



## **Revision of STD01 - BioTrade Verification Framework for Native Natural Ingredients - 2007-09-20 Terms of Reference and process**

Last up-dated 16 October 2011,

### **Background**

The Union for Ethical BioTrade is a membership-based organisation that promotes environmentally and socially ethical trade in wild collected and farmed products that come from biodiversity.

The UEBT's standard is an international standard derived from the seven Principles and Criteria developed by UNCTAD's BioTrade Initiative. It is applicable at the organisation management system's level and throughout supply chains and it is one of the tools UEBT uses to work towards achieving its mission.

### **Need for revision**

Since the publication of the UEBT Verification Framework in 2007, numerous field applications and audits have been undertaken. A pre-consultation process that reviewed the Verification Framework with the direct users was conducted in order to establish whether a full consultation process would be valuable. Thanks to the report, the UEBT Board of Directors concluded in April 2009 that none of the comments from the consultation process pointed to fundamental flaws in the standard. Yet, the following improvements could be made:

- Improvements with regard to the wording and structure of the standard;
- Some descriptions of the process are outdated as over time UEBT has further improved its procedures and verification system;
- Some comments related to minimum indicators need to be addressed.

This formal revision of the Verification Framework will allow:

- Correction of issues identified in the pre-consultation phase;
- The introduction of additional elements that could further increase the impact of the standard;
- Inclusion of more experience and expertise in the revision process;
- A further increase in the legitimacy of the standard.

UEBT has thus decided to submit the Verification Framework to a full consultation process.

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## Other standards operating in a similar field

The Union for Ethical BioTrade carried out benchmarking reviews with a number of standards that operate in a similar field. The study, conducted in May 2009, reviewed the standards of the following organizations:

- Rainforest Alliance/ The Sustainable Agriculture Network (RA/SAN)
- The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- Fairtrade Labeling Organizations International (FLO)
- Fair Wild - ISSC-MAP
- Fair For Life (IMO)
- Ethical Trade (Soil Association)
- The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
- ECOCERT, Equitable Solidaire et Responsable (ESR)

The compatibility analysis shows that none of the standards assessed address all the issues contained in the UEBT Verification Framework. Overall, the most compatible standards are those of FSC, SAN, IMO, and Fair Wild - ISSC-MAP.

## Objective

The objective of the revision of the BioTrade Verification Framework for Native Natural Ingredients is to ensure its continued effectiveness in meeting its goals. In particular the revision will:

- Allow UEBT to address the issues identified by stakeholders on the structure and the content of the standard;
- Ensure further stakeholder participation and buy-in of the standard.

## Stakeholders

UEBT is committed to consulting relevant stakeholder groups in its standard setting and revision processes. Its commitment is described in the UEBT standard development procedure (i.e. UEBT PRO06 – Standardization process), which follows the ISEAL Code of Good Practices for standard development.

The Standard Committee has approved a stakeholders outreach plan. The following stakeholders are identified:

- Cosmetics, pharmaceutical, and food companies in developed and developing countries
- Companies at all stages of the supply chain (producers, intermediaries, brands)
- UEBT Trading Members companies
- NGOs working on biodiversity and sustainable development
- Indigenous and/or local communities' representative organisations
- Workers' representative organisations
- UEBT Affiliate Members
- UEBT partner organisations (e.g. development assistance organisations, verification bodies)



The above identified target stakeholders are then balanced according to the UEBT classification, as follows:

|                            | Economic | Social | Environmental |
|----------------------------|----------|--------|---------------|
| Developed country economy  | X        | X      | X             |
| Emerging economy           | X        | X      | X             |
| Developing country economy | X        | X      | X             |

To give relevant stakeholders the possibility to participate, UEBT will:

- Widely announce the 2<sup>nd</sup> consultation round, including through listserver services, emailing, UEBT newsletters and press releases.
- Encourage its members to participate in the consultation process.
- Funds permitting, UEBT and its partners will organise workshops and meetings with local stakeholders in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Southern Africa, West-Africa, and Europe, as described in PRO06 – Standardization process.
- Test the draft standard in audits planned during the consultation period allowing reaching out to local sourcing communities directly.
- In view of its experience with previous public consultations, UEBT aims to obtain inputs from around 50 stakeholders.
- Target regions are Africa, Latin America and Europe, which correspond to the countries where UEBT members are mostly implementing the Ethical BioTrade standard.

## Phases of the revision process

The revision process has the following phases:

- 1<sup>st</sup> consultation phase: 06.07.2009 to 10.01.2011
- 2<sup>nd</sup> consultation phase: 15.07.2011 to 30.09.2011
- Publication, after Board approval: 15.04.2012

Comments will be collected at each consultation phase and then introduced in the subsequent version of the document following the process outlined in the PRO06 – Standardization process.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final draft shall be shared with the all UEBT members who have 20 days to provide feedback and/or express sustained opposition to any particular issue. If no sustained opposition is found, the Standard Committee can deem the standard approved by consensus and shall recommend the UEBT Board of Directors to formally endorse and publish it.

The final draft shall also be circulated to the stakeholders that participated in the public consultation. Stakeholders shall be given the opportunity to provide feedback on the revision process and its results, as well as on any additional issue that might require further work in future.

The UEBT Board of Directors shall formally endorse the standard upon recommendation from the Standard Committee, unless it has substantiated reasons not to do so (e.g.

