

# Voluntary Principles for Science-based Investment to create High Integrity Natural Capital Markets in the UK

**1-7** Supply-side project development principles.

**8-9** Demand-side principles to apply to ecosystem service buyers and investors, and related natural capital transactions.

<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Science-based Nature Recovery</p>  <p>NbS projects are led by science and deliver net gains to biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Environmental and Social Safeguarding</p>  <p>Projects adopt a holistic &amp; integrated approach (at landscape, local &amp; national levels) to minimise leakage and not cause adverse impacts on other environmental objectives or on local communities. Existing environmental projects are not undermined by the sale of ES.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Additionality</p>  <p>Where they sell ecosystem services, NbS projects only sell ecosystem services based on new, verifiable environmental outcomes that would reasonably be expected not to have happened without the income generated from the sale of ecosystem services.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Permanence and Financial Prudence</p>  <p>The durability of benefits is maximised, ideally in perpetuity, and the risks of reversal of the benefits are mitigated through financial prudence.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Seek Co-Benefits</p>  <p>Projects seek to maximise co-benefits for local communities and society.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>Verifiability</p>  <p>Projects deliver reliable and independently measurable environmental gains through best practice management, monitoring, independent verification and reporting.</p>
<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Transparency</p>  <p>Projects commit to public disclosure of outcomes to maintain accountability and support the development of trusted ecosystem service markets.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Buyer Screening Criteria</p>  <p>Buyers must be aligned with the transition to net zero and demonstrate support for the conservation and protection of the natural environment.</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Commitment to Best Practices</p>  <p>Buyers and investors adopt best practices in terms of the management and reporting of their social and environmental impacts, such as following the mitigation hierarchy and adhering to a Paris-aligned net zero strategy.</p>

The Principles have been co-developed by:



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