



## **Second Draft of ISEAL Assurance Code Now Open for Consultation**

*Consultation Period: 2 April-31 May 2012*

ISEAL is pleased to announce that consultation on the second draft of the Assurance Code is now open. The second draft improves on the first document and is the result of extensive stakeholder involvement and a large number of constructive comments. Interested parties can download the second draft of the “Code of Good Practice for Assuring Compliance with Social and Environmental Standards” on the [Assurance Code](#) webpage.

The progress made in the second draft reflects the effectiveness of ISEAL’s Code Development procedures and the importance of meaningful dialogue. We have taken the next steps toward an Assurance Code that is realistic yet ambitious, and that will help users improve the effectiveness of their assurance systems.

One area of collective response from the first consultation was that the Assurance Code, while encouraging innovation, must clearly define credible practice in assurance. As such, minimum requirements have now been defined. The second draft also emphasises the responsibility of standards systems to implement strategies that will ensure uniform auditor competence and consistent decisions throughout the scheme.

Visit the ISEAL [Assurance Code](#) webpage to download the second draft and to participate in the consultation. Questions can be directed to Paddy Doherty, ISEAL’s Code Development Manager, at [paddy@isealalliance.org](mailto:paddy@isealalliance.org).

**Ends**