



Union for
Ethical
BioTrade

**SOURCING
WITH RESPECT®**

Towards Sourcing with Respect

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity encompasses the diversity of all living things, from human beings to microorganisms, including the variety of ecosystems. Conserving biodiversity is important for the long-term survival of our planet. It contributes for example to maintaining different varieties of crops, which is important for ensuring food security. Biodiversity also increases resilience to natural disasters, is important for pest-control, and has been the basis of many of the medicines, cosmetics and food products used in our daily lives.



Sourcing from Biodiversity

Food and cosmetics companies source extensively from the natural world, relying on biodiversity to create new, innovative ingredients for their products. Their biggest environmental impact is within their supply chain. How companies manage their sourcing practices thus greatly affects their impact on the environment and the source community. If done well, trading in biodiversity-based products can add value to biodiversity at a local level, motivating conservation efforts and promoting socio-economic development.

Union for Ethical BioTrade

The Union for Ethical BioTrade (UEBT) is a non-profit association that promotes the 'Sourcing with Respect' of ingredients that come from biodiversity. Members commit to gradually ensuring that their sourcing practices promote the conservation of biodiversity, respect traditional knowledge and assure the equitable sharing of benefits all along the supply chain.



“Trend-watchers predict that biodiversity will become a household term by 2015”

Consumer awareness of biodiversity is growing. In 2011 an average of 65% of consumers in France, Germany, the UK and the US, said they had heard of biodiversity. This is up from 60% in 2010 and 56% in 2009. In addition, more than three quarters of consumers surveyed in 2011 said they would like to know more about how companies source their natural ingredients. Over two thirds said they would stop buying a product if they knew the company did not have good ethical and environmental practices.



Towards Sourcing with Respect

Ethical BioTrade

In joining UEBT, a company agrees to comply with the principles of Ethical BioTrade. This means using practices that promote the sustainable use of natural ingredients, while ensuring that all contributors along the supply chain are paid fair prices and share the benefits derived from the use of biodiversity. By adopting the Ethical BioTrade practices of UEBT, companies foster long-term relationships with their source communities, creating employment, contributing to local development and helping to preserve local ecologies.



Ethical BioTrade Principles and Criteria

Biodiversity conservation	Preserving ecosystems and promoting practices that contribute to conservation plans and strategies.
Sustainable use	Sourcing practices promote the long-term ability of an ecosystem to function.
Fair and equitable benefit sharing	Use of biodiversity and traditional knowledge occurs on the basis of prior informed consent and the equitable sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits.
Socio-economic sustainability	Adopting quality management and financial practices that are sustainable and socially acceptable.
Legal compliance	Respecting all relevant international, national and local regulations.
Respect for the rights of actors	Taking into account human rights and working conditions of indigenous and local communities.
Clarity about land tenure	Respecting land tenure and rights over natural resources.

Biodiversity Management System

UEBT members put in place a Biodiversity Management System. This is a tool that allows companies to identify measures and procedures needed to advance towards practices that promote conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as the equitable sharing of its benefits, according to Ethical BioTrade principles.

External verification of sourcing practices

Independent third party audits help assess members' sourcing practices and chart progress towards compliance. For instance, the audit might illustrate that

a company doesn't know enough about where its ingredients come from and the effects that sourcing could have on the surrounding environment. In this case, the first step in becoming compliant with UEBT membership obligations would be to improve the traceability of ingredients and relationships with suppliers, in order to gather that information.

Rewarding progress

One of the strengths of UEBT's system is that companies are rewarded for this type of progress, and not just for strict compliance. This means they can gain recognition for their efforts early on. With UEBT membership a journey starts towards continuous improvement.

Why join?

Consumers are becoming increasingly aware of biodiversity. Ethical sourcing of biodiversity will eventually become a key requirement for preferred brands and their suppliers. Adopting ethical and sustainable practices allows companies to differentiate themselves in the market, taking the lead in meeting the demand for ethical products. UEBT membership reassures investors and consumers that steps are being taken to ensure ethical and sustainable use of biodiversity. UEBT membership does not only contribute to a better world; it also makes good business sense!

Technical advice and information on best practices can be accessed through UEBT and its network of members and partners.

“ The status of UEBT member is an important recognition and one more step towards Beraca’s primary goal: developing the sustainable use and supply of ingredients from the Brazilian biodiversity following environmental, social, and economic criteria. ”

BERACA HPC



UEBT logo

UEBT membership means setting up a Biodiversity Management System that covers all natural ingredient sourcing, not just certain supply chains. A member of UEBT can use its logo to illustrate that it is working to bring its practices in line with Ethical BioTrade. However, the logo applies to the organisation and its sourcing principles, rather than the compliance of particular products. In this respect it has been designed for use in a company’s corporate communication rather than in product specific marketing.



Why did others join?

As a recent applicant put it: *“the Union for Ethical BioTrade highlights the practices we are implementing in line with the CBD...it will bring credibility to our efforts thus far and provides a solid basis for continuous improvement.”* Other advantages highlighted by members in joining UEBT include support and advice in implementing and improving sustainable development plans for raw materials sourcing, evaluating suppliers practices and identifying gaps in sustainable sourcing, and accessing partners with equal values.

“ UEBT’s approach relies on assessing biodiversity-based ingredients using CBD criteria, and recognises sustainable and ethical supply chains. It assures continuous progress, using third party audits and the implementation of an appropriate work plan. This view of supply chain management is in line with Silab’s processes, developed in our CSR charter. ”

SILAB

How to join?

Membership is open to business, trade associations, NGOs and community producers. Info on membership conditions, costs, and the membership application process can be found on our web-site.

UEBT members as of May 2011

Aldivia	Farmaverde CTA	Kenzo Parfums	Productos Alimentarios Misky SAC
Alianza Natural	Fondo para la Acción ambiental y la niñez	Kuski Productos Andinos	PROMPERU
Aroma Forest Sarl	Fondo Biocomercio	L’Homme et l’Environnement	Division Serdex – Bayer Santé Familial
Beraca – Health & Personal Care	Fundación Amigaos de la Naturaleza (FAN)	Labfarve	Silab
Bio Oleos de Maxixe	Fundación Espavé	Nativa	Sustainway
Blue Sky Botanics Ltd	HAPSSA	Natura Cosmeticos SA	Swazi Indigenous Products
Candela	International Finance Corporation	Novel Development Ghana Ltd	TreeCrops Ltd
CORPEI	Inversiones 2A srl	Novel Development Tanzania Ltd	Uganda Export Promotion Board
Cristiane Derani Consultoria	Iracambi	Organic Herb Trading Company	Vegefloira Extrações do Nordeste
Cusco Mara Eirl	IUCN	PhytoTrade Africa	Villa Andina
EcoFlora	KAITE	Pi Ethics & Commerce	Weleda

Sourcing with Respect

Sourcing from biodiversity involves a wide range of actors at different stages along the product development chain. UEBT can help companies ensure their practices protect biodiversity and benefit local communities by asking key questions along the supply chain. For example, companies 'Sourcing with Respect' would need to ask questions such as whether an access permit has been applied for before research commences, whether wages for collectors are fair, or what is done to ensure that collection is sustainable.

Development Phase		Production Phase		Marketing	
					
Prospection	R & D	Collection	Processing	Formulation	Sales
<p>Is there an access permit to conduct research?</p> <p>Has consent been gained from the local community for the use of its traditional knowledge?</p> <p>Has benefit sharing been agreed?</p>	<p>Are there biopiracy concerns?</p> <p>Do patents recognize the origin of resources and knowledge?</p>	<p>Are the wages and prices fair?</p> <p>Are human rights respected?</p> <p>What is done to conserve biodiversity?</p> <p>Does this contribute to local development?</p>	<p>How are the ingredients sourced?</p> <p>Do patents recognize all contributions along the supply chain?</p>	<p>Is there a tracking system in place?</p> <p>Are we confident that the ingredients were sourced according to Ethical BioTrade Principles?</p>	<p>Is there conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing all along the supply chain?</p> <p>Are marketing claims backed up by actual practices?</p>

Access and benefit sharing (ABS)

One of the central principles of the CBD is the recognition of the rights of countries and communities over biodiversity and related knowledge. As a result, access to biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge for research and development must take place with adequate authorization, and any resulting benefits must be equitably shared. This is known as access and benefit sharing (ABS).

Many countries, for example Brazil, South Africa and Australia have already developed national laws putting in place ABS mechanisms. This number is likely to increase in line with the Nagoya Protocol on ABS, recently adopted in the CBD. The Nagoya Protocol further defines rights and obligations linked to biodiversity-based research and development and will come into force shortly, which means new and updated rules at the international, regional and national levels.

Joining UEBT helps companies advance their understanding of access and benefit sharing principles and their national implementation.

Understanding the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty designed to sustain the diversity of life on earth. Its objectives are the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from its use. The work of UEBT seeks to advance the CBD objectives, and membership to UEBT can help companies understand and put in practice international and national principles governing biodiversity use.

Contact UEBT

For more information on UEBT, its members, the UEBT standard, technical briefs, and news up-dates visit www.ethicalbiotrade.org

Union for Ethical BioTrade Secretariat

32, Rue de Berne
1201, Geneva, Switzerland
Phone: + 41 22 5661585
Fax: + 41 22 7310340
info@ethicalbiotrade.org

Brazilian Representation

Sao Paulo, Brazil
Phone: + 55 11 9431 1880
brazil@ethicalbiotrade.org