deliver on SBP’s purpose and strategy and will also ensure that we are able to both promote and champion SBP to a wide range of stakeholders.

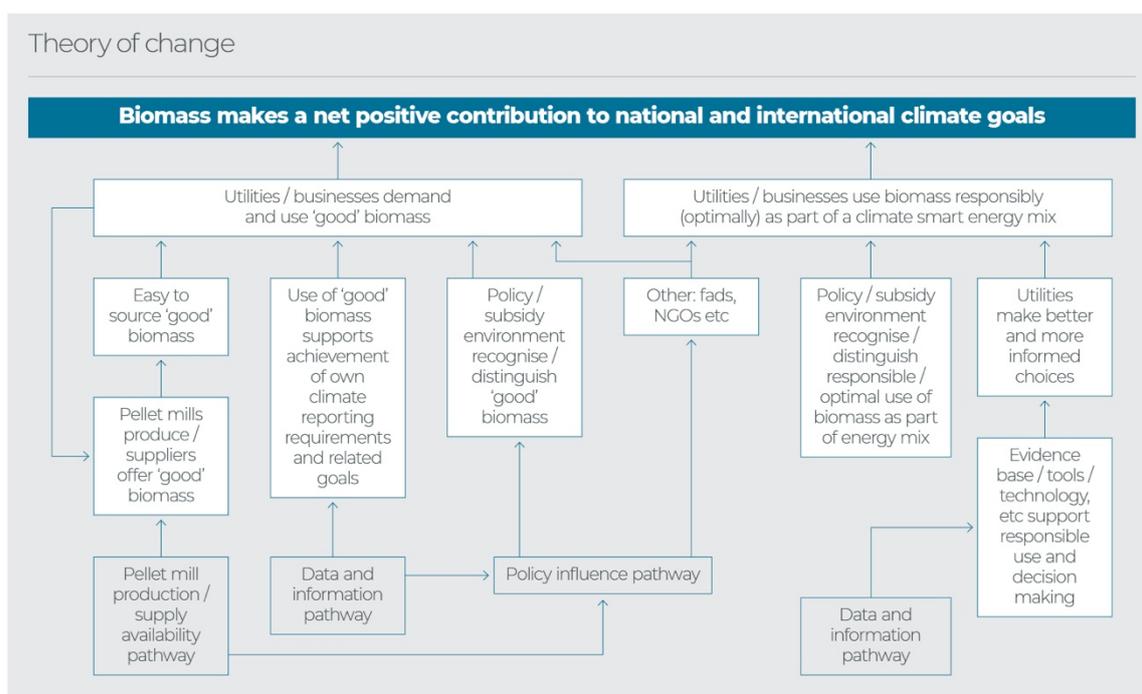
The routes to delivering on SBP’s purpose are discussed below along with opportunities for delivery, topics for further exploration, as well as possible items to monitor outcomes and impacts.

## 2 Introduction

A 'draft for discussion' has been developed from the review that identifies three routes by which SBP currently does, or could, deliver on its purpose:

1. Facilitating the supply of good biomass to contribute to climate goals;
2. Facilitating the use of good biomass to contribute to climate goals; and
3. Supporting policy and markets to contribute to climate goals.

Figure 1 gives a schematic of how SBP delivers on its purpose.



**Figure 1** How SBP delivers on its purpose

## 3 Applying the theory

### Route 1: Facilitating the supply of good biomass

#### How this is achieved:

- Good biomass means biomass sourced from sustainably managed and harvested forests. Part of which requires that the harvested forests continue to contribute to climate goals by continuing to act as carbon sinks.
- SBP continues to develop methodologies for demonstrating whether or not forests supplying woody biomass are contributing to climate goals.
- Concepts of natural capital, biodiversity and social dimensions of sustainability continue to evolve and SBP needs to keep pace with this evolution.
- SBP excludes biomass that is not good from the supply chain.

#### Aspects for further consideration:

- Developing methodologies for demonstrating whether or not forests supplying woody biomass are contributing to climate goals.
- Developing methodologies for evaluating biodiversity and natural capital.
- Developing social aspects of the standards, particularly in relation to new geographies.
- Developing health and safety requirements, particularly at pellet plants.
- Considering how to incorporate recognition of FSC and PEFC claims.

#### Items for SBP to monitor in evaluating outcomes and impacts:

- Monitoring and ensuring effective implementation of control and mitigation measures to ensure risks are mitigated and that only good biomass supplied.
- Monitoring forests contributions as carbon sinks.
- Monitoring social and natural capital metrics in supply bases.
- Monitoring and reporting at a regional scale on impacts of harvesting for biomass beyond individual Certificate Holders' production, including carbon, natural capital and social impacts.

### Route 2: Facilitating the use of good biomass

#### How this is achieved:

- Providing information on feedstocks and energy that enables identification and differentiation of good biomass versus other biomass.
- Facilitating the trade of good biomass.
- Promoting/supporting the use of good biomass in place of other biomass.
- Promoting/supporting good biomass as an alternative to other energy sources where this helps

achieve climate goals and meet energy policy objectives.

- Assuring End-users that the use of good biomass is contributing to climate goals, through the SBP claims and the energy data supplied with the biomass.

#### Aspects for further consideration:

- How End-users demonstrate the climate benefits of using biomass.
- How SBP can best report on carbon saving resulting from the use of good biomass.

#### Items for SBP to monitor in evaluating outcomes and impacts:

- Reporting on biomass usage beyond individual certificate holders production or use.
- Providing a review of biomass usage globally in relation to achieving climate and sustainability goals.

### Route 3: Supporting policy and markets to contribute to climate goals

#### How this is achieved:

- Advocating the role of good biomass in the energy mix to deliver on climate goals.
- Ensuring awareness that using biomass is part of wider energy policy objectives, e.g. energy security, tackling climate change.

#### Aspects for further consideration:

- Provision of data to inform the biomass debate.
- Provision of a forum for discussion.

#### Items for SBP to monitor in evaluating outcomes and impacts:

- Review of markets supplied and how energy policies contribute to climate goals.
- Provide a forum for discussion on the use of biomass.
- Review of market requirements and energy policies to ensure that good biomass use contributes to climate goals.

## 4 Next steps

For the last three years, SBP has monitored its activities against six key impacts. As part of the development of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system, that is compliant with the ISEAL Impacts Code, SBP will ensure coordination of that workstream with the Standards Development Process. Next steps in developing the Theory of Change include:

1. Engaging with stakeholders in the review and mapping of the six impacts previously reported against the three proposed routes to delivering on SBP's purpose, taking into account best practice and the evolving science around forest carbon and woody biomass.
2. Considering the scope and boundaries for SBP's monitoring and evaluation system and developing a detailed workplan for monitoring impacts through a combination of performance monitoring and outcome evaluations.
3. Ensuring that the SBP certification system uses the monitoring and evaluation results to inform a periodic review and potential refinement of SBP's intended change.