



## The Standard

### Version 0.3, 3 September 2013

To qualify for a Metta certificate for a defined period of time in the past (*ex-post*) the following clauses need to be adhered to.

1. The company/organisation complies with: 1) all applicable national, European and international rules and regulations related to the environment, natural values, or the landscape; and, 2) norms, directives and codes of conduct/practice applying to, or mainstream in the sector/branch in which the company/organisation operates;

2. The company/organisation identifies and monitors all impacts of its policies, decisions and activities in terms of environment, natural values, or the landscape; and, verifiably undertakes all within its powers (within reasonable boundaries) to avoid, reduce/minimise, and restore all negative impacts;

3. Subsequently the company/organisation identifies all residual, undesirable impacts. Aspects that need to be analysed as a minimum are:

- a. Use and consumption of natural resources, water and energy;
- b. Land use and space occupancy; quantitatively (surface) and qualitatively (landscape/scenic beauty), buildings, but also land use for the production of crops;
- c. Greenhouse gases and other emissions to the atmosphere;
- d. Waste: liquid and solid; and,
- e. Noise and light pollution, and other sources of disturbance/pollution.

4. The company/organisation compensates the residual, undesirable impacts by initiating or supporting projects or activities – geographically as close as possible – that restore or improve the environment, natural values, or the landscape to the extent that matches the residual impacts or preferably more;<sup>[1]</sup>

5. The company/organisation makes available all information regarding the impacts of its policies, decisions and activities, on the environment, natural values, and the landscape - and does so publicly and transparently, making the information available in a pro-active, clear, accurate, comprehensive and timely manner.<sup>[2]</sup> The company/organisation provides information related to:

- a. The objectives, the nature and location of its activities;
- b. The impacts of its policies, decisions and activities on the environment, the natural values, and the landscape; and,
- c. The methods and procedures used to identify, avoid, reduce or minimize, and to restore the impacts.

[1] Where necessary and/or desirable compensatory activities will be identified at more remote locations. This may also be the case if and when a company or organisation wishes to offset impacts from other divisions, locations or suppliers.

[2] This does not imply that information needs to be made publicly available regarding ownership, or information that is business sensitive, confidential, or by which legal, commercial, security or personal privacy obligations are violated or put at risk.